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Wednesday, April 2, 2025 - Vol. 21, No. 23

FREE



March 9th Rowley Launch Ramp Pier Rebuilding Volunteer Crew

(Shown from left to right) Lower row: Jenna DiMento, Brian Quinn, John Kent, Mark Behringer

Middle row: Mike Mehaffey, Dominic Baraiolo, Dan Terry, Scott Accomando, Dominick Masi, Scott MacDonald, Bill DiMento, Vincent Barry

Back row: David Masher, Brendan Doyle | Missing: Rich Pelletier (Photo: Bruce Kubik)

“The Town of Rowley is fortunate to have so many wonderful people willing to help our community.” - Bill DiMento, Rowley Harbormaster

Will Ipswich Star in an Ed Sheeran Music Video?

By Ava Moeckel, Reporter

IPSWICH – To promote his new song Old Phone, Ed Sheeran stopped by a pop-up bar, the new, Old Phone Pub, with a hundred fans Friday for a pint and his latest song, Old Phone.

The native of Ipswich, England, had just one day, two counting set up, to open the full-service pub on Essex Street. Behind the EBSCO Hall, the pub served burgers, fries, roast beef sandwiches and Guinness beer. The video crew reportedly recorded his appearance in Ipswich for the song's music video.

Sherran debuted Old Phone Wednesday night on the Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon.

The idea for the song came to Sheeran

Continued on page 3



Mark Friery and his dream (Photo: Stewart Lytle)

New Plum Island Gateway PAGE 2

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Sea View Retreat. (Photo: Stewart Lytle / The Town Common)

Sea View Wins Battle with State

By Stewart Lytle, Reporter

ROWLEY – The Sea View Retreat long-term care facility has been exonerated by an administrative magistrate in the state Public Health Department of charges that it committed deceit, malpractice, gross misconduct and was incompetent in closing the decades-old nursing home during the Covid Pandemic.

The facility was closed and several dozen residents transferred to other nursing facilities in August 2021. Owner Stephen Comley II said last week he is considering suing the state for the loss of revenue from closing and for the substantial fines assessed by the state.

He said he expects he will have to sell the beautiful mansion and acreage, which had been in his family for 70 years, to pay his lawyer fees.

“Petitioner (the state) did NOT meet their burden of proof on any of the alleged grounds for discipline,” wrote Nancy Rothstein, administrative magistrate for the Department of Public Health.

The contentious relationship between Sea View and the state developed during the Covid Pandemic has been in Superior Court when the Attorney General's office filed a civil suit against Comley, who operated the long-term care facility for 30 years. The Attorney General claimed Comley failed to comply with state and federal regulations

designed to protect residents when he closed the nursing home.

Comley was accused of violating the Massachusetts Consumer Protection Act and the Massachusetts False Claims Act. Comley settled, paying a fine of \$175,000. He was also accused of violating the Massachusetts Consumer Protection Act and the Massachusetts False Claims Act. That suit sought \$2.5 million in fines.

The magistrate conducted a hearing on the dispute with Sea View over four days in October 2023. It found that Comley and the staff always treated the patients “like family.” He spent lots of time with the patients, knew their names, their likes and dislikes and would take them out of the home for leisure activities, the magistrate wrote in a 36-page decision.

The state prosecutor asserted that Comley “was incompetent” by not notifying the state that he was closing Sea View.

The magistrate disagreed, writing, “the evidence showed that Respondent (Comley) was conscientious about following mandates and regulations, which was the reason Sea View transferred all its residents in late 2021 and provided each with a 30-day Notice of transfer or discharge.”

Sea View, which was operated for more than 70 years by three generations of the Comley family, closed largely because of

Continued on page 4

Newbury Police and Fire Clear Scene of Reported of Explosive Device at Pearson Plaza



NEWBURY – Wednesday, March 26, at 10 a.m. Newbury Police and Fire responded to a commercial building located in front of Pearson Plaza, Byfield, for a report of a suspicious item, possibly a tampered-with firework or pipe bomb, which was located on the ground in the parking lot outside of the building. Newbury Police and Fire notified the Massachusetts State Police Bomb Squad and immediately evacuated the building and secured the area.

The item was removed from the area and brought to Massachusetts Wildlife's Martin

H. Burns Wildlife Management Area in Newbury, where it was destroyed out of an abundance of caution.

Newbury Police and Fire would like to thank the Massachusetts State Police Bomb Squad for their professionalism and expertise during this incident. ♦

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.

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Liz Ichizawa, '04-05 Reporter (1956 - 2005)
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2	Wed	2:52	9.9	3:29	8.4	9:19	-1.1	9:31	0.0	6:21	7:12	☾
3	Thu	3:46	9.6	4:26	8.0	10:16	-0.7	10:28	0.4	6:19	7:13	☾
4	Fri	4:45	9.2	5:27	7.6	11:16	-0.3	11:30	0.8	6:17	7:14	☾
5	Sat	5:47	8.7	6:31	7.3			12:19	0.1	6:16	7:15	☾
6	Sun	6:52	8.4	7:37	7.2	12:35	1.1	1:24	0.4	6:14	7:16	☾
7	Mon	7:57	8.1	8:40	7.4	1:42	1.2	2:28	0.5	6:12	7:17	☾
8	Tue	9:00	8.1	9:36	7.6	2:47	1.1	3:25	0.5	6:10	7:19	☾
9	Wed	9:55	8.0	10:24	7.8	3:44	0.9	4:14	0.5	6:09	7:20	☾
10	Thu	10:43	8.0	11:06	8.0	4:35	0.7	4:57	0.6	6:07	7:21	☾
11	Fri	11:26	7.9	11:43	8.1	5:19	0.6	5:36	0.7	6:05	7:22	☾

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High-End Condos Proposed to Present New Plum Island Gateway

By Stewart Lytle, Reporter

NEWBURY – NEWBURY – Plum Island residents got a close look last week at the proposed four condo that may soon be their neighbors and serve as a new gateway for tourists and residents of this beach community.

