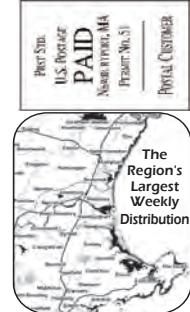


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Wednesday, February 18, 2026 - Vol. 22, No. 17

FREE



Frank Bertolino at Giuseppe's Restaurant (Photo by Stewart Lytle)



Ross Capolupo - West Newbury Select Board Member

Open Letter to Residents of West Newbury

Dear Residents of West Newbury, I am writing to respectfully tender my resignation from the Select Board, with an effective date of March 1, 2026. My reasoning for doing so is strictly personal, and relates to a significant change in personal circumstances. My fellow board members invest staggering amounts of time to keep up with the ever-burgeoning needs of the Town, and despite their

Continued on page 2



Harbor Seal - Photo by Peter McClelland

Amesbury Winter Visitor Floats By ...

Photographer Peter McClelland and recently took this shot from his spotted this harbor seal floating by front porch in Amesbury.

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Continued on page 5

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Notice of Vacancy West Newbury Select Board

At its regularly scheduled meeting on February 12th, during public comments at the beginning of the meeting, Select Board member Ross Capolupo announced his resignation from the Board, effective March 1st.

The Board has consulted with the Town Clerk and with Town Counsel as to the appropriate process to fill this vacancy on the 3-member Select Board.

The Select Board will file a notice of election for this office with the Board of Registrars, in order to place the remainder of Ross's term (through early May, 2028) on the ballot for the next Town election on Monday, May 4th.

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

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

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As with other open seats on the May 2026 ballot, the deadline to take out nomination papers is Friday, March 13th at 5pm, and the deadline to return nomination papers to the Town Clerk's office is Monday, March 16th at 5pm.

All interested residents are encouraged to consider running for this and other elected positions to serve as a part of West Newbury's government!

Questions regarding the nomination and election processes may be directed to the Town Clerk's office.

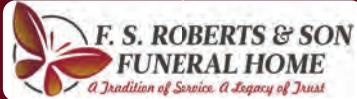
Questions regarding the Select Board may be directed to any member of the Board individually, or to selectboard@wnewbury.org.

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	AM	ft	PM	ft	AM	ft	PM	ft			
18	Wed	11:56	8.7		5:46	0.3	6:14	-0.3	6:35	5:18	
19	Thu	12:22	8.2	12:38	8.7	6:29	0.0	6:53	-0.4	6:34	5:19
20	Fri	1:02	8.5	1:22	8.6	7:13	-0.3	7:34	-0.3	6:32	5:21
21	Sat	1:44	8.8	2:08	8.4	8:00	-0.4	8:18	-0.2	6:31	5:22
22	Sun	2:31	8.9	2:59	8.1	8:51	-0.4	9:07	0.1	6:29	5:23
23	Mon	3:22	8.9	3:55	7.7	9:47	-0.3	10:00	0.4	6:28	5:25
24	Tue	4:18	8.8	4:56	7.4	10:47	-0.1	10:59	0.6	6:26	5:26
25	Wed	5:19	8.7	6:01	7.1	11:52	0.0			6:24	5:27
26	Thu	6:24	8.7	7:09	7.1	12:04	0.8	12:59	0.0	6:23	5:28

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CAPOLUPO THANKS ALL

Continued from page 1

support and accommodation, I do not feel that I am able to provide the return that is owed to residents.

Prior to the Select Board, I had served primarily on the Finance Committee, and I had felt that I had at least a finger on the pulse of Town business. Notwithstanding this ramp up, it was not without a sense of awe and wonderment that I navigated my first year on the Select Board. To some, Town business looks to be a calm and orderly one, like the placid surface of an inlet. However, joining the Select Board, for me, was like donning goggles and a snorkel, and looking under the surface to see a hidden, complex ecosystem.

Some items of business are exciting and headline-grabbing, but I found

the large majority to be sobering; abstruse issues requiring scrupulous analysis and decision-making, where the benefits (or liabilities) sometimes are a generation away.

During my time, I had the pleasure of interacting with numerous members of Town staff, and I was struck by their industriousness, integrity, and respective acumen, qualities in such remarkable excess as to rival any of my experiences in the private sector.

I didn't write this letter to pander to my former colleagues, but I can't help but give credit where it is due – it was an honor and a privilege to serve with Wendy Reed and Chris Wile. I saw them volunteering immense portions of their personal time not simply to check the boxes of their positions, but rather to proactively and ardently anticipate and stay abreast of issues. They were models for thoughtful, collaborative, and discerning leadership, and think tirelessly in terms of

what is best for the Town as a whole.

It is my hope that the Town's leadership will continue to be measured and thoughtful: to listen to the passions of the crowd, but to remember that the loudest voices are still often but a portion of many competing interests in our community. It is the aggregation and balancing of these interests that is best for the Town as a whole. I believe that to be in a democracy is to occasionally have things not go your way; and yet, it is the respectful struggle between these differing interests that results in balanced and sustainable progress.

I would like to thank the voters that elected me to the Select Board, and the friends and supporters I've made along the way. It is my hope to some day again contribute to the Town in some capacity, but until then, I will see you all around town.

Sincerely,
Ross Capolupo

The Georgetown Peabody Library Book Sale

Come to the Friends of the Georgetown Peabody Library book sale and find that one book you're looking for, or stock up for your summer reading! Twice a year, the Friends conduct these much-loved community book sales at the Library, offering donated materials for bargain-basement prices.

Spring book sale dates and times are: Wednesday, March 18 - 2 PM to 8 PM; Thursday, March 19 - 10 AM to 5 PM; Friday, March 20 - 10 AM to 5 PM; Saturday, March 21 - 9 AM to 1 PM – Saturday is the bag sale! Just \$10 to fill a bag.

Donations for the book sale may be brought to the library starting

on Thursday, March 12 to Tuesday, March 17, during library hours. The Library is located at 2 Maple Street, Georgetown.

Donations can include books, DVDs, CDs, vinyl records, puzzles, board games, audiobooks. In each case, the item must be gently used and free from mold. Before donating, ask yourself if you'd be comfortable giving the item to a family member or friend. If yes, then we will be happy to include it in the sale.

Clear your shelves by donating, or shop the sale for new books, music, and games... and know that you are supporting your library! ♦

The Georgetown Peabody Friends of the Library

Georgetown residents will be receiving a special invitation in their February electric bills from the Friends of the Georgetown Peabody Library. It's an invitation to participate in the Friends' Annual Appeal, the yearly outreach to the town for donations to support the Georgetown Peabody Library.

According to the letter, every donor who supports the Library is a Friend, someone who can make a difference for one of the most important resources in the community.

"Support from the Friends allows the Library to go beyond our core funding to offer engaging programs and expanded resources for residents of all ages. Every donation to the Annual Appeal truly makes a difference, and we are thankful for the continued commitment of our Friends," says Sarah Cognata, Library Director.

