

BOXFORD HOUSE OF PIZZA



by Kay Lee
Ogden

This week's Business Spotlight shines on Boxford House of Pizza, located at 256 Georgetown Road in Boxford, Mass., located at the plaza — a wonderful that has been serving approximately 30 years.

The business was purchased on December 1, 2019, by Nevi and Marsela Shukulli, who have worked extremely hard and dedicated their energy to building a terrific family restaurant. They proudly serve Boxford, Georgetown, Topsfield, and many other surrounding communities.

Boxford House of Pizza offers an

extensive menu, along with family combination specials and Tuesday and Thursday specials, on their take menu. Their vegetables are always fresh, they use only white tuna, their prices are excellent, and their portions are generous.

They also offer catering, with an extensive catering menu available for gatherings and special occasions. Advance notice is appreciated so they can make sure everything is prepared just right.

The food is highly rated, and customers rave, not only about the food but also about the friendly people who work there. Amber Smith, a longtime employee, enjoys working with these fabulous and generous owners.

One particularly special member of the family is the owners' father, Netail

Continued on page 2



Nevi, Marsela, and Alex Shukulli (Photo by Kay Ogden)

Thom Gould Served the Newburyport Maritime Museum Well

By Stewart Lytle, Sr. Reporter

NEWBURYPORT - The U.S. flag at the Custom House Maritime Museum flew at half-staff last week to honor Thom Gould, a great friend of the museum, a former director and past chair of the board. Born in December 1944, he passed away on Aug. 10.

A vice chair of the museum board last year, Gould is remembered for his lively sense of humor, spirited conversations and love of good music and food. A lifelong baseball fan from playing Little League as a boy to being an ardent fan of the Red Sox, he modeled the T in his signature after baseball great Ted Williams's calligraphic autograph.

To recognize his and his wife Alice's contribution to the museum, the Alice and Thom Gould Gallery bears their name.

In addition to his service to the maritime museum, he served as director and vice-president of the Sons and Daughters of the First Settlers of Old Newbury and of the Providence chapter of the American Production and Inventory Control Society. For many years, Thom volunteered to provide tax assistance to Senior Center clients.

He was a graduate of Newburyport High School in 1962 and Tufts College in 1966 with a degree in math. He earned a master's degree in engineering from Northeastern University and spent most of his career with Texas Instruments in Attleboro where he helped manage the corporation's Reliability Engineering, Quality Assurance, Manufacturing, Materials Management and Financial Planning positions.

For about half of his career, he was involved with the corporation's international operations, which provided

Continued on page 2



Marty Blanchard

New Rowley COA Director

By Marty Blanchard

ROWLEY – As the new appointed Director of the Council on Aging, I have many hopes and aspirations for the COA. Older adults in Rowley make up a third of the town. With that being said, the Council on Aging should be a place that provides a plethora of resources. As new Director, I hope to expand the services and resources available through the COA, including connecting older adults with programs, educational opportunities, social activities, health and wellness resources, transportation assistance and other services that can help them live healthy, fulfilling and independent lives.

My goal for the Rowley COA is for it to be a place where every older adult feels welcome, heard, valued and supported. Our future is exciting. I look forward to listening to our community, learning what our older adults want and need and working with my staff to make the COA an even stronger resource for everyone.

For the past five years I served as Program Coordinator for the COA. I am a Rowley girl through and through. Although not considered a townie, I would say I come pretty close. My family moved to Rowley from Saugus in 1976. I was five and arrived just in time to start kindergarten at the Center School, now

Continued on page 2



Daniel Veinot

New Rowley Fire Chief

By Stewart Lytle, Sr. Reporter

ROWLEY – With the appointment of 44-year-old Daniel Veinot as the town's Fire Chief last week and the appointment in January of 39-year-old Michael Balsley as Police Chief, Rowley has its public safety leadership in place for years to come.

"That was one of the reasons we chose Daniel," said Selectman Robert Snow, who was on the committee that vetted Veinot.

Selectman Cliff Pierce said, "This feels like a new day in Rowley. We finally got our two public safety chiefs in place."

Veinot, whose first day as chief is August 24, said last week that he is looking forward to working with Balsley. He replaces Fire Chief Mark Emery, who retired in June after more than 40 years at the department. Balsley replaced Police Chief Scott Dumas and acting chief, former Lt. Stephen May, who came out of retirement until a new chief was appointed in January.

The fire department Veinot takes over has also been in transition this summer to all full-time firefighters on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It had been a combination of part full-time and parttime call firefighters. The SelectBoard voted for the department to go full-time firefighters beginning in July.

Continued on page 7

**Remind them it's
been awhile!
Be on the
FRONT PAGE!
\$49**

New England Intellectual Property

Helping inventors obtain
patents for 25 years. Call
Rich Baker
978-257-4101
www.newenglanip.com



THOM GOULD

Continued from page 1

him the opportunity to experience the diverse cultures of Europe, Japan, Asia, Australia and the Americas.

Gould married Alice Benschneider in 1968, and they spent the next 58 years together until Thom's death. Following their retirements, they moved to Newburyport.

He is survived by his wife, his brother, Robert and wife Catherine of Haverhill; his sister-in-law, Susan Benschneider of York, ME, plus cousins, nieces and dear friends near and far. ♦



**REACH BEYOND
YOUR
NEIGHBORHOOD.**

www.TheTownCommon.com

978-255-3015

editor@TheTownCommon.com

Advertising

**Reserve Your Space/Size by
7 P.M. each Thursday
with Final Copy by Sat. a.m.
advertise@thetowncommon.com
(978) 255-3015**

**Julianne DeSantis - Account Mgr.
978-626-7443**

**Brenda Ernst - Account Mgr.
406-823-9883**

JOIN OUR TEAM!

Call Lonnie Brennan - 978-609-4183
Nights, after 7:00PM, or Weekends any time.

How to Submit Content to the Editor:

Opinions expressed in this paper are those of the writers. Send your organization or group notices, birth or engagement announcements, photos, articles, and Letters to the Editor (limit 250 words, and include a telephone number for verification) to:

editor@thetowncommon.com

Or postal service:
The Town Common
9 Hamilton Terrace
Georgetown, MA 01833
Publisher/Editor
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)

The Town Common is not responsible for typographical errors or omissions, but reprint opportunities do exist for prompt notification of such errors. Advertisers should notify The Town Common of any errors in ads on the first day of issuance. No credits &/or refunds are offered or implied. All material and content cannot be duplicated without written consent of the publisher. The right is reserved to reject, omit, or edit any copy offered for publication.

Copyright 2004-2026 The Town Common © Broadside Communications - All Rights Reserved.

BOXFORD HOUSE OF PIZZA

Continued from page 1

shukulli, a delightful older gentleman, with a wonderful smile who is always around to do anything to help, and is ready to welcome you as you walk through the door. He is extremely proud of his family and everything they have accomplished. With his grandson Alex by his side, what a team they make!

But what truly makes Boxford House of Pizza special is the generosity of this family. When the Town of Boxford, local schools, the fire department, police department, or other community organizations are holding an event, this family is more than willing to donate, lend a hand, and help make the event successful.

They simply appreciate a few days' notice whenever possible.

A business that gives so generously back to its community deserves the community's support in return. Boxford House of Pizza is more than a place to enjoy a great meal—it is a family business filled with hardworking, caring people who truly deserve to be recognized.

Hours:

Mon.–Thurs.:

11:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m.

Friday–Saturday:

11:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m.

Sunday: 11:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m.

