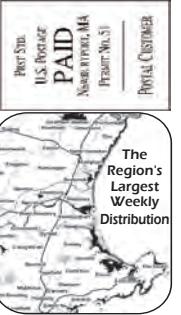


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FREE



Audience view of the joint Georgetown SelectBoard/ConCom meeting (Photo by Stewart Lytle)

Georgetown: Trying to Resolve Differences Proves Challenging

By Stewart Lytle, Sr. Reporter

GEORGETOWN – The town's SelectBoard (BOS) and Conservation Commission (ConCom) met last week in hopes of burying the hatchet between the two boards, discussing three issues that have caused tensions.

But the meeting was barely over when old animosities resurfaced. Several officials said they included calls for Rachel Therrien, a BOS member and chair of the ConCom, to resign her positions because she said the ConCom had "voted" in favor of

holding its meetings as both on Zoom and in person.

At a September meeting, Therrien asked the ConCom members their opinions on how their meetings should be held. All members agreed to continue holding Zoom meetings. But there was no formal vote.

BOS Chair Robert Hoover limited the two-hour, televised discussion to three topics:

- whether meetings of all town boards should be in person, on Zoom or both,

Continued on page 4



Newbury Town Library 2025 Hat & Mitten/Glove Drive Delivers Big

PAGE 2



Small section of the packed Kraken store on Rte. 1 in Rowley, Mass. (Town Common photo)

Kraken Gaming - Vintage Toys & Games Treasure in Rowley

By Lonnie Brennan

ROWLEY – Pokemon®, Play Station®, Nintendo®, Genesis®, Pikachu®, Shogun Warriors®, Magic®, Star Trek®, Star Wars®, Play Station®, Game Boy®, and Xbox®, are just some of the offerings at Kraken Gaming- the place to find vintage toys and games.

The packed shop located in the plaza at the intersection of Rte. 133 and Rte. 1 - across from the iconic Agawam Diner is full of treasures.

Toys? They have them. Action figures? You bet. Memorabilia? Everywhere.

Comic books? A Marvel® Comics (and others) gold mine, and so many other vintage comics and magazines, including games, sports, Pro Wrestling, and adventure.

Topps baseball cards? Oh yes, they

have them! Lots of them. And Fleet®, Donruss®, and more.

Buttons? Collections and custom made.

Records? Yes, wicked cool ones - the big vinyl discs!

Trading cards? Oh yeah!

Drop in any time and browse

through a section of the extensive offerings, but keep in mind, if you have your eye on a one-of-a-kind collectible, speak up before it's gone!

Kraken Gaming is worth a trip from anywhere. Visit them at 174 Newburyport Tpke (US Rt 1), Rowley, Mass. •



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Left to Right: (l to r): Newbury Town Library Head of Circulation Liz Flaherty and Assistant Director Katherine Szuplat, and Tiffany Nigro Executive Director at the Pettengill House.

Newbury Town Library 2025 Hat & Mitten/Glove Drive Delivers Big

NEWBURY – Last week, Newbury Town Library Head of Cir-

culation Liz Flaherty and Assistant Director Katherine Szuplat delivered 300 hats and mittens/gloves donated by the community to Tiffany Nigro Executive Director at the Pettengill House.

Started in 2021, the Library holds the drive annually each December. The Pettengill House, Inc. is a nonprofit community social service agency providing comprehensive case management, basic needs support, emergency assistance, crisis intervention, and an array of essential programs and services for individuals, children, and families of all ages across nine Massachusetts communities.

The Pettengill House, Inc serves Amesbury, Byfield, Groveland, Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport, Rowley, Salisbury, and West Newbury, Massachusetts. ♦

Newbury Looks to Build Senior Center

By Stewart Lytle, Sr. Reporter

NEWBURY – The Council on Aging is looking for a new home for its programs and events that serve the seniors of this town. Its first choice to build a new senior center is town-owned land on Kent Way adjacent to the library and Little League field no. 1.

Currently, the Council on Aging's F. Rayburn Lynch Senior Center is in rented space at 12 Kent Way that is not large enough for its programs and the senior population that uses them. The committee estimates that the senior center will need between 6,000 and 7,000 square feet, plus utility and storage space, although it may have to be much larger.

The lease on the current space expires on May 14, 2027, and the grant money funding for the council runs out at the end of this year.

The town has appointed an AdHoc Committee to assess the program needs and plan for the future. It has enlisted the help of two residents, Bob Connors and Eric Svahn, who helped the town bring the police building into existence under budget.

"We recognize that moving from the concept of a solution to an actual building can take many painful years and iterations," the COA wrote. "As a result, we have tried to lay the ground work for the discussion."

Based on an assessment of the current uses and insufficiencies, plus the projected changes expected in the town's senior population, the new building would need to include: windows and skylights (if applicable) that open, a front entry and emergency rear exit with access to a 700-square-foot kitchen, a covered drop-off area, a coat closet of at least 100 square foot and no stairs or ramp into the building.

The building would also need four offices, a library and game room, an art room with a sink, a large room that can accommodate 75 people with a small stage and a large television. There could also be a large game room with a pool table.

Outside, the new building could have a covered patio, space for games, pickleball courts, a walking path and room for garden beds. It also needs parking for 40 vehicles, including eight to 10 handicapped spaces, and a

garage for the senior center van.

The committee looked at senior centers in other towns similar to Newbury. In Andover is a 16,000-square-foot building with the option for 3,200 more. Chatham senior center is 14,000 square feet, and Hampton has a 10,000-square-foot center.

To reduce costs, the building might share space with other town departments. The Newburyport senior center also serves as a community building that has meeting rooms for town functions and activities.

The committee asked residents and the town Planner and Assessor for suggestions of possible sites, including town-owned parcels. Many of the town-owned sites did not contain enough buildable land.