Those who wish to donate can send

a contribution by mail, using the slip in the Annual Appeal letter, or can donate online by scanning the QR code on the letter. The Friends' mailing address is 2 Maple St., Georgetown, 01833. For those residents who get their bills online, you can view the Annual Appeal letter on the Friends page on the Library web site (www.georgetownpl.org).

The Friends is a nonprofit organization that helps raise funds to support library resources, technology, and programs not funded by the town.

These include summer reading programs; museum passes; concerts, and take-home kits. The Friends also assist with new library improvements, such as the bookshelves recently installed in the Library lobby.

In addition to the Annual Appeal, the Friends raise funds through twice-yearly book sales, the Library book nook, and events like *Books in Bloom*.



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- Lead Batteries
- Leaves and Yard Waste
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- Metal
- Metal Containers
- Recyclable Paper
- Single Polymer Plastics (bottles, jugs, jars, and tubs)
- Textiles
- White Goods
- Whole Tires
- Wood
- ACM Asbestos Containing Material

Sign at the G. Mello Disposal Corp.'s New Solid Waste Facility (Photo by Stewart Lytle)

MELLO TRASH STATION

Continued from page 1

area and a residential drop-off area.

The Planning Board last month authorized the town planner on the Jan. 28th meeting to sign off on the occupancy permit.

The town's three-member Board of Health voted unanimously to approve the proposed 500-ton/ per day trash transfer station, but under conditions that limit the size of the station for the first four years and required the reconstruction of the 1,600-foot Carlton Road.

The station is limited to 150 tons per day for the first two years. Mello must apply to the board for permission to increase operations to 350 tons for the third year, 450 tons for the fourth year and 550 tons for the fifth year and beyond. The health board could then conduct a review of operations and order changes to the operations within six months after the expansion.

The board required Mello to submit a report every two weeks on how much tonnage is being processed each day at the station. It is unclear if there would be an independent review of those reports.

The Highway Engineer told the Planning Board that Carleton Road has been rebuilt. It will be striped in warmer weather.

The health board was the first town regulatory agency that approved the controversial station. The Planning Board and Conservation Commission initially voted to deny permits for the station, but Mello appealed to state courts and had those decisions reversed. The Planning Board and Conservation Commission reluctantly approved the station.

A major concern in town is the increase in large trucks using the Carleton Drive intersection with

state Rte. 133 (East Main Street) once the station is open. The limit on tonnage for the first two years will reduce the number of large tractor-trailer trucks, which will haul trash from the station to incinerators.

In a letter to the town's health board, Mello wrote: "GMD understands the concerns around truck traffic on Rt. 133 and the safety concerns during AM and PM peak hours. GMD proposes to allow transfer trailers to arrive and leave the site from 6:30-7:30 a.m. and in the afternoon when school buses are NOT present on Carleton Drive. This proposal is consistent with the Planning Board's Special Permit which prohibits transfer trailers from accessing or leaving the site during the morning peak hour of 7:30 a.m.- 8:30 a.m. and during hours when school buses are present on Carleton Drive."

The board also insisted that Mello add signage on Carleton Road and on East Main Street that notifies motorists about trucks entering and exiting

the intersection.

Mello proposed to hire a police detail for the first 60 days of operations to help with traffic flow at that intersection. The board insisted on 120 days and will ask the Georgetown Police Chief to issue a report on any problems with traffic incurred during the first four months. The board said it could then impose additional conditions on the station to remedy any traffic issues.

It also required Mello to build a six-foot fence around the station to reduce the amount of litter from trucks. The trucks must be covered coming and going from the station. Drivers will be fined if caught without covering the trash load.

In the months after the station begins operations, the board required several independent studies of noise, traffic congestion and odors. Based on the findings of those studies, the board can require more mitigation efforts by Mello. ♦

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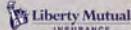
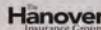
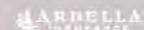
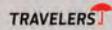
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16-year-old Newbury Singer-Songwriter Ava Valianti's New Single: 'Deep Fuchsia'

NEWBURY, MA - Sixteen year-old rising indie-pop artist Ava Valianti released her electrified new single "Deep Fuchsia" recently, marking the official beginning of her next musical chapter.

Following the momentum of her debut EP "petunias," which has garnered more than 200K streams, received international radio play on 300+ stations, earned multiple award nominations - including Boston Music Awards - New Artist of the Year, New England Music Awards - New Act of the Year, American Songwriter Road Ready semi-finalist, and runner-up for the International Acoustic Music Awards and Unsigned Music Awards, "Deep Fuchsia" introduces a more vivid, cinematic, and emotionally saturated sound from the young songwriter.

Blending pop, indie, and a newly energized pop-rock edge, "Deep Fuchsia" captures the intensity of young

love at full color: obsessive, romantic, and impossible to ignore. Featuring pulsing production, razor-sharp lyricism, and Ava's signature emotional delivery, the track showcases both her evolution and her growing artistic confidence. "Deep Fuchsia" also arrives as early reviewers take note of Valianti's rapid ascent and distinctive voice.

In a recent feature, Indie Dock Music Blog praised her growing artistry, writing: "What's most promising about Valianti's work isn't just her current achievement but the trajectory it suggests. At sixteen, she's already developed a distinctive voice and perspective. She's not mimicking her influences so much as metabolizing them into something personal."

Ava describes her new single as both an emotional confession and an artistic turning point. "Deep Fuchsia" is about falling intensely into a love that feels vivid, all-consuming, and impos-

sible to ignore. It's the feeling of wanting someone so deeply that every color, memory, and word is brighter because of them. Everything feels volatile and magical all at once, and the instability almost feels inviting. I wrote it from the space between devotion and doubt, where passion is thrilling but fragile, and you still choose to believe in it anyway."

With "Deep Fuchsia," Ava charts a new direction that expands on the emotional honesty of "petunias" while stepping boldly into a more dynamic sonic landscape. The single serves as the first preview of her next project, with additional releases planned throughout 2026. This winter, Ava will also embark on a mini Northeast tour to support "petunias," performing intimate shows across the region and debuting "Deep Fuchsia" live for the first time.

"Deep Fuchsia" is available on all streaming platforms. ♦



The Music Hall Lounge: *The Best Dog in the World*

LITERARY IN THE LOUNGE presents Bestselling author Alice Hoffman with her new collection The Best Dog in the World Joined on stage by contributor Laura Zigman Tuesday, March 17 at 7pm The Music Hall Lounge

"A collection of essays, brimming with love and sorrow, on our best friends. . . . A moving tribute to the dogs in our lives, and the good fortune of their companionship."

Kirkus Reviews

What: On Tuesday, March 17 at 7pm, prolific author Alice Hoffman visits The Music Hall Lounge with her new book, *THE BEST DOG IN THE WORLD*. Fifteen beloved authors celebrate the life-changing bond with their canine companions in this heartwarming essay collection edited by twelve-time New York Times bestselling author and lifelong dog lover Alice Hoffman. Contributors include: Isabel Allende, Chris Bohjalian, Bonnie Garmus, Roxane Gay, Emily Henry, Ann Leary, Tova Mirvis, Jodi Picoult, Elizabeth Strout, Amy Tan, Adriana Trigiani, Nick

Trout, Paul Yoon, Laura Zigman, and Alice Hoffman.

