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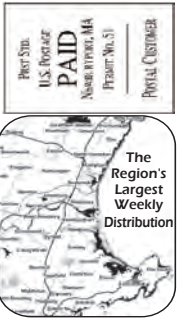
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Wednesday, October 8, 2025 - Vol. 21, No. 50

FREE



Cynthia Sweet, Judy Luff and friends at Sweet Paws' Rescue

Saving People: One Animal at a Time

By Stewart Lytle, Sr. Reporter

BOXFORD, MA – August 29 is a date that changed the life direction of Cynthia Sweet, who founded and heads Sweet Paws Rescue.

Twenty years ago on that date, Hurricane Katrina, one of the deadliest storms to hit the U.S., overwhelmed the New Orleans' levees and flooded

the city, drowning residents who did not evacuate, and pets, who had no chance.

When Sweet saw news coverage of the hurricane, she focused on a shot of a dog on a rooftop helpless and alone trying to stay above the flood. She booked herself a one-way airplane ticket and spent the next weeks doing what she could to save the threatened animals.

"Katrina changed my life," Sweet

said. After the hurricane, she took a totally different path.

Now she has another, equally challenging mission. On the same date this year, Sweet and her team, including full-time volunteer Judy Luff, bought the 20-acre Spring Tide Farm and began turning the Kathy Borylo's horse farm into the group's Forever Home to rescue abandoned dogs, cats and some

Continued on page 3

Sand Mining Is Not Farming

By Ava Moeckel, Reporter

GEORGETOWN, MA – Sand mining at the 100-year-old Zibell Farm has led to a property tax change.

The Board of Assessors ruled last week that the 5 acres of the 30-acre

property no longer qualify for reduced farm taxes, saying the land was converted into a sand and gravel quarry. Taxes will be recalculated for the past five years, and new lien filings must be made.

The board informed property owner Mary Potter last week that "As a result of the conversion of 5 acres of productive cropland held in Chap-

Continued on page 4

Is SelectBoard Becoming 'Dysfunctional?'

By Stewart Lytle, Sr. Reporter

GEORGETOWN, MA – SelectBoard member Laura Repplier told Mike Donahue, another SelectBoard member, she can no longer work with

Continued on page 4

Town of Boxford Earns AAA Bond Rating from S&P Global Ratings

BOXFORD, MA – The Town of Boxford is proud to announce that S&P Global Ratings has assigned its highest possible credit rating — AAA — to the Town's \$18.64 million General Obligation Municipal Purpose Loan Bonds, Series 2025. The rating, issued on September 25, 2025, also affirms the Town's existing AAA rating on outstanding general obligation debt, reflecting Boxford's exceptional financial management and economic stability.

According to S&P Global Ratings, the AAA rating reflects Boxford's "long-term record of consistent financial performance," a "strong local and regional economy," and a "primarily residential tax base with exceptional wealth." The report also highlights the Town's conservative budgeting practices, robust reserves, and manageable debt burden.

"This rating is a testament to the Town's long-standing commitment to fiscal responsibility and strategic planning," said Town Administrator Matt Coogan. "It reflects the hard work of our finance team, the support of our residents, and the collaborative efforts of our elected officials and department heads."

The proceeds from the bond issuance will support several capital improvements, most notably, the design and construction of a new Department of Public Works facility. Despite a planned drawdown of reserves from Free Cash to ease the tax burden of this project, S&P noted that Boxford maintains strong financial flexibility, with an estimated \$4.7 million in unassigned fund balance and a steadily growing stabilization fund.

Assistant Town Administrator and Finance Director Brendan Sweeney added, "This AAA rating not only validates our financial stewardship but also positions the Town to borrow at the most favorable interest rates available. That translates

Continued on page 2



Boxford Town Administrator
Matt Coogan



Boxford Assistant Town
Administrator and Finance
Director Brendan Sweeney



L-R: Jeff Brown, Robert McGee, and Marc Freedman (Photo Courtesy of Topsfield Fair)

New Record Set at Topsfield Fair Hot Dog Eating Contest

TOPSFIELD, MA – Robert McGee of Rockaway, NY, won the 7th annual Topsfield Fair Hot Dog Eating Contest on Saturday, eating 13 quarter-pound hot dogs (the equivalent of 3.5 pounds) in buns in the allotted 7-minute time.

Continued on page 2

GOTOWEEN
PAGE 4

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Message from
Marc Maravalli, B.S., R.Ph.
Founder/Publisher/Editor 2004 - 2024
Advisory Board Member: 2024 - present

The Town Common
serves the communities of the
Upper North Shore of Mass. &
Coastal New Hampshire and
welcomes your participation.

