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Wednesday, November 19, 2025 - Vol. 22, No. 4

Veterans Honored

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Georgetown Color Guard Officers at the Veterans Day Ceremony Held at Harry Murch Park: L to R) Lt James Rodden, Chief David Sedgwick, Sgt. Philip Klibansky, Officer Philip Sepe, Sgt Daniel Jenkins, Sgt Matthew Carapellucci , Officer Daniel Morris, Officer Tyler Skane (Photo by Stewart Lytle)







Christopher Hall with his son Charlie Hall





Veterans Honored at Local Celebrations

Rowley Honors Local Veterans at the Pine Grove Elementary School

HELP WANTED FOR SALE CLASSIFIED ADS PAGE 7





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Some of the many members of the local veterans groups gather at Harry Murch Park in Georgetown (Rte. 122) (Photo by Maureen Aulson)



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Marc Maravalli, B.S., R.Ph.

Founder/Publisher/Editor 2004 - 2024 Advisory Board Member: 2024 - present

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

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Veterans Day Scenes in Georgetown, Mass. by Maureen Aulson





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Some of the Members of the Georgetown SelectBoard (L to R): Rachel Therrian, Douglas Dawes, Laura Repplier, and Robert Hoover at Veterans Day Ceremony (Photo by Stewart Lytle)

Boxford Mega Zoning Change?

BOXFORD – Voters at the upcoming Dec. 17th Town Meeting will decide if the Town of Boxford will forever change it's zoning to allow huge, city-like developments (15+ units/acre) in the currently 2-acre zoned town.

The Planning Board held a hearing last week on a propposal to create an MBTA Communities Multifamily Overlay District (MCMOD) that would allow as-of-right multifamily housing. The target is "The Willows at Boxford" where new buyers of million-dollar single-family homes would be engulfed in an unplanned extensive multi-unit condo/apartment housing sprawl. More details in next week's edition. •

Masconomet Roof/Heating

The state's building authority has invited the Masconomet Middle School and High School into the next phase of its Accelerated Repair Program. The school district seeks state funds to replace roofing, and HVAC systems and controls. Taxpayers in Boxford, Middleton, and Topsfield will be asked to fund the schematic phase. The votes will take place during spring annual town meetings. •



Cole Landscaping on 133, Rowley: Giant Santa, Lots of Trucks! Nov. 22nd

ROWLEY - Drop over to Cole's Landscaping on Saturday, Nov. 22 between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. and put your

little hands on some great trucks, and be sure to have your parents snap a photo of you with the 26' tall Santa.

"It's going to be a fun family day featuring a food drive with the Acord Food Pantry and a Toys for Tots collection, with two Marines joining us for the event and a military truck," Greg Cole shared. "Out front, we'll have loaders, Bobcats, and trucks set up for the kids to explore."

He and Barbara Cole who's spearheading the event have sent out a loud shout to everyone to drop in: Rt 133, Rowley, just down from the Market Basket entrance, on the right. ◆

West Newbury Library Pies!



Cortland Apple Pie, Apple Crisp, Peacan Pie, Blueberry Pie, Pumpkin Pie, Key Lime Pie, Ghiradelli Triple Chocolate Brownie Pie, Gluten Free Crisp, Breads ... so much more! Stop by the library and place your order or print out a form at https://tinyurl.com/librarypies and turn it in by 5PM on Thursday, November 20.