Ten sites on the list in order of suitability for the proposed center were the land adjacent to the library, Hanover Street next to Newbury Elementary School, 25 High Road #2, the current location at 12 Kent Way, Byfield Grange Hall, old space inside the school, 19 Central Street, 84 Central Street, add a second floor to the library and build a new library on the upper green. ♦

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

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14 Wed	7:57	7.8	8:34	6.5	1:40	1.4	2:29	0.7	7:11	4:33	☾
15 Thu	8:47	7.9	9:23	6.6	2:31	1.4	3:19	0.6	7:10	4:34	☾
16 Fri	9:33	8.0	10:09	6.7	3:19	1.4	4:04	0.5	7:10	4:35	☾
17 Sat	10:17	8.2	10:51	6.8	4:04	1.3	4:47	0.3	7:09	4:36	☾
18 Sun	10:59	8.3	11:32	7.1	4:46	1.1	5:27	0.1	7:09	4:38	☾
19 Mon	11:39	8.5			5:28	0.9	6:05	0.0	7:08	4:39	☾
20 Tue	12:11	7.3	12:19	8.6	6:09	0.8	6:43	-0.2	7:07	4:40	☾
21 Wed	12:50	7.6	1:00	8.6	6:51	0.6	7:22	-0.2	7:07	4:41	☾

West Newbury 2026 Dog Licenses Now Available

Stop in the town clerk's office in person to complete your application and pick up your tags, or use your 2026 Town Census form, or go online at epay.cityhallsystems.com/selection and enter West Newbury, MA then

click "View/Pay bills." Then, select "Clerk Department" then "Dog License."

Fee schedule: \$15.00 each for Spayed or Neutered Dogs; \$25.00 each for Intact or Unaltered Dogs

Escalating late fees of \$10 a month will be assessed as of the 1st of each

month from May through August

There is no charge for licenses for dogs owned by persons over the age of 70 or Service Dogs!

Note:
Dogs owned by residents over 70 must still be licensed - but there will be no charge if licensed by May 1st! ♦

Rowley Democrats to Meet

Submitted by Katie Chattan
The Rowley Democratic Town Committee is holding this month's meeting meeting on Thursday, January 22 at 6pm (note time change) at the Rowley Public Library.

We will be hearing from candidate for MA 6th Congressional District Dan Koh. Come meet Dan Koh and hear his priorities in person!

The Rowley DTC provides a forum to meet like-minded people,

learn about local issues and candidates, and be active participants in the political process. For any questions about our meetings or to be added to our monthly newsletter, please check out our website at: www.rowleydemocrats.org.

There is No Organized Republican Town Committee in Rowley

We publish Town Committee meeting notices as requested, but wish to note that there does not exist - nor has there existed for as long as memories polled can recall- an organized Republican Town Committee in Rowley. Should one ever materialize, we ill gladly print their notices also. The purpose of a Town Committee is to elect candidates to office at all levels who match that committee's (Democrat or Republican, for example) values. ♦

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Upcoming Newburyport Public Library Happenings in January

Wednesday, January 21st at 7pm: How Librarians Became the Unlikely Spies of World War II (VIRTUAL). Author Elyse Graham will discuss her new book, "Book and Dagger: How Scholars and Librarians Became the Unlikely Spies of World War II", the true untold story of the academics who became OSS spies, invented modern spycraft, and helped turn the tide of the war to defeat the Nazis. Virtual registration required.

Saturday, January 24th at 2pm: An "Afternoon of Gratitude" for FOL Members & Book Sale Volunteers. All 2026 FOL Members and past Book Sale Volunteers are invited to register for this event. Enjoy refreshments, door prize drawings every 30 minutes, and a small gift of thanks for your support. Registration required.

Monday, January 26th at 6pm: Maker Monday - Moon & Stars Wreaths (IN PERSON). Join us in making your own Moon and Stars Wreath this month. All materials will be provided by the library. Registration required.

Monday, January 26th at 7pm: Creating a Modern Homestead (VIRTUAL). Join modern day homesteader, blogger, and author Victoria Pruett as she shares her experience with various aspects of homesteading, including cooking from scratch, food preservation, backyard chickens, and more. Virtual registration required.

Check out our calendar for more programs we are offering in January! VIRTUAL programs require registration to get the Zoom link. Some in-person programs require registration. People can register online via the library website events calendar or by calling 978-465-4428 x2.

Ongoing Discussion Groups:
Thursday, January 15th at 3pm: Classics Book Group (IN PERSON).

Join NPL's Classics Book Group! This group meets in-person on the third Thursday of every month in the Director's Room. This month's title is "Uncle Tom's Cabin" by Harriet Beecher Stowe. Registration required.
Tuesday, January 27th at 5pm: Just the Facts: Nonfiction Book Group

(VIRTUAL). Join us for NPL's Just the Facts Book Group! This group selects and discusses nonfiction books. This month we will be discussing "The Small and the Mighty: Twelve Unsung Americans Who Changed the Course of History, From the Founding to the Civil Rights Move-

ment" by Sharon McMahon. Virtual registration required.
Other ongoing programs:
Once a month: Home Delivery Services! Are you unable to come to the library? Let the library come to you! Any Newburyport who is posses-

Continued on page 4



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Georgetown Municipal Light Department General Manager Mary Snow, right, joined Whittier Tech carpentry students and their instructor, Mike Sandlin, second from right, on the steps the students rebuilt for the light department. The Whittier Tech students completed the project as part of their community outreach.

Local Students Named to Honor Lists

Lebanon Valley College

Elizabeth Kemp of Georgetown, Mass. has been named to the Lebanon Valley College Dean's List for the fall 2025 semester. Dean's list students must maintain a GPA of at least 3.4 out of 4.0.

Kemp is pursuing a bachelor of arts and bachelor of science in accounting and economics at The Valley and is a graduate of Georgetown Middle-High School.

Newton's Lasell University

The Fall 2025 Dean's List includes students who have completed at least 12 credits as a full-time student in that semester and have achieved a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Margaret Sheridan of Ipswich
Karaline Baldini of Groveland
Jenna Wildman of Newburyport
Kylie Waltman of Boxford

Trine University Dean's List

Abigale Bruner of Georgetown, a Trine University (Indiana) student, earned Dean's List recognition for the Fall 2025 semester.

Bruner is majoring in Marketing.

To earn Dean's List honors, Trine University students must complete a minimum of 12 hours and have a grade point average of 3.500-3.749.

Palmer College of Chiropractic

Olivia Griffin of Topsfield has been named to the 2025 summer trimester Dean's List at Palmer College of Chiropractic's Florida Campus in Port Orange, Florida.

