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Wednesday, June 12, 2024 - Vol. 20, No. 33

FREE

Newburyport's Market Landing Park Dedicated

By Stewart Lytle, Reporter



The Market Landing Park - Photo by Stewart Lytle

NEWBURYPORT – It has been “many, many months” in the making, Mayor Sean Reardon said last week. But next week, the city will dedicate and celebrate its new signature park, Market Landing Park, and a rebuilt bulkhead that links the park and the Merrimack River.

Reardon and U.S. Congressman Seth Moulton, D-Salem, who helped secure federal funding for the bulkhead repair project, will cut the ribbon at 2 p.m. on the waterfront.

The dedication brings to a close the largest project Reardon and his team have overseen. The dedication of the park also ends one of the longest political fights in the city.

For decades, the 4.4-acre park has been embroiled in controversy over how best to use the waterfront. Some wanted to build high-end condos, retail stores and a hotel on the riverfront to boost the city's economy. But a very vocal majority in the city, led by the Committee for the Waterfront (COW) insisted

that the waterfront remain open for the public use.

More recently, several members of the city council have questioned the decision to spend \$6 million it is costing to build the park.

In the past, the Newburyport Redevelopment Authority, often the focal point of the fight over housing and retail shops on the waterfront, was shut down by the state legislature at the request of the city.

Today, the Newburyport Waterfront Trust and the city manage the park and its six public access points from downtown to the 1,100-foot boardwalk. On the popular boardwalk are memorial benches.

In a more recent controversy, the city built a 207-vehicle parking garage on Merrimack Street and removed much of the parking spaces on the waterfront so the park green spaces could be enlarged. The removal of the parking spaces caused a shortage of parking, particularly for employees of downtown shops.

Continued on page 3

Summer Fun Classes Starting

By Ava Moeckel, Reporter



Nock Middle School
Photo by Stewart Lytle

NEWBURYPORT – Enjoy some yoga, have fun, get creative, clean up your cell phone or simply relax from the busy summer days. These are only a few of the things the Newburyport Adult and Community Education (NACE) has planned for you for the next couple of month.

Register online for classes that will run between July 8 and August 12.

Classes include Introduction to Archery, Fungi Exploration Along the Ghost Trail, Writing Workshop Japanese Bookbinding, Slow Flow Yoga and Making Your Own Sea Glass Earrings Workshop.

Anyone from 15 years old in the Newburyport region, including southern New Hampshire, may join in the excitement of learning something new and making new friends among classmates this summer.

Classes are limited in size and can fill up quickly. So don't procrastinate. See the full schedule and register online at newburyportadulted.org.

NACE is also accepting class proposals for our Fall semester. If you have a skill or talent and would like to teach it in a course, contact

Continued on page 3

Stephen May Named Acting Rowley Police Chief

By Stewart Lytle, Reporter



Now Acting Chief Stephen May receiving his 2014 promotion to Sergeant Facebook archive photo

ROWLEY – For 36 years, Stephen May has dreamed he might serve this town as its police chief. As of last week, his wish was realized.

The dream started when he was hired as a part-time police dispatcher in 1988 and was nurtured through a career in the department, rising in the ranks until he retired seven years ago as the executive officer/lieutenant supervising his fellow officers and civilian personnel.

When the chief was absent, May assumed his responsibilities.

Police Chief Scott Dumas went on medical leave April 11 and May was brought back to the department to assume the position of Acting Police Captain.

Seven weeks later, the post of Police Chief remained vacant with Dumas still on leave, which May described as “a trying time for you guys (the SelectBoard). It's been a trying time at the police department. And it's been a very stressful, trying time for me.”

On the recommendation of Town Administrator Deborah Eagan, the SelectBoard named May Acting Police Chief on a voice vote.

“It has always been my goal and desire to be the police chief for this town,” May told the SelectBoard.

May, who owns a municipal and police training company with his

son, pledged three things to the board.

