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Wednesday, February 5, 2025 - Vol. 21, No. 15

**FREE**



Chief Brian Geiger receiving resolution from the Boxford Select Board.  
Left to right: Board members Chuck Costello, Peter Perkins, Lindsey Crea, Chief Geiger, and Select Board Chair Margaret Chow-Menzel

## Boxford Honors Fire Department for 2024 Brush Fire Responses

**BOXFORD** – Town Administrator Matt Coogan related that on Monday, January 27th, the Boxford Select Board proudly presented a Resolution of Appreciation to Fire Chief Brian Geiger and the Boxford Fire Department for their extraordinary efforts in battling the 2024 brush fires that threatened

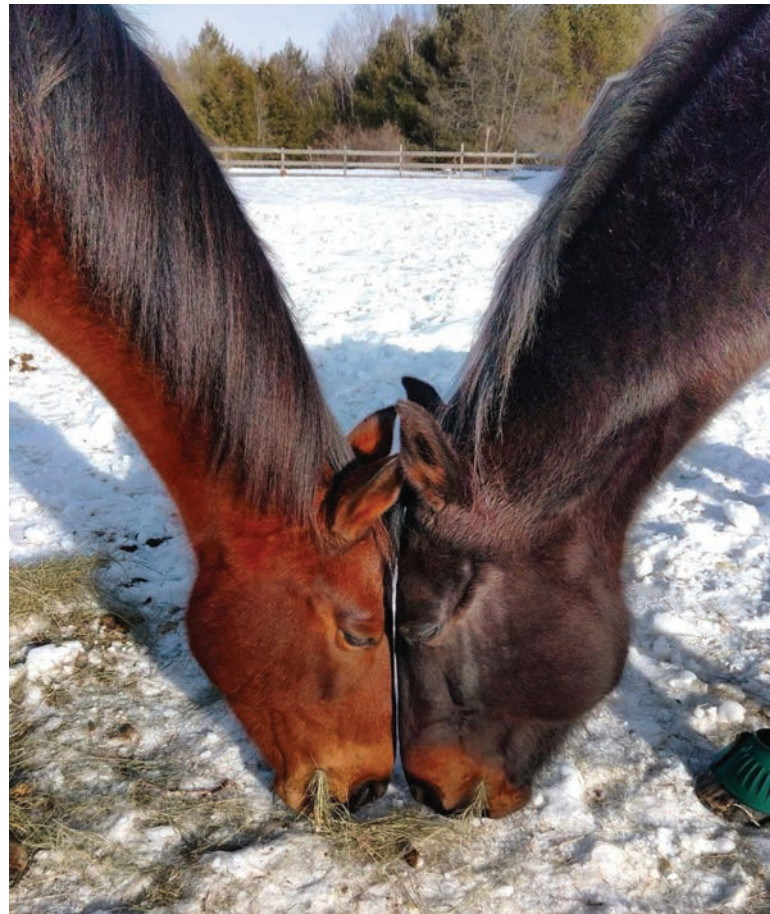
Boxford and surrounding communities.

In the fall of 2024, the Town of Boxford and other Massachusetts communities faced a severe wildfire emergency, with over 403 fires reported statewide and more than 1,063 acres burned. The Boxford Fire Department, under Chief Geiger's leadership, played a

critical role in containing and extinguishing these fires, including the Georgetown - Rowley State Forest and the Boxford State Forest, and protecting homes, infrastructure, and natural resources from destruction.

During the Select Board meeting, each

*Continued on page 4*



## Georgetown FinCom Advocates \$6 Million Property Tax Increase

By Stewart Lytle, Reporter

**GEORGETOWN** – Despite the voters rejecting a \$3 million tax increase last year, town officials here are preparing to ask their property owners this spring to approve a \$6 million increase in their property taxes.

The tax increase, which would be above the 2.5 percent hike the state allows, may be levied over two years -- \$4 million for 2026 and \$2 million more for 2027.

At that level, projections are that property taxes on a \$750,000 house in Georgetown would rise almost \$2,000 over the two-year span.

The town's seven-member Finance Advisory Board voted unanimously last week to recommend to the Select Board that it put the two-year, \$6 million increase on the warrant for Town Meeting to approve in May.

