



## Forced Housing Deadline Looms

Massachusetts Government Seeks to Force Explosion of Large-Scale Developments in 177 Cities/Towns

By Stewart Lytle, Reporter

**REGIONAL** – In 2025, housing will again be a very hot potato communities along the North Shore and throughout eastern Massachusetts have to handle.

For several years, residents and would-be homebuyers have grappled with the challenge of low inventories of housing and rapidly rising costs. The median price of a home in the state has hit a record of \$600,000.

To try to solve the low-inventory, high-cost problems, the state mandated a remedy designed to encourage towns and cities served by the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA) to zone large swaths of land for multi-family homes.

Signed into law in 2021 by then-Gov. Charlie Baker, the MBTA law, known as 3A, requires 177 communities served by or located near the T to zone for more multifamily housing. The hope is this mandate will increase the inventory and drive down housing costs.

The tonic is not going down well.

Led by the town of Milton, municipalities are facing a year-end deadline to comply with the mandate to redraw their zoning maps for builders to design and construct hundreds of new residences by right.

Several North Shore towns, including Rowley and Ipswich, have said no to the mandate. Others like Georgetown have kicked the can down the road into 2025.

The law uses carrots, rather than sticks. It does not mandate new housing construction, but rather sets targets for each community's zoning. Builders are encouraged to build new multi-family house.

But if the municipalities refuse, they face the possible loss of state funding for new infrastructure that will exacerbate the low inventory problem. MassWorks and HousingWorks, two competitive funding programs that may be withheld from non-compliant towns. Those grants are awarded to communities for the purpose of boosting housing production.

Continued on page 5



The Iconic Pink House (Photo: Sandy Tilton - Save the Pink House Discussion Group)

## 2024: A Tough Year for the Iconic Pink House

**NEWBURY** – It lost windows and portions of the roof, but the Iconic Pink House was remembered at Christmas.

Federal officials had roofing and windows removed from the Pink House just in time for the arrival of winter rains, sleet, and snow - in a move that appears to ensure the building will be damaged beyond repair and force its final destruction, despite the pledge of the local elected senator, representatives, and Massachusetts' governor.

## Boxford Fire Department Receives \$260,639 Grant for Call Firefighters

**BOXFORD** – The Town of Boxford is pleased to announce that the Boxford Fire Department has been awarded a \$260,639 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

This funding will be utilized over the next four years to support the recruitment and retention of call firefighters, a critical component of Boxford's emergency response system.

Continued on page 3

## New Pastor Brings Reporter's Eye and Fresh Approach to Rowley

**ROWLEY** – Rowley's first church has a new pastor who's bringing a fresh approach to ministry in this growing community.

This fall, the Rev. G. Jeffrey MacDonald (Jeff) became the 44th pastor of First Congregational Church of Rowley, a United Church of Christ (UCC) congregation located downtown at 175 Main Street. The church traces its roots to Rowley's origins in 1639. Now it's looking to the future by repositioning itself to meet Rowley's evolving needs.

That's where MacDonald comes in. He's charged with helping the congregation build on recent successful initiatives to serve the entire community – not only through religious programming, but also through partnerships and social enterprise.

"People are craving spaces where they can grow spiritually, make friends, serve

neighbors, be authentic, feel appreciated and discern what 'living well' really means to them," MacDonald said. "That's the type of church I've found here in Rowley. I'm thrilled to help the congregation develop its many blessings for the good of the entire region."

It won't be a solo effort. MacDonald focuses on empowering others to reimagine possibilities within a Christian framework



Rev. G. Jeffrey MacDonald

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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, 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)

## Upcoming Events

### Auditions for "Skin of Our Teeth"

The North Shore Players, a Danvers community theater, announces open auditions for Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize play, "The Skin of Our Teeth."

Large cast, males and females, ages 16 and up. Auditions are at Hogan Regional Auditorium, 450 Maple St., Danvers. That's

the old Danvers State Hospital.

Auditions are Jan. 12, 3-4:30 p.m., Jan. 13 and 14, 7-8:30 p.m. More information at www.northshoreplayersma.org.

The North Shore Players is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, and has been on the North Shore since 1958.

### Hillies Workout @ Groveland's Veasey Memorial Park

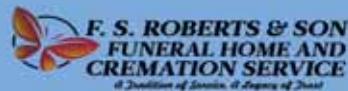
Wednesdays, 7:00 AM & Saturdays, 8:00 AM at the bottom of Nun's Hill; all weather - bring water, yoga mat, and light hand weights.

All skill levels are welcome!

