

Ipswich Local News

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LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED • www.ipswichlocalnews.com • August 3, 2022 • VOLUME 3, ISSUE 40

Looking at the Nikas contract

John P. Muldoon
Ipswich Local News

IPSWICH — There was apparent surprise at the select board last week that police chief Paul Nikas had signed an employment contract with the former town manager, Tony Marino. However, the town website indicates the contract was posted publicly on May 24.

The contract itself was dated May 12. Marino left to take up the town manager's position in Winthrop, and his last day in Ipswich was May 20.

Asked about Nikas' last contract, interim town manager Mary Gallivan said he did not have one.

Nikas was scheduled to step into the role of interim town manager on August 1, but the select board said the new contract was agreed without the board's knowledge or input. The select board said Nikas refused to rescind the contract, so the offer of interim town manager was withdrawn.

see CONTRACT, page 12



Marleigh Rowe studies one of the animals photographed by Paul Malenfant at Olde Ipswich Days. Read the story by Amy Palmer on page 4 and see more photos by Coco McCabe on page 19.

Board endorses new town water treatment plant

by Amy Palmer

IPSWICH — The select board voted unanimously to endorse a new water treatment plant for the town.

Construction of the new facility is estimated to cost \$22 million and has a projected completion date of September 2026. Bonds would be issued by the town, but repayment costs would fall on the water department's 4,500 customers.

Those customers can expect annual 10% increases over the coming years to pay for this and other projects.

Although the select board approved the project in principle at its meeting Monday, July 25, the final decisions rests with voters at town meeting and a follow-up ballot.

The decision was made in light of AECOM's assessment of the existing water treatment plant in 2019. According to water and waste-

water director Vicki Halmen, the plant is in need of significant upgrades.

"The current plant is ill-equipped to address our evolving regulatory requirements, meet our future water demands with adequate redundancy, and to treat potential future sources," Halmen said.

Constructed in 1988, the existing facility is not nearly large enough to treat all the water that Ipswich requires, especially as the town's population continues to grow. It can currently treat 1.25 MGD (million gallons per day) with one unit process out of service, but it will need to treat 2.5 MGD with one unit process out of service in 2040 to meet the town's needs. Additionally, the plant lacks the space needed to treat emerging contaminants in the future.

There are high levels of manganese in Brown's Well, for instance, and PFAS (or "forever chemicals") were found in Brown's and other wells. PFAS levels are still below the state cut-off

threshold.

"We're recommending now that [the plant] be designed to treat up to the 2040 expected water demands," said Steve Defrancesco, an engineer with AECOM.

The facility is also experiencing significant disrepair. The raw water pump station is deteriorating, exterior conduits are rusting or damaged, chemical control panels are corroded, interior and exterior lighting and fire alarm systems are outdated, there is no stand-by power supply, and both the roof and the HVAC need to be replaced entirely.

"The [current] plant is over 30 years old, past its useful life ... and the plant supplies over 60% of the town's water. Actually, that's an increasing number," Halmen said.

Select board member Tammy Jones said as a former biochemist, she understands the severi-

see TREATMENT PLANT, page 20

Tales from the scanner: Shark!

Around 9 a.m. on Wednesday, July 27, a gas line was accidentally struck by construction workers on Liberty Street. Some residences had to be evacuated.

Around 4:05 p.m. on Friday, July 29, an aggressive customer was said to be harassing customers and staff at CVS. The man was said to be in his 30s. Police got there quickly. They seemed familiar with the man ... they had dealt with him on Crane Beach earlier in the day.

At 5 p.m., there was what was first described as a minor accident on Market Street. However, both cars were damaged enough to be towed.

Around 7:50 p.m., a caller on Allen Lane said she saw a sick fox that “just stumbled across the street.” Around 15 minutes later, the fox was seen in the woods near the playground at the corner of Linebrook Road and Howe Street. The caller said her daughter saw the fox in the area. The responding officer looked around for about 10 minutes before he radioed there was no sign of the animal.

On Saturday at 11:40 a.m., a man was said to be passed out under the bleachers at Bialek Park.