If Town Meeting approves the tax increase, the town would hold an election for the voters to approve or reject the increase.

Committee Chair Ed Dobie, who described the town as being at a "crossroads," said he is worried about whether the residents will approve such a large tax increase. And he is equally worried about how residents can afford to pay for it.

"We don't want (the proposed tax increase) to be dead on arrival," Dobie said.

Alicia Raspa, the committee vice chair, said the tax increase is long overdue. "It should have been passed several years ago."

Dobie said his first stop this week will be a visit at the senior center to explain the increase to the older citizens, who traditionally oppose large tax increases.

The committee, working with Town Administrator Orlando Pacheco, considered several levels of tax increases. The lowest level was an increase of \$800,000 to \$1 million, which would fund the town's existing budget, but add nothing more for public safety or the schools.

With an \$800,000 increase, the town would probably have to stop opening the library on Thursdays, Pacheco said. "That's

how tight things are."

The committee also considered raising taxes by \$3 million, the same level that was defeated last year.

At the \$6 million level, the town can fund priorities at the school, including more special education teachers and finish paying for a new curriculum. The police

*Continued on page 5*

## Groveland's Johnson Creek Dam Slated for Removal

by Lonnie Brennan

**GROVELAND** – You've probably never noticed what appears as a mere culvert under a road, but the "Johnson Creek Dam" located off Salem Street is slated for removal as part of a long list of state-wide dams deemed inconsequential and/or not being used for their original purposes. The dam was inspected in 1979 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England Division and deemed in need of repairs at that time.

Last week, the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game announced that \$535,000 was being directed to conduct "dam removal preliminary design studies in eight

*Continued on page 4*

## Show Your Love for Horses this Valentine's Day in West Newbury

by Mary Martin

President & Founder, NEER, North Inc.  
**WEST NEWBURY** – Valentine's Day always reminds me of the broken-hearted horses I've been privileged to help over the years.

As founder and president of New England Equine Rescue North, a small non-profit in West Newbury, Massachusetts, I've worked with scores of horses and donkeys in dire straits, through no fault of their own.

Most of our rescues are from Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Some are former race horses who were pushed too hard and arrive at our barn with chronic injuries. Others are aging school horses with costly special needs. After giving their all to owners, too many horses are rejected when their peak years end.

Some equines are wrongly labeled "unmanageable" after years of deliberate neglect. Ponies and horses also come to us from parents who unintentionally neglect their care after their children lose interest or go away to college.

Most often, our rescues are simply misunderstood. A green horse in the hands of a novice can acquire bad habits, the beginning of a terrifying journey to a dealer, auction, or meat buyer. Dishonest, out-of-state dealers victimize adopters and animals by brokering bad-match adoptions on social media for large fees. When these adoptions fail, many animals are surrendered to rescues like NEER North, depleting already-stretched budgets and reducing our capacity to help local horses and owners.

Some of the suffering I've seen truly has

been shocking. I've taken in animals who arrive with whip marks fresh and bleeding. What could a horse possibly have done to merit such brutal abuse?

No matter how unspeakable their prior treatment, almost all horses can learn to trust again. The process of earning back that trust is central to our work. This Valentine's Day, instead of flowers and chocolates, please consider helping a horse or donkey in crisis.



Donate and/or get more involved at [www.neernorth.org](http://www.neernorth.org)

Your act of kindness could help a frightened equine take its first tentative step toward trust and well-being. Whether you do it for yourself, or as a meaningful Valentine for a person or animal you love, you have our heartfelt thanks! ♥

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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 978-255-3015 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

### NEWBURYPORT Anna Jaques Hospital Community Listening Session

Wednesday, February 12th from 11 a.m-12:30 p.m.

Beth Israel Lahey Health and its member hospitals are conducting a Community Health Needs Assessment to better understand the most pressing health-related issues impacting the people living and working in the communities we serve.

Please join us to hear key themes from our assessment, share your perspective, and discuss potential solutions. All attendees are entered to win a \$100 Visa Gift Card!

### SALISBURY

#### Civil War Roundtable of the Merrimack

Wednesday, February 12, 7:30 PM

Hilton Senior Center, 43 Lafayette Road, Salisbury, Mass.

This month's meeting will feature two brief talks by Roundtable members.