How to Submit Letters to the Editor

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 short 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. Send your Organization or Group Notices, Birth or Engagement Announcements, Photos, Articles and Letters to the Editor.

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

BOXFORD AAA

Continued from page 1

into real savings for our taxpayers and greater capacity to invest in critical infrastructure and services.”

S&P also cited Boxford’s proactive approach to long-term planning, including its updated capital plan, revenue and expenditure forecasting, and adherence to formal financial policies. The Town’s ability to pass operational overrides with strong community support was also noted as a key factor in maintaining financial stability.

The stable outlook from S&P reflects expectations that Boxford will continue to demonstrate sound financial management, maintain healthy reserves, and manage its debt and liabilities prudently. ♦

TOPSFIELD FAIR

Continued from page 1

He set a new record, beating the old record set in 2023 of eating 10 hot dogs. He was awarded the \$207 to celebrate the 207th Topsfield Fair. McGee was joined in receiving his award by Jeff Brown from WBZ News Radio 1030, who co-hosted this year’s contest and Marc Freedman with the Bnai Brith Booth at the Fair, which sponsored the contest. ♦

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Boxford General Obligation Bonds Net 3.789%

BOXFORD, MA – Boxford Town Treasurer Ellen Guerin announced that the Town received competitive bids from bond underwriters on Tuesday, September 30, 2025, for an \$18,030,000 25-year general obligation bond issue. Piper Sandler & Co. was the winning bidder on the Bonds with an average interest rate of

3.789%. The Town received a total of 9 bids on the Bonds. Bond proceeds will be used to finance various municipal projects.

Prior to the sale, S&P Global Ratings (S&P), a municipal credit rating agency, assigned a rating of “AAA” to the Bonds, the highest rating attainable. The rating agency cited the

Town’s record of consistent financial performance, strong local and regional economy, and manageable debt burden as positive credit factors.

The bids for the Bonds were accepted at the offices of the Town’s municipal advisor, Hilltop Securities Inc., at 54 Canal Street in Boston, Massachusetts. ♦

Beverly Police Arrest Juvenile Following Church Fire

BEVERLY, MA – Chief John G. LeLacheur and the Beverly Police Department report that a 17-year-old male juvenile was arrested following a fire at a church.

A 17-year-old male, of Beverly, was arrested and charged with:

- Breaking & Entering A Building at Night with Intent to Commit a Felony
- Burning a Public Building or Structure
- Destruction of a Place of Worship

On Monday, Sept. 29, at about 3:39 a.m., Beverly Police and Fire received a 911 call reporting smoke coming from Pilgrim Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 300 Cabot St.

The Beverly Fire Department responded on scene and quickly extinguished the fire. Through an on-scene investigation, it was quickly determined that the fire was intentionally set.

The State Police Fire & Explosion Investigation Unit assigned to the State

Fire Marshal’s Office also responded on scene.

Police located the 17-year-old juvenile in the area, and he was placed into custody.

Beverly Police and Fire are actively investigating this incident, but believe the juvenile was the sole perpetrator and that there is no further threat to the community. At this time, the investigation does not indicate any connection to any other incidents. ♦

Nvest Financial Group, LLC is Recertified in the Renowned Certification for Fiduciary Excellence

PORTSMOUTH, NH – October 3, 2025 – After undergoing its annual recertification and independent assessment of investment management processes, investment strategy implementation, and other fiduciary practices, Nvest Financial Group, LLC today announced its recertification of the Centre for Fiduciary Excellence

(CEFEX®) certificate from Broadridge. Nvest Financial Group, LLC is part of the elite group of nearly 250 firms from around the world to have successfully completed the independent certification process. Nvest has held certification since September 1st, 2017.

Part of the rigorous evidence-based assessment includes successfully demonstrating adherence to documented and legally substantiated best practice fiduciary standards. The annually renewed certification signifies

an ongoing commitment to providing consistent objective advice that’s in a client’s best interest – both at the institutional and individual levels.

“We are proud of our recertification and work hard each year to achieve recertification and abide to such high standards in the industry. The CEFEX® certification is the equivalent of ISO standards in the financial industry and only a relatively small number of firms hold this certification,” said George Raftopoulos, President of Nvest Financial, LLC.

