

Happy New Year!

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Wednesday, January 1, 2025 - Vol. 21, No. 10

FREE



Members of the Georgetown Selectboard struggle through suspension discussion

DATE	PURPOSE/DESTINATION	# MILE
1.7.2024	Site visit 12 Lake Street - TH	
1.11.2024	Site visit New Orleans/7 Tisbury -TH	
1.14.2024	Site visit 2 Bode Pond	
1.17.2024	Site visit 7 Lake Avenue	
2.1.2024	Site visit w/Commission 20 Carlton Dr	
2.5.2024	Site visit w/project wetland Scientist 87 Pond St	
2.8.2024	Site visit Sedimentation map 200 W. Main St	
3.12.2024	Site visit 28 Vinton St	
3.4.2024	Site visit Stone Row Lane	
3.6.2024	Site visit 8 Lakeside	
3.7.2024	Site visit 9 Heather Rd	
3.11.2024	Site visit 8 Hampshire Lane	
3.18.2024	Site visit 70 Jackson	
3.19.2024	Site visit 14 Heather Rd	
3.26.2024	Site visit 36 Baily Street	
3.28.2024	Site visit 28 Vinton St	
3.28.2024	Site visit 140r Street	
4.25.2024	Site visit 23 Charles Sedimentation	
4.27.2024	Site visit 8 Baily Lane	
4.29.2024	Site visit Camp Denison	
4.30.2024	Site visit Crescent Meadow	
5.2.2024	Site visit 46 Pond Street	
5.6.2024	Site visit 6 Beverly Drive	
5.2.2024	Site visit 14 Heather Rd	
5.3.2024	Site visit 3 Meadow	
5.9.2024	Site visit 123 East Street	
5.10.2024	Site visit Spofford, 10 Lake Ave, 8 Lake Ave	
6.10.2024	Cont. 3 Emily Ln, 48 Old Jacobs Rd	

DATE	PURPOSE/DESTINATION	# MILE
6.10.24	17 Pleasant Ave/ Site visit Highway Dept. Prdgt	
6.11.24	18 Heather Rd / Site Visit for Emergency Certificate	
6.12.24	45 Old Jacobs Rd. Emergency Certificate	
6.17.24	4 Heather Rd. Emergency Certificate	
6.18.24	10 Lake Ave. Emergency Certificate	
6.19.24	3 Emily Ln, 48 Old Jacobs Rd. Emergency Certificate	
6.5.24	5 Hart Cir. Emergency Certificate	
6.7.24	4 Richardson Ln. Emergency Certificate	
6.12.24	24 Old Jacob Rd. Emergency Certificate	
6.14.24	10 Mill St. Site Visit for DOC approval	
6.5.24	67 Pond St. Site Visit for NOI	
8.12.24	138 Spofford St. Site for DOC approval	
9.11.24	23 Charles St. Site for DOC approval	
10.7.24	42 Thurlow St. Site Visit for NOI	
10.9.24	214 North St. Site Visit Reported Alteration	



Buckle Up for a Wild 2025

By Stewart Lytle, Reporter

REGIONAL – While attention will inevitably be focused in coming months on what appears to be a year of political chaos in the nation's capital, 2025 is shaping up to be a busy and contentious year for North Shore residents.

Buckle up as the opposition to a proposed state mandate for multi-family housing hit a wall last week as 2024 ended, the deadline for approving new zoning districts. There will also be issues about the design and cost of new schools. Efforts are underway to clean up the Merrimack River. And on the Georgetown-Rowley border, the G. Mello Trash Disposal Corp. will begin constructing its 550-ton trash transfer station over the objection of residents nearby.

Some of these issues will likely emerge in votes at the annual Town Meetings and as voters select SelectBoard members in town elections.

The MBTA 3A mandate for municipalities served by the transit system will likely be the most contentious. Several towns, including Ipswich and Rowley, appear to be headed for a clash with the state and possible court time with the Attorney General as they refuse to create special zoning districts to encourage builders to design and construct multi-family housing.

The state is threatening to cut off some state funds to those municipalities, if they join other towns in eastern Massachusetts in refusing to approve the zoning mandates.

The mandate was created to help resolve the low inventory of housing, which is driving

up prices of homes to astronomically heights. The low inventory is a nationwide problem. According to National Assn. of Realtors, the low housing inventory rebounded last fall to a supply of existing homes at 4.3 months, the highest since October 2020. But a balanced housing market is considered having a six-month supply of homes.