"How Joshua Chamberlain Faced Down an Insurrection at the Maine State Capitol in 1880" and "The Role of the U.S. Marines in the Civil War."

Joshua Chamberlain is most remembered for his heroic actions at Little Round Top during the Battle of Gettysburg, but his leadership during twelve days in January of 1880 calming all factions in a disputed election may have been an even greater example of courage.

The February meeting will also include the annual election of officers and collection of dues. All are welcome to attend free of charge, but only members may vote in the election.

### AMESBURY

#### GriefShare Support Group Classes

Starting Thursday, February 20, 6:30 PM

GriefShare Support Group Classes is for those who have lost a loved one through death and will be held on Thursdays at 6:30 pm from February 20 thru May 1 at the Market Street Baptist Church, 37 Market Street, Amesbury. There is a notebook that goes along with a video series at the cost of \$20 donation if able. All are welcome. Parking is available behind the church and in the BankProv lot. To register: <https://www.griefshare.org/groups/246171>

GriefShare is a 13-week program led by people who understand what you are going through and want to help as well as encourage you after the death of a loved one. You'll gain access to resources to help you recover from your loss and look forward to rebuilding your life. [www.Griefshare.org](http://www.Griefshare.org)

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	AM	ft	PM	ft	AM	ft	PM	ft			
5 Wed	4:29	9.0	5:03	7.6	10:55	-0.3	11:09	0.3	6:51	5:03	☾
6 Thu	5:28	8.8	6:07	7.3	11:59	-0.1			6:50	5:04	☾
7 Fri	6:31	8.7	7:13	7.1	12:10	0.6	1:05	0.0	6:48	5:06	☾
8 Sat	7:35	8.7	8:18	7.1	1:14	0.8	2:10	0.0	6:47	5:07	☾
9 Sun	8:36	8.7	9:17	7.2	2:17	0.8	3:10	-0.1	6:46	5:08	☾
10 Mon	9:32	8.7	10:11	7.3	3:16	0.7	4:04	-0.2	6:44	5:09	☾
11 Tue	10:24	8.7	10:59	7.5	4:10	0.6	4:52	-0.2	6:43	5:11	☾
12 Wed	11:11	8.7	11:42	7.6	4:58	0.5	5:36	-0.2	6:42	5:12	☾

## REVERE BEACH

### 2nd annual Winter Wonderland

Saturday, February 8, 2025, from 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM

This family-friendly event will feature world-class ice sculptures, a Winter Market with over 20 local vendors, and a chili cook-off. Enjoy live entertainment, including a Snow Queen Stilt Walker, a Snowflake Skater, and appearances by Anna and Elsa from Frozen.

The highlight of the day will be the Professional Ice Sculpting Competition, running from 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM, where visitors can marvel at intricate ice art and vote for their favorite sculptures in the People's Choice competition. The competition will take place at the foot of the Markey Bridge, with the winners announced at 4:30 PM.

For those looking to warm up, the Winter Market will feature over 20 vendors offering unique seasonal goods, crafts, and food. The Chili Cook-Off, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM, invites attendees to taste and vote on their favorite chili.

Winter Wonderland offers a magical experience for visitors of all ages, with endless opportunities for photos, fun, and seasonal cheer. Media and guests are invited to attend for a day of winter enchantment and festivities.

This event is free and open to the public. We hope to see you there!

## ROWLEY

### Antarctica: An Austral Summer Cruise

Thursday, February 20, 1:00 PM

Is traveling to the seventh continent on your bucket list? Join photographer Jack Homes and his wife Meg as they walk and cruise Ushaia, the South Shetland Island, and Graham Land on the Antarctic Peninsula. Call the Rowley Council on Aging to register: 978-948-7637.

### IPSWICH/ROWLEY Dinner at Masonic Hall

A delicious free dinner is available from 5-6 PM most Mondays at the Masonic Hall, 70 Topsfield Road, Ipswich. Knowing that hunger presents itself both physically and relationally, the Ipswich Dinnerbell is a non-profit cooperation of Churches and Community organizations that exists with a shared love of God and neighbor to serve hot, nutritious meals, free to all who come, and create a mealtime atmosphere of fellowship with one another. See [www.ipswichdinnerbell.org](http://www.ipswichdinnerbell.org) for details and schedule.

