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Boxford Unveils Refreshed Town Website, Optimized for Ease of Use

BOXFORD – The Town of Boxford is pleased to announce the launch of its newly refreshed website, boxfordma. gov, designed with user-friendliness and accessibility in mind. The updated site is now optimized for use on mobile phones and tablets, ensuring that residents can easily access important information and services from any device.

"We're excited to introduce a more modern, intuitive website that better serves the needs of our community," said Matt Coogan, Boxford's town administrator. "Our goal was to make it easier for residents to find the information

on the go. We hope the new design will enhance the overall user experience and encourage greater engagement with town resources

New Community Calendar

In addition to improved navigation and mobile optimization, there's a new community calendar feature on the updated website. Along with the existing calendar for public board and committee meetings, this new event calendar will serve as a centralized location for residents to discover and stay informed about upcoming community events

care at a lower cost, with an emphasis

on patient satisfaction. The hospital

is clinically affiliated with Beth Israel

Deaconess Medical Center, an academic

medical center in Boston and a major

teaching hospital of Harvard Medical

they need, whether they're at home or like the Apple Festival, Winterfest, and Summerfest. Local civic groups and community organizations should reach out to the Town Administrator's office to have their public community events posted on this calendar, making it easier for everyone to engage with the vibrant happenings around Boxford.

Photo Showcase

The new website features a selection of photos from around Boxford, showcasing the town's natural beauty and community spirit. Residents are encouraged to submit their own photos for potential inclusion on the website's landing page, helping to personalize the site with local perspectives. Feedback Sought

The Town of Boxford invites all residents to explore the new website and provide feedback on their experience. Residents are encouraged to sign up to receive notices about town news, meetings, and events by clicking on the "Stay Connected" button on the home page. Suggestions for further enhancements are welcome as the town continues to work towards making the website a valuable resource for everyone.

For more information, to sign up for notifications, or to submit photos or a public community event, please visit boxfordma.gov or contact the Town Administrator's office at 978.887.6000. Boxford is a scenic town located in Essex County, Massachusetts, known for its rural charm, rich history, and strong sense of community. The town is committed to maintaining a high quality of life for its residents through responsive governance and



Where is My Coco?

By Ava Moeckel, Reporter

REGIONAL - Deidre was excited about buying a dog from a "reputable Maltipoo breeding family." The "breeder" had sent her photos and videos of her dog and claimed on the website 1Happy Miltipoo.com that it was not a puppy mill.

The "breeder" promised to send the dog with a "nanny" from Fargo, ND, to Logan Airport after the money was sent. An excited Deidre went out and bought all the supplies the "breeder" said little Coco would need.

But after Deidre sent the \$600 by Venmo from her bank, her calls were not returned. She got no more videos. And no dog and nanny ever arrived.

Once she realized she had been scammed, she spent six hours talking to her bank, the police and the Better Business Bureau. She posted on several pet scam web sites that 1Happy-Maltipoo. com was a scam. She does not expect to ever see her money or the dog. Deidre is one of thousands of dog lovers

who are scammed each year, according to the American Kennel Club (AKC). When she called the local police department, the officer she spoke with said her father had just been scammed when he tried to buy a dog.

AKC warns it is common to see fake listings pop up on sites like Craigslist, but some scammers are clever enough to pose as trustworthy breeders by taking personal information from unsuspecting buvers.

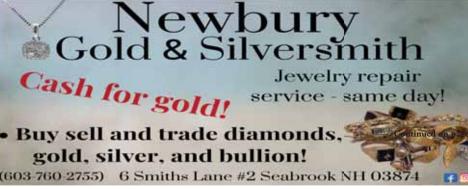
The good news is that there are simple tips to help dog lovers spot the red flags, making sure your experience of buying a dog much safer. In addition to these tips from the American Kennel Club, Dee's local police officer told her, "Never send money to someone you don't know." A few red flags:

• No phone calls. A reputable breeder will always communicate with you via phone or video chat, if not in person, before selling you a puppy. Fraudulent sellers are oftentimes outside of the U.S. and may be hiding their phone number by only communicating by email.

· Copycat or stock photos. Photos of the dog or ad text can be found on multiple websites. Search for the text in the listing to see if the seller copied and pasted it from another site.

