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# AGAWAM

## ADVERTISER NEWS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

October 24, 2024 | Vol. 46, No. 35 | \$1.00

www.agawamadvertisernews.turley.com



The teen advisory board for Agawam Public Library met on Oct. 9 to plan out a program they want to run.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA

## Teen Advisory Board meets at APL

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – The public library has begun hosting teen advisory board meetings that are open to any teens who would like to help support the library.

Their first meeting was in September and they will be holding meetings once a month throughout the school year.

Youth Associate Evan Delano runs each meeting and encourages any interested teens to join, as it can give them good experience and it helps the library.

“TAB members work together to plan and present library programs - and potentially make

other decisions about the library’s Teen Services - so it’s also a good opportunity to develop leadership skills and show that you work well as part of a team.” Delano said.

On top of working to develop leadership and teamwork skills, TAB can be beneficial for teens who are looking to apply for college or jobs and would like to show volunteer work on their resume.

Teens who join TAB get community service hours for the time they spend at TAB.

TAB can also be a great opportunity for teens to meet new people, particularly those who may share their interests.

Finally, Delano provides pizza at each TAB meeting for teens to eat while they work.

“Pizza is maybe the best benefit of all,” Delano said.

Throughout their work at TAB, teens can come up with different library programs for their fellow teens. They are also welcome to create decorations for the teen space, put together book displays, help with the summer reading program and much more.

Delano is truly grateful for all of the teens on the TAB, as they are greatly helpful for the library.

“Having a Teen Advisory Board is really valuable for us be-

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## Residents now able to take advantage of early voting

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – Early voting opened across the state on Oct. 19 and will be open through Nov. 1.

Those who are registered to vote can go to the senior center (located at 954 Main Street, Agawam)

to cast their ballot. The center is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The process for early voting is just like that for in-person voting on the day of the election. People can arrive, check-in with the poll worker and then cast their vote.

Mail-in voting is also open, with many people having already received and sent in their ballots.

“So far they [the clerk’s office] were very busy processing mail-in ballots,” Mayor Christopher Johnson said. “Both sending them out and getting them back in.”

Anyone registered to vote should have received a postcard from the state that allowed them to sign-up for mail-in voting.

If anyone did not receive a

card from the state and would still like to register for mail-in voting is welcome to call the town clerk in order to register.

The deadline to register for mail-in voting is Oct. 29, so

that there is enough time for people to receive their ballots and send them back in after register-

ing. Johnson recommends that those interested in voting by mail do so sooner rather than later to ensure that their ballot reaches the city clerk in time for the election.

“If you wait until the last minute to request a mail-in ballot you run that risk because if we get the ballot after the deadline then we can’t count it,” Johnson said.

Johnson would also like to remind people that this process is mandated and created by the state and is therefore a secure process.

“The process is as secure as voting on election day,” Johnson said. “The ballots are required to be segregated, kept under lock and key.”

Mail-in voting acts just like absentee voting, which the



## School Committee receives presentation on ‘Caught in the A.C.T.’ program

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – The school committee received a presentation on the student-driven group and initiative called Caught in the A.C.T.

Director of Social Emotional Learning Marlene DeJesus and Teacher Sadie Petta along with Juniors at Agawam High School Omar Elgendy and Jordin Agosto came before the school committee to deliver this presentation.

They explained that the goal of Caught in the A.C.T. is to promote the community values of acceptance, compassion and trust.

“We wanted to spread those values throughout our school

community and also our town and other schools as well,” Elgendy said.

DeJesus was the one to begin the initiative as she wanted to ensure that students had more say in their school environment.

“I wanted to focus on having opportunities for students to have a voice and be really involved in decision making,” DeJesus said. “What we know about that is the research shows that the more students have voice and choice in the school atmosphere they are really going to do better emotionally as well as perform much better in academics.”

She put out the opportunity and several students came for-

*“I wanted to focus on having opportunities for students to have a voice and be really involved in decision making.”*

– Marlene DeJesus

ward to form the ACT initiative.

“These students had to work on making a new initiative in order to focus on youth voices and so at first we needed to ask the youth what they wanted to do,” Petta said.

Through doing this work, Petta and DeJesus felt that the students developed many valuable skills.

pathy and...being responsible decision makers.”

Once the students came forward, they took charge of the project. They conducted research in order to discover how best they could improve school safety and environment.

The students applied to work with Invent2Prevent, which is funded by Homeland Security, and they received funding.

They had to come up with an initiative to promote safety in schools and attend a kick off event to help them come up with ideas. After they had to develop the initiative itself.

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## ACC holding Holly Wreath Bazaar

AGAWAM – On Saturday, Nov. 23 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Agawam Congregational Church will host its Holly Wreath Bazaar. Our vendors and crafters are in place for a variety of your Christmas shopping needs. Don't forget we have cards for sale (sports and famous people). Again, we will have our bakery at the country store featuring sumptuous homemade pies, cakes, cookies, bars, and candy. There will be something for everyone at Santa's seconds. Also, you can participate in two raffles (grand raffle and our church raffle with numerous choices). Stay for lunch at our cafe for our deliciously prepared grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, and cheeseburgers. Popcorn will also be available for that festive feeling. We look forward to your visit to our church located in the historic district of Agawam at 745 Main Street on Saturday, Nov. 23.

## Yard waste collections begin

AGAWAM – Residential fall yard waste collections will take place on the following weeks as noted on the 2024 route collection schedule.

- Yard waste includes grass clippings, leaves, weeds, shrub trimmings, and brush or limbs under 3" in diameter
- Limbs under 3" in diameter must be tied in bundles, no greater than 3' in length, weighing no more than 40 lbs
- Yard waste may be placed in a 30 gallon 2-ply kraft paper bag
- Yard waste may be placed in trash containers, no larger than 32 gallon, with handles. Containers must be labeled as Yard Waste to be collected
- Yard waste should not be disposed of in town trash or recycling carts. Any carts

found with yard waste will be left behind.

- Bags and barrels may not exceed 40 lbs in weight for collection. Bags or barrels in excess of 40 lbs or too heavy to be lifted by one person will be left behind
- Wet broken bags, due to the weather, are not the responsibility of the hauler to clean up. It is encouraged that residents cover bags during rain events to prevent broken bags

A week streets will be collected on their recycling collection day during the following weeks: Oct. 28 to Nov. 1, Nov. 11 to 15, and Nov. 25-30 with a one-day delay for Thanksgiving. B week streets will be collected on their recycling collection day on the following weeks: Oct. 21 to 25, Nov. 4 to 8, and Nov. 18 to 22



## Trunk or Treat set for Oct. 27

AGAWAM – Agawam Congregational Church located in the historic district of Agawam at 745 Main Street will host their annual family friendly Trunk or Treat on Sunday, Oct. 27. The event will take place from 4 to 6 p.m.

King Gray will host their Haunted Bus. Also, there will be multiple trunks decorated with Halloween and Fall themes.

Come and enjoy candy, games and a chance to vote for your favorite choice in the categories of Funniest, Most Creative and Kids trunk. Enter a special raffle by bringing in either a jar of spaghetti sauce or elbow macaroni to support the local Loaves & Fishes ministry.

If you are interested in having a trunk at this event, please email office@agawamcong.com or call our office at 413-786-7111, Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 12 noon.

## Library's Bizarre Bazaar is back

AGAWAM – This November, The Agawam Library is once again looking for unwanted or unused holiday decorations. Donate greeting cards, wrapping paper, ornaments, small trees, tree skirts, flags, wreaths, menorahs, inflatables, bows, gift bags, collectibles, cookie cutters, stockings, dishes, lights (new in box only), Halloween, Easter, 4th of July and other holidays as well. The library asks that all donated material be in original packaging or in clear, zippered bags.

Donations must be in good, working condition and come from a non-smoking home. Please bring all donations to the lobby anytime during regular business hours from Nov. 1 to Nov. 8. Please do not leave donations outside. Everyone is welcome to come shop on Friday, Nov. 15 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 16 between 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bags will be provided. Please

contact Cher Collins (413) 789-1550 X4 or Kristen Frost at X8865 for more information.

The library is also pleased to announce that Chair Yoga will return at the end of October. Beginning Monday, Oct. 28, Instructor Jeanne Lewis will offer a Chair Yoga session from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. through November and the first three weeks of December. The library hopes to have a permanent replacement instructor when the New Year begins.

The Friends of the Library are currently seeking gift basket donations for their 13th annual Holiday Basket Raffle. Interested community members are invited to request a basket makers' information packet either online [www.agawamlibrary.org/about-2/friends/](http://www.agawamlibrary.org/about-2/friends/) or by calling the library at (413) 789-1550 X4.

The deadline for finished baskets is Nov. 16. Library visitors will have the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets later this Fall.

## Communion breakfast set for Nov. 10

AGAWAM – All Catholic women and girls are invited to join the Catholic Women's Club of Agawam for the club's Communion Breakfast on Sunday, Nov. 10. The Sunday morning 10:30 a.m. Mass, at St. John the Evangelist Church, 833 Main St., in memory of deceased club members, will begin the day. Members can sit together in the reserved pews. A buffet breakfast will be served in the parish center directly behind the church following Mass. The menu consists of Pastries, French Toast, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Home Fried Potatoes, Orange Juice, Tea and Coffee which will be prepared by Mark Tansey

of Partner's Restaurant. The fee is \$15 per person. Cash or checks made out to Catholic Women's Club, should be sent to Katie Heald, 66 Beekman Drive, Agawam, MA, by Nov. 3, or can be placed in the collection basket on the weekend or placed in the church office mailbox. No refunds will be given after Nov. 3. This event is open seating of tables of 8-10 people.

The speaker at the breakfast will be Deacon Dan Prats of St. Rose de Lima Parish in Chicopee, MA.

For more information contact Katie at (413) 786-1287.

