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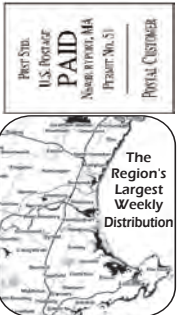
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Wednesday, August 26, 2026 - Vol. 22, No. 44

FREE



5th Annual New England Hot Sauce Fest Raises Record \$18,546 for Local Marine Conservation

PORTSMOUTH, N.H. — The 5th Annual New England Hot Sauce Fest brought approximately 2,000 ticketed guests to Strawberry Banke Museum in Portsmouth for a day of hot sauce, food, music, family fun, and some seriously intense pepper challenges — while raising a record \$18,546 for two local marine conservation organizations.

The festival, presented by The Spicy Shark, distributed \$9,273 each to Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation and Seacoast Science Center, marking the highest amount the event has raised for each organization in its five-year history.

Continued on page 4



Left-to-Right: Rachel Therrien, Kevin Wood (red), Laura Repplier, Mike Donahue, Robert Hoover (gavel), Doug Dawes, Orlando Pacheco (Photo Public TV)

Free Speech Violated? At What Cost to the Town?

By Stewart Lytle, Sr. Reporter

GEORGETOWN — Kevin Wood is preparing to sue this town for then-SelectBoard chair Robert Hoover having him removed from a board meeting last spring when Wood criticized the chair and the town administrator.

Wood said in the televised SelectBoard meeting, "If the Board has FULL

authority (to hire attorneys for the town), that means you, Mr. Hoover, have Zero authority. And it certainly means that Mr. Pacheco screwed up royally and you are covering for him."

His attorney, Gregory Sullivan with Malloy & Sullivan, who specializes in First Amendment and media law, asked for "a written apology and monetary compensation for damages" for Wood. Sullivan gave the town 30 days

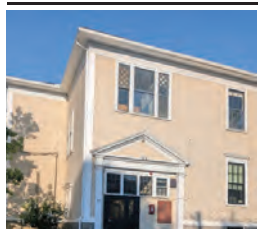
to give a substantive response or face a lawsuit.

"Mr. Wood's free speech and civil rights were grossly violated," Sullivan wrote.

The SelectBoard in March adopted new rules for public comment at its meetings, which allows a speaker three minutes on a topic on the agenda.

On April 27, Wood, a resident and

Continued on page 8



The Rowley Town Annex Building



The District Building in Ipswich



The former Kelley School in Newburyport

New COA Director Has Big Plans for Seniors

By Stewart Lytle, Sr. Reporter

ROWLEY — The new director of the Council on Aging has lofty ambitions for the town's seniors, which make up about a third of the approximately 6,250 residents.

Marty Blanchard wants the town to

find or build a space large enough and designed for senior activities.

"The Council on Aging should be a place that provides a plethora of resources," she said. "As new Director, I hope to expand the services and resources available through the COA,

Continued on page 2

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The prone fake coyote, a swan and the geese resting on the Upper Green (Photo by Stewart Lytle)

The Canada Geese Are Winning

By Stewart Lytle, Sr. Reporter

NEWBURY — The current battle for control of the Upper Green on High Road has nothing to do with Colonial-era militia or General Benedict Arnold's stopover on route to his disastrous raid on Quebec.

The town's Highway Department is battling hordes of Canadian geese, which have made the Upper Green their home. To discourage the geese, the highway department has installed five fake coyotes and two swans, which "have worked in the past," a Highway Department spokesman said.

But not this year. In fact, last week the geese, who number in the dozens, took offense at the fake coyotes and knocked one on its side. Maybe the geese wanted to see if the coyote would bark or howl when sent sprawling. But mostly the geese prefer to

Continued on page 2

ROWLEY COA

Continued from page 1

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.”

The seniors gather now in a wing of the Town Annex building on Central Street, which was the former Central School, built at the turn of the last century. It is shared with the Planning Department, the Conservation Commission and the Zoning Board of



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The Town Common

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Founder/Publisher/Editor 2004 - 2024

Advisory Board Member: 2024 - present

In loving memory of

Liz Ichizawa, '04-05 Reporter (1956 - 2005)

Jim Wilson, '20-22 Publisher/Editor (1954-2022)

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Appeals.

When the seniors hold events that attract more participants than the space will accommodate, they move to neighboring churches, the Plantation Hall auditorium or the Town Common itself, where they will hold the annual Open House on Sept. 17.

“We have to be really creative,” she said.

Blanchard’s vision is to move the Senior Center and the town departments together to a new larger building and sell the annex. “This building would make great apartments,” she said.

GEESE WINNING

Continued from page 1

strut passed the coyotes.

