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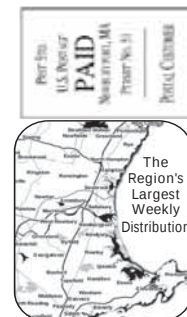
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Wednesday, July 22, 2026 - Vol. 22, No. 38

FREE



**CHARGING STATIONS
PERLEY SCHOOL**
Contract bids managed by Georgetown Elect.
Light Dept. Selected Contractor: ACI
TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$36,264



**CHARGING STATIONS
TOWN HALL**
No bids, managed by Town Admin. Orlando
Pacheco. Required Changes. Contractor: Inovis
TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$77,524

West Newbury Signs Interim Town Manger

The Select Board is pleased to announce that a contract has been signed with Sean Fitzgerald to be our Interim Town Manager. Sean was one of three candidates presented to the Select Board for consideration by our Town Manager Search Consultant - Community Paradigm Associates. After interviewing, he was chosen based on his extensive experience in municipal government, his

Continued on page 4

Groveland News



**By Mike
Dempsey**

Several Groveland Community Preservation projects approved at our annual town meeting in May are set to begin in July. Two of the most notable are new bathrooms for Shanahan Field and Washington Park. The bathroom structures will be permanent and replace the porta-johns at Washington Park and the outdated bathrooms at Shanahan Field. The facilities will provide users with a cleaner and safer environment and will be maintained by the town. Requests for proposals will be available for vendors shortly.

**New CPA
Projects to Start**

Continued on page 8

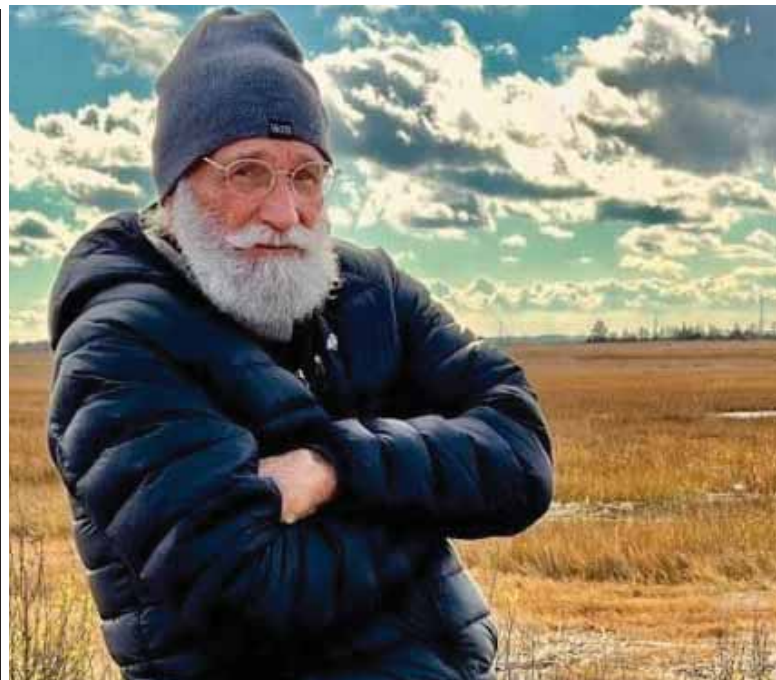
Sons & Daughters of the First Settlers of Newbury Annual Meeting

The 99th Annual Meeting of the Society of the Sons & Daughters of the First Settlers of Newbury will be held on Saturday, August 8, 2026, at the Hope Community Church, 11 Hale Street, Newburyport. Public, members and guests are welcome.

The non-profit organization's mission is the preservation of the history of Old Newbury and the pioneer families that created its Yankee traditions and community. The organization owns and maintains the historic Jackman-Willett House on Cottage Road in Newbury. In addition to descendants of the first settlers, members include those interested in local history and the preservation of the Jackman-Willett House.

There will be a brief business meet-

Continued on page 3



*Longtime public servant and environmental advocate Geoffrey H. Walker.
(Photo Courtesy the Town of Newbury)*

Newbury Honors Advocate Geoffrey H. Walker

NEWBURY - The Town of Newbury is deeply saddened to share the passing of longtime public servant Geoffrey H. Walker, 79, whose decades of leadership, environmental stewardship and unwavering dedication left a lasting mark on his community.

Walker began his service to the Town of Newbury in 1997, serving

on numerous municipal boards and regional organizations. He served on the Newbury Select Board, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Merrimack River Beach Alliance and Merrimack Valley Planning Commission.

Walker was known for his thoughtful leadership and collaborative

Continued on page 2

'Exit Interview' of a Firebrand: Long-Serving Conservation Commissioner Rachel Therrien - Part Three

GEORGETOWN - Rachel Therrien, the Chair, Vice Chair and longtime member of the Conservation Commission (ConCom), will no longer bring her extensive knowledge and experience on conservation issues to benefit the town. She was ousted on a vote of four to zero with one abstention. She was replaced by a former SelectBoard Chair who has never served on the ConCom.

Therrien was the only person present out of the three candidates, but not invited to speak to the board to advo-



**Long-serving Conservation Commissioner
Rachel Therrien**

cate for her reappointment, which she wanted to do. Chair Doug Dawes said it was his decision not to let Therrien speak because he did not want "controversy." Breaking tradition, he did not reach out to Therrien who was one of

Continued on page 8

No-Bid Contracts Cost Town More for Charging Stations

By Stewart Lytle, Sr. Reporter

GEORGETOWN - Town Administrator Orlando Pacheco awarded no-bid contracts in 2022 and 2023 to install electric vehicle charging stations at Town Hall, the Library and American Legion Park to a private company at a price significantly higher than the charging station the town installed at

the Perley School through a bidding process by the Light Department.

Pacheco disputed the characterization of these contracts as no-bid. He wrote in an email, "These are not 'no bid' as you have described but part of a specific process to vertically integrate implementation."

He wrote, "The companies that per-

Continued on page 3

Whittier \$

By Stewart Lytle, Sr. Reporter

REGIONAL - After being the elephant in the room as 11 North Shore communities argued over how to pay for a new Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School, the mayor of the city of Haverhill has decided it would be better to pay a higher percentage of the construction and operating costs if the school is built on the Northern Essex Community College campus in Haverhill campus.

"To move forward, we may have to give up our advantage," Haverhill Mayor Melinda E. Barrett told the City Council last week.

For years, Haverhill has enjoyed a sizable advantage over its smaller neighbors that together make up the Whittier Tech district. And the smaller towns and cities, led by Newburyport and Rowley, have been threatening to withdraw from the district or hold up the construction of the new school on the college campus if Haverhill does not pay more.

