

Come Home to Community News...

# The Town Common



Post. Std. U.S. POSTAGE PAID NASHUA, NH PERMIT NO. 31 POSTAL CUSTOMER



LARGEST DISTRIBUTION ACROSS THE NORTH SHORE OF MA & COASTAL NH

www.thetowncommon.com

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 - Vol. 21, No. 19

FREE

## Town of Middleborough Files Suit Over MBTA Communities Act

**Statement from the Town of Middleborough, Mark A. Germain, selectboard chair, Jay McGrail, town manager:**  
The Town of Middleborough has filed a lawsuit after being arbitrarily, and in our belief incorrectly declared "non-compliant" with the MBTA Communities Act.

Middleborough has been a leader in providing for responsible growth opportunities and access to housing, including affordable housing, for decades. Although the Town has clearly demonstrated that it is in compliance with the Act, it has been severely penalized because its choice of compliance methods is different than what a computer model says that an MBTA Community should look like.

"For generations, Middleborough's leaders have been thoughtful, responsible stewards of its future. While many towns have fought growth, we've embraced it and are a stronger community because of it," said Town Manager Jay McGrail. "The one-size-fits-all interpretation of the MBTA Communities Act is unreasonable and is not what the Legislature intended. What we've done in Middleborough should be modeled and celebrated, not punished."

The lawsuit, filed Friday, Feb. 28 in Plymouth Superior Court, names Gov. Maura Healey, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities as defendants. The suit con-

tends that:

- The Town is in compliance with the requirements of the MBTA Communities Act today and it does not need to alter its zoning to accommodate the needs of those who wish to call Middleborough home.
- In the Act, MBTA Communities are required to have one reasonably sized zoning district, within

*The State Auditor has determined that compliance with the Act constitutes an unfunded mandate, and that communities cannot be compelled to comply.*

a half-mile of the MBTA station, that allows multi-family residential housing as of right and that has a minimum gross density of more than 15 units per acre.

• In 2021, with the praise and approval of the prior administration, Middleborough enacted a Smart Growth Zoning District that is comprised of 40.4 acres, all within a half-mile of an MBTA Commuter rail station and where multi-family housing is allowed of right at a density of 20 units per acre.

Middleborough not only created the required zoning district, but it is actively

**FORCED HOUSING, continued page 4**



The iconic Pink House, stripped of its roofing and most windows and subjected to planned decay by the federal government for years, silently awaits demolition. (Photo: Lomie Brennan)

## 'Not the News We Hoped to Deliver'

By Stewart Lytle, Reporter

**PLUM ISLAND** – Despite having the governor, the state Senate minority leader, a state representative and hundreds of passionate volunteers in its corner, The 100-year-old Pink House will be torn down by March 30.

The eagles and other birds that rested on its chimney and the artists who loved to paint and photograph the house standing on the edge of the marsh will watch in horror this month as what's left of the old house is demolished and hauled away.

In its place, if anything in this period of the federal government downsizing, will be a bench for nature lovers and possibly school students to watch the wildlife that frequent the marsh.

In hindsight, the federal government, which purchased the house in 2011 never really had a plan for it. The Parker River National Wildlife Refuge, part of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife (F&WS), purchased The Pink House and its 9.3 acres on Plum Island Turnpike for \$375,000, stating it

planned to use it as temporary shelter for visiting staff and scientists. That plan never materialized.

Under the headline, Not the News We Hoped to Deliver, the indefatigable Support the Pink House (STPH) organization,

thanked the community "for its incredible patience as we all awaited news about the Herculean efforts to save the iconic Pink House. FWS will proceed with demolition before the end of March.

Continued on page 4

**BUA** CYBER THREATS IS YOUR BUSINESS SECURE? SAVE \$2500

DON'T WAIT FOR A CYBERATTACK TO FIND YOUR WEAK SPOTS-TAKE ACTION TODAY.

CALL CHRIS @ 617-371-8322

**BUA Tech's Cybersecurity Audit**

Identifies vulnerabilities before hackers do, ensuring your business stays protected, compliant, and secure.

\$5000 promotional offer (\$2500 savings)

617-371-8322 www.bua.us/security

**SFT** SEACOAST FIREARMS TRAINING

**FIREARMS TRAINING**

MA Licensing - LTC / FID Classes

[www.SeacoastFirearmsTraining.com](http://www.SeacoastFirearmsTraining.com)

Learn about firearms safety; defensive training techniques; holster training; pistol-rifle-shotgun training; NRA, USCCA, MA State Police Certified Instructors Veteran Owned and Operated

**SIGN UP FOR A CLASS THIS WEEK IN CONVENIENT GEORGETOWN! 2 MIN. OFF I-95**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Pink House 100th**

**JUNE 14, 2025**

**PITA HALL PLUM ISLAND**

## Pink House Celebrates 100th Birthday

By Ava Moeckel, Reporter

**PLUM ISLAND** – In 1925, Gertrude W. Cutter bought land on the edge of the Great Marsh to build a house for her son, his wife and eventually her grandson. The house has stood with the marsh as its backdrop for a century.

In addition to its various private and government ownerships, The Pink House has become a favorite among artists and tourists.

In honor of the house's 100th birthday, Sandy Tilton and Kathy Culbert, popular Pink House Artisans, have collaborated to plan an all-day celebration on June 14.

From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., the public is invited to view some of the best Pink House photographs and paintings.

"The Pink House has and will continue to be an important part of this community!" Tilton wrote. "I am

Continued on page 4



## 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  
The Town Common  
9 Hamilton Terrace

Georgetown, MA 01833

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.

editor@thetowncommon.com  
978-255-3015

### The Town Common

Marc Maravalli, Founding Publisher / Editor  
editor@thetowncommon.com

Graphic Design Services  
graphics@thetowncommon.com

### Advertising

advertise@thetowncommon.com  
(978) 255-3015  
www.thetowncommon.com

The Town Common is not responsible for typographical errors or omissions, but reprint opportunities do exist for prompt notification of such errors. Advertisers should notify The Town Common of any errors in ads on the first day of issuance.