The two swans, floating in the pond, are also not discouraging the geese. One morning last week, they were all floating together. In years past, holes have been poked in the deployed swan, which sank them, according to the highway department.

Dog or wolf decoys have proven to be more effective in some areas, with

She compared it to the former courthouse in Ipswich, called the District. Newburyport has also turned the former Kelley School into condominiums.

Once the building were sold, the town could use the proceeds to buy or build a building to replace the annex, she said.

“We’ve built a new fire station and police station. It’s the seniors’ turn,” she said.

My goal for the Rowley COA is for it to be a place where every older adult feels welcome, heard, valued and supported,” she wrote. “Our future is exciting.”

motion detectors that set off a “bark” or a “howl” if the geese come within range. Experts say that any decoy needs to look and behave realistically or it doesn’t have a chance of being effective. Setting a single plastic swan afloat in a pond just isn’t going to do it.

The town is now looking for a herding dog to frighten the geese from the Upper Green. In the interim, highway crews are dispatched frequently to clean the geese poop off the popular green. ♦

ROWLEY FIRE CHIEF CLARIFIES

Last week, The Town Common in a story about Rowley’s new fire chief wrote: The Rowley department has one female firefighter, Lt. Merissa Titus-Abate, and (the new chief) 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.

Chief Daniel Veinot felt the article left the wrong impression “that the fire service is only about having the brawn.” He wrote that fire professionals also need to be “mentally resilient and emotionally aware.”

While a firefighter in Topsfield, his partner was a woman who was physically capable and also possessed the mental resilience and emotional depth we need, he said.

“Rowley Fire is not currently hiring, as there are no open positions. However, we would pursue the best candidate or candidates to fill any future position,” he wrote. ♦



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26	Wed	11:06	7.2	11:18	8.4	5:01	0.6	5:07	1.1	6:01	7:28
27	Thu	11:46	7.5	11:59	8.5	5:41	0.5	5:49	0.9	6:02	7:26
28	Fri			12:25	7.9	6:19	0.3	6:30	0.6	6:03	7:24
29	Sat	12:39	8.6	1:02	8.2	6:56	0.2	7:11	0.3	6:04	7:23
30	Sun	1:19	8.6	1:41	8.5	7:33	0.1	7:52	0.1	6:06	7:21
31	Mon	2:00	8.5	2:21	8.8	8:11	0.1	8:37	0.0	6:07	7:19
1	Tue	2:45	8.4	3:04	8.9	8:53	0.3	9:25	-0.1	6:08	7:18



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Geordie Vining photo of a door kickplate reflecting flower pedals
(Photo provided by the Newburyport Art Assn.)

Geordie Vining's Photos On Exhibit

By Stewart Lytle, Sr. Reporter

NEWBURYPORT – The city official you might call the Godfather of the popular Clipper City Rail Trail has hidden talents that the Newburyport Art Association is about to expose in a gallery exhibition.

Geordie Vining, who has brought his exceptional creativity and perseverance to various city projects for 25 years, is also a photographer. The art association is presenting his collection of photos in an exhibit, *Fleeting Moments: Spontaneous Photography*, from Sept. 2 through Sept. 13.

Vining wrote that his photos “speak to the human condition, tell a story and hold on to a glimpse of fleeting beauty.”

His photographs are nearly all spontaneous and unplanned, ranging from close-ups to wide shots, and from vibrant colors to classic black-and-white. The images are of people; townscape and cityscapes; landscapes; the natural world, and abstract or ambiguous scenes.

Many of the pictures are of his home in New England, but also from other parts of the U.S., as well as Norway, Portugal, Canada, France, England, Italy, Croatia and Japan.

Vining, the Senior Project Manager for the Newburyport Planning Office, managed the creation of the Clipper City Rail Trail from concept to completion. He also managed the design and construction of the Senior Community Center, the John F. Cutter Jr. Fire Station, the Harbormaster Visiting Boater Facility and the Merrimack River boardwalk.

He may be most proud of his work to co-found the award-winning *Newburyport Black History* Initiative and the erection of dozens of signs downtown commemorating the contribution of African Americans to Newburyport’s history.

The association is hosting a free opening reception from 5 to 7 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 2. The exhibit is partially supported by the Newburyport Cultural Council, West Newbury Cultural Council and Mass Cultural Council.