Phone: 978.887.2213

or 978.887.6685

www.BoxfordPizza.com



BROWN'S

Seabrook Lobster Pound

“A New England Favorite Since 1950”

**Boiled Lobster * Steamed Clams
Fried & Baked Seafood * Sandwiches**

Open Every Day from
Apr 1st - Nov 15th **Route 286, Seabrook Beach, NH** *Call Ahead*
Open Fri, Sat, Sun & Holidays **603-474-3331** *Take Out*
Nov 15th - Apr 1st

TIDE CHART

Date		High				Low				Rise	Set	Moon
		AM	ft	PM	ft	AM	ft	PM	ft			
19	Wed	4:55	7.5	5:16	8.2	11:01	1.0	11:41	0.8	5:54	7:39	☾
20	Thu	5:48	7.1	6:09	8.0	11:53	1.4			5:55	7:37	☾
21	Fri	6:45	6.8	7:05	7.8	12:38	1.0	12:48	1.6	5:56	7:36	☾
22	Sat	7:44	6.6	8:02	7.8	1:37	1.1	1:45	1.8	5:57	7:34	☾
23	Sun	8:42	6.6	8:58	7.8	2:35	1.1	2:42	1.7	5:58	7:33	☾
24	Mon	9:35	6.7	9:49	8.0	3:30	1.0	3:34	1.6	5:59	7:31	☾
25	Tue	10:23	7.0	10:35	8.2	4:18	0.8	4:22	1.4	6:00	7:29	☾
26	Wed	11:06	7.2	11:18	8.4	5:01	0.6	5:07	1.1	6:01	7:28	☾

JAY'S PAINTING • INTERIOR SPECIALISTS
36 YEARS EXPERIENCE W/ REFERENCES
NEAT, CLEAN & RELIABLE!
LOCAL • FREE ESTIMATES
978-314-0140



ShelfGenie®

EVERYTHING WITHIN REACH™

a neighborly company

50% OFF

EXPERT INSTALLATION

- **FREE** no-obligation design consultation
- **CUSTOM-BUILT** to fit existing spaces
- **FAST**, professional installation
- **LIFETIME WARRANTY*** for peace of mind



SCHEDULE NOW:

1-844-807-0030

AS SEEN IN





©2026 ShelfGenie SPC LLC. All rights reserved. Locally owned and operated franchise. Offer valid at participating locations only. Limit one offer per household. *Applies to Classic and Designer line. EXP 12/31/26. HIC # 212321.

Newbury's Ava Valianti's New Single, New Local Dates!



NEWBURY –Following a breakthrough year that included being named First Runner-Up in *American Songwriter's Road Ready Talent Contest*, the release of her acclaimed sophomore EP *Sophomore Slump*, and continued momentum as one of New England's fastest-rising young singer-songwriters, 17-year-old indie pop artist Ava Valianti returns with her powerful new single, “**alterations**,” available everywhere on August 14.

Known for turning deeply personal experiences into songs that resonate far beyond herself, Ava tackles one of her most difficult subjects yet: body image, self-worth, and the impossible standards young people, especially young women, are expected to live up to.

Driven by haunting melodies, intimate storytelling, and a growing indie pop-rock sound, “**alterations**” explores the exhausting cycle of comparison and perfectionism. The song follows the internal dialogue of someone convinced that changing their body will finally make them feel enough, while revealing the emotional toll of chasing an unattainable ideal.

“This is one of the hardest songs I’ve ever written because it’s so honest,” says Ava. “I wanted to write about the way insecurity can completely change how you see yourself. Even when everyone else sees you one way, your own mind can convince you you’re never enough. My hope is that people who hear this song feel a little less alone.”

While the lyrics paint an unfiltered picture of distorted self-image, “**alterations**” is ultimately rooted in empathy. Rather than glorifying the struggle, the song shines a light on the quiet battles so many people face and encourages conversations about body image, expectations, and self-acceptance.

At just 17 years old, Ava Valianti has already built an impressive resume. In addition to being named First Runner-Up in American Songwriter's Road Ready Talent Contest and performing live at Nashville's famed Basement East, her music has surpassed 600,000 career streams, while earning airplay on more than 300 radio stations. She has also received nominations and awards from the Boston Music Awards, the New England Music Awards, Unsigned Only Music Awards, and the IAMA (International Acoustic Music Awards).

A dynamic and emotionally charged live performer, Valianti has shared the stage with artists including Jessica Baio, Lucy Kaplansky, Andrew Duhon, The Strumbellas, Jamie Fine, and Morgan St. Jean, while also selling out her own headline shows across New England and New York City.

Ava will be at The Brickyard in Woburn, Mass. on August 21st.

On Saturday, August 22nd Ava will deliver a headlining show at **The Music Hall Lounge** in Portsmouth, N.H., starting at 8pm.

On Saturday, August 29th, she'll return to deliver an intimate showing at Newburyport's Metzzy's Restaurant. ♦

Commemorative Stamp for U.S. Coast Guard Academy Milestone

The U.S. Postal Service will release a new commemorative stamp celebrating the 150th anniversary of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. The first-day-of-issue unveiling ceremony for the U.S. Coast Guard Academy Forever stamp is free and open to the public.

Saturday, Sept. 12, 2026, at 10 a.m., Connecticut Maritime Heritage Festival

Custom House Pier at Waterfront Park, 1 Waterfront Park St., New London, CT 06320. Attendees are encouraged to register at: <https://www.usps.com/uscoastguardstamp>.

The stamp art features photographs of the USCGC Eagle, the Coast Guard Academy's primary training vessel since 1946, and USCGC Bertholf, a Legend-class national security cutter whose missions include maritime drug interdiction and securing the maritime border. Antonio Alcalá, an art director for USPS, designed this stamp with photographs courtesy of the U.S. Coast Guard. The stamps can be purchased at usps.com/shopstamps, by calling 844-737-7826, by mail through USA Philatelic, or at Post Office locations nationwide. For officially licensed stamp products, shop the USPS Officially Licensed Collection on Amazon. Additional information on stamps, first-day-of-issue ceremonies and stamp-inspired products can be found at stampsforever.com. ♦



ROWLEY COA

Continued from page 1

the Town Annex, where the COA is located. As new Director this is a true full circle moment for me. I can look out the windows of the Annex conference room and see the home I grew

up in with my five sisters and brothers and my office is in the very room where I started my schooling. It is a dream come true.

I am proud and honored to continue to serve Rowley as Director for the Council on Aging. ♦



Newburyport Maudslay Park Arts Center

by Alan Aulson

"My dad started this," Nick Costello, the director of the Maudslay Arts Center responded when I asked him about Maudslay Park and the musical and performance events held there.

Nick is the director of the Maudslay Arts Center in Newburyport which for more than 30 years has provided concerts, performances, recreation, corporate events and more for residents visitors from near and far.

The 488-acre Maudslay Park in Newburyport has 4-5 acres carved out for the Arts Center.

Nick's dad was a state rep., a state

senator, and he saw an opportunity to protect the area for all residents. "He kept at it, it took three governors to get it together, but it was going to go all condo," Nick explained about his dad's tenacity to establish the park. His dad, Nicholas J. Costello, went on to become the first mayor of Amesbury.

Nick pointed out that The Newburyport Bank has been a big financial supporter of the programs at the Maudslay Arts Center. Events are held outdoors in good weather, and indoors when necessary.

For more information about the center and programs, visit <https://maudslayartscenter.org>.



Nick Costello



(Photo by Julianne DeSantis)

Ipswich Boys 7th Grade Travel Team Wins South Division Championship

Coach John Healy presented the Ipswich Boy's 7th Grade Travel Team blinged-out championship rings

following the team's August 10th victory over Danvers in the final game of the Rec. Hoops Summer Basketball Monday Nights League.