Cedarville University

Nikolas Morrissey of Hampton, was named to the Dean's Honor List at Cedarville University for Fall 2025. This recognition requires the student to obtain a 3.75 GPA or higher for the semester and carry a minimum of 12 credit hours.

Belmont University

Belmont University of Nashville, Tennessee released their fall Dean's List which included:

Ava Gaudin of Boxford
Samuel Bennett of Newburyport

University of Connecticut

Students who achieved the Dean's List at the University of Connecticut for the fall 2025 semester:

Elin Pothie of Amesbury
 Linnea Avola of Beverly
 Annalise Cormier of Beverly
 Mia Greenwald of Beverly
 Devyn Jone of Beverly
 Charlotte Hill of Boxford
 Colin Panagos of Boxford
 Emily Winslow of Boxford
 Lucas Landry of Danvers
 Katherine Kuhl of Essex
 Seamus Cahill of Georgetown
 Mia Ciaramitaro of Georgetown
 Evelyn Ford of Gloucester
 Callum MacLennan of Ipswich

Continued on page 9

NEWBURYPORT LIBRARY

Continued from page 3

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individual from visiting the Library, (2) Mobility issues which prevent an individual from visiting the Library, (3) Temporary physical limitations (or illness) which prevent an individual from visiting the Library for a minimum of 3 months and a maximum

of 6 months. Please contact a Reference Librarian at the second floor Reference Desk by phone 978-465-4428 or email info@newburyportpl.org with any questions about the service.

2nd Wednesday of the month at 5:30pm: NPL Arts & Crafts Social (IN PERSON). All skill levels are welcome. Please bring in your own supplies and projects to work on. The Library will also provide coloring pages, color pencils, and origami. Suggested art hive projects include knitting and crocheting, collaging, small-scale watercolors and/or drawings.

Thursdays (bi-weekly) at 5:15pm: Spanish Conversation Group (IN PERSON). All levels are welcome! However, it may be best suited for those who have a basic knowledge of Spanish or above. Please note, this is not a class, but it can be a great way to practice your Spanish conversational skills and connect with others who have an interest in the language. The group is led by a Spanish-speaking librarian. Registration required.

Mondays & Thursdays from

2:30pm to 3:30pm: Drop-In Tech Time (IN PERSON). Bring your simple technology questions for a drop-in session. We can help with the basics for your phones, laptops, tablets, and e-readers, including accessing library resources, adding Libby to a personal device, basic computer navigation, and general internet instruction. Sessions can last up to 30 minutes and will be run with available staff on a first come, first served basis. Contact info@newburyportpl.org or call us at 978-465-4428 x 2 with questions.

Fridays at 2pm: Movie Matinee (IN PERSON). Titles are posted on the Library website's events calendar.

Drop-In Social Services Support (IN PERSON). The City's licensed professional social worker Trish Boateng offers regular drop-in hours at the Library for any Newburyport resident who may need assistance. Get connected with assistance for food, housing, transportation, health, childcare, or other necessities. Meetings are offered on a first-come, first-served basis every Tuesday afternoon at the library, 1:30-2:30pm.

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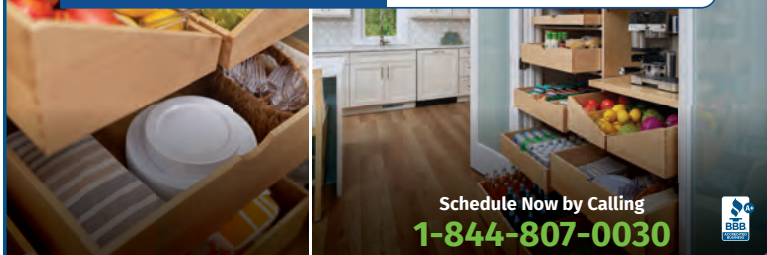
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Greg Loftus — January 29, 30, 31

Greg is a South Shore songwriter whose songs are so sublime that one famous Grand Ole Opry Member said he's jealous he didn't write them himself. Greg blew our audiences away last spring. Critics describe his blue-collar, country-tinged folk songs and well-defined, antique voice as "flawless." Mother Church Pew wrote that he, "is an artist that we all keep an eye on. His future should shape particularly quickly."



Dan Pallotta — February 26, 27, 28

Three-time Grammy Award Winner Steve Earle's reaction to Dan's music was, "Holy s*#*. This is potentially groundbreaking. It restores my faith in what I do — this is the kind of songwriting I'm talking about." Dan writes about the human condition in equal parts pathos and humor. A little Springsteen. A little John Prine.



Adam Simons — March 26, 27, 28

Adam is traveling from Nashville to join us. Raised on the music of the 1970's, he found his niche in simple but honest songwriting, organic instrumentation, and the spirit of "Laurel Canyon Americana." He has a massive following online, with over 200,000 followers. He performed at the Grand Ole Opry in December. Don't miss him.

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Focus on Real Estate

Featured Property Listing - REPRINT

A New Gateway to Plum Island



To enjoy the sunset overlooking the marsh and the Merrimack River, the homes feature a 60-foot-long, 8-foot-wide front balcony, plus a rear, second-floor balcony off each master suite. And there is a covered 250-square-foot rooftop deck that provides a private view of the ocean.

On the first floor is an eat-in kitchen, living room, laundry, half bath and mud room. The master suite with a full bath is on the second floor and opens to the balcony where the owners can relax with a coffee or cocktail. The second floor in each home also has two more bedrooms, another full bath and a sitting room or office.

Now that mortgage rates are coming down, Bertolino said interest from builders and developers in this property, listed at \$1,375,000, has been growing rapidly. Compared to other island listings, "This is a deal," Friery said.

Particularly appealing is that Friery at his expense has secured approval from the town of Newbury, which saves a buyer both money and months of time.

Having those permits, "Anything is



Rendering for The Residences at 2 Sunset Blvd. (Image provided by North Shore Realty Group)

By Stewart Lytle, Sr. Reporter

PLUM ISLAND – The character of residences on this 11-mile barrier island has been undergoing major change over the last decade. Once a popular vacation destination where people from all over the Northeast rented cottages to enjoy the beach.

Sunburned, hungry and thirsty, the beachgoers would gather at one of a handful of bars and restaurants, most notably the Plum Island Grille, where they watched the sun set over the Great Salt Marsh.