## Lions Club to hold annual pancake breakfast Sunday

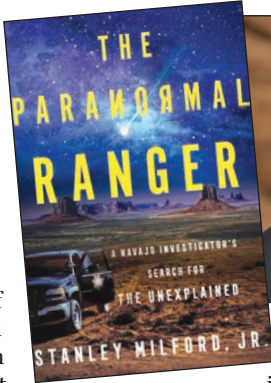
AGAWAM – On Sunday, Oct. 27 from 8 to 11 a.m., Agawam Lions Club will hold its annual Harvest Pancake Breakfast. The event will be held at the Agawam Lions Den on the grounds of the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield. For free parking to the event, please enter through Gate 1. The cost to attend before breakfast is \$7 for adults, \$5 for children 10 and under. You can buy tickets in advance from any Agawam Lions Club member, or get them at the event.



## Milford to join library in virtual chat

AGAWAM – You are welcome to join us in a virtual conversation with Navajo Ranger, Stanley Milford, Jr. as he chats about the chilling and clear-eyed memoir of his investigations into bizarre cases of the paranormal and the unexplained in Navajoland. The chat will take place on Thursday, Nov. 7 at 7 p.m.

As a Native American with parents of both Navajo and Cherokee descent, Stanley Milford, Jr. grew up in a world where



Stanley Milford, Jr.

the supernatural was both expected and taboo, where shape-shifters roamed, witchcraft was a thing to be feared, and children were taught not to whistle at night. In his youth, Milford never went looking for the paranormal, but it always seemed to find him. When he

joined the fabled Navajo Rangers—a law enforcement branch of the Navajo Nation who are equal parts police officers, archaeological conservationists, and historians—the paranormal became part of his job.

## Volunteers needed to flag vets' graves

AGAWAM – The Agawam Veterans Council is seeking volunteers to flag veterans' graves on Saturday, Nov. 2, with a rain date of Saturday, Nov. 9. Anyone in-

terested in participating should meet at 8 a.m. at the Springfield Street Cemetery (across from Sacred Heart Church) in Feeding Hills.



### THANKSGIVING REVIEW

"Hi Paul, she was great! Lots of plump meat and just enough fat to help prevent her from drying out. We will be having leftovers for a very long time."  
— Beth from Belchertown

### HAND FED, PASTURE RAISED

On a Ludlow farm, turkeys run freely, hand fed on healthful grains and extra vegetables. Minimally processed, they have more meat, less water, and extra taste found only in tradition. No antibiotics, animal by-products, hormones, or additives are used.  
— Jeanette & Paul Johnson  
Liberty Family Farms

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### VOTING ■ from page 1

country has done for many decades.

Additionally, all early votes and mail-in votes are not counted until election day itself.

Overall, Johnson encourages everyone to go out and do their civic duty by casting their vote.

"Please take the time, whomever you are going to vote for, that's your business, but please participate because that is what our country is founded upon, the right of the people to participate in their

government," Johnson said.

The deadline to register to vote is Oct. 26.

The official election day itself is Tuesday, Nov. 5, and polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

If anyone is uncertain as to where they need to go to vote, they can check their polling location at <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/WhereDoIVoteMA/WhereDoIVote>.

Agawam residents are also able to go to the town website at <https://www.agawam.ma.us/231/Election-Information> in order to check their election information.

## Senior cinema is back with 'Thelma'

AGAWAM – Join in October for a fabulous film. Feel free to bring a friend and a snack to munch on.

The movie will be played on Wednesday, Oct. 30, at 1:30 p.m. at the Veterans Hall. The movie will be *Thelma*, starring June Squibb and Fred Hechinger. *Thelma* Post is a 93-year-old grandmother who loses \$10,000 to a con artist on the phone.

With help from a friend and his motorized scooter, she soon embarks on a treacherous journey across Los Angeles to reclaim what was taken from her.

## Sen. Velis' reasons for opposing Question 5

WESTFIELD – As voters across Massachusetts begin to prepare to vote on ballot questions in the upcoming Nov. 5 election, State Sen. John Velis today announced his strong opposition to Question 5, which would replace the current tipped minimum wage system for servers, bartenders, and other tipped workers with the state minimum wage of \$15 an hour, phased in over 5 years, with a mandatory tip pool where tips are shared with non-service staff.

"While this ballot question might be well intentioned, it will have catastrophic economic consequences and I am vehemently opposed to it. Question 5 will drastically decrease the amount of money tipped workers can earn, force mandatory tip pools with managers and non-service staff, and will create monumental financial burdens for

restaurants themselves," said Velis. "Simply put, Question 5 will hurt tipped workers, small businesses, and our entire restaurant industry. You don't have to look any further than tipped workers themselves to understand why."

According to surveys completed by the Massachusetts Restaurant Association, 90% of tipped employees believe that tipped employees will earn less if tipped wages are eliminated, and 91% prefer the current system, with a lower base wage and tips that provide the ability to earn more than the minimum wage.

Similarly, Question 5 is opposed by many owners and operators of restaurants and bars throughout Massachusetts in addition to tipped workers themselves. The Massachusetts Restaurant Association predicts

that Question 5 would cost restaurants \$18,500 more per tipped employee annually, nearly a 225% increase in costs, and that these financial burdens would lead to business closures and staffing cuts across the state. This in turn would also drastically hurt local meals tax revenue as well.

In Washington D.C., where similar legislation was passed, 1,800 full-service restaurant jobs have been lost since the measure was implemented, according to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Senator Velis will attend a press conference at the Student Prince Cafe and the Fort Restaurant in Springfield on Tuesday, October 22nd, at 10AM alongside Explore Western Mass and restaurants throughout the region to detail his opposition to the ballot question.

## Salute to Veterans concert to offer special performances

WEST SPRINGFIELD – On Sunday, Nov. 10, A special Salute To Veterans Concert will be held at 3 p.m. at Red Oak Church in West Springfield.

The concert will feature songs of Americana and Inspiration performed by TV's *The Voice* Michelle Brooks-Thompson and her full band, including back-up singers. The performance will include special guest Ryan Bradley, accomplished guitarist, vocalist, and pastor of Red Oak Church performing "God Bless The USA".

The concert, initiated and coordinated by West Springfield resident Roberta Page, will have proceeds support one of the free, monthly Veterans' luncheons in West Spring-

field as well as hurricane Helene efforts in North Carolina through Samaritan's Purse.

"So many Veterans, still, experience challenges and difficulties," Page said. This will be a good opportunity to remember all of them, past and present, she continued. Reservations are \$20 by contacting 413-279-4567, PageOneProductions@att.net or PageOneConcerts@gmail.com.

The church is located at 337 Piper Road. Reservations, also, may be taken at the door which will open at 2:30 p.m.

"Westover Air Reserve Base (the 439th Air Lift Wing) and Barnes Air National Guard Base (104th Fighter Wing) have been invited to participate," Page revealed.



## Local firefighters graduate from academy

STOW – State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine and Massachusetts Firefighting Academy leadership today announced the graduation of 16 firefighters from the 50-day Career Recruit Firefighting Training Program.

"Massachusetts firefighters are on the frontlines protecting their communities every day, and today's graduates are needed now more than ever," said State Fire Marshal Davine. "The hundreds of hours of foundational training they've received will provide them with the physical, mental, and technical skills to perform their jobs effectively and safely."

"Massachusetts Firefighting Academy

instructors draw on decades of experience in the fire service to train new recruits," said Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Deputy Director Dennis A. Ball. "Through consistent classroom instruction and practical exercises, today's graduates have developed the tools they'll need to work seamlessly with veteran firefighters in their home departments and in neighboring communities as mutual aid."

The graduating firefighters of Class #S38 represent the fire departments of Agawam, Amherst, Douglas, East Longmeadow, Holden, Holyoke, Ludlow, Marblehead, Ware, and West Springfield.

## Crafters needed for upcoming sale

AGAWAM – The Agawam Congregational Church is seeking crafters and vendors for our Christmas Holly Wreath bazaar to be held on Nov. 23 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. To register pick up an application at the church, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. For more details call the church at (413) 786-7111 or email at office@agawamcongreg.com

## Bird Club hosts new presentation

SPRINGFIELD – On Monday, November 4 at 7 p.m. the Allen Bird Club of Springfield will host the presentation, "On Whip-poor-wills & Nighthawks" in the Tolman Auditorium of the Springfield Science Museum, 21 Edwards St.

The increasingly uncommon call of the Eastern Whip-poor-will is a thrilling sound on moonlit summer nights. A favorite, late-summer ritual for many nature lovers is watching Common Nighthawks in the early evening skies. Both birds are aerial insectivores - birds that catch insects on the fly. Join other area bird enthusiasts to hear Pat-

ti Steinman of Easthampton's Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary discuss these remarkable birds' behaviors, ecological niches, and population statuses. Then, find out where you can observe them locally.

Sponsored by the Allen Bird Club, the presentation, "On Whip-poor-wills & Nighthawks" is open to the public free of charge. The Allen Bird Club is a nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing Greater Springfield area birders together since 1912.

For more information, please visit [www.AllenBirdClub.org](http://www.AllenBirdClub.org).

## Food Fest West set to take place Nov. 20

AGAWAM – The Food Fest West will be taking place on Wednesday, Nov. 20, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the Crestview Country Club, Shoemaker Ln. For more information and tickets visit [westoftheriverchamber.com](http://westoftheriverchamber.com)

## Better Business Bureau warns about Tik-Tok money flipping scams

Money-flipping cons and investment scams have been on the rise for years. Since 2020, BBB has received more than 4,000 reports from consumers about investment scams, many of which involved cryptocurrency. Traditionally, these scams have taken the form of long-term romance scams to slowly gain the trust of their targets.