Full Service Boat & Trailer Repair

Ripley Marine

OUTBOARD & I/O REPAIR
ELECTRONIC INSTALLATIONS

SHRINK WRAP - STORAGE
TRAILER SERVICE & REPAIRS

69 PARADISE ROAD - IPSWICH

978-771-8926



***On-site Custom Fabrication and Installation of 5" & 6" Seamless Gutters**

***Aluminum & Copper Gutters**

***Leaf Screen Installations**

Call for a free Quote

978-465-1844

Located in Salisbury, MA

follow us @portgutters | www.portgutters.com

Custom gutters, precise installs, zero stress

The Town Common

2026 - 2027 Publisher's Club

of supporters of this paper who help us sustain and grow.

PUBLISHER'S CLUB* \$1,000 or more

The Aulson Family - Georgetown
Frank Bertolino - The North Shore Realty Group - eXp Realty
Lonnie Brennan - Georgetown
G. Mello Disposal Corp. - MA, NH, ME

COMMUNITY NEWS HERO \$500 or more

Rich Baker - West Newbury

MEDIA PATRIOT \$250 or more

Elizabeth Carter & Donald Saviory - Rowley

BENEFACTOR \$100 or more

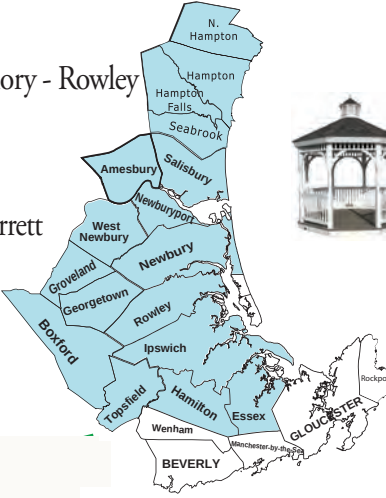
Anonymous - Georgetown
Beth Gandelman - Realtor, J. Barrett
Deb Tyler - Rowley

SPONSOR \$50 or more

James Gage - Amesbury

NEWSIE \$25 or more

Anonymous - Newbury
Brian Leahy - Georgetown



Largest Independent Weekly Community News Distribution Across NORTH SHORE OF MA & COASTAL NH

*Ask us about the benefits of joining the top levels of the Publisher's Club, including extensive advertising discounts. Join the 2026-2027 Publisher's Club. Your name or business name published in 52+ editions from date of joining.

Caring, Compassionate, Dignified Service when you need it most.



14 Independent St., Rowley, MA
www.fsrobertsandson.com
office@fsrobertsandson.com
978-948-7763



F. S. ROBERTS & SON FUNERAL HOME
A Tradition of Service. A Legacy of Trust.

We Offer:

- Personalized and Traditional Funerals
- Cremations • Graveside Services
- Memorial Services
- Advance Planning Options

Jeffrey E. Megna, CFSP
Licensed Funeral Director/Embalmer (Type 3), Owner

JOIN THE 2026 – 2027 PUBLISHER'S CLUB

Support your community's news and be proudly recognized with both a Certificate of Appreciation worthy of displaying and a weekly acknowledgement (your name, your business name...) printed within the newspaper for 12+ months. Donations on someone's behalf can be a wonderful gift. List my donation as:

Name

Address

Town/City

State ZIP

E-mail

☐ \$1,000 Publisher's Club ☐ \$100 Benefactor

☐ \$500 Community News Hero ☐ \$50 Sponsor

☐ \$250 Media Patriot ☐ \$25 Newsie

☐ CHECK ENCLOSED ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ AMERICAN EXPRESS ☐ DISCOVER

Card No.

Expires CCV: ZIP Code:

Please include zip code billing address for the credit/debit card for processing.

☐ YES, please also send me a magnetic bumper 'sticker' (as shown above).

The Town Common
Advertising/Sponsors
9 Hamilton Ter.
Georgetown, MA 01833



Holly Rutko

New River Run Bank Senior V.P

HAVERHILL – River Run Bancorp, MHC is pleased to announce the hiring of Holly Rutko to Senior Vice President, Senior Risk Manager. Holly brings 20 years of banking industry experience to River Run, having previously served as Vice President, Compliance Manager. “Holly’s depth of knowledge in BSA, CRA, and compliance — combined with her two decades of hands-on experience — make her exceptionally well-suited for this leadership role,” said Meaghan Lally-McGurl, Executive Vice President, Chief Enterprise Risk Officer. “She is a trusted resource for our teams and a steady voice with our regulators and auditors. We are fortunate to have her leading this critical work.”

In her new role, Holly is responsible for developing, implementing, and overseeing the Bank Secrecy Act (BSA), Community Reinvestment Act (CRA), and compliance programs across the organization. She will serve as a key liaison with regulators, auditors, and internal stakeholders, providing guidance, training, and oversight to promote a strong culture of compliance.

“Strong compliance programs protect the bank, but more importantly, they protect the people we serve,” said Holly. “That’s what drives the work.” Holly earned a Bachelor of Arts, Cum Laude, from Elms College and a Juris Doctorate, Cum Laude, from New England School of Law. She resides in Rehoboth, MA, and outside of work, she enjoys traveling, music, and reading.

About River Run Bancorp
River Run Bancorp, MHC is redefining the future of community banking by preserving the mutual banking model while empowering its affiliated banks to maintain their independent brands and deep local commitments. Established in 2023, and with collective assets of \$3.6 Billion, River Run provides strategic support and shared resources to Newburyport Bank, Pentucket Bank, and Rollstone Bank & Trust, ensuring continued service excellence to their customers and communities, paired with strength, stability, and a personal touch. Alongside River Run Services, LLC, we are dedicated to sustaining community banking for generations to come. Learn more at www.river-run.com.



Church Gets Facelift, Shiny New Coat

Yes, drivers are not imagining things as they travel through West Boxford something changed.' The Second Congregational Church of Boxford Village and say to themselves 'wow, got a new paint job and it looks stellar.

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

Name	City/State Lived	Funeral Home	City/Town
Wayne Mark Solimine	Haverhill, MA		
Eileen Doris Gauthier	Kingston, NH	Comeau-Berube Funeral Home	Haverhill
Patrick Edward Doherty	Atkinson, NH		
Lawrence Edward Murphy	Gloucester	Campbell Funeral Home	Gloucester
Melissa M. Edmond	Beverly		
John Robert “Bob” Emo	Beverly Farms	Campbell Funeral Home	Beverly
Christopher P. Gregorio	South Boston		
Varghese Peter Kunnath	Boston	Casper Funeral Home & Cremation Services	Boston
Joanne Puglielli	South Boston		
Margaret D. Hickey	Salem, NH		
Eleanor F. Merola	Andover		
Michael Peter Roberts	North Andover	Conte Funeral Home	North Andover
Constance M. Carney	Hampstead, NH		
Marie A. Pomer	Peabody	Conway Cahill-Brodeur Funeral Home	Peabody
Regina M. DiPietro	Lynnfield, MA		
Michael G. Theriault	Haverhill	Driscoll Funeral Home & Cremation Services	Haverhill
Joshua S. Howison	West Newbury	F.S. Roberts & Son Funeral Home	Rowley
John J. Boland, Sr.	Newburyport, MA	H.L. Farmer Funeral Homes & Cremation Services	Bradford
Elwood K. Paradis, Jr.	Plaistow, NH		
Malcolm H. Smith	Haverhill, MA		
John P. “Jack” Bevelaqua	Alton, NH	Kevin B. Comeau Funeral Home	Haverhill
Melissa “Missey” Thomson	Merrimac, MA		
Joseph H. Previte	Peabody, MA	Mackey Funeral Home	Middleton
Diane L. Castellana	Peabody, MA		
Joseph H. Previte	Peabody, MA	Murphy Funeral Home	Salem
Patricia Erickson	Peabody, MA	O'Donnell Cremations-Funerals-Celebrations	Danvers
Jean Manganiello Ciccarello	Peabody, MA		
Vinicio Pimentel	Salem, MA	O'Donnell Cremations-Funerals-Celebrations	Salem
Leonardo Alborno Solano	Lynn, MA		
Mark A. Cote	Amesbury, MA	Paul C. Rogers & Sons Family Funeral Homes	Amesbury
Skyler (Sky) D. Rosa	Hampton, NH		
Jack Walter Bieniek	Amesbury, MA		
Ellen Boyd McIntosh	Stratham, NH	Remick & Gendron Funeral Home	Hampton
Mary Anne Murray	Hampton, NH		