The CEFEX certification program is based on the International Standards Organization (ISO) 19011: Guidelines for auditing management systems. The standard, “Prudent Practices for Investment Advisors” is substantiated by legislation, case law, and regulatory opinion letters from the Employee Retirement



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9	Thu	1:18	9.0	1:33	10.0	7:22	-0.3	7:58	-1.2	6:48	6:12	
10	Fri	2:08	8.8	2:23	10.0	8:10	-0.2	8:50	-1.1	6:49	6:10	
11	Sat	3:00	8.5	3:16	9.8	9:01	0.1	9:46	-0.8	6:51	6:08	
12	Sun	3:57	8.1	4:14	9.4	9:58	0.5	10:46	-0.4	6:52	6:07	
13	Mon	4:57	7.8	5:16	9.0	10:59	0.8	11:49	0.0	6:53	6:05	
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Continued on page 5



Newburyport Illume Book Store 'Kiss and Tell Book Club' Features *Love in War* by Stewart Lytle

NEWBURYPORT, MA – The Kiss and Tell Book Club at the Illume Book Store in Newburyport read and discussed Stewart Lytle’s Spanish Civil War novel, *Love in War*. Seated from left are Erin Tennis, club leader, Stewart and Melissa Wilkinson. Standing from left are Katie Robichaud, Ellen Baillie, Maggie Holland and Rebecca Beasley. ♦ (Photo by Anne Clausen)

SWEET PAWS

Continued from page 1

farm animals so they can be adopted. Her goal now is to raise \$2.5 million to renovate and repurpose the farm. That effort is on-going starting next week with its annual Barktoberfest, which will be on Saturday, Oct. 18 at the Spencer-Peirce-Little Farm, 5 Little’s Lane, Newbury. The annual event, its 10th, will celebrate with music, food trucks and memories of all the animals rescued by the group. In January, Sweet Paws also plans to host a fundraising gala at the Black Swan Country Club in Georgetown.

Sweet, who dresses most days in overalls, said she is not really a gala-type person, but to raise money to keep saving animals, she will dress up.

The non-profit Sweet Paws, which has saved more than 22,000 dogs and cats since she founded the non-profit rescue in 2011, is still saving animals from the Deep South.

A little more than half of the dogs and cats it rescues were abandoned in two poor counties in Mississippi and Alabama, where the problem of overpopulation is acute. Calling Spring-Tide Farm on the web page “a beloved landmark in the community,” Sweet

said buying this farm has helped accelerate the organization’s future plans. In addition to existing driveways and utility infrastructure, the farm has an existing barn with 30 stalls that Sweet Paws can transform into quarantine spaces for dogs brought to Massachusetts. There is also a house for Sweet, the only employee, and miles of trails through conservation land that are perfect for walking the dogs. “The purchase of the Boxford property marks the completion of Phase 1 of the capital campaign,” the web site states. “But while this is a significant achievement, the work is far from over. We still have two important phases left.” Phase two will include renovations to the barn, building a large, fenced-in play yard and creating a Casa de Cats, a sanctuary at the rear of the barn that will have an outdoor “catio” (a cat patio) for adoptable and special needs cats. Sweet and her team of about 350 volunteers and adopters also plan

Continued on page 5

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NOTICE

Rowley Zoning Board of Appeals

A public meeting will be held at the Rowley Town Hall, 139 Main Street, on **Wednesday, October 15, 2025 at 7:00 PM** to hold an open conversation with **40B Developer Rowley Farms** discussing their plans for the upcoming development located off Rte. 133. This is an ongoing opportunity for the community to learn more about this project and future plans regarding 3A options.

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SAND MINING

Continued from page 1

ter 61A to an industrial sand and gravel quarry," it no longer qualifies as of May for the lower property taxes assessed agricultural land.

The remaining acreage of the farm

was not affected by the ruling.

Farm manager Todd Champlain has been selling sand in 5-acre parcels, with plans to refill the pits and turn them into organic farmland. The town maintains that the exportation of sand violated local bylaws and

required a special permit for excavation.

Neighbors are split. Some complain of noise, vibrations and heavy truck traffic, while others support the farm. Planning Board members say they have never seen a case like this. ♦

GEORGETOWN ISSUES

Continued from page 1

him without a third-party being present.

On Sept. 10, Repplier emailed him: "Mike, your initiation of this conversation and tenor of your responses is giving me concern regarding our work together on the workshop project. I understand that our collaboration could be valuable, but I am no longer comfortable meeting with you 1:1."

"Going forward I will only agree to meet at Town Hall with a third party present. (Town Administrator) Orlando (Pacheco) has offered to sit in on our meetings."

Asked to explain what happened between the two town officials, Repplier wrote last weekend: "This is a personal, private matter which I will not deal with in public."

Donahue told The Town Common

in a meeting Friday that Repplier had apologized to him and was working with him on the projects, although not alone.

"I do not agree with Mike's interpretation," Repplier wrote.