The condos at the intersection of Plum Island Turnpike and Sunset Drive would replace the old Plum Island Grille. The current design by Chris Crump with CWC Design pays homage to the Victorian style of the Plum Island Hotel, a popular 19th century resort that stood where the Sunset Club is now.

The proposed color scheme for the condos also includes touches of pink to honor the iconic Pink House, which was torn down earlier this month.

The Newbury Conservation Commission is scheduled to review the plans for the condos this week, and the Zoning Board of Appeals will consider them on April 17.

Land owner Mark Friery, who bought the property 27 years ago and was a partner in the Grille until seven years ago, had two options: lease the restaurant building to another restaurateur or develop the property as residences.

The restaurant option was closed when the former owner Francis Broadbery destroyed the bars and other parts of the Grille with chainsaws. He is now facing felony charges of criminal vandalism totaling more than \$400,000 in damages.

"It didn't go the way I had hoped," Friery told the neighbors.

To comply with Newbury's code, a new restaurant would also have to be elevated, requiring a new 96-foot ramp.

Friery asked Crump to design and Steve Sawyer with Millenium Engineering to

design the proposed condos so the neighbors and the town officials could see what he is proposing for a new island gateway.

The four, two-story condos in two buildings, each 1,800 square feet of living space, will be elevated with parking beneath. A roof top deck is planned for each condo, 35 feet high so the residents will enjoy a view Frank Bertolino with North Shore Realty called the best sunset view on the marsh. They will also have an ocean view at sunrise.

The three-bedroom condos are expected to be listed for about \$1.7 million, Bertolino said.

Friery told the 10 residents who attended the unveiling of the new condos that the condos would be easier neighbors to live with. There would be no 6 a.m. dumpster pickup or all-day food and beverage deliveries as there was with the Plum Island Grille.

Gone will be 12,000 square feet of pavement that was used for parking, replaced with a pervious material, improving the drainage on the property will help reduce puddling on the turnpike.

Traffic will be improved. Instead of cars for the 125-seat grille and 160-seat Sunset Club, the condos will generate little more than four or eight cars.

The dune on the site will also be restored with beach grass. And the sidewalk area for dog walkers and beach goers will be improved, enabling people to walk to the beach without being exposed to traffic.

There are no guarantees that Friery's dream for his property will come to pass, but he assured the neighbors that a developer/builder would not likely want to spend the money for a new architectural design and go through the town's permitting process to create a new vision for this property without more emphasis on the economics.

Rowley's Three Sweet Peas Bakery Event at Council on Aging

ROWLEY – Kick off the Spring season with a cooking demonstration by Angela and Heather from local favorite restaurant, Three Sweet Peas Bakery, on Thursday, Apr. 10th at 10am at the COA. This month, they'll

be sharing their secrets for making a Spring Salad with homemade lemon dressing. Call the COA at 978-948-7637 to save your spot! The Rowley COA is located at 39 Central St., Rowley, MA.



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Newburyport Bank Offers Homebuying Assistance to People of Color

NEWBURYPORT – Newburyport Bank is excited to announce its participation in the Lift Up Homeownership program, a special purpose credit program provided by the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston (FHLBank Boston) to offer financial assistance to people of color purchasing their first home.

The Lift Up Homeownership program allows individuals and families of color who earn up to 120% of the area median income to qualify for up to \$50,000 in down payment and closing cost assistance. This support is available on a first-come, first-served basis to help make homeownership more accessible to people in New England. Before receiving assistance, all participants are required to complete a homebuyer counseling program to ensure they are fully prepared for the responsibilities of homeownership.

“At Newburyport Bank, we believe that homeownership is a powerful tool for building financial stability and creating lasting legacies,” said John Burcke, President and Chief Lending Officer of Newburyport Bank. “We are honored to be part of the Lift Up Homeownership program, and we’re committed to providing the resources and guidance that our community members need to achieve their homeownership goals.”

Eligible buyers for this program include individuals who identify as Black, American Indian/Alaska Native, Hispanic, Asian, or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander.

To learn more about applying for homebuying assistance through the Lift Up Homeownership program and other programs available through Newburyport Bank in collaboration with FHLBank Boston, please visit <https://www.newburyportbank.com/personal/mortgages>.

Ed Sheran *Continued from page 1*

while he was dealing with a copyright infringement lawsuit, during which he had to give up an old phone.

“I switched it on, and it was like going into a time machine,” he told Fallon. “The first text was from my friend that had passed away the year before. The second text was like an argument with an ex-girlfriend. It really, really spun me out.”

Only people, who got a confirmation text could enter the pub, along with one guest, and they had to present a valid ID at the entrance. Admission was granted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Crews set up for the pop-up pub on Thursday. It provided a “cozy and warm” feel and was supposed to “blend the nostalgia of times gone by with the comfort of your favorite local establishment” according to its web site.