The galleries are free and open to the public Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Find more information at newburyportart.org. ♦



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Georgetown Police vs. Fire Departments End-of-Summer Softball Game

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BOXFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
You are hereby notified that a **Public Hearing** will be held by Zoom videoconference on **Sept 3, 2026** at 7:00 or such other time when posted to consider the **Request for Determination of Applicability** by applicant **William & Heather Spinetti** for the property located at **165 Herrick Road, Map 19, Block 02, Lot 12.1 for a proposed Driveway reconstruction within 100-ft Bordering vegetated wetland & 200-ft Riverfront Area.**
The Zoom videoconference information will be posted on the Town website in advance of the meeting. This is a joint meeting under the requirements of MGL Ch. 131, Sect. 40, as amended, and Boxford's Wetlands Protection Bylaw and Regulations. To view application materials, email wkoneval@boxfordma.gov or call (978) 887-6000, ext. 506 or visit the Conservation Office at Boxford Town Hall during office hours M-Th 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
For the Commission,
Will Koneval, Conservation Agent

8/26

BOXFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
You are hereby notified that a **Public Hearing** will be held by Zoom videoconference on **Sept 3, 2026** at 7:00 or such other time when posted to consider the **Request for Determination of Applicability** by applicant **Martin Noone** for the property located at **17 Adams Road, Map 11, Block 01, Lot 24. For a proposed house addition within 100 ft of Bordering vegetated wetland.**
The Zoom videoconference information will be posted on the Town website in advance of the meeting. This is a joint meeting under the requirements of MGL Ch. 131, Sect. 40, as amended, and Boxford's Wetlands Protection Bylaw and Regulations. To view application materials, email wkoneval@boxfordma.gov or call (978) 887-6000, ext. 506 or visit the Conservation Office at Boxford Town Hall during office hours M-Th 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
For the Commission,
Will Koneval, Conservation Agent

8/26

Newburyport Adult & Community Ed.
Newburyport Adult and Community Education announces the kick-off of the fall semester with an incredible variety of classes. Registration is now open and the semester runs September through November.
A few of the **65 classes** include hands-on pasta making and the art of canning, Dungeons & Dragons, bridge, historical walking tours of downtown, home and garden, beginning French and Italian, yoga, meditation, watercolor classes on florals and coastal New England, mandala dot rock painting, tai chi, genealogy, managing contractors successfully, repurposing one's life in retirement, Antarctic paleontology, and ESL are just a sampling of 65 classes. Teens can prepare for the SAT test to be held on November 7th with a six-week prep course in English and Math beginning on September 21.
Space is limited and fill very quickly, so it is highly recommended to register online early for the best chance of securing a spot. To see the full schedule and to register online, visit **newburyportadulthood.org**. Classes are available to anyone in the Greater Newburyport region and southern New Hampshire, ages 15+.
For more information, contact Patty St. John, Director at 978-465-1257. ♦

BOXFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
You are hereby notified that a **Public Hearing** will be held by Zoom videoconference on **Sept 3, 2026** at 7:00 or such other time when posted to consider the **Request for Determination of Applicability** by applicant **Alexis Boodry** for the property located at **16 Andrews Farm Road, Map 38, Block 03, Lot 47 for a proposed fence within 100 ft of Bordering vegetated wetland.**
The Zoom videoconference information will be posted on the Town website in advance of the meeting. This is a joint meeting under the requirements of MGL Ch. 131, Sect. 40, as amended, and Boxford's Wetlands Protection Bylaw and Regulations. To view application materials, email wkoneval@boxfordma.gov or call (978) 887-6000, ext. 506 or visit the Conservation Office at Boxford Town Hall during office hours M-Th 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
For the Commission,
Will Koneval, Conservation Agent

8/26

BOXFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
You are hereby notified that a **Public Hearing** will be held by Zoom videoconference on **Sept 3, 2026** at 7:00 or such other time when posted to consider the **Notice of Intent** by applicant **Daniel Guimaraes** for the property located at **40 Herrick Road, Assessor's Map 24-4-10 to regrade and pave an existing residential gravel driveway.**
The Zoom videoconference information will be posted on the Town website in advance of the meeting. This is a joint meeting under the requirements of MGL Ch. 131, Sect. 40, as amended, and Boxford's Wetlands Protection Bylaw and Regulations. To view application materials, email wkoneval@boxfordma.gov or call (978) 887-6000, ext. 506 or visit the Conservation Office at Boxford Town Hall during office hours M-Th 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
For the Commission,
Will Koneval, Conservation Agent