To increase housing here on the North Shore, Newburyport is planning to convert the old Brown School in the south end and replace the vacant Kmart store on Low Street into housing.

One empty house continues to get tremendous attention. The federal government is trying to tear down the Pink House on Plum Island Tnpk, because it sits on the edge of a federally protected marsh. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has already taken out windows and some of the roofing as it prepares to sell off or demolish the house.

The small, long abandoned house turns 100 this year, and supporters, who love to paint, photograph and just look at the lonely icon are planning a blow-out party to persuade federal and state officials that the house should be saved.

Expect the Merrimack to be cleaner as sewage treatment plants upriver separate storm water and sewage pipes. The reason raw sewage flows down the river after storms is that municipal plants upriver in Massachusetts and New Hampshire are overwhelmed when the combined rain water and sewage surpass the capacity of treatment plants, and untreated sewage is released into the river.

Thanks to the Merrimack Valley Watershed Council, new pollution-detecting sensors are helping give boaters early warning when the sewage is in the water.

A cleaner river will be good news when the yachters arrive in Amesbury, Newburyport and Salisbury. It will also be welcome news

INSIDE FIND MORE OF

Just a Few of the Hundreds of Photos that Appeared in 2024 Editions of The Town Common



ConCom Director Suspended Over \$48

2024 Mileage Reimbursement Forms Submitted by Non-Driver

By Stewart Lytle, Reporter

GEORGETOWN – With several building permits delayed and a leaking septic tank unrepaired because the town administrator suspended the town's conservation director, the five-member Board of Selectmen met last week for an hour to decide the fate of Michele Grenier.

But the town's governing board came to no resolution on the conservation agent because the town lawyer had to leave.

The SelectBoard scheduled a second meeting on the issue for Monday. The Town Common will report in coming editions on what resolution the board comes to.

The issue is over \$48.73, or possibly \$64.32, depending on how many mileage forms you consider.

It is unclear why the SelectBoard, not the Conservation Commission, is considering the issue. According to a 2020 opinion by Tim Zessin, the town's attorney, complaints of this nature should be referred to "the Chair of the Conservation Commission, which is the appointing authority for the Conservation Agent. If the Commission refuses to take any action or investigate the

complaint, then the Board of Selectmen could meet in executive session to discuss the complaint."

The issue of Grenier's mileage reimbursement was not referred to the ConCom. At Grenier's request, the SelectBoard considered the complaint, filed by Wood, in an open meeting and on Zoom. It may not have been broadcast and recorded by Georgetown Community Television.

The dispute, the latest battle over the town's Conservation Commission, which regulates building near wetlands, began Dec. 9 when Town Administrator Orlando Pacheco called Grenier into his town hall office. He told her Kevin Wood, a resident who had applied twice unsuccessfully to be a member of the ConCom, had filed a Freedom of Information request for all employee mileage reimbursement forms.

Grenier, who is currently without her driver's license, filed two reports for mileage reimbursements in 2024. One was from January to April, when she was driving herself, to view properties. A second covered a period when she was driven "a few Mondays" by the ConCom chair Chris

Continued on page 4

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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

The Town Common

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In loving memory of

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

The Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District Granted \$4.9 million to Purchase Electric Buses

The Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District will receive \$4.9 million via the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to replace 17 diesel buses with new electric buses. The district plans to acquire the new buses by working with Highland Electric Fleets with office locations listed in Beverly, Mass. and Denver, Colorado.

Conventional diesel buses cost from \$135,000 to \$150,000 when purchased new. Taxpayers will dole out approximately double that amount of electric vehicles. Long-term comparison of cost-for-ownership over the life of the vehicles (fuel v.s electricity, maintenance, and replacement component costs - batteries, etc.) was not detailed in the award notice.

Newburyport Company Lands \$462,700 Federal Grant

Crystal Engineering Co., Inc. in Newburyport, a CNC machining company servicing many industries including aerospace will receive \$462,700 to replace its propane forklift with an electric equivalent, install a new variable speed drive (VSD) air compressor, replace its ultrasonic parts washer, and install cooling in production areas thanks to a taxpayer funded grant from the U.S. Dept. of Energy.