State Orders Response from Town on Records Non-Disclosure

by **Lonnie Brennan**
GEORGETOWN – Manza Arthur, supervisor of records for the commonwealth's Secretary of State Public Records Division last week issued a third demand to Georgetown Town Clerk Kerri Ann McManus in her capacity as Records Access Officer to respond to a records request from Selectman Michael Donahue.

One of McManus's many roles includes serving as the conduit between the various town departments and any records requests. Unfortunately, that often leads the record officer between the proverbial rock and hard place, if public officials refuse to release documents.

Donahue has sought the release of a legal opinion which Town Administrator Orlando Pacheco has refused to release to the public. Pacheco has denied multiple Freedom of Information Requests for the document's release.

The document in question was obtained by Pacheco from a private law firm under non-routine, unusual circumstances (see adjoining graph and footnote), and purportedly states that Pacheco has the right to fire town hall employees. He used the opinion to fire conservation agent Michele Grenier for insulting him, and hiding from him a recording/transcript of that insult (which she claimed she did not know existed); essentially Pacheco fired Grenier for doing what Pacheco is purportedly now doing.

"... the Town is ordered to provide Mr. Donahue with a response to the request, provided in a manner consistent with this order, the Public Records Law, and its Regulations within ten (10) business days," wrote the state's supervisor of records.

The August 14th correspondence represents the third time since April that the state has sided with Donahue, demanding an explanation from the town for its refusal to release the Pacheco file.

As part of his extensive, detailed appeal, Donahue has cited that "The Record Belongs to the Town, Not an Individual. The Legal Opinion was prepared for and delivered to the Town of Georgetown (client matter GEO00600002, addressed to Town Administrator . . . in his official capacity). It was paid with public funds. The privilege belongs to the Town as client, not to any individual official. The public has a legitimate interest in reviewing how taxpayer dollars are spent on legal advice concerning municipal authority, personnel matters, and Conservation Commission issues."

Initially, Pacheco directed Donahue to file his appeal of his decision of non-release through the SelectBoard chair. No such requirement exists. Then Pacheco took multiple attempts to assuage the State with replies which the State rejected.

The Pacheco file, according to members of the SelectBoard, grants Pacheco powers which are arguably unclear as regards allowable by town's bylaws. Donahue seeks release of the 'opinion' and to obtain a review of the 'opinion' by KP Law, the town's law

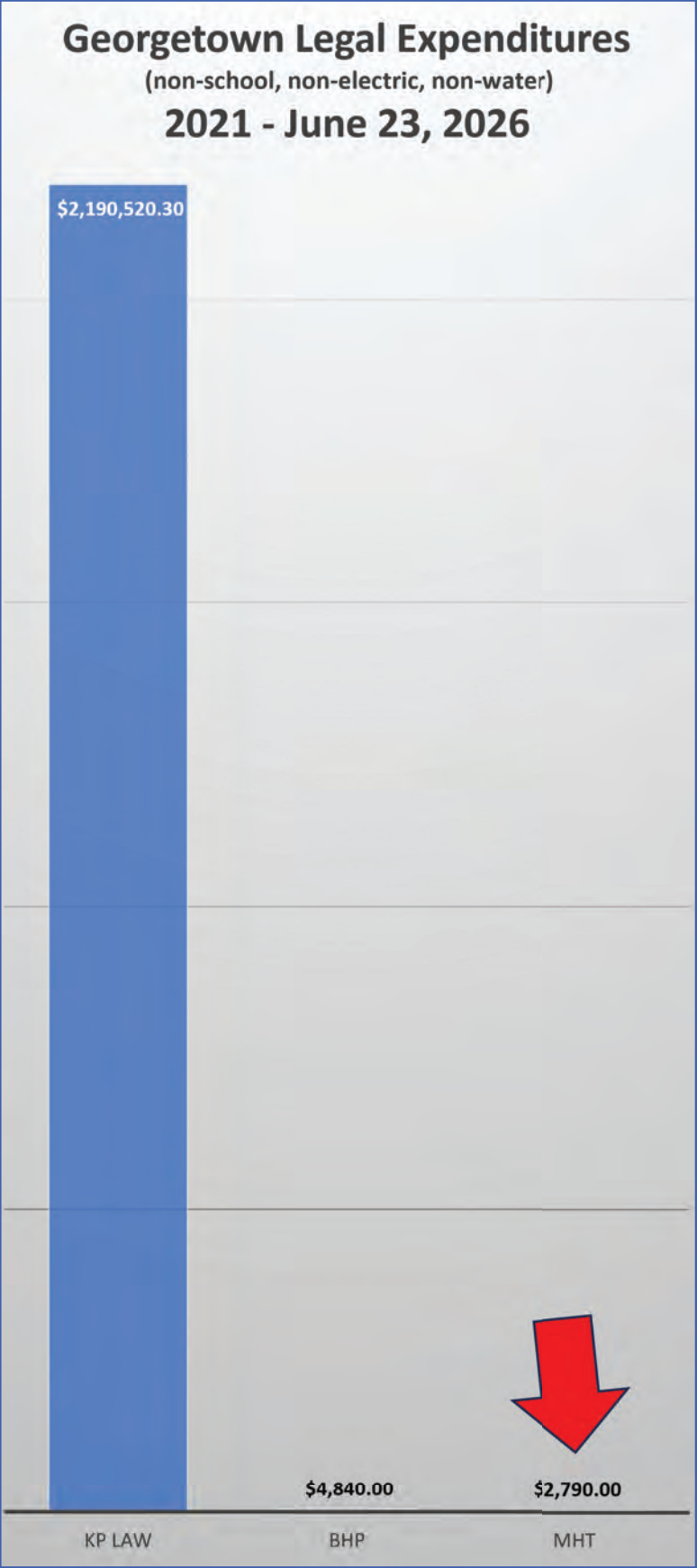
firm.

The State has thus far detailed via three demand letters totaling 13 pages the deficiencies of Pacheco's response to Donahue's request, detailing the conflation of ancillary information including notations of Zoom meetings, meeting schedules, and such, which do not address the matter at hand.

Subsequent to Donahue's first appeal

of the denial of release of records, the SelectBoard majority, including Chair Douglas Dawes, former chair Robert Hoover, and member Laura Repplier have authorized additional legal expenditures to fight against disclosure of the Pacheco file.

The full content of the appeals response from the state is available via <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/Appeals-Web/AppealsStatus.aspx>. ♦



SOURCE: Compilation of extensive legal billing records from the Town of Georgetown.