8/26

GEORGETOWN PLANNING BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
Notice is given that the Georgetown Planning Board shall hold a Public Hearing in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40A, Section 11, and the provisions of **Article I - \$165-7, and Article II – Use and Intensity Schedule, as provided in \$165-9** as well as **Article XIII - \$165-74** of the Town of Georgetown Zoning Bylaws. The Public Hearing will be for Special Permit authorizing a Mixed-use building at **33 Library Street** in Zone CB.
This public hearing shall be held virtually on **Wednesday, 23 SEPTEMBER 2026 at 7:25 P.M.**, in accordance with the Executive Order waiving certain provisions of M.G.L. c. 30A, sec. 20 during the COVID-19 pandemic, which was extended to JUNE 30, 2027 by action of the General Court and signed by Gov. Healey. Interested persons are invited to participate in the above-cited hearing, via computer, tablet, smartphone by connecting to the following:
ZOOM: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87557669105> Meeting ID: 87557 669105 Passcode: 209644
The above-cited remote meeting connection information will be included on the **23 SEPTEMBER 2026** meeting agenda, which will be posted on the Town of Georgetown website no less than 48 hours prior to the meeting. Further, the meeting will be broadcast live on the Georgetown Local Access Cable TV. Video recordings of this meeting, and all Georgetown Planning Board meetings may be found at www.georgetownma.gov by choosing Cable TV option. Full and complete copies of the above-cited application, together with the associated Plans, are available upon request by emailing the Town Planner at FOConnor@GeorgetownMA.gov or by clicking here:
Any person interested in being heard on this application needs to appear at the time and place designated, herein. Please note that written correspondence will be accepted and read into the record of the hearing if it were received before Noon on the day of the hearing. Persons needing special accommodations may send an eMail to FOConnor@GeorgetownMA.gov
Frank O'Connor, Jr.
Planner for Town of Georgetown

8/26, (9/2)

BOXFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
You are hereby notified that a **Public Hearing** will be held by Zoom videoconference on **Sept 3, 2026** at 7:00 or such other time when posted to consider the **Notice of Intent** by applicant **Albert Nierenberg** for the property located at **38 Herrick Road, Assessor's Map 28-2-16 to regrade and pave an existing residential gravel driveway.**
The Zoom videoconference information will be posted on the Town website in advance of the meeting. This is a joint meeting under the requirements of MGL Ch. 131, Sect. 40, as amended, and Boxford's Wetlands Protection Bylaw and Regulations. To view application materials, email wkoneval@boxfordma.gov or call (978) 887-6000, ext. 506 or visit the Conservation Office at Boxford Town Hall during office hours M-Th 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
For the Commission,
Will Koneval, Conservation Agent

8/26

BOXFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
You are hereby notified that a **Public Hearing** will be held by Zoom videoconference on **Sept 3, 2026** at 7:00 or such other time when posted to consider the **Notice of Intent** by applicant **Michael & Darlene Hall** for the property located at **29 Berry Patch, Map 27, Block 01, Lot 15.2 for a proposed garage expansion and extension of driveway within 100-ft of Bordering vegetated wetland.**
The Zoom videoconference information will be posted on the Town website in advance of the meeting. This is a joint meeting under the requirements of MGL Ch. 131, Sect. 40, as amended, and Boxford's Wetlands Protection Bylaw and Regulations. To view application materials, email wkoneval@boxfordma.gov or call (978) 887-6000, ext. 506 or visit the Conservation Office at Boxford Town Hall during office hours M-Th 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
For the Commission,
Will Koneval, Conservation Agent

8/26

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 WAUDF68E85A506645
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

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Coady's Towing Service

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



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HEAT FEST!

Continued from page 1

"We couldn't be more thankful for the spicy support from the greater Seacoast Community, helping us raise the most amount of funds we ever have in five years for Blue Ocean Society & Seacoast Science Center," said Spicy Shark owner and New England Hot Sauce Fest founder Gabe DiSaverio. "We had a major curveball thrown in January with needing to change venues, and couldn't have found a better new home than Strawberry Banke in our hometown of Portsmouth. We can't wait to be back in 2027."

The festival featured approximately 30 Northeast hot sauce companies offering samples of their spicy products, eight food trucks, specialty local Seacoast crafters, beer, an all-day '80s music soundtrack from DJ Kevin, bouncy houses, face painting, a kids magic show, and appearances by Bella and Dark from Heat 101 as event MCs.

The festival also welcomed some familiar and unexpected faces, including Portsmouth Mayor Deaglan McEachern, U.S. Senator Scott Brown, Katie Sampson of CBS13 and FOX23, and James B. Jones and Shelley Wolfec of Netflix's Love on the Spectrum, who have become regular New England Hot Sauce Fest attendees. Their appearances added to the community spirit and fun of the day.

"We are incredibly grateful to the New England Hot Sauce Festival and everyone who attended for their generous support," said Jennifer Kennedy, Executive Director of Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation. "Community support like this makes a real difference. These funds will have a meaningful impact on our research program, helping us study whales and other marine life while also supporting student interns who are gaining important hands-on experience in ocean research and education."

Ashley Stokes, Senior Director of Science & Administration at Seacoast Science Center, added, "We are incredibly grateful for the continued support and partnership that make this event such a meaningful part of our community. Bringing the community together while raising funds and awareness for our Marine Mammal Rescue Program is vital to advancing the health, conservation, and enjoyment of our coastline. We are proud to be part of this effort and look forward to continuing our partnership next year!"