Sold Single Family Homes

LIST NO	STATUS	ADDRESS	TOWN	LIST	SF TYPE	BATHS	LIST PRICE	SALE PRICE
73418819	SLD	50 Old Jacobs Road	Georgetown, MA	F19601	Detached	1	\$559,000	\$550,000
73433220	SLD	5 Hillside Ave	Merrimac, MA	AC2360	Detached	2	\$580,000	\$625,000
73438817	SLD	73 Kimball Rd	Amesbury, MA	AC0342	Detached	2	\$589,000	\$600,000
73430780	SLD	37 Moonpenny Dr	Boxford, MA	C95245	Detached	3	\$699,000	\$635,000
73419554	SLD	36 Hillside Ave	Amesbury, MA	AN4373	Detached	2	\$699,000	\$675,000
73405897	SLD	100 Congress St	Amesbury, MA	AN8279	Detached	3	\$749,900	\$730,000
73423337	SLD	11 Beacon St	Amesbury, MA	AN8279	Detached	2	\$849,000	\$910,000
73434278	SLD	36 Orchard St	Merrimac, MA	AN5498	Detached	3	\$849,900	\$800,000
73428849	SLD	2 Hunter Dr	Newburyport, MA	AN6420	Detached	2	\$849,900	\$845,000
73424505	SLD	42 Riverview Dr	Newbury, MA	AN7827	Detached	2	\$849,900	\$869,900
73393071	SLD	16 Merrills Way	Rowley, MA	AN6216	Detached	3	\$865,000	\$850,000
73429038	SLD	10 Walker Rd	Topsfield, MA	AN2383	Detached	3	\$889,000	\$889,000
73434376	SLD	22 Little Neck Rd	Ipswich, MA: Great Neck	C95171	Detached	2	\$985,000	\$985,000
73368130	SLD	4 North Ridge Rd	Îpswich, MA : Great Neck	AC1087	Detached	2	\$1,025,000	\$925,000
73428385	SLD	10 Pine Plain Rd	Ĝeorgetown, MA	AN6884	Detached	4	\$1,199,900	\$1,300,000
73428050	SLD	192 Country Club Way	Ipswich, MA	BB5919	Attached	4	\$1,299,000	\$1,388,000
73365943	SLD	52 Pineswamp Road	Îpswich, MA	AN2383	Detached	5	\$2,495,000	\$2,375,000
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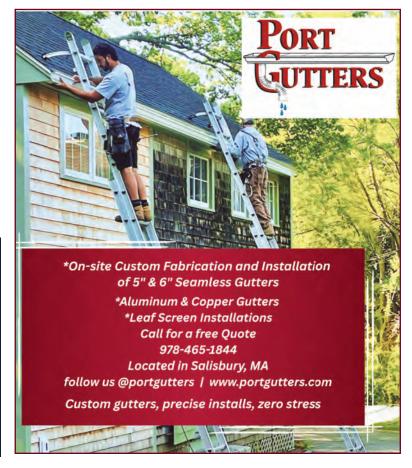
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Jane Merrow and Bonnie Shultz Recognized

By Stewart Lytle, Sr. Reporter

REGIONAL - Two veteran food bank leaders have been honored for their efforts to fight food insecurity in the Merrimack Valley.

Jane Merrow who heads the First Parish Church Food Pantry in Newbury, and Bonnie Schultz, the volunteer director of the Among Friends Meal Program at St. Paul's Church in Newburyport, were awarded the Rev. Peter Gomes award by U.S. Rep. Seth Moulton, D-Salem.

The award honors the legacy of Gomes, who served nearly 40 years at The Memorial Church of Harvard University. Gomes, a mentor and friend to Moulton, inspired him to join the Marines and later run for Congress. The annual award recognizes those who share his dedication to service and

Merrow co-founded the First Parish Newbury Food Pantry in 2015. What

began as a small effort has grown under her leadership to serve more than 750 people each week across seven communities. She works with more than 250 volunteers, organizes food drives, and partners with schools, farms, and local businesses to recover surplus food. In 2024 alone, the pantry rescued over 16,000 pounds of food and helped launch nine school-based pantries that support more than 250 students.

Schultz for 25 years has made her way to St. Paul's every week to make Jane Merrow accepts the Gomes' award from Rep. Seth N sure neighbors in need have access to a warm meal backed by a team of loyal help. The program provides more than 400 meals weekly, with a team of over 65 volunteers. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Schultz expanded the program to include home deliveries, a service that continues today. She has also led fundraising efforts and guided recent kitchen renovations at the church to support the program's growth.

For more information or to make a regional food bank. •



D-Salem. (Photo provided by the Newbury Food Pantry

donation, contact the Newbury Food Pantry at info@newburyfoodpantry.org or call 978-358-1077.

Both programs are part of a regional network of food pantries that are assisted by the Seacoast Regional Food Hub in Salisbury.

Our Neighbor's Table has named Greg Ezell, the program director, as the interim executive director for the

Making Community Cool

By Stewart Lytle, Sr. Reporter

NEWBURYPORT – Eben Diskin is on a mission. He wants to make getting involved in community affairs something that is "cool," not just an interesting hobby for retirees, but rather people his age.

A year ago, Diskin, 35, created the Townie website and started accepting opinion pieces, which he thought would be less work. He describes the Townie as an "information" site and is not competing with The Town Common newspaper or the Newburyport Daily News.

His goal is to create a community of people who feel empowered to contribute to local discussions and get involved with issues they care about, and hopefully know something about.

