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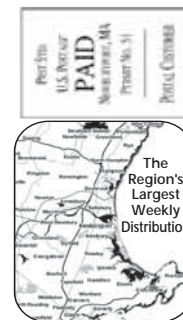
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Wednesday, August 14, 2024 - Vol. 20, No. 42

FREE



Only the finest vintage cars were downtown Newburyport (Photo by Stewart Lytle)

Antique Car Show Dazzles

By Ava Moeckel, Reporter

NEWBURYPORT – For the last 12 years, car enthusiasts have gathered on downtown streets for three hours to marvel at more than 250 classic cars from the 1950s, '60s and 70s.

High-Tech Pollution Sensor on Newburyport Dock

By Stewart Lytle, Reporter

MERRIMACK RIVER – If you like to boat, swim or just walk along this river, the \$35,000 that the Fluidion sensor pollution testing device costs, plus the \$4,000 to \$6,000 a year to maintain it, may be the one of the best investments for the river.

On July 2, just in time for the 4th of July holiday, the Merrimack River

Continued on page 3

The 12th annual Cruisin' The 50's car show, sponsored by the Greater Newburyport Chamber of Commerce and curated by curator Wes Pettengill, took place in downtown, showcasing a diverse array of vehicles, including antique cars, muscle cars, hot rods, sports cars, and vintage models, as well as special interest automobiles.

The annual event gave thousands a chance last Thursday to check out the classic cars up close, all carefully arranged around downtown. The city shut down State, Pleasant and Inn streets to traffic, creating a comfortable environment pedestrians to walk around and enjoy the sights. The cars were lined up along the streets for everyone to see.

Pettengill, who has been organizing car shows for 35 years, said this invite-only event featured only the finest cars. The cars were squeezed in between outdoor dining patios and spilled over into side streets and the municipal parking lot. Most of the classic cars were parked on State and Pleasant streets. Inn Street was dedicated to imports, while the municipal parking lot on Harris Street was reserved for high-end vehicles.

The downtown restaurants were full, and ice cream stores overflowed, which

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Kovalchuk with his grandfather Michael Gianchetta's portrait and the iconic Men at Lunch (Photo by Stewart Lytle)

Rowley Man Sat on Famous Girder

By Stewart Lytle, Reporter

ROWLEY – Michael Kovalchuk remembers that the first time he saw one of the country's most famous photographs he was dining at the American Barbecue restaurant. In the restroom hung the photo called *Lunch at Top of a Skyscraper*.

Most of us have seen it. Eleven immigrant ironworkers, building Rockefeller Center in midtown New York City, posed for a publicity shot when an unknown photographer bought them lunch on Sept. 30, 1932.

They sat eating and chatting on a steel girder suspended 850 feet above the city below.

What startled Kovalchuk is he recognized two of the ironworkers, the men sitting third and fourth from the left on the girder. The third man, wearing bib

overalls with boots and thick gloves, was a man he called Kumba Joe, Joseph Eckner, a Boston ironworker.

Kovalchuk was even more surprised to recognize the fourth man on the girder, who was chatting with Eckner. Previously unidentified, the man was his grandfather, Michael Gianchetta, who had largely raised him.

His grandfather never mentioned being in such a famous photo, but Kovalchuk knew it was his grandfather, not just by his facial features, but also by the clothes he wore.

He remembers his grandfather, who farmed several properties in Beverly, Ipswich and Rowley between being an ironworker, wore those same style of clothes most days of his life – high boots, khaki pants and a light-colored shirt.

Lunch atop a Skyscraper, a black-and-

white photograph, was taken as a publicity stunt to promote the construction of the RCA Building at the end of the Great Depression.

The photograph's negative, which is preserved in the Bettmann Archive, owned by the Visual China Group, has been the subject of YouTube videos, magazine covers and advertising campaigns. Each man has been sculpted, including one set of the men that sits on a mantel in Meehan's Restaurant in Huntington, NY.

It even became a New York City tourist attraction for a few years with people paying to sit on a similar beam as it was hoisted into the air.