More recently, however, these scams have taken to social media platforms, where scammers can more quickly target a larger audience and steal your money and personal information. BBB Scam Tracker frequently receives reports of cryptocurrency scammers on TikTok. Here's what you need to know.

### How the scam works

You're scrolling through TikTok when you receive a direct message from a user asking if you're interested in investing. The user's profile seems legitimate, and the company's website looks real. You may also encounter a user sharing videos of piles of cash, saying you can earn that much money through cryptocurrency investments, too.

You decide to engage with the user, and they present you with a great cryptocurrency investment opportunity. For an initial investment of a few hundred dollars, your money could double or triple in just a few days! You say yes and start the investment process.

At this point, the user will ask you to

communicate off social media on a different messaging app. You'll be asked to send money through a digital wallet service and potentially purchase cryptocurrency and send it to them. Then, they will "invest" the money for you, which allegedly starts multiplying immediately.

When you try to get your money back, the scammer will claim you must pay service fees. At first, these amounts may seem harmless and are just a few hundred dollars. However, if you pay one fee, the scammer will likely continue to ask for more, always promising you will get much more back than you spend.

Unfortunately, these fees are fake, and any money you send will end up in the scammer's pockets. You won't be getting a return on your investment, and you won't be getting your initial deposit back either.

BBB Scam Tracker has received reports from people targeted by cryptocurrency scammers on TikTok. One person shared their experience:

"I was asked by a woman on TikTok if I was interested in investing. I told her yes but I was skeptical. She assured me she worked for a legitimate company. I trusted her and proceeded with a \$500 investment through bitcoin to an account with [company name redacted]. I was told after 24 hours I could withdrawal my profit. I had to pay 30% fee of \$2150 then it would be deposited in my bank account in 24 hours.

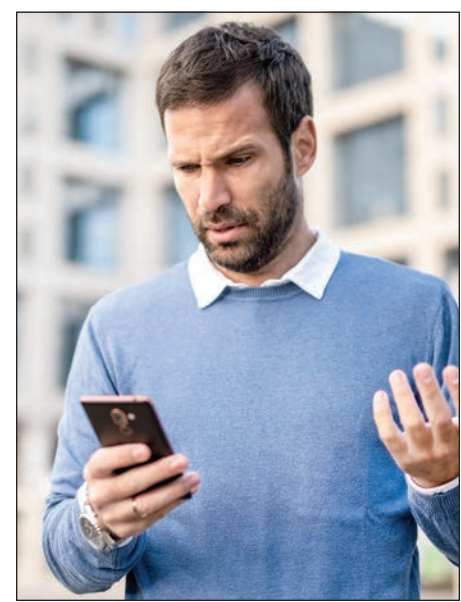
After 24 hours I received an email that I had to pay a "gas fee" of \$4250. At this point I knew it was a scam..."

### How to avoid social media cryptocurrency scams:

- Use good judgment. Get-rich-quick schemes and investments guaranteed to give you a huge return are nearly always scams. If an offer sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Do your research. Before you contact someone through TikTok or another social media platform, look up their name, phone number, and company name (if they have one) online and on BBB.org. The investment industry is highly regulated, so be wary if investments are unregistered with the SEC or other investment industry regulators. You can also search on BBB Scam Tracker for scam reports. You'll likely find complaints online about it if they have conned others.
- Don't give into scare tactics. If an "investor" contacts you, they may try to convince you the investment will only work if you act right now. Or, if you've already sent them funds, they may threaten you with legal action if you don't pay their fees. In any case, don't give in to scare tactics. Recognize them as the hallmarks of a scam.
- Understand how digital wallet services work. Treat any money you send through a digital wallet service like cash. Once you

send the money, there will be little you can do to get it back if you were scammed. Only use these apps with people you know and trust.

- Find a trusted financial advisor to help you. If you are interested in investing, look for BBB Accredited financial consultants to help you. Working with a vetted and reliable business can help you avoid investment scams online. Read BBB's tips on how to find someone to help you manage your finances.



# Opinion

## Guest Column



### Signing up for Social Security and Medicare Part B at 70

Dear Rusty

I just turned 69 years old in August 2024 and am still working full time. I signed up for Medicare Part A but, it is my secondary insurance because I have great health insurance through where I work.

My wife is retired and has Medicare Part A but, is on my insurance also and she is taking Social Security.

Our plan is for me to work until August 2026 when I'll be 71. I'll file for Social Security when I turn 70 and bank all of it for a year until I retire. That is money we plan to use for travel and fun things. I have three questions: when should I file for my Social Security so it starts in September; when do my wife and I file for Medicare Part B with a supplement so it starts in September; and are there negative tax implications to this plan that I haven't thought of?

Signed: Needing Info

Dear Needing Info

Sounds like you have a great strategy planned for your personal Social Security benefits and your Medicare Part B enrollment for both of you. To your questions:

If you will be 70 in August 2025, you can apply for Social Security about three months prior e.g., in May 2025. Just be sure to specify that you wish your SS benefits to start effective with the month of your 70th birthday.

Signing up a few months early is perfectly okay; you will indicate your desired benefit start date on your application and that is when SS will start your benefits. Remember, SS pays benefits in the month following the month earned, so your first payment will be received in September 2025 on the second Wednesday if you were born before the 11th of the month

As for Medicare Part B coverage for you and your wife, both of you can enroll in Medicare Part B a couple of months prior to you leaving work, but request that Medicare Part B coverage starts in the month your work coverage ends. In other words, you can enroll in Medicare before you retire from work, but request that your Part B coverage starts in the first month your employer coverage ends to avoid any gap in healthcare coverage. Obviously, you should begin your private supplemental healthcare coverage to coincide with the start of your Medicare Part B coverage.

Regarding the tax implications, just be aware that a portion of your received Social Security benefits become taxable income if your Modified Adjusted Gross Income as a married couple exceeds certain thresholds. FYI, "MAGI" is your

SECURITY | page 5



## Guest Column

### Pretty leaves make great mulch and more!



Even though we thought it was going to be a year of drab fall foliage, the colors this past weekend surprised me.

I saw so many neat plants doing their thing in response to the shorter days. When chlorophyll is broken down as a result of less daylight, lots of other colors take the place of green in the leaves.

We have our oranges and yellows from the carotenoids, the purple and red shades from the anthocyanins and the rusts and browns from tannins, and then there are plants that look ghost-like because the green color is just plain gone!

Besides enjoying great foliage, I saw the start of some very large leaf piles. I know that raking up fallen leaves are not everyone's favorite task, but gardeners should rejoice!

Read on to learn about the many uses of leaves, straight from the archives.

Consider for a moment the forest, and how stands of trees grow successfully without any input from us. Why is that so?

It is thanks to nature's own process of decomposition. Leaves, branches, and pine needles, etc., fall onto the forest floor where microbes such as fungi and bacteria break them down into humus.

Humus works between the mineral particles and air spaces in the soil, helping it to retain moisture yet drain readily. It also helps to enhance overall soil fertility by making nutrients available to plants in a form they can readily use.

Worms and other macro-organisms aerate the soil and disperse the humus around plant roots, making a self-perpetuating system. We can apply this lesson from nature to our own situation, making for more successful gardens and healthier lawns, and all by the use of leaves!

Perhaps the easiest way to deal with a small amount of leaves is to mow over them several times with the lawn mower. Soon the tiny pieces will disappear into the soil adding valuable nutrients as they break down.

The lawn mower also comes in handy after piles have been made. Mow over low piles or chop them up with a shredder, then they can be used for a variety of purposes.

Once the soil has frozen, chopped leaves make an excellent protective winter mulch for any type of garden. They won't mat down and rot the crowns of your favorite perennials the way whole leaves might, but they will moderate soil temperatures enough to prevent them from being heaved out of the ground during normal cycles of freezing and thawing.

When spring arrives just pull back the mulch off the tops of the plants. It can stay in place covering bare soil, all the while conserving moisture, preventing weeds, and making humus!

If the "natural look" is unappealing to you apply a thin coat of bark mulch over chopped leaves to dress things up a bit. Repeat this drill every year for your own self-perpetuating garden.

You can also incorporate chopped leaves right into the vegetable garden each fall. The use of a rototiller makes this job a snap.

Most will have decomposed by spring, but till the garden again a month or so before planting to finish the job.

Chopped leaves make a great addition to the compost pile.

Layer brown, carbon rich ingredients (such as chopped leaves) with green, nitrogen rich ingredients (such as grass clippings, vegetable scraps, non-weedy plant parts) together to get the pile cooking. Add a shovel full of garden soil or finished compost per layer to inoculate it with microbes and water well.

Let the pile sit for a year or turn it frequently for faster results. Compost is a near neutral source of humus, a well-balanced fertilizer and soil tonic, good for all types of gardens and even the lawn.

If you are too busy to layer and shredding sounds like a messy job, simply pile the leaves, moistening

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PHONE  
413.283.8393  
Fax: 413.283.7107  
Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

EMAIL  
Advertising Sales  
Wendy Delcamp  
wdelcamp@turley.com

Editor  
Gregory Scibelli  
aan@turley.com

Subscriptions  
www.turley.com

\$35 per year pre-paid  
(\$40 out of state)  
Newsstand \$1.00

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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.

## AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS TEAM

EDITOR/SPORTS  
Greg Scibelli  
aan@turley.com  
sports@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES  
Wendy Delcamp  
wdelcamp@turley.com

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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## 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

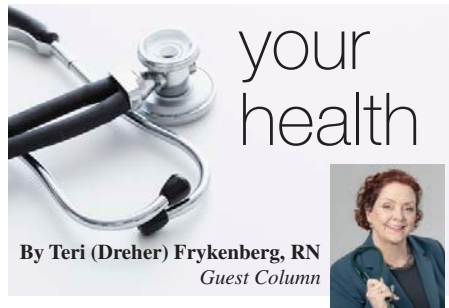
As part of its election coverage, the news-

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.