Diskin, himself a native of this city and a travel iournalist, was very active in the recent city elections. The Townie hosted a meet and greet event for candidates at the RipTide on Plum Island that was well attended by candidates and voters. And he organized and moderated debates of candidates, including one at the Unitarian Universalist Church with the candidates for at large councilor seats.

He said he was disappointed at the voter turnout for the last election -6,829 voters out of 15,686 who are registered - but was encouraged that several millennial-aged friends who were previously not involved in local politics told him they voted.

Diskin, a graduate of Wheaton College in history who holds a master degree in creative writing from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, has moved away from Newburyport three times, but always came back. "I love this

Currently, the Townie is a labor of love, but he hopes in time that it will attract more sponsors or advertisers. The Townie gets 9,000 to 10,000 views per month. His Facebook page has about 1,500 followers, and the newsletter has 500 subscribers.

He also hosts a show on the Hub, Newburyport's community television, at 3 p.m. on the first Monday and posts



Eben Diskin (Photo by Stewart Lytle) it on YouTube.

Diskin believes opinion pieces are important in small cities because they ive background and context to issues. People want to know what their neighbors think, their barbers, their lawyer," he said.

The Townie accepts opinion pieces ranging from 400 to 1,000 words on topics that are interesting to local readers. He is looking for opinion pieces, written in a conversational tone, on local education, historic preservation, social issues, politics, dining, infrastructure and development. And he does not want any Artificial Intelligence-written articles.

The Townie got off to a slow start with Diskin asking friends to write the first pieces it published, but the flow of submissions picked up last summer during the local controversy over the cost of the Youth Recreation Center on Low Street.

Submissions began pouring in, including ones from city councilors, which gave the Townie credibility, he

Diskin knew he was beginning to get traction when he began hearing from people he did not know.

A challenge is to remain neutral on issues and campaigns. The Townie did not endorse any candidates in the mayor/council races, and he will not tell even friends how he voted.

"People need to trust the editor to be neutral," although he admitted there were more endorsements for Jim McCauley than Mayor Sean Readon, despite his efforts to maintain a balance.

As the Townie turns two, he believes it is already a success. He said, "I get more positive comments, than criticism."







Ferries on the Merrimack Coming Mockup of the The MeVa ferry (Photo provided by Lyman Morse)

By Stewart Lytle, Sr. Reporter

MERRIMACK RIVER - By the summer of 2027, a fun outing would be to hop on one of three brightly colored Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority (MeVa) ferries and ride for free up and down this powerful river.

The solar-powered catamarans will be 33 feet long and carry 22 passengers making several stops along the river, including Amesbury, Haverhill, Newburyport and Salisbury.

"Our vision is to integrate all transportation services, buses, vans and eventually trains with the ferry," said MeVA administrator Noah Berger.

MeVa has selected Lyman Morse of Thomaston and Camden, ME, as the contractor, a 47-year-old boat and yacht builder. It will work with Bill Lincoln of Response Marine to design the all-aluminum vessels.

The ferries will have all-electric propulsion manufactured and installed by Evoy Vita and will be able to cruise at 10-12 knots. The trip from Haverhill to Newburyport is expected to take about an hour. The trip across the river from Amesbury to Newburyport will

take 15 to 20 minutes.

The deck will be on one level throughout and will be handicapped accessible.

The solar panels will be on the roof to help charge the batteries. The roof will provide shelter from inclement weather and there will be roll-up curtains on the sides to allow for a breeze in the sum-

The design of the aluminum catamarans with both bow and side doors will be in accordance with USCG sub-chapter T.

Jonathan Egan, project manager for the vessels, said the three boats will cost \$3 million and take a year to build.

MEVA was awarded \$4.2 million from the federal government to develop the ferry service.

The plan is to use the existing downtown municipal docks in Haverhill, behind 100 Washington St. and in Newburyport, behind 54 Merrimack St., which served the Yankee Clipper boat tours. In Amesbury, the ferry will use a renovated municipal dock, which is being upgraded a part of a state grant of \$840,000 to improve the dock and other waterfront facilities. •



GCN News anchors Rich York and Beth Greenhagen

Groveland Community News!

day of every month at 7:00 pm on Channel 22 of cable TV in Grovethat month's show on channel 22. Refer to the TV schedule on chan- What's Up Groveland.

