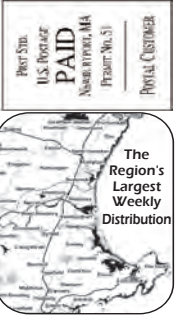


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Wednesday, January 21, 2025 - Vol. 22, No. 13

FREE



Selectman Mike Donahue (left) pushes for agenda item. Chair Rob Hoover (right) responds.

Georgetown SelectBoard Considers Banning Public Attacks, While Allowing a Member to Attack

By Stewart Lytle, Sr. Reporter

GEORGETOWN – The SelectBoard will decide next week if it should take any action on a resident's complaint, questioning the competency of board member Rachel Therrien for mischaracterizing whether the Conservation Commission (ConCom)

"voted" on how it holds its meetings.

Therrien said at Monday night's meeting that she had misspoken during the BOS meeting two weeks ago. She said that the ConCom had "voted" to continue its meetings remotely, on Zoom. What she said she should have told the board was that there was "a

Continued on page 2

Newburyport's 212-Apartment 'K-Mart' Plaza Landing Approved, May Face Court Challenge

By Stewart Lytle, Sr. Reporter

NEWBURYPORT – The city's Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) voted unanimously last week to approve construction of a three-story

building to house 212-apartments on the site of the old Kmart Building.

The largest 40B residential project in the city's history and the first in more than 20 years, Plaza Landing will be the largest residential building in this seaport city and help remedy its chronic shortage of rental housing.

Because Newburyport has less than

Continued on page 2



Photo by Stewart Lytle

Rowley's Robert Snow Honored for Veterans' Service

By Stewart Lytle, Sr. Reporter

ROWLEY – ROWLEY – SelectBoard clerk Robert Snow was awarded the Military Appreciation Veterans pin last week by state Rep. Kristin Kassner and state Sen. Bruce Tarr for his two years of service to the country as a Marine and his

continuing efforts as a civilian advocate for veterans.

Snow, who served in the Marines from 1969 to 71, was honored for being a Marine, but "being so much more," Kassner told the SelectBoard last week. She said he has been an educator, an historian and public official with the town of

Rowley.

"You stood up to serve, and you continued to serve," Kassner said.

Tarr echoed her comments, saying Snow is a "shining example" of a person who continues to give of himself.

Snow said, "I have served with so many wonderful people. I'm speechless." •

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GEORGETOWN
Continued from page 1

consensus” among ConCom members for holding meetings remotely and she had misspoken.

SelectBoard member Mike Donahue and Kevin Wood, a frequent critic of the ConCom, attacked Therrien.

Donahue, who has crossed swords with Laura Repplier and Therrien, the two female SelectBoard members, accused Therrien of “a continuing pattern of behavior” that included filing false police reports against board members and Town Administrator Orlando Pacheco.

Last year, while working on rewriting policies and procedures, Repplier declined to meet with Donahue alone. Two years ago, Donahue filed a 1,300-word complaint against Therrien, asking she be removed from her posts for incompetency. Wood also wrote

a 25-page report criticizing the ConCom. No action was taken on either. The town’s attorney, KP Law, was consulted at taxpayers’ expense, but opined that both complaints were solely their opinions.

Donahue and Wood criticized Therrien, a veteran member of the ConCom and its current chair, saying “I do not believe that this was an error.”

He asked for the matter to be discussed by the SelectBoard in executive session scheduled for Jan. 26. Chair Rob Hoover and member Doug Dawes voted with him. Therrien and Repplier voted not to refer the complaint.

Pacheco explained that whether the matter is discussed in executive session or in public is Therrien’s choice in an executive session.

Donahue then spent 20 minutes of the meeting discussing proposed rules for public comments before the SelectBoard that set limits of three minutes for any individual and a total of 15 minutes to speak to the board unless it extends their time.

Ironically, given his and Wood’s attacks on Therrien, Donahue pro-

posed a rule for the SelectBoard meetings that would prohibit members of the public from making personal attacks against individuals or engage in destructive behavior when speaking.

Wood claimed the ConCom, which he has applied unsuccessfully to be appointed to, had ignored a petition regarding a public hearing of the West Street project.

According to the minutes and television recording of the Sept. 18 meeting on Georgetown Community TV, the commission did review Wood’s petition and continues to deliberate on one of three West Street project. Therrien announced that Wood’s petition, one of dozens he has filed, was available for the public to read in the commission’s Town Hall office. Two of three West Street projects have been acted on after a discussion by the ConCom. A third was considered at last week’s meeting.