# Opinion

## Guest Column



Research indicates that the brain doesn't fully mature until around age 25, but nonetheless: In Illinois (as in most states), 18 is the age at which a child is considered to be a legal adult. And it's when parents lose their right to that child's medical information.

That's why – if you want to be involved in your young adult's health care once they hit that magic age – you need their authorization under the Health Insurance Privacy and Accountability Act, better known as HIPAA.

HIPAA required the creation of national standards to protect sensitive patient health information from being disclosed without the patient's consent or knowledge. The law doesn't care if your young adult is on your insurance and you're responsible for the bills. It also doesn't care whether your child is an 18-year-old college freshman or a 45-year-old out on their own.

Or maybe they were out on their own, but came back to the nest. Thanks to the

### Why your adult child needs a HIPAA form

pandemic and associated job losses, the share of adults ages 25 to 34 who lived with their parents reached historic highs in 2020, according to the U.S. Census: 22 percent of men and 13.4 percent of women.

The numbers aren't quite as high now, but they're still significant. In 2022, 19 percent of men and 12 percent of women in the 25-34 demographic cohabit with their parents. Young adults who are disabled or have mental or emotional disorders also tend to live with mom and dad.

Health issues arise unexpectedly – the young adult could be involved in a car accident, diagnosed with cancer or need an emergency appendectomy. You know my mantra: Be prepared with documentation so that health care can proceed according to your child's wishes.

Verbal authorization can take the place of a signed HIPAA release. Your child only has to tell health-care providers, "I authorize my parents to receive my medical information and be involved in my health-care decisions."

That works if the patient is awake and alert. But what if every parent's nightmare comes true? You get a phone call in the middle of the night that there's been an accident and your child is unconscious. Now what?

A spouse is considered by default to be authorized to receive medical information. If the partners are separated, though, does your child want their soon-to-be ex-spouse involved in their health care? If

not, they need a HIPAA authorizing someone else. Your child may be single and not have anyone to designate.

If your child does end up in the hospital, the HIPAA authorization will come in handy. Because hospitals do not want to be fined for violating HIPAA, most will err on the side of caution and refrain from disclosing any information to family members without the properly executed documentation. Without this exchange of information, families can be left out of the loop and doctors may miss important family medical history.

As a companion to the HIPAA authorization form, it is also important for young adults to have a Health Care Power of Attorney so that someone will have the authority to make medical decisions on behalf of your child if they are incapacitated. Without this document, you may have to go to court in order to have someone appointed to make crucial medical decisions.

These aren't necessarily easy conversations to have with an adult child because

no one – particularly a young adult who is healthy – wants to think about the possibility of illness or injury. And as parents we need to be careful that we're not acting like mother hens and intruding on their privacy.

It might be worthwhile to have a trusted family member or advisor suggest your child should consider executing a HIPAA authorization and health care power-of-attorney, designating you or another individual of their choosing to be an authorized recipient of medical information and make decisions on their behalf.

HIPAA authorization and health care power-of-attorney forms are available on the Illinois.gov website, or an attorney can help you execute them. The signed forms should be shared with your child's health-care providers and kept in an accessible place in case they're needed.

We buy insurance and hope we never have to use it. Encourage your child to prepare a HIPAA authorization and health care power of attorney, and then hope they're never needed.

### SECURITY ■ from page 4

Adjusted Gross Income on your tax return plus 50% of your received SS benefits, plus any non-taxable interest you may have had.

If you file your taxes as "married/jointly" and your MAGI is more than \$32,000, then 50% of the SS benefits you receive during the tax year becomes taxable income or if your MAGI as a married couple is over \$44,000 then up to 85% of the SS benefits received during the tax year becomes taxable income at your normal IRS tax rate. Income tax on SS benefits occurs when your MAGI is over the thresholds for your tax filing status, so you should plan accordingly.

If your MAGI will be consistently over these thresholds after you retire from

working, you may choose to have income tax withheld from your SS benefits, which is easy to do by submitting IRS FORM W-4V to your local Social Security office.

*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 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](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.*

### GARDEN ■ from page 4

as you go. The resulting leaf mold is another healthy addition to the garden.

Research has proven that members of the cabbage family respond especially well to this type of humus. Keep in mind that oak leaves are more acidic than other leaves of trees native to our area.

If you use more of these in any of your gardening situations, adjust liming

accordingly.

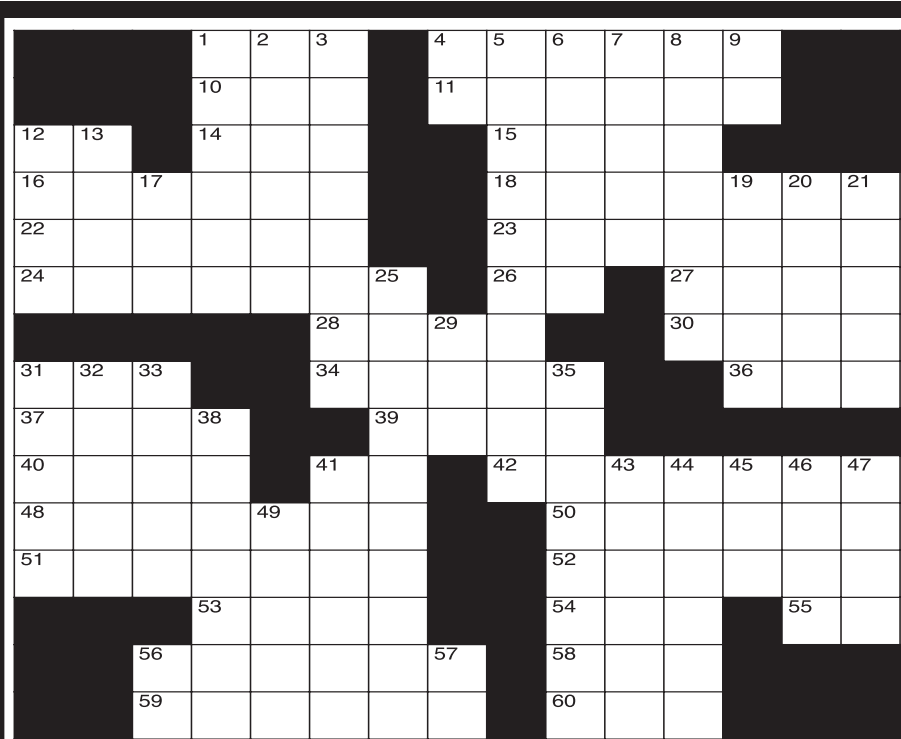
So get out the rake and improve your landscape!!

*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.*



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- |                                    |                                  |                                      |  |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>CLUES ACROSS</b>                | 34. Primordial matters           | 60. Notable offensive                | 25. Affirms one's hold                   |
| 1. "60 Minutes" network            | 36. One-time world power (abbr.) | <b>CLUES DOWN</b>                    | 29. CNN's founder                        |
| 4. Train line                      | 37. Source of illumination       |                                      | 31. Texans can't forget it               |
| 10. Go quickly                     | 39. The content of cognition     | 1. A place to lounge                 | 32. "Oppenheimer" actor Matt             |
| 11. Straightforward                | 40. An Arab ruler (abbr.)        | 2. Skewed views                      | 33. Expression                           |
| 12. Canadian province              | 41. South Dakota                 | 3. Peacefully                        | 35. Vessel                               |
| 14. At any rate (abbr.)            | 42. Gnawed at with teeth         | 4. Commercial                        | 38. Lacking poetic beauty                |
| 15. Genealogy                      | 48. Hawaiian island              | 5. Auxiliary forces                  | 41. Tall, swift and slender dog          |
| 16. Make changes                   | 50. Smaller                      | 6. Large mollusk                     | 43. Sports personality                   |
| 18. Utter repeatedly               | 51. Of a single person           | 7. Take out again                    | 44. Robber                               |
| 22. In a way, turned up            | 52. Rigid bracelet               | 8. Sharp and forthright              | 45. Liquefied natural gas                |
| 23. Type of ship                   | 53. Barbary sheep (Fr.)          | 9. Knight (chess)                    | 46. Snakelike fishes                     |
| 24. Agents of one's downfall       | 54. Not even                     | 12. Source of fiber                  | 47. The most worthless part of something |
| 26. Not out                        | 55. Specific gravity             | 13. Flesh covering some birds' beaks | 49. City in Crimea                       |
| 27. Something to scratch           | 56. Engage in petty bargaining   | 17. Energy                           | 56. Bad grades                           |
| 28. Round water pot                | 58. Boxing's "GOAT"              | 19. Night monkeys genus              | 57. Reichsmark                           |
| 30. Refreshing green fruit (slang) | 59. Split between parties        | 20. Small, sharp nails               |  |
| 31. Promotions                     |                                  | 21. Pleasant-smelling liquid         |  |

# Building Dreams Benefit is coming soon

WEST SPRINGFIELD – Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity's Building Dreams Benefit is just weeks away on Thursday, Nov. 7. Don't miss a chance to enjoy a night of entertainment, cocktails, raffles, and auctions-all while making a real difference in the Greater Springfield community.

Doors open at 6 p.m. at Twin Hills Country Club in Longmeadow.

From gift cards to luxury items, the prizes available at the benefit are sure to impress and include brands like Elite Island Resorts, Charity Safaris, Boston Crawling, Hartford Yard Goats, The Huntington, Lisa Scheff Designs, Hot Brass Indoor Firearm and Bow Range, Craftsman, Boston Bruins, and Boston Red Sox. In addition to the auction, the event will feature a cash bar, games, and sweet and savory samplings from local restaurants such as MexiRico, Cima, Motu Indian Kitchen, Crave, Jimmy's Pub, and Twin Hills Country Club.