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Groveland CPA Projects Update

By Michael Dempsey

GROVELAND - Two Commuthe Pines approved at Annual Town Meeting are finally being built. One

project, approved in 2023, will place a Skate Park behind the current basketball court. As a gathering place for nity Preservation Act projects in dedicated athletic youth, the skatepark will offer a forum for young and

Continued on page 7



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Salisbury Town Mgr. Neil Harrington

Salisbury Updates

SALISBURY - At a recent Select-Board meeting, Town Manager Neil Harrington recapped recent town meeting and other actions including:

- · Passage of all articles at town meeting except the acceptance of one public street (postponed to the spring)
- Money added to general stabilization fund
- Money added capital stabilization fund
- Funding five of seven labor contracts
- Purchasing a new police cruiser
- Adding a new police officer and equipment for the police dept.
- Funding to purchase several hundred water meters

Looking forwarded, he summarized the history of past and recent work on updating water and sewer regulations and said he hopes to have a workshop with the SelectBoard and public hearings to change any regulations. •

Salisbury Annual Lighting of the Tree

SALISBURY – All are encouraged to join in on Tuesday, December 2, from 4 to 7 pm, at the annual Salisbury Lighting of the Tree on the Town Common. In addition to the tree lighting ceremony, there will be free activities for folks of all ages. Please join in! ♦

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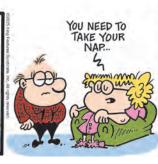






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GROVELAND CPA

Continued from page 3

old, beginning and skilled, to meet and share experiences. The facility will provide a safe, designated space for skateboarders rather than using busy town roads. A second project was approved in 2024 and proposed

a Shade and Seating area for visitors to the Pines. The structure will bring much-needed shade to the Pines with benches to present a welcoming atmosphere for visitors. According to our town Administrator, Rebecca Oldham, both projects are expected to be completed later this year.



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) There could be an unexpected change in plans for your upcoming holiday travels. But keep in mind that a little flexibility goes a long way in resolving any disappointments. **TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) A new relationship might not be responding quite as quickly as you'd hoped. Could you be expecting too much too soon? Try to ease up and let things happen at their own pace.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) As we approach the frenetic pace of preholiday planning, take time out now to reconnect with the wonderful people who share your life, especially the one

who share your life, especially the one who also shares your dreams.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A

misunderstanding should be resolved before you get caught up in the flur-ry of holiday preparations. Set your pride aside and deal with it, regardless

of who might have hurt whom first.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Being told that a colleague might have been trying to undercut your effectiveness might or might not be true. Get all the facts before you even think about acting on this so-called information.

VIRGO (August 23 to September

22) It's a good idea to start your holiday preparation plans early in order to avoid a time crunch if an unresolved workplace situation causes a problem. Meanwhile, an old friend might have some welcome news.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A family member's actions continue to surprise you — but this time with positive results. Could it be that your wise counsel finally got through? It's like having an early holiday gift, isn't it?

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Your reluctance to act in a current situation could be traced to your inner self advising you to take more time to study its complexities before you attempt to deal with it. Good luck!

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Soothing hurt feelings before they can ignite an angry out-burst is the wise thing to do. And of course, when it comes to doing the "wisdom thing," you do it so well. **CAPRICORN** (December 22 to

January 19) Budget your time so that you can handle both your workplace duties and your personal holiday planning — including travel arrangements — without burning out on either end.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You might find that you still need to firm up one or two of those still-outstanding decisions so that you can finally move forward as you had planned. Weigh the facts, then act

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You usually don't carry grudges, but you might feel this is one time when you're justified in doing so. But aren't you spending too much energy holding onto it? Let it go and move on.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a way of using your quiet strength to persuade people to follow their better instincts and do the right thing.

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PUZZLE ANSWERS

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	21	Fri	11:46	8.4			5:37	1.3	6:13	0.3	6:41	4:16		
	22	Sat	12:20	7.2	12:24	8.4	6:15	1.4	6:52	0.3	6:42	4:16		
	23	Sun	12:59	7.1	1:04	8.3	6:54	1.4	7:33	0.4	6:44	4:15		
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Patched Boardwalk (Photos by Stewart Lytle)

Time to Fix the Merrimack Boardwalk

By Ava Moeckel, Reporter

NEWBURYPORT — When you walk along the boardwalk at the new Market Landing Park on the Merrimack River waterfront, be careful not to trip on loose boards or protruding nails.

