

JOHNSON ■ from page 1

but from an aesthetic standpoint and from a functionality standpoint.”

He also dedicated many hours to putting together all the information about the project so that he could inform community members of how the project would impact them.

“I put a lot of time and effort into putting together the information and making the presentations and was very, very happy with the strong support from the voters in town,” Johnson said.

On top of this work toward the high school project, Johnson has also worked to improve the day-to-day processes in the town.

“We are in the process of taking a very hard look at our entire bill payment processing and payroll systems,” Johnson said. “We are implementing a module of our software that deals with human resources and seeing how that will impact the payroll process...trying to get our bill payment and processing systems more efficient and more user-friendly for the departments so they can free up time to do other work.”

He hopes this will improve the convenience of the daily lives for many people in the town.

Johnson has transitioned well back into the role of mayor since he last had the position over 20 years ago. He is grateful to former Mayor William Sapelli for his support during the transition.

“Mayor Sapelli did a fantastic job in the transition,” Johnson said.

Johnson is also grateful for all of the public officials who have worked with him throughout his transition and his first year as mayor.

“I want to thank all of the public officials,” Johnson said. “Jim Blain, the high school principal, has been fantastic...in my office I couldn’t ask for two better staff members. Nadine, who is my administra-

tive assistant, has a calming influence on the office and Barbara has been wonderful.”

He is particularly impressed by how well the city council and the school committee have been working together to make Agawam a better place.

“I have been around in politics in Agawam for a long time, the group that represents Agawam now, I am impressed by number one how much they care and how much they want to move Agawam forward and how they are willing to work together and not choose to be divided,” Johnson said. “They are always willing to compromise to move forward.”

During his time as mayor, Johnson has tried to continue many of the efforts that Sapelli had put forward. One such concept is ensuring that there is consistent, thorough communication with the city council.

“He kept the council informed of all the day to day operations of the town and I continued that, trying to keep the council as informed as I can,” Johnson said.

As Johnson moves into his next year in the office, he hopes to continue many of the efforts he began in his first year.

One of his main priorities will be ensuring that the high school project remains consistent with its timeline so the building can be available to the community as soon as possible.

Beyond that, he hopes to continue to look into how he can make more positive change for the Agawam community.

“Trying to look at where there is opportunity to make positive change,” Johnson said. “As we see people retire and leave, evaluate the need for positions and really determine whether positions can be reimagined to better fit our needs going forward.”

He is beyond grateful for all of the community support he has received throughout this past year and he looks forward to seeing how everyone can continue to work together to improve Agawam for all who live in it.

SCHOOL ■ from page 1

estimated useful life of 50 plus years?” Johnson said. “Or do you want to invest \$73 million to keep our building going for another 20 years?”

The vote entailed approving the project as a whole as well as a debt exclusion override for the project budget.

“The debt exclusion simply means that the payments on that bond will not count toward the town’s levy limit, it doesn’t mean that it costs any more, it doesn’t mean that it affects the taxes any more, it just means that in the calculation of the levy limit for the town, the bond payment will not count towards that number,” Johnson had said.

The debt exclusion would ensure that the town would have more room in their budget before they hit the levy limit should the town need the funds for any emergency expense.

With this information in mind, 71% of the town voted in favor of the project.

The MSBA then granted the town funding to continue forward with the project, about \$130 million, leaving the town’s share at \$132 million and the total project cost at an estimated \$231.5 million.

The project will help to truly improve the education of all students who attend the high school.

The new building will have two floors and two main wings. One wing

will be the community wing, which will contain the two gyms (one collegiate sized and the other high school sized), the auditorium and the cafeteria.

In the academic wing there will be academic pods to allow for across subject collaboration.

The first steps of construction of the building are expected to begin in April of 2025. Just after students go on April break the construction company will begin to lay down the construction materials.

“When that happens, we are going to lose close to 100 parking spaces and there is no direct route now from the building to the stadium,” Blain said. “It will be fine for spring sports.”

That phase of construction, which will build the community wing of the building, is expected to last until December of 2026.

Following this is the second construction phase, which will go from January of 2027 until June of 2028.

For this phase of construction, they will focus on building the academic wing of the building.

Finally, from June of 2028 until November of 2028 they will put on the final touches, such as furniture, with the goal of moving students in for January.

During this time there will be no disruptions to the functioning of the high school, which was a crucial aspect in the design of this plan.



Send Us Your Photos!
Email: aan@turley.com

Public Notices

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No. HD24P2407EA
Estate of:
Francis Edward Blanchard
Also Known As:
Francis E. Blanchard
Date of Death:
September 22, 2024
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Francis L. Blanchard of Agawam, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Francis L. Blanchard of Agawam, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
01/02/2025

**Legal Ad
AGAWAM
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION**

The Agawam Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 6:00 PM** at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the Notice of Intent Application of Western Massachusetts Electric Company dba Eversource Energy for work to be performed at 180 South West St subject to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.

By Order of
Henry A. Kozloski,
Chairman
AGAWAM
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION
01/02/2025

**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. HD24P2609EA
Estate of:
Dorothy Adella Lobik
Date of Death: 08/25/2024
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Lauren L Josefek of Granby, CT** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Lauren L Josefek of Granby, CT** be appointed as

Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/14/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.**

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 17, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate
01/02/2025

**LEGAL NOTICE
PUBLIC HEARING**

The Agawam City Council Administrative Committee will conduct a Public Hearing on **TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2025 at 6:30PM**, at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA, on a Verizon petition for permission to lay and maintain underground conduits, with the wires and cables to be placed therein, under the surface of North Westfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA. with permission to lay and maintain underground conduits, manholes, cables, and wires in the above way for the purpose of making connections with such poles and buildings as it may desire for distributing purposes. Public Hearings will also be conducted on Eversource petitions to install poles on Barn Road, Agawam and also on Barry Street, Feeding Hills. These petitions are available by contacting the City Council Office, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA or by emailing bbard@agawam.ma.us.

Robert E. Rossi, Chair
Administrative Committee
01/02, 01/09/2025

**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. HD24C0400CA**

In the matter of:
Kyle Robert Widmer
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Kyle Robert Widmer of Agawam, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Kyle Edward Fitzgerald
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/17/2025.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which

you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 20, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
01/02/2025

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 \$275, 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.

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

S	A	M						S	E	A	T									
E	D	O	M					T	A	N	T	A								
T	A	N	A					S	O	M	A	L	I							
O	G	A	M	S				L	E	X	I	C	A	L						
F	I	C	E	S				F	O	R	E	S	T	S						
F	O	O	T	B	A	L	L	G	A	M	E	S								
								R	A	Y	P	I	N							
								A	A	R	A	H	A							
								S	I	B	A	N	I							
								M	A	R	I	L	Y	N	M	O	N	R	O	E
								C	O	L	L	A	G	E		T	E	A	L	S
S	O	R	T	I	N	G									C	U	B	I	C	
T	R	A	I	N	S										S	I	V	A		
A	I	S	N	E											S	E	E	P		
B	A	S	E												S	S	E			