This 7pm event features a moderated conversation with fellow author and contributor, Laura Zigman, and is followed by an audience Q&A and a post-show meet-and-greet. It will be held at The Music Hall Lounge at 131 Congress St., Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

When/Where:

Tuesday, March 17 — 7pm
The Music Hall Lounge
131 Congress Street
Portsmouth, NH 03801

About the Author: Alice Hoffman is the author of thirty works of fiction, including *Practical Magic*, *The Dovekeepers*, *Magic Lessons*, and *The Book of Magic*.

bridge, Massachusetts. Her seventh novel, *The Author Weekend*, will be published in May 2026.

About the Contributor: Laura Zigman is the author of *Small World* (a New York Times Group Text pick and Editor's Choice), *Separation Anxiety*, *Animal Husbandry* (which was made into the movie "Someone Like You," starring Hugh Jackman and Ashley Judd), *Dating Big Bird*, *Her*, and *Piece of Work*. She has collaborated on several works of non-fiction, including Eddie Izzard's New York Times best-seller, *Believe Me*; and has been a contributor to the New York Times and other publications. She lives in Cam-

Stage 284 Brings Mean Girls the Musical to the North Shore

HAMILTON, MA — Stage 284 is thrilled to announce its upcoming production of *Mean Girls the Musical*, running March 6–29, marking a major milestone as one of the first community theaters on the North Shore to produce this hit show.

Based on the iconic 2004 film, *Mean Girls the Musical* is a brutally hilarious, high-energy stage adaptation with a book by Tina Fey (30 Rock), music by Jeff Richmond (Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt), and lyrics by Nell Benjamin (Legally Blonde). The musical took Broadway by storm and earned 12 Tony Award nominations, cementing its place as a modern musical theater phenomenon.

The story follows Cady Heron, a teen who may have grown up on an African savanna—but is completely unprepared for the ruthless hierarchy of suburban high school. When she infiltrates the ruling clique known as The Plastics, led by the charming

yet dangerous Regina George, Cady learns that social power comes with real consequences. Smart, satirical, and unflinchingly honest, *Mean Girls the Musical* satirizes teen culture, social politics, and the cost of belonging.

"When we started working on this project, we asked everyone involved to think about the meaning behind this story. Together, we came up with the mantra 'cool happens when everyone belongs' and we're choosing to dive into that as an ensemble," says Director, Katie Clarke-Robertson. "To be able to work with this group of humans has been a pleasure. They are smart, strong, and bold, and they shine so brightly in this story."

Stage 284's production features a dynamic cast of performers who bring sharp comedic timing, powerhouse vocals, and emotional depth to this fan-favorite musical.

Mean Girls the Musical resonates across generations, blending laugh-

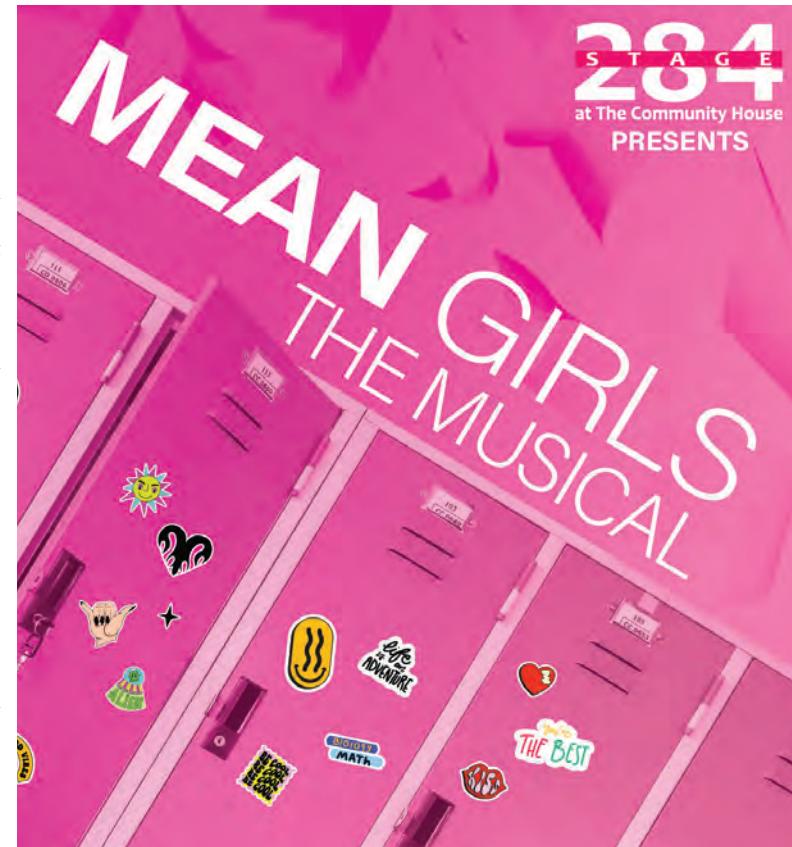
out-loud comedy with pointed commentary on identity, friendship, and power. Its arrival at Stage 284 reinforces the theater's mission to present ambitious productions that challenge, entertain, and reflect the world audiences live in today.

Rated PG-13 for adult content and language.

Dates: March 6–29
Location: Stage 284,
The Community House,
Hamilton, MA
Tickets: communityhouse.org/tickets

About Stage 284

Stage 284 is the performing arts program of The Community House, dedicated to providing high-quality theatrical experiences for performers and audiences alike. Through innovative productions and educational programming, Stage 284 fosters creativity, confidence, and community connection through the arts.



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First Parish Newbury Food Bank volunteers, from left, Mary Murphy, Jane Merrow, Larry Paoletti and Steve Spanger (Photo by Stewart Lytle)

Church Food Bank Taps the Sun for Power

By Stewart Lytle, Sr. Reporter

NEWBURY – The First Parish Church already taps the sun's rays to grow vegetables in its gardens at the rear of the church lot. Now the church's food bank is turning to the sun again for power to operate its freezers and refrigerators that store the food it distributes to those in need.

The First Parish Newbury Food Pantry has installed 52 ground-level, bifacial commercial-grade solar panels that it expects will generate enough electricity starting this spring to power its six freezers and six refrigerators and keep the church's lights and air conditioning on.

It is a trend, supported by the state government, that is helping food banks reduce their utility costs, which allow

them, as Jane Merrow, the food bank's lead volunteer, said, to "buy more food."

Last year, the state's Department of Energy Resources' Low-Income Services Solar Program awarded grants to three food banks across the state. The solar installations will produce almost 460 kilowatts (kW) of electricity. Together, the solar systems are estimated to save the nonprofits \$234,800 each year in energy costs by generating an estimated 745,195 kilowatt hours of electricity.

The Newbury food bank, which distributes 12,000 pounds of food each week to more than 750 clients in several North Shore communities, spent more than \$800 a month on electricity last year. The system, divided into two arrays, is capable of producing 26.6 kW of AC power.