The petition against Therrien is not the first citizens have filed recently against a SelectBoard member. A petition with more than 100 signatures was filed against Dawes two years ago, but was never discussed by the SelectBoard. ♦



Posted by Mayor Reardon on social media

NEWBURYPORT

Continued from page 1

10 percent of its housing stock classified as affordable, state law 40B gave the ZBA little authority to make changes to the developer’s plans for the apartment building. The approval of the 212 apartments, 25 percent of which will be considered affordable, puts the city over the state’s 10 percent mark that returns full zoning control to the city.

Lisa Mead, former Newburyport mayor and attorney who represented the owner/developer Port Plaza Realty Trust, said, “It is a good project for the city,” citing the need for more rental properties.

Last fall when the ZBA hearings opened, Mayor Sean Reardon wrote of the rental shortage, “Longtime residents are unable to downsize due to a lack of options, and younger generations struggle to find homes they can afford. There is no silver bullet to the housing crisis, but it is clear we must act. My administration is committed to responsible steps that address this crisis head-on.”

The ZBA, as expected, ordered the developer, to pay for adding a new left-hand turn lane on Low Street for vehicles going into the Port Plaza shopping center where the apartment building will be built.

Mead declined to speculate on whether Richard Kaplan, owner of Port Plaza Realty Trust, would want to fight any conditions the ZBA imposed. The left-hand turn lane is

expected to cost the developer about half a million dollars. “We’ll have to look at it,” she said.

To handle the projected 33 percent increase in traffic on Low Street, plans call for adding a HAWK traffic control light, which flashes to stop traffic for pedestrians. The cost of the land and the light was estimated at \$700,000.

The proposed lane would increase the width of Low Street in front of Hodgie’s Two ice cream shop from 36 to 42 feet. In addition to the proposed standard 10-foot turn lane in the center, there would be two 11-foot wide through lanes on either side of the turn lane and two five-foot bicycle lanes against each curb.

The city would not have to buy land to expand the road, board member Jared Eigerman said at a meeting last year.

The traffic consultant hired by the ZBA strongly supported the additional lane, but Kaplan’s consultant said it was “nice to have, but not necessary.” The additional traffic from the building did not make the intersection significantly less safe, said traffic engineer Jeffrey Dirk.

That intersection has always been difficult because motorists traveling down Low Street from Storey Avenue often swing to the right to pass vehicles turning left, board members said.

Eigerman said the ZBA did not want to exacerbate the “existing problem.”

The ZBA filed the approved plans. The developer has 20 days to appeal.

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21	Wed	12:50	7.6	1:00	8.6	6:51	0.6	7:22	-0.2	7:07	4:41	☐
22	Thu	1:31	7.8	1:43	8.5	7:35	0.4	8:03	-0.2	7:06	4:43	☐
23	Fri	2:13	8.1	2:29	8.3	8:22	0.3	8:46	-0.1	7:05	4:44	☐
24	Sat	2:59	8.3	3:20	8.0	9:13	0.2	9:34	0.1	7:04	4:45	☐
25	Sun	3:49	8.4	4:15	7.7	10:08	0.1	10:25	0.3	7:04	4:47	☐
26	Mon	4:42	8.5	5:15	7.4	11:08	0.1	11:21	0.5	7:03	4:48	☐
27	Tue	5:40	8.6	6:18	7.2			12:11	0.0	7:02	4:49	☐
28	Wed	6:42	8.7	7:24	7.1	12:21	0.7	1:16	-0.1	7:01	4:50	☐

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Upcoming Events

SALISBURY
Wed., Jan 21, 2026
Conservation Commission
PUBLIC HEARINGS at 7:10 pm:
1. RDA: Robert Leavitt, 4 11th Street West
2. NOI: Massachusetts DOT, Representative Paul Stedman, 213 Elm Street
3. NOI: Yvonne Green, 6 Libby Avenue
4. NOI: Boston North Development, 154 Lafayette Road

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

GROVELAND
SAT., JAN. 24, 2026
Social Security 101: Understanding Your Benefits
Center Meeting Room, Town Hall, at 10 A.M. - FREE - Curious about how Social Security works or when you should claim for an approaching retirement? Join Steve Kenney



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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**t". 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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West Newbury: 'Green Burials, A Natural Alternative'

Thursday, January 22, 2026, 7 P.M.

Virtual program: "Green Burials - A Natural Alternative" Thursday, January 22, 2026. 7-8 p.m.

What is a "Green" Burial? What is a "Natural" Burial? Could these alternatives to traditional modes of interment and cremation be something you or someone you know might prefer? Can we have a Green Burial in West Newbury?

West Newbury Wild and Native and the G.A.R. Memorial Library invite you to a Zoom presentation by Marianne Di Blasi, of the Green Burial Massachusetts Speaker's Bureau, to find out more about this ecologically sound way to return our bodies to the earth after death.

Typically a "green" or "natural" burial means no embalming chemicals are used and any burial container is biodegradable. Traditional headstones may or may not be used, but there is often a

flat memorial stone that may lay flat or a natural rock to mark a grave. Unlike cremation, such burials conserve natural resources, reduce carbon emissions and can help preserve natural habitats.