At 1:20 p.m., the Essex harbor-master got a call that someone was possibly injured on Back Beach. The dispatcher sent Crane Beach rangers and the Ipswich police boat there. However, no one with medical issues was found.

At 1:40 p.m., a call came from the Coast Guard that a sailboat had possibly overturned.

At 2 p.m., a caller at the Eagle Hill landing said a boat was in the way and preventing clambers from getting out of the water.

At 2:20 p.m., Crane Beach rangers said someone had passed out on the beach and that they were bringing the patient to the snack shack area to wait for an ambulance.

On Sunday, at 7:40 p.m., there was a problem with the railroad gates on Topsfield Road. They were ringing and flashing, but no trains were due.

On Monday, at 5:35 p.m., the dispatcher said there was a possible shark sighting near Crane Beach in the Essex River area.

On Tuesday, at around 12:30 p.m., a horse trailer lost its wheel at the Old South Cemetery. The driver had to send for a new trailer to transfer the horses.



A MedFlight team arrives to treat a drowning victim on Sunday, July 31. The man was transported to Beverly Hospital by ambulance instead.

Man drowns at Pavilion Beach

IPSWICH — A Boston MedFlight helicopter was called to Pavilion Beach after a suspected drowning on Sunday afternoon.

The call for help went out at around 5:15 p.m. on July 31 for a man who had been pulled unconscious from the water. He was given CPR, the dispatcher radioed.

The victim was “aided by a retired Ipswich firefighter and off-duty Somerville firefighter, who do not

want to be identified, according to a statement from police chief Paul Nikas and fire chief Paul Parisi.

The helicopter landed at Pirate Park shortly afterwards, and the victim was driven the short distance there by Action Ambulance.

However, medics from the helicopter left with the man in the ambulance to Beverly Hospital, where he was pronounced dead, according to the chiefs’ statement.

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Founded in 2019 by John Muldoon and Bill Wasserman.

Ipswich Local News is a 501(c)(3) or non-profit operation. It is published weekly, and 6,693 copies are mailed to homes and businesses in Ipswich; 400 more are distributed locally.

All articles in the newspaper can also be found online at ipswichlocalnews.com.

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One injury was reported after a two-car collision on Thursday (July 28). The crash happened at around 5:45 p.m. on County Road in the area of Lane’s End. At the time, the dispatcher radioed that one person was bleeding from the head. Ambulances were called for the occupants of each car; however, all occupants refused to be taken to hospital. After the accident, a 2003 Chevrolet Malibu (above) driven by a Danvers man and heading inbound came to a stop near the Verizon building. The second car, a 2009 Honda Accord out of Byfield, was stopped at Lane’s End. Both vehicles had extensive left front-end damage with their wheels off their axles.

Town offers tips to conserve water during drought-induced ban

IPSWICH — The town has issued a number of tips to help residents conserve water during the drought-induced ban.

The new status applies to both users of town water and those with water from private supplies. Residents may continue to use rainwater collected in barrels.

The town draws water from the Parker River Watershed and supplemental groundwater from the Ipswich River Watershed. These

sources are already overtaxed due to lack of rainfall in recent months.

Drought conditions also result in dry grass, shrubbery, and forest areas, as well as dry soil conditions, increasing the wildland fire risk.

Fires that burn under these conditions can take multiple days to extinguish and exhaust local resources.

Residents are asked to refrain from using fire pits and to take care when disposing of combustible materials.

- Lawns naturally go dormant

during dry conditions. They will revive when conditions improve.

- Maintain healthy soils.
- Choose native plants or plants and turf that need less water.
- Use mulch to reduce evaporation and moderate soil temperature.
- Leave grass clippings on lawns to shade and return nutrients to soil.
- Sweep driveways, walkways, patios, and other outdoor areas with a broom rather than hosing them off.
- Cover swimming pools when not

in use to prevent evaporation.

- Choose high-efficiency plumbing products and appliances.
- Turn off water while brushing teeth or shaving (don't let it run).
- Take shorter showers and use water-saving showerheads.
- Wash only full loads of laundry and dishes.
- Fix leaky faucets, toilets, and pipes as soon as you notice them.
- Create a kitchen compost bin instead of using the garbage disposal.



