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Wednesday, Dec 6, 2023 - Vol. 20, No. 5

FREE

Remember, Honor and Teach

By Stewart Lytle, Reporter



Photo provided by Stewart Lytle
Tammy and Ron Garron lay a wreath to honor a local hero.

ROWLEY -- The Rowley Burial Ground will continue for the third year on Dec. 16 to Remember, Honor and Teach as one of 4,000 locations and more than 2 million volunteers as part of the Wreaths Across America.

Wreaths Across America, a free community event, started as a simple gesture of thanks to deceased service men and women that has grown into a national movement of dedicated volunteers and communities that remember the nation's fallen, honor their service and teach the next generation about their sacrifices.

Led by Tammy and Ron Garron, the Rowley volunteers are raising funds to place 700 sponsored veterans' wreaths on the headstones of all the local heroes in the burial ground beside Town Hall.

"We are forever grateful for the thousands of supporters who dedicate their time and effort to fulfilling our mission all year long," said Karen Worcester, executive director, Wreaths Across America. "These individuals and their communities know the value of remembering the fallen, honoring those who currently serve and teaching the next generation about the sacrifices made for our freedom every day, and without their continued support, Wreaths Across America would not exist."

Those interested in volunteering for Wreaths Across America or sponsoring a wreath for the Rowley Burial Ground, are invited to visit www.wreathsafteramerica.org/ma0133 to learn more. Wreaths cost \$17 each. Through Wreaths Across America online, supporters can buy two wreaths and receive three.

'We Shall Remember'

By Ava Moeckel, Reporter



(From left) Michael Updike, Geordie Vining, Sean Reardon and Glenn Focht.

Photo by Stewart Lytle

NEWBURYPORT -- The latest addition to the shoreline of the Clipper City Rail Trail is a memorial, unveiled Sunday, that is designed to help trail goers remember something many would like to forget, the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The circular granite stone, brought from Canada, has a message written in 71 carved letters, which took the sculptor weeks. It features 42 swimming fish, which represent the concept of community. The circular motion of the swimming fish symbolizes infinity.

The memorial has a crack across the center of the stone, which is meant to remind of the heartbreak Covid-19 caused.

Michael Updike, a Newbury sculptor, and Geordie Vining, the city's senior planner, who supervised the construction of the rail trail and selected most of the trail's art work, designed the memorial together. They began talking about it in 2021 at the height of the Pandemic.

"I was thinking about how there are essentially no memorials to the great Flu Epidemic from a century ago. I was also wondering whether that collective forgetting may have contributed to how ill-prepared we were for Covid-19," Vining said.

The Spanish Flu, which ravaged the nation and world during World War I, killed 50 million people, compared to the Covid Pandemic, which took the lives of 2.2 million.

The words Updike and Vining wrote and Updike carved on the outer edge of the memorial are:

*"For those who died and those who survived and
all we lost during the Covid-10 Pandemic.
We Shall Remember."*

Updike said he insisted the last sentence in the center of the stone be changed. Initially, it read: "We will remember." The sculptor had it changed to be more of a commandment.

When the city asked Updike, a juried member of the League of New Hampshire Craftsman and designer for the company Mariposa, to develop a concept for the memorial, he initially proposed a larger piece of circular granite. It

Continued on page 3

Conservation Commission Battle Rages On

By Stewart Lytle, Reporter



Courtesy Photo - Georgetown, MA Facebook

Georgetown, MA Town Hall

GEORGETOWN -- It appears it was not enough to pressure the 25-year veteran chair of the town's environmental watch dog commission to resign. Critics of the Conservation Commission (ConCom) have turned their sights on the vice chair and possibly other commission members as well.

"One down. Who's next?" wrote Kevin Wood, a resident, in the community social media platform, Georgetown News.

ConCom chair Carl Shreder resigned last month after a private meeting with SelectBoard chair Amy Smith, where, according to Shreder and vice chair Rachel Bancroft, Smith demanded they resign from the commission or "Things will get ugly for you."

Shreder and Bancroft, who did not resign, believe Smith and other town officials met with Wood prior to the meeting and was referring to what Wood planned if they did not resign. Bancroft was also elected to the SelectBoard.

