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Union photo by Michelle Segall

A new flag dedicated to prisoners of war and men missing in action was raised yesterday in front of Wilbraham Town Hall. From left are Edward Czupryna, Ray Trombley, Harry King and Spurgeon Agerton, all of Wilbraham.

# Agawam sues Westfield over tower

By LESLIE PHENNER

WEST SPRINGFIELD — The town of Agawam filed a civil suit in Hampden Superior Court yesterday against the West Springfield Zoning Board of Appeals, stating the ZBA "exceeded its authority" when it granted a variance enabling a local radio station owner to build a broadcast tower on an island in the Westfield River.

Agawam, in the suit filed by Town Manager Reid S. Charles, charges that "the granting of this variance will have a detrimental effect on the public good." Attorney Richard C. Morassi, representing Agawam, declined to comment on the specific effects that could be considered detrimental to the town until the town's case has been further prepared.

Efforts last night to reach ZBA Chairman Gerald A. Grucci Jr. and members Daniel F. Binda and Patrick Hourihan, all named in the suit, were unsuccessful.

The suit stems from a ZBA decision last month which will allow Manuel Angelo, owner of WACM-AM, a Portuguese radio station located in West Springfield, to erect a 394-foot broadcast tower on Center Island, which is owned by West Springfield, but lies between this town and Agawam.

Angelo originally sought the variance last November, claiming that the higher tower would increase the station's broadcast radius, and therefore his listening audience.

The West Springfield Planning Board voted 4 to 1 in December to

recommend against the new tower on the bases that the tower might impede flood control efforts and jeopardize the town's qualifications to receive federal flood insurance.

But after a second review in December during which the Planning Board considered several stipulations suggested by then-Town Engineer Wallace W. Wyman, the board voted to recommend that the ZBA allow the tower construction.

Among the conditions for construction were that no building be built on the island, that no fence be erected around the tower and that a concrete post be placed on the island to deflect debris in the event of a flood.

With the Planning Board's recommendation and assurances from Town Planner Robert Spaulding and Planning Board Chairman Paul Cummings that the town will still be eligible for federal flood insurance, the ZBA last month granted the variance.

Agawam maintains that town officials were not notified of a Feb. 23 public hearing in West Springfield at which Angelo and his attorney Edward Leja substantiated their request, despite the matter's "direct and substantial impact on the inhabitants of Agawam," as stated in the case file.

Agawam Planning Board Chairman Charles R. Calabrese has stated in published reports that the radio tower could interfere with residents' radio reception or endanger their homes.

# POW's recall days of captivity

By NANCY PICCIN

WILBRAHAM — Raising a new Prisoner of War flag yesterday at the town hall was a moving experience for former POW Spurgeon Agerton.

"It chokes me up a little. It's still an emotional thing, though it was 40-some odd years ago," he said. "You can't get away from it. You relive it every time you talk about it."

Agerton was a POW for 11 months in Germany after being shot down over Vienna, Austria.

He joined four other local former prisoners of war yesterday for a flag-raising ceremony and reception. With the coffee and doughnuts went plenty of reminiscing about the not-so-good old days.

All the veterans invited to the ceremony by town Veterans'

Agent Richard Prochnow had served in World War II.

"We saw all these atrocities, that was pretty tough," said Ray Trombley, who flew P-38 fighter planes for 17 missions, and was shot down in Hungary south of Budapest.

"The pictures you see about the atrocities — well, they were there, because I saw them," he said.

Trombley said he was a prisoner for six months, during which the Hungarians turned him over to the Germans and he was moved "from prison camp to prison camp."

"We were liberated at Moseberg, Germany, by General Patton. He came in in his tanks and his guns, just like in the movies," Trombley said.

"I feel I want to honor the dead that were there, not myself," he said. "That's why I'm here."

Edward Czupryna served in an

American armored division as a tank gunner in North Africa. He was a prisoner for "two years, three months and eleven days," captured when his tank was "knocked out. You get the strangest feeling . . . there's no word for it. You're empty."

As a POW, he said, "You're a nobody. Your morale is down. They do what they please with you. Your main thing in your mind was your food. We had to fight with the pig for the potatoes." He lost more than half his weight, going from 186 to 72 pounds, while held by the Gestapo.

"They just didn't care for life," he said.

