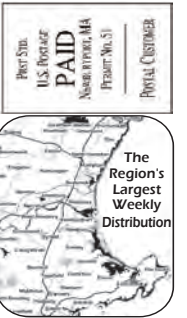


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(Photo: Tracey Westgate Photography via Courtesy Clark School, Theatre at the Bell)

## Rowley's Clark School Presents *Lila the Werewolf*

By Stewart Lytle, Sr. Reporter

**ROWLEY** — The Clark's School's Theatre at the Bell will present a serio-comic play, *Lila the Werewolf*, that is adapted from the short story by acclaimed fantasy author Peter S. Beagle, author of the beloved novel and film *The Last Unicorn*.

Performances are at 7:30 p.m., Fri., Feb. 6 and Sat., Feb. 7 at the Clark School's Theatre at the Bell, 14 Forest Ridge Dr., Rowley.

*Lila the Werewolf* follows Farrell, a

laid-back New Yorker whose life and relationship with his girlfriend, Lila, a shy and self-conscious young woman, take a wild turn when he discovers she is a werewolf. The play blends humor, heart and fantastical twists as Farrell, Lila and those around them grapple with love, identity and the unexpected.

Lila is played by Megan Schena; Farrell by Eric Dauenhauer; Ben by Ashley Olsen; Mrs. Braun by Beth Enos and The Superintendent by Sean Westgate.

The production is directed by Jeffery

Continued on page 2

**HELP WANTED  
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PAGE 7**

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Ginamarie Talford with her novel, found at Illume and Jabberwocky (Photo by Stewart Lytle)

## Greyhound Heals, Finds Her Place in the Post-Racing World

By Stewart Lytle, Sr. Reporter

**NEWBURYPORT** — The Greyhound had been a champion racer, but her wins and the prize money she won were never enough for the

humans who owned her or those assigned to care for her.

For the Greyhound, there was no graceful retirement from the track like thoroughbred horses receive when they are put out to pasture. The grey-

hound carried scars internally and on her body. And worst, when she had run her last race, she lost her perceived place in the world.

In her debut novel, *The Way of the*

Continued on page 5

## Boxford Select Board Seeks Resident Input on Future of Stiles Pond Beach Operations

**BOXFORD** —The Boxford Select Board is inviting residents to share their feedback on the future opera-

tions of Stiles Pond Beach as the Town plans for the 2026 beach season.

For many years, Stiles Pond Beach was operated by the Boxford Athletic Association (BAA), a volunteer-run organization that provided lifeguards, managed concessions, and oversaw daily operations on behalf of the Town. The Select Board extends their sincere thanks to the BAA and its dedicated volunteers for their many years of service to this treasured community resource.

In 2025, the BAA concluded its role

in managing the beach, and the Town is now evaluating how best to operate Stiles Pond moving forward. Over the past several months, the Town explored potential partnerships with outside organizations, including the Danvers YMCA, but insurance constraints prevented those options from moving forward. As a result, the Town is now considering a range of operational and funding approaches for future beach seasons.

Key topics under consideration

Continued on page 4

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Letters To The Editor

Disgusted Georgetown Resident

Recently, the BoS held meetings on topics ranging from ‘banning public attacks’ to policies pertaining to the Con-Com. During both meetings, a couple of men on the BoS criticized a woman who is on both the BoS and Con-Com. [Selectman Mike] Donahue, who ‘accuses’ this woman of a “continuous pattern of behavior”, has his own unique ‘continuous pattern of behavior’. It has been reported that his pattern of behavior is insisting that this woman’s behavior be repeatedly scrutinized.

His accusations concerning this woman’s behavior have been reviewed by K. P. Law, at Georgetown taxpayer’s expense, and the attorney concluded that no action was necessitated. This was a waste of time and money.

“Brevity if the Soul of Wit” – Shakespeare

Donahue spent 20 minutes of a BoS

meeting discussing proposed rules for public comments (as reported by the Jan 21, 2026 Town Common newspaper). These proposed rules for public comments would set limits of 3 minutes for any individual and 15 minutes to speak to the BoS unless it extends their time. I guess extending their time is unimportant only when a BoS member monopolizes the meeting for 20 minutes. I suggest the BoS review the 1st Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Ironically, the Jan 21, 2026 newspaper column regarding the lack of brevity by the individual proposing brevity included a ‘prohibition of personal attacks’, has been accused of unsettling behavior toward the two women on the BoS resulting in one of the women declining to meet with him without a chaperone. These two women did not have 100 residents sign a petition against them. That dubious distinction was filed against another male member of the BoS and curiously ignored. [years past]

The BoS meeting with the members of the Con-Com covered 3 topics. Conveniently and conspicuously absent from these 3 topics was the Keystone issue concerning the harassment and weakening of the Con-Com by certain members of the BoS and residents. There exists a dirth of common good and purpose on display during BoS meetings. The BoS must proactively recruit town residents who have some expertise and experience pertaining to the committees to which they are appointed. A policy to proactively recruit functional and knowledgeable volunteers would put an end to the consistent dysfunction of Georgetown governance.