A prolific filer of complaints against Georgetown departments and commissions for Open Meeting Law (OML) violations, Wood filed a complaint against the ConCom last month for discussing a candidate's qualifications to be the town's conservation agent prior to its October meeting. The brief discussion before the meeting officially started was broadcast on Georgetown Community Television.

The candidate, Michele Greiner, a wetlands expert and veteran town conservation agent, was later officially approved by the commission and hired by the town to be the staff for the commission, which oversees development near protected wetlands.

Wood wrote to *The Town Common* that he has filed five OML violation complaints against the ConCom. Shreder said he was told that Wood has filed

Continued on page 3

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How to Submit Letters to the Editor



Marc Maravalli, B.S., R.Ph.
Publisher/Editor, The Town Common

Letters to the Editor provide a useful way of communicating concerns, issues, or suggestions to all members of the community.

The Town Common encourages all citizens to submit letters concerning issues of interest and concern to the local community.

Letters selected for publication may be edited for length and clarity. Some letters may serve as a catalyst for other articles or coverage, and community leaders and agencies will be offered an opportunity to respond to letters concerning their areas of responsibility.

All letters must be signed and include a daytime telephone number.

Letters may be submitted to:

The Editor
c/o The Town Common
77 Wethersfield St.
Rowley, MA 01969

or preferably via e-mail to:
editor@thetowncommon.com.

The Town Common deadline is 5pm Wednesday (except when a federal holiday necessitates an earlier deadline).

The Town Common serves the communities of the Upper North Shore of Mass. & Coastal New Hampshire and welcomes your participation. Send your Organization or Group Notices, Birth or Engagement Announcements, Photos, Articles and Letters to the Editor, by mail, phone, fax, or e-mail to:
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Phone: 978-432-9669
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Liz Ichizawa, '04-05 Reporter (1956 - 2005)
Jim Wilson, '20-22 Publisher/Editor (1954-2022)

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6	Wed	5:57	7.2	6:16	7.2			12:09	1.5	6:57	4:10	☾
7	Thu	6:48	7.4	7:11	7.1	12:33	1.1	1:05	1.3	6:58	4:10	☾
8	Fri	7:37	7.7	8:03	7.1	1:23	1.1	1:58	1.0	6:59	4:10	☾
9	Sat	8:23	8.0	8:52	7.2	2:10	1.1	2:47	0.6	7:00	4:10	☾
10	Sun	9:07	8.3	9:39	7.2	2:54	1.1	3:33	0.3	7:01	4:10	☾
11	Mon	9:49	8.6	10:24	7.4	3:37	1.0	4:17	0.0	7:02	4:10	☾
12	Tue	10:32	8.9	11:09	7.5	4:20	0.9	5:02	-0.3	7:02	4:10	☾

LEGAL NOTIFICATION

GEORGETOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act (Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 131, Section 40 and the Georgetown Wetlands Protection Bylaw: The Applicant, Ryan Lerch has filed a Notice of Intent with the Georgetown Conservation Commission for the proposed 16'x23.2' Addition on an Existing Foundation at 200 West Main St., Georgetown, MA 01833.

A Public Hearing will be held virtually at 7pm on December 21st, 2023 at which time all persons and organizations having interest may be heard. Copies of the application may be examined at the Conservation Commission office, 1 Library Street, Georgetown, MA 01833. The application can also be viewed by visiting the Georgetown Conservation Commission website at

<https://www.georgetownma.gov/conservation-commission>

Regards,

Carl Shreder, Chair

Georgetown Conservation Commission

12/06, 12/13

LEGAL NOTICE - ROWLEY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

A Public Hearing will be held at the Town Hall Annex, 39 Central Street, on Wednesday, December 20th at 6:00 p.m. to act on an application received November 20, 2023 from Christine A. McClearn of DiLuigi Foods. Applicant(s) is Requesting a Special Permit for a building sign consisting of 50sq ft. The property is located at 62 Forest Ridge Drive, 4B in the Business/Light Industrial district and is shown on Assessors' Map 7 Block 10 Lot 5-B. At the public hearing, members of the public may ask questions and present evidence that supports either the approval or denial of this petition.