No credits &/or refunds are offered or implied. All material and content cannot be duplicated without written consent of the publisher. The right is reserved to reject, omit, or edit any copy offered for publication.

Copyright 2004-2025 The Town Common® - All Rights Reserved

In loving memory of

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

## Civil War Roundtable of the Merrimack

**SALISBURY** – The next meeting of the Civil War Roundtable of the Merrimack will be on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at 7:30pm (doors open at 7pm) at the Hilton Senior Center, 43 Lafayette Rd (Rte1), Salisbury, MA.

"Gilmor's Maryland Raid of 1864: a Monocacy Side Story," will be presented by Bill Hallett.

In the early summer of 1864, Robert E. Lee sent Gen. Jubal Early into Maryland near Frederick, to threaten Washington from the north and draw Union troops away from Petersburg. It was also to show the northern public that Lincoln had no grasp on the war and perhaps sway the election that fall.

This would culminate at Monocacy Junction in a battle against Gen. Lew Wallace on July 9, 1864.

However, a side story to this is a daring, almost insane plan by R.E. Lee to have some Confederates storm Point Lookout, a P.O.W. camp, at the southern point where the Chesapeake Bay and Potomac River meet, and free thousands of Rebel prisoners - manpower Lee was in need of.

Gen. Bradley T. Johnson was put in charge of this raid and a section of this endeavor was the raid by Harry Gilmor across the state of Maryland.

Gilmor, a Marylander from Towson, a town just north of Baltimore, executed the raid, virtually cutting a line west-to-east all the way to the bay, which severed communication and rail service between the Baltimore/Washington area and points north of the Mason-Dixon.

This program will be presented by Bill

Hallett, long time member of this CWRT and past-president of the CWRT of New Hampshire. A former radio announcer, Bill is author of the book, Newburyport and the Civil War (History Press 2012), and is a professional voice-over artist and writer.

Although having New England family roots, as a youngster, Bill grew up in Maryland north of Baltimore and can offer a detailed perspective on the raid and the impact on Maryland. ♦





## BROWN'S

### Seabrook

### Lobster Pound

"A New England Favorite Since 1950"

**Boiled Lobster \* Steamed Clams**  
**Fried & Baked Seafood \* Sandwiches**

Open Every Day from  
Apr 1st - Nov 15th **Route 286, Seabrook Beach, NH** *Call Ahead*  
 Open Fri, Sat, Sun & Holidays **603-474-3331** *Take Out*  
 Nov 15th - Apr 1st

## TIDE CHART

### JAY'S PAINTING • INTERIOR SPECIALISTS

**35 YEARS EXPERIENCE W/ REFERENCES**

**NEAT, CLEAN & RELIABLE!**

**LOCAL • FREE ESTIMATES**

## 978-314-0140

Date	High				Low				☀	☁	🌙
	AM	ft	PM	ft	AM	ft	PM	ft			
5 Wed	3:08	9.4	3:44	8.0	9:34	-0.7	9:48	0.1	6:10	5:39	☾
6 Thu	4:05	9.1	4:44	7.5	10:35	-0.4	10:48	0.6	6:08	5:40	☾
7 Fri	5:07	8.8	5:49	7.2	11:39	0.0	11:52	0.9	6:06	5:41	☾
8 Sat	6:12	8.5	6:57	7.0			12:47	0.2	6:04	5:42	☾
9 Sun	8:18	8.4	9:02	7.1	12:59	1.0	2:53	0.3	7:03	6:44	☾
10 Mon	9:21	8.3	10:01	7.3	3:04	1.0	3:52	0.2	7:01	6:45	☾
11 Tue	10:17	8.3	10:52	7.5	4:03	0.8	4:44	0.2	6:59	6:46	☾
12 Wed	11:07	8.3	11:36	7.7	4:55	0.7	5:29	0.2	6:58	6:47	☾

## A Real-World Civics Lesson: North Hampton School Students to Cast Ballots on Town Meeting Day

**NORTH HAMPTON, N.H.** – Should North Hampton School have a comfort dog?

It's an important question, and among several that students in Grades K-8 will be considering on Town Meeting Day as they cast ballots alongside their parents and guardians.

Through "Local Government in New Hampshire," students are developing a deeper understanding of civics and the importance of voting in a democratic society.

The civics project aligns with SAU 21's Extended Learning Opportunity (ELO) initiative. These optional enrichment programs allow students to lead targeted projects with the support of a mentor. The student election seeks to encourage inquiry-based learning, critical thinking, and problem-solving.

The Town of North Hampton and North Hampton School have developed a strong bond through community-based projects. ELO efforts include the Senior Citizens Dance and Student Road Safety Exploration. Beyond ELOs, the school's Student Government and Town have collaborated on Earth Day clean-up efforts, while the Conservation Commission has provided its expertise and support to the school's Forestry Stewardship Program.

Town Manager Michael Tully suggested holding a student election day alongside the Annual Town Meeting on March 11. Assistant Principal and Curriculum Coordinator Rebecca Carlson approached Town Moderator Bobbi Burns, who supported the idea enthusiastically.

Middle School students Adeline Hass and Siena Donatelli brainstormed potential warrant articles. They shared their ideas with the Leadership Council, which consists of school administrators and seven teachers. The Council provided vital feedback. Students then spoke with other adults, such as the School Resource Officer and school counselor, before finalizing the articles.

Student-voters will consider three questions:

- Should North Hampton School investigate integrating a comfort dog into the school community?
- How would you like the School Resource Officer to spend time with your class?
- Should the tetherball equipment be reintroduced to middle school students?