"Our hill group meets at the bottom of the Veasey sledding hill every Wednesday at 7 and Saturday at 8, rain, snow or shine. We do 5 trips up and down the front and side hill alternating walking with light weights

and jogging without weights. After each cycle we do a short circuit of push-ups, dips and squats and at the end there is a short exercise session. People of all ages and abilities come and modify the workout to their own ability. It's a fun way to get out and meet people and get a free great workout in! Takes a little over an hour. You need water, a yoga mat and light hand weights (optional). All are welcome." - Karen

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25	Wed	6:57	7.6	7:26	6.8	12:40	1.2	1:21	1.1	7:10	4:16	☾
26	Thu	7:46	7.7	8:18	6.7	1:31	1.3	2:14	0.9	7:11	4:17	☾
27	Fri	8:34	7.9	9:08	6.7	2:19	1.4	3:03	0.7	7:11	4:17	☾
28	Sat	9:19	8.1	9:54	6.8	3:05	1.4	3:49	0.4	7:11	4:18	☾
29	Sun	10:02	8.3	10:39	6.9	3:50	1.3	4:33	0.2	7:11	4:19	☾
30	Mon	10:45	8.5	11:22	7.1	4:33	1.2	5:15	0.0	7:12	4:20	☾
31	Tue	11:28	8.7			5:16	1.0	5:58	-0.2	7:12	4:20	☾

## New England Aquarium Ice Sculpture Stroll

This winter, as nearly 500 endangered sea turtles have received rehabilitative care at the New England Aquarium's Sea Turtle Hospital after being rescued from Cape Cod, an ice sculpture depicting some of the most critically endangered among them, the Kemp's ridley sea turtle, will take shape on the Aquarium's Central Wharf Plaza. Don Chapelle of Brilliant Ice Sculpture in North Andover will be carving the sculpture live on the plaza on Sunday, Dec. 29 (weather permitting).

The sculpture, which depicts the species representing the majority of turtles treated in the Sea Turtle Hospital in Quincy, MA, will be part of Boston Harbor Now's annual Waterfront Ice Sculpture Stroll on New Year's Eve. The sculpture will be formed out of 35 blocks of ice weighing 10,500 pounds to create a 14-foot-wide by 8-foot-tall work of art.

For 18 years, Chapelle has been creating massive ice sculptures for the Aquarium, including North Atlantic right whales, sharks, penguins, sea lions, octopuses, and more. This year, he pays tribute to the endangered sea turtles that receive extensive, intensive, and lengthy care by Aquarium staff.

Each fall and early winter, hundreds of cold-stunned sea turtles wash up on the beaches of Cape Cod and are rescued by staff and volunteers from Mass Audubon's Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. Because of rapidly changing water temperatures and wind patterns, many turtles cannot escape the hook-like area of Cape Cod Bay and become hypothermic.

Continued on page 5

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In addition to hundreds of store locations, check out our newspaper boxes for easy access. (The photo to the left shows one of our growing fleet of newspaper boxes. This one is located outside of the Newburyport Post Office - the Mission Oak Grill is seen in the background.)

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## Georgetown, Groveland, Merrimac, and Amesbury Fire Departments Receive \$614,728 in Firefighter Grants

**REGION** – Georgetown Fire Chief Matt McKay, Groveland Fire Chief Robert Valentine, Merrimac Fire Chief Larry Fisher, and Amesbury Fire Chief James Nolan are pleased to share that the Georgetown, Groveland, Merrimac, and Amesbury Fire Departments received a joint federal assistance grant for equipment.

The four fire departments received a joint grant of \$614,728 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant program.

The funding will be used to purchase equipment such as portable radios and accessories including microphones, batteries, and chargers. The new equipment will replace old or failing radios. The decision

was made to purchase the radios based on the needs of the communities.

The new portable radios will be able to receive and transmit communications on multiple radio bands where older technologies could only operate on one, making interoperability with inter-agency and mutual aid partners more accessible. They also offer the newest technology and security features, which are imperative for critical incidents. The portable radios are vital to firefighting operations and the safety of firefighters and the community at large.

As part of the grant funding program, each community is responsible for providing a 10 percent match toward their share of the equipment cost.

The joint grant application was written by Amesbury Deputy Fire Chief Rob Serino and Georgetown Fire Lt. Brian Belfiore.

About FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grants

Assistance to Firefighters Grants is allocated to fire departments nationally to fund and aid the firefighting and emergency response needs of fire departments and non-affiliated emergency medical service organizations. These federal grants help firefighters and other first responders obtain critically needed equipment, protective gear, emergency vehicles, training, and other resources necessary for protecting the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards. ♦

### Boxford \$260K Firefighter Grant Continued from page 1

The SAFER grant will enable the department to recruit 16 new call firefighters by covering the costs of EMT training, turnout gear, and basic fire department training. This funding addresses a significant need, as 12 of the department's current call firefighters will reach the mandatory retirement age within the next few years.