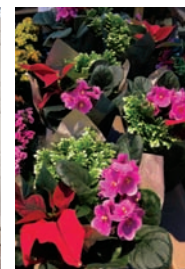
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Conservation Commission Battle Rages On

Continued from page 1

more OML violation complaints than any other Massachusetts resident.

In turn, the ConCom filed a harassment complaint against Wood with the Georgetown Police.

"Forsomereasonthecommission is unable to conduct itself in compliance with Open Meeting Law and some members believe citizens exercising their rights is harassment," Wood posted in the Georgetown News.

Wood also wrote: "The real issue is credible allegations of payroll fraud by the past commission agent and conservation commission members apparent tacit approval if not complicity in hiding it." He claimed the alleged payroll fraud by former conservation agent Steve Przyjemski could amount to more than \$150,000.

Przyjemski, a salaried employee, resigned in January after working 17 years as the conservation agent, citing a "hostile environment" in Town Hall.

The fraud allegations, originally

made by Town Administrator Orlando Pacheco in an email to the Town Common, are being investigated by a Newburyport private detective firm, the Stirm Group, hired in executive session by the town's SelectBoard.

After weeks of investigating the allegation, the Stirm Group, which has demanded copies of commission members' personal emails, has publicly produced no proof of the fraud allegations.

"Did Shreder really believe that my OML Complaint which was copied to the Attorney General was a criminal threat? Or was his motivation to intimidate me and chill my ability to exercise by rights?" Wood wrote.

"Whatever reasoning flickered across his foggy synapses, he was wrong. Very wrong, and it cost him his position on the commission. Georgetown public officials have attempted to weaponize the police against residents before. Rachel Liv Bancroft has a history of such calculated and manipulative behavior," he wrote.

The ConCom met last week in

executive session to discuss its next steps since the state Land Court reversed its denial of a permit for the G. Mello Trash Disposal Corp. to build a 550-ton transfer station near protected wetlands.

The commission will meet probably in January to decide whether to continue the fight against the controversial transfer station. The Board of Health and the Planning Board have approved permits for the station.

During the meeting, Wood tried to sit in the closed executive session and claimed the commission was acting illegally by holding the meeting. After the town's attorney declared the commission was acting legally, Wood left.

CORRECTION:

The Town Common reported that Bancroft received two written opinions from the state Ethics Commission, stating she could serve on both the ConCom and the SelectBoard. The Ethics Commission attorney gave the opinion verbally, not in writing. We apologize for the error.

'We Shall Remember'

Continued from page 1

would have required a seam running through the rock to knit two large pieces of the stone together.

Vining, who recently vacationed in Japan, proposed highlighting the granite "crack" in gold, along the lines of the ancient Japanese art of Kintsugi.

Udike, who is also a gravestone sculptor, was very familiar with the Kintsugi technique for putting broken pieces of pottery back together and covering the repair with gold. Kintsugi highlights and embraces the breaks and scars, rather than trying to repair the object to look new.

When a bowl or object is broken, rather than discarding the pieces, in Kintsugi the fragments are put back together with a glue-like tree sap and the cracks are filled with gold. No attempt is made to hide the damage. Instead, it is highlighted in the unique piece.

The idea is that beauty can be found in imperfection.

Mayor Sean Reardon called the memorial a "beacon of hope." He believes the memorial will be a symbol of a more resilient and compassionate future. He praised the placement of the memorial near the water on the river's edge and thanked the staff of the city's Public Works Department for installing the memorial.

Anna Jaques Hospital president Dr. Glenn Focht said he is grateful to be asked to help unveil the memorial. His hospital treated 1,300 Covid-19 victims out of about 22,000 victims of the Pandemic in the state.

The 3-mile Clipper City Rail Trail connects the MBTA commuter rail station to the harbor walk on the waterfront. The pandemic memorial is on the new section of the trail, which follows the Merrimack River waterfront to water street and connects through the South End to Parker Street in Newbury. It showcases structures like the pandemic memorial, a gallery of local paintings and offers views of the river with great birdwatching.