Prior to the Civil War, most burials were "natural" ones, so we can be sure that green burials are nothing new for West Newbury's existing cemeteries. Many cities and towns in Massachusetts have already enacted bylaws and regulations allowing green burials. Mass DEP recommends that local Boards of Health develop guidance and an approval process for those interested in leaving less of a footprint in death. Subject to Board of Health regulations, such burials may occur on private properties and cemeteries.

Register for the Zoom link at: wnwild-native.org and find out if green burial may be right for you and West Newbury. ♦



Georgetown Royal Lancer Band fills Main Street at Walt Disney World, Orlando, Florida in 2007 (Photo by Lonnie Brennan)

Student-Led Music Fundraiser to Support the Georgetown High School Band Program

GEORGETOWN — Georgetown High School 11th-grade student Leyang Zhang is organizing a student-led music fundraiser as part of his Eagle Scout service project. Two performance dates are scheduled, dedicated to raising funds to re-pair broken band instruments and support the Georgetown High School music program.

"Over the past several years, our band program has faced significant chal-

lenges, including staff transitions and declining enrollment," Leyang shared. "Through this project, I hope not only to restore damaged instruments, but also to strengthen and spotlight the value of music education in our school and community."

On his website, Leyang detailed: "My project is mainly about repairing the broken and worn-down instruments that have been neglected in the band storage room of GMHS (Georgetown Middle High School). There are many instruments in there that have been collecting dust and many of them are non-functional anymore. There is also the opportunity for families in Georgetown to bring their own personal instruments for repair as well.

As a Boy Scout and someone who also loves music, I saw this as an opportunity in order to repair the broken instruments in the band room. A part of this project will be working with volunteers in order to perform minor dent removal and cleanups, while others will include hiring the help of professionals to perform major repairs."

The fundraiser will feature live music performances and will be held on two Friday evenings from 7:00–8:30 p.m. The event is family-friendly, admission is by donation, and all proceeds will go directly toward repair-ing school instruments and supporting the band program. Community members are welcome to attend at any time during the event.

More information about the project can be found here:

<https://royalsmusicproject.weebly.com/>

Anyone interested in performing may sign up here:

<https://tinyurl.com/01833band>.

All past, present, and hopeful future Georgetown High School band members, families, and music parents and friends are encouraged to attend and meet or re-unite at the events and show their support for the Georgetown music program.

Performance dates:
January 30, 2026 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
February 6, 2026 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Snow Date: February 13, 2026
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM



Georgetown's Hometown Heroes Banner Program – Order a Banner Before April 1

By Kay Lee Ogden

Georgetown's Hometown Heroes Banner Program was a community initiative, led by local resident Jon Pingree who

worked with the Georgetown Kiwanis place banners throughout the downtown to honor local veterans.

Continued on page 4

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Focus on Real Estate

Featured Property Listing

Own An Ipswich
Legendary Store



By Stewart Lytle, Sr. Reporter

IPSWICH – On the market is a small slice of this town’s colorful history that could remain a mixed-use property with a commercial kitchen with a two-bedroom, second-floor residence. Or the 2,419-square-foot building could be converted to full residential.

Listed by Frank Bertolino with the North Shore Realty Group at \$975,000, the Little River Store sits on a large, 5,800 square foot lot.

The Little River Store at 57 East St. was opened in 1922 a few yards from the town boat dock on the Ipswich River by local legend Edgar I. (E.I.) Holland. He operated it as the Ipswich River Grocery Store, selling provisions to the neighborhood in a day when such small grocery stores were a staple in most New England neighborhoods.

The building, built originally in 1909, has been a part of this quaint neighborhood not far from downtown for more than a century. It operated for years as Alice’s, whose proprietor sold penny candies from a glass case at the front of the store. More recently, customers remember buying homemade muffins and specialty cookies from the same case.

GEORGETOWN
HOMETOWN HEROES

Continued from page 3

The program displays 2 ft. x 3 ft. banners on utility poles from May 1st through the end of November and spotlights local veterans with a link to Georgetown.

Banners are produced in minimum batches of five and the cost is \$195 each. Banners are free for people who work for the town of Georgetown, or a relative killed in duty, or for those who cannot afford it.

The program “technically sunsets” after 2027 but could possibly be extended, depending on interest, donations, and funding.

Please contact Jon Pingree at greaterbostonaware.net or call him at 978.836.8409. ♦

Alice was a local character, described by those who knew her as having long hair, a raspy voice and rarely being without a cigarette dangling from her lips.

The store became Jules Kitchen, who turned out culinary delights in its first-floor commercial kitchen. Upstairs the two-bedroom apartment has a large living room, a private entrance and views of the river.