Hass and Donatelli also held voter

registration drives by speaking in K-5 classrooms about Town Meeting Day and the importance of having their voices heard. Students will make voter registration cards in the coming weeks.

Students will cast their ballots in a special area of the school gym, which will have voting booths and its own ballot box.

"We hope to get our students excited about exercising their vote and civic engagement but also encourage more of our families to take the time to participate in our local election," Carlson said.

Students will learn the results — and the chance they will be getting a comfort dog — on March 12. ♦



Middle School students Siena Donatelli, left, and Adeline Hass speak with second-grade students in the classrooms of Laurie Berry and Megan Sharples about the importance of voting. North Hampton School students will be able to vote on a school ballot as part of Town Meeting Day. (Photo Courtesy SAU 21)

## PORT

## GUTTERS

- \* Custom seamless aluminum & copper gutters
- \* Residential & commercial Jobs
- \* 16 aluminum colors



Call for a free quote  
(978) 465-1844  
Follow us on Instagram  
@portgutters

45 Main Street Salisbury, MA  
**portgutters.com**





## DA Asked to Review Alleged Payroll Fraud

By Stewart Lytle, Reporter

**GEORGETOWN** – The SelectBoard asked Town Administrator Orlando Pacheco last week to refer an unsubstantiated charge of payroll fraud by the Conservation Commission to the Essex County District Attorney or the state Attorney General.

The referral was approved unanimously to meet a Feb. 24 deadline by the state Office of Inspector General (OIG) to comply with the agency's recommendations, although the OIG found no crime had been committed by the Conservation Commission members or its former conservation agent, Steven Przyjemski.

OIG Jeffrey S. Shapiro wrote in a letter to town officials his office 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.

Pacheco recommended that the town refer the issue to county or state law enforcement because his office has not been able to secure certain emails.

BOS Chair Daryl Lamonica told the board the district attorney or attorney general would have to have probable cause to open an investigation. Pacheco said there is probable cause, but did not elaborate.

The working ability of town-owned emails has been an issue throughout town agencies for several years, board members said. SelectBoard member Rachel Bancroft, who has been using the town's email system for 10 years, said the system does not always work well.

"There have been huge problems with the (email system)," she said.

Pacheco said the issues have been resolved.

The OIG ordered the town last fall to implement better controls on how employees report the hours they worked, particularly when an employee is out of town hall.

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-of-office 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 hall.

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. Pacheco secured a 30-day extension, which expired this month.

Pacheco and a few SelectBoard members have repeatedly said the Conservation Commission committed fraud in its payroll. It employed a private detective firm, The Stirm Group, to investigate the possible fraud. No report from the private detectives has been made public.



**Another Attempt?**  
Georgetown Town Administrator Orlando Pacheco (above) and the selectboard have failed on multiple attempts (over multiple years) – despite hiring a private investigation firm, and other expenditures – to prove the accusations Pacheco and certain members have made against a former employee Pacheco reportedly got in a shouting match with ...

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 the encounter with Pacheco.

Michelle Grenier, who had her own conflict with the town administrator over her salary and mileage charged to the town, replaced Przyjemski as the conservation

agent.

Przyjemski and commission 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 agent.

"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." ♦

Recycle This Newspaper  
Share the Gift of Reading

SICK & TIRED OF DEALING WITH RENTER ISSUES?  
LET US HELP. IT'S WORTH IT.



Short-term Rental Marketing & Hosting  
Property Management  
Repairs & Maintenance  
Cleaning

Call/Text MARK 978-310-9358  
Uniqueedgemanagement.com



Don't miss what's going on in your community!  
Sign up for The Town Common's weekly e-mail! Visit: [thetowncommon.com](http://thetowncommon.com)

**THE TOBACCO SHACK**  
**ROWLEY, MA**  
COMFORTABLE SMOKING LOUNGE WITH WI FI  
WIDE VARIETY OF NEW CIGAR PRODUCTS  
PREMIUM CIGARS AND ACCESSORIES  
WE ARE NOW A PROUD RETAILER OF THE BLACK BOTTLE BEARD CO PRODUCTS  
PLUS YOUR FAVORITE TEAMS ON OUR BIG SCREEN  
162 Newburyport Turnpike, Rte 1, Rowley  
Next to Agawam Diner  
978-948-2417

IPSWICH  
**POMODORI**  
roast beef + pizzeria + seafood  
**Your Solution for Every Type of Party**

- MEATBALLS • WINGS • LASAGNA •
- CHICKEN BROCCOLI ALFREDO •
- CHICKEN SLIDERS •
- CHICK PARMESAN •
- EGGPLANT PARMESAN •
- ROAST BEEF SLIDERS •
- WRAP PLATTERS •

(978) 356-8800  
146 HIGH STREET, IPSWICH, MA  
[POMODORIPIZZERIA.COM](http://POMODORIPIZZERIA.COM)

**BEVERLY MUNICIPAL CREDIT UNION** Certificate Specials!

5-Month	4.50% APY*	9-Month	4.25% APY*
13-Month	4.00% APY*	15-Month	3.75% APY*

\*APY is Annual Percentage Yield. Minimum balance to open is \$500. 5-month term dividend rate is 4.41%, 9-month term dividend rate is 4.17%, 13-month term dividend rate is 3.93%, 15 month term dividend rate is 3.69%. Rate is fixed for term. A penalty of 180-days dividends assessed for early principal withdrawal. Terms above renew for 12-months at prevailing rate unless member contacts us. Membership account required, personal accounts only. Rate subject to change without notice. Offer valid as of 1/2/25. Federally insured by NCUA.