"Our fall benefit is always a great time to celebrate the work that we have completed and show members of the community how they can support future projects," said Aimee Giroux, GSHFH executive director.



Take part in this worthwhile event that raises money for Greater Springfield Habitat and reserve your ticket today. For more information or to purchase a ticket, go to [habitatspringfield.org/building-dreams](http://habitatspringfield.org/building-dreams).

GSHFH is a housing ministry dedicated to strengthening communities by empowering low-income families to change their lives and the lives of future generations through home ownership and home repair opportunities. This is accomplished

by working in partnership with diverse people, from all walks of life, to build and repair simple, decent, affordable housing. Habitat's mission to provide homeownership opportunities to low-income families is unique as we offer a hand up not a hand out, requiring partner families to work alongside the community they will live in. GSHFH has helped roughly 100 local families realize their dream of homeownership over the last 37 years.

# Kosciuszko Foundation to host film festival celebrating Polish-American community

CHICOPEE – October is celebrated as Polish Heritage Month to honor the rich history, culture, and contributions of Polish-Americans and the Polish community worldwide. It is a time to reflect on the enduring legacy of Poland's traditions, values, and its significant role in global history, from its fight for independence to its influence in the arts, sciences, and politics.

To celebrate Polish Heritage Month, the Kosciuszko Foundation/New England is proud to present two award-winning films to the public as part of its Polish Film Festival.

The first movie is Figurant (Strawman) white film is based on true events and tells the unknown story of a surveillance

operation whose target was Karol Wojtyla, the future Pope John Paul II. Told from the perspective of a young secret service officer in charge of the 20-year operation of covertly following the man who would be Pope, it is both an espionage thriller and a tale of the metamorphosis of the secret service officer who will come face-to-face with the tensions of the human condition: faith and doubt, love and mistrust, and the pursuit of truth in a world full of moral ambiguity. The film will be shown on Sunday, October 27 at 2:00 p.m. in the Alumnae Library Theater at Elms College.

The second film is Czerwone Maki (Red Poppies), 2024, directed by Krzysztof Lukaszewicz. It is the first Polish feature

film about the famous and victorious Battle of Monte Cassino. In 1944, the Polish II Corps is assigned to carry out a daring assault on the heavily fortified German Gustav Line around the Monte Cassino Monastery. After three failed engagements, fierce Nazi counterattacks, and heavy losses, Allied troops spearheaded by the Polish Corps conquer the hill. A story told through the experiences of a young soldier, this spectacular battle decided the lives of many soldiers and the fate of the Allied offensive in Italy. The film will be shown on Sunday, Nov. 3 at 2 p.m. in the Alumnae Library Theater at Elms College.

Both films are free (goodwill offering will be accepted) and are in Polish with English subtitles.

# Winter coat and cold-weather clothing drive

HADLEY – UMassFive College Federal Credit Union is running a winter coat and cold-weather clothing drive in its Hadley, Northampton, UMass Amherst, Springfield, and Worcester branches throughout October.

Donations from this drive, held annually, will be distributed in partnership with the Amherst Survival Center, Gray House in Springfield, and Net of Compassion in Worcester.

"We know that our neighbors in need have come to count on the coats and warm clothing our members donate during this drive," says Cait Murray, UMassFive Community Outreach manager. "We are so grateful to partner with the great local organizations that can ensure donations are directed where they can have a significant impact."

UMassFive thankfully accepts any clean, new, or gently used coats, gloves, scarves, hats, sweaters, snow gear, and boots. Donations should be placed in a bag and may be dropped off during business hours to the Hadley branch at 200 Westgate Center Drive, Northampton branch at 225 King Street, UMass Amherst Campus Center Branch (Room 224), Springfield branch at 233 Carew Street (Mercy Hospital Rehabilitation Building, Room 110), or Worcester Branch (UMass Chan Medical School, Room S1-820.)



## A.C.T. ■ from page 1

"The group got together to discuss the needs and hopes in order to do this Invent2Prevent," Petta said. "They had a little over a month to research, brainstorm, develop direction, figure out who the audience is, what are the risk factors, what research they need to know to make the best pitch possible."

The group then pitched the initiative to experts in the field through the McCain Institute and gained feedback. They received \$1,000 in funding to begin implementing this program.

Throughout their research Elgandy, Agosto and the other members of ACT

found that students from schools with a higher connectedness are 35% more likely to graduate from high school and 21% more likely to attend college.

They also found that increasing connectedness in schools decreases the risks for depression and substance abuse.

"Without the feeling of belonging students struggle to succeed academically and mentally," Agosto said.

They hope that this initiative will help to encourage people in the school community to be more accepting, compassionate and trusting so that the community as a whole will feel more comfortable and connected.

"Our goal is to challenge the school and

even the community to get caught using these values to create a more tight-knit community," Elgandy said. Acceptance, compassion and trust are all positive contributions that students, staff and administrators can make."

In the last year the group participated in AHS's Culture Jam to spread word of what they want for the school's culture.

They also met with the principal to explain their initiatives, presented to staff during a staff meeting and used a table during lunch to spread their message to other students.

This year the group plans to try to work in Invent2Prevent again to continue to move this initiative forward.

They also hope to create videos to spread the word about their work, gain more student involvement and continue to showcase ACT values to the community.

The school committee was impressed with this initiative and look forward to seeing the impact it makes on the school community as a whole.

"So much of what makes a good person beyond high school is your resilience and your ability to connect with others in your town, in your community and build community where you don't have one already and so I think that this is a great addition to the regular programs that are already at the high school," School Committee Member Catherine McDougal said.

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# SPORTS

## Girls volleyball wins four straight

AGAWAM – During the past two weeks, Agawam High School girls volleyball scored four consecutive wins to both qualify for the state tournament as well as the Western Mass. Tournament. The Brownies are 9-9 and faced

Amherst Regional on the road Tuesday.

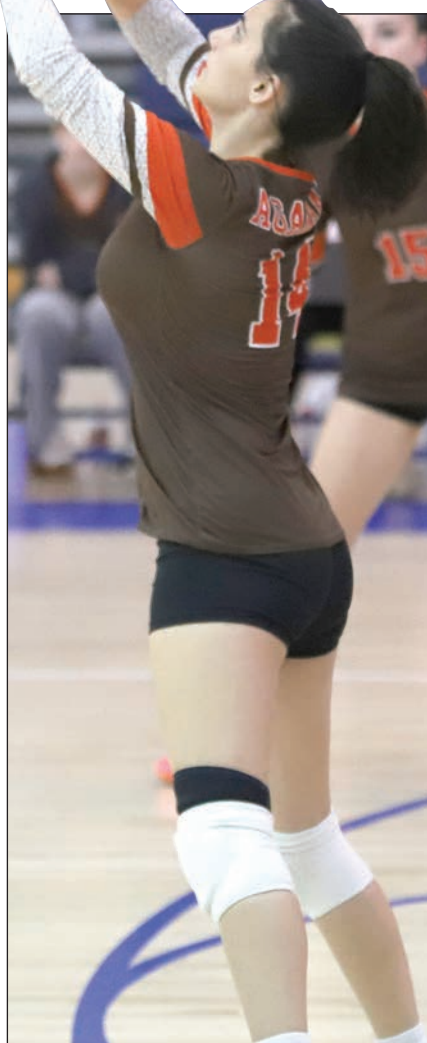
If the Brownies were to win, they'd play in the Western Mass. semifinals. If they lose, they would have a nonplayoff game late this week or early next week.



Abigail Polley sends a serve away.



Mia Atkins pops up a bump.



Hannah Jock gets the back line set.



Sophia Laprise fights for the tip with an opponent.



Taylor Stairs and Isabella Spaulding go for a block.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Kyra Benard gets a stick on the loose ball.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Alexina Lentos reaches out to block a ball.



Lily Charest brings the ball forward.



Sydney Frasier guides the ball past midfield.

## Agawam field hockey surging

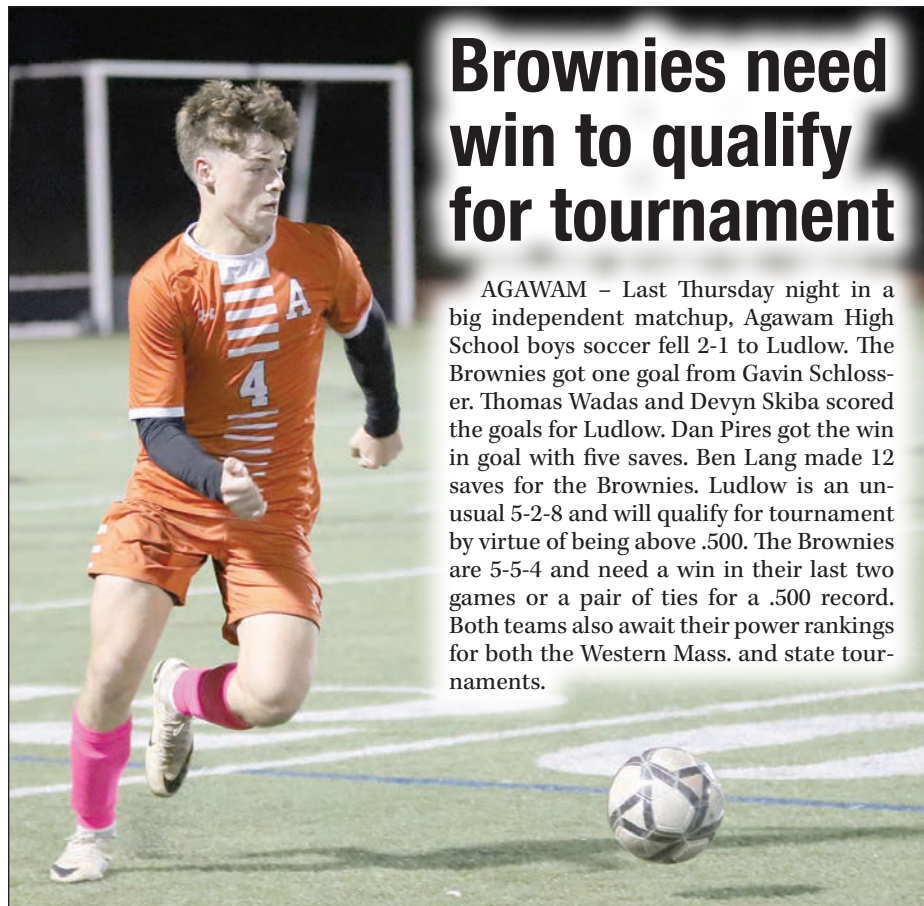
AGAWAM – The Agawam High School field hockey team is peaking at the right time.