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1 Wed	12:03	7.3	12:10	8.9	5:58	0.8	6:39	-0.4	7:12	4:21	☾
2 Thu	12:46	7.5	12:54	9.0	6:43	0.6	7:22	-0.5	7:12	4:22	☾
3 Fri	1:30	7.8	1:41	8.9	7:30	0.5	8:07	-0.6	7:12	4:23	☾
4 Sat	2:17	8.0	2:31	8.8	8:21	0.3	8:54	-0.5	7:12	4:24	☾
5 Sun	3:07	8.2	3:25	8.5	9:16	0.2	9:45	-0.3	7:12	4:25	☾
6 Mon	4:00	8.4	4:23	8.2	10:15	0.1	10:38	-0.1	7:12	4:26	☾
7 Tue	4:55	8.6	5:23	7.8	11:16	0.1	11:34	0.1	7:11	4:27	☾
8 Wed	5:53	8.8	6:26	7.5			12:19	0.0	7:11	4:28	☾

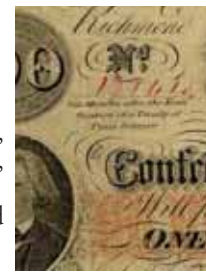
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Upcoming Events

Salisbury: Civil War Roundtable Meeting

Civil War Roundtable of the Merrimack January Meeting, January 8, 7:30 PM, Hilton Senior Center, 43 Lafayette Road, Salisbury, Mass.

This month's topic will be "Currency in the Civil War" presented by Andrew Andrioloulos & John Manning



Tom Rush is coming to the Newburyport Fire House Center on January 3 & 4

Tom Rush is a gifted musician and performer, whose shows offer a musical celebration...a journey into the tradition and spectrum of how music can passionately touch the lives of people everywhere.

His distinctive guitar style, wry humor and warm, expressive voice have made him both a legend and a treasure to audiences around the world. His shows are filled with the laughter of terrific story-telling, the sweet melancholy of ballads and the passion of gritty blues.

Rush's impact on the American music scene has been profound. He helped shape the folk revival in the '60s and the renaissance of the genre in the '80s and '90s; his music having left its stamp on generations of artists.

James Taylor told Rolling Stone, "Tom was not only one of my early heroes, but also one of my main influences." Country music star Garth Brooks has credited Rush with being one of his top five musical influences.

Rush began his music career performing in Boston-area clubs while attending Harvard and has spent a great deal of his career performing in New England on a regular basis.
http://tomrush.com https://www.facebook.com/TomRushMusic/

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73291635	SLD	34 Huntington Ave	Amesbury, MA	AN8750	Detached	1	\$375,000	\$375,000
73310529	SLD	47 Old Jacobs Road	Georgetown, MA	AN7636	Detached	1	\$539,000	\$575,000
73305367	SLD	36 Glen Forest Drive	Boxford, MA	AN7152	Detached	2	\$745,000	\$745,000
73313954	SLD	21 Evans Place	Amesbury, MA	AN7636	Detached	2	\$749,000	\$820,000
73298213	SLD	46 S Hampton Rd	Amesbury, MA	AN4850	Detached	2	\$775,000	\$750,000
73305375	SLD	146 Herrick Rd	Boxford, MA	AN6420	Detached	2	\$815,000	\$920,000
73306034	SLD	19 Kings Way	Ipswich, MA - Little Neck	K95593	Detached	1	\$849,000	\$840,000
73298729	SLD	28 Center St	Groveland, MA	AN0992	Detached	4	\$889,000	\$889,000
73296974	SLD	10 Adams St	Newburyport, MA	AN6420	Detached	2	\$975,000	\$925,000
73299127	SLD	18 Plains Road	Ipswich, MA	AC1087	Detached	3	\$989,000	\$994,000
73303020	SLD	23 Bourbeau Terrace	Newburyport, MA - Artichoke	AN8750	Detached	3	\$1,075,000	\$1,160,000
73213280	SLD	Lot 01 Center Street	Groveland, MA	AN6420	Detached	3	\$1,099,000	\$1,099,000
73307178	SLD	15 Partridge Lane	Boxford, MA	AN6420	Detached	3	\$1,595,000	\$1,750,000
73297961	SLD	19 High Ridge Rd	Topsheld, MA	AN8041	Detached	5	\$1,995,000	\$2,025,000



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"It's not about us - it's all about you"

Buckle up for 2025

Continued from page 1

to the patrons and concert goers of the new Market Landing Park on the Newburyport waterfront.

The park, years in the making as competing interests duked it out, was finished last year. It added more green space and removed 100s of parking spaces on the waterfront. New sculptures, including a dramatic clipper ship by sculptor Aaron T Stephan, will be installed, giving Newburyport signature pieces that make the park unique.