The Grammy-winning artist appears to have a fondness for Massachusetts. Just last week, Sheeran took the stage for an acoustic performance on St. Patrick’s Day at The Dubliner in Boston.

In July 2023, he set the single-show attendance record at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro. At the concert, Sheeran was quoted as saying it was his “favorite place to play in the U.S.” Earlier that day, he surprised a group of young musicians in Boston.

He returned last year to headline the Boston Calling outdoor music festival and was seen at a Boston Celtics game. He also took the time to visit patients at Boston Children’s Hospital. ♦

Howie Newman Musical Baseball Show

ROWLEY – To celebrate the start of the 2025 baseball season, the Rowley Senior Center, 39 Central St., is hosting a free Musical Baseball Show by local singer-songwriter (and former sportswriter) Howie Newman on Monday, April 14, at 1:30 p.m.

The show is open to all seniors in the greater Rowley area. Reservations are required; call 978-948-7637 to reserve a spot. Free refreshments will be served.

Newman, a former sportswriter for the Patriot Ledger, Lowell Sun, Boston Globe, Associated Press, and several other publications, covered the Red Sox for many years and has also remained an avid fan, having visited 101 major and minor league ballparks. He will sing baseball songs, offer up baseball trivia and talk about his days on the Bosox beat.

In addition, there will be a display of his personal baseball memorabilia and a free raffle for one of his baseball CDs.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Rowley Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

“Baseball is the one sport that really lends itself to music,” said Newman, whose experience also includes three years of radio color commentary for the Lowell Spinners, a former Red Sox farm team. “I’ll be playing my own baseball songs and some other tunes that everyone knows. We’ll talk baseball, do some trivia and just have fun.

“It’s going to be a unique, interactive type of show and I’m sure folks will enjoy it.”

For more information about Howie Newman and his baseball show, visit howienewman.com/baseball-show. ♦



2025 Institute for Trustees Conference

BEVERLY – Registration is now open for the 2025 Institute for Trustees (IFT), one of the area’s largest nonprofit leadership conferences, presented by Essex County Community Foundation and the Greater Worcester Community Foundation.

Tailored for nonprofit executive directors and board leaders, the IFT kicks off May 1, 2025, with keynote speaker Sara Lightner, senior program director at Community Heart & Soul, a nonprofit that builds stronger, healthier and more economically vibrant cities and towns across the United States. The kickoff takes place in person at Pingree School in South Hamilton at 6pm, with a virtual option available.

The kickoff is followed by six weeks of virtual workshops, which run May 6 through June 4. These webinars are led by experts in the fields of strategic planning, fundraising, community building, development, succession planning, capital campaigns, board recruitment and more. Registrants can access as many workshops as they wish.

Individual registrations for the IFT are \$110 and full-board registrations are \$500 through April 4, 2025. After April 4, prices increase to \$130 and \$550.

For more information about the IFT, please visit <https://www.eccf.org/nonprofits-grants/ift/>.

Our Neighbor’s Table Shifts Hours

By Stewart Lytle, Reporter

REGIONAL – Our Neighbors’ Table (ONT) is shifting its food distribution hours starting Monday, April 7, adding later times during the week and eliminating Saturday service at a time when the federal government is cutting its allocation by \$3 million or 17 percent of its total contribution to Massachusetts food pantries.

More than \$3 million worth of food usually sent to Massachusetts food banks was canceled last week by the U.S. Agriculture Department (USDA), according to the Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB). A total of \$2.3 million was scheduled to go to the GBFB, which buys about 105,000 cases of foods.

The cuts will affect more than 600,000 people who receive food from one of Massachusetts’ 600 food pantries.

“For now, we are okay, but there is uncertainty about what the future holds,” said William Courtney, spokesperson for ONT, a food bank served by the GBFB.

The GBFB is the primary food source for frontline food providers across eastern Massachusetts, but Courtney said the federal food programs help reduce food insecurity in several ways, including the SNAP (food

stamps) and paying farmers to produce for food banks.

The SNAP programs appear to be funded through September, the end of this fiscal year, Courtney said. But other programs, including a large grant to the Nourishing the North Shore, are being cut.

The cuts come at a time when the need for donated food is rising as the economy slows. ONT is registering 15 to 20 new households per week, Courtney said.

Founded in 1992 in the parish hall of an Amesbury church, ONT operates free grocery markets in Salisbury at 114 Bridge Rd. and Amesbury at 194 Main St., together serving more than 1,700 residents each week.

“I am not going to worry, as that does no good,” said Jane Mellow, who heads the First Parish Newbury Food Bank, which shares in the donated food with ONT and GBFB.

“We will continue to try and be prepared for what happens next, basically taking things a day at a time. We live in an extremely generous community and have already had people dropping off donations in preparation for what comes next. As always, we will do the very best we can to help folks in our service area who are food insecure,” Mellow said.

Continued on page 4



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Sewage 30% Above Average in Merrimack River

News Provided by the Merrimack River Watershed Council
Curt Rogers, Executive Director

March 24, 2025. Lawrence, Massachusetts – 2024 totals for municipal sewage discharge have been released indicating 896 million gallons of untreated sewage were released along the Merrimack River, about 30% above the average amount in the previous ten years. This does not account for additional partially treated sewage discharged and street sewer overflows.