Newburyport Adult and Community Education - Online Registration is Open for Winter Classes

Newburyport Adult and Community Education announces that online registration is now open for winter classes and holiday gift certificates are now on sale. The winter session begins January 22 and continues through March 20, with classes running anywhere from one night to eight weeks. A wide array of more than 50 classes are being offered. A few of the many new offerings include Stand Up Comedy, Singing, Culinary Arts, The Artist's Way, Vintage Radio Repair, French and Italian Language, Conversations with an Astronaut, Whales, College Planning, Japanese Bookbinding, Writing Your Artist Statement, Transitioning Away From Fossil Fuels, Your Spiritual Journey, and so much more.

SAT Prep classes for college-bound juniors and seniors, as well as English classes for non-English speaking individuals are also being offered.

Classes are available to anyone aged 15+ in the Greater Newburyport region. Classes are limited in size and can fill up quickly.

To see the full schedule of classes and to register online, visit newburyportadulted.org

Newburyport Adult and Community Education (NACE) is a fully self-supporting program. Our budget is funded primarily from course fees. Additional funding is made available from grants and individual donors. We operate under the auspices of the Newburyport Public School system but we receive no tax dollars.

For more information, contact Patty St. John, Director at 978-465-1257.

CONGRATULATIONS KATRINA SMITH!

Senior Katrina Smith from Rowley passed her state board exams and is now a licensed cosmetologist. She is the first member of the Class of 2024 to become a licensed cosmetologist.



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Health & Wellness



By J. PETER ST. CLAIR, DMD

Patients see things differently than dentists. Often, what is important to dentists is not important to patients and vice versa. This seems like the hysterical discovery of the obvious, but dentists often have a blind spot when it comes to seeing things from a patient's viewpoint.

We often have a similar blind spot in our ability to communicate with patients. When asked to rate their ability to communicate with patients, 60% of physicians rated themselves in the top 10%.

Dentists would probably have similar results.

Communication is key to any relationship. Why then do healthcare professionals, dentists specifically, often have poor communication skills with their patients? There is no one answer to this question, but we (dentists) all struggle with communicating with patients at some level.

Dentists often get a bad rap - in the media, interpersonally, and even in the movies. We (dentists) are often starting with a disadvantage in the relationship with our patients. Some patients, who may really need and want care, have preconceived notions such as fear without basis, an unpleasant past experience, or the idea that they just can't afford it. It is more difficult to build a trusting relationship in these situations. Of course, there are many patients who love their dental office, but there are still even many of those patients who dentists have trouble communicating with.

I think the biggest problem we (dentists) have in many of these communication issues is time. Dentistry is a business, and an expensive business to run efficiently. When time is money, dental income to support the business comes from work being done in the chair. This creates yet another blind spot for the dentist.

Dentists may be great tooth fixers but in general are poor communicators. Anyone can drill on a tooth but not everyone has meaningful communication skills. When was the last time a dentist sat down with you for an extended conversation to discuss your personal situation, the importance and relevance to getting good dental

Brighter Smiles...

COMMUNICATION IS EVERYTHING - PART 1

care and its significance to systemic health? When was the last time a dentist helped you work through your particular barrier (fear, money, time, lack of concern, trust) to getting a healthier mouth? I know I have room for improvement.

Meaningful communication skills come more easily to some than others. For most of us, it seems it is always work in progress. I'm sure you can think of numerous past experiences of poor communication and realize later how the situation could have been better handled. I can think of many. Our way of communicating is often engrained in us. If we wish to improve our communication skills, we (dentists and everyone) must first become aware or more mindful of these interactions. Only then can we work on improving this skill. That takes time, and time is again a factor.

Dentists need to recognize, fully

understand and be able to manage the different barriers that prevent patients from getting the care they deserve. Every patient has their own issues, their own concerns, their own personality and their own true or false notions about dentists and dentistry.

Relationships take time to develop. Talk with your dentist about anything that is holding you back from improving your dental health. These conversations build trust. Trust is the key factor in the dentist-patient relationship.