By way of example, let us consider a policy for appointments to the Con-Com. Members of the Con-Com should have expertise or experience in one of the following disciplines or professions: Wetland Science, Plant and Soil Sciences, Botany, Environmental Science, Ecology, Forestry, Hydrology, Glacial Geology, Geomorphology, Civil Engineering or have a sincere interest and ability to comprehend applicable sciences and adhere to the Georgetown Wetland Bylaw and The Wetland Protection Act. The Wetland Protection Act is not open to manipulation or interpretation. It is not a guideline.

The BoS should both protect the Con-Com from harm and limit their power to harm the Con-Com or any town volunteer. The residents should insist that the BoS create and adhere to policies and procedures that curtail their public attacks, thus limiting their power to harm or interfere, and act with good and common purpose or immediately be removed from the BoS.

This is an appropriate moment to remind the BoS and the T.A. that they work for the Georgetown residents. Residents don’t work for you or for any employee or volunteer in this town. Start behaving as though you comprehend this.

Lastly, men bullying women and permitting the bullying of women is a Bad Look, especially during these Epstein-Trump times.

A Disgusted Resident,  
Ida Wye

**Editor’s Note:** Letter was printed as submitted with exception of two additions placed in brackets [ ], but this will be the last long letter we print. Limit is 250 words, please, or we will clip, as well as edit for punctuation/grammar.

CAST LIST



Meg Schena  
as Lila



Eric Dauenhauer  
as Farrell



Ashley Olsen  
as Ben



Beth Enos  
as Mrs. Braun



Sean Westgate  
as the Super

CLARK SCHOOL

Continued from page 1

Kimball Clark, produced by Kay Marsella, stage managed by Sami Goldberg and student stage managed by Emma Bissell.

Jeffery Kimball Clark, who is also the artistic director of Theatre at the Bell, wrote of the production, “Lila is a piece dear to my heart, as I am a big fan of Peter S. Beagle, author of The Last

Unicorn but also author of a number of very fun, quirky, oddity stories that dip their toe in the fantasy genre.

“It’s so easy to default to quick minded judgment in this day and age. With a little investigation, you might discover something pretty spectacular.”

Purchase tickets at: <https://www.ticketleap.events/tickets/theatre-at-the-bell/theatre-at-the-bell-presents-lila-the-werewolf>, or [tinyurl.com/lilaat-clarkschool](https://tinyurl.com/lilaat-clarkschool).♦

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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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29	Thu	7:45	8.9	8:27	7.2	1:24	0.7	2:19	-0.3	7:00	4:52	☾
30	Fri	8:45	9.1	9:27	7.5	2:26	0.5	3:19	-0.5	6:59	4:53	☾
31	Sat	9:43	9.3	10:22	7.7	3:25	0.3	4:14	-0.7	6:58	4:54	☾
1	Sun	10:37	9.4	11:13	8.0	4:21	0.1	5:06	-0.9	6:57	4:56	☾
2	Mon	11:28	9.4			5:14	-0.1	5:53	-0.9	6:56	4:57	☾
3	Tue	12:01	8.2	12:16	9.2	6:04	-0.2	6:38	-0.8	6:55	4:58	☾
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# YWCA Greater Newburyport Hosted its 34nd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration & Day of Service

**NEWBURYPORT** – Despite the snowy conditions, the YWCA Greater Newburyport welcomed more than 200 guests to Newburyport City Hall in celebration of its annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration & first-ever Day of Service last week.

After attendees enjoyed delicious food and beverages donated from community partners, the program began with welcoming remarks from YWCA Executive Director Dr. Kate Slater, who urged the audience to “to commemorate Martin Luther King as the radical and revolutionary he was” and concluded with the reminder “May you all recommit to this work of a lifetime with the fierce urgency of now.” The program continued with a blessing from Rabbi Alex Matthews, followed by profound stories and poetry from award winning poet and author Rhina Espaillat.