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The Event Company, Gloucester

Taylor Hughes works with one of his international student-employees Nurzhan Tajikulov (from Kazakhstan) while they set up tents for Fiesta. Taylor has a great crew of local and international student-employees, creating an amazing work-culture experience and friendships to last for years.

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It's in with the olde at Ipswich Days craft fair



Recent Ipswich transplant Megan Wise and her son, Larson, got a great introduction to town at Olde Ipswich Days last weekend (Amy Palmer photo).

by Amy Palmer

There are certain things that make Ipswich ... well, *Ipswich* — townies, Crane Beach, Ipswich Ale, even greenheads. At this year's Olde Ipswich Days fair, townie Lisa Weagle found a way to use her talents and roll all these local staples into one — handmade Ipswich t-shirts.

"I think, obviously, the t-shirts just bring in that true Ipswich feel," Weagle said. "Ours are kind of narrowed into real local flair."

"Local flair" is what this fair is all about, with over 60 tents featuring locally made handcrafts lining the South Village Green from Friday, July 29 to Sunday, July 31.

Weagle ran two tents at the fair this year — Rustic Sentiments, featuring handmade wooden decorations, and her brand new tent Townie Ts with jewelry designer Michele Elliott.

Townie Ts was filled with unique, Ipswich-themed T-shirts that feature greenheads, an Ipswich bar crawl, and Ipswich past — old town staples now long gone.

"[People] love coming in and looking, like, 'Oh my god, I remember Hills,' and their kids will be going, 'Where was that?'" she said. "That kind of sparks a little bit of history."

Other tents had their own way of capturing the town's unique history — through quilts, glass, jewelry, clothing, candles, photography, and more.

"I think the paintings and photographs ... were beautiful," Ipswich resident Maureen Ross Hickey said. "They were all of Ipswich."

Ross Hickey walked down to check out the fair on Sunday afternoon with her dog. Everything about Olde Ipswich Days was enjoyable, she said.

For Megan Wise and her son, Larson, this fair was a great introduction to town.

"We just moved to town not too long ago and looking for local events to learn about the town and just kind of experience Ipswich," Wise said.

The many handcrafts were interesting, Wise said, but she especially enjoyed the sewing and quilting booths and the cocktail tent.

"I think it's got a lot of variety," she said.

Though each booth brought its own art, all of them found a way to celebrate the town.

"We just love Ipswich," Ross Hickey said.

See more pictures from Olde Ipswich Days on page 19.

'Friends' say they have a legal case to stop Ora's Waldingfield Road project

John P. Muldoon
Ipswich Local News

IPSWICH — If anything came out of the meeting last week, it is that Ora's plan to build a corporate center at 55 Waldingfield Road is probably headed to court if the planning board approves the project.

At a meeting in True North Ale Company, the Friends of Waldingfield (FOW) discussed the application and what they can do to preserve the 40-acre property.

The meeting was open to the public, and town officials were invited. However, the only one that appeared to show up was planning board member Helen Weatherall.

The Friends cited two issues they say are key vulnerabilities in Ora's compliance with the town's great estate preservation bylaw.

The first is the definition of gross floor area. Under the bylaw, the gross floor area must be greater than 30,000 square feet for a property to be considered a great estate.

While Ora claims to have crossed that threshold by 891 square feet, the Friends argue the opposite. They say 1,536 square feet is a dirt crawl area below a barn, and that does not count.

Pictures shown at the meeting appeared to show subsidence or a build-up of dirt in the crawl space. In the presentation, Waldingfield Road resident Jack Whittier said the cramped conditions could not be counted.

"It certainly provides solid ground for the appeal," said Foley Hoag attorney Douglas McGarrah, who attended the session.

Another problem cited by the friends is new building within a 250-foot setback.

Their law firm, Foley Hoag LLP of Boston, wrote to the planning board arguing plans to demolish and re-construct a larger guest house is new construction.

There is no waiver provision for this aspect of the bylaw, and, if granted, the special permit "will be facially vulnerable on appeal," the letter averred.