FOOT NOTE: At the April 27th SelectBoard meeting, Donahue questioned Pacheco's unusual use of a never-before-used outside law firm to obtain a legal opinion instead of using the long-established town counsel of KP Law. This touched off an extensive, rambling exchange covering multiple topics of use of legal counsel. Board members Laura Repplier and Douglas Dawes gave their support to the town administrator to engage any firm he wants, whenever he wants. The Town Common subsequently obtained via F.O.I.A. request the town's legal billing records. The graph (above) of the expenditures illustrates and supports Donahue's concerns of the unusual \$2,790.00 expenditure to MHT, the law firm of Murphy, Hesse, Toomey & Lehane for the special, hidden-from-the-public legal opinion.

LEGAL NOTICE

ROWLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

In accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act, Mass. G.L. 131, Section 40, as amended, and the Town of Rowley Wetlands Protection Bylaw, a remote public meeting will be held on **Tuesday, August 25, 2026 at 7:45 pm** to consider a Request for Determination of Applicability application filed by Ted Almquist for proposed soil testing and installation of a septic system possibly with the 100' Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands at **30 Wethersfield Street** (Map 25, Parcel 11 Lot 1) in Rowley, MA.

Daniel Shinnick, Chairman
Rowley Conservation Commission

8/19

LEGAL NOTICE

ROWLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

In accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act, Mass. G.L. 131, Section 40, as amended, and the Town of Rowley Wetlands Protection Bylaw, a remote public meeting will be held on **Tuesday, August 25, 2026 at 8:00 pm** to consider a Request for Determination of Applicability application filed by Jacob Rucker for proposed drilling and hookup of an artesian well with installation of a permeable paver patio possibly within 100' Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands at **47 Prospect Street** (Map 15, Parcel 77 Lot 1) in Rowley, MA.

Daniel Shinnick, Chairman
Rowley Conservation Commission

8/19

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given by Coady's Towing Service 139 Marston Street, Lawrence, MA, pursuant to the provisions of Mass G.L. c. 255, Section 39A, that they will sell or junk the following vehicles on or after **September 10, 2026** starting at 10:00 am by private or public sale to satisfy their garage keepers lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale:

2019 Ford Escape VIN 1FMCU9GD9KUA84017

2017 Kia Sportage VIN KNDPMCAC0H7129470

2017 Mercedes Benz E Class VIN WDDZF4KB3HA064444

2006 International 4300 VIN 1HTMMAAL26H222086

2012 Hino 268 VIN 5PVNJ8JT0C4S533617

1991 Audi 200 VIN WAUGE5444MN004505

2005 Audi A4 VIN WAUDF68E85A5066645

2019 Chevrolet Equinox VIN 2GNAXVEX1K6193439

1998 Dodge Dakota VIN 1D7HG38N84S769720

2012 Ford Fusion VIN 3FAHP0CG3CR272107

2007 Honda Accord VIN 1HGCM56837A190328

2011 Honda Odyssey VIN 5FNRL5H62BB013535

2008 Honda Accord VIN 1HGCP26708A085860

2016 Honda Accord VIN 1HGCR2F54GA131133

2019 Hyundai Sonata VIN 5NPE24AF4KH782660

2009 Hyundai Tuscon VIN KM8JM12B59U933245

2015 Kia Sorento VIN 5XYKTC65FG614548

2016 Kia Soul VIN KNDJN2A28G7348308

2022 Kia Seltos VIN KNDEU2AA9N7309767

2013 Mercedes Benz GL Class VIN 4JGDF7CE1DA133751

2009 Nissan Rogue VIN JN8AS58VX9W169100

2015 Toyota Prius VIN JTDKN3DU7F1984758

2025 Volkswagen Taos VIN 3VV2C7B28SM066577

Vehicles are being stored at Coady's Towing Service and may be viewed by appointment only.

Signed
Coady's Towing Service

8/19, (8/26), (9/2)

LAW OFFICE OF

STEVEN R. MERRITT

New Office

15 Friend Street

Amesbury, MA

(Near Barking Dog Rest.)

(978) 792-8101

For Direction Only a Lawyer Can Provide...

...Call Attorney Steven Merritt

Family Law

Restraining Orders

Contempt of Court

Civil Litigation

Criminal Law

Bankruptcy

Landlord/Tenant

Special Education Law

Free Consultation! 978-792-8101

SAVE \$350 when you transform your patio into an outdoor oasis.

SunSetter

America's #1 Awning

Instant shade—at the touch of a button.

Enjoy more quality time with family and friends.

Up to 10-Year Limited Warranty.

Call 1-866-461-1203 now to

SAVE \$350 TODAY!

America's #1 Awning!



CLASSIFIED ADS

HOUSE WANTED

Wanted: A house in Georgetown, fair price. Condition not important. Land a plus but not necessary. Cash purchase. Contact Alan Aulson, Sr (508)451-1987

CARPENTRY, PAINTING, AND MORE ...

AMERICAN HOME IMPROVEMENT CARPENTRY
Repairs & Additions. Interior/Exterior Painting. Fully Insured. 30 years experience. Free Estimates. Excellent Referrals. 978-465-2283

BALDASSARI PAINTING

Painting Interior/Exterior. Wallpapering & removal. Free estimates 781-953-6890 or 978-688-0161

PAINTING INTERIOR, EXTERIOR

Smoke and water damage ceilings stain killed, repaired, or replaced, carpentry interior-exterior repairs, windows repaired and replaced, gutters cleaned, repaired or replaced, clean outs and clean ups of all kinds. General masonry, all brick work, chimney work, walkways, etc. (Cell) 978-376-4214, (Home) 978-374-618

MISC.

GARY'S JUST STUFF MECHANICAL
ITEMS BOUGHT / SOLD & REPAIRED!
Generators, Outboards, Lawn Mowers, Snow Blowers, Tune ups, etc., pick-up and delivery available, Call Gary at (978) 376-4214

HAY FOR SALE

Horse Quality Hay
Buy direct from the Farm!
Family owned since 1947
Pick up in Groveland
508 982 0635

HELP WANTED

PT customer service position
Perfect for mother's hours
Counter assistance. Mondays & Fridays - more hours may be available.
PT delivery help
Perfect for pt college student
No driving necessary - must be able to lift 50+ lbs. Mondays & Fridays, other days may be needed.
Either position, please email:
ktr1998@hotmail.com

BIRTHDAYS

Georgetown Soccer - Now Older Guys Say: Happy Birthday Wesley Brennan!

RELIGION

I can do all things through him who strengthens me. (Phil 4:13)

PERSONALS

Connect with an old friend. Reach out to your graduating class. Give advice, invite to bingo! Place your ad!

EVERYONE READS CLASSIFIEDS

Give a special shout-out... promote a group..... 4 WEEKS FOR \$30! advertise@thetowncommon.com

KRAKEN GAMING

BUY • SELL • TRADE



VINTAGE TOYS:
Star Wars • G.I. Joe
Transformers
MOTU • Action Figures
Godzilla • Robots
70's, 80's, 90's

VIDEO GAMES:
Nintendo • Sega
Atari • SNES • N64
GameBoy • DS • Wii
Xbox • Playstation

POKÉMON:
Buy/Sell/Trade

COMICS/RECORDS

857-272-4723

Open 11-6 daily
174 Nbpt Tpke
US Route 1, Suite 9,
Rowley, MA, 01969

WANTED TO BUY

ALWAYS BUYING
Books, vintage posters, artwork, comic books, ephemera, and related printed material.
Single items and entire collections sought.
bookaugur@gmail.com
978-518-2298

HELP WANTED

The Town Common seeks an accounts manager to follow-up on phone calls, e-mails, leads, and reach out to local businesses and groups. This is an ultra-flexible job: You work where you want, when you want, how you want. Start by dedicating a few hours each week to these tasks and build up your income with each well-paid commissioned sale. You earn with each new ad campaign or sponsorship and continue to earn residuals with each renewal you manage. Your income continues to grow uncapped. Of course, if you wish to work more hours – go for it! The more accounts you manage, the more you earn! Call me: Lonnie Brennan - Nights after 7:00 p.m., weekends any time: 978-609-4183