"The Plum Island Grille has a glorious past," said Mark Friery, who once owned and operated the grille and now is selling the property probably as two spectacular condos that will have balconies and decks on three levels offering views not only of the marsh, but the Atlantic as well.

"For anyone serious about living on the island to find a place that has such spectacular views, it's a dream come true," Friery said.

The island is rapidly transitioning from a beach community to an urban village, said veteran Realtor Frank Bertolino with The North Shore Realty Group last week. Summer residents once knew only those who came with them. "Now, everybody knows everybody," Bertolino said.

Approved plans for this 12,000-square-foot gateway lot, the Residences at 2 Sunset Blvd., is for two townhomes with a total of 4,100 square feet. Each home would have three bedrooms and 2.5 baths. Built on stilts to protect against flooding, the building, as designed, would have a Key West feel, but the architect Scott & Brown can make any changes a developer or builder choose.

possible," Bertolino said. It could be a made into a six-bedroom, five-bath single-family home or family compound on one of the region's most popular beaches.

Or a developer can take on the project and sell each townhome for about \$1.9 million, Bertolino said.

For those who pine for a restaurateur to restore the Plum Island Grille

of old, it was not for lack of trying by Friery and Bertolino.

"We had restauranteurs here looking at the space from as far away as New York City," Bertolino said.

But each prospect, after running the financials, concluded that the Grille could not be restored after the custom-made bars and interior was vandalized when the restaurant was

closed.

The market for Plum Island restaurants has also changed. The popular Sunset Club was built on the site of an old gasoline station across the street. And nearby Newburyport offers an array of well-frequented restaurants.

For more information, contact Bertolino at The North Shore Realty Group. •

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Focus on Real Estate

Featured Property Listing

Lower Green Home Steeped in History



By Stewart Lytle, Sr. Reporter

NEWBURY – If you are looking for a home that was part of early Newbury history with the same views of the Parker River that the earliest settlers enjoyed, a two-bedroom home that has been updated with modern amenities just came on the market.

Built originally in 1728 as a tavern that served locals and visitors traveling between Boston and Portsmouth, NH, the 2,356-square-foot home at 7 Lower Green once stood in the path of what today is State Rte. 1A.

Then-owner Florence Bushee, a conservationist and philanthropist who was the daughter of a Boston banker, moved the house in 1933 to its current location, which had one of the nation's last remaining single-room schoolhouses as its front yard.

In her 50-plus years in Newbury, Bushee dedicated herself to preservation. In addition to restoring this home, she also renovated the 1715 Dole-Little House, and she donated more than 200 acres of the estate to the Trustees of Reservations to create Old Town Hill, a 3-mile network of trails near her home on Newman Road.

After portions of the house burned in the 1940s, Bushee hired renowned restoration carpenter, Roy Baker, to rebuild the home. Baker had restored the Wayside Inn in Sudbury for industrialist Henry Ford.

Adjacent to the house is the Newman Farm Pasture, which was donated to the Greenbelt, after locals raised \$500,000 to buy the property next to the Lower Green to keep it from being developed.

Keller Williams Evolution Realtor Casey Peicott, who has listed the home for \$950,000, said in the first few days that the house has been on



7 Lower Green (Photo by Stewart Lytle)

the market, she has had a steady flow of prospects touring the home. "There has been a lot of interest," Peicott said.

Central air, a security system and other modern amenities, like a concrete floor in the basement, plus a detached two-car garage with a second-floor for storage, were added through the years. The current owner,

who purchased the house in 2004, purchased a disassembled building that housed a barrel maker shop in South Berwick, ME and reassembled it as an addition, complete with original flooring and stairs.

The house with one and a half baths has three large rooms on the first level. And there are four fireplaces, includ-

ing a walk-in fireplace on the first level. Just minutes from the Parker River, boat ramp, and marina as well as an historic one room school house.

"It is the best of both worlds," the current owner said. It has maintained its historic character and charm, but lives like a house build in the 1940s. "It is an excellent house to live in." ♦

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Robert Brooks Johnson

It is with sadness that the family of Robert Brooks Johnson announces his passing after a very brief illness. He was born in Somerville, Mass. on December 13th, 1937. He was the son of the late Albert Johnson and Adelaide (Small) Johnson.

A proud veteran of the US Navy Destroyer fleet, he remained dedicated to those little ships: volunteering for many years with his beloved late brother-in-law Raymond Howell maintaining the museum ship USS Cassin Young at the Charlestown Navy Yard. He had many good shipmates there whose company he greatly enjoyed both on and off the ship through the years.

He was preceded in death by his wife Ellen (Chickie) Johnson (Howell), brother Dwight William Johnson, sister Margaret (Peggy) Olivieri, brothers-in-law Raymond and William Howell, and their spouses.

He is survived by his children, Stephen and his wife Cheryl, his son Douglas and his wife Susan, and his daughter Ellen and her husband John, as well as by his grandchildren Keifer, Kendall, Taylor, Connor, Briana and Crysta, and great grandchildren Liam, Lily, Isla. Also by many loving nieces and nephews on both sides of the extended family. He is also survived by his loving sister-in-law Florence (Flo) Brady and cousin Joan Noto (Salin).

Bob was the archetypical “fix-it” guy who spent a long career in auto mechanics, appliance repair, commercial saw service and lastly, computer support. There really wasn’t anything he couldn’t fix. He ultimately led service organizations for companies like Frigidaire and Hendricks Saw. Of course, he was the “go-to” for the family when anything was broken. He was the rare senior who didn’t struggle with new technology, but embraced it.

At one time, he was a small business owner in Ipswich, Mass. where he owned his own Appliance Sales and Service firm Johnson & Howell Appliance, along (again) with his brother-in-law Ray. It may have been the happiest time in his career. He loved the Rowley & Ipswich communities.

He had a reputation as a steady person to have at your side when things went wrong, but his help always came with the sometimes-unwelcome dose of common-sense feedback. All would agree: he was always there for you.

In retirement he was thrilled to crawl out from under the chassis, and he was able to purchase and drive a number of high-performance cars, including a number of Porsche models. It was obviously more fun for him to drive them, rather than fix them. Seeing him tooling around in the sporty cars was often a source of amusement for other drivers, and for occasional concern from his children!

His was a life well-lived. He was fierce, and had a highly defined sense of duty and integrity. He was a rock for the family and he will be missed.