Meanwhile, Facebook attacks on SelectBoard member Rachel Bancroft continued from a private citizen. The initial post attacking Bancroft was removed from the site, but another had not been.

At his meeting with The Town Common, Donahue agreed that the town's SelectBoard may be "dysfunctional."

The spat between Repplier and Donahue appears to have started when a resident wrote an email to all members of the SelectBoard criticizing the first-term selectman for his attacks on the town's Conservation Commission (ConCom).

"Your agenda of the many things that you'd like to accomplish are weighed down by his (Donahue's) unnecessary comments about the ConCom," resident Kay Lee Ogden wrote in all capital letters.

Repplier had volunteered at a recent SelectBoard meeting to work on two extra projects, involving creating new policies and procedures for all boards and commissions and particularly the ConCom. Donahue joined her.

She initially declined to say why she did not want to work alone with Donahue. She wrote: "Just a conversation between me and Mike. No need to elaborate."

In a meeting with The Town Common Friday, Donahue said he had been angry about Ogden's criticism of him and had discussed it by email with Repplier. He said she took offense at his email.

"I chalked it up that she was upset," Donahue said.

Since her email in early September, Donahue and Repplier have met twice to work on the projects and planned a third meeting this week, all with Pacheco in attendance. The first meeting was held in person in Town Hall. The second was on Zoom and the third was scheduled to be in person at Town Hall.

SelectBoard Chair Robert Hoover also declined to comment on the dispute. "I'm sorry. I can't. I hope you understand," he wrote.

Emails provided by Donahue show that he had criticized Hoover, who wrote to Donahue, also on Sept. 10, that he had asked him one question. After answering the question, Donahue went off in an area that had nothing to do with the question, the chairman wrote.

"Instead, you chose to take my question and turn it into your opportunity to put into the public record (which you have every right to do) some pretty strong accusations about me. I am very disappointed in this is how you work within your committee," Hoover wrote.

Donahue has clashed frequently with Bancroft, accusing her of being unprofessional and referring her to the Essex

County District Attorney for investigation.

Last week, a frequent critic of the town's ConCom also stepped up his attack on Bancroft, who chairs the commission. In a Georgetown News social media post, Kevin Wood called for her to resign because of a Family Court judge's ruling in a highly contentious divorce proceeding.

Bancroft was held in contempt of Family Court because she had not listed her house for sale, although the divorce has not been resolved. The judge admitted earlier that she had mistakenly written that the deadline for selling the house is May 2026, not May 2025. Bancroft's husband, who owns half of the house and must agree to list the house, was not held in contempt by Judge Frances Giordano.

Wood, who applied unsuccessfully to be a member of the ConCom, posted on the Georgetown News Facebook page that she should not be chair of the ConCom because she was held in contempt of court in a private proceeding. He repeated several of the accusations he and Donahue in tandem had made against Bancroft.

After numerous complaints from outraged residents about Wood's post were registered with the site, his first post was removed.

But on Friday, Wood continued his attacks on Bancroft, posting she is "unstable, deceitful and willfully violated Court Orders."

Wood repeated Donahue's accusation that Bancroft filed a false report with the Georgetown Police.

The accusations stem from a \$10,000 report by the Stirm Group, a private detective firm, which the SelectBoard refused to endorse because it was flawed. The SelectBoard said it "finds (the report) inadequate and does not endorse it."

Repplier called the report a "misuse of funds." Hoover, the chair, said, "nothing important has come out of this report."

The state Inspector General (IG) reviewed the fraud accusation, but could not substantiate the charge.

No other SelectBoard member agreed to join Donahue in referring the issue to the district attorney. ♦

Editor's Perspective Note: A Brief Look Back, and Perhaps a Better Future in the Georgetown SelectBoard vs. ConCom War?

by Lonnie Brennan

The conservation commission has been repeatedly criticized by various members of the SelectBoard, most notably the past two years where the board hired and spent \$10,000 in taxpayer funds to investigate the commission and its former agent over a wage/hours-worked allegation. The