....to be continued

Dr. St. Clair maintains a private dental practice in Rowley dedicated to health-centered family dentistry. He has a special interest in treating snoring, sleep apnea and TMJ problems. If there are certain topics you would like to see written about or questions you have please email them to him at jpstclair@stclairdmd.com



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1 Holds inside

9 Scrams

16 Many millennia

20 Chart of the Pacific, e.g.

21 Eeyore's creator

22 "Blue Jasmine" Oscar winner Blanchett

23 Start of a riddle

25 Cawing bird

26 Collate, e.g.

27 Couch potatoes stare at them

28 Maple stuff

29 Thin coins

30 Prayerful plea starter

34 Designer Saarinen

37 Sparks' state

39 Riddle, part 2

45 Subject for Dr. Ruth

46 "Zip- — -Doo-Dah"

47 "... Mac — PC?"

48 Hostess snack cake

49 Onetime senator Trent

51 Hiccup or charley horse

54 Convents and abbeys

56 Colored rings of irises

58 About 4.2 millimeters, in typography

61 Footed vase

62 Agnus — (Mass prayer)

63 Riddle, part 3

66 "This is SO frustrating!"

69 Beelzebub

70 Tools used in fixing flats

72 Huge fad

76 To date

78 Riddle, part 4

80 Ship's swerve

83 Brow's curve

85 Bygone Russ. states

86 Most speedy

87 She won eight Oscars for Best Costume Design

91 "Oops, I messed up"

93 Comic-strip light bulb

94 Sliding-open car option

95 Like below-zero nos.

98 "... — it just me?"

100 Highway goo

101 End of the riddle

106 "Perhaps ... ask me about it later"

107 Band with the hit "Whip It"

108 — date (plan for marriage)

109 Exuding testosterone

111 Catch sight of

113 Hobbit hunter

115 Tide type

119 Exhort

120 Riddle's answer

126 Aspersion

127 Carry in the uterus

128 They could use a welcome sight

129 Quick flights

130 Most bohemian

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DOWN

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4 Body image?

5 Moreover

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7 Anti's call

8 Catch sight of

9 "Goldfinger" singer Shirley

10 French thirst quencher

11 Electric guitar connection

12 Pointers

13 Actor Everett

14 Customs worker

15 Golf bag item

16 Fender bender, e.g.

17 Tagged for a particular use

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24 Iris' layer

29 Miles of jazz

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32 Long-used adage

33 Least shallow

35 P-shaped Greek letter

36 Sculler's tool

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41 "— culpa"

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43 St. Pat's land

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55 Greg Evans' long-running comic strip

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79 Chuck Berry title woman

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81 Together, in music scores

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99 Mil. officer

102 Share, as a blog entry

103 Web-footed wading bird

104 "Me neither"

105 Pioneer Boone

109 Maudlin sentimentality

110 Guthrie of folk singing

112 Legendary snow beast

114 Hacienda house

116 "Orinoco Flow" singer

117 Yemeni port

118 "Hey, over here ..."

120 Org. for club swingers

121 No, in Paisley

122 Part of TGIF

123 "Just joking!"

124 Lingerie item

125 The, in Arles

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73169175	SLD	45 Stackyard Road	Rowley, MA	BB5522	Detached	0	248000	260000
73168913	SLD	6 Whittier Dr	Merrimac, MA	AN1199	Detached	2	549900	550000
73172215	SLD	20 Ocean Drive	Ipswich, MA	C95171	Detached	2	699000	701000
73164249	SLD	2 Birch Lane	Newbury, MA	ByfieldbC95006	Detached	2	725000	733000
73167850	SLD	74 Purchase	Newburyport, MA	Joppa AN6165	Detached	2	785000	1065000
73174329	SLD	391 Wethersfield St	Rowley, MA	AN7070	Detached	3	799900	850000
73149762	SLD	94 Surrey Ln	Topshfield, MA	AN4351	Detached	3	925000	875000
73163640	SLD	15 Timber Ln	Topshfield, MA	AN6886	Detached	4	929000	1030000
73155423	SLD	20 Scotland Heights	Newbury, MA	C95243	Detached	3	1099999	1250000
73168463	SLD	110 Town Farm Rd	Ipswich, MA	AN4824	Detached	3	1100000	1050000
73164539	SLD	2 Fruit Street	Newburyport, MA	C95006	Attached	3	1340000	1320000

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