

Better Business Bureau Scam Alert: Watch out for third parties claiming to help with your government grant registration

Paula Fleming, CMSO
 pfleming@boston.bbb.org

Government impostor scams take on new twists, seeking to trick unsuspecting consumers and businesses. In the newest version, third-party companies offer businesses help with managing their registrations for the US System for Award Management, SAM.gov, for a fee.

SAM.gov is a free US government registry for vendors doing business with the government. According to the SAM.gov official website, users can register to do business with the US government, update business entity registrations, search for records, assistance, contract opportunities, data reports, and access publicly available award data.

How the scam works

You receive an email from what appears to be a SAM.gov representative stating that your registration is set to expire sometime soon. You are threatened with delaying or losing business funding or even at risk of having your registration deleted within the system. You are instructed to update your information immediately using a link and a unique case code provided in the correspondence. If you follow the link, you'll be taken to a third-party registration center website claiming to help businesses that do business with the federal government and you'll be prompted to pay the third-party for your renewal.

BBB files indicate that the services listed in this BBB Business Profile have a pattern of complaints concerning non-service provided after payment is made. Consumer complaints state that they signed up for

the SAM Program and, after paying, are not able to reach the business, and services for the program have not been completed as advised. BBB contacted the business in September 2021 about the pattern of complaints but has not received a response at this time.

Tips to avoid this scam

- Never pay for SAM.gov registration. SAM.gov is a free US government registry that does not require a fee to register, renew or update your registration. If you receive an email from a company offering to help with your registration or renewal for a fee, it's best to ignore it.
- Verify directly with the agency. If someone claims to be from a government agency, contact the agency using its official website or phone number. Never use the contact information provided by the caller or emailer.

• Know how government agencies operate. Legitimate agencies like the IRS, Social Security Administration, or Service Canada will not demand immediate payment, threaten arrest, or ask for sensitive information over the phone, email, or text.

• Check email extensions. Official government correspondence usually comes from ".gov" or ".mil" addresses. Messages from Gmail, Yahoo, or similar domains claiming to be government-related are scams.

• Protect your personal information. Avoid sharing sensitive details like Social Security or Social Insurance numbers, bank account details, or passwords unless you initiate contact with a verified agency.

• Report scams immediately. Report any suspicious contact to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at reportfraud.ftc.gov or through BBB Scam Tracker.

REPORT ■ from page 1

that capacity to identify students with behavioral needs sooner so that tier three isn't something a student needs," DeJesus said.

On top of this work, the district wide emergency response team has also been updating their training.

"We really looked at being more targeted in response to threat assessments because that is a proactive strategy to help assist students who might be at risk of any kind of violent behavior," DeJesus said. "The behavioral threat assessment really works on identifying a threat, determining the seriousness of the threat, implementing interventions to reduce risk from the threat and monitoring the effectiveness of the interventions."

Last year the team received training from the FBI and they created threat assessment teams. This year they are going to work on re-

vising and clarifying their threat assessment process.

They also defined procedures so they are more consistent district-wide, establish documentation practices and established monitoring practices.

"Our hope for next year is more training for the threat assessment teams and expanding some risk management options," DeJesus said.

DeJesus and the rest of her team are hopeful that these actions will make a significant positive impact on the APS community.

The school committee was grateful for the efforts of DeJesus and her team and they look forward to seeing their next steps.

"I appreciate this presentation very much, I think focusing on mental health is something that has been devoid in recent years and so it is good to see that," School Committee Member Michael Perry said.

STORY TIMES ■ from page 1

A highlight of the story time for Delano and many of the kids was the pajama dance party parade.

"Seeing kids having so much fun and interacting with other kids and enjoying the books, it just makes me excited," Delano said.

Delano has done a pajama story time at the library they used to work at and they thought it would be perfect to bring to APL.

"I enjoy pj story time a lot, it has a nice vibe," Delano said.

They also thought it would be a good fit as it is an evening event, which would allow working parents to bring their kids in.

Delano hopes to bring this event back again in the future, as everyone seemed

to enjoy themselves.