An Indigenous People's monument is being chosen for the waterfront the park by the city's Public Art Committee.

Further downriver on Salisbury Beach, 30,000 tons of sand are being added to replace that which has been swept away by storms over the last few years. The sand project, which is being financed by \$1.75 million from the state, will help fight future erosion. A Georgetown contractor, T Ford Co. is bringing the sand.

Salisbury Beach with the help of private developers and property owner associations continues to make a comeback with more beachfront housing, new attractions and other amenities.

In Georgetown, Mello will turn on the bulldozers after years of fighting in local government and state courts to construct a mammoth trash sorting plant that will accept construction and business trash from throughout the North Shore.

Watch for neighbors and other private Georgetown residents as they search for ways to continue to fight Mello, particularly over the intersection at Carleton Drive and Main Street, the only entrance to the new plant for large trucks.

Last year, the audacious plan for a new \$400 million Whittier Regional Technical High School was defeated. Now the school proposed to join forces with the Northern Essex Community College in Haverhill to build the new school in conjunction with the community college.

The move is expected to tap into more state funds, which will reduce the financial burden on the North Shore cities and towns that support Whittier. And it will create an expanded secondary school/community college curriculum, which has caught the eye of Gov. Maura Healey and other state officials as an innovative model for the state.

Patient Triton Regional Schools and Ipswich Schools will also get their chance to work with the Massachusetts School Building Authority to design a new Triton middle and high school and a new Ipswich elementary school.

New parks and playgrounds are being built throughout the communities. Notably, Newburyport is planning a new multi-million-dollar youth recreation center where the old National Guard armory stands on Low Street.

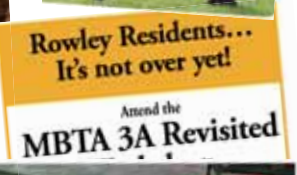
Across Low Street on the campus of the Nock Middle School, the city and school district are building three new tennis courts to change Newburyport's reputation as one of the worst for tennis facilities to one of the best.

When completed, there will be five courts together, enough for the tennis-rich girls' and boys' teams to host the state championships and possibly other amateur tennis tournaments.

If reading is your passion, the North Shore is a mecca for book lovers. The Newburyport Literary Festival will continue its two-decade tradition on the last weekend of April, bringing to town some of the world's most interesting writers. While other towns have lost book stores, the North Shore continues to add them. In addition

to the prized Jabberwocky Book Store in the Tannery, Illume Books on Market Square continues to add book clubs and events. And in a welcome announcement, Barnes & Noble Books, under new ownership, began reopening stores across the country, including a large store in Seabrook.

Stay turned each week as the staff of The Town Common brings you great stories that inform and entertain. Happy 2025! ♦



Just a few photos from The Town Common

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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

Georgetown Continued from page 1

Candia.

They rode together to view several building sites that are under review by the commission.

Of the \$48.73 she was reimbursed, Grenier wrote in a memo to the SelectBoard that she gave \$12 to Candia for her gas and wear-and-tear on her car.

Grenier told the SelectBoard that Pacheco told her she did not have to stop asking for mileage reimbursement, but that he would check with the town's legal counsel, KP Law. The next day, Pacheco wrote a letter to Grenier suspending her. His assistant delivered the letter to Grenier on Dec. 12.

Pacheco responded to the SelectBoard that Grenier misunderstood what he meant when she heard him say she did not have to stop submitting mileage forms. But did not clarify.

Grenier told the SelectBoard she should not have been suspended, according to the town's Employee Handbook. "Nothing was done intentionally," she said. She described her mistake as "a lack of common sense."

Selectman Doug Dawes accused Grenier, saying if she was a passenger in someone else's vehicle, she was not entitled to reimbursement. "You had your hand in the cookie jar," he said.

Grenier, who has served as conservation director and a Selectboard member for other towns, asked the SelectBoard "to allow me to return to work." Her attorney Dan Larkosh attended the meeting, but did not speak.

Selectboard members noted that the work of the ConCom is not getting done. It was proposed that Candia could fill Grenier's shoes. Candia, a volunteer, declined, saying, "I'm not a wetlands scientist."

Also at issue are the mileage reimbursement forms Pacheco submitted to the SelectBoard. One had three signatures on it. In a memorandum to the SelectBoard, Grenier wrote: "only one single signer has signed my mileage sheets since I started November 2023." Bancroft's signature does not appear twice on any other conservation form. "The signatures were added," Grenier said.