A few months before the Covid Pandemic hit Vernon and Sandy Bell, the owners of the successful Platinum Pools, bought the property that includes a 342-square-foot shed which once sold bait to fishermen on the river. Working with their son, Christopher Nicholas Bell, they called the store the Little River Store and once the Pandemic let up started expanding the store to make room for Sandy’s homemade sandwiches for the river traffic and the local neighbors.

Sandy called her customers her second family. “They always had my back,” she said. “And I had theirs.”

She would bring donuts to an elderly



The Little River Store (Photo by Stewart Lytle)

gentleman, who lived nearby. And when an elderly woman slipped out of her house to take herself shopping, against her daughter’s wishes, Sandy walked her home. At Christmas last year, she staged a contest for 12 children who lived nearby to make their own tree ornaments. Everyone got a gift certificate. And the winner, a father and his son, got to make the donuts for

Christmas.

Several years ago, a house was torn down to make room for a 14-car parking lot.

Asked why they were selling the legendary property, Sandy Bell said she is missing seeing the customers and cooking. She would rise before 5 a.m. to turn on the ovens for the day’s baking, a habit she continues.

But she is needed by her husband and son at Platinum Pools, which grows bigger and more successful every year.

“I miss my second family,” she said. “I even miss burning my fingers.”

For a tour of the property, call North Shore Realty at 978-710-9388 or email at thenorthshorerealtygroup@gmail.com. ♦

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by Kay Lee Ogden 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

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19)
Events could inspire adventurous Lambs who are looking to make a major career or personal move. But as always, get all the facts before rushing into any sort of deal or commitment.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)
What seems to be a great opportunity could cause even usually practical Taureans to ignore their inner caution cues. Best to move carefully to avoid falling into unseen traps.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)
Need a holiday now that the seasonal festivities are behind you? Good idea! Plan to go to someplace wonderful. You'll return refreshed and more than ready for a new challenge.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22)
Progress continues to be made on that pesky workplace problem. Meanwhile, don't assume that a personal situation will work itself out. Best to get more involved earlier rather than later.

LEO (July 23 to August 22)
Catnaps are definitely recommended for Leos and Leonas who had been going at a hectic pace over the holidays. Adding relaxation time to your schedule helps restore your overdrawn energy reserves.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)
Sure, some of the new friends you made during the holidays might move out of your life at some point. But at least one might show significant "staying power" with some encouragement.

LIBRA (September 23 to October

22) Encourage family members to join you in supporting a relative who could be facing a difficult emotional challenge in the New Year. Showing your love and concern helps keep this person's hopes up.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)
While a long-deferred decision might suddenly take on some urgency after news on a related matter, you still need to weigh all the factors carefully before deciding one way or the other.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)
This is a good time to reassess the earlier plan you made for the New Year. Some elements you felt you could depend on to make it work might no longer carry this assurance.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)
Forming a renewed connection with a former associate is only the first step toward working out your new plans. Be prepared for problems and deal with them as soon as they arise.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)
A romantic situation that was going smoothly not too long ago might take a new turn. Be honest about your feelings before you decide whether to follow it or take another path.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20)
The wise Pisces (that's you, of course) will make sure that everyone knows your plan to keep your options open and will listen to all sides of the situation before making any decisions.

BORN THIS WEEK: Your honest approach to life and living is always an inspiration for others who are fortunate enough to know you.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Continued from page 3


from AARP Mass. Speakers Bureau for an approachable overview of retirement, survivor, and disability benefits, including what to consider if you're still working. A great starting point for anyone planning ahead.

GROVELAND
MON., JAN. 26, 2026
Downton Abbey

Join us at the Groveland Town Hall's Center Meeting Room at 11:00 A.M. for a viewing of Downton Abbey, rated PG, starring Hugh Bonneville and Maggie Smith. 2 hours, 2 minutes. This 2019 movie is an uplifting continuation of the award-winning series as the Crawley family prepares for a royal visit that brings excitement, intrigue, and plenty of Downton charm.

SALISBURY
MON., JAN. 26, 2026
Board of Selectmen 7:00 P.M.

GEORGETOWN
WED., JAN. 28, 2026
Assessor Tom Berube will discuss a



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SCAM ALERT

Important Notice for Salisbury Property Owners

The Town of Salisbury wants to alert residents about a fraudulent mailing currently being sent to property owners. This letter references a "Property Assessment Profile" and includes an invoice requesting payment for your Grant Deed or another "record of title."

Some versions also include what looks like an official notice, which is intended to make the mailing appear legitimate.

Please be aware that this mailing is not from the Town of Salisbury, the Assessor's Office, or any legitimate government agency. It is a scam, and no action should be taken.

If you have any doubts about property-related correspondence, the Town of Salisbury Assessor's Office is available to help verify what is legitimate.

The Town Common

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