The first, which he said is already in the works, is to stabilize the police department.

The Rowley Police officers earlier submitted a no-confidence letter in Dumas. And union president John Raffi said Dumas has created a toxic environment due to a shortage of manpower that has resulted in an unprecedented number of order-ins and day-off denials.

May, who said he learned how to be a police chief from watching former chief Kevin Barry, also pledged to return the department to basic police work. Barry was chief of the Rowley police from 1983 to 2009.

And May promised to make the department “a model for all police departments in the Northeast.”

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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 & 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, or e-mail to: 77 Wethersfield St., Rowley, MA 01969 Phone: 978-432-9669 E-mail: news@thetowncommon.com

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Marc Maravalli, Founding Publisher / Editor
editor@thetowncommon.com

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In loving memory of

Liz Ichizawa, '04-05 Reporter (1956 - 2005)
Jim Wilson, '20-22 Publisher/Editor (1954-2022)

Obituary - James "Jim" L. DiMarino

James "Jim" L. DiMarino, Rowley, MA, passed away on Tuesday, June 4, surrounded by family and friends. He is survived by his loving wife of 48 years, Bonnie (Belmonte) DiMarino. Born 74 years ago in Lynn, he was the son of John and Helen DiMarino. He is survived by his brother John and sister Helen. He was predeceased by his sister Katy and brothers Paul and Joe. Jim is also survived by his precious German Shepherd, Valory who misses him dearly.



Jim was proud of his service in the US Army in the Vietnam Era. He earned his college degree with the GI Bill. He was employed in the electronic industry and then with the Massachusetts State Sex Offender Registry. Jim enjoyed photography and fishing. He was an avid Ham Radio operator and enjoyed talking to his many friends worldwide. Jim was a Mason since 1977.

Jim and Bonnie were history buffs, participating in the Bicentennial celebration as the defeated British. Their favorite vacation was touring Gettysburg. Jim loved the ocean, spending summer weeks on the Maine coast.

Family was important and he was the anchor of the family. He especially loved his nieces and nephews. Being a prankster and jokester, he made friends easily. Jim never outgrew his fascination with Halloween, and he passed that passion on with years of costume parties for his family and friends.

This spring, Jim had a wonderful time planning a surprise birthday party for Bonnie. Jim and Bonnie had also just celebrated their wedding anniversary by renewing their marriage vows. To all that knew Jim, he always ended the conversation with "God Bless".

Calling hours were held on Sunday, June 9, 2024, F.S. Roberts & Son Funeral Home, 14 Independent Street, Rowley. Relatives and friends attended the funeral service on Monday, June 10th at 11 a.m., at Linebrook Church, Linebrook Road, Ipswich, MA. To light a memorial candle or leave condolences, please visit fbrobertsandson.com.

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12 Wed	4:15	8.2	4:54	7.4	10:42	0.6	10:58	1.5	5:02	8:24	☾
13 Thu	5:07	7.9	5:44	7.4	11:31	0.8	11:53	1.5	5:02	8:24	☾
14 Fri	6:00	7.6	6:35	7.5			12:20	1.0	5:02	8:24	☾
15 Sat	6:54	7.3	7:25	7.6	12:48	1.5	1:10	1.2	5:02	8:25	☾
16 Sun	7:49	7.1	8:15	7.8	1:44	1.4	2:00	1.3	5:02	8:25	☾
17 Mon	8:43	7.1	9:03	8.0	2:38	1.2	2:48	1.4	5:02	8:26	☾
18 Tue	9:34	7.0	9:48	8.2	3:28	0.9	3:35	1.5	5:02	8:26	☾
19 Wed	10:22	7.1	10:32	8.4	4:16	0.7	4:19	1.4	5:02	8:26	☾

Groveland Council on Aging to Host 'EngAGEMENT Celebration and Symposium'

GROVELAND — The Groveland Council on Aging, under the leadership of Director Alyssa Lee, is excited to announce the upcoming "EngAGEMENT Celebration and Symposium." This free event is open to all residents and community members. Join the Groveland COA for a day of enriching activities, insightful discussions, and community connection.