Under the current cost-sharing formula, Haverhill would pay 44 percent of the costs of new construction, but sends 66 percent of the students

Continued on page 8



**BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT
AMESBURY
MERDERI
BODYWORKS
PAGE 2**

FREE
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Friend

WALKER

Continued from page 1

approach to public service. He played a significant role in shaping Newbury's future while also advocating for the preservation of natural resources. Walker's passion for environmental conservation, particularly the protection and restoration of the Great Marsh, earned him widespread recog-



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Or postal service:
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Lonnie Brennan
Lonnie@thetowncommon.com

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

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

In loving memory of

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

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nitition throughout Massachusetts and the Gulf of Maine.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts dedicated the Geoffrey H. Walker Salisbury Marsh Overlook in 2006. Then, in 2013, Walker received the Longard Volunteer Award from the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, recognizing his contributions and commitment to protecting the Great Marsh ecosystem.

In 2024, Walker was named to AgeSpan's "50 over 60" list, recognizing seniors in the Merrimack Valley and North Shore whose lives inspire others. The honor reflected Walker's commitment to placing his community before himself, something the Town of Newbury had long witnessed.

"Geoffrey Walker's many years of service to the Town of Newbury strengthened our community in ways that will endure, said Select Board Chair William DiMaio. "His collaborative spirit guided countless Select Board deliberations, his steady problem-solving shaped thoughtful decisions, and his unwavering dedication to our marshes and local ecology protected the natural heritage we all cherish. We are grateful for, and we will

always remember his leadership, his mentoring, his friendship and his lasting contributions to Newbury."

"Geoffrey dedicated so much of his life to serving Newbury and protecting the natural resources that make our community special," said Town Administrator Tracy Blais. "His leadership, knowledge and generosity touched the lives of many. Geoffrey leaves behind a legacy of public service that will be present in Newbury for generations to come."

In addition to his service to the town, Walker was known for his love of hunting, fishing, motorcycles, and crafting duck decoys.

The Town of Newbury extends its heartfelt condolences to Walker's family, friends, and all those who had the privilege of serving alongside him. His dedication to public service, his passion for protecting the environment, and his commitment to the people of Newbury will not be forgotten.

A service honoring Walker will be held on July 23, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. on the Lower Green in Newbury. Additional parking will be available at 25 High Road and 7 Morgan Ave. A shuttle will be provided for transportation to the service. ♦

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23	Thu	7:22	7.0	7:44	8.1	1:17	0.9	1:26	1.3	5:25	8:13	
24	Fri	8:20	6.8	8:38	8.0	2:15	0.9	2:21	1.5	5:26	8:12	
25	Sat	9:16	6.7	9:30	8.1	3:11	0.9	3:14	1.6	5:27	8:11	
26	Sun	10:07	6.8	10:18	8.2	4:02	0.9	4:03	1.6	5:28	8:10	
27	Mon	10:53	6.8	11:02	8.3	4:49	0.7	4:49	1.5	5:29	8:09	
28	Tue	11:37	7.0	11:45	8.4	5:32	0.6	5:32	1.4	5:30	8:08	
29	Wed			12:17	7.2	6:13	0.5	6:14	1.2	5:31	8:07	

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LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT:

AMESBURY Merderi Bodyworks



This series of local businesses to encourage customers to shop local, and make people aware of the services, and talents, that we have surrounding us! Please shop local!

by Kay Lee Ogden

This week's business spotlight: Merderi Bodyworks, located at 30 Merrill Street Amesbury, off Rt 95 North, take right after Wall's Dealership, follow Merrill, located, in the Fowler Chiropractor Building, right over the Amesbury line.

Merderi Bodyworks is a professional business in massage therapy and wellness therapeutic services in lymphatic, deep tissue, sports, Swedish, massages, using the Benjamin system of massage. Request an appointment with Susan Hoffman: Mon, Wed, Fri: 978.255.2382, or Joy Bergner: Tues, Thurs: 978.626.2944

Susan has 30 years experience in the massage therapy and wellness health field, providing, personalized care to every client. Joy complements the practice with her own skills, dedication, and caring approach, creating a relaxing and supportive experience for everyone they serve, and expertise to the practice. Together, they are committed to providing professional, and personalized care. Both, Susan and Joy are fully licensed and qualified massage therapists.

There are many massage styles, each designed to target layers of specific tissue, with outcomes to induce relaxation and a healthier quality of life.

Some of the services they offer:

Manual Lymphatic Drainage | Relaxation and Stress Relief
Swedish Massage | Deep Tissue | Trigger Point Therapy
Pain Relief and Therapeutic Correction | Neuromuscular Massage
Myofascial Release | Cupping Massage | Circulation and Wellness
Athletic Performance and Flexibility | Sports Massage | Thai | Shiatsu
Prenatal. Scar tissue is completely different. When your body repairs an injury from surgery, a fall, or torn muscle, if it's not treated correctly, it will glue together, and harden, and stay that way! That's a reason you need a masseuse!

They are now specializing in lymphatic drainage! When you visit a massage therapist for a lymphatic system treatment, you receive a specialized session of a manual lymphatic drainage, this massage is entirely different from traditional massages. The lymphatic system sits directly beneath the skin, the techniques must be incredibly light and precise to work effectively. This is to target the tissue layer and amount of pressure used, where as a deep tissue massage aggressively manipulates the muscles. Different styles target specific health outcomes, ranging from chronic pain and immune support. Incorporating body work into your routine reduces cortisol, which reduces joint inflammation, and improves sleep quality!

It is wonderful when you find a practice that operates with that level of genuine heart and clinical integrity. Finding a team that does watch the clock, but consistently goes above and beyond to give you a full unhurried session is rare and valuable!

When practitioners, like Susan and Joy, are truly passionate about wellness, it transforms the entire experience from a simple luxury into essential healthcare-level maintenance! These talented women, many times crossover their techniques during their sessions, which is unique in itself, and this is why they are superb in what they do! When they invest the time to multiple distinct modalities, like what they offer, they stop following a rigid, routine script, they gain the unique ability to read and listen to your body, in real time, adapting their style, second by second, based on what your tissues actually needs!

Their prices are extremely reasonable, go visit them, get healthy, you'll love them!!!

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CHARGING STATIONS
PERLEY SCHOOL
Contract bids managed by Georgetown Elect. Light Dept. Selected Contractor: ACI
TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$36,264



CHARGING STATIONS
TOWN HALL
No bids, managed by Town Admin. Orlando Pacheco. Required changes. Contractor: Inovis
TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$77,524



CHARGING STATIONS
AMERICAN LEGION PARK
No bids, managed by Town Admin. Orlando Pacheco. Contractor: Inovis
TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$59,226



CHARGING STATIONS
GEORGETOWN PEABODY LIBRARY
No bids, managed by Town Admin. Orlando Pacheco. Required changes. Contractor: Inovis
TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$103,672

EV STATIONS

Continued from page 1

form the audits of the facilities can easily transition into the construction phase provided that the project cost is under \$300,000.”