"The Fire Department is pleased to receive a SAFER grant to help strengthen our call fire department roster," said Fire Chief Brian Geiger. "Our department operates as a combination workforce of five career firefighters and 37 call firefighters, and we rely heavily on our residents to join the call department to respond to various emergencies throughout Boxford. In the next few years, we will lose 12 of our current call firefighters due to the mandatory retirement age, which creates a significant gap in our staffing. The SAFER grant provides the resources we need to recruit and train new members, covering the costs of EMT school, turnout gear, and other essential training. These new members will allow us to continue providing

professional, reliable service to our residents."

The grant funds will support:

- EMT Training: A state-approved 120-hour course leading to certification for new recruits.

- Department Training: A 70-hour introductory fire department training program.

- Personal Protective Equipment: A full set of structural firefighting gear, including helmets, jackets, pants, gloves, boots, and SCBA masks.

Town Administrator Matt Coogan expressed his gratitude for this federal support: "We are incredibly grateful for the SAFER grant and for the continued support from our federal partners, including Congressman Moulton's office. This funding will ensure that Boxford can maintain a strong and capable fire department that is ready to respond when our community needs it most."

The Boxford Fire Department operates as a combination workforce, with five career firefighters and

37 call firefighters across its two stations. Call firefighters provide essential coverage for emergencies, responding to over 1,000 calls annually. As Boxford continues to experience growth, including new residential development and increasing call volumes, maintaining a robust roster of trained personnel is critical to public safety.

The SAFER program is designed to enhance staffing and deployment capabilities, helping fire departments nationwide meet operational standards and reduce response times. For more information about SAFER grants, visit FEMA's website (<https://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/firefighters/safer>).

Residents interested in joining the Boxford Fire Department, or for additional information on the department, visit the Department website: <https://www.boxesfordma.gov/176/Fire-Rescue-EMS>. ♦

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# Health & Wellness

## Brighter Smiles ... 21 SUGGESTIONS FOR SUCCESS IN 2025



By J. PETER ST. CLAIR, DMD

At the end of each of the past 19 years, I have used this space to publish these 21 Suggestions for Success authored by H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

Cut this out and put it on the refrigerator. Read this list often and take these suggestions to heart.

1. Marry the right person. This one

- 2. Work at something you enjoy and that's worthy of your time and talent.
- 3. Give people more than they expect and do it cheerfully.
- 4. Become the most positive and enthusiastic person you know.
- 5. Be forgiving of yourself and others.
- 6. Be generous.
- 7. Have a grateful heart.
- 8. Persistence, persistence, persistence.
- 9. Discipline yourself to save money on even the most modest salary.
- 10. Treat everyone you meet like you want to be treated.
- 11. Commit yourself to constant improvement.
- 12. Commit yourself to quality.
- 13. Understand that happiness is not based on possessions, power or prestige, but on relationships with people you love and respect.
- 14. Be loyal.
- 15. Be honest.
- 16. Be a self-starter.
- 17. Be decisive even if it means you'll sometimes be wrong.
- 18. Stop blaming others. Take responsibility for every area of your life.
- 19. Be loyal and courageous. When you look back on your life, you'll regret the things you didn't do more than the ones you did.
- 20. Take good care of those you love.
- 21. Don't do anything that wouldn't make your Mom proud.

Best wishes for a happy, successful, and healthy 2025. Happy New Year!

*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 jpsclair@stclairdmd.com*

## HISTORY CORNER: Newburyport's Confederate General

By Joseph Oliver  
*Special to The Town Common*

Although we like to see ourselves as virtuous, we all have skeletons hidden in our closets. Here is the story of one such skeleton from Newburyport's cupboard. On June 19th, 2020, in the Judiciary Square neighborhood of Washington, D.C., a group of Black Lives Matter members protesting the murder of George Floyd gathered with ropes and chains, intent on removing the 11-foot statue of Albert Pike. Pike was the Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Council of the Southern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite. The Scottish Rite is a full Rite of Freemasonry, Pike served from 1859 until his death in 1891. But who was Albert Pike, and why would anyone want to destroy a 119-year-old statue dedicated to him?

Albert Pike was born in Boston in 1809 he was the great-great-grandson of John Pike, who originally came to Newbury, Massachusetts in 1635 from England alongside his son Robert who was one of the founders of Salisbury and later became known for his criticism of the persecution of Quakers and his opposition to the Salem Witch Trials in 1692.

Albert grew up in Newburyport, and was educated at The Governor Dummer's Academy in Byfield. He attended Harvard but left before graduating to become the principal at a Newburyport Grammar School. Adventurous by nature, Pike headed west, living for short periods in St. Louis and Nashville before eventually settling in Arkansas. There, he first worked as a teacher and later as a journalist for the *Little Rock Advocate*, eventually buying the paper. Pike then transitioned to practicing law, where he became very successful, specializing in claims for Native American tribes against the federal government. This work allowed Pike to build close relationships with Native people.