• Sketchy payment. The seller asks you to wire money or pay by gift cards. Avoid Continued on page 3





Newburyport Bank Donates \$2,500 in Support of Anna Jaques Fundraiser

AWARENESS MONTH

OCTOBER

:11:1:4-222

NEWBURYPORT - Newburyport delivering high quality community health Bank has donated \$2,500 as a sponsor of Anna Jaques Hospital's Shine, A Sparkling Fundraiser for AJH Breast Care Services. This event will be held on Thursday, October 10th from 6-9 pm at the Blue Ocean Event Center in Salisbury, MA. There will be a live auction, wine pull, and light dinner followed by a brief program. All proceeds raised will go to the Breast

Care Services at Anna Jacques Hospital.

Anna Jaques Hospital (AJH) is a not-for-profit community hospital serving the Merrimack Valley, North Shore and Southern New Hampshire. They recognized for are

School. "We are blessed to have an institution Continued on page 3 Newburyport Bank Anna Jaques Hospital BREAST CANCER

Friday, Sept. 27

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.

Town Common deadline is The 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: Wethersfield St., Rowley, MA 01969 Phone: 978-432-9669 E-mail: news@thetowncommon.com

The Town Common

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)



Upcoming Events

Fall Prevention Workshop, Yoga Session

GROVELAND - Thursday, Sept. 26 • Fall Prevention Workshop with Letourneau's Pharmacy & Home Medical

This interactive session will cover the leading causes of falls, practical tips to make homes safer, and the use of mobility aids to reduce the risk of falling. Participants will also have the opportunity to ask questions and receive personalized advice during the workshop.

· Yoga with Mary Van Abs starting at 10:45 a.m. Join the COA for a yoga session focused on improving flexibility, balance, and

strength, all vital for preventing falls. Advanced RSVP is required for free entry. To RSVP for any of these events or learn

more, contact the Groveland COA at 978-372-1101 or COA@GrovelandMA. com.

Fill-a-Bag Book Sale & Donation Drop Saturday, September 28th 10 am - 1 pm & 2 - 4 pm

AMESBURY, MA – Fill-a-Bag for only \$15 (\$10 for members) at the Friends of the Amesbury Public Library's book sale, Saturday, Sept, 28, 2024 from 10 am - 1

pm and 2 - 7 p.m. The sale will take place on the lower level of the library. Visit amesburylibraryfriends. org for details.

First Parish Food Pantry Open House Sunday, September 29th 1-3 pm

NEWBURY, MA – All are invited to help us celebrate our new addition and thank our volunteers and supporters.

Enjoy music, refreshments, tours, and education about meeting the growing need for food assistance in the seven

In 2022, the Newbury Food Pantry built a new 2400 square foot facility at 20 High Rd, behind the First Parish Church.

We have grown from serving 449 guests per week in 2023 to currently filling grocery orders for over 670 individuals per week.

There are mini pantries in seven local schools that we stock. We recently completed a 750 foot addition to help meet the growing needs.

Please join the celebration on Sunday, September 29th from 1-3 p.m.

Whales, Lighthouses, and Photography Lollapalooza Cruise Tuesday, October 1st 12:30 – 7:00 pm

unique, first time event! This will be a combined whale watch and lighthouse cruise, with the added bonus of a guest photographer who will share tips for great photos. We'll leave from Rye Harbor,

PORTSMOUTH, NH -A one NH, and head out to Jeffrey's Ledge, of a kind adventure! Join Friends of where we will have a good chance of Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouses for a encountering whales, dolphins, and unique, first time event! This will be a other marine life. As we make our way back toward Rye Harbor, we will pass close to three historic and picturesque lighthouses. Info:

https://tinyurl.com/portsmouthcruise



Newburyport Community/Senior Center 331 High Street, Newburyport, MA For latest details visit www.RepairCafeNBPT.org, email RepairCafeNBPT@gmail.com or call 978-225-3440

By Stewart Lytle, Reporter

REGIONAL – This fall, the North Shore can enjoy some great music from a wide variety of musicians.

Thanks to the 206th Topsfield Fair, running Oct. 4 to 14, fair goers may feel like they are in Nashville, TN enjoying the music of the southern rock band 38 Special, plus Three Dog Night and the multi-Platinum country duo, Maddie & Tae.

Belleville Roots Concerts in Newburyport will continue its tradition of bringing great music to the North Shore. Canadian favorite Le Vent du Nord will perform at 8 p.m. Oct. 11 at the Belleville Congregational Church, and Martha Spencer, a singer-songwriter and dancer from Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains will enthrall audiences on Nov. 16.

At the Topsfield Fair, the All-American classic band *38 Special* will perform in the Grandstand at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 10.

Three Dog Night, which had more top 10 hits between 1969 and 1974, will perform on the Grandstand at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 9.