## Pentucket Bank Charitable Foundation Contributes \$50,000 to the Merrimack Valley Food Bank

**HAVERHILL** – The Pentucket Bank Charitable Foundation has committed \$50,000 over five years to the Merrimack Valley Food Bank to support the construction of its new food distribution center.

This major project aims to raise \$7.8 million to expand the organization's capacity to combat hunger across the region.

The Merrimack Valley Food Bank is dedicated to ensuring the health and well-being of the community by providing critical access to nutritious food.

Serving over 100 member agencies –

including local food pantries and meal programs in 33 communities – the organization directly assists children, teens, older adults, individuals with disabilities, and low-income families in Greater Lowell.

"The Pentucket Bank Charitable Foundation is very pleased to provide a \$50,000, 5-year grant to the Merrimack Valley Food Bank," said Pentucket Bank President and CEO Steve Jaskelevicus. "This funding will play a key role in building their new food distribution center, which is crucial to furthering their vital mission. We are proud to support their extraordinary work in the community." ♦



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## Looking to Teach Cool Stuff? Newburyport's Adult & Community Education Program

By Ava Moeckel, Reporter

**NEWBURYPORT** – The Greater Newburyport Adult and Community Education is looking for instructors for its spring semester, which runs from late April through mid-June.

There are many things you can teach, including arts and crafts, cooking, nature, outdoor learning, science, writing, physical and mental wellness, eldercare issues, music, mind, body and spirit, international languages, all makers and creatives.

You are invited to share your skills, interests, passions and knowledge with students, from age 15 and up, from all over the North Shore who believe in lifelong learning.

Instructors are not required to live or teach in Newburyport.

There are plenty of diverse classes available for the winter semester. The deadline is February 14. All proposals will be considered.

For more information and to submit a proposal, please contact Patty St. John at pstjohn@newburyport.k12.ma.us or 978-465-1257.

## Newbury Changes E-Mails

**NEWBURY** – The town of Newbury announced last week that all municipal office e-mails will change from @townofnewbury.org to newburyma.gov. Be aware that use of the older e-mail addresses may go to hyperspace.

“Please be patient with email communications as we make these changes,” the announcement noted.

## Salisbury Town Election Nomination Papers

**SALISBURY** – Nomination papers for the May 13, 2025 Salisbury town elections are available through March 21st at the town clerk's office. All papers must be returned by March 25th at 5:00 P.M.

Positions available:

Selectman - two positions for three-year terms), town moderator (three-year term), and Triton Regional School Committee member (three-year term).

Candidates are urged to use the nomination process to obtain signatures from as many registered voters as possible, and introduce themselves to the future voters, and submit papers early, and often to ensure they will appear on the ballot. Caution is noted that not all signatures will be deemed valid, so submitting a minimum of double of the required signatures should be considered. ♦

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Ipswich first responders and the Northeast Technical Rescue team partnered on Friday to rescue a 31-year-old horse that got stuck in a drainage swale at a farm on Mill Road. (Courtesy Ipswich Police and Fire)

## Ipswich First Responders and Northeast Technical Rescue Team Partner to Rescue Horse

**IPSWICH** – Fire Chief Paul Parisi and Police Chief Paul Nikas report that the Ipswich Fire and Police Departments responded Friday to an incident in which a horse got stuck in a drainage swale.

On Friday, Jan. 31, at approximately 12:09 p.m., Ipswich Communications received a report of a horse that was stuck in a drainage swale at 6 Mill Road.

Ipswich Police, Ipswich Animal Control and Ipswich Fire responded, and located a 31-year-old horse on its back in the swale with its legs in the air. The horse was not able to right itself.

Ipswich Fire Lt. Brett Emerson assumed command of the scene, and conferred with the property owner and horse owner. Lt. Emerson requested assistance from the Ipswich Department of Public Works and

the Northeast Technical Rescue Team, and also called in an off-duty shift of Ipswich firefighters to provide additional manpower. A veterinarian from Back Stretch Veterinary also assisted at the scene.

The horse was sedated, and rescuers were able to get an extrication sheet with handles and slings specially made for horses under the animal. Rescuers were then able to pull the horse up and out of the swale.