PUZZLE ANSWERS

T	R	A	P	E	D	E	I	D	A	V	E	S	S	E	S	S	V					
S	E	S	A	B	E	E	C	N	V	I	D	A	V	S	L	H	E	N	I			
E	I	S	A	V	E	T	I	V	A	N	O	D	E	S	S	A	V	E	R			
T	N	E	I	T	A					N	A	W	R	P								
P	I	D	E	K	O	H	C	I	T	A	V		S	A	O		H	E	O			
V	A	L	O	N		E	S	O	D	I	O	V	H	T	V	A	E					
			S	I	R	N		R	O	L	O	W	D	H	O	B	T	J	O			
A	V				E	R		T		S	H	A	V		H	O	T	S	V			
S	T	I	S	A	B		I	A	W				P	O								
I	T		S	A	L	E	I	F	A	L	E	I			S	E	A	R				
H	O	D	A	N	C	S		V	W	B	I	F		O	L	O	D	E	D	V		
V	A	A	T				A	L	F	A	T		R	U	H	L	N	D	T	U	O	M
						S	X	N	I				B	B	E	S	E	I	O	T		
E	N	A	V	T	E		V	A	O	S			H	S				P	W			
M	O	T	B	E	H	I	N	E	J	F	O	S		J	M	E	N					
S	T	T	O	B	C	S		B	I	V	H	D	E	B		H	E	T	A	L		
T	V	S		L	I	S		L	O	O	C	S	V	T	O	A	V	H	C			
S	I	E		S	V	W	V				O	C	E					E	B	I		
N	N	H	E	N	O	T	E	H	L	B	E	A	O		E	N	O	D	E	B		
O	O	H	V	A		V	B	E	N	V	B	V	H		L	V	O	B	H	L		
E	B	O	T	E		P	V	B	L	P	V	T		S	O	T	O	O	S			

Cell phones have gotten so small, you can't tell who's a cell phone user and who's a schizophrenic.
- Bob Newhart

Pratt Hobby Shop

COINS AND ITEMS WANTED
U.S. Coins, silver, gold, foreign world money. Old pocket watches, wrist watches and costume jewelry Wheat pennies, Pre-1958

FREE APPRAISAL
Call 978-352-2234

WANTED TO BUY
Gold Scrap, Gold Coins, Sterling Silver
U.S. Silver Coins pre-1965 .999 Silver Bars
U.S. Silver Dollars
Wartime Nickels 1942-1945
U.S. Clad Half Dollars 1965-1969

HOBBY SUPPLIES
Remote Controlled Vehicles
ESTES Rockets & Supplies, Plastic & Wood Models / Supplies
Autos, Trucks, Planes, Ships, X-Acto Sets, Paints & Much More

20 E Main St, Georgetown, MA

Hours:
Closed on Monday, Private appointments available
Tuesday-Friday 12 - 6 PM
Saturday 10:30 AM - 4 PM
978-352-2234
pratthobbyshop.com

Complete Outdoor Shower Room



\$2,250

This is a custom made outdoor shower that will transform your beach house, lake house or backyard into a natural shower experience. Showers are made from 100% sustainable cedar/doug fir and are 4' x 4' x 7' or 3' x 5' x 7'. Shower is completely assembled with piping and ready to use. The source of both hot and cold water comes from your home and is easily connected to the shower controls or we can supply a propane fired HW heater (additional costs).
Delivery within 25 miles of 03865 is \$125 or free customer pickup.

978-473-7363

Salome's Stars

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) A strong social whirl brings a new round of good times to fun-loving Rams and Ewes! Cupid's also busy aiming arrows at single Lambs who are hoping for a heart-to-heart encounter.
TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) A romantic incident could take a more serious turn if the Divine Bovine considers meeting Cupid's challenge. Meanwhile, a professional opportunity is also about to turn up!
GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) A bit of hardheaded realism could be just what the Twins need at this emotionally challenged time. Face the facts as they are, not as you want them to be. Good luck!
CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Many opportunities open up, but you need to be aware of their actual pros and cons. Check them all out and make your choice from those that offer more of what you seek.
LEO (July 23 to August 22) A more stable situation begins, allowing you to feel more secure about making important decisions. Meanwhile, be sure to meet your project deadlines so that you can move on to other things.
VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Congratulations! A new personal relationship thrives as you learn how to make room in your busy life for this wonderfully warm and exciting emotional experience.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A new contact opens some doors. This is the good news. But there's a caution involved: Be sure to protect your rights to your work before showing it to anyone.
SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A former colleague might seek to resume a working partnership. Ask yourself if you need it. If "yes," get more information. If "no," respectfully decline the request.
SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Good times dominate your aspect. So, why not have a party to celebrate a loved one's success? And do invite a special person you want to get to know better!
CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) The shy side of the Sea Goat soon gives way to your more assertive self. This should help you when it comes time to speak up for yourself and your achievements.
AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A new period of stability will help you deal with some recently reworked plans. Once you get your current tasks done, you can devote more time to personal matters.
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Things are finally much more stable these days, so you can restart the process of meeting your well-planned goals with fewer chances of interruption or delay.
BORN THIS WEEK: You love being the brightest light wherever you are, and people love basking in your warmth and charm!

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

REFRESH
A DIGITAL AGENCY

Increase Revenue Today!
Bring your web presence up to code with fresh designs, ads, and more.

Start Creating.
refreshstudio.com

Web Development • Web Hosting
Social Media Marketing • Web Design
SEM / Pay Per Click Marketing
Search Engine Optimization (SEO)
Logo Design • Print Design

Bradley Maravalli
Owner / Developer
978-500-9369

FRANK BERTOLINO



REALTY GROUP, INC.

FrankHomeTeam@gmail.com
978.255.4735 office - 978.270.0365 mobile

SIGNS-BY DOUG



(978)463-2222

L.E.D. SIGNS
AWNINGS • BANNERS
CARVED SIGNS
BOAT/TRUCK LETTERING

WANTED TO BUY

Seeking ground level living in Rowley or Newbury. No more stairs!



A ranch-style home in Newbury or Rowley in any condition. Will pay fair market price "as is" without the need for any repairs nor improvements. Not an agent, not a gimmick.
Call/Text: 978-432-9669

Salisbury Christian Concert Series

Wed. August 19 & Wed. Aug. 26, 6:30 - 9:00 PM

FREE concerts at Salisbury Beach Waterfront Stage!

Come early, browse through the shops. Take in the views, enjoy a great

Christian Concert sponsored in part by ChristianMediaProductions.org, Tom Saab Real Estate.

In event of rain the concert will be held indoors at Surfside cafe or Blue Ocean Music Hall.

ROWLEY FIRE

Continued from page 1

Currently a lieutenant in the Topsfield Fire Department, Veinot brings 14 years of firefighter experience in small town departments. Prior to his tenure in Topsfield, he was head of department training and emergency medical service (EMS) logistics at the Lynnfield Fire Department, where he was a lieutenant and fire prevention coordinator.

He has supported the command staff in emergency operations, fire prevention, plan review, policy development and regulatory compliance. He has responded to and commanded fire, EMS and multi-hazard incidents during the Incident Command System.

"I began my fire service career as a call firefighter in a small community and later continued serving in another small-town department. In communities like ours, the way we deliver fire and emergency service has a meaningful impact - not only on the residents and families, but also on the firefighters who feel a strong personal connection to the community," Vernot wrote.