Kovalchuk grew up with Eckner and his grandfather. "I spent more time as a child with my grandfather than with my own parents," he said last week. Today,

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

Whittier Tech Receives \$350,000 Grant for Culinary Arts Program

HAVERHILL – Superintendent Maureen Lynch is pleased to announce that the Culinary Arts Program at Whittier Tech has been awarded a \$350,000 Massachusetts Skills Capital Grant.

This spring, nearly \$15 million in Skills Capital Grants were awarded to schools across the Commonwealth to support the upgrade of technology and instructional lab spaces, expansion of career programs for young people and adults, and increase in capacity of workforce training programs.

The Culinary Arts Program at Whittier Tech will use the \$350,000 grant to update equipment well past its useful life, and purchase new equipment to enhance the learning experiences of all students.

"We're delighted that the Commonwealth has recognized the ongoing success of our Culinary Arts Program by providing us with this significant grant," Superintendent Lynch said. "The program is utilized by many in the community, from day students to those undertaking adult education, as

well as members of the Career Technical Initiative, which provides training to unemployed or underemployed residents."

Skills Capital Grants are awarded by the state's Workforce Skills Cabinet, which aligns education, economic development, and workforce policies to meet employers' demand for skilled workers in every region of Massachusetts. The competitive grants are awarded to educational institutions demonstrating partnerships with local businesses and aligning curriculum and credentials with industry demand to maximize hiring opportunities.

"Our Culinary Arts Program is open and serves the public for breakfast and lunch four days a week," Vocational Coordinator Amanda Crosby said. "They host monthly buffets and work with local senior centers to prepare and serve low-cost meals. Receiving this grant allows Whittier Tech to continue to provide industry relevant training to all students, while also meeting the workforce demands."

The University of Delaware Announces Dean's List

NEWARK, DE (08/01/2024)– The following students have been named to the University of Delaware Dean's List for the Spring 2024 semester:

Emma Sindoni of Georgetown, MA
Cailin Kelly of Merrimac, MA
Spencer Lawson of Haverhill, MA
Megan Reading of West Newbury, MA
Laura Purdy of Groveland, MA
Meghan Loewen of Georgetown, MA
Kayla Harrington of Rowley, MA
Madeline Wayland of Boxford, MA

To meet eligibility requirements for the Dean's List, a student must be enrolled full-time and earn a GPA of 3.5 or above (on a 4.0 scale) for the semester.

ROWLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

There are horses in the Rowley Public Library! Oh my!



Paintings and photographs by equine portrait specialist Richard Hydren are on display at the Rowley Public Library now through September 30. The show is titled "Heart Horses."

Meet the artist on Thursday, August 15th, 5 to 7 PM, Meeting room, Rowley Public Library, group discussion on:

- Defining a heart horse.
- Creating equine portraits that touch your heart
- How to capture images with your phone
- Come celebrate your heart horse with us Thursday evening at the library.

Maine Destinations for Stephen King Fans

Tuesday, August 20, 7PM - Virtual

Sharon Kitchens, author of the new book, *Stephen King's Maine: A History & Guide*, will explore Maine locations that serve as the basis for Stephen King's *Carrie*, *Salem's Lot*, *The Dead Zone*, *Cujo*, *IT*, and *11/22/63*, drawing from historical materials and conversations with locals and people who know King.

Registration is required for this webinar. To sign up, visit the Rowley Public Library web site at www.rowleylibrary.org/calendar, or call the library at 978-948-2850. Registrants will receive an email with the link to the webinar.

For more information on this or other programs, check the library web site at www.rowleylibrary.org/calendar, or call (978) 948-2850. The Rowley Library is located at 141 Main St. in Rowley.

Newbury Receives \$133,950 State Grant to Update Elementary School Energy Management System

NEWBURY – The Town of Newbury is pleased to share that the Town has received a \$133,950 grant from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER).