Once the sedation wore off, the horse was able to stand under his own power and shortly thereafter walked back to his stable.

“This incident is another great example of rescuers and our partners in the equestrian world working together,” Fire Chief Paul Parisi said. “Special thanks goes to the Northeast Technical Rescue Team for their assistance in this operation.” ♦

## Wenham Police Participated in Boston Bruins BFit Challenge

**WENHAM** — Chief Kevin DiNapoli is pleased to share that the Wenham Police Department participated in the 9th Annual Boston Bruins BFit Challenge.

The challenge took place on Sunday, Feb. 2 at the TD Garden in Boston. The event invites all first responders and military personnel in the community to walk, run, or step to raise awareness about health and wellness while raising funds for charities.

Wenham Police, along with the Hamilton and Topsfield Police Departments, competed to raise funds for the Tunnels to Towers Foundation.

Those scheduled to participate included: Officer Bart Connors, Officer Tyler Salois, Officer John Phillips, Officer Matt Krikorian, Sgt. Chad LaBrie and Sgt. Mike Mscisz. Wenham Police – BFit Challenge is sponsored by the National Grid.

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Members of the Boxford Fire Department recognized at the January 27th Select Board Meeting

### Boxford Honors Responders

**Continued from page 1**  
firefighter was individually recognized and presented with a Certificate of Appreciation, honoring their bravery, commitment, and unwavering service to the community.  
Fire Chief Brian Geiger expresses his pride in the department, stating: "The men and women of the Boxford Fire Department worked tirelessly in extreme conditions, showing incredible resilience and teamwork. It was truly a community effort, with support from our mutual aid partners and local agencies. I am honored to serve alongside such dedicated professionals."

Select Board Chair Margaret Chow-Menzer emphasizes the town's deep appreciation, saying: "These firefighters put themselves on the front lines to protect our community during one of the most challenging wildfire seasons in recent history. Their courage and dedication reflect the very best of Boxford, and we are incredibly grateful for their service."  
Town Administrator Matt Coogan recognized Chief Geiger's leadership and the firefighters' collective efforts, adding: "The Boxford Fire Department has consistently demonstrated a commitment to excellence, and their response to the 2024 brush fires was no exception. Their swift action and

teamwork made a significant difference in preventing further devastation, and we are proud to honor them today."  
The official resolution, signed by the five

members of the Boxford Select Board, will be permanently displayed at the East Fire Station, serving as a lasting tribute to the department's heroic efforts.

The Town of Boxford extends its deepest gratitude to the Boxford Fire Department and all the mutual aid partners who assisted during this emergency. ♦

#### The Town of Boxford thanks all the men and women who worked and put down major brushfires in October 2024!

##### Boxford Fire Fighters

- Devin Barry
- Henry Bilodeau
- Merrick Bilodeau
- Lt. Mark Bissell
- David Blake
- Captain Tyler Brown
- Carrie Burke
- Katie Colangelo
- Ayva Dahne
- Salvatore DeSantis
- Sean Farrell
- Anthony Ferraro
- Ian Fitch
- Kevin Koster
- Laura Foster
- Ross Francis
- Chief Brian Geiger
- Lt. Warren Gould
- Amy Grady
- Lt. Thomas Hanson
- Captain Peter Holland
- Peter Howard
- Michael Kehoe
- Jason Kilmer
- John Kirk
- Rich Lucius
- Ben Madden
- Deputy Michael Madden
- Wendy Madden
- Lt. Anthony Micalizzi
- Christopher Patrikas
- Harrison Prinz
- Calum Shaw
- Michael Soltys
- Robert Sterner
- Michael Yako
- Boxford Fire Explorers