Topsfield and Rowley are very similar, Veinot said. Rowley is larger with 20 square miles, as compared to Topsfield's 13, but Topsfield has a population of 6,569, versus Rowley's 6,161.

He has found the 16-firefighter team to be well organized and praised Capt. Cooper Carifio for doing a great job. The department has undergone a lot of growth, he said. The department is young, but highly skilled. He hopes to bring the department a fresh approach.

"I love it," he said, working as a team, problem solving. "Our teams will make us successful."

The Rowley department has one female firefighter, Lt. Merissa Titus-Abate, and he is looking for more. His partner in Topsfield was a woman, whom he described as emotionally and mentally strong and has a lot of empathy.

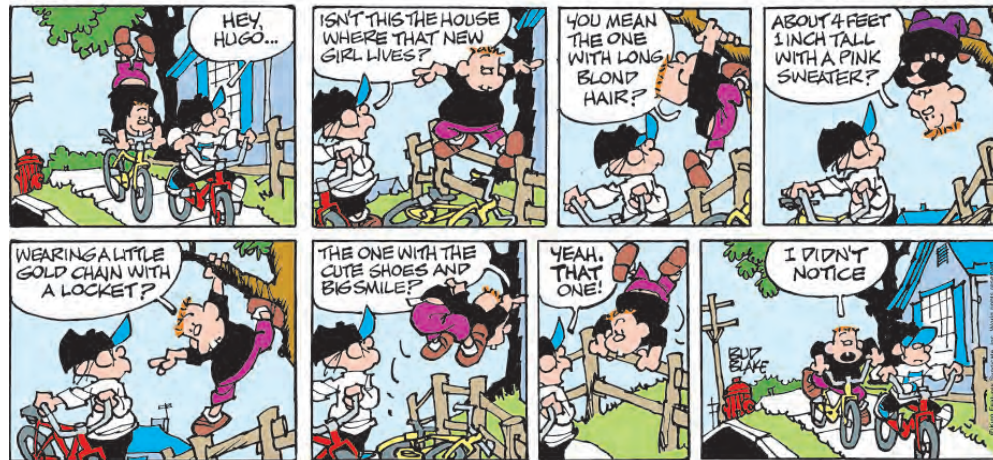
At his swearing in ceremony before the Select Board, Veinot, who has a family, including a four-year-old son, promised to serve the community with professionalism, dedication, and compassion. "The safety and wellbeing of our firefighters and the community members will always remain my highest priority," he said. ♦

The Spats

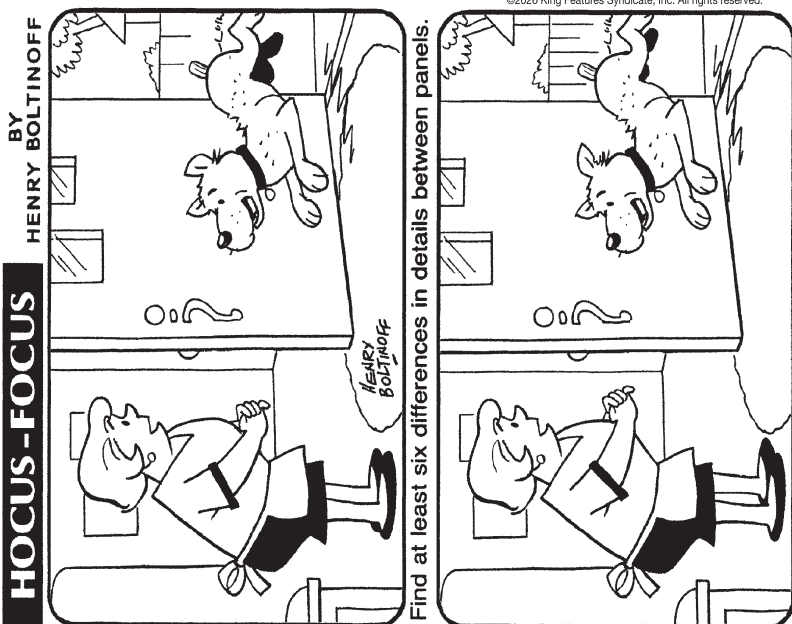


by Jeff Pickering

TIGER



by BUD BLAKE



©2026 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

Differences: 1. Dog's leg is moved. 2. Woman's leg is moved. 3. Bush is reversed. 4. Arms are higher. 5. Dog's ear is different. 6. Fence has more boards.

Super Crossword LEAVE AT THE END

ACROSS

- 1 Lambastes
- 7 Poppycock
- 15 Earth model
- 20 Larynx locale
- 21 Tango cousin
- 22 "Whoopee!"
- 23 Altered totally
- 24 For an
extended
period of time
- 26 Angry feeling
- 27 Prefix with
chic or tour
- 29 Papas' mates
- 30 Grafton's "—
for Evidence"
- 31 Video game
in which
players ride
in skateparks
and splash
color around
- 38 Use a pew
- 39 "Dino" star
Mineo
- 40 Filmmaker
Perry
- 41 Feature of a
carrot-top
- 43 Views more
text, perhaps
- 46 Salamander
- 48 Make distress
less painful
- 50 Hype (up)
- 53 Volcanic stuff
- 55 Lunge couch
- 56 Funnywoman
Boosler

57 Whigs' rivals
60 Wane
63 "Devil Inside"
rock band
65 Is completely
harmless
70 Volcanic stuff
74 Enlarged
75 On terra —
76 Neighbor of
Peru
79 Some dark
breads
80 Exactly even
division
83 Brilliant feat
85 Med. scan in
a large tube
86 Pesto herbs
87 Mythical twin
of Pollux
91 They go
with oohs
95 Two after
uno
97 Cove's
cousin
98 Portable boat
engine
102 Literary
Leon
105 Covert
movement
106 Like fatty
tissue
108 New, in Italy
112 Atop, to
bards
113 Yiddish cries
of lament

115 Appetizer
made with
vegetable
"hearts"

117 81-Down
download

118 Guy who's a
spin doc

120 Ring great
Muhammad

121 Sinus-probing
doc

122 Having paid
to be freed
from custody

128 Old dog star

131 Not reactive

132 Luminosity

133 Expunges

134 Pack-carrying
beasts

135 Stopped from
wobbling

136 What the
last words
of eight key
answers in
this puzzle
are slangy
synonyms of

DOWN

1 Not lenient

2 Sundae
topper

3 Difficult
experience

4 Bathroom,
in Bristol

5 "Dapper" quip

6 Blade metal
7 Make a pick
8 Bathroom, in
Bristol
9 "Honest" prez
10 Golfing goal
11 Stuff making
a big bang
12 Former NPR
talk show
host Diane
13 Domains
14 Hand-reading
fortuneteller
15 Ob- —
(delivery
docs)
16 Time delay
17 "No kidding?"
18 Broth made
by stewing
19 Vast periods
25 Old breakfast
cereal brand
28 Things rolling
in the aisle
32 Hankering
33 Mine find
34 IRA choices
35 "So that's
your game!"
36 Lummoxes
37 Mambo great
Puente
39 Japanese
noodle
42 Match arbiter
44 Kinfolk: Abbr.
45 Stockholm is
its cap.