Last Friday evening at home, the Brownies defeated Tantasqua Regional High School 7-0, capping off a four-game week where the Brownies went a perfect 4-0, a very difficult feat.

The Brownies beat Southwick 3-2, Greenfield 4-0, and started the week last Monday by beating the reigning, defending Western Mass. Class A champion Minnechaug 1-0. Lilli Atkins scored the lone goal for the Brownies in a huge win that brought Agawam to 9-5 on the season.

The Brownies were scheduled to face East Longmeadow this week and then await a potential spot in the Western Mass. tournament. Agawam has also qualified for the state tournament.

# Sports



Dennis Nesen controls the ball, heading up the right side.

## Brownies need win to qualify for tournament

AGAWAM – Last Thursday night in a big independent matchup, Agawam High School boys soccer fell 2-1 to Ludlow. The Brownies got one goal from Gavin Schlosser. Thomas Wadas and Devyn Skiba scored the goals for Ludlow. Dan Pires got the win in goal with five saves. Ben Lang made 12 saves for the Brownies. Ludlow is an unusual 5-2-8 and will qualify for tournament by virtue of being above .500. The Brownies are 5-5-4 and need a win in their last two games or a pair of ties for a .500 record. Both teams also await their power rankings for both the Western Mass. and state tournaments.



Adam Ross tries to chase down the loose ball.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

### COLLEGE

## Owls comeback falls short

WESTFIELD – Westfield State senior Dylan Disabella (Granby, Conn.) ran for 130 yards and caught a touchdown pass in his debut as the Owls' feature back, but it wasn't enough as Framingham State foiled the Owls homecoming with a 21-7 win.

Both teams are now 2-4 on the season and 2-3 in the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference.

Westfield got on the scoreboard first, with QB Gabe Fernandez (Holyoke, Mass.) finding Disabella for a 13-yard scoring strike with Disabella leaping into the endzone to punctuate a 9-play, 82-yard drive.

Turnovers again punished the Owls, as Framingham's first score came on an 11-yard Carl Renaudin (Waltham, Mass.) scoop and score fumble recovery touchdown, on a busted toss run for the Owls.

Westfield had a chance to take a lead into the half, after Tafari Proctor (Amherst, Mass.) intercepted his third pass of the season, and returned it 59 yards to the Framingham 3, but on the ensuing play Framingham forced a fumble and the Rams recovered to keep the score 7-7 heading to the half.

The Rams grabbed a 14-7 lead midway through the third quarter with a 25-yard TD toss from Luke Thompson (West Islip, NY) to Elijah Nichols (Burlington Twp., NJ), capping an 11-play, 79-yard drive.

Early in the fourth quarter, Westfield had a chance to tie as the Owls marched the ball from their own 28 yard line all the way to the Framingham four yard line, but the Rams forced a fumble with Ronyel Pena (Lawrence, Mass.) slashing between the Owls offensive line to force a fumble.

Framingham added a 2-yard touchdown run from Jaheim Daniels (Norwalk, Conn.) with 46 seconds left in the fourth quarter to put the game out of reach, after the Rams defense forced a

4-and-out from the Owls. Westfield had their backs against the wall with a drive that started inside their own 10-yard line with less than two minutes to play.

Disabella had a big day on the ground in his first action as the feature back in the Owls triple-option attack. He played two seasons as a tight end for the Owls before moving to wing back in the offense this season, but moved behind the quarterback for today's game for the first time with Owls regular starter Sean Willis out with an injury. The Owls played with three offensive regulars sidelined by injury today.

Fernandez finished 7-20 passing for 66 yards, with 1 td and 1 interception. Jacob Swinehart (Holyoke, Mass.) caught two passes for 23 yards and added six carries for 27 yards.

Blake Simpson (Bellingham, Mass.) and Corey Henderson (Gardner, Mass.) led the Owls with eight tackles each. Henderson added a sack and Cade Nelson (Shrewsbury, Mass.) had 1.5 sacks for the Owls.

Framingham QB Thompson finished 11-27 passing for 169 yards with a TD and an interception. Nichols led the Rams with eight catches for 90 yards and a TD. Daniels finished with 52 yards rushing on seven carries.

Pena was the man of the hour for the Framingham defense, getting in on 17 tackles (9 solo), with four for losses and a sack. Renaudin had the fumble recovery for TD and a 22-yard interception return.

The Owls ran 75 offensive plays to the Rams 52, and Westfield outgained the Rams 246-219 and held a 37-23 edge in time of possession, but the key turnovers hampered the Owls chances to win.

Westfield will travel to Plymouth State for a MASCAC game next Saturday, Oct. 26 at noon. Framingham will next host Mass Maritime on Noon on Oct. 26.



Eric Nazarets looks to steal the ball.



Ben Lang punts the ball away.

## Railers lose weekend finale

WORCESTER – The Worcester Railers lost to the Reading Royals by a 2-1 final on Sunday afternoon in front of a crowd of 2,621 Sunday, they actually put three shots in the net. The problem was that only one counted, Anthony Repaci's short wrist shot at 13:37 of the third period. It accounted for the final score of 2-1.

Repaci was involved in one of the disallowed goals as well. That happened 44 seconds into the third period when Matias Rajaniemi's 45-foot wrist shot eluded Reading goaltender Parker Gahagen. Repaci was at the top of the crease and was called for interference. After a long review, the call was upheld.

"I didn't think my skates were in the blue paint, and I could feel some contact," Repaci said, "but (the officials) said my arm was in there. I know they call that closely."

The other wave-off was less controversial. Colin Jacobs tucked one into an open net at 18:30 of the second period but it was after a whistle when the officials thought that Gahagen had covered the puck.

Maybe he had, maybe he had not. No matter. The play was dead.

Gahagen was opposed in net by John Muse and it was an excellent goaltending duel as expected. Muse made 19 saves, Gahagen 22. The victory improved Gahagen's all-time record versus Worcester to 5-0-0. It is not just the Railers. His career ECHL record is 70-30-7.

Worcester played a slow first period and fell behind 2-0 after 20 minutes.

Reading's first goal came as the puck entered the Worcester end and the Royals wound up in control. Nolan Welsh was set up in the slot by Tyler Gratton after just 4:38.

The visitors made it 2-0 with a power play goal at 9:55. Connor McMenamin got it via a 25-footer from the right circle. That was it for Reading's scoring but that was all it needed. The Royals were blanked for the final 50:05.

Repaci's goal came late in the third period and gave the Railers a chance to tie it late. Cam McDonald and Riley Piercey got assists on the play for their first points of the season.

The Railers were without two experienced defensemen who moved up to the AHL. Christian Krygier was recalled to Bridgeport and Griffin Luce was signed to a pro tryout by the Harford Wolf Pack.

Two inexperienced players made their professional debuts. One was defenseman McDonald, so the assist was his first pro point. Forward Cole Crowder was the other. McDonald is the second Alaskan to play for the Railers, following goalie Michael Bullion.

Worcester's next home game is next month. The Maine Mariners visit on Nov. 8. In between, the Railers are off on a five-game road swing. They play in Trois-Rivieres Friday night then in Maine on Sunday. They are in Norfolk for three games after that.

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# Public Notices

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

**AGAWAM WARRANT FOR STATE ELECTION**

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 Elections to vote at:

- Precinct 1:** William P. Sapelli School, 65 Begley Street
- 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 FIFTH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2024**, from 7:00 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M. for the following purpose:

To cast their votes in the State Election for the candidates for the following offices:

ELECTORS OF PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR THESE UNITED STATES

SENATOR IN CONGRESS FOR THIS COMMONWEALTH

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FIRST DISTRICT

COUNCILLOR EIGHTH DISTRICT

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT HAMPDEN & HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT SIXTH HAMPDEN DISTRICT

- PRECINCT ONE ONLY & THIRD HAMPDEN DISTRICT PRECINCT - TWO THRU EIGHT

CLERK OF COURTS HAMPDEN COUNTY

REGISTER OF DEEDS HAMPDEN DISTRICT

**QUESTION 1: Law Proposed by Initiative Petition**

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 1, 2024?

**SUMMARY**

This proposed law would specify that the State auditor has the authority to audit the legislature.

**A YES VOTE** would specify that the State auditor has the authority to audit the legislature.

**A NO VOTE** would make no change in the law relative to the State Auditor's authority.

**QUESTION 2: LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION**

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 1, 2024?

**SUMMARY**

This proposed law would eliminate the requirement that a student pass the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) tests (or other statewide or district-wide assessments) in mathematics, science and technology, and English in order to receive a high school diploma. Instead, in order for a student to receive a high school diploma, the proposed law would require the student to complete coursework certified by the student's district as demonstrating mastery of the competencies contained in the state academic standards in mathematics, science and technology, and English, as well as any additional areas determined by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

**A YES VOTE** would eliminate the requirement that students pass the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) in order to graduate high school but still require students to complete coursework that meets state standards.

**A NO VOTE** would make no change in the law relative to the requirement that a student pass the MCAS in order to graduate high school.