Combined sewage overflows (CSOs) occur in five cities along the Merrimack – Manchester, Nashua, Lowell, Lawrence and Haverhill. These cities have antiquated sewer lines that become overfilled during rainstorms, resulting in discharges of untreated sewage into the river. In 2024, over 90% of the total CSO volume was released in Manchester and Lowell.

According to Massachusetts law, sewer treatment plants are required to publicly report when they release sewage into the river. The reports advise that people stay out of the river for 48 hours after a release. However, the river's complex flow and currents can make that advisory inaccurate. CSO testing last year by the Merrimack River Watershed Council (MRWC) showed that while 48 hours was more than enough time for the plume of bacteria to flow downstream, the plume often persisted longer than the recommended window, and flowed further downstream than expected.

According to Jose Tapia, MRWC's water quality project manager, "We will refine our study of CSOs in 2025 to better understand the overflows' effect on the river. Questions asked this year will include how long do plumes of bacteria survive in the river following a CSO and for how many miles downstream can they pose a risk to people's health". During the testing season, which runs April through September, volunteers and MRWC staff collect water samples from 15 locations from Manchester to Salisbury Beach and Plum Island. The samples are analyzed in MRWC's lab. Test results are posted on an online interactive map, accessed at merrimack.org.

CSO testing is primarily funded through a Mass DEP state budget line item championed by Senator Tarr and Representative Nguyen and supported by multiple Merrimack Valley lawmakers. Continued testing beyond June 30th is contingent on the line item surviving the upcoming state budget process. ♦

Sea View Vindicated

Continued from page 1

chronic shortages of staff and Sea View's inability to admit new residents due to state regulations issued during the Pandemic.

Comley still maintains the 44,000-square-foot building at 50 Mansion Dr. that he is currently using as a rehabilitation facility. ♦

Millions for Food Banks

Continued from page 3

First Parish continues to distribute food to its clients on Fridays in its building behind the church.

Starting Monday, ONT's new hours are:

- Salisbury Market: Mondays, noon to 5 p.m., and Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Amesbury Market: Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., and Fridays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Our Neighbors' Table Markets are open to residents of Amesbury, Boxford, Byfield, Georgetown, Groveland, Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport, Rowley, Salisbury, South Hampton, NH and West Newbury.

"Our market team carefully surveyed our Saturday shoppers over several weeks to ensure there will be no interruption to services for any of our guests," said Will Courtney, ONT's director of communications. "The shift allows us to make the most of our limited staff time during the week while continuing to meet the growing demand for our grocery programs across the region."

last June, after we opened the Salisbury market, ONT expanded service from three days per week to five -- two days in Salisbury, three in Amesbury.

"We always planned to re-evaluate once we saw how usage balanced out between the markets. As people have adjusted to the Salisbury availability, it has reduced the volume in Amesbury, the slowest day being Saturday when we were open just four hours," Courtney said.

"The change allows us to take the two or three staff members that would typically work on that Saturday and use those hours when we're busiest during the week. With potential threats to federal funding for SNAP and food banks, we want to be as efficient as we can and make the best use of our resources."

Saturdays have been on the schedule since ONT re-opened after the COVID pandemic. To accommodate people who work during the week, ONT will now be open until 6:30 p.m. on Thursdays.

Every year, one in three Massachusetts' residents experiences food insecurity.

"For us, we either have to raise the money to replace the product, or we have to encourage our state legislature to increase the state commodity program by that amount of money," GBFB president and CEO Catherine D'Amato said.

Massachusetts food banks are not alone - the USDA cuts are happening in every state as part of the Trump administration's plan to reduce federal spending.

ONT's grocery program also provides curbside service and deliveries for qualified guests on Wednesdays and supports integrated grocery markets at councils on aging in Salisbury, Merrimac and Groveland, as well as Heritage Towers in Amesbury.

Learn more at ourneighborstable.org/get-food or call 978-388-1907.

Joyce C. Todd

February 28, 1931 - March 19, 2025

Joyce "Dede" Calderone Todd, 94, passed peacefully on March 19, 2025.

Dede left us on Wednesday, March 19th, surrounded by family and friends. She was the daughter of Joseph Calderone and Edith Dow and the widow of Robert Sherwood Todd. Dede grew up in the Boston area before moving to Ipswich as a teen. She graduated from Ipswich High School in 1948, where she was a cheerleader, piano player, dancer and author of the humorous "Class Will" in the yearbook. She also attended Salem Teacher's College, now Salem State College.

In 1949 Dede met her husband when he saw her dancing in the Annual Rowley Show at the Town Hall. He courted her with great determination, and they were married on August 29, 1953, on a one-hundred-degree day at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Newburyport. After Bob's time in the Navy, they made their first home on Hanover Street in Newbury. They had three children, Robbie, Barry and Jennifer by 1959. She was a busy mother in the neighborhood, at school, and at St. Paul's where she and her children sang in the choir while Bob was a Vestryman, Warden, Sunday School Teacher, Lay Reader, Treasurer and the Children's Service Rector in St. Anne's Chapel, all with Dede's love and support.

In 1967 the family moved to High Street in Newburyport and were among the first people to completely renovate and refurbish one of the lovely old houses on that beautiful street. Dede was very artistic and loved her home, which she decorated and furnished beautifully. It was on the Yankee Homecoming House Tour one summer, much to her delight.