The funding will be used to update the energy management system in Newbury Elementary School. The new system will use sensors and computers to automatically control building processes, allowing for improved energy efficiency and reduced energy costs.

The new system is expected to save \$23,273 annually in costs associated with electric and natural gas usage.

Town Planner Kristen Grubbs applied for the grant to address Newbury Elementary School's high energy usage. The school currently accounts for one-third of the municipality's annual usage.

Department of Public Works Director James Sarette and Town partners at the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission also assisted in the grant application process.












The installation of the new system is projected to be completed by the spring of 2025.

"This grant is essential in moderating energy use and improving the functionality of our energy management system," said Town Administrator Tracy Blais. "I would like to thank Kristen, James and the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission for their dedication in securing the funding."

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15	Thu	8:22	6.7	8:38	8.1	2:15	1.0	2:21	1.7	5:48	7:46	
16	Fri	9:18	6.8	9:32	8.4	3:11	0.8	3:16	1.5	5:50	7:44	
17	Sat	10:11	7.1	10:24	8.8	4:04	0.4	4:09	1.1	5:51	7:43	
18	Sun	11:00	7.6	11:14	9.2	4:54	0.0	5:00	0.7	5:52	7:41	
19	Mon	11:48	8.1			5:41	-0.3	5:50	0.2	5:53	7:40	
20	Tue	12:03	9.5	12:35	8.6	6:27	-0.7	6:40	-0.2	5:54	7:38	
21	Wed	12:52	9.7	1:22	9.0	7:13	-0.8	7:30	-0.6	5:55	7:37	
22	Thu	1:42	9.6	2:09	9.4	7:59	-0.9	8:22	-0.8	5:56	7:35	

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Newburyport (Photo by Botteville, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons)

Water Pollution Sensor

Continued from page 1

Watershed Council activated for the first time the new high-tech pollution sensor on the Newburyport Harbormaster dock. The sensor, which belongs to the city of Methuen, allows the water to be tested quickly and accurately for pollution caused by consolidated sewage overflows (CSOs). On August 8, at 8:04 p.m. the sensor floating in the Newburyport Harbor showed safe levels of E.coli. But with the recent rains, the testers were expecting

the levels of E.coli to rise. “We will run the sensor at least once more before the weekend,” the council reported on Facebook. But those tests proved to be inconclusive, so the council and city health department advised people to limit water activities for themselves and their dogs. “The results vary significantly,” said John Macone, the council’s vice president. “Generally after CSOs we see a day or two when the sensor detects levels of bacteria that are high enough to exceed the state’s standards for swimming.” The sensor has reported “not safe” results on some days even when no CSOs have occurred, Macone wrote in an email. “We are not sure yet why we are getting these results. We have theorized that it is caused by illicit wastewater discharges from boats in Newburyport harbor, but that has yet to be proven.” The council has been asked to install additional bacteria monitors near sites where people swim, such as the river sandbar off Amesbury and at Salisbury Beach and Plum Island beach. Currently, the council has only one sensor, and it is on loan. But it is looking into whether more can be obtained.



Essex Ensemble to perform in Newburyport at Maudslay Arts Center to Benefit for All-Volunteer First Parish Newbury Food Pantry

NEWBURYPORT, MA – August 5, 2024. The Essex Ensemble, directed by local resident and pantry volunteer Andrew Price and featuring top-tier musicians from several of Boston’s most highly regarded orchestras, will perform on Sunday, August 25th from 6 to 8PM at the beautiful Maudslay Arts Center to

Continued on page 4



Only the finest vintage cars were downtown Newburyport (Photo by Stewart Lytle)

Newburyport!

Continued from page 1

accomplished one of the chamber’s goals to bring thousands of families to Newburyport. In addition to the chamber of commerce, sponsors include the main sponsor, Arthur S. Page Insurance M.K. Benatti Jewelers and The Newburyport Bank. The SpaceHeaters entertained the crowd with classic hits from the 1960s and 1970s in Market Square. There was also a beer garden and raffles.