Continued on page 8

GOATOWEEN EVENT HIGHLIGHTS
GOATS TO GO GEORGETOWN, MA

OCT. 13, 15 GOAT HIKE & ALPACA MEET + APPLE CIDER WHOOPIE PIES 10AM 4:30PM	OCT. 15 GOATS & BOOTS COUNTRY LINE DANCE 6PM
OCT. 17, 18, 19, 26, 30 GOAT MINGLE: DRESS A GOAT SPOOKTACULAR 5PM 10AM 4PM	OCT. 17 GOATS & CRAFTS: FLOWER WINE BOTTLES 6PM
OCT. 18 PAINT NIGHT & GOATS "WITCH ONE" 5PM	OCT. 17, 18, 19, 26, 30 GOAT YOGA + GOATS IN COSTUME 6PM 11AM 5PM
OCT 17 HALLOWEEN GOAT YOGA + WINE 10:15AM AT ZORVINO VINEYARDS	OCT. 18, 25, 26, 29 GOAT HIKES & ALPACA MEETS AFTER DARK GLOW SPOOKY TALES CAMPFIRE NIGHT VARIOUS TIMES
OCT 23 HALLOWEEN GOAT YOGA + BEER 6PM AT TRUE NORTH ALE	NOV 2 GOATS & COMEDY IN THE BARN GATES 5:15 PM LAUGHS 6 PM

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Super Crossword

DROP OUT

- ACROSS
- 1 Dish list
 - 5 Attorney —
 - 10 Tidies up with a broom
 - 16 Even score
 - 19 Salt Lake City team
 - 20 Stock market disaster
 - 21 Audrey of “Amélie”
 - 22 Hostelry
 - 23 Arrive like rain
 - 25 Goof-ups
 - 26 Many a pro bono TV ad
 - 27 Enclose, as a yard
 - 28 Fail to complete a task
 - 31 Brand of candy wafers
 - 34 Lose power
 - 35 Considering everything
 - 36 Become a responsibility for
 - 44 Grove growth
 - 45 1965-69 veep Humphrey
 - 46 Simile center
 - 47 “Veni,” in English
 - 49 Home of the Dolphins
 - 50 Blow it when success is very close
 - 57 Bitter conflicts
 - 59 Totally wreck
 - 60 Navy leader
 - 61 “Ararat” actor Koteas
 - 64 Indian queen
 - 66 Escargot
 - 67 Poking tools
 - 71 Stop being noticed
 - 75 Spyro — (jazz group)
 - 76 Pipeline problems
 - 78 Boat deck wood
 - 79 Suddenly bright stars
 - 81 Stray
 - 84 Say a Hail Mary, say
 - 86 Considered comparable
 - 91 Collapse
 - 95 Fierce look
 - 96 Holy city of Islam
 - 97 — Z (totally)
 - 98 — Mae (loan offerer)
 - 99 “Superfood” berry
 - 102 Be overlooked
 - 107 Flag sewer Ross
 - 109 La.-to-Mich. dir.
 - 110 Seize forcibly
 - 111 Fizzle out, as an endeavor
 - 116 New word
 - 121 Bullfight cry
 - 122 View with astonishment
 - 123 Autumn foliage ... or what happens at the starts of eight answers in this puzzle?
 - 126 Set — (sharp fights)
 - 127 Car radiator protector
 - 128 Baseball great Buck
 - 129 Bubble maker
 - 130 Rubble maker
 - 131 Made tamperproof
 - 132 Surprise attacks
 - 133 Out of kilter
 - 6 With 32-Down, Dick Tracy’s cover-up
 - 7 — Vegas
 - 8 Query
 - 9 “— you do it?”
 - 10 Baby on “Family Guy”
 - 11 Time merged with it in 1990
 - 12 Currency of Austria
 - 13 Princely prep school
 - 14 Left, at sea
 - 15 Raw fish dish
 - 16 Gratuity holder
 - 17 Shoe part
 - 18 Empower
 - 24 Largest of the Canary Islands
 - 29 Strange
 - 30 Going into
 - 32 See 6-Down
 - 33 Kick out
 - 36 Units of resistance
 - 37 Opposite of day, in Dijon
 - 38 Ski lift variety
 - 39 Hot-rod engine
 - 40 Oz lion portrayer Bert
 - 41 Family gal
 - 42 Bi- cubed
 - 43 1982-2005 Saudi king
 - 48 “— the word”
 - 50 “Likely story!”
 - 51 Cries of discovery
 - 52 Perjurer, e.g.
 - 53 Former U.N. head Kofi
 - 54 Hauling cart on a farm
 - 55 Jungle den
 - 56 “— En- chanted”
 - 58 “Xanadu” band, in brief
 - 62 Astern
 - 63 Curry of the NBA
 - 65 Oath reply
 - 67 Alan who played Pierce
 - 68 Have a bawl
 - 69 Soft rock?
 - 70 Minor battle
 - 72 Long-eared hopper
 - 73 Rd. crossers
 - 74 “Chi- —” (2015 Spike Lee film)
 - 77 Fill up fully
 - 80 Sweetums
 - 82 Savoir faire
 - 83 Engrave
 - 85 “Awright!”
 - 87 Penne — vodka
 - 88 Bath powder
 - 89 Actor Estrada
 - 90 Poor grades
 - 92 Road goo
 - 93 An Aleutian island
 - 94 — scale (mineral hardness gauge)
 - 98 Executes a “Page Up,” e.g.
 - 99 — and Costello
 - 100 Sri Lanka, formerly
 - 101 Certify (to)
 - 103 Red-tagged
 - 104 Part of USA
 - 105 H.S. proficiency exam
 - 106 “The Father of Geometry”
 - 108 Safe robbers, in slang
 - 112 Suffix with silver or table
 - 113 Capital of Samoa
 - 114 Give a whoop
 - 115 Get an — effort
 - 117 Apollo’s org.
 - 118 State bluntly
 - 119 Apparatus
 - 120 Glimpse
 - 124 Comedian
 - 125 Luau handout