The forms bore the signatures of Candia, ConCom Vice Chair Rachel Bancroft and member Tom Howland, all three of the longest serving conservation commissioners.

SelectBoard Chair Daryl Lamonica postponed the issue of whether the mileage forms had been altered until a later meeting.

The ConCom has been at the center of controversy for several years. Grenier's predecessor, Steve Przyjemski, resigned almost two years ago after being in the position for 17 years. He said Pacheco, who accused him of committing salary fraud, had created a "toxic environment" for him.

The state Inspector General issued a report last month that found there was no evidence of fraud by Przyjemski or commission members and blamed the town's poor time sheet management. In late November, the Inspector General gave the town 60-days to correct their poor employee management methods.

To date, the SelectBoard has taken no action to respond to the Inspector General.

Candia's predecessor Carl Shreder resigned after two decades as the ConCom chair in on-going tension among the SelectBoard, the town administrator and the ConCom. •



Selectman Robert Hoover refers to documentation to make a point and ask probing questions



Selectman Doug Dawes admonishes the agent, while asking probing questions to protect the town



SelectBoard Chair Daryl Lamonica sought legal boundaries/options for response by the board



Selectwoman Laura Replier found no excuse for such behavior as she worked through the communications

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(Photo by Stewart Lytle)

Taxpayers' Additional \$2.6 Million Outlay Will Keep MEVA Rides Free

By Ava Moeckel, Reporter

REGIONAL – Powered by a state grant of \$2.6 million, Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority (MEVA) will continue to operate fare free at least until July. At its February meeting, the MEVA board will decide whether to make fares free permanently.

To determine the full benefits of operating fare free, the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission has hired the consulting firm, Stantec. Its report on the study, which shows benefits that even MEVA administrator Noah Berger found surprising, will be completed next month and given to the board for consideration.

A public presentation will take place at the board meeting in February, Berger said.

Stantec has found that local hospitals are seeing more patients as a result of the free ridership, he said. Calling the study enlightening, Berger said, "We've proven it makes all the sense in the world."

Riders and drivers are very interested in continuing the free fare program, he said.

To allow 13 regional transit authorities to operate fare-free, the Healey-Driscoll Administration awarded them \$30 million in grants.

"Hundreds of thousands of Massachusetts

residents rely on their Regional Transit Authorities to get to and from work, the grocery store, doctor's appointments and school. We're proud to be delivering this funding to help RTAs keep their service fare free to save money for riders and encourage more people to use public transportation," Gov. Maura Healey said.

Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll called the results of the free fare pilot program incredible. "More riders are saving money by choosing to take public transportation. We're excited to be able to support the continuation of these programs with full state funding, which will significantly benefit our residents, communities, businesses and economy."

MEVA launched its two-year pilot program in March of 2022 and extended it with additional funding for another year.

With revenues in a state of flux, Berger said MEVA has created a development department to administer non-profit organization to accept other sources of revenue, such as grants from local foundations, including the Barr Foundation, and businesses that benefit from MEVA's ridership.

MEVA is also considering advertising on benches along the route and creating a digital QR code system for customers to pay for the ride if they can, he said.

"Everything is on the table," Berger said. ♦

Malden Catholic Announces First Quarter Honor Roll

Malden Catholic students have successfully completed the first marking period of the 2024-2025 school year.

High honors were achieved by:

Boxford

- First Honors*
Sarah Beers '26
Sharlyn Nunez '26

Danvers

- First Honors*
Joseph DeBernardo Jr. '26
Julia Hardiman '25
Julia Lembo '27
Emily Lovell '27
Dalila Meyers '27

Second Honors

- Thomas DeBernardo '27
Caitlin Jezowski '27
James Muise '28
Aviana Panacopoulos '25
Ella Panacopoulos '28

Georgetown

- Second Honors*
Richard Indresano '25

Ipswich

- First Honors*
Amanda Cooper '25

Rowley

- First Honors*
Dante Chan '26
Salem, Mass.
Second Honors
Dahleah Brown '27
Abraham Camara '26

Clean the Ocean of Old Fishing Gear

By Ava Moeckel, Reporter

ATLANTIC OCEAN – Right whales, one of the world's most endangered large whale species, may soon have one less threat to their existence, at least in the waters off Massachusetts.

The state legislature created an authority to remove abandoned fishing gear from Commonwealth waters. Bruce Tarr of Gloucester championed the measure for a long time, and he got it included in the final version of a sweeping economic development bill. Last month, Gov. Maura Healey signed the bill into law.