See Pacheco full statement in the sidebar.

Automated Controls Integration in Salem, NH, had the winning bid for the contract at the Perley School to install a Level 2 Breeze EV Charging Station with two ports for \$36,246 and a five-year AmpUp charging software subscription. Six other companies were invited by the Light Department to bid, but only two did.

Inovis Energy, which Pacheco worked with on energy projects for the town of Shirley while employed by Georgetown, was awarded at least three no-bid contracts: one with two ports at Town Hall for \$61,524, one with four ports at the Library for \$93,172, and one with four ports at the American Legion Park for \$59,226.

Some of the costs for the charging stations was paid from four grants of \$50,000 -- \$50,000 for each station from the state Department of Environmental Protection. The grant totaled \$200,000 to acquire 14 charging stations under the Electric Vehicle Incentive Program Public Access Charging.

Pacheco wrote: “The Town was the responsible party for the Perley School Project under our EVIP grant, not the Light Department. The location of the changing stations changed specifically to the Perley School. Originally it was going to be on the other side of the parking lot closer to the COA (Council on Aging). This was designed in case the COA ever obtained an EV Van, which are now available, our decision to no longer pursue and Electric van was low mileage use and cost.

“After review the power source location was not ideal so the charging stations were moved to the current location. When that change took place the Light Dept felt their vendor could do the job cheaper because it was almost identical in scope of the Park and Ride project (i.e., no trench work simply coming off the pole) so they were able to do that job cheaper and under the bid threshold.”

The stations at Town Hall and the Library required large change orders

for Inovis to rewire them. The town paid Inovis an additional \$16,000 for the Town Hall station and \$10,000 at the Library, for a total project cost of \$77,524 for Town Hall, and \$103,672 for the Library.

Pacheco explained: “The change orders were requested by the Light Department and Electrical Inspector. The cost of the Change orders were paid for by ratepayers of the Light

Department.

“The original plan was to have the station wired into the buildings, which was more cost effective. However, in order to better implement a separate metering tariff, the power had to come in from another location. This caused some additional trench work to the project that required the change order. This was the same situation at the library although the amount of

trenching and underground conduit varied from each site.”

For the three stations, the town purchased through Inovis an AmpUp lite charging subscription for one year, plus a three-year software plan and a three-year service plan.

In addition, Inovis notified the town that it “will claim any eligible tax credits for itself on any municipal projects that they install.”

Inovis has been paid \$290,422 through eight invoices processed through the end of 2024, including the EV station installs, rewiring and LED upgrades for \$50,000 at the Georgetown Middle/High School. Since then, they have been awarded a contract to upgrade the light bulbs at the Penn Brook school, not included in the above numbers.

Ask EV Questions, and ...?

By Lonnie Brennan

When our senior reporter asked six questions in writing to the Georgetown town administrator, the admin. deferred three to the electric department, and responded with the following (below), including yet another one of his frequent insults about this newspaper. Some have suggested that since the folding of the *Georgetown Record* in 2019, government appointees seem to have grown complacent with not being questioned by reporters. That may or may not be the case in these responses. And of course, we always strive to improve, and correct any mistakes, and do so publicly.

The questions were directed to the town admin. In his reply, he included seemingly everyone but the sandwich lady at the middle/high school cafeteria (he included the fire chief, the police chief, all members of the board of selectmen – which seems appropriate - with the exception of Selectman Mike Donahue, who questioned his actions and outside work for other towns, which the town admin. did during regular town hall business hours. Donahue has also been critical of the town admin. single-handedly awarding multiple contracts totaling in excess of \$400,000 to Inovis, etc. See related story.).

The questions and the town admin.’s answers (which he printed in red, and which we’ve reprinted in red), follow. Please note, there was follow-on back and forth. In summary, the admin. admits to purposefully leaving Donahue in the dark – unlike the fire chief – because he suspected we would forward the e-mail to Donahue anyway. Ah, yes, as we would to any member of the selectboard whose employee, the town admin., chose to keep in the dark.

Subsequent to this exchange, we’re

told the town admin. has created his own “substack” blog online. There’s a line from Shakespeare about protesting which comes to mind.

Obviously, we did not receive the answers to these and other subsequent questions which would detail why one firm was awarded certain contracts, nor at what state “change orders” were enacted and “rewiring” was required, and why those needs were not planned for prior to the initial project award. We’ll seek out additional resources to find those answers...

Initial Reply by Town Admin.:

"Stewart. Just so I understand. You are writing a story about a project that was completed 2-3 years ago now even through you never wrote a story about the grant that funded a large part of the project itself. Am I correct in that assumption?"

Second Reply:

"From three years ago?"

Third Reply:

"I must assume so given the recent FOIA's we received. My apologies for the emails but I think it's important to the public establish the link between the Town Common reporting and the people and avenues it gets its information and motives from. All in the interest of transparency. I will respond to your first email but will also be including many others and will explain why in the email given the gross omissions and inaccurate reporting of the past"

Fourth Reply:

From: "Orlando Pacheco" <OPacheco@GeorgetownMa.gov>

To: "Stewart Lytle" <stewart_lytle@yahoo.com>

Cc: "Douglas Dawes" <ddawes@GeorgetownMa.gov>, "Robert Hoover" <RHoover@

GeorgetownMa.gov>, "Laura Repplier" <LRepplier@GeorgetownMa.gov>, "Ed Dobie" <EDobie4227@aol.com>, "Alicia Raspa" <araspa@GeorgetownMa.gov>, "Matt Mckay" <mmckay@GeorgetownMa.gov>, "David Sedgwick" <DSedgwick@GeorgetownMa.gov>, "Kerri McManus" <KMcManus@GeorgetownMa.gov>, "Jaclyn Davenport" <jadavenport@GeorgetownMa.gov>, "James Pike" <JPike@GeorgetownMa.gov>, "Robyn Holt" <Rholt@GeorgetownMa.gov>, "Maureen Shultz" <MShultz@GeorgetownMa.gov>, "Frank O'Connor" <foconnor@GeorgetownMa.gov>, "andersonm@georgetown.k12.ma.us" <ander-

sonm@georgetown.k12.ma.us>, "Michael Hinchliffe" <hinchliffem@georgetown.k12.ma.us>, "Margaret Ferrick" <ferrickm@georgetown.k12.ma.us>, "Mary Snow" <MSnow@georgetownlight.com>, "Joe Maribito" <maribitoj@georgetown.k12.ma.us>, "Peter Durkee" <pdurkee@georgetownma.gov>, "Elizabeth Wilfong" <ewilfong@GeorgetownMa.gov>, "James Ogden" <JOgden@GeorgetownMa.gov>, "Sarah Cognata (scognata@georgetownpl.org)" <scognata@georgetownpl.org>

Sent: Sat, Jul 11, 2026 at 11:50 AM

Subject: RE: Questions from the Town Common on the EV Charging

Continued on page 4



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Mary Snow (center) Mike Peters (left) President & CEO of WPPI Energy in Wisconsin and chair-elect of APPA's Board of Directors, and John Haarlow (right) CEO of Snohomish County PUD in Washington and 2025-26 chair of APPA's Board of Directors.