Saturday, June 29, from 10:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Pentucket Regional High School, 24 Main St., West Newbury

The Groveland Council on Aging will be hosting the "EngAGEMENT Celebration and Symposium" to honor the wisdom and joys of aging, while also providing resources and insight to older individuals.

The event will feature a keynote address by renowned author Dr. Katharine Esty, who will share insights from her book "Eightysomethings," offering perspectives on finding unexpected happiness in aging.

Residents and community members will also have a chance to participate in engaging conversations and interactive workshops centered around various aspects of aging, including community living, caregiver support, understanding Alzheimer's and dementia, and exercise demos, empowering attendees with practical knowledge and tools for healthy living.

The event is free and lunch will be provided.

During the lunch break, attendees may network with peers and explore a vibrant resource fair featuring organizations including The Alzheimer's Association, Our Neighbors' Table, Veasey Park, The Langley-Adams Library, Veterans' Services, The Groveland Historical Society, and more.

"The EngAGEMENT Celebration and Symposium" is made possible through the generous support of title sponsor Nichols Village and in part from a grant awarded to the Massachusetts Association of Councils on Aging by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs.

Space is limited, so attendees are encouraged to RSVP to secure their spot for the full day. RSVP'd guests will receive a complimentary lunch and will be eligible for door prizes at the conclusion of the event. To RSVP call 978-372-1101, or visit: www.eventcreate.com/e/engagementgrovelandcoa2024.

13 Amesbury Locals Pedal Toward Record-Breaking 2024 Pan-Mass Challenge

On Saturday, August 3 and Sunday, August 4, 6,500 riders, including 13 residents from Amesbury, will participate in the milestone 45th Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC) with the goal of raising a record \$75 million for Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (Dana-Farber). This year, the PMC, which is Dana-Farber's largest single contributor, will cross \$1 billion in lifetime fundraising for the Institute.

"Thanks to the fierce determination of PMC riders, volunteers, donors and sponsors, I'm confident that this will be our biggest fundraising year yet," said Billy Starr, founder and executive director of the PMC. "We're well positioned to cross \$1 billion in total donations for cancer research and treatment since I founded the PMC in 1980 – I am looking forward to cycling alongside everyone on the road in August as we hit this momentous achievement together."

As the #3 top-grossing peer-to-peer fundraising organization in the country, the PMC donates 100 percent of every rider-raised dollar directly to Dana-Farber to support cancer research and patient care, accounting for 62 percent of the Jimmy Fund's annual revenue. For more than four decades, PMC funds have allowed Dana-Farber to achieve lifesaving clinical breakthroughs and advancements. In the last five years alone, Dana-Farber doctors and researchers have played a substantial role in developing more than half of all cancer drugs approved by the FDA.

Cyclists come together from all corners of the world to ride between 25 and 211 miles—6 countries and 44 states, territories, and districts—with one mission: to raise as much money as possible for Dana-Farber. Most participate in honor of a family member or friend fighting cancer, and nearly 1,000 riders and volunteers are cancer survivors or current patients, considered Living Proof® of the PMC mission. There are also 160 Dana-Farber employees committed to the cause as riders and volunteers, in some cases to fund their own cancer research.

The PMC is co-presented by the Red Sox Foundation® and M&T Bank. To make a financial contribution to a rider from your town or to register as a rider, visit www.pmc.org, or call (800) WE-CYCLE.