In lieu of flowers, please pledge donations in Robert's honor to The Friends of the U.S.S. Cassin Young.

Relatives and friends will gather for Calling Hours on Saturday, January 24, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., at F. S. Roberts & Son Funeral Home, Rowley, MA. Funeral Service will be held on Saturday, January 24, 2026, at 12:00 p.m., with Rev. Angie F. Estevez, officiating. Interment will follow at Rowley Burial Ground in Rowley, MA.

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

~ Arrangements entrusted to F. S. Roberts & Son Funeral Home ~



GEORGETOWN

Continued from page 1

- the access the conservation agent and ConCom members have to private property,
- mandatory use of the town’s email system.

Not on the agenda, and thus under the state Open Meeting Law, could not be discussed, was why the ConCom and particularly its chair come under frequent criticism from BOS members.

Following the meeting one repeated critic of the ConCom, resident Kevin Wood, wrote to the BOS members demanding that Therrien, (formerly Bancroft), apologize for “lying” about whether the ConCom had voted on the issue of how it holds its meetings.

SelectBoard vice chair Doug Dawes started the meeting, asking Therrien to appoint the commission’s vice chair, Amy Graffum, to be the chair for the meeting because Therrien is both the chair of the ConCom and a member of the SelectBoard.

“One cannot serve two masters,” Dawes said.

The State Ethics Commission has issued an opinion that Therrien can serve in both capacities. And other town officials, including SelectBoard member Mike Donahue, who is chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission, also serve on two boards.

Graffum pointed out that since the joint meeting last week was for discussion only and no votes were expected, Dawes’s proposal was not necessary.

Therrien agreed that she misspoke when she said the ConCom had “voted” to hold hybrid meetings. In its September meeting, the ConCom members agreed verbally to continue with Zoom meetings. As is a common practice with boards and commissions, including the BOS, the chair polled the views of the members.

At the combined BOS/ConCom meeting last week, most members agreed that hybrid meetings have several advantages. Members can attend the meetings even when they are ill or out of town.

Applicants and the town also save money by having their engineers and other technical personnel appear on Zoom at a lower cost than

having them attend meetings in person at Town Hall.

Members and the public can also see architectural and construction plans and diagrams more easily if the meetings are on Zoom, members said.

Dawes noted that the legislature is considering a bill that will determine how town meetings are held, as detailed in a prior edition of The Town Common. The ConCom is following the guidelines proclaimed by Gov. Maura Healey on May 25, 2025.

The trespassing issue was the result of a site visit last year on Lakeshore Drive by the conservation agent and the then-chair of the ConCom to investigate a complaint that construction debris was being dumped in wetlands, a primary responsibility of the ConCom.

A neighbor asked Wood, a prolific filer of complaints against the Conservation Commission and who had tried twice to have the BOS appoint him to the ConCom, to file a complaint about the incident. Wood was not at the inspection, does not live in the neighborhood or have direct knowledge of the incident.

The homeowner and the neighbor declined for various reasons to file a complaint. After an inspection, no problems at the Lakeshore Drive home were found.

A town agent may walk on sidewalks and driveways without permission. The agent may not open gates without permission unless there is an emergency. It was suggested that a police officer or fire personnel should accompany the agent in the case of emergencies.

The town’s email system has been the subject of controversy for years. In the past when the town’s official email system was not working, town officials used private emails to communicate. But private emails are not captured in official town records.

The town hired a new email provider last year, and most town officials agree that the new system is improved. Town Administrator Orlando Pacheco outlined the procedure for reporting an outage, which Therrien asked Pacheco to add to the town’s website. ♦

DEATH NOTICES

Compiled Exclusively for The Town Common by Michelle Leininger

Name	City/State Live	Funeral Home	City	Phone
Ronald F. Costa	Beverly, MA	C.R. Lyons & Sons Funeral Directors	Danvers	978-777-7900
Andrea J. Daley	Danvers, MA	C.R. Lyons & Sons Funeral Directors	Danvers	978-777-7900
Helen L. Paluzzi	Beverly, MA	Campbell Funeral Home	Beverly	978-922-1113
Ellen L. Walsh	Beverly, MA	Campbell Funeral Home	Beverly	978-922-1113
Michael Joseph Pisani	Salem, MA	Campbell Funeral Home	Beverly	978-922-1113
Kathleen M. Marquis	Andover, MA	Conte Funeral Home	Andover	978-470-8000
Deborah Sarson	Watertown, MA	Conte Funeral Home	N. Andover	978-681-5000
Robert E. McDonald	Andover, MA	Conte Funeral Home	N. Andover	978-681-5000
Timothy (Tim) S. Sheehy	North Andover, MA	Conte Funeral Home	N. Andover	978-681-5000
Sandra M. Flaig	North Andover, MA	Conte Funeral Home	N. Andover	978-681-5000
Corrine (Iverson) Hall	North Andover, MA	Conte Funeral Home	N. Andover	978-681-5000
Deborah (Gates) Staub	Boxford, MA	Conte-Giamberardino Funeral Home	Georgetown	978-352-8700
Sister Catherine Horan	Ipswich, MA	Conway, Cahill-Brodeur Funeral Home	Peabody	978-531-0472
John Dassuk Jr.	Peabody, MA	Conway, Cahill-Brodeur Funeral Home	Peabody	978-531-0472
Jose A. Serodio	Peabody, MA	Conway, Cahill-Brodeur Funeral Home	Peabody	978-531-0472
John R. “Jack” Lucier	Lynn, MA	Conway, Cahill-Brodeur Funeral Home	Peabody	978-531-0472
Zuzanna Novak	Haverhill, MA	Driscoll Funeral Home & Cremation Services	Haverhill	978-374-0000
Raymond C. Wittier, Sr.	Haverhill, MA	HL Farmer & Sons Funeral Home	Haverhill	978-372-9311
Barbara R. Sampson	North Andover, MA	John Breen Memorial Funeral Home	N. Andover	978-682-8381
Donald J. Lawler, Jr	Rochester, NH	Kevin B. Comeau Funeral Home	Haverhill	978-521-4845
Mary “Grant” Silverman	Danvers, MA	Mackey Funeral Home	Middleton,	978-774-0033
Shawn M. McCallum	Ipswich, MA	Morris Funeral Home	Ipswich	978-356-2422
Jane M. Mulloy	Ipswich, MA	Murphy Funeral Home	Salem	978-744-0497
Rosalie Ann McKinley	Danvers, MA	Murphy Funeral Home	Salem	978-744-0497
Ana Lorenza Santiago Vargas	Salem, MA	O'Donnell Cremations-Funerals-Celebrations	Salem	978-774-6600
Carol A. George	Salisbury, MA	Paul C. Rogers & Sons Family Funeral Homes	Newburyport	978-462-4323
Peter Kane	Rye, NH	Remick & Gendron Funeral Home	Hampton	603-926-6500
Everett Strangman	Seabrook, NH	Remick & Gendron Funeral Home	Hampton	603-926-6500
Neil Barry	Salisbury, NH	Remick & Gendron Funeral Home	Hampton	603-926-6500
Francis Chaisson, Jr.	Newburyport, MA	Twomey, LeBlanc, & Conte Funeral Home	Newburyport	978-465-9323