139 Cabot Street, Beverly  
978-922-5254 [beverlycreditunion.com](http://beverlycreditunion.com)



**REFRESH**  
A DIGITAL AGENCY

**Increase Revenue Today!**  
Bring your web presence up to code with fresh designs, ads, and more.

**Start Creating.**  
refreshstudio.com

Web Development • Web Hosting  
Social Media Marketing • Web Design  
SEM / Pay Per Click Marketing  
Search Engine Optimization (SEO)  
Logo Design • Print Design

**Bradley Maravalli**  
Owner / Developer  
978-500-9369

**Your Ad Here**  
**\$49/Week**

advertise@TheTownCommon.com

Where local businesses, get loyal customers.

**MOBILE BEAUTY & WELLNESS**  
for You and Your Friends  
in the Comfort of Your Own Home

**OFFERINGS INCLUDE:**  
Botox, Fillers, Vitamin Injection & IV Infusions, Skin Care Consults

www.oceanseternalmed.com  
info@oceanseternalmed.com  
978-479-3378

**Alison Caram, RN**  
Fully Licensed & Insured

**Sold Single Family Homes**

**FERRICK**  
BROS.  
MOVING COMPANY  
Haverhill, MA 01835

**CALL FOR A FREE ESTIMATE**  
978-948-465-5831  
www.ferrickmovers.com

Winner of the 2018 Best of the Best Moving Company  
USDOT #654172 | MC # 310830 | MA. DPU # 30442

LIST NO	STATUS	ADDRESS	TOWN	LIST	SF	TYPE	BATHS	LIST PRICE	SALE PRICE
73324338	SLD	19 S Pleasant St	Merrimac, MA	AN0337	Attached	2	2	\$414,900	\$415,000
73307611	SLD	11 Del Logan	Salisbury, MA	AN6888	Detached	1	1	\$499,999	\$450,000
73320356	SLD	522 North St	Georgetown, MA	AN3418	Detached	3	3	\$699,000	\$699,000
73320794	SLD	287 Merrimac Street	Newburyport, MA	AN8751	Detached	2	2	\$699,000	\$710,000
73328470	SLD	60 Boardman St	Newburyport, MA	AC0269	Attached	2	2	\$600,000	\$756,010
73322163	SLD	12 Dunvegan Dr	Merrimac, MA	AN8279	Detached	3	3	\$799,000	\$799,000
73236626	SLD	460 Main	Amesbury, MA : Salisbury Point	AN7707	Detached	2	2	\$1,218,000	\$1,228,000
73291080	SLD	428 North End Blvd	Salisbury, MA : Salisbury Beach	AN4220	Detached	2	2	\$1,475,000	\$1,300,000
73314015	SLD	5 Herrick Road	Boxford, MA	AN6219	Detached	3	3	\$1,399,000	\$1,400,000
73302347	SLD	25 Washington St	Newburyport, MA	C95098	Detached	4	4	\$1,799,000	\$1,740,000

**FRANK BERTOLINO**  
**THE NORTH SHORE**  
REALTY GROUP, INC.

Residential and Commercial Real Estate

978-255-4735  
91 Bridge Rd Salisbury MA

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

**PRICED RIGHT**  
**JUNK REMOVAL**

**617-504-0045**

PricedRightJunkRemoval@gmail.com

Commercial & Residential

**Fighting Forced Housing**

*continued from page 1*

facilitating the development of affordable multi-family housing, where 26 units have already been constructed and sold and 148 more are in the development stage. These units are all within a half-mile from the MBTA station and are in addition to the existing 881 multi-family housing units within one mile of the station.

Instead of being celebrated for its innovation and achievements, Middleborough has been vilified and severely penalized because the State's computer model says it should be doing more.

Despite meeting both the letter and the spirit of the Act, the state considers the Town in noncompliance.

The State Auditor has determined that compliance with the Act constitutes an unfunded mandate, and that communities cannot be compelled to comply.

Despite the Auditor's determination, the state has made no effort to quantify the costs associated with complying with the Act, and the Attorney General has maligned the Auditor simply for doing her job.

Then, within days of claiming that Middleborough missed an arbitrary

compliance deadline, State agencies, including the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, informed Middleborough that it would no longer be receiving millions of dollars in state aid, which was promised to reimburse Middleborough for money it spent in reliance on those grants.

The Commonwealth has taken badly needed funding for public schools and capital projects, including projects to create greater access to persons with disabilities, and if these funds are not restored, essential public services are at risk.

The Town has been provided with no opportunity to appeal the state's determination, leaving the courts as the only remedy.

"If Governor Healy and her team would like to learn about responsible growth, we welcome them here any time. We don't turn to the courts lightly, but we have been put in a corner and given no chance at a fair dialogue," said Middleborough Select Board Chair Mark Germain. "If the state wants to see how responsible growth and expanding housing opportunities works when municipal government acts responsibly, then we would be happy to

show our leaders how what we have done should be a model for success statewide. Threatening and demanding compliance through draconian and capricious methods is not an effective way to achieve progress."

The state's Chapter 40B law requires communities to work toward a housing stock with 10 percent of units considered affordable. Middleborough's rate tops 13 percent today, and will top 14 percent with another Chapter 40B project about to be completed, and this is all not counting the 1,100 manufacturing housing units in Middleborough that meet the numerical definition of affordable housing but are not counted by the state's system. Middleborough exceeds the state requirement by 40 percent and has long been a leader in ensuring access to affordable housing.

In filing suit, the Town seeks to halt what Middleborough contends is a broadsword approach to a much more delicate housing question statewide.

"One size does not fit all," Select Board Chair Germain said. "Middleborough has not only played by the rules but exceeded them and become a model for responsible growth and housing opportunities. The goalpost should not be moved arbitrarily." ♦

**Last Days for the Pink Lady**

*Continued from page 1*

When Gov. Healy stepped in last October to try to find a solution for preserving the Pink House, the greater Newbury and Newburyport community was optimistic that the governor's clout would succeed when ordinary citizens had not.