Georgetown Light Receives National Achievement Award

Georgetown Municipal Light Department (GMLD) received an American Public Power Association (APPA) E.F. Scattergood System Achievement Award during APPA's National Conference held recently in Boston. The award honors APPA member systems that have enhanced the prestige of public power utilities through sustained achievement and customer service.

GMLD has demonstrated unwavering commitment to reliable, affordable, and sustainable power delivery for its approximately 3,500 customers. The utility's "Georgetown Goes Green" program has helped customers reduce costs and energy use through rebates for appliances, weatherization, and home energy audits.

In 2024, APPA recognized Georgetown with its prestigious RP3 Diamond designation, which acknowledges a utility's dedication to operating an efficient, safe, reliable distribution system. The RP3 program is based on industry-recognized leading practices in four disciplines: reliability, safety, workforce development, and system improvement. 's commitment to supporting all of public power is demonstrated in its strong support for storm restoration, deploying mutual aid crews across New England, Florida, Georgia, and the Virgin Islands; and in actively engaging with policymakers on key issues such as grid reliability, clean energy, and infrastructure. ♦

WEST NEWBURY

Continued from page 1

knowledge of West Newbury finances and operations, and his down-to-earth demeanor. His background and experience were fully vetted by our consultant as well as members of the Select Board. He will start on August 3, 2026, as a full-time employee and remain with us for three to six months while the per-

manent Town Manager search process is completed. Sean shared that "I am very excited to join such a dedicated team of professionals who care so much about West Newbury. I am looking forward to helping the Board build on the successes achieved by the Town as we look to the future".

Please join us in welcoming Sean to the Town Office Building and West Newbury. ♦

Newbury Sons & Daughters of the First Settlers

Continued from page 1

ing followed by a presentation by keynote speaker Alex Cain, author, historian and reenactor - "These English Liberties: The New England Perception of English Rights and Liberties from the Settlement of Newbury to Lexington and Concord"

What did the people of colonial New England, including the first settlers of Newbury, believe their rights were, and why did they ultimately conclude that those rights had been violated on the eve of the American Revolution?

Alex Cain traces the evolution of constitutional thought in New England from the signing of the Mayflower Compact in 1620 through the outbreak of the American Revolution in 1775. Examining foundational documents, important legislative acts in Massachusetts Bay Colony, colonial charters, and the development of English constitutional principles, this presentation will explore how generations of New Englanders — and more importantly, the settlers of Newbury — came to understand their rights and liberties as English subjects in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Alex Cain is an educator, writer, historian and a well-respected, highly sought-after speaker. He has published several research articles relevant to New England militias and loyalists during the American Revolution. He has published two books, "We Stood Our Ground: Lexington in the First Year of the American Revolution (2nd Edition)" and "I See Nothing but the Horrors of a Civil War." His next book, "For God's Sake, Fire! The Massachusetts Militia System on the Eve of Lexington and Concord," is currently in production and is expected to be released in 2027.

A continental breakfast and buffet lunch are included in the \$35 registration fee. The doors and registration open at 8:30 am, with the business meeting starting at 9:30 am. Details about the meeting and on-line registration can be found on the Society's website, www.sonsanddaughtersofnewbury.org. Register online at <https://www.sonsanddaughtersofnewbury.org/event-list>.

Q&A ON TAXPAYER AND RATE-PAYER-FUNDED EV STATIONS

Continued from page 3
Stations

Hi Stewart, I want to respond to your questions but also add substantial context around the questions. I am doing this more for the public as opposed the Town Common given the history of inaccurate reporting and consistent omission of substantial factual information. As this email is public, we can now post it to social media to make sure taxpayers have the full story. It should be noted that this project was completed several years ago and received a \$200,000 EVIP Grant from MassDEP. At that time the Town Common did not dedicate resources to covering that award or the installation of the charging station which we felt was a positive decarbonization measure for the Town. However, in the past few weeks we have received a number of Freedom of Information Act requests from Kevin Wood and Mike Donahue so it appears your desire to cover the story has more to do with the direction you take and the collaboration the Town Common has with particular individuals than the public interest in terms of a project completed almost 3 years ago being reported on now. As such and in the interest of transparency, the term used often by some who also hide behind anonymity, I wanted to share my response with others.

How much are the charging stations used? This question is better directed to the Light Department as they are the ones that meter the charging stations

What do they cost customers to use them? This should also be directed at the Light Department but the rate may vary depending on the time of day

For the installation of the stations, why did the town award no-bid contracts to Innovis Energy for the ones installed at the library, town hall and American Legion Park? It is disingenuous to state the question in this fashion but its also important for me to note the Town Common conclusion prior to writing the story. Hence my opening paragraph to this email. Innovis is an approved Project Expeditor approved by the utilities. Mass General Law Chapter 25A Section 11 clearly dictates that use of the statute for energy conservation and decarbonization projects for Green Communities. This is similar to using a state contract or other approved group procurement. Furthermore, the Town has utilized this method on several occasions without any issue in the past. For example, the Town has utilized this for weatherization measures and other upgrades at several municipal facilities going back to 2020 under Mike Farrell. One vendor, ECI was paid over \$200,000 using Green Communities Grant funds. We have also utilized this for several other smaller projects. A copy of the vendor list is attached and we have used 5 vendors from the list. These are not "no bid" as you have described but part of a specific process to vertically integrate implementation. The companies that perform the audits of the facilities can easily tran-

sition into the construction phase provided that the project cost is under \$300,000. Your sudden desire to report on this now should call into question your integrity and motives as a so-called reporter. That being said we are happy with the work that has been performed by all the Project Expeditors , not just Innovis, and are particularly proud of the hundreds of thousands of dollars in grant funds utilized to accomplish this work. I think we can all agree that as EV's become more prevalent in our society that the access to charging is going to be necessary.