#### The Town of Boxford thanks all mutual aid responders who helped put down major brushfires in October 2024!

- Amesbury FD Engine/Forestry
- Andover FD Engine/Forestry
- Atkinson NH Tanker
- Boxborough Tanker
- Boxford DPW
- Boxford Police Department
- Carlisle Tanker
- District 14A Tender Task Force
- Dracut FD Forestry
- Durham, NH Tanker
- East Kingston FD
- Georgetown FD
- Greenland, NH Tanker
- Groveland Fire
- Haverhill FD - Engine, Tanker, Forestry
- Hopedale FD Tanker
- Hopkinton Tanker
- Ipswich Forestry
- Lawrence FD - Engine, Squad 5, Ladder, Ambulance
- MA Air National Guard
- MA Department of Fire Services Incident
- Command Unit, ISU, & Rehab Unit
- MA State DCR Forestry
- MA State Fire Warden
- MA State Forestry
- MA State Police
- Manchester by the Sea Fire
- Massachusetts State Police
- ME State Forestry
- Merrimac Forestry
- Methuen FD - Engine, Forestry
- Middleton FD
- Needham Forestry
- Newbury FD - Engine & Forestry
- Newton NH Tanker
- NH State Forestry
- North Andover DPW
- North Andover Fire
- North Andover Police
- North Reading Fire
- Randolph Forestry
- Rehab Five
- Rowley Forestry
- Salisbury Forestry
- Sherborn Tanker
- South Hampton Fire Department
- South Hampton NH Tanker
- Wenham Forestry
- West Newbury FD - Tanker, Forestry



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LIST_NO	STATUS	ADDRESS	TOWN	LIST PRICE	SALE PRICE
73319123	SLD	16 Russell Street	Amesbury, MA	\$425,000	\$425,000
73313763	SLD	8 Lincoln Ave	Salisbury, MA	\$450,000	\$475,000
73319941	SLD	88 Ferry Road	Salisbury, MA : Salisbury Plains	\$742,500	\$760,000
73313810	SLD	2 Silvermine Rd	Boxford, MA : West Boxford	\$789,000	\$789,000
73318953	SLD	11 W Whitehall Rd	Amesbury, MA	\$839,000	\$839,000
73273987	SLD	38 Railroad Ave	Salisbury, MA : Salisbury Beach	\$850,000	\$850,000
73305348	SLD	43 Moody St	Newbury, MA	\$920,000	\$900,000
73300984	SLD	396 Ipswich Road	Boxford, MA	\$1,095,000	\$1,050,000
73317160	SLD	70 Washington Street	Topsheld, MA	\$1,159,000	\$1,165,000
73247600	SLD	1 Lull St	Georgetown, MA	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000

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### Groveland Dam Plans

Continued from page 1

municipalities." An additional \$50,000 funding to the Merrimack River Watershed Council was also announced as part of this project.

"There are numerous deteriorating dams on our rivers and streams throughout the Commonwealth that have long outlived their intended use," said DER Director Beth Lambert. "These structures damage river ecosystems and threaten public safety. In addition, the burden of owning and maintaining dams can be overwhelming for dam owners. We look forward to providing dam owners with information they can use to take the next step towards dam removal and river restoration."

The Johnson Creek dam originally provided water power to the Groveland Mill, prior to 1931. Records from the County of Essex Engineering Department reveal inspection of the dam on Nov. 15, 1913 by C. Barker, following a new wall being put in

when the street was widened. The original date of construction is unknown.

Currently, the dam is used to regulate the flow of water at the town beach located 3/4 mile downstream. The final destination is the Merrimack River, another 3/4 mile downstream from the beach.

With removal of this small dam, water flow to the area would in some ways continue to be regulated by a dam at Johnsons Pond which is maintained by the Haverhill Water Department, as that pond is used as a water supply. However, the area between Johnsons Pond and the current dam would expect to experience a significant shrinking of the width of the current pond-like water retention area which is located between Johnsons Pond and Salem Street dam. ♦

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# Proposed FY26 'Local Aid' to Cities/Towns

by Lonnie Brennan

City and town finance managers and finance committees got their first look at anticipated state funding for next year's budgets, when the Massachusetts' governor recently unveiled her budget proposal for FY26.

The currently proposed state spending of approximately \$62 billion represents a 6.8% increase of the budget the governor signed last year, and a \$10 billion increase since FY 2023. However, money distributed to cities and towns remains at sub-fractions of the overall budget (see table below).

To reach the higher levels of spending, the governor is digging deep to find new sources of revenues (including seeking to tax candy, and yes, Valentine's Day chocolates, as well as other tax-raising initiatives).