Pike served as a captain in the Arkansas Mounted Infantry Regiment during the Mexican-American War, fighting under future U.S. President Zachary Taylor at the Battle of Buena Vista. After being discharged, Albert re-turned to Arkansas.

Originally a member of the Whig Party, he later left the party to join the pro-slavery, anti-Catholic Know Nothing Party. At the Southern Commercial Convention of 1854, Pike argued that the South should remain in the Union and seek equality with the North, but if the South were "forced into an inferior status, she would be better out of the Union than in it." He believed that states' rights superseded national law and supported the idea of Southern secession.

Leading up to the Civil War, the United States, not yet 100 years old, faced significant division. One of the greatest challenges was the expansion of slavery into western territories. Slavery had been a contentious issue since the Constitution was framed in 1787, with compromises being the only way to create an acceptable draft. This led to a document containing both pro-slavery and anti-slavery elements, contributing to a deeply divided country, with the South embracing slavery and the North consisting of free states.

The Louisiana Purchase, which nearly doubled the size of the United States, further complicated matters, not only because of the potential expansion of slavery but also due to the shifting power structure between free and slave states. The electoral college was constantly at stake because of the potential addition of slave states.

The Missouri Compromise of 1820,

which allowed Missouri to become a slave state and created the free soil state of Maine from the separation of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, temporarily balanced the number of free and slave states. However, it also stipulated that any new states formed from the Louisiana Purchase territory above the 36-degree parallel would not be admitted as slave states. The Missouri compromise created the Mason/Dixon line, and a lawfully divided country.

With the election of Republican Abraham Lincoln in 1860, the line in the sand had been drawn, and the expansion of slavery to the west was no longer an option. War was inevitable, and the country was in constant debate. As a poet, writer, and influential leader, Albert Pike was a powerful voice during this time. He penned the song "To Arms in Dixie," a rallying cry that Confederate soldiers sang with pride as they marched to war in 1861. The lyrics included: "Southern men the thunders mutter!—Northern flags in South winds flutter!—To arms! To arms! To arms, in Dixie!—Send them back your fierce defiance!—Stamp upon the cursed alliance!—To arms! To arms! To arms, in Dixie!"

Pike was commissioned as a brigadier general in the Confederate States Army. Utilizing his relationships he was given command in the "Indian Territory," where he trained three Confederate regiments of Indian cavalry. Promises were made to Native Americans of their own state once the war was over. Pike and his troops won the Battle of Pea Ridge in March 1862, but later suffered a defeat in a counterattack. Pike resigned his post but remained a supporter of the Confederate States.

As the war ended, Pike petitioned for, and was granted a pardon, writing to President Andrew Johnson that he now intended "to pursue the arts of peace, to practice my profession, to live among my books, and to labor to benefit my fellows and my race by other than political courses."

Albert Pike remained Sovereign Grand Commander of the Scottish Rite for the rest of his life. He continued to write prolifically, often under a pseudonym or anonymously. Among his works on Freemasonry was the influential *Morals and Dogma of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry*, published in 1871. Although never proven, and denied by Pike himself, rumors and writings have suggested that Pike was a founding member of the Ku Klux Klan and that he may have even authored the group's constitution.

On April 2nd, 1891, Pike passed away at his home, the Scottish Rite Temple of the Supreme Council in Washington D.C., after suffering for a short period with throat cancer. The headline from the *Newburyport Daily News* on the second edition (afternoon) Friday April 3rd was written "General Albert Pike Dead. A leader amongst the Masons of the land. He was a Principal in a Newburyport School. A man of great physique, and intellect." Newburyport considered Albert Pike a native son.

Pike openly expressed his belief in white supremacy, asserting that "the white race, and that race alone, shall govern this country. It is the only one that is fit to govern, and it is the only one that shall." Later in his life he built strong relationships with men of color, even sharing his rituals, and writings with Prince Hall Masons, a mostly black Masonic fraternity. Various groups, including Freemasons and Native American tribes petitioned to have a memorial erected

Continued on page 5

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## What's Happening in Your Town Government?

by Lonnie Brennan

Periodically we'll post notices of the latest meeting minutes available online through city/town websites, for various boards.

This week, we list the selectmen's/selectboard/city council meeting minutes.

You'll note that Hampton Falls, NH is the town with the most up-to-date posting of recent meetings minutes, followed by North Hampton NH, Hampton NH, Essex, then Merrimac.

Trailing in last place is Wrentham (June 18, 2024), followed by Topsfield (July 15, 2024), Hamilton (August 5, 2024), and Georgetown (Sept. 9, 2024). Of interesting note, until Georgetown's selectboard took interest last week and approved minutes, their last online posting was July 8, 2024, which would have placed them in second-last place, instead of fourth-last in this regional listing.