Harry King clearly remembers the night he was captured in the Battle of the Bulge outside St. Bith, Germany.

"We were up in the line as infantry when the Germans broke

through. We were all surrounded.

"We were up in a section of woods. During the night the rest of the outfit pulled out, but we didn't get the message to pull out. Come morning, we were left there by ourselves. It snowed in the night, and we were in the foxholes," he said.

"We were put in boxcars . . . for four days and four nights we were locked up in boxcars. One time we marched for 45 days, they put us in barns at night," he said, and they traveled "almost to the border of Russia that way."

King also lost almost half his weight, going from 180 to 95 pounds during his four months in captivity.

"I have a lot to be thankful for," he said.

"It's too bad after 45 years they still can't get along with each other and live in peace."

# Treasurer candidate seeks 'positive' race

By LESLIE PHENNER

WEST SPRINGFIELD — Town Collector Jane Gardella, running on the Republican ticket for town treasurer in the April elections, declined rebuttal to her opponent's charges that she will not be able to devote enough time to the treasurer's office if elected.

Gardella's opponent, Democrat Francis X. O'Brien, last week released a statement questioning Gardella's ability to manage her full-time duties as town collector and handle the treasurer's responsibilities as well.

But Gardella, contacted Sunday, said she would rather not acknowledge O'Brien's remarks because she intends to run "a positive campaign" based on her credentials for the position.

In his statement, O'Brien main-

tained that his "outside business commitments allow (him) the flexibility to make that time commitment to the town." He questioned Gardella's "ability to make this commitment."

Gardella and O'Brien are vying for the remaining year of former Town Clerk and Treasurer John F. Crean Jr.'s term as treasurer. Crean, who retired last month, had held both offices since 1972.

Town Meeting reduced the treasurer's salary to about \$6,000 so that Crean would not receive two full-time salaries.

Gardella has worked in various town offices since 1967 and has been Town Collector since 1983.

Gardella said this week she will seek to combine the offices of collector and treasurer and will run for treasurer this year on her qualifications and experience. Her

term as town collector expires next year.

"I'm not running against Mr. O'Brien's statement. I'm running for treasurer of the town of West Springfield," she said.

Gardella began working in the town accountant's office in 1967. She earned a bachelor of science degree in education from American International College in 1971 and became assistant town collector under the late Stephen Nowlan in 1975.

In 1981, the Board of Selectmen unanimously appointed her acting town collector. She has since won two terms to the office.

O'Brien is the associate vice president of United Mortgage Corp. of Burlington and says he has experience in commercial real estate investments. He received a bachelor of arts degree in English

from St. Anselm's College in Manchester, N.H., and recently completed a course in fiscal management and investment at Northeastern University.

O'Brien, who ran in the Democratic caucus for both town clerk and treasurer, was narrowly defeated by Acting Town Clerk Diane Foley for the clerk's position. He was unopposed in the caucus for the treasurer's post.

O'Brien stated that although the treasurer's position "requires considerable financial management expertise and is most certainly time consuming," his outside work would enable him to be "available whenever needed."

"My time is my own . . . I can work in the treasurer's office 40 hours a week if I have to," O'Brien said.

# Buyer meets deadline for Pasquale's

By A.M. CARDAROPOLI

WESTFIELD — Although the \$350,000 balance was paid yesterday for the burned-out site of the former Pasquale's Restaurant on Elm Street, future plans for the site are still unknown.

Worcester lawyer Hoover Garabedian offered the high bid of \$360,000 for the parcel at a public auction on Feb. 27. Under the contract, Garabedian had to pay the balance by yesterday or lose the \$10,000 deposit he made the day of the auction.

Garabedian is on vacation and could not be reached for comment yesterday.

The payment was made yesterday morning by an associate of Garabedian, according to

Bradford R. Martin Jr., a lawyer with the firm of Ryan & White, who is handling the sale for the insurer, United States Fidelity and Guaranty Co.

"He performed the purchase according to the memorandum of sale by delivering the balance today," Martin said yesterday.

USF&G assumed the mortgage after paying fire damage claims to Westfield Savings Bank, the previous mortgage holder. USF&G organized the auction after restaurateur Pasquale Cardenuto defaulted on the restaurant's mortgage.