Fishing gear, such as lines and traps, can pose a danger to whales if they become entangled.

The bi-partisan, bicameral measure was also co-sponsored by Sens. Joan Lovely (D-Salem), Mark C. Montigny (D-New Bedford) and Patrick O'Connor (R-Weymouth).

"Left unchecked, abandoned fishing gear poses several threats to our marine environment and ecosystems," said Tarr. He added that, "It 'ghost fishes,' increasing mortality without any harvest benefit, it presents a major risk for entanglement for right whales and other species, it clutters and pollutes the ocean floor, and it presents ongoing problems for coastal communities that have to deal with this form of pollution when it washes ashore and must be collected and disposed of before it does further damage."

Massachusetts law views abandoned gear as private property, which prevents the state Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) from making or enforcing rules to remove this gear from state waters.

The new law reshapes how the agency can engage with the public to create regulations for the responsible removal of such gear, keeping private property concerns in mind.

"Derelict fishing gear has no place in our environment. Over 9 percent of fishing gear is lost or abandoned annually, but outdated state laws prevent efforts to recover it. This is a persistent problem—abandoned gear is a threat to endangered right whales, a safety hazard for mariners, a nuisance on our beaches, and a costly burden for municipalities to clean up," said Department of Fish and Game Commissioner Tom O'Shea. "Thank you to Senator Bruce Tarr for leading this effort to modernize state law and streamline our department's efforts to recover derelict gear."

By the early 1890s, commercial whalers

had pushed North Atlantic right whales to the edge of extinction. They earned the title of "right" whales because they floated after being killed, making them easy targets. While whaling is no longer a threat, these whales have not rebounded to their original population levels, and human activities still pose the biggest risk to their survival.

The passage of this amendment follows months of research on the subject by the

DMF, and collaboration with Tarr and other legislators, with a focus on prioritizing the protection of right whales while recognizing the high price currently being paid by those in the commercial lobster fishery to protect this endangered species through the extreme economic sacrifice of enduring fishery closures that last for months and prevent harvesters and others from being able to earn a living. ♦

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New Year's Resolutions

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

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Weekly SUDOKU

		3				5		6	
		6	9						8
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		9							
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									2

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:

- ◆ Challenging
- ◆ HOO BOY!
- ◆ Moderate

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) I know, dear Lamb, that you don't like anyone trying to take charge of your projects, but try to be a bit more flexible. A new idea could help hasten a positive result.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) I'm sure, being the time-thrifty Taurus you are, that you've done much of your holiday shopping. But don't relax yet! Wrap those gifts now to save yourself lots of unwanted pressure.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Be receptive when a family member or friend asks to confide in you. Your positive reaction could ensure that they have a happy holiday experience.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Don't be rushed into wrapping up a workplace problem. Consider leaving it be until after the holidays. This way, you'll have the facts you need to reach the right resolution.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) You'll get news that will make you glow brighter than the lights of the holiday season! Be sure to use what you learn both carefully and kindly in order to avoid giving the wrong impression.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A frayed relationship could be mended in time for the holidays if you were more flexible. Give a little, and you could get back a lot more than you imagined.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Things might not seem to be set-

ting down as quickly as you would prefer, but it might just be a little "holiday time flutter." You'll soon get news that will lead to more stability.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Stop getting so involved in everyone's personal problems that you lose precious time with loved ones. Remember, even the Supreme Court closes for the holidays.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) All signs point to a bright holiday, with all of those pesky problems finally resolved in your favor. Share the good times with people you love and who, of course, love you.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Your plans should not be set in stone and cemented over. Leave some openings in case you need to make changes. Meanwhile, spend the holidays with your nearest and dearest.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Surprise! This holiday finds you on the receiving end of generosity from those who are usually the recipients of what you give so freely and lovingly.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A piece of good news assures that you'll be swimming in clearer, calmer waters this holiday season. There might be a storm or two ahead, but you'll weather it all in fine style.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a flair for seeing things as you'd like them to be, as well as a gift for turning your perceptions into realities. Manifestation is your superpower.