We took a look at several boards and commissions throughout the region shown in the nearby table, as well as other towns. We looked at boards of health, conservation commissions, planning boards, and others, and found that some were near to up-to-date, others are posting old information, several sites with broken links or simply no materials, but generally, most indicated this is not a top priority to share up-to-date minutes online.

One of the many ways to engage the community is to issue timely, comprehensive minutes of meetings which summarize the actions taken by a board, and details any votes and especially roll-call votes.

In addition to listing dates (and links?), please let us know if you are interested in any particular board. Reach me: lonnie@thetowncommon.com.

City/Town	Latest Selectmen's or City Council Meeting Minutes Available Online Last Week
Amesbury	NOVEMBER 12, 2024
Beverly	NOVEMBER 21, 2024
Boxford	OCTOBER 21, 2024
Essex	DECEMBER 6, 2024
Georgetown	SEPTEMBER 9, 2024
Gloucester	NOVEMBER 21, 2024
Groveland	OCTOBER 14, 2024
Hamilton	AUGUST 5, 2024
Ipswich	NOVEMBER 15, 2024
Merrimac	DECEMBER 2, 2024
Newbury	NOVEMBER 26, 2024
Newburyport	OCTOBER 15, 2024
Rowley	OCTOBER 21, 2024
Salisbury	OCTOBER 21, 2024
Topsfield	JULY 15, 2024
West Newbury	NOVEMBER 21, 2024
Wenham	JUNE 18, 2024
Hampton, NH	DECEMBER 6, 2024
Hampton Falls, NH	DECEMBER 12, 2024
North Hampton, NH	DECEMBER 9, 2024
Rye, NH	DECEMBER 4, 2024
Seabrook, NH	NOVEMBER 18, 2024

### Forced Housing Continued from page 1

"When communities say yes to housing production, they are saying yes to making housing more affordable for the teachers, first responders and middle-class families that make our communities strong," Healey said. "We're grateful for the communities that have adopted these changes and look forward to celebrating many more who will keep up this momentum."

Opponents argue that the communities are not prepared to handle new housing.

Rowley voters struck down a second MBTA zoning proposal at the special town meeting recently. The vote was 217 to 191.

Amesbury must develop zoning for up to 789 multi-family units near public transit.

Georgetown is in the MBTA Communities Act's Adjacent community category. It must develop zoning to allow up to 750 multi-family units near public transit. The deadline to comply is 12/31/2024.

Ipswich must allow up to 971 multi-family units near public transit.

Merrimac is in the MBTA Communities Act's Adjacent small-town category to allow up to 138 multi-family units near public transit.

Newbury in the MBTA Communities Act's Adjacent small-town category must develop zoning to allow up to 154 multi-family units near public transit.

Newburyport has developed zoning to allow up to 1,292 multi-family units near public transit.

Salisbury has passed zoning to allow up to 750 multi-family units near public transit.

### Newburyport History Continued from page 4

in Washington, D.C., in his honor. Despite protests from organizations such as The Grand Army of the Republic and Union veterans, a memorial to Pike was installed in Washington, D.C., in 1901.

Although the monument faced protests for decades, it remained standing until Juneteenth 2020, when the 11-foot statue of Albert Pike was pulled from its graffiti-covered pedestal and burned. The fire was extinguished, and the statue was subsequently removed by the National Park Service.

Though he was depicted as a Mason, and not a soldier, it was the only statue of a Confederate in Washington, D.C.. Newburyport would rather see itself as the birth-place of William Lloyd Garrison than as the hometown of Albert Pike. ♦

### Rowley's New Pastor Continued from page 1

and collaborate in new ways. He's written a book, Part-Time is Plenty: Thriving without Full-Time Clergy (Westminster John Knox Press, 2020), about congregations that have done better by a variety of measures when they stop depending on a full-time clergyperson and instead tap into myriad underutilized assets.

"Many churches have faced declining resources since the COVID pandemic," said Nancy Schmidt, moderator (lay leader) of First Congregational Church of Rowley. "When it came time for our church to search for a pastor, our resources supported a part-time minister. However, we still felt we needed full-time ministry. We were concerned the two could not coexist. Then we met Rev. MacDonald. His experience and expertise are all about how churches can thrive with a part-time minister while continuing to be a spiritual resource in the community. This model embraces Christ's teachings that we all have gifts and talents to offer. Together, with Rev. MacDonald, the mission of the First Congregational Church of Rowley remains consistent: a voice of hope serving the community. We now have one more voice!"

MacDonald tries to practice what he

preaches, which means serving part-time as pastor while also working as a news reporter and consultant. He's been a correspondent for *USA Today*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Christian Science Monitor* and other outlets. In consulting, he leads workshops for church organizations moving to leaner staffing models. His consulting clients include The United Church of Christ Pension Boards, The Unitarian Universalist Association and The American Baptist Churches of Maine among others.