The CMA and CMT Award-winning duo, Maddie Font and Taylor Kerr, who broke out in 2013 with their charttopping counter to bro-country, *Girl In A Country Song*, will perform at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 11.

"We are excited to welcome Maddie & Tae to the Topsfield Fair for the first time," said James O'Brien, general manager of

Breast Cancer Fundraiser Continued from page 1

like Anna Jacques in our midst," said Lloyd L. Hamm, President & CEO of Newburyport Bank. "Breast cancer is a scary diagnosis, but the professionals at AJH are there for treatment every step of the way. We're proud to support the fundraiser as it's instrumental in assisting them in all of their efforts."

About Newburyport Bank

Newburyport Bank headquartered in Newburyport, MA, was founded in 1854 and has assets of over \$1.6 billion. Newburyport Bank offers eleven community banking locations in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Along with Pentucket Bank, Newburyport Bank is supported by the shared services organization of River Run Bancorp, MHC. For further information call toll-free 844-639-3483 or visit the Bank's website at www. newburyportbank.com.

Dog Scam Continued from page 1

paying a stranger using apps such as Venmo, as it is harder to get your money back if you don't get what you paid for. Paying by credit card or PayPal Goods & Services are typically the safest options.

• Price is too good to be true. Research the prices for the breed you are considering ahead of time. Purebred dogs sold at deeply discounted prices are typically frauds. If the seller says they register their dogs with a specific organization, you can call the organization to confirm.

• Breeder "badges." AKC does not distribute badges to breeders.

Speaking for hundreds of scammed dog lovers, Dee left a final voice message on the Happy Miltipoo number: "Karma is a b...." the Topsfield Fair. "I know that fairgoers will enjoy this free concert and hope they come early and stay late to explore all the Topsfield Fair has to offer."

Åll the Topsfield Fair concerts are free with paid fair admission, which is \$20 every day. Discounted admission tickets are available at www.topsfieldfair.org through Oct. 3.

Le Vent du Nord, which has built a following in greater Newburyport, is a leading force in Québec's Francophone folk movement. The group's vast repertoire draws from both traditional sources and original compositions, while their highly rhythmic and soulful music is rooted in the Celtic diaspora.

On stage these five friends, Nicolas Boulerice, André Brunet, Réjean Brunet, Olivier Demers and André Gagné, have performed more than 2,200 concerts on four continents and released 12 albums. Martha Spencer grew up in the musical Spencer family and learned to play the guitar, fiddle, banjo, bass, dulcimer and mandolin. But it is her dancing that audiences often cite when they talk about her performances.

Tickets cost \$40 in advance, \$45 at the door, \$10 for those 18 and under. Seating for Roots Concerts this fall is limited because all shows will be held in the stage room while the meetinghouse is undergoing renovations.

The Belleville Arts Foundation, whose



purpose is to maintain and renovate the Belleville Church, has been awarded a \$35,000 feasibility and technical assistance grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. This matching grant will fund a study to transform the Belleville Meetinghouse at 300 High Street into a financially and administratively selfsufficient community arts education center.

The center, while preserving the historic features of the building's exterior, will offer students, performers and audiences modern amenities and comfortable interior spaces for learning and performance.





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Onesto Named Top 100 Small Business

By Stewart Lytle, Reporter

REGIONAL - Onesto has been named one of the nation's top 100 small businesses by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

'This exclusive list recognizes 100 of the best and brightest small and mid-sized businesses across America, celebrated for their remarkable contributions in driving innovation, growth, and ingenuity both locally and globally," the chamber said in announcing the award.

'These businesses shine through their inspiring ideas and the ways they

overcome challenges, enrich community impact, foster vibrant company cultures, and engage customers. Join us in honoring these trailblazers who are shaping the future of small business," it wrote.

Onesto was one of only three Massachusetts firms and one of four in New England that were honored.

Starting in her West Newbury kitchen seven years ago, Jane Ciccone has created a nationwide company that sells glutenfree crackers on-line and in grocery stores. Jane and Jesse Ciccone enjoyed the classic Italian tradition of the family

gathering for an antipasti plate before dinner. When they thought their youngest daughter was allergic to gluten, Jane refused to give up on what she described as "the delicious combination of crackers, cheese, olives and roasted veggies.'

Her search for gluten-free crackers found only "overly-processed and preservative-filled options on most grocery store shelves."

She turned to creating her own recipes using what she described as "honest ingredients." Onesto, Italian for honest, was born. When she needed production

space, she moved to the kitchen of a downtown church, but quickly outgrew that space.