Thank you to the following riders from Amesbury:

- Katherine Brown
- Shea DiFazio
- Kelly DiFazio
- Robert DiFazio
- Margaret McCarthy
- Aaron Millett
- Michael Moses
- Emily Olmstead
- Robin Schell
- Patrick Tobin
- Silva Treiser Brown
- Matthew Walsh
- Christian Zielinski

Hiking New England

Thursday, June 20 6:30PM at the Rowley Library

Join author Jeff Romano for a slideshow presentation highlighting hiking opportunities throughout New England. The program will cover destinations in all six states with a focus on itineraries featured in his latest guidebook, an updated edition to *100 Classic Hikes New England* (June 2023). Jeff will share advice, provide insights, and answer questions on how and where to plan your next hiking adventure. The presentation will also include information on New England wildflowers, birds, wildlife, history,

and conservation success stories.

Jeff Romano is a lifelong New England resident who has been hiking for five decades. He is the author of four other guidebooks: *Hike the Park Acadia* (2021), *Day Hiking New England* (2015), *100 Classic Hikes New England, First Edition* (2010), and *Best Loop Hikes: New Hampshire's White Mountains to the Maine Coast* (2006). Published by Mountaineers Books, these publications will be available for sale after the presentation. Jeff has also written numerous outdoor articles

for the *Boston Globe* and other publications.

When not hiking, Jeff directs public policy activities for Maine Coast Heritage Trust, a land trust that conserves and stewards Maine's coastal lands and islands. He lives in Hallowell, Maine with his wife, and shares his passion for the outdoors with his family, including his two adult children.

Registration is appreciated; visit www.rowleylibrary.org/calendar. The Rowley Library is located at 141 Main St. in Rowley.

Dedication

Continued from page 1

Now that the construction fences are down, the added space will also be used for a pedestrian path that links the two sections of the Clipper City Rail Trail and Harbor Walk. Much of the \$6 million waterfront park will remain open for concerts and other live performances, yoga classes, picnics and weddings.

New sculptures are being planned as part of the park design by Boston-based Sasaki Associates. The latest sculpture was awarded last month to Portland, ME, sculptor Aaron T Stephan to create a clipper ship sculpture. Also in the works is a plaza dedicated to indigenous people, who once occupied the riverfront.

The bulkhead project funding and construction has taken about a decade to replace anchor bolts and mooring piles.

Senior Project Manager Georgie Vining, who oversaw the bulkhead repairs, believes the new \$5.3 million bulkhead will protect the park for years as the city copes with rising sea levels. With Moulton's help, the city received \$2.25 million in federal community project funding, plus \$1.75 million from

the federal Economic Development Administration and a \$1.3 million state Seaport Economic Council grant.

The Market Landing Park was funded by a \$3 million loan from the Community Preservation Committee, \$250,000 from the

CPC's funds two years ago and several state grants, including \$400,000 from MassTrails, a division of the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

In private funds, the Herman Roy Trust gave \$1 million to help build the park.

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Classes

Continued from page 1

Patty St. John, the NACE director, at pstjohn@newburyport.k12.ma.us to discuss. Proposals are due no later than June 21.

NACE is an entirely self-sustaining program that operates under the Newburyport Public School system, but receives no tax dollars. The majority of its budget comes from course fees, supplemented by individual donors and grants.

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

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Vehicle Day at the Georgetown Library

**Thurs June 20 - 10AM to 12PM
Georgetown Peabody Library 2
Maple Street, Georgetown, Mass.**

Come and explore the town vehicles on the lawn. There will be police cars, fire trucks, bucket trucks and much more! Maple Street will be closed. We recommend parking at the Georgetown Middle/High School and walking over. If it is raining, this program will be canceled.

Georgetown Library Summer Reading Programs

**Mon. June 17 until Fri., Aug. 16
Georgetown Peabody Library 2
Maple Street, Georgetown, Mass.**

The Georgetown Peabody Library's Summer Reading Program has events, prizes, and fun for all ages! The program starts on Monday, June 17 through Friday, August 16. Check out our website for further information! www.georgetownpl.org

Ipswich River Watershed Association Awarded \$90,000 Cummings Grant

IPSWICH – The Ipswich River Watershed Association (IRWA) is one of 150 local non-profit that will share in \$30 million through Cummings Foundation's major annual grants program. The Ipswich-based organization was selected from a total of 715 applicants during a competitive review process. It will receive \$90,000 over three years.