MacDonald, who lives in Swampscott, has spent his ministry career in this region. Since graduating from Yale Divinity School in 2000, he's pastored UCC congregations in Amesbury, Newbury, Nahant and Kensington, N.H. His covenant with Rowley is to serve a designated term of three years as the church pursues its repositioning goals.

"Rev. MacDonald's guidance is instrumental in assisting our congregation in evaluating how to plan for our future; how to best align and organize resources to maximize the church's mission," Schmidt said. "His experience working with other churches, along with findings from his research, will help to inform our journey forward. We are grateful to have Rev. MacDonald as our part-time minister. Together, we indeed feel that our 'cup runneth over!'" ♦




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Weekly SUDOKU

Sudoku grid with numbers 1-9 in various positions.

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:

- Moderate, Challenging, HOO BOY!

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Don't be sheepish about asking more questions before making a major decision at your workplace.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You might be rushed into renewing an old, cold relationship. But do you really want a reheated romance when there's a chance to warm up with someone new?

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Someone tells you something that could lead you to rethink your plans for the holidays. Get the full story before you make a decision.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A financial matter that had you in a dither is finally being sorted out as more facts become available.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) You face a slew of new tasks at home and work. So, as much as you love being a social Lion, be careful not to overdo it at those preholiday parties.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Unexpected news could cause some minor adjustments in your holiday planning. Defer a decision about a financial matter until you have more facts.

LIBRA (September 23 to October

22) A project might not be bringing you the results you'd hoped it would by now. But stay with it — things will soon begin to turn around.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A budding personal relationship continues to develop. Things also improve in your career, although some problems still need close attention.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Mercury is finally stationing direct in your sign after a few weeks in retrograde. This will give you motivation to take care of any outstanding tasks before the holidays.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Allowing a misunderstanding to go unchallenged could jeopardize the plans you've made for the upcoming holidays. Clear the air now.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) While you should be open to suggestions on how to plan for the holidays, you should also be firm in saying "no" to anything you disagree with.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Get out from under all those holiday preparations and immerse yourself in a world of music. You'll soon feel refreshed, revived — maybe even reborn!

BORN THIS WEEK: You believe in the truth and have little patience for those who try to hide it. You would make an excellent judge.

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The Spats



Puzzle answers grid with letters and numbers.

Super Crossword

TEEPEES

ACROSS

- 1 The United States' landmass, with "the"
9 Rafter's challenge
15 Shul scroll
20 Another similar thing
21 Barack and Michelle
22 Give the slip
23 Like babies who throw tantrums when you try to put diapers on them?
25 News outlets
26 RBI or ERA
27 Film lead-in to "Cop"
28 Photo —
29 More nimble
30 Trellis climber
32 Having a sore mouth from working long hours at a kissing booth?
36 Joint a sock often covers
39 Chipped in, in poker
40 Beckett title character
41 Intense fire used as an energy source?
46 Pie — mode
49 Abbr. on a road map
50 With 44-Down, decay of building timbers
51 Colon part
52 Communist Joseph
55 Egyptian god of the dead
57 Declaration while pointing at a group of workers on strike?
62 Scent sensor
63 George at Gettysburg
64 Airy melody
65 Statement when you're nearly ready to complete a collage?
72 The "A" of "A-Rod"
73 Depart
74 Air out
77 Mesmerizing horse movement?
83 Limb-bending muscle
85 Is theatrical
86 Pod item
87 Color grade
88 Actress
89 Tangle of hair