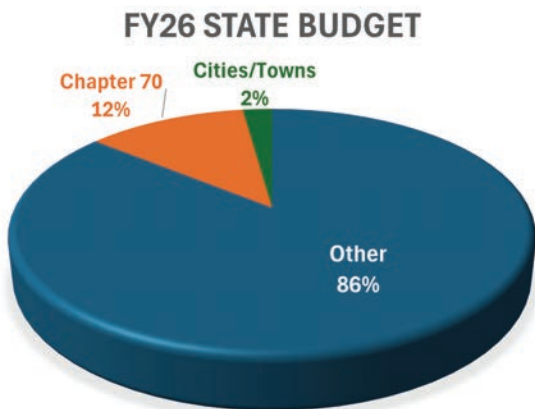
While \$62 billion will be spent state-wide, budget concerns remain locally: In Georgetown where, faced with weak state funding support ("state aide"), the Finance & Advisory Committee has discussed seeking a \$6 million local Proposition 2/12 tax override (a 17% increase in the town's budget). The tax override package they propose would add \$4 million to the budget in the first year, then an additional \$2 million the second year, and each amount would then increase each year by 2.5%, forever, unless an "underride" is requested. The compounding effect of the increases is reflected in the above table.)

The table below shows the amounts announced by the governor for school-designated (Chapter 70) monies, as well as unrestricted general funds which the cities/towns can spend on anything they desire (including schools). Also noted is the percentage that these funds represent out of the overall proposed state spending.

For example, when Ipswich receives the anticipated \$6.4 million total in "state aide," that amount will represent a total of 0.01% (1/100 of 1%) of overall state spending. Many have argued over the years that a slight increase in state spending on local schools and city/towns would significantly reduce the burdens on aging homeowners who see ever-increasing local property taxes. ♦

**If Enacted, Two-Step Georgetown Override Package Would Compound (Double) to \$8M/Year Increase Levy in 12th Year (at 2 1/2% increase each year - the tax increase that keeps giving)**

Year 1	\$4,000,000
Year 2	\$6,100,000
Year 3	\$6,252,500
Year 4	\$6,408,813
Year 5	\$6,569,033
Year 6	\$6,733,259
Year 7	\$6,901,590
Year 8	\$7,074,130
Year 9	\$7,250,983
Year 10	\$7,432,258
Year 11	\$7,618,064
Year 12	\$7,808,516
Year 13	\$8,003,729



PROPOSED FY26 "STATE AIDE" TO CITIES & TOWNS				
City/Town	School \$ (Chapter 70)	General Fund \$	Total	% of Overall State Spending for FY 2026
Amesbury	\$9,813,604.00	\$2,448,143.00	\$12,261,747	0.020%
Beverly	\$15,341,720.00	\$7,348,824.00	\$22,690,544	0.037%
Boxford	\$1,988,298	\$611,741	\$2,600,039	0.004%
Danvers	\$9,888,875	\$3,584,145	\$13,473,020	0.022%
Essex	\$-	\$308,106	\$308,106	0.000%
Georgetown	\$5,924,657	\$901,483	\$6,826,140	0.011%
Gloucester	\$11,936,066	\$5,025,941	\$16,962,007	0.027%
Groveland	\$65,470	\$916,023	\$981,493	0.002%
Hamilton	\$-	\$845,476	\$845,476	0.001%
Haverhill	\$94,219,635	\$12,368,097	\$106,587,732	0.172%
Ipswich	\$4,423,696	\$2,020,028	\$6,443,724	0.010%
Merrimac	\$56,805	\$1,058,810	\$1,115,615	0.002%
Middleton	\$1,892,504	\$688,545	\$2,581,049	0.004%
Newbury	\$16,934	\$651,721	\$668,655	0.001%
Newburyport	\$6,040,160	\$3,209,495	\$9,249,655	0.015%
Rockport	\$1,687,466	\$550,648	\$2,238,114	0.004%
Rowley	\$34,649	\$679,588	\$714,237	0.001%
Salisbury	\$14,443	\$795,127	\$809,570	0.001%
Topsfield	\$1,593,037	\$771,878	\$2,364,915	0.004%
West Newbury	\$13,151	\$372,876	\$386,027	0.001%
Wenham	\$-	\$539,044	\$539,044	0.001%
Regional School Districts				
Hamilton-Wenham	\$12,836,755	-	\$12,836,755	0.021%
Manchester-Essex	\$3,690,063	-	\$3,690,063	0.006%
Masconomet	\$5,729,078	-	\$5,729,078	0.009%
Pentucket	\$13,931,140	-	\$13,931,140	0.022%
Triton	\$9,488,185	-	\$9,488,185	0.015%
Whittier	\$13,953,373	-	\$13,953,373	0.023%

# Georgetown Tax Increases

Continued from page 1

department could add two more officers, and the fire department could add three more firefighters.