With an office Amesbury at Works, she has CI Onesto's gluten-free rosemary, everything and sea salt crackers baked with solar power in Vermont. They are sold in 100 percent recyclable packaging that are

printed with vegetable dyes. Onesto celebrating being on the top 100 small business list by throwing a party for its customers, giving away a free box of crackers. Buy three and get a fourth free. Visit the firm's website, onestofoods. com.

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge Proposes Removal of Bicycle / Pedestrian Fee

PLUM ISLAND – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is seeking public input on a potential change to entrance fees in the fall of 2024 for Parker River National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). In accordance with the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004, the proposed fee schedule for the refuge will be open for public comment.

The public comment period will last from September 18 through October 2. The current refuge fees have been in place since 2007. Parker River NWR proposes eliminating the \$2.00 bicycle/ pedestrian entrance fee per person. No fee increases or other changes to the refuge

fee schedule are proposed. Eighty percent of all money collected by the refuge from passes and permits, except for the Federal Duck Stamp, remains at the refuge to be used for visitor services and facility improvements. On average,

bicycle/pedestrian fees comprise less than 1% of the refuge's annual revenue. As such, the refuge anticipates no significant

negative impacts on visitor services. Potential positive impacts include incentivizing car-free travel to reduce congestion and emissions, and streamlining gatehouse fee collection operations, particularly when it is needed most in summer months.

Refuge Manager Matt Hillman encourages interested parties to provide feedback on theproposed fee changes. This will help the refuge gain a better perspective of the visitors who enjoy the refuge.

Comments may be emailed to parkerriver@fws.gov, or mailed to: Parker River National Wildlife Refuge 6 Plum Island Turnpike Newburyport, MA 01950

Ipswich Public Health Department, Council on Aging to Host Flu Shot Clinic for Residents Age 50 or Older

IPSWICH – Director of Public Health Colleen Fermon shares that the Ipswich Public Health Department and Council on Aging will be holding a flu shot clinic for residents age 50 years or older.

On Wednesday, Oct. 16, from 1-3 p.m., residents can visit the Council on Aging Cafeteria in Town Hall, 25 Green St., to receive their influenza vaccination. Fluad Trivalent Adjuvanted Influenza vaccines (for those age 65 or older) and Flucelvax Trivalent Influenza vaccines will be offered. Vaccines will be provided by Conley's Drug Store.

COVID-19, Shingles, Pneumonia, TDAP and RSV Vaccines are also available. Multiple vaccines may be

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Please Note: Election is in five weeks. Deadline for all political

advertisments is 5:00 pm each Thursday. advertise@thetowncommon.com

administered at the same time. Pre-registration is required to receive

any vaccinations. Residents can preregister using the link https://form. jotform.com/242115381176149. The link can also be found on the Town website homepage.

Residents should bring their health insurance and Medicare cards. Those without insurance can still receive the regular dose influenza vaccine for \$40.

The Department advises residents to wear loose-fitting clothing or short sleeves to make the vaccination process efficient.

For questions or more information, residents should contact Conley's Drug Store at 978-356-2121.

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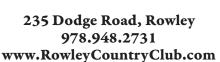
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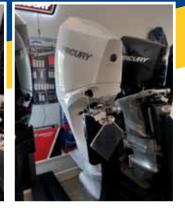


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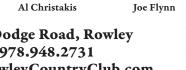




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By J. Peter St. Clair, DMD

September is almost over! It's crunch time to get everything done that we haven't gotten done during the rest of the year. For those with remaining dental benefits, it's also the time of year to consider utilizing those so you don't lose them.

Unused dental benefits go directly back to the insurance company, which generates hundreds and hundreds of thousands of dollars for the insurance companies each year. Dental insurance companies count on the fact that many people will not claim their \$1000 or so now offer pre-tax flex spending in benefits by the end of the calendar accounts for healthcare expenses.

look for legitimate means to use these benefits before they are lost.

For example, perhaps a crown has been recommended by your dentist, but you have procrastinated about it. It would make sense to consider using those dental benefits before the end of the calendar year. This allows a whole new round of dental benefits to be used for unexpected dental needs the following year, and maximizes the value of the premiums paid.

Remember, insurance companies are in the business to make money. They don't want you to use your dental benefits. If the balance (co-payment) you will owe for the dental work that needs to be done is too much for you, consider financing options through your dental office. Most dental offices offer interest-free financing to patients for up to 12 months. Financing your balance in this way may make more financial sense than throwing money away to fund the insurance company's pocketbooks.