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Jean Spurr, 82, shakes hands with Georgetown Middle High School Principal Jeffrey Carovillano, at left, as School Committee Chairman Michael Hinchliffe stands at rear. Spurr, who nearly completed her graduation requirements in 1959, was awarded an honorary diploma for life experience. (Courtesy Georgetown Public Schools)

Georgetown High School Presents Honorary Diploma to 82-year-old for Life Experience

GEORGETOWN – Superintendent Margo Ferrick announce this spring that Georgetown High School presented an honorary diploma to an 82-year-old member of the Class of 1959 at year-end graduation ceremonies.

In ceremonies held outside of the Georgetown Perley Elementary School, 82-year-old Jean Spurr as awarded an honorary diploma in recognition of her life experience and contributions to community.

Spurr, 82, was a member of the Georgetown High School Class of 1959, met the love of her life at age 15, married at 18, and moved to Groveland where she raised two boys, waitressed for 30 years, and ended up owning the Groveland Square Restaurant. Spurr also drove a school bus for nearly 20 years, worked for the Groveland Highway Department, and currently volunteers at the Clerk's Office in Groveland.

Spurr had an excellent attendance rate in school, but never completed all of her graduation requirements in 1959, falling just a few credits short.

Decades later, Spurr's companion, Steven Sardella, asked the Georgetown School Committee to grant Spurr an honorary diploma based on her life experience since high school. The School Committee unanimously agreed.

Spurr was joined by family as School Committee Chairman Michael Hinchliffe presented her with her honorary diploma on Saturday morning. Spurr strode across the stage to accept her honorary diploma, share hugs with School Committee members and administrators, and then briefly thanked all those in attendance for the honor.

Jean your journey is one of unwavering spirit and love for your community. You have served with grace,

faced life's challenges head on, and now you come before us a graduate," Chairman Hinchliffe said in remarks during the ceremony. "This diploma is a symbol of your life long journey of learning and service."

"I would like to thank the Superintendent, the Georgetown School Committee, Steve Sardella, and by the Grace of God making this all possible for me," Spurr said after receiving the diploma. "Thank you so much."

Food Pantry Fundraiser

Continued from page 3

benefit the First Parish Newbury Food Pantry's mission to end food insecurity in the region. Enjoy a picnic while you settle in for a wonderful evening of music!

The First Parish Newbury Food Pantry is the largest all-volunteer food pantry in the greater Newburyport area serving the communities of Newbury, Newburyport, Byfield, West Newbury, Salisbury, Amesbury, Rowley, Ipswich, and Georgetown. They fulfill orders for over 700 people each Friday. They also manage pantries in local schools to reduce hunger and improve success in the classroom.

Maudslay Arts Center is situated within the lush landscape of Maudslay State Park at 95 Curzon Mill Rd, Newburyport. Patrons are encouraged to bring a picnic. There will be non-alcoholic beverages and desserts available. Reserved table seats are \$50 per person and private tables can be reserved for the number of people in your party. Lawn tickets (bring your own blanket or chair) are \$30. Children under 12 are free. Whether you choose to sit at a patio table or on a blanket under the stars, every seat offers excellent acoustics.

Doors open at 5:30PM. Parking at Maudslay Arts Center is limited to vehicles with handicapped stickers. Regular parking is at the main Maudslay State Park lot which has free parking after 5:30 PM. Ushers will be on hand to direct you.

To purchase concert tickets visit Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/benefit-concert-for-the-first-parish-newbury-food-pantry-tickets-966478702817>

or go to the of First Parish Newbury Food Pantry website for information on our services and link to concert tickets. newburyfoodpantry.org

Holy Family/Star of the Sea Conference of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Mini Golf Tournament fundraiser