Georgetown Municipal Light Department Historic Calendars are Now Available

The Georgetown Municipal Light Department (GMLD) has produced its first-ever historical calendar for its rate payers which features pictures from Georgetown’s past. A limited number of calendars are now available at the GMLD business office, 94 Searle Street, and at the Georgetown Peabody Library, Senior Center, and the Town Hall, while supplies last.

“We are happy to produce this inaugural calendar and are grateful to the Georgetown Historical Society for providing the pictures

on each page throughout the calendar,” GMLD General Manager Mary Snow said. “This is an exciting project that we know will become a much-sought after item.”

The 2026 calendar contains historical photographs, including the B&M railroad station in the mid-1800s, a streetcar traveling over the Weston Trestle, and the Brocklebank House in the early 1900s, among other points and events of interest. The calendar also provides tips on how to save energy throughout the year. ♦

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West Newbury Library Programs: Native Seed Planting Workshops for Kids and Adult

Friday, January 16 and Saturday, January 17

The Library has two native seed planting workshops coming up this month; one for kids and families and one for adults. Get a jump on your spring gardening and help us to built a healthy community ecosystem for native pollinators, such as Monarch butterflies who depend on milkweed.

Milkweed Seed Planting Workshop
Friday, January 16
1:30—3:00 PM
Teen Room, G.A.R. Memorial Library
Drop-in after school to plant locally-harvested milkweed seeds in planters made from recycled materials. Keep the seeds outside to over-winter in these planters. By Spring, you'll have seedlings ready for planting!

Drop-in. All-ages program. Younger children will need adult assistance.

Native Seed Planting Workshop
Saturday, January 17
10:00 AM—12:00 PM
The Annex 381 Main Street, West Newbury

Would you like to add some native plants to your garden but don't quite know where to start? Growing native plants from seeds collected locally is a great way to establish native plants in our yards and community and provide food for native bees, butterflies, birds and other pollinators. Late fall into early winter is the best time to plant many native seeds which need to "winter over" to germinate and thrive. Join in this native seed planting workshop to learn how to sow a variety of seeds into pots to take home. We hope this will inspire you to sow more native seeds in the future. We'll start with a PowerPoint on native planting and then each participant can plant four containers to take home. Meets at the Town Building Annex.

All materials will be supplied. Taught by Carol Decker and members of West Newbury Wild and Native.

Register at <https://tinyurl.com/register-seeds>.



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What we covered in 2025 and what is ahead in 2026.

We discovered some great plant people in 2025

by Ida Wye

Carol Decker of West Newbury Wild and Native (WN2) described how WN2 encourages people to cultivate ecological landscapes. <https://www.wnwildnative.org>

Dianne Plantamura and The Master Gardeners who created the Miyawaki forest in Groveland at Veasy Park and her vision and work for rewilding Veasy Park.

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

Matthew Martin of Restoration Horticulture and his dedication to his arboriculture students at EssexTech in Danvers. They established the Maplewood Arboretum on campus which is a noteworthy achievement for a public education institution.

Plant Matters

Katie Banks Hone (aka, The Monarch Gardener) in Topsfield and how she is inspired by Jane Goodall to make the world a bit better by growing and selling native plants for pollinators.

<http://www.themonarchgardener.com/>

Rijk and Maura of Anything Grows Organic Farm in Salisbury. Their farm stand is complete at 30 Elmwood St. Salisbury, MA and they are hiring for the 2026 season. Their tulip shares begin in late January. There will be 8 weeks of tulips featuring 16 varieties at 6 pickup locations. Check their website for details. <https://www.anythinggrows-farm.com/>

In 2026, Plant Matters will continue to feature plant people and focus on problematic introduced plants that need to be removed from your landscapes and recommend plants that can be planted. We will delve into ideas for reducing lawns, organic management of lawns and lawn substitutes.

We will discuss how and why many native plants are under siege and what may help. Finally, we will cover some unusual topics including Woonerf, Hugelkultur, and Hibernaculum.

If you would like to be featured in a column or want a topic covered, please contact Ida.

"Small actions by individuals can make the world a better place."

- Dr. Jane Goodall

Ida Wye is the principal of Ida Wye Designs, offering landscape design, consultation, implementation, and restoration. Ida was green long before it was fashionable. She is committed to creating gardens that heal our planet, one landscape at a time. Ida graduated from U. Mass. Amherst with a B. S. in Plant and Soil Sciences before working for the U.S. D. A. and teaching Horticulture. After studying Landscape Design at Radcliffe, she began working independently. She later studied Urban Forestry and Wetland Science. www.idawyelandscape.com

STUDENT HONORS

Continued from page 4

Allison Waugh of Ipswich
Elorie Willwerth of Manchester by the Sea
Sean Cowan of Merrimac
Ava Snyder of Merrimac
Sydney Morin of Middleton
Brady Pallotta of Middleton
Hannah Cronin of Newburyport
Priya Kaur of Newburyport
Zoe Seese of Newburyport
Corrina Storrsor Rowley
Delaney Lucia of Salisbury
Alison Campbell of S. Hamilton
Leah Conway of S. Hamilton
Sophia Dumas of Topsfield
Angelina Lalikos of Topsfield
Carolyn Romano of Wenham
Ava Vecchi of West Newbury

Southern New Hampshire Univ.