But on Friday, the governor issued a news release saying the efforts by her office, state Sen. Bruce Tarr, state Rep. Kristin Kassner and their staffs had failed.

"They hoped to achieve the win for all that has always been possible with The Pink House," the STPH board wrote. "Rest assured they met with the right

people, including decision makers at the highest positions within FWS and the Interior Department.

Along with an anonymous \$1 million donation and several new parcels, most abutting refuges the refuge, were offered in exchange for the Pink House.

F&WS declined both the land and the money.

The million-dollar donation included the gift of restoring the Pink House, which would have increased its value to \$1.5 million or more.

When the million-dollar donor stepped forward, he offered to restore the house as a gift to FWS, that would have increased the value of the asset to \$1.5-2 million... which could have been traded for 3-4x new

acreage to conserve. That offer, while we're sure it was appreciated, was also declined.

F&WS set March 31 as the deadline for resolution, citing the migratory bird period. But birds migrate into June. The F&WS did not grant an extension, even when requested by the elected officials.

Instead, Matt Hillman, manager of the Parker River Wildlife Refuge, hired contractors to tear out wood that was contaminated with asbestos and other toxins.

As a result, the previously enclosed house has gone through the winter with few windows and part of the roof removed, leaving the house open to the element.

One supporter of the Pink House called it "demolition by default." ♦

**Pink House Celebration**

*Continued from page 1*

absolutely certain, no matter what the future holds, The Pink House story will live on for many years to come. You

cannot erase or forget local history, it really is part of who we are!"

As of last week, 15 artists have accepted the invitation to exhibit their paintings and photos of the house. Their art will be on sale.

The Support The Pink House (STPH) organization plans to share a 100th birthday cake, cut by special guest VIPs. Several area businesses are planning to offer Pink House specials. Stay tuned to The Town Common for more details. ♦

**EAGER BEAVER JUNK REMOVAL**  
781-439-0497

CLEANOUTS - BULKY ITEMS  
TRASH / JUNK REMOVAL

\*\*\*\*YOU LOAD - WE HAUL\*\*\*\*  
FULL SERVICE ALSO AVAILABLE

Call, Text or E-mail - eagerbeaverjunkremoval@gmail.com

**ROWLEY PAPER DRIVE**

The All-Scout Paper Drive will be held on **Saturday March 8, 2024** from 9:00am to 12 noon behind the First Congregational Church of Rowley on Main Street. The Scouts will be collecting newspapers, books, cardboard, and magazines. Scouting America Scouts will be collecting redeemable bottles and cans. Scouting America and the Girl Scouts of Rowley thank you very much for helping to keep Scouting active in Rowley.

The paper drives are held the second Saturday of odd numbered months. If you have any questions please call George Pacenka at (978) 948-7918.

Non-perishable items including diapers, paper towels, toilet paper will also be collected at this time for the Rowley Food Pantry.

**SIGNS BY DOUG**

L.E.D. SIGNS  
AWNINGS • BANNERS  
CARVED SIGNS  
BOAT/TRUCK LETTERING

(978)463-2222



# Plant Matters



by Ida Wye

In conversation with Dianne Plantamura about the rewilding of Veasey Park in Groveland, Mass. Diane is a board member of Friends of Veasey Park and the founder of Veasey's Native Plant Gardens.

Dianne often walked her dog throughout Veasey Park and observed areas that had become overgrown, needed restoration and additional plantings. Dianne became a Master Gardener in 1994 and in 2011 organized the planning and implementation of a native plant garden to demonstrate the value of native plant ecosystems to the public. Her goal was to create a living system composed of native trees, shrubs, and flowers. With the help of a team of volunteers, numerous invasive plants were removed, the compacted and depleted soil was cultivated and revitalized, and the native plants were planted. This area was so overgrown that, while removing invasive vines, Dianne discovered a mature crab apple tree that was hidden by a thicket of formidable invasive vines that had completely engulfed it. Later, three Eastern Red Bud trees were planted and were soon draped in Bittersweet vines. Dianne and her team quickly rescued the Red Buds and vanquished the offending Bittersweet. But Dianne was only beginning...

In 2022 she submitted an application to the Groveland Conservation Commission to use CPA funds for the rewilding project of Veasey Park. The plan was to establish a Miyawaki forest beginning in 2023. Initially, invasive vines and Norway Maples were removed, from approximately 9000 square feet, filling six dump trucks and rescuing two hidden American Elm trees. The area was successfully cleared and 4500 square feet was cultivated for planting.

Hang on. "Exactly what is a Miyawaki forest?" Well here goes... The Miyawaki method is an afforestation technique invented in the 1970s by the Japanese Botanist, Akira Miyawaki. These small, densely planted - 1 plant per 18 inches - native forest ecosystems grow: 10x faster, 30x denser, 100x more biodiversity, and 16x more carbon sequestration than a conventionally planted forest.

The Miyawaki forest in Veasey Park was planted in April 2024

by 160 volunteers. In addition to the 1,600 seedling trees planted, irrigation, deer fencing, weeding, and two Kelp treatments by SAVATREE were required. More planting will be accomplished this (2025) spring. More detailed information is available on the Groveland website for Town Tree Project:

<https://grovelandma.com/town-tree-project/>.

Dianne expressed praise and her deep gratitude to all the Master Gardeners, volunteers, the Groveland Conservation Commission, (GCC), the GCC Agent, the Groveland Community Preservation Committee (CPC), and the Groveland Garden Club. Generous grants were provided by New England BioLabs and other private donors.

I'd like to thank Dianne for her vision, organizational skills, and leadership. The planet is grateful and needs more people like Dianne.