**QUESTION 3: LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION**

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 1, 2024?

**SUMMARY**

The proposed law would provide Transportation Network Drivers ("Drivers") with the right to form unions ("Driver Organizations") to collectively bargain with Transportation Network Companies ("Companies")-which are companies that use a digital network to connect riders to drivers for pre-arranged transportation-to create negotiated recommendations concerning wages, benefits and terms and conditions of work.

Drivers would not be required to engage in any union activities. Companies would be allowed to form multi-Company associations to represent them when negotiating with Driver Organizations. The state would supervise the labor activities permitted by the proposed law and would have responsibility for approving or disapproving the negotiated recommendations. The proposed law would define certain activities by a Company or a Driver Organization to be unfair work practices. The proposed law would establish a hearing process for the state Employment Relations Board ("Board") to follow when a Company or Driver Organization is charged with an unfair work practice. The proposed law would permit the Board to take action, including awarding compensation to adversely affected Drivers, if it found that an unfair work practice had been committed. The proposed law would provide for an appeal of a Board decision to the state Appeals Court. This proposed law also would establish a procedure for determining which Drivers are Active Drivers, meaning that they completed more than the median number of rides in the previous six months. The proposed law would establish procedures for the Board to determine that a Driver Organization has signed authorizations from at least five percent of Active Drivers, entitling the Driver Organization to a list of Active Drivers; to designate a Driver Organization as the exclusive bargaining representative for all Drivers based on signed authorizations from at least twenty-five percent of Active Drivers; to resolve disputes over exclusive bargaining status, including through elections; and to decertify a Driver Organization from exclusive bargaining status. A Driver Organization that has been designated the exclusive bargaining representative would have the exclusive right to represent the Drivers and to receive voluntary membership dues deductions. Once the Board determined that a Driver Organization was the exclusive bargaining representative for all Drivers, the Companies would be required to bargain with that Driver Organization concerning wages, benefits and terms and conditions of work. Once the Driver Organization and Companies reached agreement on wages, benefits, and the terms and conditions of work, that agreement would be voted upon by all Drivers who has completed at least 100 trips the previous quarter. If approved by a majority of votes cast, the recommendations would be submitted to the state Secretary of Labor for approval and if approved, would be effective for three years. The proposed law would establish procedures for the mediation and arbitration if the Driver Organization and Companies failed to reach agreement within a certain period of time. An arbitrator would consider factors set forth in the proposed law, including whether the wages of Drivers would be enough so that Drivers would not need to rely upon any public benefits. The proposed law also sets out procedures for the Secretary of Labor's review and approval of recommendations negotiated by a Driver Organization and the

Companies and for judicial review of the Secretary's decision. The proposed law states that neither its provisions, an agreement nor a determination by the Secretary would be able to lessen labor standards established by other laws. If there were any conflict between the proposed law and existing Massachusetts labor relations law, the proposed law would prevail. The Board would make rules and regulations as appropriate to effectuate the proposed law. The proposed law states that, if any of its parts were declared invalid, the other parts would stay in effect.

**A YES VOTE** would provide transportation network drivers the option to form unions to collectively bargain with transportation network companies regarding wages, benefits, and terms and conditions of work

**A NO VOTE** would make no change in the law relative to the ability of transportation network drivers to form unions.

**QUESTION 4: LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION**

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 1, 2024?

**SUMMARY**

This proposed law would allow persons aged 21 and older to grow, possess, and use certain natural psychedelic substances in certain circumstances. The psychedelic substances allowed would be two substances found in mushrooms (psilocybin and psilocyn) and three substances found in plants (dimethyltryptamine, mescaline, and ibogaine). These substances could be purchased at an approved location for use under the supervision of a licensed facilitator. This proposed law would otherwise prohibit any retail sale of natural psychedelic substances. This proposed law would also provide for the regulation and taxation of these psychedelic substances. This proposed law would license and regulate facilities offering supervised use of these psychedelic substances and provide for the taxation of proceeds from those facilities' sales of psychedelic substances. It would also allow persons aged 21 and older to grow these psychedelic substances in a 12-foot by 12-foot area at their home and use these psychedelic substances at their home. This proposed law would authorize persons aged 21 or older to possess up to one gram of psilocybin, one gram of psilocyn, one gram of dimethyltryptamine, 18 grams of mescaline, and 30 grams of ibogaine ("personal use amount"), in addition to whatever they might grow at their home, and to give away up to the personal use amount to a person aged 21 or over. This proposed law would create a Natural Psychedelic Substances Commission of five members appointed by the Governor, Attorney General, and Treasurer which would administer the law governing the use and distribution of these psychedelic substances. The Commission would adopt regulations governing licensing quali-

fications, security, recordkeeping, education and training, health and safety requirements, testing, and age verification. This proposed law would also create a Natural Psychedelic Substances Advisory Board of 20 members appointed by the Governor, Attorney General, and Treasurer which would study and make recommendations to the Commission on the regulation and taxation of these psychedelic substances. This proposed law would allow cities and towns to reasonably restrict the time, place, and manner of the operation of licensed facilities offering psychedelic substances, but cities and towns could not ban those facilities or their provision of these substances. The proceeds of sales of psychedelic substances at licensed facilities would be subject to the state sales tax and an additional excise tax of 15 percent. In addition, a city or town could impose a separate tax of up to two percent. Revenue received from the additional state excise tax, license application fees, and civil penalties for violations of this proposed law would be deposited in a Natural Psychedelic Substances Regulation Fund and would be used, subject to appropriation, for administration of this proposed law. Using the psychedelic substances as permitted by this proposed law could not be a basis to deny a person medical care or public assistance, impose discipline by a professional licensing board, or enter adverse orders in child custody cases absent clear and convincing evidence that the activities created an unreasonable danger to the safety of a minor child. This proposed law would not affect existing laws regarding the operation of motor vehicles while under the influence, or the ability of employers to enforce workplace policies restricting the consumption of these psychedelic substances by employees. This proposed law would allow property owners to prohibit the use, display, growing, processing, or sale of these psychedelic substances on their premises. State and local governments could continue to restrict the possession and use of these psychedelic substances in public buildings or at schools. This proposed law would take effect on December 15, 2024.

**A YES VOTE** would allow persons over age 21 to use certain natural psychedelic substances under licensed supervision and to grow and possess limited quantities of those substances in their home and would create a commission to regulate those substances.

**A NO VOTE** would make no change in the law regarding natural psychedelic substances.

**QUESTION 5: LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION**

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 1, 2024?

**SUMMARY**

The proposed law would gradually increase the minimum hourly wage an employer must pay a tipped worker, over the course of five years, on the following schedule:

- To 64% of the state minimum wage on January 1, 2025;
- To 73% of the state minimum wage on January 1, 2026;
- To 82% of the state minimum wage on January 1, 2027;
- To 91% of the state minimum wage on January 1, 2028; and
- To 100% of the state minimum wage on January 1, 2029

The proposed law would require employers to continue to pay tipped workers the difference between the state minimum wage and the total amount a tipped worker receives in hourly wages plus tips through the end of 2028. The proposed law would also permit employers to calculate this difference over the entire weekly or bi-weekly payroll period. The requirement to pay this difference would cease when the required hourly wage for tipped workers would become 100% of the state minimum wage on January 1, 2029.

Under the proposed law, if an employer pays its workers an hourly wage that is at least the state minimum wage, the employer would be permitted to administer a "tip pool" that combines all the tips given by customers to tipped workers and distributes them among all the workers, including non-tipped workers.

**A YES VOTE** would increase the minimum hourly wage an employer must pay a tipped worker to the full state minimum wage implemented over five years, at which point employers could pool all tips and distribute them to all non-management workers.

**A NO VOTE** would make no change in the law governing tip pooling or the minimum wage for tipped workers.

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

**QUESTION 6: THIRD HAMPDEN DISTRICT PRECINCT TWO THRU EIGHT ONLY**

Shall the Representative for this District be instructed to vote for legislation to create a single-payer system of universal health care that provides all Massachusetts residents with comprehensive health care coverage including the freedom to choose doctors and other health care professionals, facilities, and services and eliminates the role of insurance companies in health care by creating an insurance trust fund that is publicly administered? **YES or NO**

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 21 day of October 2024.  
Vincent F. Gioscia, City Clerk

10/24/2024

NOTICES | page 10



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# Public Notices

## NOTICES ■ from page 9

### ADVERTISEMENT

The Agawam Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the **Colonial Haven 667-2 Elderly Housing FISH #005145** for the Agawam Housing Authority in Agawam, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by **Roy S. Brown Architects**.

The Project consists of: **Update Laundry Room consisting of relocation of washers and dryers including plumbing, wiring and HVAC, new casework, and finishes**

The work is estimated to cost: **Eighty nine thousand two hundred dollars (\$89,200)**.

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §§26 to 27H inclusive.

**No DCAMM certifica-**

### tion is required

General Bids will be received until **2:00 p.m., Monday, November 12, 2024** and publicly opened, forthwith.

This project is being Electronically Bid (E-Bid). All bids shall be prepared and submitted online at [www.Projectdog.com](http://www.Projectdog.com) and received no later than the date and time specified above. Hard copy bids will not be accepted by the Awarding Authority. For E-Bid Tutorial and Instructions, click to download the **Supplemental Instructions to Bidders for Electronic Bid Projects** from [www.Projectdog.com](http://www.Projectdog.com). For assistance, contact Projectdog, Inc. at 978.499.9014.

General bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (considering all alternates), and made payable to the **Agawam Housing Authority**.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available electronically or for purchase at [www.Projectdog.com](http://www.Projectdog.com) on **Wednesday, October 23, 2024**; Project Code **858428**

The job site and/or existing building will be available for inspection at **10 am on Wednesday, October 30, 2024**.