The library has a variety of other events planned for the rest of the month.

There will be a family movie afternoon on Feb. 21 at 2 p.m. The library will be showing the new movie The Wild Robot. Kids in their families are welcome to come in and enjoy some snacks as they watch the film.

For kids in grades five and six, the library is holding a Minute to Win It challenge on Feb. 26 at 6 p.m. Kids will get to compete for a chance to win a prize.

For the adults, Rom-com author Liz Alden is coming to the library on Feb. 20 at 6:30 p.m. There will be Valentine's Mocktails served and people can learn more about Alden's work in romance novels.

To keep updated on all of the events at the library, go to their website at <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/>

Public Notices

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No. HD21P0161EA
Estate of:
Paula Miriam Tanzer-Gushue
Date of Death: June 2, 2020
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Robert L. Lankford, Sr. of Wichita, KS**

Robert L. Lankford, Sr. of Wichita, KS has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **with 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.
 02/20/2025

AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
LEGAL NOTICE
 Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Ap-

peals will hold a public hearing at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St., Agawam, MA., on **Monday, March 10, 2025 at 6:30 PM** for all parties interested in the request of Matthew D. Preye who is seeking a Special Permit in accordance with the Town of Agawam's Zoning Ordinances, Ch.180-37(B) and Ch 180-8.1 to allow for the keeping of hens at the premises identified as 347 Poplar Street.
 02/20, 02/27/2025

AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION
LEGAL AD
 The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on Thursday, February 27, 2025 at 6:00PM at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St, Agawam, MA. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the Request for Determination of Applicability of Muller Realty, LLC for property located at 1163 Suffield Street.
 By Order of
 Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman
 Agawam Conservation Commission
 02/20/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No. HD25P0263EA
Estate of:
Kevin Douglas Freeman
Also Known As:
Kevin D. Freeman
Date of Death: 12/01/2024
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE
 To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of

Petitioner **Carol Freeman of Sugarland, TX**
 Petitioner **Robin Garcia of Sugarland, TX**
 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.
 02/20/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD24P1198PM
In the Interests of:
Joanne Gallerani
Of: Agawam, MA
RESPONDENT
Incapacitated Person/ Protected Person
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION TO EXPAND THE POWERS OF A

CONSERVATOR
 To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Alan M Gallerani of Granby, CT** in the above captioned matter requesting that the court:

Expand the powers of a Conservator of the Respondent.

The petition asks the court to make a determination that the powers of the Guardian and/or Conservator should be expanded, modified, or limited since the time of the appointment. The original petition is on file with the court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **03/12/2025**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
 Date: February 12, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccomani
 Register of Probate
 02/20/2025

TOWN OF AGAWAM
LEGAL NOTICE
PUBLIC HEARING
 The Agawam City Council Administrative Committee will conduct a Public Hearing on **MONDAY, MARCH 3, 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, along and across 582 South 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. This petition is 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
 02/13, 02/20/2025

Legal Notice
Town of Agawam
Agawam Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, March 6, 2025 at 6:00pm** and the **Agawam City Council** will hold a public hearing on **Monday, March 17, 2025 at 7:00pm**, both in the Veterans Hall at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of these hear-

ings will be to hear the petition of Calabrese Construction, LLC for a zone change request for **Old River Street, 27 Walnut Street & 17 High Street** from Business A and Industrial A to Residence B. City Council's public hearing will be livestreamed on the Town of Agawam's website at 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
 By Order Of:
 Violet Baldwin, Chair
 Agawam Planning Board
 Rosemary Sandlin, President
 Agawam City Council
 02/20, 02/27/2025

LEGAL NOTICE
 Notice is hereby given by Languet Towing pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.255, Section 39A, that on February 24, 2025 at 63 Ramah Cir S, Agawam the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy the garagekeeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle.
 2008 Mercury Mountaineer
 VIN: 4M2EU47E48UJ04928
 Corey Caride
 52 Alhambra Circle North
 Agawam, MA 01001
 02/06, 02/13, 02/20/2025

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.

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 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.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