I would also like to point out that the type of equipment that was installed had a significant impact on who does the work. We did reach out to some other firms who were specifically looking to install ChargePoint stations, which is a great product and the most common from what we can see. However, it is also a closed source meaning that once installed the back-end software that operate the system and takes a portion of the revenue would be permanent. This was a concern to me as it would me because ChargePoint could charge any fees it wanted and the Town would be stuck. By using the AMP product, the software is open source so at some point in the future if it were advantageous to do so, the Light Dept would be in a position to get a new back-end software provider to operate aspects of the chargers. Many people do not take this into consideration when scoping an EV project and can limit revenue growth in the future. Not all installers have access to the same vendors and many have noon-competes so this aspect needed to be thought through and played a role in the selection of Innovis.

The Light Department bid out the EV charging station at the Perley School to a different firm, which appears to have been installed for less. This project was done using the same vendor as the light Department. The Town was the responsible party for the Perley School Project under our EVIP grant, not the light department. The location of the changing stations changed specifically to the Perley School. Originally it was going to be on the other side of the parking lot closer to the COA. This was designed in case the COA ever obtained an EV Van, which are now available, our decision to no longer pursue and Electric van was low mileage use and cost. After review the power source location was not ideal so the charging stations were moved to the current location. When that change took place the Light Dept felt their vendor could do the job cheaper because it was almost identical in scope of the Park and Ride project (ie, no trench work simply coming off the pole) so they were able to do that job cheaper and under the bid threshold. Your pre-conceived notion to the question I feel required a more detailed explanation

What were the change orders at the library and town hall for? The change orders were requested by the Light Department and Electrical Inspector. The cost of the Change orders were paid for by the Light Department. The original plan was to have the station wired into the buildings, which was more cost effective. However, in order to

better implement a separate metering tariff, the power had to come in from another location. This caused some additional trench work to the project that required the change order. This was the same situation at the library although the amount of trenching and underground conduit varied from each site.

What company got the contract for the station at the Park and Ride lot? The Park and Ride project was done by the Light Department with a separate EVIP Grant. They did use the same technology the Town used. **How much was that contract for?** This would be best directed to the Light Department. Thank you for your assistance.

PS: Because the is a good chance this important detail will be missed in your story is that the Town did not appropriate any funds to accomplish this work. We are very thankful for the Grant awards and Light Department support. The grant funds came as a result of the Settlement with VW over their diesel emissions reporting. The office of the State Attorney General and Masa-DEP can provide more details on the VW settlement.

DEATH NOTICES: The loss of loved ones in our communities, compiled exclusively for The Town Common by Michelle Leiningner.

Name	City/State Lived	Funeral Home	City/Town
Beverly E. Nichols	Beverly, MA	Campbell Funeral Home	Beverly
Gertrude O'Sullivan Walsh	North Andover	Conte Funeral Home	North Andover
Joan M. Pierro	Salem, NH		
Leonard J. Lavoie	Beverly, MA	Conway Cahill-Brodeur Funeral Home	Peabody
Pellumb Vaka	Peabody, MA		
Eleanor C. Castonguay	Salem, MA		
Lynne E. Dow Zalis	Peabody, MA		
Kenneth Kimball	Peabody, MA		
Molly Anne Clements	Derry, NH		
Alfonso Paglia	Rowley, MA	E.S. Roberts & Son Funeral Home	Rowley
William "Bill" Patenaude	Methuen, MA	John Breen Memorial Funeral Home, Inc.	Lawrence
Gail Manning	North Reading, MA	Kevin B. Comeau Funeral Home	Haverhill
Sarasue (Mueller) Dick	Haverhill, MA		
Roy L. Rogers	Haverhill, MA		
Richard J. Cawthorne	Topsfield, MA	Mackey Funeral Home	Middleton
Nancy L. (Leonard) Saviano	Beverly, MA	O'Donnell Cremations-Funerals-Celebrations	Danvers
Thomas M. Rourke	Danvers, MA		
Margaret Frances Overlock	Hampton, NH	Remick & Gendron Funeral Home	Hampton
Charles R. Radzik	Hampton, NH		
David Michael Hickey	Hampton, NH		

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

WED. JULY 22

Rowley Library lawn 6:30PM Concert: The Radio. Bring a blanket or chair and relax on their beautiful front lawn while enjoying great local musicians. Free frozen treats will be provided. In case of inclement weather, the events will be held indoors at the library, 141 Main St.

Georgetown
6 PM: This concert will take place outside on the library lawn so please bring lawn chairs or blankets. If the weather does not cooperate, the concert may be moved to another Wednesday night or canceled.
www.georgetownpl.org/events

Hampton Beach
Fireworks at dark.

Rowley
6:30PM: Music! , Rowley Library. Bring a blanket or chair and relax on their beautiful front lawn while enjoying great local musicians. Free frozen treats will be provided. In case of inclement weather, the events will be held indoors at the library, 141 Main St.

Salisbury
Christian Concert Series 6:30 - 9PM Oceanfront Stage - free.

THURS, JULY 23

West Newbury

Summer Concert Series at the Bandstand Every Thursday, 6:30pm-8pm
The Coalboilers
*All shows are "Shine Only." Rain dates August 20th and Aug 27th.

FRI, JULY 24

Newburyport

6:30-9:30 Salvation Army of Newburyport presents- Sailabration - Cruise for a Cause. Sunset cruise on the new Captain's Lady IV. \$75 per person. includes-Food, DJ/dancing, Trivia, Silent Auction, Cash bar. For more info: salvationarmyma.org/sail

Salisbury
Friday Night Beach Parties w/ Ralphie B (Rock & Roll Oldies)

SAT JULY 25

Georgetown

Story Time 11 am. at Hatter's Tea Shoppe, 10 East Main St. www.hattersteashoppe.com

Georgetown

Farmer's Market - American Legion Park - 10 am. - 2 PM

Newburyport

A Midsummer's Night Dream
4 PM - Maudslay State Park - pay what you will. Reserve your ticket at theatreintheopen.org.

Salisbury
Free Saturday Night Concerts on the Oceanfront Stage
FIREWORKS! 10:15 PM

Salisbury
The Actors Studio of Newburyport presents Mike Kimball, Michael Burde, and Dana Pearson in: Early Bob: 1926 -1973 A Live Concert: 7 pm, \$20 - newburyportacting.org

SUN JULY 26

Georgetown

Annie Brobst Country Singer. 5- 7 pm, free, American Legion Park. Free concert. Great time. Food available for sale. Bring a blanket or a chair. Come meet friends old and new!

Upcoming August Events at West Newbury G.A.R. Memorial Library

G.A.R. Memorial Library
West Newbury, MA 01985
submitted by Rebecca Shea
Assistant Librarian

Come Read & Create with Camille
Monday, August 3, 4:00 - 5:00 PM
Join us for story time with playwright and children's book author, Camille Garro. Camille will read her latest children's book, "Little Lucia and Her Terrible Day at the Beach", and present her original illustration boards. She will demonstrate her tissue paper illustrating technique and let participants try. A free copy of "Little Lucia and Her Terrible Day at the Beach", will be given to all children, (1 per family please). All materials to create tissue paper art will be supplied. Maximum 20 children. This event is free and ideal for ages 3-7. Please register to attend.