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The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

PUZZLE ANSWERS

1	8	9	9	4	5	3	2	7
9	5	7	3	2	6	8	1	4
2	3	4	1	7	8	9	6	5
5	2	8	4	3	1	6	7	9
6	7	9	5	8	2	4	3	1
9	7	6	9	5	8	2	4	3
4	1	3	7	6	9	5	8	2
8	9	5	2	9	7	1	4	3
3	9	2	6	1	4	7	5	8
3	9	2	6	1	4	7	5	8
7	4	1	8	5	3	2	9	6

Super Crossword

CLEAR COMMUNICATION

ACROSS

- 1 NATO has a special one for spelling out words over the radio
- 9 Architectural wings
- 13 Provo people
- 20 In a lying, faceup position
- 21 Sticky stuff
- 22 Kind of energy
- 23 Moniker for novelist Ernest
- 25 Dig up
- 26 Apt. overseer
- 27 Yoko of music and art
- 28 Singer Waters
- 30 Puente of mambo
- 31 Road coater
- 34 Weed B- —
- 36 Marriott, e.g.
- 39 Doesn't lack
- 42 Often-dried fruit
- 44 Diarist Anaïs
- 46 "Caveman diet"
- 47 Messy roommate on "The Odd Couple"
- 51 Dune locale
- 56 Chicago hub

- 57 Dot on some transit maps
- 59 Gave a coif
- 60 Suffer ruin
- 62 Admonish
- 65 "Hello" singer
- 66 Cast off skin
- 68 1992 Guns N' Roses hit
- 70 Extermination target
- 73 Civil rights icon Parks
- 77 Extermination targets
- 78 Method of measuring ocean depth
- 83 Boy actor in 1937's "Elephant Boy"
- 85 Raccoon kin
- 86 Alluring attributes
- 89 "No doubt!"
- 93 Trig topics
- 95 Dependent
- 97 — -ground missile
- 98 Barely beats
- 101 Doing certain ballroom moves
- 103 Spanish bar appetizers
- 105 Born, to Luc
- 106 Plant pouch
- 107 — Zedong

- 108 Very thin material for book pages
- 113 Steelers' gp.
- 115 Mu — pork
- 117 Normandy city
- 118 Doctrine
- 120 Internet ID
- 122 Symbol of innocence
- 126 One revising something
- 129 Portrayer of Jax Teller on "Sons of Anarchy"
- 133 Act as arbiter
- 134 Symbol of innocence
- 135 Brazil's largest city
- 136 Soul
- 137 Amply skilled
- 138 Apt word spelled out by the first letters of eight answers in this puzzle

- 5 Le Duc — (1992-97 president of Vietnam)
- 6 Nectar lover
- 7 Sailors' saint
- 8 Knotting up
- 9 Ovum
- 10 Actor Rob
- 11 Averse (to)
- 12 Whale's half-rise out of the water
- 13 Island guitar
- 14 "Sn" element
- 15 Suffix with prop-
- 16 Shrubland
- 17 Sunny lobbies
- 18 Mafia's Frank
- 19 "Danke —"
- 24 Around 12 p.m.
- 29 Greek H's
- 32 In a new way
- 33 Backboard attachment
- 35 Sentra maker
- 37 Grasslands
- 38 Actor sharing top billing
- 39 Backboard attachment
- 40 Tennis' Arthur
- 41 Injury vestige
- 43 Yak it up
- 45 "That's false!"
- 48 Pupil of Plato

- 49 French noble
- 50 Rule for homework time, perhaps
- 52 Operated by water under pressure
- 53 Brand of fat substitute
- 54 Ignited anew
- 55 Blissful sites
- 58 Bakery buys
- 61 Hoagie
- 63 Coll. in Dallas
- 64 Wanes
- 67 Football's Flutie
- 69 Hollywood's Morales
- 70 Praline bit
- 71 Cut-rate, in adspeak
- 72 Thick carpets
- 74 Show filmed at 30 Rock
- 75 Hebrew month
- 79 Daytime nap
- 80 "How — Your Mother"
- 81 Pitcher Ryan
- 82 African nation whose capital is Conakry
- 84 Boil briefly
- 87 Very angry
- 88 — -Caps

- 90 Hat edge
- 91 Italian peak
- 92 African nation whose capital is Lomé
- 94 Lava or Dial
- 96 NFL scores
- 99 Stymied
- 100 Sticky stuff
- 102 Some small batteries
- 104 Japanese green tea
- 108 "Veni," translated
- 109 Monikers
- 110 Skillful feats
- 111 Navel type
- 112 Fixed-up building
- 114 Brittle
- 116 Arm bones
- 119 Like giraffes
- 121 Emmy winner Remini
- 123 "Sometimes you feel like —"
- 124 African nation whose capital is Bamako
- 125 Coll. hotshot
- 127 Football's Marino
- 128 Lister's abbr.
- 130 Caviar source
- 131 "Yoo- —!"
- 132 1995-2006 TV channel

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19				
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136										137						138						

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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 Assessors 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 (12/24) 1/1

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 7:20 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



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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, January 7, 2025 at 7:45 pm** to consider a Request for Determination of Applicability application filed by David and Jesse Janelle for proposed demolition of existing 12' x 20' deck with stairs and construction of a 15' x 15' addition with 5' x 15' balcony with stairs over an expanded concrete slab within the 100' Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands at 27 Wilkes Road (Map 6, Parcel 14 Lot 2) in Rowley, MA.