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Newburyport Choral Society Open Rehearsal

The Newburyport Choral Society welcomes prospective singers to an Open Rehearsal on Tuesday, September 1, at 7:00 p.m. at Belleville Congregational Church, 300 High Street. Kick off our Winter 2026 concert season by joining us for the first rehearsal. New singers are invited to attend the first two rehearsals with no audition and no obligation to join. Experienced singers interested in an additional challenge may also audition for the smaller NCS Chamber Singers early in the season. Chamber Singers auditions are optional and are not required to sing with NCS. Experience the camaraderie of our 100-member chorus as we rehearse in a supportive, educational environment and get a preview of our Winter 2026 program, When Jazz Meets Choir. For more information, visit www.newburyportchoralsociety.org



(Photo by Julianne DeSantis)

24/7 Cumberland Farms in Ipswich

IPSWICH, MA – The Town Common is prominently displayed each week at the 24/7 Cumberland Farms at 70 Central Street in downtown Ipswich. These two awesome employees - Jenny Towers and Joseppi DeMarco - display a copy of The Town Common alongside the Cumby's Ipswich "get the bag" with smart rewards! Drop in to get details, and tell Jenny and Joseppi you saw them in The Town Common!

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
Sissel Johanne Kvaal Dahl	Atkinson, NH	Comeau-Berube Funeral Home	Haverhill
Kayla Jane Van Almerkerk	Ipswich, MA	Campbell Funeral Home	Ipswich
Barbara M. Warren	Salem, MA	Campbell Funeral Home	Beverly
Sean Beatty	South Boston	Casper Funeral Home & Cremation Services	Boston
Peter James Whall	Boston	Casper Funeral Home & Cremation Services	Boston
Shirley M. (Thomson) Boulanger	Georgetown, MA	Conte-Giamberardino Funeral Home	Georgetown
Kevin T. McCarthy	Danvers, MA	Conway Cahill-Brodeur Funeral Home	Peabody
Glenn P. Eaton	Peabody, MA	Conway Cahill-Brodeur Funeral Home	Peabody
James J. Flynn, Jr.	Topsfield, MA	Conway Cahill-Brodeur Funeral Home	Peabody
Martha Merced	Haverhill, MA	Driscoll Funeral Home & Cremation Services	Haverhill
Matthew J. "Matty" Giangregorio	Haverhill, MA	Kevin B. Comeau Funeral Home	Haverhill
Aurelia M. Chicarello	Groveland, MA	Kevin B. Comeau Funeral Home	Haverhill
Robert N. "Rob" Smith	Boxford, MA	Mackey Funeral Home	Middleton
Carolyn K. (Kane) Mack	Peabody, MA	Mackey Funeral Home	Middleton
Czeslawa "Jessie" Hedio	Salem, MA	O'Donnell Cremations-Funerals-Celebrations	Salem
Maria Consuelo Espallat	Salem, MA	O'Donnell Cremations-Funerals-Celebrations	Salem
Philip Charles Casserly	Somerville, MA	O'Donnell Cremations-Funerals-Celebrations	Danvers
Susan Carl Thornes	Salem, MA	O'Donnell Cremations-Funerals-Celebrations	Danvers
Jeanne E. (MacKinnon) Myers	Danvers, MA	O'Donnell Cremations-Funerals-Celebrations	Danvers
Mildred McElwaine	Newburyport, MA	Paul C. Rogers & Sons Family Funeral Homes	Amesbury
Shirley Ann Boucher-Belanger	Seabrook, NH	Remick & Gendron Funeral Home	Hampton
Mark Daniel Bisbee	North Hampton, NH	Remick & Gendron Funeral Home	Hampton
Emily P. Fitzgerald	Seabrook, NH	Remick & Gendron Funeral Home	Hampton

Salisbury Christian Concert

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
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In event of rain the concert will be held indoors see website above.

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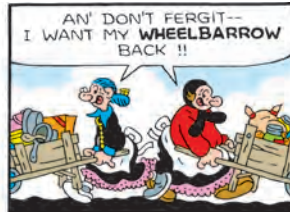
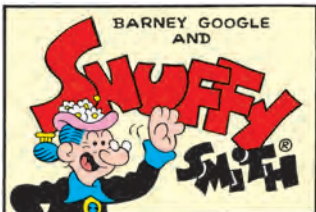
The Town Common

Come Home to Community News

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

	+			-			= 2
+		+		-			
	+			-			= 8
-			÷		÷		
	-			+			= 11
=			=		=		
1			13		1		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8 9

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AHH GEEZ, I LOOK ROUGH. I GOTTA MAKE SOME CHANGES.