Intro to Basic Sign Language
Friday, Aug. 7, 11:00 AM -12:30 PM
Understanding basic sign language can open up communication with diverse populations of people and can be helpful in situations where hearing is not possible, like across a crowded room. This workshop is designed to teach the basics of ASL, join us to learn in a casual, welcoming, social atmosphere. This workshop is appropriate for teens and adults of all abilities. RSVP is required.

Family Beginner Origami: Airplanes, & Advanced Origami: Flowers

Monday, August 10, 4:00-6:00 PM
Enjoy an hour of paper-folding with origami master, Michael La Fosse. The advanced option is meant for the person who is familiar with origami, recommended for ages 12+ to adult. Come see what you can create! Sponsored by the Friends of the West Newbury Library, RSVP is required.

Celebrating America's 250th: "Act Worthy of Yourselves" with author Salina B. Baker VIRTUAL:

Monday, Aug. 10, 7:00 - 8:00 PM
We're thrilled to welcome author Salina B. Baker who will be discussing her book, "Act Worthy of Yourselves: A Novel of Dr. Joseph Warren and an American Rebellion". This historical biographical novel brings Bostonian Dr. Joseph Warren to life in vivid, intimate detail—a healer who became a warrior, a scholar who became a revolutionary, and a man whose courage helped give birth to a nation.

This program is hosted by the Ashland Public Library in coordination with many other area libraries. Sponsored in part by the Friends of the West Newbury Library. RECORDING NOTE: This program will be recorded. All registrants will receive the recording via email within 48 hours of the program. Due to limited space, if you know you cannot make it live, do not register with zoom but please fill out form on library website to receive the video link. If you plan to attend, please register for the Zoom link.

Faux Stained Glass Art Workshop
Tuesday, August 11, 5:30 - 7:00 PM
Rachelle Toth comes back to West Newbury to teach us a fun craft for adults and teens!

In this workshop we will make a simple faux stained glass project that will amaze you with its transformation from a blank piece of glass to a sparkling piece of art. RSVP is required.

VIRTUAL: Presidential Series with Heather Rogers: Martin Van Buren
Friday, August 14
10:30-11:30 AM

This month we're talking about Martin Van Buren: First president born in the United States but English wasn't his first language. Don't you want to know more? In 2026, journey through Heather's sketchbooks as she shares some of her favorite tidbits, doodles, observations, and resurrection stories about the first 12 presidents. RECORDING NOTE: This program will be recorded. All registrants will receive the recording via email within 48 hours of the program. It will be available on YouTube for one month. This program is hosted by the Ashland Public Library in partnership with other area libraries and is sponsored, in part, by the Friends of the West Newbury Library. Click here to register for the Zoom link.

OneUp Games - VR Family Gaming Event

Tuesday August 18, 6:00-9:00 PM
OneUp Gaming brings all the consoles and games you can think of, plus two VR headsets to explore virtual reality games. Fun for the whole family, ages 5+. Funded by the Friends of the West Newbury Library. Registration is required: choose a time slot. Meet us at the Annex!

- Georgetown Peabody Library - Artist Mary Carvill Reception

The Georgetown Peabody Library is pleased to host an art exhibit by Mary Carvill for the months of July and August.

An artist reception will be held on Tuesday, July 28 at 6:30PM. For more information on Mary Carvill and her work, you can check out her Instagram: www.instagram.com/hartthatspeaks

Mary Carvill is a local artist whose work has been exhibited extensively at the Newburyport Art Association. Her thoughtful, evocative pieces invite viewers to discover beauty, meaning, and connection in the world around them.

The library is located at 2 Maple Street, Georgetown, Mass.♦



The Town Common

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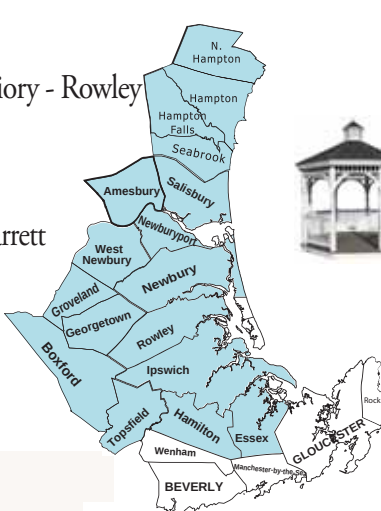
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Super Crossword **RAISING A RACKET**

ACROSS

1 Streisand of "Nuts"
7 President after Bush
12 Japanese soup
16 Beaker locale
19 Fanatic
20 Boo-boo
21 State of mind
23 "Can this be?"
25 Color close to aqua
26 Leave shore
27 "I'm to blame for everything"
29 Mil. address
32 Nada
34 "— see!" ("Evidently!")
35 Events that break ground
36 Like K-Cup coffee pods
42 Two-word conjunction
44 Sol's Greek counterpart
45 Bangor locale
47 Built
52 2011 Steve Carell film
56 Puppeteer Lewis
57 Opera song
58 Gallery work
59 Fox hangouts
61 Nest eggs for srs.

62 Flanders on "The Simpsons"
63 Quick, sharp punches
65 Cocktail of bourbon, lemon and mint
68 Purse
69 Ross who ran against Clinton
70 — in the bud
71 It might consist of a dictionary, thesaurus and atlas
76 Pouches
78 Tic- — -toe
81 "You wish!"
82 They may get slammed
83 Dad on "Rugrats"
84 For takeout
85 Fail to remain calm
87 Annual mailing to the IRS
92 Baskers' goals, often
94 Birth-related
95 Home for French presidents
96 Lerner's musical collaborator

99 Kind of salute performed at military funerals
101 Cherubs, e.g.
105 Smartphone buy
107 Emulate
108 Mag bigwigs
109 Heroic fighter pilot of the 1940s
114 Sinister
117 Studios with easels
118 Question you might feel like asking after seeing nine key words in this puzzle?
123 Yellow turnip
124 Roast beef fast-food chain
125 Big brand of cosmetics
126 Water quality org.
127 Pack neatly
128 L.A.'s region
129 Pitfalls