In 1977 Bob and Dede sold their house and moved to an old Rowley home on Main Street on 3-1/2 acres. They, again, carefully restored the house and barn and became parishioners at Bob's family church, directly across the street from their home. There, Dede once again became a big part of the church and choir until her final move in 2021, as a widow of six years, to Atria in Newburyport.

Dede and Bob loved to dance and socialize. They were a gracious and gregarious couple who counted people of all ages and backgrounds as close friends. Dede sang with the Newburyport Choral Society and was in a Hampton Beach Playhouse production of the Sound of Music which starred Rue McClanahan of television's Golden Girls, and, of course, she was a featured fixture as a dancer and spright in the Annual Rowley Town Show.

Dede had many close cousins and friends, and was especially close to her only sibling, her brother Richard. A wonderful daughter, sister, cousin, wife, Mother, aunt, grandmother and great grandmother, her charisma, charm, beauty, humor and love radiated effortlessly from her kind, loving heart and soul. Dede's lifelong friends, cousin Mika, Mary Webber, and Ruthie Lippoldt were joined by neighbors, fellow parishioners and choir members later, to form an amazing sisterhood of brave, loving women. In Rowley they were joined by her "little sisters" Judy Robillard and Stephanie Desjardins, both of whom were with her until her last hours. Her daughter, Jennifer, above all, was her pride and joy. She devoted herself to her little girl, who, like her mother became a radiant woman.

Dede read a few books a week, loved old musicals, delighted in most music and was the embodiment of style, taste and fashion. Her children adored her and were blessed by her love, support and protection right up to her final hours. Her parents gave her a piano when she was a girl, and throughout her life, she would enliven day and evening with music, laughter and dance.

Dede and Bob were a golden attractive couple who drew people to them. For 60 years it was impossible to separate or divide them in any way, yet she endured after his death in 2014, and at Atria she found love, again, with Arthur Cote, a gentleman her age who romanced her with charm and his vintage harmonica. For four years they were a delightful couple who charmed all who knew them, a wonderful coda to a long life, much to the delight of Dede's children, grandchildren and friends.

Dede leaves behind her two sons, seven grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren, many friends and two cousins, Tony and Frank. She also leaves many ethereal moments and memories. But, above all, she leaves us her strong faith and love.

The sad note in her life was the death of Jennifer in 2022. During Jennifer's sudden illness and rapid decline, Dede was strong, stoic, full of faith and a fountain of love for the whole family. So, goodbye to a remarkable woman, a rare combination of a great lady and a sweet, innocent girl, someone who did everything out of love, faith and what was the right thing to do.

We would like to thank the staff at Brigham Manor for their care and kindness for her especially during the last few months of her life.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend calling hours on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., at F. S. Roberts & Son Funeral Home. A Funeral Service will be on Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at 11:00 a.m., at First Congregational Church of Rowley, 175 Main Street, Rowley. Burial will follow at Rowley Burial Ground.

In lieu of flowers, donation pledges may be made to the American Diabetes Foundation or specific choice.

To light a memorial candle or to leave a message of condolence, please visit www.fsrobertsandson.com.

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73336810	SLD	22 High Rd	Newbury, MA	AN8279	Detached	2	\$1,050,000	\$1,050,000
73259477	SLD	16 Great Pond	Boxford, MA : East Boxford	AN6191	Detached	7	\$2,200,000	\$2,050,000

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Upcoming Events

AMESBURY

Grad Night Silent Auction from the comfort of your home runs through April 6. <https://amesburygradnight.betterworld.org/auctions/amesbury-grad-night-silent-auction>

AMESBURY

Trails & Sails and REV 250 - Business & Breakfast, Friday April 4th, 8:30 - 10 a.m.. Join the Amesbury Chamber of Commerce: Sheila@amesburyChamber.com.

GROVELAND

Groveland Water and Sewer Department Announces Hydrant Flushing

Hydrant flushing continue through April 16 and is subject to change. To view the full schedule including affected streets: <https://tinyurl.com/grovelandflush>.

During flushing, residents may experience low pressure and/or temporary discoloration. Water pressure should return to normal once flushing is complete.

Flushing is conducted twice a year to help ensure sustained water quality and support the longevity of the system's infrastructure.

Groveland Water would like to thank residents for their patience and understanding during this required maintenance.

For any additional questions, please contact Groveland Water and Sewer at 978-556-7200.

HAVERHILL

Celebrate Earth Day with the Legend of the Three Sisters! This Earth Day, join us at the Buttonwoods Museum to learn about the rich history of indigenous agricultural practices. Then, get a chance to start your own Three Sisters garden by planting corn, beans and squash!

Tuesday, April 22, 11am to 12pm: This event is designed for kids kindergarten through fourth grade. The cost is \$5 per child. No pre-registration required!

Friday, April 25nd from 1pm to 2pm: Get ready for a day of fun, learning and farmyard adventures! Bring your half-pints to our Fun on the Farm Day at the Buttonwoods Museum and discover what it was like to live on a farm in the 1700s. Join us for making homemade ice cream and a farmyard craft!

This event is taking place on This event is designed for kids aged kindergarten through sixth grade. The cost is \$5 per child. No pre-registration required!