For an appointment other than the scheduled walk-thru above, call **Maureen Cayer, Executive Director at the Agawam Housing Authority at (413) 786-1297**. 10/24/2024

**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. HD24A0128AD  
In the matter of:  
Madelyn Doreen Arico  
CITATION  
G.L. c. 210, §6**

**TO:**  
any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.

A petition has been presented to said court by:

**Glenn Moulton of Agawam, MA  
Alexis Moulton of Agawam, MA**

requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to

**Madelyn Doreen Arico-Moulton  
If you object to this**

**adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are an indigent person.**

An indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3.10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran's benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary forms.

**IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT Springfield ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: 11/15/2024.**

**WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.**

**Date: October 11, 2024  
Rosemary A. Saccomani  
Register of Probate  
10/24/2024**

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758**

**Docket No. HD19P2267EA  
Estate of:  
Mary A Blakesley  
Date of Death: 05/03/2019  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT**

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by **Daniel E. Blakesley** of Longmeadow, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including a determination of heirs at law and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

**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 11/19/2024.**

**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.**

**WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court.**

**Date: October 15, 2024  
Rosemary A. Saccomani  
Register of Probate  
10/24/2024**

### LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING

The Agawam City Council Administrative Sub-Committee will conduct a Public Hearing on **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2024 at 6:30PM**, at the Agawam Senior Center Hall Seminar Hall, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA, on an Eversource petition for permission to install a joint owned pole on or near Shoemaker Lane, Feeding Hills, MA could and include installation of a new pole(s), manholes, wires, cables and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protect fixtures along and across the property. This petition is available by contacting the City Council Office, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA or by emailing [bbard@agawam.ma.us](mailto:bbard@agawam.ma.us).

**Robert E. Rossi, Chair  
Administrative Sub-Committee  
10/24/2024**

### Legal Notice Town of Agawam

The Agawam Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, November 7, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.** and the Agawam City Council will hold a public hearing on **Monday, November 18, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.**, both in the Veterans Hall at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of these hearings will be to hear the petition of Savonin for a zone change request for **71 Maynard Street/131 Coronet Circle** from Agricultural to Residence A-1. City Council's public hearing will be livestreamed on the Town of Agawam's website at [www.agawam.ma.us](http://www.agawam.ma.us) and will also be televised on Cable Access Channel 15 or Channel 1074. Copies of the proposed zone change can be obtained from the Office of Planning and Community Development between the hours of 8:30am and 4:30pm at the Agawam Town Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA or by emailing the Office of the City Clerk for an electronic copy at [vgioscia@agawam.ma.us](mailto:vgioscia@agawam.ma.us).

**By Order Of:**  
**Violet Baldwin, Chair  
Agawam Planning Board  
Rosemary Sandlin, President  
Agawam City Council  
10/24, 10/31/2024**

### NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

October 24, 2024  
Town of Agawam  
36 Main Street  
Agawam, MA 01001  
413-786-0400

**These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the Town of Agawam**

### REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about November 7, 2024, the Town of Agawam will submit a request to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC) for the release of Community Development Block Grant funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 as amended, for the purpose of the following project(s):

FY 2024 Agawam Community Assistance Program:

**1. Moore & Valley Streets (Phase 1) Improvements Project:** 1. CDBG Project cost: \$769,596. The proposed project will replace water, sewer, drainage and roadway infrastructure on Moore Street, from the intersection of High Street moving North. Upon completion of the project, failing and deteriorating infrastructure on the street will be replaced, providing residents with safe water to their homes, improved sewer systems, and improved drainage to ensure proper treatment of the nearby Westfield River.

### FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The **Town of Agawam** has determined that the projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the Agawam Town Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA where it can be viewed Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, and at the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 60 Congress Street, Springfield, Massachusetts 01104, where the record is available for review and may be examined or copied weekdays 9:00 am to 4:30 pm.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to

the Community Development Office. All comments received by November 7, 2024, will be considered by Pamela Kerr, Environmental Certifying Officer, prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

### RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Town of Agawam certifies to the EOHLC that Pamela Kerr, in her official capacity as Environmental Certifying Officer, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The EOHLC's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and allows the Town of Agawam to use Program funds.

### OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The EOHLC will accept objections to its release of funds and the Town of Agawam's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases:

(a) The certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Town of Agawam;

(b) The Town of Agawam has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58;

(c) The grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by the EOHLC; or

(d) Another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality.

Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 55.76) and shall be addressed to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities at 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 300, Boston, MA 02114. Potential objectors should contact the EOHLC to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

**Pamela Kerr, Director of Planning & Community Development  
Environmental Certifying Officer**

**Town of Agawam  
36 Main Street  
Agawam, MA 01001**

10/24/2024



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To help make the dream of ending MS come true, call 1-800-FIGHT MS or visit us online at [nationalmssociety.org](http://nationalmssociety.org).



**National Multiple Sclerosis Society**

## Agawam Advertiser News OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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).

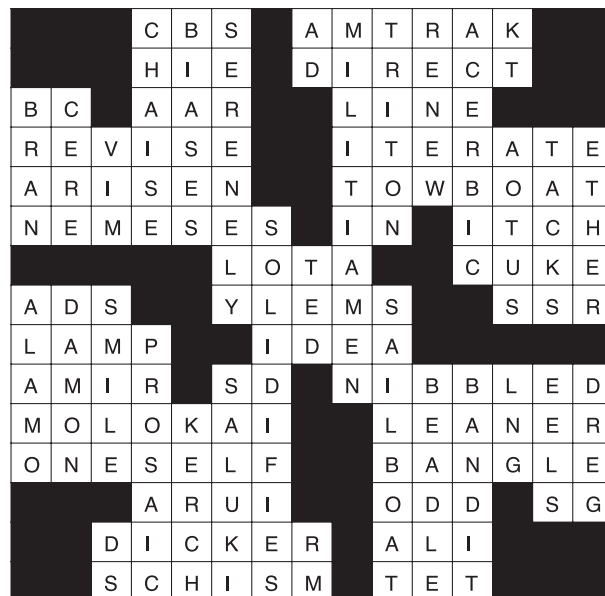
*Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.*

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- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

*Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.*

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**TEEN** ■ from page 1

cause we want to get teens engaged with the library, and we're always trying to plan things that will interest teens, but the real experts on teen interests are, of course, teens themselves," Delano said.

At their most recent meeting on Oct. 9, the TAB came together to plan out a teen event in November.

During their first meeting in September the group had decided that they wanted to hold an oreo-themed event. At their Octo-

ber meeting they fleshed out further what that event would look like.

Together they brainstormed a variety of ideas that could shape the program before taking a vote on what they wanted the program to be.

"After two rounds of voting, the winner was the Oreo Extravaganza," Delano said. "The program will involve creating edible Oreo art and experimenting with different ways to eat Oreos, like dipping them in chocolate and combining them with different candies."

This event will happen on Nov. 6 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.. Registration is required for this event and will open a week before Nov. 1.

TAB will have their next meeting on Nov. 13 at 6 p.m. Any teen (those in seventh through twelfth grade) is welcome to come and join.

People can keep updated on when the meetings are by calling the children's desk at the library or by checking the library website at <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/>.

At this website, people can also learn about other upcoming events at the library. Throughout this month the library is doing a variety of Halloween-themed events, including a Halloween escape room on Oct. 23 for teens.

There will also be a Halloween parade for any age on Oct. 30 at 4 p.m.

On top of these Halloween themed events, the library also has a dungeons and dragons program for teens that meets every other Monday (the most recent meeting was Oct. 21).

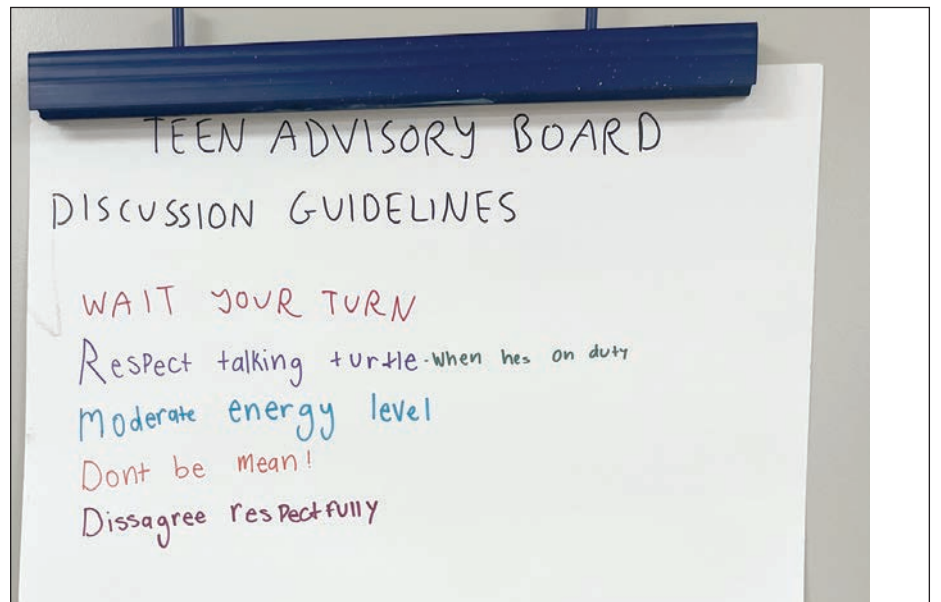


Youth Associate Evan Delano ran the teen advisory board meeting.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA



Youth Associate Evan Delano showed off the "talking turtle" which is used in teen advisory board meetings so people know whose turn it is to speak.



The teen advisory board has a list of discussion guidelines for themselves to follow during meetings.



The teen advisory board brainstormed ideas for a program they want to run in November.



The teen advisory board went over their list of discussion guidelines before beginning their meeting.



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