DOWN

- 1 Cobra types
2 Castle ditch
3 Avenger Peel
4 Lizard, e.g.
5 British verb suffix
90 Inherent hanging-down position?
96 SeaWorld whale, once
100 Fake identity
101 Fuels (up)
102 "It won't hurt to snoop a little!"?
107 Body of eau in vinegar
109 Debt note
110 Architect Saarinen
112 "Slung" food
116 St. — (Caribbean getaway)
117 Hassle of tracking down a missing retirement payment?
121 Vintage song
122 Stress
123 Spiritual self
124 Foundations
125 Peanut butter cup brand
126 Bread browners
6 Indian dish
7 Height: Prefix
8 The whole —
9 King, in Caen
10 Belly muscles
11 Jean — (perfume brand)
12 Windows ad catchphrase
13 Language of Copenhagen, to locals
14 New jet in '68
15 Worked as an office sub
16 Carry too far
17 Howard Stern's area
18 "Bye, Brigitte"
19 Bodily pump
24 Conductor Georg
29 "Every seat sold" abbr.
31 "La Traviata" composer
33 Spy novelist Deighton
34 Shareable PC file
35 Vainglory
36 Chef's tie-on
37 "Untrue!"
38 Maryland congressman — Mfume
39 Even a bit of
42 Taxing gp.
43 Mag bigwigs
44 See 50-Across
45 High degree
47 Falsification
48 Cookout pest
52 BBQ rod
53 Mosaic piece
54 On the go
56 Withdraw
57 — Aviv
58 Deli meat
59 Foofaraw
60 Model S car
61 Otherwise
63 Long skirt
66 Balm plant
67 Meshes
68 A fifth of fifty
69 D.C. donor
70 Abbr. on a road map
71 Dallasites or Houstonians
75 — word (single-occasion coinage)
76 Plate holders
77 Skirt edge
78 Diva Sumac
79 Broken bits of ceramic material
80 Tax doc. pro
81 House animal
82 Novelist Santha Rama —
83 Festivity
84 Pigeon perch
87 Males
90 Rapa — (Easter Island)
91 Solar beam
92 Frazier foe
93 Sheet fabric
94 Website visit unit
95 Pilot Amelia
97 Actress McDaniel of "Gone With the Wind"
98 Comes up
99 Nero's 2,100
102 Bigwig
103 Florida city
104 "Uncle!" crier, perhaps
105 Explorer — de León
106 Stratagems
107 Disney film of 2016
111 Nevada city
113 Highest point
114 — -Pei
115 Mama birds
117 Golf average
118 Ending for opal
119 Extra NBA periods
120 — Plaines

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-126.

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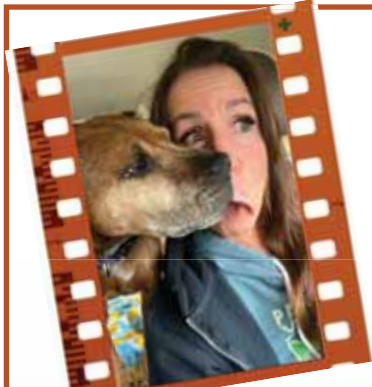
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The Knights of Columbus Council 6064 seeks someone to plow our lot this winter if the snow is deeper than 4 inches: 87E Main St., Georgetown. Lot holds approximately 10-15 cars. We're without a plow - it usually takes about 10 minutes...and we are hoping someone could help us at a reasonable cost.

The building is used by a lot of community groups.  
 Please contact Lonnie Brennan at 978-352-5449.



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The Groveland Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing at the **Groveland Town Hall, 183 Main St, Groveland, MA. on January 8, 2025 at 7:00 pm** to consider a Notice of Intent / Groveland Notice of Intent regarding an alteration of riverfront area and work within 100 feet of jurisdictional wetlands at 301 Main Street in Groveland. A copy of the application can be viewed by visiting the Groveland Economic Development, Planning, and Conservation Department at Groveland Town Hall, 183 Main St, Groveland MA.  
 12/24

### ROWLEY PLANNING BOARD LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to M.G.L., Ch. 41, §81S, Ch. 40A, §9 and §11, the Rowley Protective Zoning Bylaw (Zoning Bylaw) sections 6.4 (Open Space Residential Development), 7.6 (Site Plan Review), 7.8 (Special Permits), and the Rowley Planning Board Rules and Regulations, notice is hereby given that the Rowley Planning Board will hold a **public hearing on Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 7:10 p.m.** in the Town Hall 2nd Floor Auditorium located at 139 Main Street, Rowley, MA., to review an application for a Special Permit/Site Plan Review for a six (6) unit Open Space Residential Development (OSRD) development to be located at 195 Wethersfield Street also identified as Assessor's Map 17, Lot 26, consisting of approx. 11.2 acres, and located in the Outlying (OD) Zoning District. Subject parcels are owned by Wethersfield Development, LLC (applicant/property owner of 5 Tarbox Lane, North Reading).

The application, plans, and relevant documents are on file with the Rowley Planning Board, and can be inspected on the town's Planning Board website, or can be inspected by contacting the Town Planner at 978-948-5549 and scheduling an appointment to inspect the plans during regular business hours at Rowley Planning Board Office, Town Hall Annex, 39 Central Street.

For the Planning Board  
 Kirk Baker - Rowley Town Planner

12/24 (1/1/2025)

### ROWLEY PLANNING BOARD LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

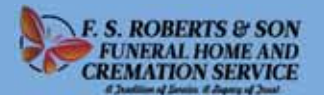
Pursuant to M.G.L., c. 40A, §9 and §11, the Rowley Protective Zoning Bylaw (Zoning Bylaw), and the Rowley Planning Board Rules and Regulations, notice is hereby given that the Rowley Planning Board will hold a **public hearing on Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 7:10 p.m.** in the Town Hall 2nd Floor Auditorium located at 139 Main Street, Rowley, MA., to review an Special Permit/Site Plan Review application pursuant to Zoning Bylaw Sections 4.8.1(h) (accessory structures more than 1,500 sf), 7.6 (Site Plan Review), 7.8 (Special Permits), 4.10 (Floodplain District) located at 141 Dodge Road also identified as Assessor's Map 9, Lot 34-1, approx. 3.5 acres in the Outlying (OD) Zoning District. The application is submitted by ASB Design Group on behalf of Cynthia H. and Paul D. Lucia (applicant/property owner) for an accessory building sufficient for the storage of collectable cars.