Buttonwoods Museum, 240 Water Street Haverhill - www.buttonwoods.org

IPSWICH

Join us for The Birth of the Ipswich Art Association Brown Bag Talk, Monday, April 7 from 12-1.

Joan Wilking of the Ipswich Art Association will discuss the group's founding, its past programs—including the Cyanotype collaboration with the Ipswich Museum—and upcoming events for 2025. Joan plans to highlight the IAA's mission to build an inclusive creative community for artists of all levels. Members: Free, Non-Members: \$5. The Ipswich Museum, 54 S. Main St., Ipswich.

NEWBURYPORT

Registration is now OPEN for Greater Newburyport Adult & Community Education classes. Over 45 courses are being offered including enrichment, recreation, languages and more! Register today. Space is limited and many classes sell out quickly: <https://newburyportadulted.org/shop/>

NEWBURYPORT

Newburyport Art Presents April Exhibitions
Thursday, April 3, 2025 – Saturday, May 3, 2025

Newburyport Art (NAA) presents new exhibitions opening on April 3rd! On view in the Sargent Gallery is the 2025 OpArt Exhibition, featuring artists from Opportunity works. On view in the Hills Gallery is the Newburyport Ten and Band of Brushes Show, featuring works painted en-plein-air by 13 artists. Lastly, in the upstairs Hartson Gallery is Youth Voice, an exhibit highlighting young artists in grades 1 through 12. Additionally, Artist Spotlight Kathleen Miller will be on view from April 11 to 24 in the Mural Gallery.

The 2025 OpArt Exhibition features over 30 works created by OpArt artists. OpArt is dedicated to empowering people with disabilities to enrich their lives through creative expression and artistic practice by providing art instruction in a variety of mediums and techniques. Artists are encouraged to work freely and experiment across different media (paint pastels, collage, drawing, sculpture, etc.) to create artwork centered on a theme or create independently. An opening reception will be held on April 3rd from 11:00-1:00 PM.

The Newburyport Ten and Band of Brushes Show features works created en-plein-air by local artists. "Plein air" is a French expression meaning "in the open air." Both groups travel to various landscape, seacoast, and garden venues together to paint. Artists featured include: Dorothy Aham, Michele Champoin, Grace Daly, Karen Fitzgerald, Mary Francis, Margery Jennings, John Kessler, Christine Molitor Johnson, Kris Munroe, Mary Parks, Daniel J. Shaw, Susan Spellman, and Mary Webber. Join the artists for an opening reception on April 5th from 4:00-6:00 PM.

Youth Voice, formerly known as Young & Budding, features the work of over 60 student artists from grades 1 through 12. Artists are from local and regional schools, with artworks An awards presentation and reception will be held on May 3rd from 3:00-4:00 PM.

The galleries are free and open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from 11:00am-5:00pm and Sunday from 1:00pm-5:00pm. Newburyport Art is closed on Mondays. The ground-floor Hills Gallery has an accessible entrance. More information, as well as an online gallery is available at newburyportart.org.

Founded in 1948, Newburyport Art is dedicated to promoting and exhibiting members' work and to providing art education and access to the visual arts for the entire community.

ROWLEY

Monday, April 14, 1:30 p.m.
FREE Musical Baseball Show with Howie Newman
Baseball songs, trivia and stories
Rowley Senior Center, 39 Central St.
Reservations required: 978-948-7637
See article on page 3 for details.

ROWLEY

Arbor Day Craft for adults at the Rowley Public Library

The Rowley Library will host a "Craft with Catherine" program on Saturday, April 12 from 10am to noon. Ages sixteen and up are invited.

Participants will celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day by creatively recycling abandoned puzzle pieces into a beautiful tree-on-canvas! Sign-up is required as space is limited.

Visit RowleyLibrary.org to register. The Rowley Library is located at 141 Main St. in Rowley.

ROWLEY

Three Sweet Peas Bakery on Thursday, Apr. 10th - Rowley - Kick off the Spring season with a cooking demonstration by Angela and Heather from local favorite restaurant, Three Sweet Peas Bakery, on Thursday, Apr. 10th at 10am at the COA.

This month, they'll be sharing their secrets for making a Spring Salad with homemade lemon dressing.

Call the COA at 978-948-7637 to save your spot! The Rowley COA is located at 39 Central St., Rowley, MA.

**SALEM, N.H.
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April 4th-7th at The Rockingham Plaza in Salem, N.H. Friday 1p-6p | Saturday 10a-4p Sunday 10a-3p Rockingham Plaza | 92 Cluff Crossing Rd | Salem, NH (a former Christmas Tree Shop, located next to Bob's Discount Furniture).

Tickets are \$10 per adult and free admission for children under 18.

SALISBURY

Gail Stuart, Corresponding Secretary for the Civil War Roundtable of the Merrimack announces: Civil War Roundtable of the Merrimack April Meeting: Wednesday, April 9 at 7:30 PM, Hilton Senior Center, Salisbury, MA. This month founding member and past president Elizabeth

Hallett will present a talk on Women's Roles in the Civil War. Free and open to the public.