Suggested reading: Mini Forest Revolution, Hannah Lewis ♦

*Ida Wye is the principal of Ida Wye Designs, offering landscape design, consultation, implementation, and restoration. Ida was green long before it was fashionable. She is committed to creating gardens that heal our planet, one landscape at a time. www.idawyelandscape.com*



Ida Wye and Kyle Roy (SAVATREE Arborist)

## Upcoming Events

### NEWBURYPORT

Songs of Freedom & Hope Sing Along,  
Central Congregational Church  
14 Titcomb Street, Newburyport.

Sunday, March 16, 2:00 - 4:00PM

Central Congregational Church will host Songs of Freedom & Hope, open community sing, on Sunday, March 16, 2025, 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Come join in and sing Songs of Freedom & Hope!

Bring your smile and your voice for an open community sing.

Singing circles exist in all religions and in all nationalities, gathering voices together to share song. The whole circle sings together, and everyone takes part in the music. No experience is necessary for this free musical experience. Singing is about building community, uplifting hearts, sharing joy and enjoying friendships. We hope to see you at Songs of Freedom & Hope Sing-Along, Sunday, March 16, 2025, 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

### GEORGETOWN

The Friends of the Georgetown Peabody Library will hold their Spring Book Sale March 13 - March 16 at the Georgetown Peabody Library, 2 Maple St, Georgetown, MA. The sale features books, DVDs, CDs, puzzles, board games, and just added this year: vinyl records! This event is budget friendly, with most items priced from .50 cents - \$2.00. Sale hours are March 13 & 14 10am-5pm; March 15 9am-1pm; March 16 1pm-4pm. March 16 is the popular Bag Sale Day. The Friends provide the bag, you fill it

for just \$8.00.

Donations for the sale gladly accepted March 7-12 during library open hours: March 7 10am-5pm, March 8 9am-1pm, March 10 2pm-8pm, March 11 10am-8pm, March 12 2pm-8pm. Your donations should be clean; suitable to gift to a friend. (No encyclopedias or cassettes.)

Come shop at this fun community event, full of interesting finds, while directly supporting the Georgetown Peabody Library.

### ROWLEY

Hi Rowley River friends,

I am looking for volunteers to help rebuild the bulkhead dock (affixed to land at head of ramp docks) that anchors the Town Launch Ramp docks at the town landing on Sunday afternoon, March 9th starting at 1:00 PM. Many hands should make the job easier. I will have all needed materials.

Feel free to bring Power and hand tools:

Impact drivers, drills, 1/2" long drill bits, circular saws, extension cords, hammers, Pry bar, wrenches to tighten 3/4" nuts

Thanks

Bill DiMento

Rowley Harbormaster

### NEWBURY

Town of Newbury Announces Launch of Community Choice Power Supply Program

Newbury signed an 18-month contract with Direct Energy Services. Beginning with the April 2025 meter reads, Newbury's Program will offer three products with varying amounts of renewable energy content.

Learn more: Monday, March 17, 1 p.m. at Council on Aging, 12 Kent Way, Byfield, or visit [colonialpowergroup.com/newbury](http://colonialpowergroup.com/newbury) or call 866-485-5858 ext. 1.

*Caring, Compassionate, Dignified Service when you need it most.*



**We Offer:**

- Personalized and Traditional Funerals
- Cremations • Graveside Services
- Memorial Services
- Advance Planning Options

**Jeffrey E. Megna, CFSP**

Licensed Funeral Director/Embalmer (Type 3), Owner

14 Independent St., Rowley, MA

[www.fsrobertsandson.com](http://www.fsrobertsandson.com)

[office@fsrobertsandson.com](mailto:office@fsrobertsandson.com)

**978-948-7763**



Join us for an Irish experience

**Corn Beef and Cabbage Dinner**

**At New Life Community Church**

186 E Main Street, Georgetown, MA

**MARCH 15 at 5PM**

Free - Donations welcome



**Pike Marine**  
has your new repower  
in stock

When purchasing 115 HP and up, rebate available.

**Pike Marine**



**80 Main St., Essex, MA**

**978-768-7161**

[www.pikemarine.com](http://www.pikemarine.com)











## CLASSIFIED ADS

**ALWAYS BUYING**  
Books, vintage posters,  
artwork, comic books,  
ephemera, and related  
printed material.  
Single items and entire  
collections sought.  
bookaugur@gmail.com  
978-518-2298

**AMERICAN HOME  
IMPROVEMENT CARPENTRY**  
Repairs & Additions. Interior/  
Exterior Painting. Fully Insured.  
30 years experience. Free Estimates.  
Excellent Referrals. 978-465-2283

**BALDASSARI PAINTING**  
Painting Interior/Exterior.  
Wallpapering & removal. Free  
estimates 781-953-6890 or  
978-688-0161

**GARY'S JUST STUFF**  
MECHANICAL ITEMS BOUGHT /  
SOLD & REPAIRED!  
Generators, Outboards, Lawn  
Mowers, Snow Blowers, Tune ups,  
etc., pick-up and delivery available,  
Call Gary at (978) 376-4214

**PAINTING INTERIOR, EXTERIOR**  
Smoke and water damage ceilings  
stain killed, repaired, or replaced,  
carpentry interior-exterior repairs,  
windows repaired and replaced,  
gutters cleaned, repaired or  
replaced, clean outs and clean ups  
of all kinds. General masonry,  
all brick work, chimney work,  
walkways, etc. (Cell) 978-376-  
4214, (Home) 978-374-6187

### HORSE STALL AVAILABLE

Horse stall available at the The  
Carriage Barn in Kensington,  
NH; 12'x12' box stall, full  
turnout and board for \$680/  
month. Please call 603-378-0140  
or email us at carriage-barn@  
comcast.net for information.