HMM, MAYBE A NEW HAIRSTYLE AND FACELIFT FOLLOWED BY A RIGOROUS WORKOUT REGIMEN?

YEP, THAT WOULD DO IT. THROW IN SOME FANCY NEW DUDS AND I'LL LOOK LIKE A MILLION BUCKS.

AH HECK, WHY MESS WITH A CLASSIC.

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IT'S NICE OUT!!

I THINK I'LL LEAVE IT OUT.

ROSS

RIGHT HERES WHERE THAT SKUNK GOT STRIKE!

THIS IS WHERE WE GOT THE POISON IVY. REMEMBER?

HERES THE MUD HOLE WHERE I LOST MY SHOE

HERES WHERE THAT BIG SNAKE SCARED US!

THIS SWAMP IS BUG HEAVEN!

I KNOW WHY PEOPLE INVENTED INDOORS!

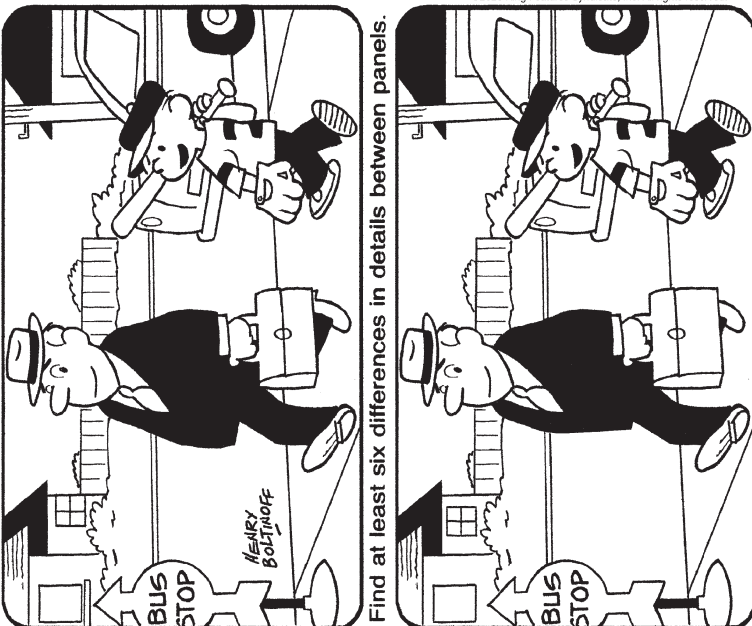
BUD
SLAVE

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Differences: 1. Line in sidewalk is moved. 2. Window sill is missing. 3. Rear car window is smaller. 4. House window is moved. 5. Man is thinner. 6. Briefcase is larger.

HOCUS-FOCUS



Find at least six differences in details between panels:

by Dave T. Phipps



ODD DUCKS

1 Arctic footwear item	anticipates catching	quit it!"
9 Triaging concern	Bugs Bunny?	98 "It's all clear"
15 "Rope- —" (Ali ring tactic)	57 Favored ones	99 Lightning source, informally
20 Study of forces acting on mechanisms	60 "Hence ..."	61 With 26-Across, maker of Tater Tots
21 Twinkled	62 Philadelphia's La — University	100 TV "Science Guy" Bill
22 Adversary	63 WWII battle city in France	102 Put in a juicer
23 Brief seconds	64 Adaptable truck, in brief	103 One of a pair of sense organs
24 Diane plays her role flawlessly?	65 Christ, in Cremona	104 Cultural spirit
26 See 61-Across	67 Oldham fashions clothes?	105 Billy steps off his ship?
27 Dandy dudes	70 Cheer shouts	109 Plow inventor John
28 On guard	74 Court org.	111 Swiss mounts
29 Foxx amuses his audience?	76 "Look at Me" novelist Jennifer	112 "— had it!"
34 Flock babies	77 Bunk	113 Jason
37 Droop	79 Gunk	114 bounces the basketball?
39 Phone button abbr.	80 "ATM" rapper	117 Kitchen tools
40 Special span	83 Small warbler	122 Architect Jones
41 Granola snack option	84 Wynonna puts out her first album?	123 — d' (head-waiter)
43 Flood preventer	86 Orchestrate	124 Cubic — (fake diamond)
44 Muscles called "guns"	88 Miracle- —	125 De Mille the dancer
47 Paul acts in a serious film?	90 Brown ermines	126 Less than retail
50 Military pupils	91 Roger describes a news event?	127 How this puzzle's nine longest answers are viewed?
52 One of a pair of sense organs		
53 Expiators		

1 Do the slopes

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					
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Weekly SUDOKU

		6			8	3			2
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7		1	3	8		6			4
		8	2						
	2		1		7				

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.