Volunteer Larry Paoletti, nicknamed "the inventor" by Merrow, predicts that by March or April, when the sun is closer, the system will generate enough electricity to reduce the utility costs for the food bank and the church to zero. "Time will tell," he said.

The arrays, which were turned on Dec. 30, are located between the church and the rear parking lot and between the organic gardens and the pre-school playground. The design team ruled out placing the panels on the church roof.

"It was just too high," said Steve Spanger, a member of the church property committee and long-time advocate of using solar power at the church. The concern was that snow and ice from the panels would fall dangerously from the steep roof.

In addition to the church activities and the food bank, which distributes food on Fridays, the church operates a pre-school, the Secret Garden.

Finding space on the church's well-utilized lot for the solar arrays proved to be a bit of a challenge, Merrow said. But the project was well supported by the congregation.

Both sides of the commercial-grade panels tap the sun's rays. The panels collect sunlight directly on the top side and on the bottom side from reflection off the ground. The team is planning to install white rocks this spring under the panels to reflect more of the sun's rays.

The system, installed by Porter Electrical Contracting in Deerfield, NH, cost about \$110,000, but the non-profit food bank has applied to the state for a grant that should reimburse it for 33 percent of the upfront costs. Predictions are that the system will pay for itself in five to seven years, which is better than the usual 10-year payback, Paoletti said.

"It's a good investment," Merrow said, who noted that the mission of the church is to be Good Stewards of the Earth and Spirit.

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David Scott Thibodeau

David Scott Thibodeau, a man of profound kindness, intelligence, and gentle spirit, left this world on February 4, 2026, in Rowley, MA, leaving behind a legacy of love, and unwavering dedication to his family and passions. Born on June 1, 1958, in Millinocket, ME, David's journey through life was marked by an unquenchable thirst for knowledge, a deep spiritual connection, and a heart that overflowed with generosity.

David's early years instilled in him the values of hard work and the importance of family, which he carried throughout his life. A proud graduate of Triton Regional High School's class of 1976, his passion for learning and growth led him to become a skilled journeyman electrician, a meticulous craftsman, and later a knowledgeable fire protection engineer and facilities manager.

David was a perfectionist by nature which was highlighted in his professional career. Colleagues admired his attention to detail and his unwavering commitment to quality and professionalism. David's work was not just a job; it was a testament to his belief that one should always give their best, no matter the task at hand.

Family was the cornerstone of David's life. He was a devoted son and caretaker of his mother, Beverly Cooper, a loving brother to his two sisters Lori Jordan and Lisa Hart, and his brother Sandy Cooper. His former wives, Linda Grant and Donna Thibodeau shared in his journey. His sons, David Jr., Stephen, and Kevin, and his daughters, Haley, Sarah, and Hannah, were the light of his life. His grandchildren, Henry, Layla, Claire, Sophia, Michael, Sydney, Savannah, Maeve, and Samuel, will carry forward his legacy of love and kindness.

David's spirituality was a quiet and personal journey that guided him through life's challenges and triumphs. David found solace in the simple pleasures of life. His love for playing guitar resonated through the walls of his home, creating a soundtrack for the memories his family will cherish forever. He found peace in the beauty of nature, whether it be watching the birds, boating, tending to his vegetable garden, or cooking a meal for his loved ones. David's passion for reading reflected his never-ending quest for knowledge and understanding.

David's life was a melody composed of the moments he shared with those he loved, the knowledge he imparted, and the memories he created. His spirit will continue to inspire all who knew him. As we celebrate David, let us remember the man who walked this earth with a gentle step. David's journey on earth may have concluded, but as he rests with the angels the light he shone upon us will never fade.

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 ~



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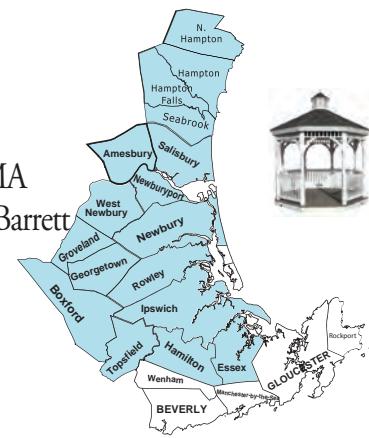
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Parking

Behind the church

There is also parking at the Water Street
Parking Garage

When Is It?

Thursdays, beginning February 19 - May 7
at 6:30pm

\$20 cost for the workbook if able

Soup for dinner will be provided

Register/Contact

Market Street Baptist Church
37 Market Street
Amesbury, MA, 01913

978-388-0930



Register here:
<https://find.griefshare.org/group/s/278149>

DEATH NOTICES

Compiled Exclusively for The Town Common by Michelle Leininger

Name	City/State Live	Funeral Home	City	Phone
Margaret Minta Hall	Essex, MA	Campbell Funeral Home	Ipswich	978-356-3442
Joseph A Berkman	Gloucester, MA	Campbell Funeral Home	Gloucester	978-283-0884
June C Littlefield	South Hamilton, MA	Campbell Funeral Home	Beverly	978-922-1113
Gary W Tibbets	Beverly, MA	Campbell Funeral Home	Beverly	978-922-1113
James Louis Gilbert	North Andover, MA	Conte Funeral Home	North Andover	978-681-5000
Gregory Maurice Soucy	North Andover, MA	Conte Funeral Home	North Andover	978-681-5000
June Fitzgerald	Andover, MA	Conte Funeral Home	Andover	978-470-8000
Lorraine Ann Gamby	Peabody, MA	Conway Cahill-Brodeur Funeral Home	Peabody	978-531-0472
Donald W Longworth	Danvers, MA	Conway Cahill-Brodeur Funeral Home	Peabody	978-531-0472
Rosina M. Regis	Peabody, MA	Conway Cahill-Brodeur Funeral Home	Peabody	978-531-0472
Americo J. Martins	Peabody, MA	Conway Cahill-Brodeur Funeral Home	Peabody	978-531-0472
June A. Lane	Peabody, MA	Conway Cahill-Brodeur Funeral Home	Peabody	978-531-0472
Therese (Driscoll) Parsons	Haverhill, MA	Driscoll Funeral Home & Cremation Services	Haverhill	978-374-0000
Betty Delane (Girard) Phelps	Bradford, MA	Driscoll Funeral Home & Cremation Services	Haverhill	978-374-0000
Lorraine Ricker	Amesbury, MA	Driscoll Funeral Home & Cremation Services	Haverhill	978-374-0000
David Thibodeau	Rowley, MA	F.S. Roberts & Son Funeral Home	Rowley	978-388-0430
Barbara (Charoux) Hansen	Merrimac, MA	HL Farmer & Sons Funeral Home	Bradford	978-372-9311
Walter Birmingham, Jr.	Saugus, MA	Mackey Funeral Home	Middleton	978-774-0033
Stanley Colburn	Danvers, MA	Morris Funeral Home	Ipswich	978-356-2422
Loretta Rosalie (Beaulieu) Rochenski	Boxford, MA	O'Donnell Cremation-Funerals-Celebrations	Danvers	978-774-6600
Joan M. (McGrane) O'Connor	Salem, MA	O'Donnell Cremation-Funerals-Celebrations	Salem	978-744-2350
Sandra Elaine Dary	Hampton, NH	Remick & Gendron Funeral Home	Hampton	603-926-6500
Louis A Datalio II	North Hampton	Remick & Gendron Funeral Home	Hampton	603-926-6500
Daniel L Bisbee	North Hampton	Remick & Gendron Funeral Home	Hampton	603-926-6500

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UPCOMING EVENTS

<https://goatstogo.farm>
Georgetown, Mass.