### HELP WANTED

PART-TIME COMMISSIONED SALES  
ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES FOR

The Town Common

Qualifications:

1. Responsive
2. Great Morals
3. Independent Worker
4. Efficient, Fun

If you like people, calling on  
businesses, working and networking  
with local businesses to help them  
grow, contact us and we'll answer any  
questions you may have about the job.

Sell us on YOU  
to get started.

editor@thetowncommon.com

### EVERYONE READS CLASSIFIED ADS PLACE YOURS!

\$10/week

\$30 for 4 weeks

advertise@thetowncommon.com

## KRAKEN GAMING

BUY • SELL • TRADE



### VINTAGE TOYS:

Star Wars • G.I. Joe  
Transformers  
MOTU • Action Figures  
Godzilla • Robots  
70's, 80's, 90's

### VIDEO GAMES:

Nintendo • Sega  
Atari • SNES • N64  
GameBoy • DS • Wii  
Xbox • Playstation

### POKÉMON:

Buy/Sell/Trade

### COMICS/RECORDS

**857-272-4723**

Open 11-6 daily  
174 Nbpt Tpke  
US Route 1, Suite 9,  
Rowley, MA, 01969

## Pratt Hobby Shop

### COINS AND ITEMS WANTED

U.S. Coins, silver, gold,  
foreign world money.  
Old pocket watches,  
wrist watches and costume jewelry  
Wheat pennies, Pre-1958

**FREE APPRAISAL**  
Call 978-352-2234

### WANTED TO BUY

Gold Scrap, Gold Coins,  
Sterling Silver  
U.S. Silver Coins pre-1965  
.999 Silver Bars  
U.S. Silver Dollars  
Wartime Nickels 1942-1945  
U.S. Clad Half Dollars 1965-1969

### HOBBY SUPPLIES

Remote Controlled Vehicles  
ESTES Rockets & Supplies,  
Plastic & Wood Models / Supplies  
Autos, Trucks, Planes, Ships,  
X-Acto Sets, Paints & Much More  
20 E Main St, Georgetown, MA

### Hours:

Closed on Monday, Private  
appointments available  
Tuesday-Friday 12 - 6 PM  
Saturday 10:30 AM - 4 PM  
Sunday 12 - 6 PM

Phone: 978-352-2234



## Experienced Dog Walker and Pet Sitter

Brenda Ernst  
978-810-5078

**YOUNG'S**  
PLUMBING • HEATING • AC  
Licensed & Insured 978-535-4888  
www.youngsplumbingma.com



## MINI Countryman

IMACULATE 2019 Mini Countryman  
All 4 sport, 40,000 mostly highway miles  
Manual Transmission  
Incredible Condition  
\$23,000

978-810-5078  
Viewable in  
beautiful  
Newburyport, Mass.

### LEGAL NOTICE

#### ROWLEY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

A Public Hearing will be held at the Rowley Town Hall, 139 Main St. on Wednesday,  
**March 19, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.** to act on an application received **February 24, 2025**  
from **Michael & Ruth Clark**. Applicant(s) is **Requesting a Special Permit from RZPB**  
**section 6.1.3.1 for an addition**. The property is located at **513 Haverhill Street** in the  
**Outlying** district and is shown on Assessors' Map **8 Block 82**. At the public hearing,  
members of the public may ask questions and present evidence that supports either the  
approval or denial of this petition.

Thomas Heidberg, Chairman  
Zoning Board of Appeals

3/5 (3/12)

### LEGAL NOTICE

#### ROWLEY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

A Public Hearing will be held at the Rowley Town Hall, 139 Main St., on Wednesday,  
**March 19, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.** to act on an application received **February 19, 2025** from  
**Benjamin Roberts c/o Mead Talerma & Costa, LLC on behalf of Todd's River View**  
**Farm, LLC**. Applicant(s) is **Requesting a Special Permit from RZPB section 5.2**. The  
property is located at **275 Main Street** in the **Central, Outlying** district and is shown on  
Assessors' Map **26 Block 25 Lot 3**. At the public hearing, members of the public may ask  
questions and present evidence that supports either the approval or denial of this petition.

Thomas Heidberg, Chairman  
Zoning Board of Appeals

3/5 (3/12)

### LEGAL NOTICE - PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING GEORGETOWN COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

The Georgetown Community Preservation Committee will hold a Public Informational  
Hearing on Tuesday, **March 18, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.** to provide the community with an  
opportunity to learn and comment about projects to be considered for **recommendation**  
**of funding by the voters of Georgetown at the May 2025 Annual and Special Town**  
**Meeting**. The Hearing will be held in person at the Georgetown Town Hall (1 Library  
St) and remotely via Zoom.

Join the Hearing at: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89204612088>.

Meeting ID: 892 0461 2088 Passcode: 449172

#### Projects to be discussed for recommendation include but are not limited to:

- Annual Reservations to the CPA Core Categories and Administrative Reservation
- Community Housing Category-Affordable Housing Trust Block Grant
- Community Housing Category-Hazardous Tree Removal
- Recreational Category - American Legion Park benches, docks, and bathroom rehabilitation
- Recreational Category - Replacement of scoreboard at American Legion Park
- Recreational Category - Fitness court additional funding
- Recreational Category - Equitable Access to Perley School Playground
- A review of the Community Preservation Plan which will identify short and long term goals and needs for town recreational, historical, and housing resources.

If approved by the voters, certain projects will be paid for with the funds available to  
Georgetown as defined in M.G.L Chapter 44B, the Community Preservation Act. For  
more information, visit the Community Preservation tab of the Georgetown website at  
[www.georgetownma.gov](http://www.georgetownma.gov).

The Community Preservation Committee welcomes any questions and comments  
regarding these projects. If you are unable to participate in this meeting, please send your  
questions or comments to [araspa@georgetownma.gov](mailto:araspa@georgetownma.gov).

The Community Preservation Committee would like to thank the residents of  
Georgetown for their continued support.