Send events to editor@thetowncommon



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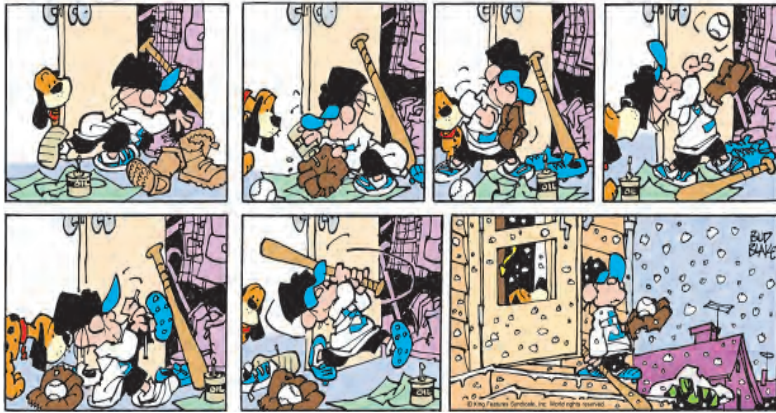
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Weekly SUDOKU

9x9 Sudoku grid with some numbers filled in.

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:

- Moderate, Challenging, HOO BOY!

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Salome's Stars

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) The week promises a calmer aspect. Although there might be some lingering effects from a recent job problem, things should continue to ease up.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) If you feel uneasy about a colleague's suggestion, it might be that your wise inner Taurean guide is alerting you to a potential problem.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) A family get-together opens up new opportunities for renewing ties. It can be especially effective in dealing with disagreements that should have been resolved but never fully were.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You might be surprised at the response you get to a recent decision. You might be even more surprised by the reasons behind it.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Your aspects favor resolving any tensions left over from a recent incident. You might want to consider having a "clear the air" talk as soon as you can.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Avoid repeating yourself. If your first few efforts fail to connect, maybe it's because you haven't found the right way to get your message across.

22) Good intentions plus a strong resolve to succeed can take you where you want to go. Don't give up just because someone suggests you might be pursuing an impossible cause.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) An unexpected setback can be a blessing in disguise. Use it to recheck your facts and how you've presented them.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You should finally be seeing a positive change in a recent personal situation. However, an on-the-job matter might need more attention than you realized.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) While you should be close to completing an important matter, you still need to maintain your focus.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A certain matter might take an unexpected turn. Don't simply accept it; ask for an explanation.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Projecting a positive attitude helps restore calm, even when you're confronting some pretty stormy situations.

BORN THIS WEEK: While you enjoy tradition and stability, you also appreciate the good things that change can bring.

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The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Grid of puzzle answers for the crossword puzzle.

Super Crossword

CROSS WORDS

ACROSS

- 1 Swing by, 6 Sop up, 12 Fez or beret, 15 General — chicken, 19 Preface, 20 "Hello" singer, 21 Santa — winds, 22 Eight, in Berlin, 23 Alternative to potstickers, 26 Trevi, 27 Fountain city, 28 Golf prop, 29 L-P linkup, 30 "— Up My Heart" (1997 *NSYNC song), 32 Call before the court, 35 Touchy topic, 37 Skit-filled NBC show, in brief, 38 Texas-Louisiana border river, 41 Three, in Paris, 42 H.G. Wells' Doctor Moreau, e.g., 46 Penetrating,

- 47 Get older, 50 Give off, 51 Shaggy's nickname for his dog, 52 Pollen lover, 53 Actress Perlman, 54 "Life Is Good" rapper, 55 Letter after pi, 56 212 degrees Fahrenheit, for water, 61 "Yup", 63 Big Apple sch., 66 Alpha Sig, e.g., 67 Speaks from a soapbox, 68 Right after being baked, 72 Fake: Prefix, 75 Stalagmite site, 76 Camera type, in brief, 77 Acting award, 81 Brand of hard cider, 84 Google Play download, 86 Tokyo sash, 87 Prefix with byte or ton, 88 Suffix with Euclid,

- 89 An ex-Trump, 92 Fix typos, say, 93 Plus more: Abbr., 94 \$5 bills, in slang, 96 Intense controversy, 99 "That doesn't ring —", 101 Regressed, 102 — -la-la, 103 Group of warriors in "Kung Fu Panda", 106 Church part for the clergy, 110 Chant, 111 Boxing great, 112 Flummoxed, 115 Suffix with Motor, 116 British prep school, 117 Oxidizer in liquid rocket propellants, 122 Swedish soprano Jenny, 123 '50s prez, 124 — Mae (HUD corp.), 125 Yo-yo part, 126 Lucy's guy, 127 Toon Flanders, 128 Villains' looks,

- 129 What nine key words in this puzzle are synonyms of, 1 Panorama, 2 Entomb, 3 Navigate, 4 A Gershwin brother, 5 Male tabby, 6 Eve of old TV, 7 — one's time, 8 Missile in the Gulf War, 9 "Heavens!", 10 Shred, 11 — Stakes (horse race), 12 Kayak cousin, 13 "Gemini Man" director Lee, 14 Grazing land, in brief, 15 "Proud Mary" star — P. Henson, 16 Makes the Billboard Top 40, e.g., 18 Artery insert, 24 Like Brits, 25 Pertaining to, 31 Black, to Poe, 33 Aide: Abbr., 34 U.S. "Ltd.", 35 Female sib,