Winter Hike with Little Goats & Alpaca Greetings
Sunday, February 22 · 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Winter Goat Hike & Alpaca Greetings
Sunday, February 22 · 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Winter Adventure: Guided Farm Walk
This Week's Walk Focus: Explore the Great Pines and Parker River
Monday, February 23 · 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Winter Afternoon Goat Hike & Alpaca Greetings
Wednesday, February 25 · 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Bends & Brews: Goat Yoga
at True North Ale Company, Ipswich
Saturday, February 28 · 11:15 AM

Teatime with Alpacas in the Evening!
Saturday, February 28 · 4:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Goats & Paint Night (18+)
Hosted by Premier Paint Party
Saturday, February 28 · 5:00 PM – 7:30 PM



*Savings shown over aggregated single item base price. Photos exemplary of product advertised. Limit 2. 8 free (4 oz.) burgers will be sent to each shipping address that includes 81305. Standard S&H added per address. While supplies last. Items may be substituted due to inventory limitations. Some products may not be available for sale in your area. Sales are subject to OmahaSteaks.com/terms-of-use. Expires 03/31/26. I 25M8964 | Omaha Steaks, LLC

Upcoming Agricultural Committee Events

Essex County Greenbelt, Farm Bureau, and American Farmland Trust are hosting a joint meeting on March 4th, 2026 from 6-8pm at the Topsfield Fair Grounds on Planning for the Future of Your Farm. Register Here

West Newbury Ag Committee Farmer Potluck on March 25th from 5:30-7pm in the Town Hall Annex. Please bring a dish to share and water bottle. We look forward to connecting with each other and learning about your priorities for farming in town and how the Ag Committee can support.

The Committee meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 4pm. Subscribe to the Ag. Committee's newsfeed through the Town website to stay up to date on agendas, events, and meeting minutes.

We are looking forward to learning more about how you would like the Agricultural Committee to support farming in West Newbury. If you have any questions please email us at wnagcommittee@gmail.com

Salisbury Democratic Town Committee Leadership Scholarship Application Now Available At Triton High School

The Salisbury Democratic Town Committee is pleased to announce the 17th Annual Lou Masiello Leadership Scholarship for Salisbury seniors attending Triton Regional High School.

Criteria for the scholarship are completion of an essay, possibly participating in an interview with the scholarship committee, and a scholarship committee review of the applicant's official school transcript. Applications are now available from the guidance department at Triton Regional High School. The application form, essay and transcript should be submitted to:

Salisbury Democratic Town Committee Leadership Scholarship
c/o John Housianitis, Scholarship Committee Chairman,
PO Box 5025, Salisbury, MA 01952. Applications must be submitted no later than April 15, 2026 to be considered.

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or Do Without.

Fertilizer Tip:
Remember to spread those powder-fine wood ashes from your woodstove onto your lawn, right on top of the snow. But, avoid spreading it near acid-loving plants such as azaleas, rhododendrons, and blueberries.



Snowy Owl Poses for Photo at Salisbury State Reservation Near Plum Island

At about 3:00 p.m. 'ish on a clear cool day, photographer Bjorn Krammer, ebirder and hobbyist took this photo of SNOWY OWL near the Salisbury State Reservation across the water in the Plum Island area. We thank Bjorn for sharing his photos with our readers!

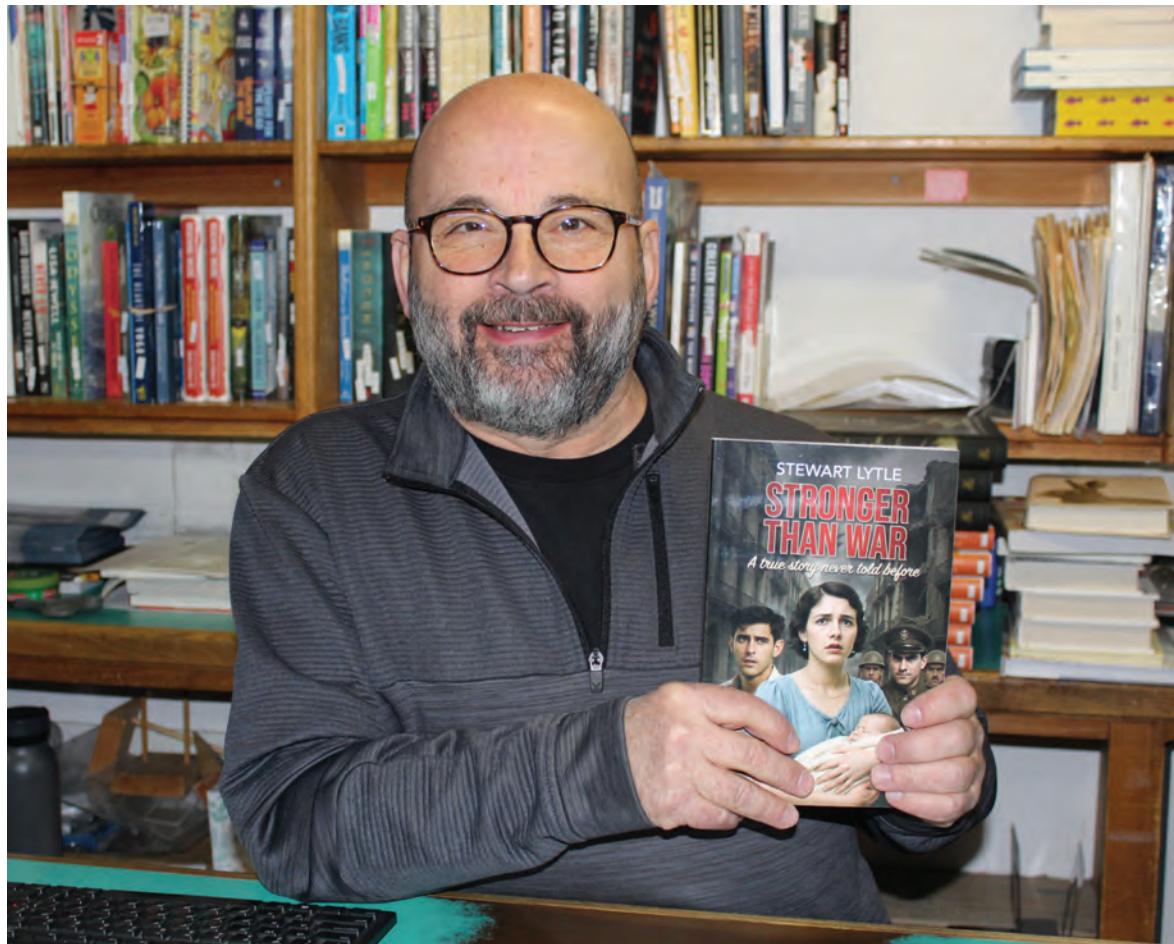
Massachusetts Campaign Financial Disclosure Top Cash on Hand: Senate