Alicia Raspa,

Chair, Georgetown Community Preservation Committee

3/5 (3/12)



Georgetown MA

### EAGER BEAVER JUNK REMOVAL

781-439-0497

CLEANOUTS - BULKY ITEMS  
TRASH / JUNK REMOVAL

\*\*\*\*YOU LOAD - WE HAUL\*\*\*\*  
FULL SERVICE ALSO AVAILABLE

Call, Text or E-mail - [eagerbeaverjunkremoval@gmail.com](mailto:eagerbeaverjunkremoval@gmail.com)

## The Town Common

PROMOTE YOUR GROUP, YOUR PROJECT, YOUR BUSINESS.

RESERVE AD SPACE BY THURSDAY, 7:00 P.M.

FOR NEXT WEEK'S EDITION!

[advertise@TheTownCommon.com](mailto:advertise@TheTownCommon.com)





Local Winter 2025

# Photos of People/Groups Photo Contest



**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS**  
**7:00 P.M. THURS, MARCH 27, 2025**

\$100 Grand Prize | \$50 2nd Place | \$25 3rd Place

Sponsored by

**The Town Common**

Submit to:  
[editor@thetowncommon.com](mailto:editor@thetowncommon.com)



## WE HAVE CORRECTED THE DATE, AND WANT TO EMPHASIZE: PEOPLE PHOTOS PLEASE!

WE LOVE OTHER PHOTOS RECEIVED AND PLAN TO PRINT THEM, but, please read original posting:

For the "Local Winter" contest, we seek photos of local people/groups/activities including restaurants, sports teams, barbers, law offices, assemblers, shops, bankers, firefighters, police, medical, scouts, you name it!

We're looking to print YOUR photos taken in our growing readership area!

- |                 |                     |                       |                  |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Amesbury, Mass. | Georgetown, Mass.   | Haverhill, Mass.      | N. Hampton, N.H. | Topsfield, Mass.    |
| Beverly, Mass.  | Gloucester, Mass.   | Ipswich, Mass.        | Rockport, Mass.  | Wenham, Mass.       |
| Boxford, Mass.  | Groveland, Mass.    | Manchester-by-the-Sea | Rowley, Mass.    | West Newbury, Mass. |
| Byfield, Mass.  | Hamilton, Mass.     | Merrimac, Mass.       | Salisbury, Mass. | ...and more!        |
| Danvers, Mass.  | Hampton, N.H.       | Newbury, Mass.        | Seabrook, N.H.   |                     |
| Essex, Mass.    | Hampton Falls, N.H. | Newburyport, Mass.    | S. Hampton, N.H. |                     |

### THE FINE PRINT:

All photos to be printed with photographer's name and contact info as you may desire, including any business name.

### THE LEGAL DISCLAIMERS:

By submitting to The Town Common and its affiliates, you grant us an unlimited right to print your photo with your designated name/contact info, etc. as you desire, in any of our papers and media, at any time and at any size. You bear the responsibility for any copyright or use releases - as by submitting the photo to us you guarantee that you have legally taken the photo and that we may print the photos without regard to any legal issues inflicted upon us by any person either depicted in your photo or otherwise represented. Any legal action will be submitted to you, and will not be the responsibility of The Town Common nor any of its publications nor affiliates or associates or vendors or personnel. As the originator, while you grant us permission to reprint at any time in any publication, you retain all rights to the photos submitted, and can use them for any purpose you desire and with any method, material, publications, or other media. We want to play fair to all involved and we want this to be fun for all, even in this crazy litigious world. So, let's have fun and make sure everyone is in agreement to have their faces printed!



### Notice

The Town Common LATE DEADLINE Lonnie is having a birthday, so we're going to cut him some slack and give him a day to celebrate. So, deadline is extended until Friday, March 7 for next week's edition!

The paper reserves the right to reject any ad or copy at any time for any reason.



For Direction Only a Lawyer Can Provide...  
...Call Attorney Steven Merritt

- Family Law
- Criminal Law
- Restraining Orders
- Bankruptcy
- Contempt of Court
- Landlord/Tenant
- Civil Litigation
- Special Education Law

Creative and winning solutions stem from life experience

Free Consultation! 978-973-9400

## IPSWICH BEVERAGE

### WINE SPECIALS

- 10% off 6 bottles
- 15% off 12 bottles

- Josh WHITE 2 for \$24
- Josh RED 2 for \$26\*

- Jack Daniel 1.75L \$40.99
- Evan Williams 1.75L \$26.99
- Jameson 1.75L \$48.99
- Jim Beam 1.75L \$28.99
- Bacardi 1.75L \$21.99
- Kettle One - 1.75 L \$30.99
- Grey Goose 1.75L \$44.99
- Absolut 1.75L \$27.99

\*(excluding some offerings)

**146 HIGH STREET - IPSWICH**  
**978-356-4322**

Final Week!

# POWER OF A GREAT RATE

# 4.45% APY\*

## 15-MONTH CD OR IRA CD SPECIAL

### LIMITED TIME OFFER!

Don't miss this great rate while it lasts - promotion ending soon!  
Other CD terms are available. To open your new CD, visit any Salem Five branch location or visit [saalemfive.com/CDpromo](http://saalemfive.com/CDpromo)

\*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is accurate as of 2/26/25 and subject to change. A minimum balance of \$10,000 is required to open and obtain the annual percentage yield (APY) for our non-IRA CD Special, and for our IRA CD Special the minimum balance is \$2,000. A penalty will be imposed for early withdrawals from Certificates of Deposit (CDs). Maximum deposit amount is \$500,000. Fees may reduce earnings. Personal accounts only. One account per customer. Offer good for MA and NH residents only. Salem Five Bank is a Member of the FDIC.

# SalemFive

MAKE YOUR MOVE.™