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Wednesday, December 4, 2024 - Vol. 21, No. 6



# State Office of the Inspector General: No Fraud, Poor Town Record Keeping - Gives Georgetown 60 Days to Change

By Stewart Lytle, Reporter

**GEORGETOWN** – The state Office of the Inspector General (OIG) ordered the town of Georgetown last week to implement better controls on how employees report of their time worked, particularly when an employee is out of town hall.

But Inspector General Jeffrey S. Shapiro wrote in a letter to town officials it could not uphold an allegation, made by town officials in April 2023, that the former town conservation agent had committed fraud when he left his office during the afternoons to check on wetland and waterway properties.

The OIG recommended that the town "Establish a timekeeping system to track the work hours and activities of town employees. This system should include

detailed record requirements for out-ofoffice work, including dates, times, and locations."

Shapiro recommended that the town administrator supervise all employees' timesheets, not the volunteer board members who are not regularly in town

It also recommended that the town maintain better records on the mileage for trips charged by employees for using personal vehicles when doing town work.

Those recommendations, which the OIG gave the town 60 days to implement, would cover all employees, not just the conservation agent.

The accusation of payroll fraud has been mentioned at SelectBoard meetings in the past, and the board in closed session hired the Stirm Group, a private detective

# Rowley Opposes Whittier Shared Campus

By Stewart Lytle, Reporter

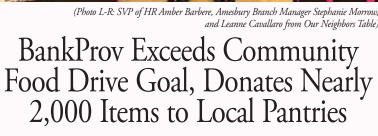
HAVERHILL - Whittier Vocational Tech Regional High School and the Northern Essex Community College (NECC) have moved a step closer to developing a shared campus that might be funded in part by the state.

Ten of the 11 communities that make up the Whittier Tech district have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), as a good-faith commitment, that they will work together to approach the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) about building a new tech school on the college campus.

The SelectBoard sent a letter to the MSBA voicing its concerns over entering into another agreement with Whittier

campus "a bad idea."

The MSBA, which could fund about half of the total costs of a new building,



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AMESBURY - BankProv is thrilled to announce the successful completion of its 2024 Community Food Drive, surpassing the ambitious goal of collecting 1,828 food items and achieving nearly 2,000 donations. The initial goal of 1,828 items was inspired by the incredible response from staff at our October Employee Appreciation Event, whose generosity set the stage for this remarkable achievement. This meaningful target also paid tribute to the year BankProv was founded, 1828, reflecting our deep-rooted dedication to supporting the communities that have supported us for nearly two centuries.

The donations were distributed to six food pantries: five near our branches in northeastern Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire, and one near our Mortgage Warehouse Lending office in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. Each pantry received hundreds of donated items, along with a \$1,000 check to further support their mission of addressing food insecurity.

President & CEO of BankProv. "We're deeply grateful to our clients, neighbors, and employees who came together to make this initiative a success. It's inspiring to see

"This incredible outcome demonstrates the power of community," said Joe Reilly, what we can accomplish when we work toward a common goal." Continued on page 5

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Services, Cars, Toys Page 7



Only the Rowley SelectBoard voted

not to sign the memorandum. The board said it opposed the proposed agreement because of a "rushed timeframe" and Whittier's lack of transparency on costs.

and the shared campus project.

Selectman Bob Snow called the shared

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A free will offering will be accepted. No reservations needed. Sunday, December 15, 2 p.m. Saints Mary and Joseph Parish

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The North Shore Players is a 501(c)3 non-profit.

Carol." Dress in 1930s attire and join in singing

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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)

## Engagement Announcement - Goss & Bretton

Mr. & Mrs. George F. Connolly, Jr., formerly of Georgtown, MA, currently of Appling, GA, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Kathleen V.

Goss, to Jason G. Bretton. Katie is a Georgetown High School graduate and is currently employed at a bank in No. Andover, MA. She lives in

Jason G. Bretton, son of Mr. & Mrs. Gerald B. Bretton, Sr., of Plaistow, NH. Jason is a graduate of Timberlane Regional High School, Plaistow, NH, and is employed by Cube Smart of Haverhill, MA. He lives in Salem, NH.

They are planning a May, 2025 wedding.

## Newburyport Fire Extinguishes Solar Panel Fire

**NEWBURYPORT** – Fire Chief fire to just the roof of the addition. Stephen Bradbury III reports that the Newburyport Fire Department extinguished a solar panel fire at a singlefamily home recently.