Candidate	Office / City or Town	Balance as of 1/31/26
Michael Rodrigues (D)	1st Bristol & Plymouth / Westport	\$1,029,623
Mark Montigny (D)	2nd Bristol & Plymouth / New Bedford	\$774,566
Bruce Tarr (R)	1st Essex & Middlesex/Gloucester	\$507,587
Barry Finegold (D)	2nd Essex & Middlesex / Andover	\$429,166
James Eldridge (D)	Middlesex & Worcester / Marlborough	\$424,321
William Brownsberger (D)	Suffolk & Middlesex / Belmont	\$242,291
Karen Spilka (D)	Middlesex & Norfolk / Ashland	\$226,004
Adam Gray Hinds (D)	Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin & Hampshire / Cambridge	\$219,131
Ryan Fattman (R)	Worcester & Hampden / Sutton	\$199,673
Julian Andre Cyr (D)	Cape & Islands / Provincetown	\$172,933

Massachusetts Campaign Financial Disclosure Top Cash on Hand: House

Candidate	Office / City or Town	Balance as of 1/31/26
Aaron Michlewitz (D)	3rd Suffolk / Boston	\$1,569,027
Tackey Chan (D)	2nd Norfolk / Quincy	\$517,920
Thomas Petrolati (D)	7th Hampden / Ludlow	\$378,240
Jeffrey Turco (D)	19th Suffolk / Winthrop	\$322,044
Michael Moran (D)	18th Suffolk / Brighton	\$284,102
Jeffrey Roy (D)	10th Norfolk / Franklin	\$267,044
Antonio Cabral (D)	13th Bristol / New Bedford	\$255,222
Bradley Jones (R)	20th Middlesex / North Reading	\$241,313
Angelo Puppolo (D)	12th Hampden / Springfield	\$238,640
Robert DeLeo (D)	19th Suffolk / Winthrop	\$231,158

Source: www.ocpf.us 617-979-8300 OCPF@mas.gov



Paul Abuzzi at the Jabberwocky Book Store with *Stronger than War* (Photo by Stewart Lytle)

A Great Telephone Call

Writers will tell you one of the best messages they can get is from a bookstore saying they need more copies of their book because all copies have been sold. The author of the Spanish Civil War love story, *Stronger than War*, got such a call last week from Paul Abuzzi, manager at Jabberwocky Book Store in the Tannery Marketplace.

"We need four more copies, and I have a check for the books we sold," Abuzzi said.

When the author arrived with the four books, Abuzzi said three of them had already been sold to customers, including two that were specially ordered.

The story of *Stronger than War* is about a romance in a small town outside of Barcelona between a handsome farm boy, training to be a baker, and a beautiful artist, who was the granddaughter of the town's banker. The disparity of wealth and social standing in the 1930s Spain created a

challenge for the young couple.

Compounding their love affair is a childhood acquaintance, the son of the town mayor and a vineyard owner. He would like to have the banker's granddaughter as his lover and uses his father's political connections to become a corrupt Army officer and try to kill off his rival.

Stronger than War, inspired by a true story, was written by Stewart Lytle, senior reporter for *The Town Common* Newspaper.



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You need to be certain that all the right conditions are in place before you take the first step. It can't hurt to listen to good advice from those who have your best interests at heart.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Be careful not to get involved in other people's disputes unless you know the facts behind the disagreements. This is the best way to be assured of making wise and honest decisions.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You still need to be careful about how you're going to spend the energy reserves that you finally got around to restoring. Best advice: Avoid overdoing it; let things take their course.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Your aspect continues to favor travel -- alone or with a special person. So, if you've been putting off making some getaway plans, it's still a good time to get started on them.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Some so-called golden opportunities that continue to dazzle the Lion still need to be carefully checked out. Be suspicious about anything that looks like the "perfect" prospect.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Changes at the workplace could make it more difficult to do things the way that you prefer. But the wise VIRGO who shows some flexibility could find it paying off in a big way.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You might want to check out the explanation you were given for a sudden shift in your duties. There's a possibility you haven't been told all the facts that you deserve to know.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Having confidence in your abilities is important, especially when you could be facing a new challenge, whether it's in the workplace or in a personal relationship. Good luck!

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A new work-related opportunity might not be all that it appears to be. Before making any decisions, you might want to check with others who have had some

experience in this area.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) A situation involving someone close could benefit from your timely intervention. Avoid being judgmental. There will be plenty of time later for the "little talks" you like to have.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Travel could be a surprise element in a new project. Be prepared for other previously undisclosed aspects that might also come to light as you proceed with the work.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Try to balance your work-related responsibilities with the time that you're spending on your recently revived social life. In addition, an old friend might be planning to return after a long absence.

BORN THIS WEEK: Your sensitivity makes you aware of the needs of others. Have you considered a career as a counselor?



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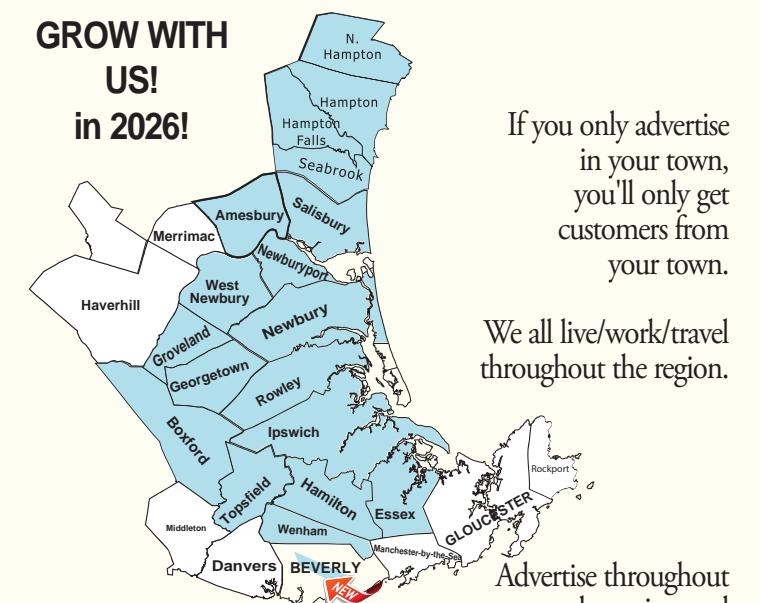
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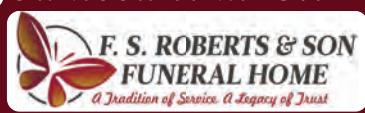
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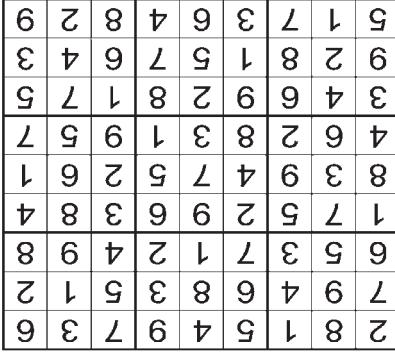
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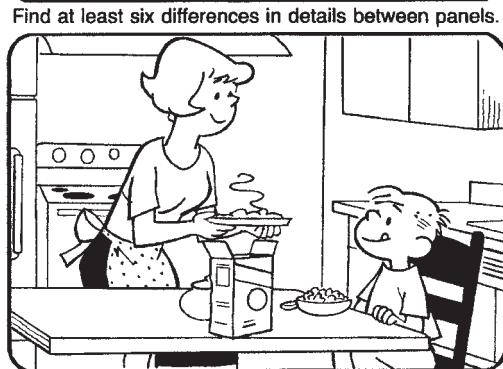
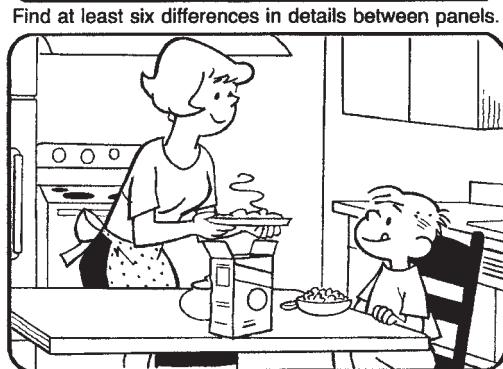
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PUZZLE ANSWERS