Saturday, September 14, 2024 at 10:00 AM at Captain's Corner in Salisbury

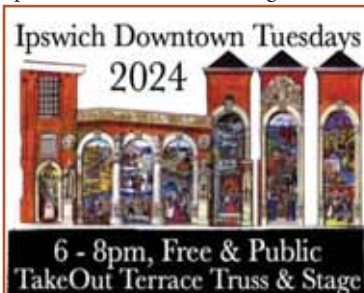
AMESBURY – Saint Vincent de Paul is a charitable organization that serves low income residents of Amesbury and Salisbury who are in need of assistance with rent, utilities, car repairs, furniture, gas, food and other immediate needs. We help individuals based on need with no consideration given to religious affiliation. We are a volunteer led organization, currently we have over 20 active members. We have no paid staff and 100% of the proceeds from the sponsorships and golf tournament will go to serving the needs of low income residents, seniors, children and individuals with disabilities in our communities.

In our last fiscal year we were able to help over 400 individuals and families, including 108 children. We are primarily funded by donations from parishioners, residents of the area, memorial donations as well as fundraisers like this tournament.

We are seeking donations, sponsors and/or players for our Sept. 14th fundraiser.

Sponsorships are available at a number of levels and all sponsorships will be acknowledged on banners at the event as well as in the church bulletin; Silver sponsorship is \$500-999, and Bronze is \$200-499. There is also an opportunity to sponsor a hole for \$100, a sign will be displayed with your name or your companies name on it.

Please consider a donation or participating for this very worthy cause. Thank you and God bless you! If you have additional questions please call us at 978-388-0330. If you wish to send a donation our address is Society of Saint Vincent dePaul, 11 Sparhawk Street, Amesbury, MA 01913.



August
13 What Time Is It Mr. Fox
20 Picante Soul
27 The Far Out

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By J. PETER ST. CLAIR, DMD

A while back, *The Boston Globe* ran an article entitled "Advice for all ages: Don't skip the dentist." It started with, "A team of researchers from London and the University of Connecticut announced that aggressive treatment of gum disease can improve the function of blood vessel walls in the body, potentially reducing the risk of heart attacks."

The concept is nothing new. We have known for years of the mouth-body connection with health. However, the key to the statement above is "aggressive treatment of gum disease".

What does aggressive treatment of gum disease mean? Basically, it means that instead of watching and waiting for resolution of gum problems on their

own, whatever treatment is needed to achieve gum health should be performed.

Periodontal (gum) disease is a silent disease; it does not hurt. Over 75% of the population has some form of periodontal disease. Whether you have early stages of the disease or advanced periodontal involvement, you have periodontal disease. And, it is something that has to be controlled over your lifetime. It is not curable.

Any form of this disease is potentially affecting your overall systemic health. The goal is to become periodontally healthy. Whether that involves having professional hygiene maintenance more frequently, or more aggressive treatment, elimination of chronic inflammation is the objective.

It is easy for patients, and even dentists, to watch and wait as opposed to taking action. "Aggressive treatment of gum disease" means that if the disease is identified, it needs to be addressed. Let's get it right out in the open – Once you have periodontal disease, and even after it is treated, it will always return unless you follow a strict regimen of home care and professional care.....for your entire life.

Even the smallest amount of inflammation in your mouth is gum disease. Periodontal disease is a chronic inflammatory process. As the article states, "Chronic inflammation anywhere,

makes the body release nasty chemicals called cytokines that have been linked to diabetes and heart disease." It goes on to say, "Cytokines can also trigger inflammation in artery walls, raise blood pressure, worsen cholesterol levels, and increase blood clotting, which can lead to potentially fatal heart attacks." This also includes strokes. "Pregnancy complications, too, have been linked to gum disease, perhaps because chronic inflammation leads to high levels of a hormone-like substance called prostaglandin E-2, which can induce labor."

No one wants to hear that they need treatment for something. It is even harder to accept treat for something that doesn't hurt or seem to not be harming anything.

The fact of the matter is, periodontal disease is a disease. Diseases need to be treated or they will affect and possibly even shorten your life. Periodontal disease is no exception. And remember, "aggressive treatment" does not mean watch and wait to see if it goes away. It won't go away on its own – I promise.

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

The Girder

Continued from page 1

he owns a home and operates a wood cutting business on Rte. 1A Main Street in Rowley.