Daniel Shinnick, Chairman
 Rowley Conservation Commission 1/1

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, January 7, 2025 at 8:00 pm** to consider a Request for Determination of Applicability application filed by Rowley Village Green Condominium Trust c/o William Sheehan for proposed and after-the-fact activity to re-establish lawn by the removal of existing salt tainted topsoil, replacing with new, imported topsoil and hydro-seeding and installation of a native meadow reducing lawn area by approximately 12,000 square feet all at 1-25 Heritage Way (Private)

(Map 25, Parcel 98 Lot 1-5) in Rowley, MA.
 Daniel Shinnick, Chairman
 Rowley Conservation Commission 1/1

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 hearing will be held on **Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at 8:15 pm** to consider a Notice of Intent application filed by Troy Spaulding for proposed construction of a four (4) lot subdivision with approximately 475 linear feet of roadway, utility connections, septic systems, roadway swales, incidental site grading and construction of three (3) single family homes possibly within the 100' Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands and NHESP Estimated Habitat of Rare Wildlife at 45 & 47 Newbury Road (Map 5, Parcel 62 and Parcel 62, Lot 1) in Rowley, MA.

Daniel Shinnick, Chairman
 Rowley Conservation Commission 1/1

LEGAL NOTICE ROWLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

In accordance with the Town of Rowley Stormwater Management and Erosion Control Bylaw, as amended, a remote Public Hearing will be held on **Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at 8:30 PM**, to consider a Stormwater Management Permit application filed by Troy Spaulding for proposed construction of a four (4) lot subdivision with approximately 475 linear feet of roadway, utility connections, septic systems, roadway swales, incidental site grading and construction of three (3) single family homes at 45 & 47 Newbury Rd (Map 5, Parcel 62, and Parcel 62, Lot 1) in Rowley, MA. Total site disturbance is approximately 188,358 sq ft. (4.32 acres).

Daniel Shinnick, Chairman
 Rowley Conservation Commission 1/1

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, January 7, 2025 at 8:45 pm** to consider an Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation application filed by Ted Speros Rowley Farms Development, LLC for proposed delineation of regulated wetland resource areas at various off Silva Ln. (Map 8, Parcels 61A, 62, 62-B, 62-C, 62-D, 62-E), 531 Haverhill St (Map 8, Parcel 63, Lot A2), 43 Daniels Rd. (Map 8, Parcel 51), 53 Daniels Rd. (Map 8, Parcel 50), land off Smiths Ln. (Map 13, Parcel 3), and land off Daniels Road (Map 13, Parcel 4) in Rowley, MA.

Daniel Shinnick, Chairman
 Rowley Conservation Commission 1/1



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Consumer Disclosure/Award Rules: All participants who attend an estimated 60-90 minute in-home product consultation and choose to make a purchase will receive a \$50 VISA card. Retail value is \$50. Offer sponsored by Leaf-Guard Holdings Inc. Limit one per household. Company procures, sells, and installs seamless gutter protection. This offer is valid for homeowners over 18 years of age. If married or involved with a life partner, both cohabitating persons must attend and complete presentation together. Participants must have a photo ID and be legally able to enter into a contract. The following persons are not eligible for this offer: employees of Company or affiliated companies or entities, their immediate family members, previous participants in a Company in-home consultation within the past 12 months and all current and former Company customers. Card may not be extended, transferred, or substituted except that Company may substitute a card of equal or greater value if it deems it necessary. Card will be mailed to the participant via first class United States Mail or e-mailed within 30 days of receipt of the promotion form provided at presentation. Not valid in conjunction with any other promotion or discount of any kind! Offer not sponsored or promoted by VISA, and is subject to change without notice prior to reservation. Except in the states of MD, NY and DC, where the gift card offer is limited to \$25. Offer not available in the states of CA, IN, PA and MI. Expires 2/28/25.

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