This year’s theme, “Standing Strong: Our Beloved Community” was chosen in recognition of Dr. King’s vision of a society where justice, equality, and prosperity. The keynote address was delivered to a standing-room-only crowd by activist and public figure Dr. Angel Jones, followed by a Q&A with Slater. 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: Using*



*Public Scholarship to Educate, Advocate, and Liberate* (Peter Lang) is “an unapologetic call-to-action that challenges the Academy to thoughtfully and intentionally engage in public scholarship.” Dr. Jones delivered a moving keynote invoking the power of community and the ancestors who have guided her. She encouraged the audience members to envision future generations and to think about our collective responsibility to create a beloved community; “What will they say about you as their ancestors?” she asked, “What will *your* legacy be?”

Additionally, the Commemora-

tion featured the presentation of the YWCA’s Nancy E. Peace Action Against Prejudice Award, recognizing individuals who, through their professional or volunteer lives, have made valuable contributions towards eliminating racism, fighting prejudice, and celebrating diversity. It was presented by Erin Hutchinson-Himmel to award recipient Reverend Rebecca Bryan, Minister at the First Religious Society, Unitarian Universalist. Reverend Bryan began her ministry in 2018 as the first settled female minister, serving on the local DEI Task Force

Continued on page 5

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## Focus on Real Estate

### Featured Property Listing

## Historic Church For Sale



By Stewart Lytle, Sr. Reporter

the beautifully preserved 4,600-square-foot church could be a business or an artist studio.

But Williams believes the “highest and best use” of the former Methodist Church is as a single-family home.

In her 24 years of being a Realtor, Williams has listed four churches for sale. “I like being a steward of historic properties,” she said. “You have to be a special person to want to live in a church.”

For the “right person” who buys and makes the church their home, “It will be very different from any other home in the neighborhood,” she said. Built in 1870, the church is listed for \$579,000 because Williams believes a new owner may have to put about half a million dollars into construction costs. The church has no bedrooms, so to make it a high-end residence, an architect will need to design the space to include bedrooms.

“With sweeping views of the river, this landmark invites you to bring your vision -- and your architect -- to transform it into a one-of-a-kind single-family home. The soaring architecture, character details and dramatic presence provide the perfect backdrop



*The Merrimacport Methodist Church (Photo by Stewart Lytle)*

for a custom residence that blends historic charm with modern living,” she listing states.

The interior features a center hall that is 35 feet by 25 feet and two bonus rooms, one of which is 22 feet by 15

feet. The neighborhood church has no parking, which limits its use for a business.

But for a residence, Williams said a two-car garage could be added on the lower level.

The church, which held services until recently, still has a working bell that Williams said she has rung. It has been on the market for six months and has had three offers, none of which closed. Williams said, “I’m being patient.”

### BOXFORD'S STILES POND BEACH USAGE/ FUNDING SURVEY

Continued from page 1

include:

- Whether lifeguards should continue to be provided
- How beach operations should be funded
- The future of concessions or snack options
- Restroom access and other amenities

#### Resident Survey Now Open

Public input will play an important role in shaping future decisions. The Select Board has launched an online survey to gather resident feedback, which will remain open for the next few weeks.

Residents are encouraged to complete the survey and can access it from the town website: <https://www.boxfordma.gov/m/newsflash/home/detail/212> or: [tinyurl.com/boxfordpondsurvey](https://tinyurl.com/boxfordpondsurvey).

The survey is intended to help the Town better understand community priorities related to safety, amenities, and funding for Stiles Pond Beach.

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# National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners Names Karen Coppola as 2025 CPD of the Year

Special Submission to  
**The Town Common**

Karen Coppola, RDH, CDP, EAL has been selected as NCCDP's 2025 Certified Dementia Practitioner (CDP) of the Year—an honor that reflects what so many families, caregivers, and community partners already know: Karen brings rare steadiness, creativity, and heart to dementia care.

In Karen, we recognize a practitioner whose work lives at the intersection of clinical insight, lived caregiver experience, and practical innovation—and whose presence consistently restores dignity, connection, and confidence for people living with dementia and the care partners who walk beside them.

**A steady guide when families need it most**

Karen was nominated by Dr. Jeanine

McCleod, who shared how she first connected with Karen through the Veterans Administration (VA) Caregiver Support Program, where Karen serves as a Peer Mentor. In a season marked by rapid change and uncertainty, Karen's calm clarity, insightful counsel, and nonjudgmental support became a lifeline—helping a family find steadier footing, and later extending that same humility and consistency to countless others.