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

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D	E	E	R	H	I	N	I		I	S	O	O	I	V		S	E	N	G	V	
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E	D	O	V			V	W	N	V	R	L		E	O	H	S	W	O	N	S	

PUZZLE ANSWERS

9	8	6	2	9	1	7	2	8
8	2	1	9	7	8	6	9	
7	2	9	8	6	8	1	9	2
9	7	2	1	9	8	6	2	8
2	8	8	7	2	6	9	9	1
6	1	9	9	8	2	2	8	7
1	9	7	2	1	9	6	8	7
8	9	8	6	1	9	1	7	2
2	6	2	8	8	7	9	1	9

The most dangerous food? Wedding cake.

It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark. - Howard Ruff

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LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Your need for stability is evident as you face some unsettling choices. Weigh the pros and cons of each on a one-by-one basis until you know enough to make a decision.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A family situation continues to tax your patience, but it's soon resolved. Stay with it. Meanwhile, someone is waiting for you to follow up on some promises.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A long-awaited career move finally gets started. Meanwhile, a family member's health problem causes some concern, but a doctor has a reassuring diagnosis.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) A personal relationship will continue to be tense and troubled, until you surprise everyone by making a rare (for you!) first move to smooth things over.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Most folks perceive you as a serious, no-nonsense type. But surprise them by revealing the fun-loving side of yourself. Meanwhile, an Aries has romantic ideas!

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A new relationship grows stronger, but don't be pushed into a commitment before you feel like you're ready. It's better to tread water than to dive in over your head.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a gift for balancing fun and function. You also have a deep sense of loyalty that makes you a wonderful friend.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Someone who knows you to be courageous and generous asks for help in getting through a crisis. Be prepared for some difficulties, but be assured that you'll overcome them.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Music and merriment dominate at this time. Go ahead and have fun — you've earned it! Meanwhile, don't be surprised if a Leo is there to share the good times with you.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Believe in yourself, and your intrepid nature will win out over any lingering timidity that has you wavering over taking a new job. Then go out and celebrate!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Forget about people who are ungrateful despite all that you've done for them. Reward yourself for being the fine person you are. Buy something wonderful and have fun!

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Someone you thought had the same warm feelings for you as you do for them suddenly turns cool. Don't press for an explanation now; this will come later.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A new path opens as you work your way through a difficult problem. Friends and family will be there to walk with you. Things begin to get brighter soon.

The Town Common

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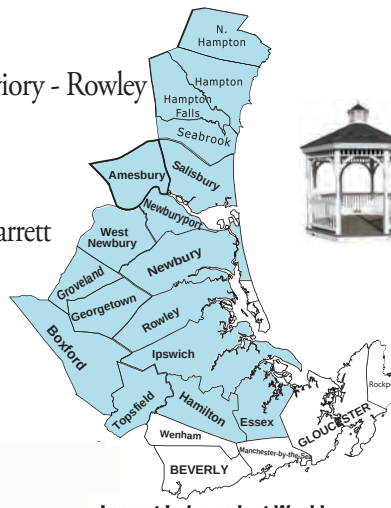
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Georgetown: Pickleball Does Not Get 'Overwhelming' Support

By Stewart Lytle, Sr. Reporter

GEORGETOWN – Indoor pickleball did not come up a winner in Michael Donahue's on-line survey of whether the town should use a \$1 million donation to build a facility for four courts at the East Main Street Recreational Area.

In its place, the Parks & Recreation Commission voted four to zero to accept a new proposal by Selectman and Parks Commission Chair Donahue and long-time developer Jim Bussing Sr., who has donated the \$1 million, to build several outdoor tennis courts and pickleball courts on a portion of the recreational area's parking lot.

The recreational area, which has a ballfield and playground, has been renamed the Jim Bussing Sr. Recreation Area after the SelectBoard voted to accept the donation.

Bussing, working with the town's Conservation Commission (ConCom), headed by 20-plus-year chair

Carl Sheder, donated the land for the recreational area to the ConCom in exchange for a waiver to build houses on another site.

The land was later divided with the Parks & Recreation Commission acquiring a large portion of it, while the ConCom kept the pond and other wetlands portion.

In a recap of the survey delivered to the SelectBoard, Donahue wrote: "Among Georgetown residents only, support (for the indoor pickleball facility) is 52.8 percent, opposition 33.7 percent and neutral 13.5 percent. Support is solid, but not overwhelming."

Of those who supported the facility, 40 percent indicated they strongly supported it, while 15 percent strongly opposed spending \$1 million on a new facility that might cost the town to maintain it.

A total of 105 people filled out the survey out of 6,636 views. The survey was distributed through Facebook, several Georgetown community sites

and Donahue's SelectBoard page.

Bussing and Donahue had set a goal in the survey that support must be "overwhelming."