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PUZZLE ANSWERS

8	9	6	8	7	1	7	9
2	7	1	8	6	5	7	9
9	7	8	9	7	1	6	8
8	9	7	1	6	2	9	8
9	1	2	7	8	8	9	6
6	8	7	2	9	7	1	8
7	2	8	1	9	7	8	9
7	8	9	6	7	8	9	2
1	6	9	8	8	2	7	7

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LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given by Newburyport Towing Service, Inc. 27 S. Hunt Road, Amesbury, MA, pursuant to the provisions of Mass G.L. c. 255, Section 39A, that they will auction the following vehicles October 30, 2025 on the website <http://sta.ibidsmart.com>. The auction will end at 1:00 pm and buyer registration is required. Those that do not sell at auction will be sold on or after October 30, 2025 by private or public sale to satisfy their garage keepers liens for towing, storage, and notices of sale:

- 2011 Kia Sorento VIN 5XYKTCA13BG013122
- 2010 Ford Fusion VIN 3FAHP0HA4AR268035
- 2010 Nissan Rogue VIN JN8AS5MV3AW114112
- 2019 Hyundai Elantra VIN KMHD84LF4KU854806
- 2005 Honda Accord VIN 1HGCN56725A135521
- 2007 Ford Edge VIN 2FMDK49C47BB58250

Vehicles are being stored at Newburyport Towing Service and may be viewed by appointment only.

Walter L. Lowell 10/8, (10/15, 10/22)

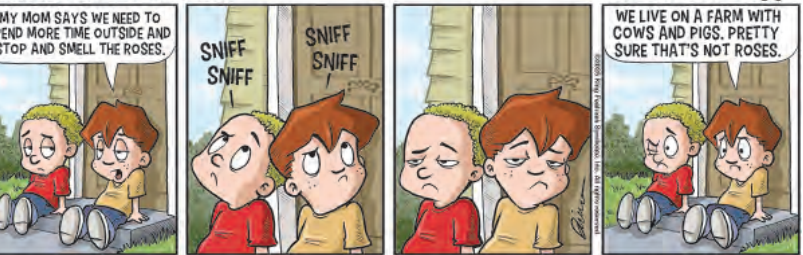


The Spats



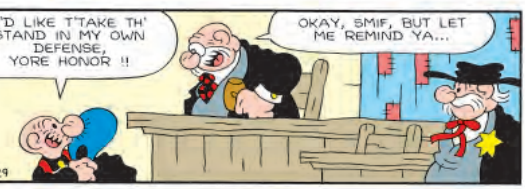
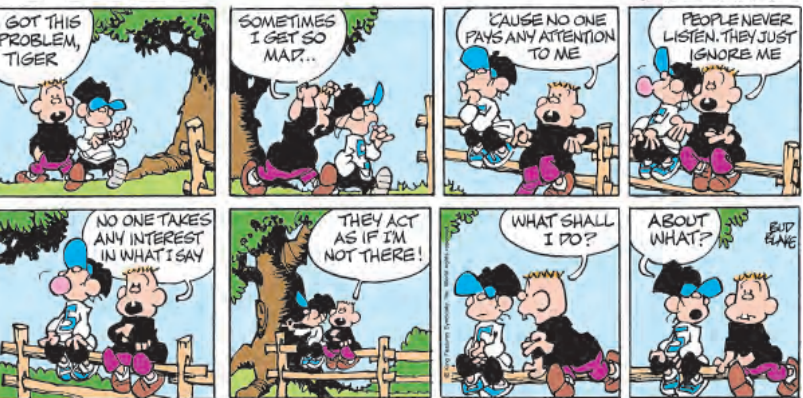
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



GROVELAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Groveland Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing at the Groveland Town Hall, 183 Main St, Groveland, MA. on **October 8, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.** to consider a **Request for Determination of Applicability regarding trail bridge repairs at Meadow Pond Reservation, 0 Uptack Road in Groveland.**

A copy of the application can be viewed by visiting the Groveland Economic Development, Planning, and Conservation Department at Groveland Town Hall, 183 Main St, Groveland MA.