The application, plans, and relevant documents are on file with the Rowley Planning Board, and can be inspected on the town's Planning Board website, or can be inspected by contacting the Town Planner at 978-948-5549 and scheduling an appointment to inspect the plans during regular business hours at Rowley Planning Board Office, Town Hall Annex, 39 Central Street.

For the Planning Board  
 Kirk Baker - Rowley Town Planner

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### Aquarium Ice Sculptures

Continued from page 2

They are then transported to the Aquarium's Sea Turtle Hospital for care. Most of the sea turtles that strand each year are Kemp's ridleys, a critically endangered species that faces threats including fisheries interactions, climate change, ocean pollution, and degradation of their habitats.

Chapelle began this year's ice sculpture in his studio in North Andover. Using powerful and highly accurate ice sculpting tools, he makes intricate designs in pieces of ice. Chapelle stores these pieces in a freezer in his studio that gets down to 12 to 15 degrees before delivering them to the Aquarium, where he assembles the work of art and finishes his carving.

"It's a joy every year to create iconic species that the New England Aquarium has devoted its energy and time toward saving and protecting," Chapelle said. "Year after year, visitors delight in seeing us sculpt them in ice."

The public is invited to celebrate New Year's Eve on Boston's waterfront. The Aquarium is one of more than 30 locations participating in the free Waterfront Ice Sculpture Stroll on Dec. 31 from 1 to 5 p.m. Visitors can view the interactive map and learn more about participating companies and organizations at [bostonharbornow.org/](http://bostonharbornow.org/) nyc. ♦



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73292507	SLD	11 Wilbert Ave	Groveland, MA	AN7000	Detached	1	\$525,000	\$515,000
73296738	SLD	88 High Road	Newbury, MA	AC1087	Detached	2	\$575,000	\$625,000
73271450	SLD	56 Lakemans Lane	Ipswich, MA	AN0125	Detached	1	\$615,000	\$640,000
73285355	SLD	10 Mill Street	Georgetown, MA	AN4851	Detached	2	\$649,900	\$670,000
73290485	SLD	62 Old Right Road	Ipswich, MA	B11101	Detached	2	\$675,000	\$650,000
73303665	SLD	18 Broad St	Groveland, MA	AN0949	Detached	2	\$689,000	\$705,000
73281532	SLD	21 Apponattox Road	Ipswich, MA : Great Neck	A95280	Detached	2	\$699,900	\$700,000
73281947	SLD	38 Island Park Rd	Ipswich, MA	C95171	Detached	2	\$749,000	\$770,000
73291976	SLD	4 Crane Neck St	West Newbury, MA	AN7944	Detached	1	\$749,900	\$779,000
73297579	SLD	6 57th St	Newburyport, MA : Plum Island	AN6420	Detached	1	\$820,000	\$820,000
73295068	SLD	184 Perkins Row	Ipswich, MA	AN6886	Detached	3	\$848,000	\$890,000
73296029	SLD	6 High Street	Merrimas, MA : Merrimacport	C95287	Detached	3	\$849,900	\$800,000
73287899	SLD	13 Lakeridge Drive	Georgetown, MA	AN6617	Detached	2	\$849,900	\$912,000
73288462	SLD	22 Old Merrill St	Amesbury, MA	AN8161	Detached	3	\$879,900	\$917,000
73252965	SLD	10 Katie Ln	Groveland, MA	AN0992	Detached	3	\$1,050,000	\$1,065,000
73291768	SLD	19c Partridge Lane	Bonford, MA	AN4351	Detached	3	\$1,088,000	\$1,000,000
73284629	SLD	26 Pearl Rd	Bonford, MA	AC0756	Detached	4	\$1,174,999	\$1,210,000
73287246	SLD	4 Kacobb Hill	Newbury, MA : Byfield	AN6200	Detached	3	\$1,189,000	\$1,120,000
73291614	SLD	5 Chase St	Newburyport, MA	AN7944	Detached	2	\$1,199,000	\$1,175,000
73279536	SLD	10 Partridgeberry Pl	Ipswich, MA	C95243	Detached	3	\$1,200,000	\$1,150,000
73282918	SLD	7 Reilly Ave.	Newburyport, MA : Joppa	C95006	Detached	4	\$2,150,000	\$2,100,000



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