The new proposal would also include adding a fishing dock on the pond, which would have to be approved by the ConCom.

In other business, Donahue told the commission that the docks on Pen-tucket Lake are now available for fishing and swimming. The town's purchase of one small dock to replace two larger docs stirred a controversy and spawned speculation that the new docks paid for with Community Preservation Funds had gone missing.

The Highway Department used pieces of the old docks with pieces of the new smaller docks to create two larger docks.

The commission postponed a decision on ridding the ponds of their extensive weeds that make boating and swimming difficult until it gets more information. It was noted that it is too late in the summer to treat the weeds.

RESIDENT EJECTED

Continued from page 1

frequent critic of the town, was recognized to speak to the SelectBoard during the public comment period. He began challenging Town Administrator Orlando Pacheco's authority to hire a different law firm, instead of using KP Law, the firm that is on the town's retainer.*

Wood said the SelectBoard and the Town Administrator were violating their oath of office.

The planned discussion on the agenda stemmed from Pacheco's firing of then-Conservation agent Michele Grenier. She is also threatening to sue the town for discrimination and unlawful termination.

When SelectBoard member Mike Donahue questioned Pacheco about the procedure the administrator used to terminate Grenier, the administrator said he had checked with a law firm to determine he had the authority. Later, it was disclosed that without consulting the SelectBoard, Pacheco had asked for an opinion from the law firm, Murphy, Hesse, Toomey & Lehane.

That opinion, which has not been released to the public, is believed to state that the administrator has the authority to fire town employees without the SelectBoard's approval.

Asked why he hired the Murphy firm for the opinion, Pacheco responded to The Town Common by email that "Murphy, Hesse, Toomey, & Lehane LLP was solicited on the basis of expertise and experience within the municipal community."

In the April meeting, Wood told the SelectBoard that the town's Bylaw chapter 125-01 states, the "Board of Selectmen shall have the full authority to employ counsel..."

After Wood had spoken for about a minute, Hoover banged the gavel and demanded Wood stop speaking. Hoover yelled at Wood four times, "Let's not go there with that stuff."

Wood continued to speak, which appeared to anger Hoover, banging the gavel several more times to get Wood's attention.

Before being cut off, Wood was pre-

pared to say: "Then Mr. Pacheco used the 'secret' opinion he obtained from this unlawful engagement (of a different law firm) to override our personnel bylaw and unlawfully terminate an employee."

Wood continued, "Imagine that – a secret unauthorized opinion has repudiated our personnel bylaw that the citizens approved at last Annual Town Meeting – and Mr. Pacheco won't tell us what it says – it's a secret law. Just like in China."

"In what world does this happen? Chairman Hoover's world. This is his idea of the 'Rule of Law' and 'transparency.'"

When Wood insisted that he be allowed to speak, Hoover asked Police Chief David Sedgwick to escort Wood out of the third-floor meeting room at Town Hall. Wood's attorney wrote: "Police Chief David Sedgwick then 'escorted' Mr. Wood from the meeting placing his hands on Mr. Wood and pushing him from behind."

At one point as Wood was being escorted out of the room, he stopped abruptly walking from the room and the chief collided with him, which appeared like he was being pushed.

"...the physical removal of Mr. Wood from the meeting room-including the unwanted physical contact by the Chief of Police-constitutes a separate injury and an independent violation of both the Massachusetts Civil Rights Act and 42 U.S.C. § 1983, distinct from, and in addition to, the restriction on his speech," Sullivan wrote in his letter.

"The conduct of the Select Board Chair, and of the Chief of Police, was unlawful, tortious and constituted a deprivation of Mr. Wood's free speech and civil rights guaranteed by both the federal and state constitutions, by 42 U.S.C. § 1983, and by the Massachusetts Civil Rights Act," Sullivan wrote.

Pacheco's firing of Grenier has sparked controversy. Her letter of termination said she was being fired because she withheld a recording of her informing Conservation Commission members that a meeting had been postponed because of a lack of a quorum. He also wrote her that she was being

fired for her recorded comment that he should do his job. Pacheco has since denied that he fired her for that comment, although it is in the letter.

Pacheco wears several hats in Georgetown government, including being the personnel director and human resources director as well as the town administrator. He reports to the SelectBoard.

*See accompanying graph and note showing prior exclusive use of KP Law for non-school, non-electric, non-water legal consult with exception of COVID.

Georgetown Legal Bills Received

(non-school, non-electric, non-water)
2021 - June 23, 2026

159

3

2

KP LAW BHP - COVID MHT - SECRET

SOURCE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT
REQUEST BY THE TOWN COMMON.
NOTE: KP Law includes 34 invoices relating to town using taxpayer funds to purchase housing for low-income folks. Non-housing invoices total approx. \$100K/year from KPaw.

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