Fall 2025 President's List:

Victoria Roy of Seabrook
Mattais Germain of Seabrook
Mae Germain of Seabrook
Elizabeth Janos of Seabrook
Mikayla Harris of Seabrook
Bella Janvrin of Seabrook
Anab Moallim of Seabrook
Marissa Tomaras of Hampton
Camden Woods of Hampton
William Donald of Hampton
Damian Halter of Hampton
David Buzderewicz of Hampton
Branden Barboza of Topsfield
Emil Hristache of Topsfield
Colleen Jeffers of Rowley
Isabella Silva of Rowley
Landyn Mount of Salisbury
Kaitlyn Foye of Salisbury

Kyle Noonan of Newbury
Oceana Fantry of Newburyport
Finn Robertson of Newburyport
Craig Anderson of Ipswich
Timothy Ness of Boxford
Maximilian Exter of Amesbury
Isabella Dannible of Amesbury
Aja Hill of Amesbury
Hannah Nigro of Amesbury
Louis Matos of Amesbury
Karyn Wright of Amesbury
Alyssa Dagostino of Amesbury
Marcus Carr of Haverhill
Scott LeBlanc of Haverhill
Brianna Peno of Haverhill
Francis Spraus of Haverhill
Kyle Knox of Groveland
Michael Paluch of Georgetown
Tyler Frazier of Georgetown



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RANDY TRAVIS MORE LIFE TOUR

Since his 2013, he cannot perform vocals, but he and his wife will be on stage!
Info: <https://randytravismorelifetour.com>



Salome's Stars

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A family member's personal situation is, fortunately, resolved in time for you to get back into your hectic round of holiday preparations. An old friend might bring a new friend into your life.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Pace yourself in meeting workplace pressures and demands to avoid winding up with a frayed temper and a Scorpion stinger that lashes out at puzzled kith, kin and colleagues.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A financial matter requires close attention. Also, news from a trusted source provides the means to help sort out a long-standing state of confusion and put it into perspective.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) This is a good time to reinforce family ties. Make it a priority to assess and resolve all outstanding problems. Start the new year with a full measure of love.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Don't be pressured into a so-called solid-gold investment. Wait until all the holiday distractions are officially over. Then take a harder look at it. You might find that the "gold" is starting to flake off.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A former friend might be trying to heal the breach between you by using a mutual friend as an intermediary. Best advice: Keep an open mind despite any lingering bad feelings.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a way of saying the right thing at the right time. Your friendships are deep and lasting.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Careful, Lamb. Don't let your generous nature lead to some serious overspending. Meanwhile, your social life kicks off into high gear by the week's end.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) A positive attitude helps you weather annoying but unavoidable changes in plans. Aspects favor new friendships and reinforcement of existing relationships.

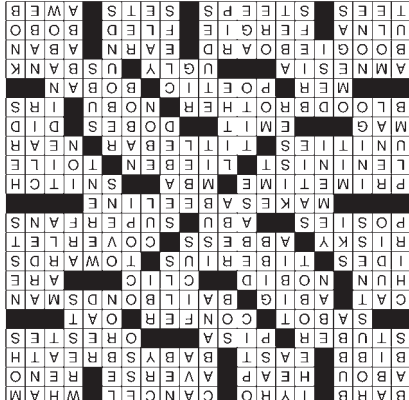
GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) The demands on your energy levels could be much higher than usual as you get back into routines after the holiday. Be sure to pace yourself. Friends and family will be happy to help.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Don't allow a suddenly icy reaction from a friend or family member to continue without learning what caused it — and what can be done to restore this once warm and caring relationship.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) A relationship seems to be unraveling, mostly from a lack of attention. It might be a good idea to ease up on whatever else you're doing so that you can spend more time working to mend it.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) New facts emerge that not only help explain the recent rift with a trusted colleague but might also provide a chance to wipe the slate clean and make a fresh start in your friendship.

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by Dave T. Phipps



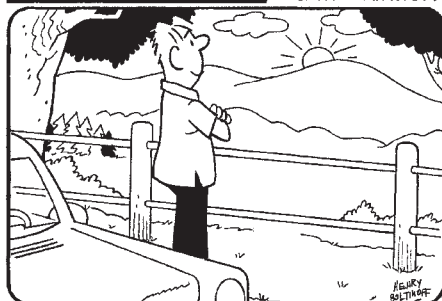
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

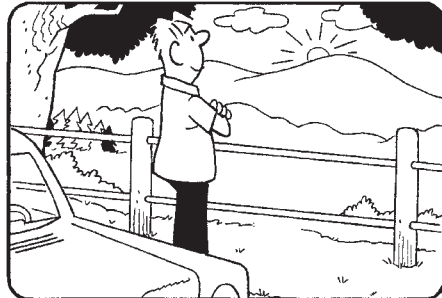
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"He has the hangover virus."

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Sun is smaller. 2. Fence post is taller. 3. Headlight is different. 4. Side mirror is missing. 5. Bottom of shirt is different. 6. Tree branch is missing.

by Dave T. Phipps



by Jeff Pickering



by BUD BLAKE



CORNER TO CORNER

1 Fishhook end

- 1 Fishhook end
5 Neophyte
9 Negate
15 "Kapow!"
19 "— Ben
Adhem"
(Leigh Hunt
poem)
20 Whole
bunch
21 Opposed (to)
22 Nevada city
on I-80
23 Mild-flavored
lettuce
24 Dawn's
direction
25 Common
corsage
flower
27 2019 buddy-
cop action-
comedy film
29 Leaning
Tower city
31 Co-avenger
with Electra
32 Wooden
shoe
34 Bestow
38 Feedbag
grain
39 Jaguar, e.g.
41 "It's not —
deal"
43 Guy who
helps people
get out of jail
48 Attila the —
49 "I pass,"
in cards

- 51 Bic — Stic
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53 March 15,
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55 Emperor
before
Caligula
58 In the
direction of
62 Unsafe
64 Convent VI
65 Quilt, e.g.
66 Small
bouquets
68 Monkey in
"Aladdin"
69 Die-hard
devotees
70 What this
puzzle's
solver does
when filling
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to lower-right
diagonal?
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TV-x
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79 Tattle
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at all
93 GQ or Us