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Back of chair is different. 2. Box is different. 3. Refridgerator handle is lower. 4. Bummer is missing. 5. Refridgerator handle is wider. 6. Stove hood is wider.

Amber Waves



TIGER



The Spats

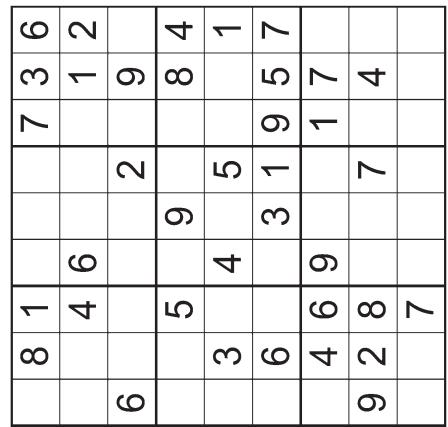


Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



Weekly SUDOKU



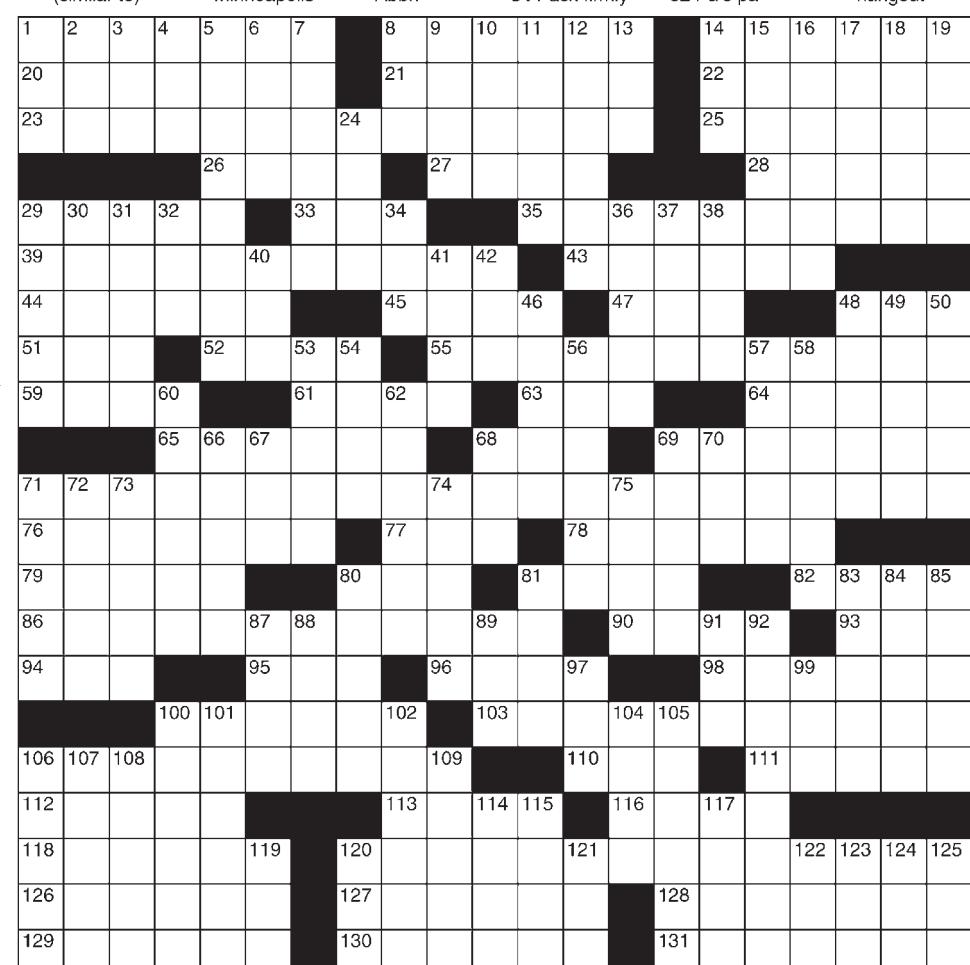
Super Crossword

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.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

11 Music genre for TLC
12 Chachi's last name on "Happy Days"
13 Mao —-tung
14 Free TV ad, for short
15 Drink inserts
16 Target of antiperspirant
17 Minimal
18 Bordeaux wine
19 Secret store
24 Grads' event
29 Fictional Scarlett
30 Plan a new route for
31 Cushy class
32 Met the Giant
34 Jokester
36 Solo
37 Mosque officiant
38 Streaming set-top box
2 Teachers' gp.
3 —Mahal
4 Equal: Prefix
5 Wallowed
6 Foliage bit
7 Barcelona's land, to natives
8 Bud
9 Director Kazan
10 Plus others: Abbr.
11 Cleaning tool in a bucket
12 Muscle jerk
13 More citrusy, say
14 Mary Lou of gymnastics
15 One suffering for a belief
16 Atom studier Bohr
17 Leb. neighbor
18 911 gp.
19 Susan of "Spring Fever"
20 Nintendo console
21 1974 dog film
22 Artificial silk
23 "Orange — New Black"
24 Thoughts
25 Taken with
26 "Two Guys and —"
27 Operated
28 In flames
29 Courteous
30 Midleg joints
31 Sheriff Taylor's tyke
32 Mess-free
33 Take to court
34 Pack firmly
35 Pa's pa