10/1

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given by Trombly Bros., Inc. of 141-153 Sutton Street North Andover, MA, pursuant to the provisions of Mass G.L c. 255, Section 39A, that they will sell the following vehicles on or after **October 23, 2025 beginning at 10:00 am** by public or private sale to satisfy their garage keeper's lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale. Vehicles are being stored at Trombly Bros., Inc.

1. 2018 Integrity Utility Trailer VIN 55NBE1210J1005890

2. 2003 Sterling LT9500 VIN 2FZHAZA863AK90197

Signed,
Mark Trombly
Trombly Bro., Inc.

10/1, 10/8, (10/15)

BOXFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

You are hereby notified that a Public Hearing will be held via Zoom videoconference on **Thursday October 16, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.** or such other time when posted for the **Notice of Intent** by applicant **Nicholas Hebb** for the property located at **62 Lake Shore Road, Boxford, Map 5, Block 1, Lot 21**to install a **portion of a septic system, pump chamber, associated conduit and grading, portions of which are within 100-feet of Bordering Vegetated Wetland.**

The Zoom connection information will be posted on the Town of Boxford website prior to the meeting. This is a joint hearing under the requirements of MGL Ch. 131, Sec. 40, as amended, and Boxford's Wetlands Protection Bylaw and Regulations. For more information, contact Ross Povenmire at rpovenmire@town.boxford.ma.us.

For the Commission,
Ross Povenmire, Conservation Director

10/8

BOXFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

You are hereby notified that a Public Hearing will be held by Zoom videoconference on **October 16, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.** or such other time when posted to consider the **Request for Determination of Applicability** by applicant **Valentine Maldonado** for the property located at **370 Middleton Road, Boxford: Map 42, Block 1, Lot 21, to install a dock and boardwalk on the banks of the Ipswich River.**

The Zoom videoconference information will be posted on the Town website in advance of the meeting. This is a joint meeting under the requirements of MGL Ch. 131, Sect. 40, as amended, and Boxford's Wetlands Protection Bylaw and Regulations. To view application materials, call (978) 887-6000, ext. 506.

For the Commission,
Ross Povenmire, Conservation Director

10/8

BOXFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

You are hereby notified that a Public Hearing will be held via Zoom videoconference on **Thursday October 16, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.** or such other time when posted for the Notice of Intent by applicant **Bonnie & Alexander Latty** for the property located at **166 Main Street, Map 27, Block 1, Lot 18 (lot 2), to construct a house, driveway, septic system, water well and associated improvements, portions of which are within 100-feet of Bordering Vegetated Wetland or Riverfront Area.**

The Zoom videoconference information will be posted on the Town website in advance of the meeting. This is a joint meeting under the requirements of MGL Ch. 131, Sect. 40, as amended, and Boxford's Wetlands Protection Bylaw and Regulations. To view application materials, call (978) 887-6000, ext. 506.

For the Commission,
Ross Povenmire, Conservation Director


10/8

GEORGETOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing will be held by the Georgetown Conservation Commission on **Thursday, October 16 , 2025 at 7:00 PM,** by Zoom Link found on Town Website Calendar date of meeting, **7 Rock Pond Ave, Public Hearing for Request for Determination. Replace damaged retaining wall.**

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

10/8



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GEORGETOWN PLANNING BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is given that the Georgetown Planning Board shall hold a Public Hearing in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40A, Section 11, and the provisions of **Article XIX – Marijuana Businesses Special Permits and Site Plan Review, as further provided in §165- 83** of the Town of Georgetown Zoning Bylaws. The Public Hearing will be for Site Plan Approval of a proposed marijuana processing business and related special permits for a delivery service at **16 Carleton Drive**, which is in the Georgetown Marijuana Business District.

This public hearing shall be held remotely on **Wednesday, 29 OCTOBER 2025 at 7:15 P.M.,** in accordance with the Executive Order waiving certain provisions of M.G.L. c. 30A, sec. 20 during the COVID-19 pandemic, which was extended to JUNE 30, 2027 by action of the General Court and signed by Gov. Healey. Interested persons are invited to participate in the above-cited hearing, via computer, tablet, smartphone by connecting to the following:
ZOOM: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84977477034> Meeting ID: 849 7747 7034
Passcode: 063682


The above-cited remote meeting connection information will be included on the **29 OCTOBER 2025** meeting agenda, 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.