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chain
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107 French bod
of water
108 Like an odd
110 Marjanovic
the Rocket
112 Memory lo
116 Like
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118 Citigroup
alternative
121 Item for
surfing on
one's
stomach
125 Work for
127 Impose —
(forbid)
128 Arm bone
129 Princess
Beatrice's
mom
130 Ran away
131 1967 Peter
Sellers film
with "The"
132 Casual top
133 Brines, e.g.
134 Lays (down)
135 Spin —
(do like)
Spider-Man

- DOWN**
- 1** Streisand to friends
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LEGAL NOTICE
ROWLEY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
A Public Hearing will be held on **Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 7:00 PM** to act on an application received **December 9, 2025** from **Hunter and Sherry Wagner**. Applicant(s) is requesting a **Special Permit from RPZB sec 6.1.3.1. for a variance to front set back and/or a Finding pursuant to RPZB sec 5.4.2.** The property is located at **25 Railroad Ave** in the **Outlying** district and is shown on **Assessors' Map 27, Parcel 118**. The meeting will be held at Town Hall, 139 Main St in the second floor auditorium. At the public hearing, members of the public may ask questions and present evidence that supports either the approval or denial of this petition.
1/7 (1/14)

LEGAL NOTICE
ROWLEY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
A Public Hearing will be held in accordance with MGL c 40B on **Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 7:00 PM** to act on a Comprehensive Permit Application received **December 22, 2025** from **Rowley Farms Development LLC**. Applicant(s) is requesting a **Comprehensive Permit for the construction and operation of a proposed 395-unit rental style, multi-family housing community.** The property is located at land off Haverhill St and Silva Lane in the **Outlying, Residential and Water Resource Protection** districts and is shown on **Assessors' Map 8, Parcels 51-1, 51-2, 52, 61, 61-A, 62, 62-B, 62-B3, 62-C, 62-D, 62-E, 63-A2 and Map 13, Parcel 3**. The meeting will be held at Town Hall, 139 Main St in the second floor auditorium. At the public hearing, members of the public may ask questions and present evidence that supports either the approval or denial of this petition.
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SALISBURY
Wed., January 14, 2026
Civil War Roundtable of
the Merrimack Meeting



Meeting is at 7:30 p.m., at the Hilton Senior Center, 43 Lafayette Road, Salisbury. Roundtable members John Manning, Lori Vesowate and Allen McGee will tell us about their experiences at **Gettysburg Remembrance Day** in November 2025. All are welcome to join us and learn about this moving and historically important occasion.

GEORGETOWN
Sat., January 17, 2026
Republicans Invited

The Georgetown Republican Town Committee will be meeting on Saturday January 17 at 10am at the Georgetown Peabody Library to elect

delegates to attend the MA GOP Convention which will be held on April 26, 2026. Anyone interested in being a delegate to the Convention can attend this meeting in person or send an email to lenny.mirra@gmail.com.

NEWBURYPORT
Mon. January 19, 2026
YWCA Greater
Newburyport Hosts 34th
Annual Martin Luther King,
Jr. Commemoration & Day
of Service

The YWCA Greater Newburyport is excited to host its annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration & Day of Service on Monday, January 19, 2026, 9:30 am at Newburyport City Hall (60 Pleasant Street, Newburyport, MA).

The theme of this year's Commemoration is "Standing Strong: Our Beloved Community" in recognition of Dr. King's vision of a society where justice, equality, and prosperity thrive.

The YWCA is also thrilled to welcome our Keynote Speaker, Dr. Angel Jones. Dr. Jones is a first-generation Afro-Latina educator, scholar, activist and author whose research explores racial battle fatigue and the impact of racism on mental health. Her book "Street Scholar" (Peter Lang) is "an

unapologetic call-to-action that challenges the Academy to thoughtfully and intentionally engage in public scholarship."

The event will also include the presentation of the Nancy E. Peace 'Action Against Prejudice' Award, the return of local poet Rhina P. Espailat, and a performance by vocalist Christian Cornelio. Rabbi Alex Matthews and Reverend Rebecca Bryan will deliver the Blessing and Benediction. Following the Commemoration, attendees have the opportunity to participate in a sponsored service activity in conjunction with some of our community partners. Tickets are \$10 for students/teachers and \$20 for adults. To purchase tickets and for more information on the YWCA Greater Newburyport please visit: www.ywcaneburyport.org

WEST NEWBURY
Thurs., Jan 22, 2026
Republican Town Committee

Join us at the Merrimac Brewing Company on Thursday, January 22 at 7 PM for a WNRTC Meeting and Social. Please bring your friends.

At the meeting we will be electing delegates to the MassGOP Convention on April 25, 2026 at the DCU Center in Worcester. I expect representatives from at least one of the Gubernatorial Campaigns to be in attendance.

Merrimac Brewing Company, on the second floor of the Carriage House building in the back of 12 Maple Street, West Newbury, MA.

For more info, call Rich Baker at 978-257-4101.

GEORGETOWN
THURS., JAN. 22, 2026

Council on Aging meeting with AARP about Big Bill and how it will affect seniors

ROWLEY
THURS., JAN 22, 2026

Democrats to Meet

Rowley Democrat Town Committee - see details on Page 2.

GEORGETOWN
WED., JAN. 28, 2026

Assessor Tom Berube will discuss a pro-tax plan for seniors at the Council on Aging.

Please Contribute to the Georgetown Troop #50
Boys Scouts with Your Returnable Bottles and Cans

by Kay Lee Ogden
Georgetown, Mass.

I'm asking all you folks if you would be kind enough to donate all your recyclable, returnable bottles and cans for the Boy Scouts of Troop 50 in Georgetown. The boys use this money to do their projects and go on trips during the winter and summer. They also donate scholarships! They could not do this without your support!

My name is Kay Lee Ogden, and I am willing to drive around and pick up your recyclables, and cash them in and give the money to the Scouts! My son is an assistant scout master, and works with the boys along with my grandson.

Please leave me your name and number, and I will be glad to call you and make arrangements. I can be reached at:

KAY LEE OGDEN: TEXT 978.771.6884

OR CALL: 978.352.8318

or you may send me a message at: KayLeeOgden4@gmail.com.

We appreciate your help with supporting these great kiddos who will make these good boys become better men. Thank you.

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