47 Failed to be
49 Toe feature
50 In battle
51 Given to
sulking
52 Puritanical
type
54 Sly chuckle
58 Bits of land
in la mer
59 Fielder
Roush
61 Well-muscled
62 "I say!" sayor
64 Russian "no"
66 Cubes in
miso soup
67 Give it a
whirl
68 Dual radio
designation
69 Decent
70 Indy circuits
71 Off-the-cuff
72 "Ta-da!"
73 Dilettantish
77 Prefix with
pet or punk
78 D.C.'s home
81 Apple tablet
82 In shape
83 Trendy
84 Speechifiers
87 Bus. entities
88 Devices
reproducing
signatures
89 Spires
90 Ski lift type
92 Ora. for docs

93 "Today"
co-host Kotb
94 Move
slightly
96 "The Fisher
King" actress
Mercedes
99 Rappers and
poets, e.g.
100 Make a pick
101 French for
"king"
103 Squid's
squirt
104 Act
litigiously
107 Climbed up
109 City in west
Texas
110 Having more
climbing
plants
111 Best-suited
114 Anwar with a
Peace Nobel
116 Greased up
117 Opera tune
118 Butter slices
119 Lymph
bump
123 Sooner than,
in poetry
124 Actress
Vardalos
125 Sinful
126 Folk rocker
DiFranco
127 Cola cubes
129 Exist
130 Devalue

DOWN

- 1 Not lenient
- 2 Sundae
topper
- 3 Difficult
experience
- 4 Bathroom,
in Bristol
- 5 "Dapper" guy

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		15	16	17	18	19
20							21									22				
23							24								25					
26					27	28						29						30		
31			32	33				34	35	36	37		38				39			
40						41						42		43		44				45
			46		47			48					49							
50	51	52			53		54			55					56					
57			58	59			60	61	62				63	64						
65						66				67	68	69					70	71	72	73
74								75						76	77	78				
79						80	81						82							
				83	84					85				86						
87	88	89	90				91	92	93	94			95	96				97		
98						99					100	101		102		103	104			
105								106					107			108		109	110	111
	112				113		114		115						116					
117				118				119					120					121		
122			123						124	125	126	127			128	129	130			
131						132									133					
134						135									136					

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



Weekly SUDOKU

		2		5			6 8
		5	6	9			
1		6			3		
	9	7			4		
	3			8	9	7	2
2		8			3	7	6
			9		5	4	8
4				1	8		
8	5	3	4	7		2	

that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

©2006 Kind Features Syndicate Inc. All rights reserved

Georgetown Explores Pickleball Courts with Online Survey

By Stewart Lytle, Sr. Reporter

GEORGETOWN – Selectman Mike Donahue, who also chairs the Parks and Recreation Commission, is conducting a public survey to gauge residents' interest in using a \$1 million donation from Jim Bussing Sr. to build a four-court, indoor pickleball facility.

The proposal is to build the facility at the East Main Street Recreational Area (also known as the East Main Street Fields) at 184 Church Street, which is owned and operated by the town's Parks & Recreation Commission and by the town's Conservation Commission to protect several ponds and wetlands.

Today, there is a ballfield, playground and dog park behind the New Life Community Church.

"Georgetown has always been home," Bussing said. "I'm proud to contribute to something that will benefit families and future generations."

Pickleball courts have sprung up around the region as the sport has become popular. Pickleball is regularly played on the tennis courts at Georgetown's American Legion Park.

West Newbury last month opened

two outdoor courts at Action Cove playground at a cost of \$175,000.

In Topsfield D&R Indoor Sports Arena removed its pickleball courts. And Newburyport Parks Commission stopped play on an underused tennis court in the South End because the neighbors complained about the noise.

"This modern space would finally give our growing community year-round play, dedicated courts, instructional programs, youth and senior leagues, tournaments, and a true home base for the sport we love," Donahue wrote. "Plans are also being considered to include bathrooms and showers that would serve both the facility and the general public who use the recreation area."

Use of the courts would not be free, but could be discounted for Georgetown residents. The survey asks what would responders agree to pay to play. It suggested a range of \$15 to \$40 an hour, although it was unclear if that was for one or multiple court users. It also suggested there might be monthly or annual fees. The proposed monthly fees ranged from \$71 to \$140, while the proposed annual fee ranged from \$701 to \$1,200.

The Board of Selectmen has

accepted the \$1 million donation from Bussing specifically to support improvements at the East Main Recreational Area. Town Meeting voted down a warrant article 287 to 63 last spring that would have allowed the town to borrow \$1.8 million to redevelop the East Street playground.

The Parks & Recreation Commission has also voted to rename the area the Jim Bussing Recreation Area. He was the original donor of the land for this park.

Although the facility would be owned and maintained by the town, Donahue declined to release the results of his survey publicly until he presented its findings to Bussing and several unidentified town officials.

"The facility will only move forward if there is strong, demonstrated local demand," Donahue wrote. "We've heard community feedback loud and clear. Many dedicated taxpayers are concerned about long-term maintenance, staffing, and operational costs. For the Town of Georgetown to own and operate the facility, we must ensure it can be sustained without becoming a burden on taxpayers," he wrote.

The survey can be found at: tinyurl.com/pickleinterest. ♦

FaceBook Responses to Pickleball Proposal

By Stewart Lytle, Sr. Reporter

Facebook posts and the survey results may differ, but the announcement of a survey by Selectman Mike Donahue, who also chairs the Parks and Recreation Commission brought strong responses, some are included below:

Mary-Liz Murray wrote: "Would love to see that donation go to a true community center that can be used by people with interests of all kinds. Could include pickleball and other sports as well as music, theater, visual art making and others. Many existing clubs and organizations serving multiple constituencies have been driven out of other town spaces or space does not exist for them."

Kerry Dugas wrote: "I think a multi-sport indoor facility would be better practically (could be used by multiple local leagues) but understand the specific donation. I'd suggest posting this survey to a wider group - I'm sure there would be interest in other local towns who also don't have facilities like this and that could help with costs/justifying interests etc."

Mike Bedard wrote: "I think a multi-use court/indoor space would have more impact and longevity vs. single use case. I don't know how rigid pickleball is

in terms of design/space.

Bob Makowiecki wrote: "I don't play, but I would support it. Georgetown has a severe lack of anything indoors that is recreational. As already stated, multi-use would be best, but I understand that a donation can be targeted. Either way I am good."

Shauna Moyer wrote: "Generous donation. Useless waste of it. I can think of a bunch of other things that money can be spent on for the town."

Cheryl Vassil wrote: "I say nay. How many residents of Georgetown play pickleball? 20%? I don't want to pay for the maintenance of that. My taxes are high enough. I don't need to pay for pickleball. I don't even play it. And if I wanted to, I think there are places to play for free. How about we invest that money into the youth center for the kids? Our taxes can pay for the maintenance of this but not a youth center for the kids?"

Brian Ardolino wrote: "Mike I did fill out the survey, but wanted to also express I think it's in the best interest of the town and Mr. Bussing's generous donations, to stretch the money as far as possible. I feel a building will eat up that donation pretty quickly ... an outdoor rec center and community area could see that money going a lot further ...



**REACH BEYOND
YOUR TOWN.
LET THEM SEE YOU IN...**

The Town Common
Come Home to Community News

advertise@TheTownCommon.com This size: \$49

**MINI-AD
BIG IMPACT!**

Find Your Customers! \$24!

advertise@thetowncommon.com

**REACH BEYOND YOUR
TOWN. HAVE YOUR AD
SEEN IN**

The Town Common
Come Home to Community News

**Caring, Compassionate, Dignified
Service when you need it most.**



14 Independent St., Rowley, MA
www.fsrobertsandson.com
office@fsrobertsandson.com
978-948-7763



We Offer:

- Personalized and Traditional Funerals
- Cremations • Graveside Services
- Memorial Services
- Advance Planning Options

Jeffrey E. Megna, CFSP

Licensed Funeral Director/Embalmer (Type 3), Owner

AULSON ROOFING

Est. 1974

978-975-4500

AULSONROOFING.COM