Another thing to consider as the end of the year approaches is the use of flex spending accounts. Many employers

its budgeting process to accommodate

the needs of our community, and this

recognition ensures we are successful in

CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENT

CENTER

meeting that standard.

year. Those with dental benefits should Often underutilized, these are excellent mechanisms for saving about 20 percent on needed dental care. If you are paying for your dental insurance premiums, it may even make sense to fund an available flex spending account with that premium money instead of, or in conjunction with it.

For instance, if you are anticipating the need for \$3000 in dental care, opting to place the \$3000 in a flex spending account can save the income tax on those monies and can usually be used as soon as January 1st. If you have money left in a flex spending account, remember to check with your employer to determine if that money needs to be used by the end of the year. You don't want to lose that money either.

As you begin to make financial decisions for the end of this year and for the upcoming year, consider a discussion with your dental office's financial person. They are often an untapped wealth of information and can usually thoroughly and knowledgeably discuss your dental financial options with you.

And, don't wait too long. Dental office schedules get full quickly this time of year with patients trying to use dental insurance benefits and unused flex account money. Maximize your hardearned dollars.

978-468-1043

Town of Newbury Receives National Award for Budget Presentation

NEWBURY - Town Administrator "Newbury is constantly seeking to improve Tracy Blais and the Town of Newbury are pleased to share that the Town has received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for its Fiscal Year 2025 Budget.

The award is a significant achievement in governmental accounting and financial reporting, reflecting the commitment of a governing body and its staff to meeting the highest standards of governmental budgeting.

The award is assessed based on the budget's ability to serve as:

- A policy document
- A financial plan
- An operations guide
- A communications device

The award-winning budget can be viewed here. Awarded budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories and meet the 14 mandatory criteria within those categories.

Newbury has received this award previously for its Fiscal Year 2024 Budget. "It is an honor for the Town to be

nationally recognized for its commitment to transparency and sound financial practices," said Town Administrator Blais.



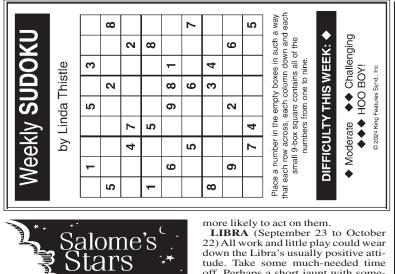
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NOT DICKENS



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Careful, Lamb. Taking on too many tasks at one time can cause you to create more snarls each time you try

to work your way through the tangled TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Making bold moves is what Bovines do. But the best moves are made with lots of data to provide backup, just in case you charge into an unexpected complication. Meanwhile, a new rela-

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Sharing credit for a job well-done is easy for you to do, but this is not necessarily the age for you rout rour part for in the formation of the set of the se ly the case for your partner. But fair is fair. Don't let vourself be denied the right to have your contributions rec-

ognized. CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Communication is important to help a way to get your points a cross before the breach becomes a chasm.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Relationships, whether business or personal, need to be watched carefully for signs of trouble. Any negative indications should be dealt with before they

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Congratulations! A more positive aspect highlights much of the Virgo's You should find others more receptive to your suggestions and

The Spats

down the Libra's usually positive atti-tude. Take some much-needed time off. Perhaps a short jaunt with some-one special is the way to go. SCORPIO (October 23 to Novem-

ber 21) This is a good time to expand your view from the known to the unfa-miliar. Confronting new situations could be challenging, but they could ultimately be extremely satisfying.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Giving advice to those who just want validation for what they're doing can be unsettling. So, back off and save your counsel for those who really appreciate it.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Cultivating a more posi-tive attitude not only makes you feel better about yourself, but it also has an upbeat effect on those around you, especially a certain someone.

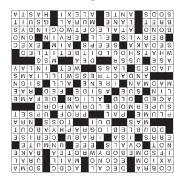
AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Keeping the lines of commu-nication open and accessible is the key to establishing the right foundation to build an important and mean-ingful relationship. Stay with it.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Before agreeing to act on a request, consider using your perceptive Pis-cean talents to see what might lie hidden beneath the surface and possibly cause problems later on.

BORN THIS WEEK: You're a friend who, if you err at all, does so on the side of concern for those you care about.

by Jeff Pickering





The Town Common

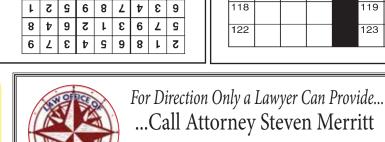
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