Video recordings of this meeting, and all Georgetown Planning Board meetings may be found at www.georgetownma.gov by choosing Cable TV option. Full and complete copies of the above-cited application, together with the associated Plans, are available upon request by emailing the Town Planner at FOConnor@GeorgetownMA.gov or by clicking here:
https://georgetownma.gov/government/boards__commissions/planning_board/current_projects.php#outer-4394

Any person interested in being heard on this application needs to appear at the time and place designated, herein. Please note that written correspondence will be accepted and read into the record of the hearing if it were received before Noon on the day of the hearing. Persons needing special accommodations may send an eMail to FOConnor@GeorgetownMA.gov

Frank O'Connor, Jr.
Planner for Town of Georgetown

10/8, (10/15)



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GEORGETOWN - BRIGHT FUTURE?

Continued from page 4

report was lacking, resulted in no actions, and the bill was paid. The town's administrator also hired a Rhode Island-based man to conduct human resource inquiries and review policies and procedures. That individual was accused of being a ghost in his job, collecting significant sums for unknown work product, with few sightings in town hall. After a front page story about the arrangement, that individual's contract was noted to have been completed/ended.

The board's obsession with the ConCom continued when it appointed outgoing SelectBoard chair Daryl LaMonica to a position on the commission. He missed his first 3 out of 4 meetings, but is attending now.

Meanwhile, perhaps the biggest criticism of the board has been its lack of details in certain site visit reports (a noted area for future improvements), and an encounter with a landscape worker and a neighbor regarding a report of dumping of old railroad ties in wetlands, and multiple incidents of past poor meeting minutes, timeliness of minutes submission, violations of the State's Open Meeting Law and online Zoom meeting issues with a resident stating he was blocked from a meeting.

Putting this in perspective, the Selectboard itself apparently recently broke the Open Meeting Law by conducting an online forum in which a quorum of members shared their views out of the public eye - deliberated positions, via e-mail. (One wonders if they will self-report themselves.) And, the SelectBoard recently approved the minutes of one of their April meetings.

Thus far, they've given themselves a pass on spending money on an investigator firm, a nearly invisible consultant from Rhode Island who held down a full-time job in Rhode Island while performing whatever duties he performed for Georgetown (lots of open questions there), forgetting (slipped through the cracks) to approve minutes of a meeting until five months later (despite having a full-time administrator and a full-time secretary in town hall), and now what appears to be a blatant Open Meeting Law violation.

It's newest member, Mr. Donahue's, goal to establish firm, effective working procedures for all town boards and commissions to prevent future problems was presented in a less than ideal manner, insulted board members, and caused some confusion. But it appears that somehow, between it and chair Robert Hoover's apparent goal to get the board moving in a positive manner, it is serving as the catalyst for the board to view things as they are, and to rally together and enact positive, transparent change, and for once, bury the hatchets, and move forward. (One would hope.) ♦

Join the Knights of Columbus of Boxford, Byfield, Georgetown, Rowley, and beyond, at 87 E. Main Street in Georgetown, Mass., on Sunday, Oct. 19, 2025, or simply purchase a 'deed' for the 'ownership' of one square for the duration of the event.

You do NOT need to be present to win, but you get to feed the sheep and have a good time if you do attend!

A \$20 donation is requested for each 'deed' and provides the holder an opportunity to win one of several prizes, as well as participate with the sheep event. Go online to www.SheepDeeds.com to purchase your 'deed.'



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SUNDAY OCT. 19, 2025 AT 1:00 P.M.

KofC, 87 E. MAIN STREET, GEORGETOWN, MA 01833



2025 DEED

Let it be known by all persons that _____ or his/her duly qualified heirs or assigns, has a duly recorded interest in one square of choice Georgetown land, hereafter called the "Sheep Pebble Plot" for one hour during the SHEEP PEBBLE LAND RUSH!

Proceeds are to benefit the Knights of Columbus Frank Meader Council 6064 Community and Parish Events Serving Georgetown, Boxford, Rowley, and Byfield

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Second 'Pebble Pile' - \$200

Third 'Pebble Pile' - \$100

DEED NUMBER: **SAMPLE**

JUDGES:

Alan Aulson
Land Rush Executive Director
Great Rock Farm

Keith Vicari
Program Co-Manager
KofC Grand Knight

Bert Hanlon
Program Co-Manager
Deputy KofC Grand Knight

WINNERS ANNOUNCED BEFORE OR AT 2:00 P.M.



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