The Ipswich River Watershed Association (IRWA) is the voice of the Ipswich River. Our approach is to educate people young and old about the river and to engage and empower our full community to enjoy, restore, and protect it. Our mission is to ensure that there is enough clean drinking water for all people and ecosystems that depend on the Ipswich River, now and for generations to come.

"The expansion of our education program is a key component of IRWA's mission to teach young people about the environment and their role in it. We are thrilled to receive a multi-year grant from the Cummings Foundation to support this work and to ensure that these programs continue into the future. We know that environmental education helps young people develop a sense of belonging to their environment and community; and that by loving their place, they feel responsible for its care, and we look forward to fostering the next generation of environmentally-minded community members" says Emma Hughen, IRWA's Environmental Educator.

These grant funds will support IRWA programming aimed at building a STEM workforce pipeline through leadership development and outdoor education to 3,500 youth annually in Essex County - including at minimum 50% BIPOC youth. Climate change adaptation, including water resource adaptation, is a growing career field that needs informed and motivated workers. This field also needs leadership that is widely representative of all people to ensure that the solutions we develop now and in the decades ahead are equitable. At the same time, youth need to grow up in conditions that help them become resilient, emotionally regulated, and confident so that they can succeed in school, pursue a fulfilling career path, and lift up their own communities.



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Health & Wellness

Brighter Smiles... WHAT IS RIGHT.....FOR YOU?



By J. PETER ST. CLAIR, DMD

Let's use this hypothetical situation: You have not been to a dentist in a while (pick a time frame), you are well aware you need some dental work, you were given the recommendation of a dentist by a friend.....and, you decide to visit that dentist and four other dentists to compare and make a decision who is the best fit for you. (I realize that most people don't want to and/or don't have the time to visit five dentists....but play along).

You already have an idea of what you are looking for. It might be the dentist who says you need the least. It might be the dentist who is the cheapest. It might be the dentist who is closest to where you live. It might be the dentist who gives you the most options, or maybe the least. It might be the dentist who listens to you the best. Be prepared, because you are likely to hear a few different styles/opinions visiting five dentists.

Some practices may feel "clinical and efficient", while others feel somewhat more home spun and laid back. The dentist's personality and experience are reflected in his or her treatment preferences

as well. The fact that different dentists will suggest different plans to treat your condition does not necessarily mean that one plan is better than another. Have an open mind and play an active role in the treatment planning process.

It is important to remember that there are numerous ways to treat the same situation, and it is always important for the dentist to tailor the treatment plan for each patient's specific circumstances. A major part of those circumstances may be financial, and since different treatment plans can vary a great deal in cost, it is important for the dentist to discuss costs and options for payment.

Think of treatment plans like various models of cars offered by different dealers. All of the models are new, have warranties and will work well out of the lot. The higher end models, however, have some advantages not found in the less expensive models. Some options add years to the life of the car. Some add to the appearance and enjoyment of driving it. Having said that, dentistry is not a commodity. There are many factors that need to be taken into consideration when choosing your provider or the treatment you choose for yourself.

What makes sense for you? What are your objectives? Saving a badly damaged tooth with a root canal and a crown may preserve it for a long time, but what are the circumstances of how the tooth got to that point? If you haven't been to a dentist in many years and have many other dental needs, does it make sense?

We have so many great dental providers in our area. Think about

what you are looking for in a dental care team Read that list in the second paragraph again.

The focus should be on long-term objectives and prevention. If you are a regular dentist-goer and have a dentist you like, you're all set. If you haven't been in a while, consider making the decision to change how you look at your dental health. Start with finding a place that fits your particular needs, and make the commitment to make routine preventive dental care part of your life.

rive for constant improvement. 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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