On Tuesday, Nov. 19 at approximately 8:46 a.m., Newburyport Fire responded to 247 Merrimack St. for reports that smoke was showing from a roof.

Upon arrival, crews observed that a solar panel located on the roof of the addition of a single-family home was on

Crews immediately began extinguishing the flames and were able to contain the Inspector. •

There were no reported injuries. Damages are estimated to be around \$10,000.

Two additional calls came in as crews were on the scene. The Salisbury Fire Department, providing coverage for the department, responded to reports of a gas leak at a Newburyport post office as well as a smoke alarm that sounded at a nursing home in Newburyport.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation by the Newburyport Fire Department and Newburyport Electrical

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New Boxford Town Library Director Joanna Walker with Town Administrator Matt Cooga

## Town of Boxford Welcomes Joanna Walker as New Library Director

**BOXFORD** – The Town of Boxford Library's services and strengthen its role as is delighted to announce Joanna Walker as the new Director of the Boxford Town Library. Joanna began her role on November 18, bringing a wealth of experience, creativity, and enthusiasm to the position.

Joanna joins us from the Haverhill Public Library, where she served as the Head of Youth Services. In this role, she led a team that significantly expanded programming, community outreach, and literacy initiatives, including the successful collaboration with Haverhill Promise to promote early literacy. Her innovative programs, such as a music and movement early literacy class have set a standard for engaging and inclusive library services.

Joanna holds a Master's in Library and Information Science from Simmons University and a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Massachusetts College of Art and Design. Her diverse background as positions her to enrich the Boxford Town a vibrant community hub.

We are thrilled to welcome Joanna to the Boxford team," said Town Administrator Matt Coogan. "Her energy, creativity, and commitment to fostering inclusive and innovative library services make her an excellent fit for our community. We're confident Joanna will bring fresh ideas and strong leadership to the library, and we're excited to see her vision come to life.'

Joanna expressed her enthusiasm for the role, stating, "I'm excited to join the Boxford Town Library and collaborate with this wonderful community. Libraries are places of connection and discovery, and I look forward to building on the library's strong foundation to create new opportunities for learning and engagement."

Please join us in welcoming Joanna Walker to Boxford as we look forward to a librarian, artist, and educator uniquely an exciting new chapter for our library









From left, Megan Brady, Jameson Gruener, and Bella Maddaleni were among 16 Masconomet Regional High School students who took part in the Memory Project this year. (Photos Courtesy Masconomet Regional School District)

## Masconomet Regional High School Students Once Again Take Part in Memory Project

Superintendent Michael Harvey and Principal Katie DiNardo are proud to once again share that 16 Masconomet Regional High School students have taken part in an international project promoting kindness and intercultural understanding.

Through the Memory Project, students received portrait photographs of school children from India, and under the guidance of art faculty member Elizabeth Saitta created portrait paintings and drawings.

Since 2004, the Memory Project has engaged 300,000 youth in 55 countries school-based programs. Masconomet students have participated

for more than 15 years, creating art child that they are special and cared depicting children from Uganda, Sierra about." Leone, Romania, Guatemala, Honduras, Thailand, Nicaragua, Afghanistan, Peru, and Ukraine.

Participating this year are Evie Batchelder, Asha Bhuju, Megan Brady, Tennant Bryson, Tiana Cutulle, Ruby DeMayo, Aaron Dengizli, Jameson Gruener, Abby Hoover, Mia Juliano, Bella Maddaleni, Mariko Prazar, Maya Schildkraut, Piper Testa, Ava Tilston, and JP Zeeh.

"Our students create many impactful projects each year," Saitta said. "Through the Memory Project they recognize the power of art and its ability to show a

The Memory Project is a charitable non-profit organization based in Wisconsin. The group invites art teachers, art students and solo artists to create portraits for children around the world who have gone through traumatic experiences and personal loss.

Upon receiving Masconomet's submission, founder Ben Schumaker replied: "The portraits are here, and they are magnificent! Your students have done a fantastic job, yet again (and as always). The work you send us is truly among the best we receive from anywhere in the



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The new interpretative panel on Brown Square (Photo provided by the Newburyport Blac Initiative)

## New Panel Honors Black Soldiers and Sailors

By Stewart Lytle, Reporter

NEWBURYPORT - During World War II, the father and three uncles of the future Essex County sheriff Frank Cousins, Jr. enlisted in the Navy, Merchant Marine and Army Air Forces to fight against Germany.