**Innovation that brings partners back together: It Takes a Herd™**

Karen's trailblazing work is perhaps best known through It Takes a



Herd™ (ITAH), a trademarked, dementia-friendly equine-assisted program that blends dementia care expertise, Equine-Assisted Learning (EAL), and a deeply person-centered approach. Through structured, meaningful activities

with horses—paired with a robust, research-informed curriculum—Karen intentionally supports both the person living with dementia and the care partner, creating space for connection, confidence, and shared purpose.

**Not a doctor's appointment—an experience that restores connection**

The impact of Karen's work is especially visible when participants describe it in their own words. In a Boston 25 News segment filmed at Strongwater Farm in Tewksbury, Massachusetts, viewers see caregivers and loved ones engaging side-by-side in hands-on activities with horses—an experience that is social, skill-building, and emotionally grounding. Karen's approach meets a real gap: support that truly serves both members of the caregiving

partnership.

**Leadership beyond the arena**

Karen's contributions extend far beyond equine programming. She holds certification as a Dementia Support Group Facilitator; serves in advisory and speaker roles (including with the VA Medical Center's Caregiver Support Program and regional Councils on Aging); facilitates equine-assisted Memory Cafes; and is intentional about expanding access for veteran families and others who have

Continued on page 8

## HEALING - BOOK

Continued from page 1

Greyhound, Ginamarie Talford of Newburyport tells the story of Brendal Mar's search for peace in life and equally important the quest for finding her voice and her way.

Talford said it is a story designed to help people overcome loss, grief and anxiety. It deals with these human emotions in a heartwarming manner, so readers may find new beginnings, self-love and a connection to nature or the Tao.

Talford, a high school English literature teacher and college Humanities Department head, gives us an emotionally packed story, telling it through an allegory of pain and suffering and finally salvation.

For Brendal Mar, the greyhound, finding her way begins when she is sold or given away by her owner to a caring young woman, whom the greyhound calls Jeep Girl. The dog, filled with anxiety, does not understand Jeep Girl's motivations and is prodded by a bee to distrust the woman and make her escape to an unknown future.

According to Talford, the Bee symbolizes the human ego, buzzing constantly in one's ear, often giving bad advice that leads the greyhound to make bad decisions. Fortunately, there are forces of good that come in her life. The Moon and Mouse, who befriend the Greyhound, represent

one's own intuition, Talford said.

The Greyhound in her travels learns to trust the Moon and the Mouse, who encourage her to find Jeep Girl, who lives in a house along the Merrimack River.

Talford, who has parented two rescued greyhounds, Brendal Mar and SweetP, and fostered a third greyhound, pours a lot of herself into this novel. "Ginamarie believes in love, magick (her spelling), angels, awakenings and serendipity," the novel jacket reads.

She shares lessons she has learned from great writers like Henry David Thoreau, Ralph Waldo Emerson and Edgar Allan Poe and other romantic authors and American transcendentalists. She crafted the book like a sonnet with three quatrains, like a Shakespearean sonnet.

After graduating from Boston College, Talford earned a master's degree in English and had a career in education as a teacher, principal and chair of a college Humanities Department. She found her own voice in singing, and working with a Nashville, TN, studio, released her first album Emerging Moon in 2007. In October, she released a new song, Galway Rain.

She trained as a martial artist and is a second-degree black belt in Soo Bank Do-Moo Duk Kwan. She is also a Reiki Master.

"These disciplines have taught her to seek solace and healing in nature and the Tao," the back cover said.

Pick up a copy of Talford's novel in either of Newburyport's book stores, at the Illume Book Store on Market Square or the Jabberwocky Book Store in the Tannery.

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## BOXFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

You are hereby notified that a Public Hearing will be held via Zoom videoconference on Thursday February 5, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. or such other time when posted for the Notice of Intent by applicant Helio Rosa for YMCA of Greater Boston for the property located at 433 Main Street, Map 18, Block 1, Lot 30 to implement various site improvements at Camp Wakanda including a new canoe launch, a replacement for the existing changing station, beach nourishment, improvements to the open air amphitheater, construction of activity area, footbridge replacement, portions of which work to occur within Bordering Vegetated Wetland, Bordering Land Subject to Flooding, Bank, Land Under Water, and associated buffer zones.

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

For the Commission,  
Ross Povenmire, Conservation Director

1/28

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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!

**by Kay Lee Ogden** 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.

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