- 36 Dutch artist Jan, 38 — -Cat, 39 From — Z, 40 Lettuce type, 42 Option list, 43 East Asian nanny, 44 Platter, 45 — Lodge (motel chain), 46 Actor Harvey, 48 Heredity unit, 49 Wolfs down, 52 Malaise, with "the", 53 Horse colors, 55 Little — (the Ocean State), 57 Proposal, 58 Original NYC subway line, 59 State exec., 60 Before surgery, in brief, 62 "Star Trek" lieutenant, 64 Agave plants, 65 Salt Lake City native, 69 Additionally, 70 Fertilizable gametes, 71 Chimp's kin, 72 Book division, 73 Vexed state, 74 Dairy case containers,

- 78 Musical finale, 79 Somewhat, 80 Act of liturgy, 82 Film units, 83 Uses a trowel, 85 Noodles in peanut sauce, 90 Battle (for), 91 Additionally, 92 Israel's Abba, 94 Vast stretch, 95 Large tuna, 96 Wild rants, 97 Gorilla, e.g., 98 Historic time, 100 Olympic swimmer Matt, 101 Actress Taylor, 103 Grazing land, 104 De-knot, 105 Renowned, 106 Asteroid found in 1801, 107 Chocolate drink, 108 T-man Ness, 109 Big dipper, 112 Comic Meara, 113 Rake prong, 114 Mix, as paint, 118 Luau guitar, for short, 119 Martini liquor, 120 Longtime CBS series, 121 30-day mo.

Large crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating starting points for clues.

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**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE UPDATE
 GEORGETOWN PLANNING BOARD**

Notice is hereby provided that the Town of Georgetown Planning Board will conduct a public hearing pursuant to M.G.L. c.40A, Sec. 5, on proposed amendments to the Town's Zoning Bylaw Article IV Floodplain District \$165-20 through \$165-28 and update to the Town's Floodplain Overlay District to be consistent with the newest version of the Federal Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and to update the language to be consistent with the State Model Bylaw.

The purpose of the hearing is to consider public comments regarding a Warrant Article proposed by the Georgetown Planning Board. These proposed changes will allow Georgetown to remain as a participating community in the National Flood Insurance Program.

The public hearing will be held on **Wednesday, 9 APRIL 2025 at 7:15 p.m.** This hearing will be held virtually via Zoom, at which time all interested persons may appear and be heard in relation thereto. The link to the Zoom meeting will be available on the Planning Board's agenda which can be found on the Town's Calendar of Upcoming Events at www.Georgetownma.gov 48 hours prior to the Public Hearing. The full text of the proposed amendments and potential map are on file and available for inspection during normal business hours at Town Hall in the Planning Office, 1 Library Street, Georgetown, MA and can be viewed online at: https://georgetownma.gov/government/boards__commissions/planning_board/index.php#outer-3692

The above-cited remote meeting connection information will be included on the Planning Board meeting agenda for 9 APRIL 2025, which will be posted on the Town of Georgetown website no less than 48 hours prior to the meeting. Further, the meeting will be broadcast live on the Georgetown Local Access Cable TV Channel 9. Video recordings of this meeting, and all Georgetown Planning Board meetings may be found at www.georgetownma.gov by choosing the Community TV option.
 ZOOM: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87117862941>
 Meeting ID: 87117 862941 Passcode: 988004

For more information about these Public Hearings or if you were unable to attend the hearing and would like to communicate your concerns or questions about this topic, please send an eMail to the Town Planner at FOConnor@GeorgetownMA.gov. Written correspondence received before noon on the day of the hearing will be accepted and read into the record.
 Frank O'Connor, Jr.
 Planner for Town of Georgetown

3/26, 4/2

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
 WHITTIER REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL**

In accordance with Chapter 71, Section 38N of the Massachusetts General Laws, the **Whittier Regional Vocational Technical School District's School Committee** will hold a public hearing on the FY 2025-2026 annual school budget at **6:00 p.m.** in the School Committee conference room at the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School, 115 Amesbury Line Rd., Haverhill, MA on **Wednesday, April 9, 2025**. A copy of the FY26 Recommended Budget may be downloaded from the school district website <https://www.whittiertech.org/page/policies-and-documents> or will be available in the office of the School Business Administrator beginning Wednesday, April 2, 2025 until Wednesday, April 9, 2025 from 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

4/2

**LEGAL NOTICE
 ROWLEY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

A Public Hearing will be held at the Rowley Town Hall Annex, 39 Central Street, on **Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.** to act on an application received March 12th, 2025 from **Troy Spaulding on behalf of Dennis Travers**. Applicant(s) is requesting a **Special Permit from RZPB section 4.11.3.2 for a four lot residential subdivision proposed of two new houses, a re-constructed house and a retained existing house.** The property is located at **45-47 Newbury Road** in the **Outlying** district and is shown on Assessors' **Map 5 Block 62 Lot 1**. 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 Heidgerd, Charman
 Zoning Board of Appeals

4/2 (4/9)

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 (Shown from left to right) Front row: Finley DiMento, Dave Kent (kneeling)
 Back row: Dominic Baraiolo, David Jollin, Mark Behringer, David Masher, Dominick Masi, Jenna DiMento, Bill DiMento, John Camargo, Scott MacDonald, Brett Twombly, Chris Quigley, Brian Quinn, Ryan Murphy, Zach Pinciaro | Missing: Bob Murrin (Photo: Beth DiMento)

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*(excluding some offerings)

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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
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Absolut 1.75L	\$27.99

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Location for 2025:
This year Shredfest will be held in the parking lot of:
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 KENNEBUNK: 69 York Street, Suite 1, Kennebunk, ME 04043
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