A new interpretative panel, "Fighting for Double Victory, Newburyport's Black Soldiers and Sailors," on Brown Square near Green Street in front of City Hall recognizes the service of African American soldiers and sailors from Newburyport, including the four Cousins brothers.

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It will be officially unveiled at 3 p.m. delivered crucial war supplies to allies

Frank Cousins Jr. and William (Billy) Cousins will speak at the unveiling.
"My family is very happy" with this

recognition, Frank Cousins Jr. said last week. "This is a nice thing for my family."

"Frank (Cousins Sr.) joined the missions on the Liberty ships that

Dec. 5 during the week the community England and Russia. Kenneth L. Cousins honors the liberator William Lloyd and William J. Cousins joined the Navy's Garrison, who fought for an end to segregated facilities, and George R. slavery in the 19th Century.

Cousins joined the Army Air Forces," the new panel states.

Written by three founders of the Newburyport Black Initiative, Geordie Vining, Kabria Baumgartner and Cyd Raschke, the panel along with a dozen Newburyport. It is a very nice thing for others around the city is designed to inform current and future generations about the roles African-American Merchant Marine and crewed dangerous residents of Newburyport played in its

Other panels have focused on a black neighborĥood, called the Guinea, on black businessmen, sailors and civil rights activists. The initiative also identified and honored black residents who were buried in the Oak Hill Cemetery without headstones.

Vining is the senior project planner for the city of Newburyport. Baumgartner is a professor at Boston University. And Raschke is an author and community

After serving in the world war, the Cousins brothers returned home to be prominent members of the Newburyport community. George Cousins used the GI Bill to secure no-down-payment loans to purchase several houses, a benefit often

Continued on page 8







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## Georgetown Special **Town Meeting**

Monday, December 9, 7 PM State/MBTA Housing Control?

by Lonnie Brennan

All Georgetown residents and visitors are urged to attend a Special Town Meeting on Monday, December 9, 2024 at 7 PM. You must be a registered voter in Georgetown to vote on the published four warrant items, which include:

- MORE HOUSING UNITS: Allow Accessory Dwelling Units (example, convert a garage into a separate living unit - rent it out)
- MORE LARGE HOUSING UNITS AND STATE/MBTA CONTROL ON ZONING: Embrace elimination/overlay of local zoning control to allow multi-family and large apartment complexes in accordance with the state's directive to significantly produce more housing units in towns served by or adjacent to MBTA stops.

Several residents, including former state representative candidate Mark Tashjian have questioned allowing state control of zoning, and approval of large building projects.

In an open e-mail, Tashjian noted concerns raised about the town's water infrastructure and how taxpayers could bear the brunt of required upgrades to meet the needs of multiple highdensity developments. The state is pressing towns to adopt the 3A MBTA zoning changes which Tashjian noted: "is an unfunded mandate" and cautioned that "once you hand over control, Beacon Hill can change the rules at any time."

Concerns over impacts to the schools, police, fire, roadway, electrical infrastructure and other items have also been raised throughout social media. The extremely rapid development of high-density projects seems to be the main concern.

Failing to adopt the state's MBTA zoning rules would eliminate the town from receiving certain potential future grants, but much controversy around the lack of clarity of grants, as well as the "puppet strings" that accompany certain grants have been noted, including a reminder of all the problems at one of the town's pond-front recreational facilities: the town received grant funds to upgrade play structures and such, and have since then been forced to open the former "residents only" fields and beach to everyone.

The full 7-page Town Warrant is available at https://tinyurl.com/georgetownhousing. •

### Georgetown Ruling ... Continued from page 1

firm, to investigate the allegation No report from the private detectives has been made public.

Former Conservation Agent Steven Przyjemski, who worked for the town for 17 years, resigned in January of 2023, claiming Pacheco had created a "toxic environment" for him at town hall. Following a shouting match between the two town employees in town hall, Przyjemski filed a police report about Pacheco.

Michelle Grenier, who has her own conflict with the town administrator over her salary, replaced Przyjemski as the conservation agent last year.

commission Przyjemski and members, who supervised his work, said he left his office at town hall to see properties that were the subject of the conservation commission's regulations. The conservation commission oversees encroachment of the town's waterways and wetlands

In a letter to the Selectboard, the Conservation Commission chairs, and the town administrator, the OIG wrote,

"neither the town nor the Commission maintained adequate records of the former agent's out-of-office working hours. The insufficient recordkeeping impeded the OIG's ability to determine whether the former conservation agent performed out-of-office work in the afternoon or committed payroll fraud by leaving work early."