DOWN

1 German auto
2 Spa sigh
3 Material in viral genes
4 Tiny pieces
5 Pro — (in proportion)

6 Post-workout feeling
7 Multivolume Brit. lexicon
8 Matzo — (Passover breakfast option)
9 In — (stuck)
10 Soft shoes, for short
11 Locations
12 Actress Marlee
13 Agenda unit
14 Stick around to see
15 Rig accidents
16 Doozies
17 Fully grown
18 Borscht base
22 Kind of lift for downhillers
24 Yalies
28 Mauna —
29 Waste barrel
30 Capital of South Dakota
31 Mounted to a backing for decoration
33 Big-eyed primates
37 Egyptian city with pyramids
38 Myrna of old movies
39 Spellbound
40 Roman 7
41 Finale
43 Plow pioneer John

46 "Mama" Cass
48 Orang cousin
49 Figure skater Lipinski
50 Epochs
51 Plate
53 Key near Q
54 Brewery kiln
55 Actor Sahay who played Lester Patel on "Chuck"
60 Lip- — (mouth the words)
63 Pantry container
64 Got older
65 Alternative to Mazola or Crisco
66 Charlemagne ruled it: Abbr.
67 Bro's sibling
68 Suit well
69 Orch. section with timpani, cymbals, etc.
71 Performs like Drake
72 Jacob's twin
73 Twain's Huck
74 Clamor
75 Hoodwink
76 Gets trite
77 "La Cage — Folles"
78 Muss, as hair
79 "I concur"
80 Chili dogs

83 Headliner
84 "Ciao 4 now"
86 Beat others in claiming something
88 Dojo surface
89 Old verb suffix
90 Remade musicals, e.g.
91 "Showdown" rock gp.
93 "Easy-peasy"
97 Polish capital
98 Start for Pen or dermis
100 Barely earns, with "out"
101 Informed (of)
102 Still in bed
103 Garbo of old movies
104 Singer Fitzgerald
106 Gyro wraps
110 Ship of myth
111 Sleek, in brief
112 "Fast Money" network
113 "Watermark" singer
115 A party to
116 Constellation next to Hercules
119 Oahu, e.g.: Abbr.
120 Atop, in odes
121 Scot's dissent
122 Raised trains

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



HEY THERE, LITTLE GUY! DO YOU KNOW HOW LUCKY YOU ARE?

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YEAH, SHOULD'VE SEEN THAT COMING.

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

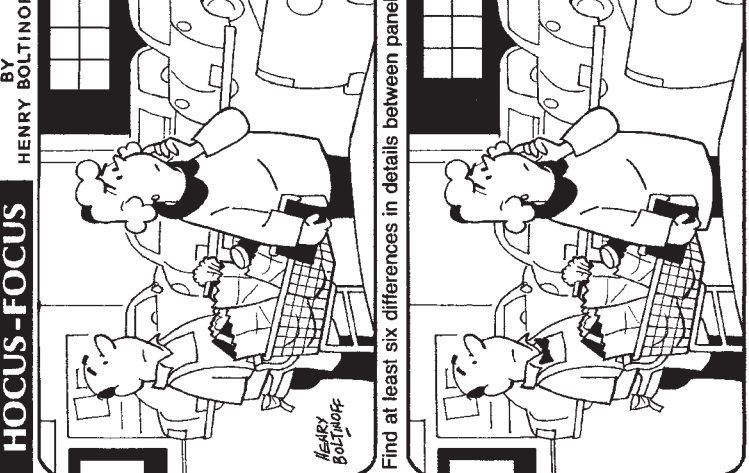


MARRIAGE IS NOT A WORD...

...IT'S A SENTENCE

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

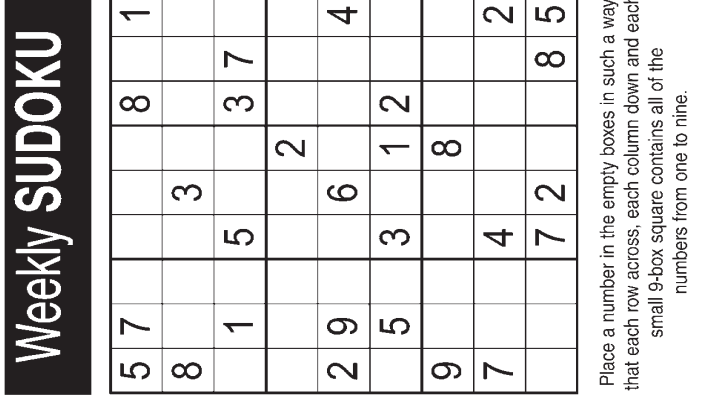
Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



I JUST DON'T KNOW HOW TO OPERATE THE PHONE. I THINK IT'S CALLED A "SMARTPHONE" BECAUSE IT REALLY MAKES YOU FEEL DUMB.

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2006 Dodge Dakota VIN 1D7HW48N06S502485
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2006 Jeep Grand Cherokee VIN 1J4GR48K16C201179
2012 Mercedes Benz GClass VIN 4JGBF7BE2CA767643
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2018 Chevrolet Traverse VIN 1GNEVGKW8JJ109164
2013 Dodge Dart VIN 1C3CDFBA0DD333411
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2015 Honda Accord VIN 1HGCR2F50FA255107
2003 Honda CRV VIN SHSRD78803U154222
1998 Honda Accord VIN 1HGCG1655WA014255
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PUZZLE ANSWERS

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GROVELAND NEWS

Continued from page 1

Another project is a continuation of planning for upgrades to Perry Park. The final plans will address the remaining work to restore the park to a quiet community space. Native plantings will be added. Benches for visitors and improved parking for both the park and the neighborhood will be addressed. The final plans will enable the town to request bids for the project and pursue CPA and other grant funding for constructing the park.

Town meeting also approved a new basketball court at the Bagnall School. Requests for proposals will be available soon. The new court, located behind the school, will replace an older court and provide school and community members with an improved resource for recreation.

Crosstown Trail

A revised Groveland Crosstown Trail CPA project won approval in May. The new trail, a project originally approved in 2021, was never started due to COVID issues. The 2021 project was canceled last year by the Community Preservation Committee, and a new project was presented by the Conservation Commission. The new Crosstown Trail System would stretch from Main St, through Nichols Village, and into Town Forest. The new trail system will provide another recreation resource for the town. It will expand the reach of current trails enabling walkers and hikers to trek from Main St across town into Town Forest. From there walkers can access an area with an abundance of trails such as West Newbury trails, and the State Crane Pond Wildlife Management Area. Planning is expected to begin in the Fall. Completion of the project is expected in two years.

Community Trail Parking

At a Groveland Select Board meet-

ing in June, parking for the Community Trail was discussed. Since opening, the trail has become a popular resource for residents and visitors for a healthy walk or bike ride. Especially on weekends, parking is at a premium. A new lot was added in the town property next to the trail at the pumping station. The lot is small however and can only accommodate 6 vehicles. Also, there is no sign identifying the availability of the lot. A sign is supposed to be added soon according to town administrator, Rebecca Oldham. Trail users are currently parking on Main Street next to the trail entrance, which is not safe. The board debated the alternatives and decided to expand the new lot to add more spaces and a sidewalk from the lot to the trail head. This will help eventually. However, until then, trail users are advised to park at the Shanahan Field lot.