Garabedian represented Cardenuto in the restaurateur's trial on charges of arson and burning a building with intent to defraud an insurer in connection with a

1983 fire that heavily damaged the building.

On the day of the auction, Cardenuto had said that Garabedian had bought the property on his behalf, but has since said he does not know of the lawyer's plans for the building.

Garabedian has said he was bidding for the downtown location on behalf of an unidentified person, and declined to reveal the buyer's identity. The only name signed to the purchase agreement was Garabedian's.

Cardenuto was convicted of burning the building in April of 1985, and has remained free while awaiting the outcome of an appeal. He has reopened the pizza restaurant in a building in the rear of the property.

Cardenuto has been sentenced to a term between 6 to 10 years in Cedar Junction State Prison at Walpole, and is awaiting an appeal of a Hampden County Superior Court judge's refusal to grant him a new trial.

He sought the new trial after his brother-in-law, Nicola Robistelli, confessed to setting the fire because he was treated poorly by his in-laws, but prosecutors claimed that Robistelli had never indicated any problems with his in-laws.

Martin said the foreclosure deed and appropriate documents will be sent to the Land Court in Boston for approval, and the transfer of the deed will be recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds.

# Bearhole wood harvest approved

By LESLIE PHENNER

WEST SPRINGFIELD — The Board of Selectmen last night unanimously voted to sign two contracts totaling \$14,000 for the selective harvesting of two 15-acre tracts in the Bearhole watershed area.

The harvesting contracts, awarded to Peter Rayton Logging Co. of Northampton, will become effective pending notification that the town will be insured under Rayton's policy, as recommended by Town Counsel James T. Donahue.

Department of Public Works Deputy Superintendent Seth Swift, who oversees the town's forestry and grounds division, said the harvesting of the tracts will begin as soon as possible and will be completed within a year.

Selective harvesting is part of the town's ongoing forestry management plan. The two lots in the watershed area consist primarily of mixed oak and hardwood trees. Those that have reached maturity or their maximum usefulness will be harvested, Swift said.

New England Forestry Foundation, the town's forestry consultants, have developed a plan designed to improve the water flow and quality at the Bearhole Reservoir, which provides the town with about one-third of its water supply. With proper forestry management, the water is purified and flows at a consistent volume, Swift said.

The contracts, one for \$6,000 and the other for \$8,000, will be paid in thirds: one-third at the outset of the work, one-third at some midpoint to be determined by the town, and the last third when the work is completed, Swift said.

In other action, selectmen voted unanimously to appoint Bernard F. Lally to replace Marjorie W. Sullivan on the Historical Commission. In a letter to the board, Sullivan said that "personal commitments" would preclude her from fulfilling her duties on the commission.

In other business, selectmen voted unanimously to continue to Monday its hearing on the remainder of the DPW fiscal 1988 budget. The main issue was the determination of an appropriation for the construction of, and repairs to, sidewalks and curbing.

Last week, the Finance Committee voted against recommending \$100,000 for sidewalk and curbing repairs because the DPW provided no justification for the figure in terms of what work the department anticipated for next year.

# UMass trustees reject CIA recruiting ban

BOSTON (AP) — University of Massachusetts trustees rejected a student's motion yesterday to ban CIA recruiting on campus at a meeting unmarred by the protests that had disrupted a February session, a school spokeswoman said.

The meeting of the executive board was attended by about 60 students and faculty members, who were "calm and orderly" compared with the students who had forced the adjournment of the Feb. 4 conference by demanding the trustees take up their proposal, said UMass spokeswoman Jeanne Hopkins-Stover.

She said student trustee Dani Burgess cast the lone vote in favor of his motion to ban the spy agency from campus. The motion was dismissed by a vote of 4-1.

Burgess' motion maintained that the CIA should be prohibited from university grounds because the spy agency was found by the World Court to be conducting an illegal war against Nicaragua. He cited a 1971 campus policy declaring the campus open to "law-abiding citizens" and "legitimate public businesses."

Joseph Duffey, chancellor of the university's Amherst campus, told the trustees before the vote that universities should not take official political positions, although that view "often provokes radicals of all stripes as well as absolutists and authoritarians."

"The real purpose of the protesters is clear: They want the trustees to commit the university as an institution to a political position. They want an institutional condemnation of covert activities by our government in Central America," Duffey said.