97 Last letter
99 '16 Olympics site
100 Flowering 101 Small dress size
102 Cowboy's whoop
104 —pot (sinus cleaner)
105 Early tourney round
106 Safin who won tennis' 2000 U.S. Open
107 She sang the hit "Hello"
108 New Mexico's state flower
109 Brain protector
114 — Stanley Gardner
115 "Nae" sayer
117 Red Muppet
119 Inc., abroad
120 U.S. Navy noncom
121 Divs. of days
122 Lyric verse
123 Film director Craven
124 Little peeve
125 Hog hangout



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**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
GEORGETOWN PLANNING BOARD**

Notice is hereby provided that the Town of Georgetown Planning Board will conduct a public hearing pursuant to M.G.L. c.40A, Sec. 5, on proposed amendments to the Zoning Bylaw **Article XIX Marijuana Businesses §165-156 through §165-163**. The purpose of the hearing is to consider public comments regarding a Warrant Article proposed by the Georgetown Planning Board. These proposed changes will be to update the Town's bylaws to address the legalization of marijuana delivery and marijuana social consumption in Massachusetts.

The Public Hearing will be on **Wednesday, 11 MARCH 2026 at 7:10 p.m.** This hearing will be held virtually via Zoom, at which time all interested persons may appear and be heard in relation thereto. The link to the Zoom meeting will be available on the Planning Board's agenda which can be found on the Town's Calendar of Upcoming Events at www.Georgetownma.gov 48 hours prior to the Public Hearing. The full text of the proposed amendments are on file and available for inspection during normal business hours at Town Hall in the Planning Office, 1 Library Street, Georgetown, MA and can be viewed online at: https://georgetownma.gov/government/boards/commissions/planning_board/index.php#outer-4823

The above-cited remote meeting connection information will be included on the **11 MARCH 2026** Planning Board meeting agenda, which will be posted on the Town of Georgetown website no less than 48 hours prior to the meeting. Further, the meeting will be broadcast live on the Georgetown Local Access Cable TV Channel 9. Video recordings of this meeting, and all Georgetown Planning Board meetings may be found at www.georgetownma.gov by choosing the Community TV option.

Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84963913804> Meeting ID: 84963 913804
Passcode: 803705

For more information about these Public Hearings or if you were unable to attend the hearing and would like to communicate your concerns or questions about this application, please send an eMail to the Town Planner at FOConnor@GeorgetownMA.gov. Written correspondence received before Noon on the day of the hearing will be accepted and read into the record.

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

2/18, 2/25

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editor@TheTownCommon.com**LEGAL NOTICE****NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**

Notice is hereby given by Trombly Bros., Inc. of 141-153 Sutton Street North Andover, MA, pursuant to the provisions of Mass G.L. c. 255, Section 39A, that they will sell the following vehicles on or after **February 25, 2026 beginning at 10:00 am** by public or private sale to satisfy their garage keeper's lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale. Vehicles are being stored at Trombly Bros., Inc.

1. 2013 Chevrolet Equinox VIN 2GNALBEKXD6127604
2. 2014 Honda Civic VIN 19XFB2F95EE215975
3. 2015 RAM 1500 VIN 1C6RR7LT8FS515585
4. 2011 Ford Fusion VIN 3FADP0L3XBR158602

Signed,
Mark Trombly
Trombly Bro., Inc.

2/4, 2/11, 2/18

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
GEORGETOWN PLANNING BOARD**

Notice is hereby provided that the Town of Georgetown Planning Board will conduct a public hearing pursuant to M.G.L. c.40A, Sec. 5, on proposed amendments to the Zoning Bylaw **§165 Use Regulations Schedule and §353-8 Revision of fee schedules and regulations** and **Bylaw Chapter 49 Earth Removal and Importation** to add an enforcement section as well as update **Georgetown Erosion & Stormwater Control Regulations Design Criteria**. The purpose of the hearing is to consider public comments regarding Warrant Articles proposed by the Georgetown Planning Board.

The Public Hearing will be on **Wednesday, 25 FEBRUARY 2026 at 7:15 p.m.** This hearing will be held virtually via Zoom, at which time all interested persons may appear and be heard in relation thereto. The link to the Zoom meeting will be available on the Planning Board's agenda which can be found on the Town's Calendar of Upcoming Events at www.Georgetownma.gov 48 hours prior to the Public Hearing. The full text of the proposed amendments and potential changes are on file and available for inspection during normal business hours at Town Hall in the Planning Office, 1 Library Street, Georgetown, MA and can be viewed online at:

https://georgetownma.gov/government/boards/commissions/planning_board/index.php#outer-4757

The above-cited remote meeting connection information will be included on the **25 FEB. 2026** Planning Board meeting agenda, which will be posted on the Town of Georgetown website no less than 48 hours prior to the meeting. Further, the meeting will be broadcast live on the Georgetown Local Access Cable TV Channel 9. Video recordings of this meeting, and all Georgetown Planning Board meetings may be found at www.georgetownma.gov by choosing the Community TV option.

Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87086454611> Meeting ID: 87086 454611
Passcode: 146296

For more information about these Public Hearings or if you were unable to attend the hearing and would like to communicate your concerns or questions about this application, please send an eMail to the Town Planner at FOConnor@GeorgetownMA.gov. Written correspondence received before Noon on the day of the hearing will be accepted and read into the record.

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

2/4, 2/11, 2/18

GEORGETOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

In accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act, Mass. G.L. 131, Section 40, as amended, and the Town of Georgetown Chp. 161 Wetlands Protection, and Regulations, a Public Hearing will be held by the Georgetown Conservation Commission on **Thursday, February 26th at 7:00 PM**, by Zoom Link found on Town Website Calendar under date of meeting. **Public Hearing for a proposed garage at 31 Tenney Street, located on existing grass and driveway, within the 100 -foot bordering vegetated wetland, however outside the 50ft No disturb area.**

Michèle Grenier, PWS
Conservation Director

2/18



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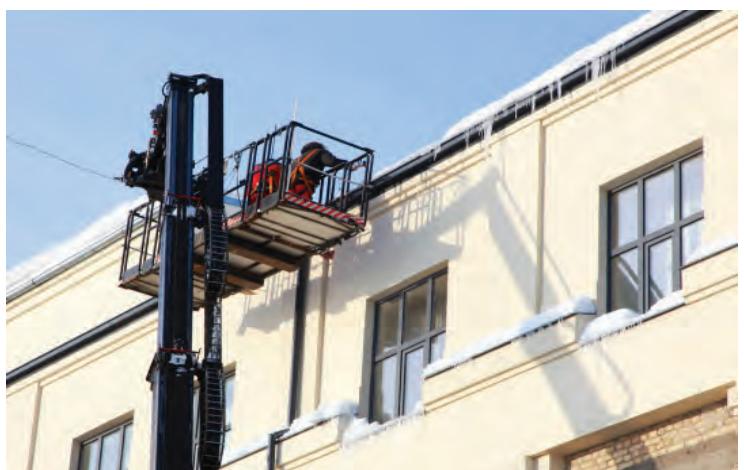
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