What's Going On At 46 Washington Street?

The historic brick building at 46 Washington Street is a former mill building and the last Groveland Mills building still standing. It has been empty for over four years since the Water Department moved out to their new location on School Street. So, what will happen to the building? The Groveland Historic Commission is very concerned about plans for the site. The town received a grant to pursue plans for the site. A consultant was hired to gather information about the land, nearby wetlands, and other restrictions, if any, on the parcel. The consultant drew up a draft plan and is in the process of presenting it to town committees. At last month's Conservation Commission meeting the presentation was made and seemed to focus on the parcel and not the historic building. In fact, the consultant reported that they had not even been in the building yet. The Historic Commission wants to weigh in to make sure the building is not torn down or destroyed. It represents an important part of the town's history when the Groveland Mills was known throughout the nation for the best flannel available. ♦

'EXIT INTERVIEW'

PART 3, Continued from page 1

just five members of the near-empty audience, only two of whom were female. It was clear that the only way she could have addressed the board was to interrupt the meeting. The Town Common offered Therrien a chance to speak to the public through the following "exit interview." In these articles, residents of Georgetown and the SelectBoard can read her views on the future of the ConCom and its independent enforcement of town regulation of the local bylaw, state wetlands and endangered species laws.

In this article, she shared her perspective on the elected and appointed officials who run Georgetown. In this segment of her 'Exit Interview,' Therrien, who has been on the inside of town government for more than a decade, shares with Stewart Lytle, senior reporter, and the public some of her thoughts on the future of Georgetown.

You served until this year on the SelectBoard, what is your opinion of the current members and the Town Administrator? Dawes, the current chair (he has been chair before, to the detriment of the Conservation Commission every time), has done nothing to stop the controversies he laments. It was within Dawes' power when he chaired the Selectboard before to protect the 17-year veteran conservation agent who was run out of Town Hall by the Town Administrator. Now former SelectBoard chair Amy Smith shared responsibility with Dawes for not protecting a town employee.

Dawes, who more than 100 residents asked to resign in a petition that was never considered by the SelectBoard. Dawes objected to me, as a SelectBoard member, commenting or voting on any conservation issues, yet he turns frequently to Michael Donahue, chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission, to ask his opinion on any recreation issues that come to the SelectBoard.

Rob Hoover ran for re-election without telling the voters he planned to take an extended leave of absence immediately after being sworn in again, due

to medical reasons he knew about prior to the vote. He has attended only one meeting (via Zoom) and that was to vote that I not be re-appointed.

In our many conversations, Rob stated frequently that he doesn't have the bandwidth to deal with anything he doesn't want to deal with. He allowed another

member of the SelectBoard to attack me for more than a year without trying to enforce the long-term practice of members not attacking one another, which is in the SelectBoard handbook.

Only when certain members of the community and the board started attacking him, as chair, did he lose his composure, shout repeatedly with veins nearly popping, and have a member of the public escorted by the Police Chief out of a public meeting. Said member of the public had been given permission to speak - until he criticized the chair.

Laura Repplier served as an admin. and a member of the ConCom for nine years, but still doesn't respect nor understand what the Commission does. She does not seem to adhere to an understanding of how the commission is run, nor what the commissioner's job is, including our past two agents, and our past admin. She would do well to remember those things, so as to serve Georgetown in a higher capacity.

Michael Donohue has spent many years attacking me. When he made the complaints against me, he lived in Georgetown, but what he complained about, were parts and pieces of what occurred before he resided here, and was only given to him as hearsay, after the fact. Town Counsel told him and another member of the public, that his diatribe was merely his opinion. He has wasted, in my opinion and that of others, taxpayers' and constituents' time and money. It was time much better used to fix the towns issues and



Audience member Representative Candidate Dan Kelly shown in photo. Rachel Therrien, a friend of hers, a reporter, and a photographer were the only other attendees. (Town Common photo)

infrastructure.

I had so much faith in Ed Dobie, who I had the pleasure of serving with while on the CPC. I am not amused that he abstained after telling me I had his vote and just wants the controversy in the town to die down.

Ed, it can't subside unless you remove those who have perpetuated said attacks, harassment and tactics and have created said controversies and issues within the town. This is part of your job as a seated member of the SelectBoard which you ran for.

The TA was hired under Doug Dawes and Amy Smith, who admitted she did not even do Google search of his background, where there is a lot of information ... She stated, "everyone deserves a second chance," an opportunity she did not give ConCom members, chairs, or staff.

The TA was recommended by a former selectman, David Twiss, who now serves on several boards even though he and the TA went to school together, and there were approximately 10 other extremely qualified candidates for the position vacated by retiring TA Mike Farrell.

The TA's attacks on volunteers and members of the community that he thinks go unknown by residents ends with me.

Georgetown, it has been a pleasure to serve you. I have done my best. The only way this town will change is to have volunteers who will stand up to the dirty politics with fight and tenacity seen very rarely in this town. Good luck! ♦ More to come...

WHITTIER \$

Continued from page 1

enrolled in school. The current capital cost sharing formula, in place for decades, is based on each community's total kindergarten through grade 12 enrollment.

The day-to-day operational costs are allocated based on the number of students each community sends to the school.

The proposed new building to replace the 50-year-old school and its aging sewage treatment plant would be built by the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), but only if all 11 communities agreed to a new charter. The MSBA is expected to pay for about half of the construction costs.

Barrett dropped her opposition to a new formula primarily because the building on the college campus is expected to cost less. To build on the current campus, the school would have to pay an estimated \$25 million for a new fire access road, a new sewer plant and new parking area in addition to the building itself.

Also, if the school is on the college campus, students from the 11 cities and towns could take college-level courses.

Salisbury Town Manager Neil Harrington introduced a new cost-sharing formula that would have Haverhill pay a higher percentage of the total cost, but would be about the same amount of dollars that the city would have paid for the proposed \$444.6 million new school. In 2024, that proposal was defeated on a vote of 10 to 1.

Harrington's formula would have Haverhill pay 50 percent of the cost based on the current formula and 50 percent of the cost that is based on enrollment.

Harrington's plan depends on successfully lowering the cost of a new school with a one-time \$30 million payment from money the state has collected through the voter-approved millionaire's tax.

In addition to Haverhill, Rowley and Newburyport the other communities in the district are Amesbury, Georgetown, Groveland, Ipswich, Merrimack, Newbury, Salisbury and West Newbury. ♦



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