The OIG also found that the town administrator appears to be the designated supervisor of the conservation agent position, but in practice the volunteer commission chair supervised the former

"The town did not address this ambiguity by clearly delineating the position with direct supervisory responsibility over the conservation agent, creating confusion and a lack of accountability on the part of the town administrator and the Commission chair," the OIG letter stated.

The solution, according to the OIG, is "establishing an accurate timekeeping system, implementing internal controls, and adopting improved policies for personal vehicle use will provide transparency and increase the public's confidence in its town government." ♦

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# Health & Wellness 😻



## Brighter Smiles ... THE ORAL/SYSTEMIC LINK 3/3



By J. Peter St. Clair, DMD

If you missed Part 1 and/or 2 of this series, you can find it at www. thetowncommon.com.

The past couple weeks have been about the growing evidence that links oral and systemic disease, and the need for more collaboration between dentists and physicians. All of this, of course, is in the best interest of the patient.

The body is a complex system – and everything is connected. The health status of an individual's mouth can absolutely play a role in systemic health or disease. In addition to the need for dentists and MD's to collaborate more on the oral/systemic connection, we also need to collaborate better about our patient's sleep problems.

As part of a comprehensive approach to care, we screen for sleep issues with our patients. It amazes me how many people have issues with their sleep. It amazes

Whittier ...

Continued from page 1

sleep. Experts in sleep medicine agree that there is much room for improvement in this vital part of our health care.

Periodontal issues and sleep are just two areas where more information should be shared between dentists and physicians. We have to be open to the fact that everything is connected, and needs to be taken into consideration when we are trying to diagnose, monitor, or solve our patient's problems.

I recently saw someone who has been patient of mine for about 7 years. noticed in the patient's notes that bruxism/grinding had been discussed at most hygiene appointments in the past, due to the noticeable wear patterns on the patient's teeth. There was also a note in the chart several times stating that the patient would never wear a dental appliance at night.

As I did my exam, I kept thinking to myself that there must be more to the story behind this patient's dental issues. It happened to be around our lunch break, so I asked the patient if she had a few minutes for us to talk. She seemed interested in what I had to say. I photographed her teeth to compare them with photos taken 7 years ago. We talked for an hour.

Aside from learning that the patient was on (7) medications for the past SEVEN years and had never reported

me even more when I learn that many of them to us, I also learned that the of these people have never even had a conversation with their doctor about something to protect her teeth at night was because she had sleep issues. She felt there was no way she could handle the extra stuff in her mouth. I also learned that both of her parents are treated for sleep apnea.

So, here are some bullet highlights from the past 3 weeks:

- 1. Periodontal (gum) disease is bad. Just because it doesn't hurt doesn't mean you don't have a problem. If you care about your general health, you must take care of your mouth.
- 2. Delaying care of dental problems always leads to more treatment and more cost.
- 3. Don't leave information out when discussing your health with your doctors. Everything is important.
- 4. For better patient care, doctors and dentists should have more collaboration.
- 5. Time is the most precious gift a health care provider can give their patients.

Dr. St. Clair maintains a private dental practice in Rowley dedicated to healthcentered 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 Healey-Driscoll Administration supports the shared campus project and last month MSBA staff along with a team of planners and architects visited the proposed site on the NECC campus.

The University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute is studying future area demographics to determine the potential benefits of the proposed technical high school and community college partnership. The report is expected by the end of the year.

Rowley Selectman Clifford Pierce said he would like to read the Donahue Institute report before signing the agreement. ♦

member communities while expanding is scheduled to consider the new campus

on Dec. 13, deciding whether to allow the Whittier campus in its months-long competition for funding. Signing the MOU does not obligate

the taxpayers of any city or town to fund the new building.

Last January, the voters in the 11

communities overwhelmingly rejected building a \$444.6 million building for Whittier to replace the 50-year-old campus in Haverhill. That vote forced the school and the municipalities to go back to the drawing board.

Newburyport Mayor Sean Reardon said the discussions between the schools and the communities could result in a new Whittier governing agreement. The current agreement, which requires that a majority of voters in 11 communities, approve new capital expenditures and other governing decisions.

Only the voters of Haverhill, whose students make up 70 percent of the school population, approved the new building. The opposition stemmed from the high costs of the new building and the lack of transparency by Whittier in designing it.

Hoping to show a united front in favor of the shared campus building, Whittier Tech and NECC asked all of the communities to indicate it will support the concept.