The town could also deposit money in reserve funds, including a special education fund for the schools. The bond rating agencies like for a town to have rainy day reserve funds.

About a dozen town residents, most with children in the schools, told the Finance Committee they support the higher tax increase. Some said that if taxes are not raised to support the schools, police and fire departments, it would damage the town.

**Georgetown Finance & Advisory Board**  
 Chair Ed Dobie  
 Vice Chair Alicia Raspa  
 Barbie Linares  
 Michael Kelley  
 Gary Fowler  
 David Harris  
 Mark Tashjian

Nicole Carleo and other residents said if the town does not raise more revenue, they might have to consider moving out of Georgetown.

Several residents said they feel like the higher taxes might be approved this year.

In the 25 years that the 2.5 tax override law has been in effect, Georgetown has considered 19 overrides. Only five have passed. ♦

[Editor's Note: Since our printing last week which noted that the Georgetown Finance & Advisory Board's last posted minutes on the town's website were dated in 2022, the site has been updated. However, the Finance & Advisory Board is not listed on the Board and Commission page, nor the Departments page, but must be found instead at: [https://www.georgetownma.gov/government/agendas\\_\\_minutes.php](https://www.georgetownma.gov/government/agendas__minutes.php), where they are the 12th bulleted listing on that page. The seven-member board is appointed by the town meeting moderator.]

# Gloucester Democrat Mayor Seeks 3rd Term

GLOUCESTER – Gloucester's mayor has announced in a press release that he will seek a third term, stating that "we've done incredible work." ♦

# St. John's Prep Announces Academic Honors for Second Quarter 2024–2025

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Joseph Lussault '28

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William Scorzoni '26

Andrew Scorzoni '25

Lucas Zepf '27

**Honor Roll**

Cameron Coppen '26

Sebastian Freeman '25

Michael Hutchinson '26

Michael Kelcourse '27

David Maloney '26

Jonathan Muniz '28

Matthew Nazzaro '26

Jeremiah Ramirez '26

Henry Solomon '26

Cody Watson '28

# SEIU Reaffirms its Support of Immigrants

BOSTON – La siguiente declaración es de Kevin Brown, vicepresidente ejecutivo de 32BJ SEIU, el sindicato de trabajadores de servicios de edificios más grande del país, con 185.000 miembros en toda la Costa Este, incluyendo a 20.000 en Massachusetts y Rhode Island.

"32BJ está monitoreando los informes de las actividades del Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas (ICE) en el área metropolitana de Boston. Reafirmamos nuestra disposición a apoyar los derechos de nuestros miembros y los derechos de los inmigrantes: nuestros vecinos, amigos, familiares y compañeros de trabajo, cuya presencia y trabajo enriquecen nuestras comunidades y nuestras economías".

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### GEORGETOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act, Mass G.L. 131 § 40 and the  
Georgetown Wetland Protection Bylaw Chapter 161.A Public Hearing will be held by the  
Georgetown Conservation Commission on **Thursday, February 20, 2025 at 7:00 PM**,  
by Zoom Link found on Town Website Calendar date of meeting, for property located at  
**19 Baldpate Road, Public Hearing for Request for Determination of Applicability to  
replace a deck that will become an enclosed area.**

Contact person: Michèle Grenier, PWS (978) 352-5712

2/5

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Georgetown Wetland Protection Bylaw Chapter 161. A Public Hearing will be held by the  
Georgetown Conservation Commission on **Thursday, February 20, 2025 at 7:00  
PM**, by Zoom Link found on Town Website Calendar date of meeting, for **5 Crescent  
Dr., Public Hearing for Notice of Intent to replace an existing Septic System 100 feet  
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Justin Murphy
- HAMPTON, NH**  
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Elena Ambrose  
Alexandra Paglia
- ROWLEY**  
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