"I have been cutting wood all my life," he said. It was a skill he learned from his grandfather.

Gianchetta lived a colorful life. When he was a young boy, his parents, who lived in the central Italian town of Isernia, sent him to America. But when the young Gianchetta was being processed through Ellis Island in New York City, he was so distraught his face was bright red. He was thought to be ill and was returned to Italy.

When Kovalchuk, who has been on a multi-year research project to learn about his grandfather's early life, did not find Gianchetta's name on the list of immigrants that came through Ellis Island, he figured out that the boy's parents booked his second passage on a trans-Atlantic ship. Paying passengers were not processed through Ellis Island, he said.

Gianchetta married a woman named Jenny and lived on several North Shore properties he bought. Called a man of foresight by his grandson, Gianchetta believed the best investment he could make was in land. He bought and worked several properties in Rowley, including land on Warehouse Lane from Rte. 1A to the Perley Marina.

One of his passions was ballroom dancing, and when he was in New York for an extended time, he met a woman while dancing. She became pregnant and gave birth to a daughter named Anne.

The woman did not want to keep the baby, so Gianchetta brought the infant home to Massachusetts. His wife Jenny, who could not have children, raised Anne. She grew up, married and gave birth to Kovalchuk.

Gianchetta died on May 24, 1975,

while his grandson, an avid whitewater canoer, was on a canoe trip from Canada to Massachusetts. Gianchetta was buried in the Rowley Cemetery.

Not long after Gianchetta died, Kovalchuk's mother, Anne, died from eating contaminated meat on a trip to Europe. Her death is one of the world's rare cases of mad cow disease infecting humans.

After Anne died, Gianchetta married Josephine. Years later, Josephine moved to Italy and after exhuming her husband's body and moved there together. The headstone in Rowley Cemetery remains.

Numerous claims have been made regarding the identities of the men in the image. The 2012 documentary, *Men at Lunch*, investigated claims that two of the men were Irish immigrants, and the director reported in 2013 that he planned to follow up on other claims from Swedish relatives that their relatives were on the beam.

The film confirmed the identities of two men: Eckner, third from the left, and Joe Curtis, third from the right, by cross-referencing with other pictures taken the same day, in which they were named. The first man from the right, holding a bottle, is also believed to be a Slovak worker

Gustáv Popovič. The photograph was found in his estate, with the note "Don't you worry, my dear Mariška, as you can see I'm still with bottle."

Kovalchuk said he immediately recognized Eckner in the photo from a strange visit to his house. Accompanied by his younger brother, Kovalchuk recalls that Eckner's dog bit his brother between his eyes.

Stunned, Kovalchuk stared at Eckner, his features etched in his brain, expecting him to punish the dog. But he only picked up the dog and closed the front door on the boys.



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8	9	1	7	2	4	3	5	6
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73255477	SLD	6 Orchard Lane	Topshfield, MA	NB5013	Detached	3	\$849,900	\$834,000
73244937	SLD	364 Main St	Groveland, MA	C95006	Detached	4	\$850,000	\$828,000
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73251958	SLD	20 Longbrook Road	Newbury, MA : Byfield	C95006	Detached	3	\$925,000	\$880,000
73258029	SLD	26 Southern Blvd	Newbury, MA : Plum Island	AN4850	Detached	2	\$1,150,000	\$1,125,000
73237737	SLD	14 King Edward Ct	Boxford, MA : East Boxford	AN7070	Detached	3	\$1,150,000	\$1,060,000
73235121	SLD	78 Southern Blvd	Newbury, MA : Plum Island	C95006	Detached	2	\$1,249,000	\$1,197,000
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The Zoom connection information will be posted on the Town of Boxford website prior to the meeting. This is a joint hearing under the requirements of MGL Ch. 131, Sec. 40, as amended, and Boxford's Wetlands Protection Bylaw and Regulations. For more information, contact Ross Povenmire at rpovenmire@town.boxford.ma.us.

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