We anticipate shared space located on NECC's Haverhill campus can overcome some of the challenges of Whittier Tech's previous attempt to secure funding for a new facility on its existing site by reducing the cost to our

capacity for vocational education and access to postsecondary credentials needed for our regional workforce," Whittier Supt. Maureen Lynch and NECC President Glenn reads a cover letter to the agreement signed by.

The Whittier school district is made up of Amesbury, Georgetown, Groveland, Haverhill, Ipswich, Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport, Rowley, Salisbury and West Newbury.

For the next few months, the Whittier and NECC Shared Campus Working Group will focus on reducing the new project's cost to municipalities, while improving access to education for the

## BankProv ...

### Continued from page 1

The food pantries supported through this initiative include Our Neighbors' Table in Amesbury, MA; End 68 Hours of Hunger in Exeter, NH; Gather in Portsmouth, NH; Granite YMCA in Manchester, NH; Pettengill House in Newburyport, MA; and BEAM in Jacksonville, FL. Their dedication to helping individuals and families in need aligns with BankProv's core values of service and care.

BankProv extends a heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to the drive, reinforcing our shared commitment to building stronger, healthier communities.



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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) A change in holiday travel plans might be more vexing than you'd expect-ed. But try to take it in stride. Also, it

Bovine determination helps you deal with an unforeseen complication

fuzzy feelings shouldn't interfere with the more pragmatic matters that

for a catnap — yet. You still might have to straighten out one or two factors so that you can finally assure yourself of the truth about a troubling

lead to an unexpected (but nonetheless welcome) reunion with someone council. The sooner those problems are resolved, the sooner you can move ahead with your holiday preparations. Don't let the opportunity pass you by.

ber 21) Take some time out to give more attention to a personal relation-ship that seems to be suffering from a sense of emotional neglect. Provide some much-needed reassurance.

# **LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) It might be time for a family

SCORPIO (October 23 to Novem-

### couldn't hurt to use your Aries charm to coax out some helpful cooperation. TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Your SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Cheer up! An unusual circumstance that might faze most people can be handled pretty well by the savvy Sagittarian. Look at it as an with an unforeseen complication. And, as usual, you prove that when it comes to a challenge, you have what it takes to be a contender. GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Although a romantic theme dominates much of the week, all those warm and fuzzy feelings shouldn't interfere with the more pragmatic matters that opportunity rather than an obstacle. CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Someone you believe has hurt you in the past might now need your help. Reaching out could be difficult, but the generous Goat will be able to do the right thing, as always. you need to take care of. CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Best not to ignore doubts about an upcoming decision. Instead, recheck AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Prioritizing is an important part of your preholiday scheduling. Try to give time to both your workday the facts you were given to make sure nothing important was left out. Mean-while, a weekend surprise awaits you. LEO (July 23 to August 22) No time responsibilities and any personal matters you might have neglected. PISCES (February 19 to March 20) With the vestiges of your anger about a painful incident fading, you can now focus all your energy on the more positive aspects of your life, including a certain personal situation. workplace situation. Stay with it. VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) News from an old friend could BORN THIS WEEK: You have a way of bringing your own strong sense of reassurance to others and encouraging them to be hopeful! who had once been very special in your life. Be open to the possibilities. © 2024 King Features Synd., Inc The Spats T HELPS WITH **ANSWERS** 8 6 7 7 9 3 7 6 9 7 3 7 L L 8 9

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# **Super** Crossword

### 126 Love, to Lucia 93 Genghis Khan

under canvas 50 Field unit followers 95 Silvery gray

scanning

100 Revises text

103 First letter of

the Arabic

alphabet

104 130-to-135-

device, briefly

- 14 Aid in crime 18 Full of vitality 55 Having no commercials 19 Purim's
- month 20 Patio cooker hoops shot **59** Met or
- 22 Sage guide 23 Pope after
- Sergius II 24 Acting Ward 25 "Same here"
- 26 Arab country 27 Player hitting
- to prepare for a spike

ACROSS

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1 Lagoons 6 Jaunty

greeting 10 Basics

- 30 Energetic iournalist
- 32 Chicago-to-Tampa dir.
- 33 Suffix with leopard
- 34 Caroling song **35** Journalist covering a
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## LEGAL NOTICE **ROWLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

LEGAL NOTICE ROWLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

In accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act, Mass. G.L. 131, Section 40, as

amended, and the Town of Rowley Wetlands Protection Bylaw, a remote public meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 10, at 7:45 pm to consider a Request for Determination of Applicability application filed by Timothy McManus

Osprey Court LLC for proposed sewage disposal system grading and restoring 2,601 sq. ft. of impacted area beyond the limit of work with native trees and seed

mix within the 100' Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands at Lot 1 Osprey Court (Map 19, Parcel 10 Lot 1) in Rowley, MA.

In accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act, Mass. G.L. 131, Section 40, as amended, and the Town of Rowley Wetlands Protection Bylaw, a remote public meeting will be held on **Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 8:00 pm** to consider a Request for Determination of Applicability application filed by Mark Savory for proposed soil evaluations and installation of a sewage disposal system to replace a failing system for the single-family dwelling within the 100' Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands at 13 Prospect Street (Map 15, Parcel 78) in Rowley, MA.

Daniel Shinnick, Chairman Rowley Conservation Commission

Daniel Shinnick, Chairman

Rowley Conservation Commission

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### LEGAL NOTICE **ROWLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

In accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act, Mass. G.L. 131, Section 40, as amended, and the Town of Rowley Wetlands Protection Bylaw, a remote public meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 8:15 pm to consider a Request for Determination of Applicability application filed by Rowley Water Department for proposed water supply test well and monitoring well drilling possibly within 100' Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands, 100' Vernal Pool Habitat Area, and the 200' Riverfront Area of Bachelder Brook at 467 Haverhill Street (Map 13, Parcel 14) in Rowley, MA.
Daniel Shinnick, Chairman

Rowley Conservation Commission

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### GEORGETOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

In accordance with the Town of Georgetown's Wetlands Protection Bylaw, a remote Public Hearing will be held by the Georgetown Conservation Commission on Thursday, December 19, 2024 at 7:00 PM, by Zoom Link found on Town Website Calendar date of meeting State Forest off East Street, Public Hearing for Notice of Intent to replace an existing wood boardwalk within 100 feet of bordering vegetated wetlands. Michèle Grenier, PWS (978) 352-5712

### GEORGETOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

A Public Hearing will be held by the Georgetown Conservation Commission on Thursday, December 19, 2024 at 7:00 PM, by Zoom Link found on Town Website Calendar date of meeting 19 Baldpate Road, Public Hearing for Notice of Intent to replace an existing deck within 100 feet of bordering vegetated

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### Honoring Soldiers/Sailors Continued from page 4

denied to Black veterans elsewhere.

Before joining the Merchant Marine to fight the Nazis, Frank Cousins Jr. attended Newburyport High School. On graduation day, the school principal insisted that he walk at the back of his 1941 graduation procession because another student objected to walking beside a black student.

His son, one of eight children, served on the Newburyport City Council, in the state legislature, as sheriff and as a president of the Greater Newburyport Chamber of Commerce. He continues to serve his community on the board of Whittier Technical School.

The U.S. military was fully desegregated in 1948, although the fight for equality in the ranks continued.

Black residents of Newburyport also fought in the U.S. Army during the Civil War.

"President Abraham Lincoln's U.S. Army and Navy became heavily dependent on Black soldiers and sailors," the new panel states. "By the end of the war, one in four U.S. Navy sailors was Black. Despite their significant numbers, Black service members faced widespread discrimination."

Evans Covington of Newburyport,

who had 14 years of naval service enlisted in the Navy, but was given the lowest rank of "Landsman." Covington sailed on the USS Richmond, part of the fleet that seized the city of New Orleans, the

"Discharged from the Navy in 1863, he immediately joined the renowned Black 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment and fought in South Carolina. Contrary to recruitment promises, the government paid Covington and other Black soldiers much less than their white peers. In response, they refused to receive any pay until it was made equal," the panel states.

Covington died in 1864 in the "Government Asylum for the Insane," a facility intended to treat veterans for mental illness related to military service. At home in Newburyport, his wife Victoria was repeatedly denied a widow's

Some of Newburyport's Black soldiers and sailors were as young as 15 years old when they enlisted. One was Arthur L.W. Fowler, who joined the 5th Colored Volunteer Cavalry Regiment. Fowler was

among the first to gallop into Richmond, VA, during the capture of the Confederate capital in 1865.

After the war, he returned home to live with his family on Boylston Street.

"Black Civil War veterans found a mixed reception in Newburyport, encountering prejudice as deeply entrenched as the

Confederate positions they had faced. Although the city's congressman, Benjamin F. Butler, commended Black soldiers, the Newburyport Daily Herald printed a vicious anti-Black poem about Black people's expectations after the war," the panel states.



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