Over the past quarter century, many of the decking boards on the walkway have weathered and deteriorated, turning parts of the boardwalk into a hazard for the hundreds of pedestrians who enjoy a stroll along the river.

Now help is on the way. The city will hold a **public meeting at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 19**, to discuss options for rehabilitating the boardwalk at the central waterfront. The meeting will take place in the City Hall auditorium, and the public is invited.

A contractor recently installed about 200 new screws to fasten loose boards and added temporary patches in some places. These repairs are short-term, and officials say a full rehabilitation is needed

With support from a Community Preservation Act grant, the city has been working with marine engineering consultant GEI, Inc. on a feasibility study for the project. The consultant has found that some decking can be salvaged, but about 60 percent needs to be replaced.

GEI will present its analysis at the meeting, including options for materials such as tropical hardwood, composite plastic lumber and pressure-treated pine. The criteria include cost, durability, appearance, track record, availability and ecological impact.

"Every material has different strengths and weaknesses, and there is not a clearly defined answer to what material should be used for the next generation of the boardwalk," said Senior Project Manager Geordie Vining. "We are very interested to engage with people on the subject and hear some of the public's thoughts about what they would like to see for the next couple of decades."

The feasibility study is expected to be complete by the end of the year. •

Friends of the Newburyport Public Library Launch 2026 Membership Campaign: "Life Is Better with Friends"

Submitted by Nadine Romano-Ritche

NEWBURYPORT – The Friends of the Newburyport Public Library (FOL) announced the launch of their 2026 membership renewal and recruitment campaign following a highly successful year of community support.

with the help of loyal members and donors, the organization raised \$42,579 through memberships, donations, the Annual Appeal, and spring and fall book sales this past year. In turn, the FOL provided \$40,124 in funding for library programs and resources for 2024–2025, a 16 percent increase over the previous year.

These contributions made it possible for more than 10,000 community members of all ages to enjoy free access to engaging events, technology enhancements, and educational experiences at the Newburyport Public Library.

"We are deeply grateful to our supporters for making this impact possible," said Stacey Brandon, FOL President. "Local support ensures that our library continues to be a thriving hub of culture, access, and lifelong learning for everyone."

As libraries across the country face increasing budget pressure, community-backed organizations like the FOL play a crucial role in sustaining pro-

grams and services that residents rely on. Many of our library's most popular offerings are funded entirely by the FOL, including:

- Museum Pass Program More than 1,000 passes borrowed last year
- Kanopy Streaming Service Over 9,000 films and documentaries viewed
- Upgraded audio-visual equipment for improved movie screenings
- Enhancements to the Children's Room, including cozy acoustic graphic panels

Membership support also funds visiting speakers, enrichment programs, public technology upgrades, genealogical databases for ancestral research and other initiatives that help the library evolve with community needs.

The Friends of the Newburyport Public Library now invites the public to renew or begin a membership for 2026. Members enjoy exclusive benefits, including early Members' Day access at book sales and invitations to Appreciation Events throughout the year. All contributions are tax-deductible, and personal information is never shared

Memberships run annually January 1 through December 31. The organization also encourages gifting mem-



berships during the holiday season as a meaningful way to share the gift of learning and community.

"Together, the FOL makes a difference every day at our public library," said Stacey Brandon. "We hope you'll join us to ensure Newburyport continues to enjoy a vibrant and well-resourced library for years to come."

To join or renew your FOL membership for 2026, visit us at www.newburyportfol.org or stop by the library for a membership application.



Greater Newburyport Adult and Community Education Jingle and Mingle Event

Greater Newburyport Adult and Community Education will be hosting a Jingle & Mingle event on Tuesday, December 2nd from 5:30 – 8 pm upstairs at the Grog Restaurant. Guests can expect music from the Chuck Walker Trio, light bites and a cash bar. Tickets are \$35 per person. This event is a fundraiser and all proceeds will benefit GNACE educational programs. All are invited

For more information, contact Patty St. John, Director at 978-465-1257.

Whittier Caution

HAVERHILL – They're back! Whittier Regional Vocational School has re-grouped to begin pushing a new tax increase on towns to fund a new school.

The re-constituted building committee will be reaching out and making recomendations.

Why the "Caution" alert? Because the last cycle, they again blew it: failed to convince towns to support a nearly half-billion build-out without allowing the towns to send more students to the school. It was the straw that broke the camel's back. This time, we'll see if there are some positive changes that ensure better opportunities for all. More info in upcoming editions. •