Plans

Ora wants to build a corporate center at 55 Waldingfield Road and has a purchase-and-sales agreement with the current owner, Don Curiale. The property was on the market for around \$5 million.

The company, which researches eye ailments, currently has a headquarters in Andover and would let that lease lapse if the Ipswich Planning Board approves the application.

However, Ora said Ipswich would serve as a corporate retreat for research and product development rather than as a typical corporate HQ.

Ora is applying for a special permit, which gives the board some discretion if it believes a number of conditions have been met. Whittier argued that they have not.

Citing a requirement that the application be "sufficiently detailed and credible information," Whittier claimed Ora's application failed to provide enough information.

He noted that the town's community development plan encourages business to locate downtown. "This flies in the face of that," he said.

On the fiscal impact, Whittier called for a cost-benefits analysis of the project. He said unemployment is just 2.5% in Ipswich and that Ora is unlikely to make much difference as an employer.

He also claimed property taxes would be less than anticipated since so much land — around 62% — will be preserved as open space.

On traffic impacts, Whittier said no consideration was given to non-vehicular traffic. Citing the

Federal Highway Administration, he said 25% of all pedestrians and bicycle fatalities are on rural roads.

On Ora's fitting with the neighborhood character, Whittier dismissed the idea, calling the plan "incongruous."

On impacts to the natural environment, Whittier said two species at risk call the area home. Those animals are a salamander and a hawk, he said.

As he wrapped up, Whittier remarked, "Unsurprisingly, I'm calling on Ora to find another site."

Plan B

Elisabeth Massey, another key organizer of the Friends, said the group wants to work with Ora to find a solution. She has called on Ora's CEO, Stuart Abelson, numerous times to discuss the property.

The Friends counts more than 200 Ipswich residents as supporters, she said. The group has already bought property on Mill Road to protect it from a development with up to 40 houses.

Saying the Friends worked with the town and the Trustees of Reservations to save the land, Massey added, "That's who we are."

The Friends say, should Ora withdraw, they would buy 55 Waldingfield and save it as it is while giving the public access to the land. "We're trying to be part of the solution," Massey said.

The planning board looks set to vote on the application on August 11.



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Running with Birds

Ruby-throated hummingbirds feast on nectar from local flowers

by Rebecca Pugh

If you are running near a stream bed, an orchard, a forest edge, or a flower hedge, and you hear the rapid beat of tiny wings, whirring like an insect you might think you could

do better to avoid, look around for a small, shimmering bird with a long beak. The ruby-throated hummingbird is fattening up for migration and comes to feed on yellow and red flowers.

These birds are medium- to long-distance migrants and will soon leap into the winds to fly south and head across the Gulf of Mexico towards Central America. They are one of the tiniest birds in the Americas. But do not be fooled by their size. They are fierce.

Once they mark their territory, they will defend it against all species of potential enemies, including other hummingbirds, large insects, other species of birds, and mammals. You will want, as you run and hear the wingbeats of these birds, to give them plenty of room. They drink the sweet nectar of

flowers: trumpet creeper, bee balm, rosa rigosa, jewelweed.

Named "humming" for the sounds that their wings make and "ruby-throated" for the colors of the chins of breeding males, these birds are beloved visitors to gardens and

bird feeder. Take the feeders down if cats are visiting them. There is plenty of food in the wild for birds to eat, and free-range food is safer than feeder food, because cats love to hunt them.

Second, make sure the sugar-water-mix is fresh, and change it often. It spoils in the summer heat and sometimes poisons the birds.

Third, set your feeders far from windows. Hummingbirds have trouble with plate glass collisions.

Their nests are the size of a thimble. They are woven of spider webs so they can stretch to accommodate the growing baby birds.

Baby hummingbirds eat insects. Adults prefer flower nectar, but they all will eat an insect if they see a good one.

So if you are running, and you hear the hum of tiny, feathered wing, or the tiny "chee-dit" of their calls, you can smile to yourself and jog a wide berth around them. If you

run at dawn and hear the rhythmic sunrise duet of the wingbeat whirr and vocal chip, you can smile even wider. You are running with the miracle that is the hummingbird, soon to migrate farther than many of us will ever travel, only to return again next spring.



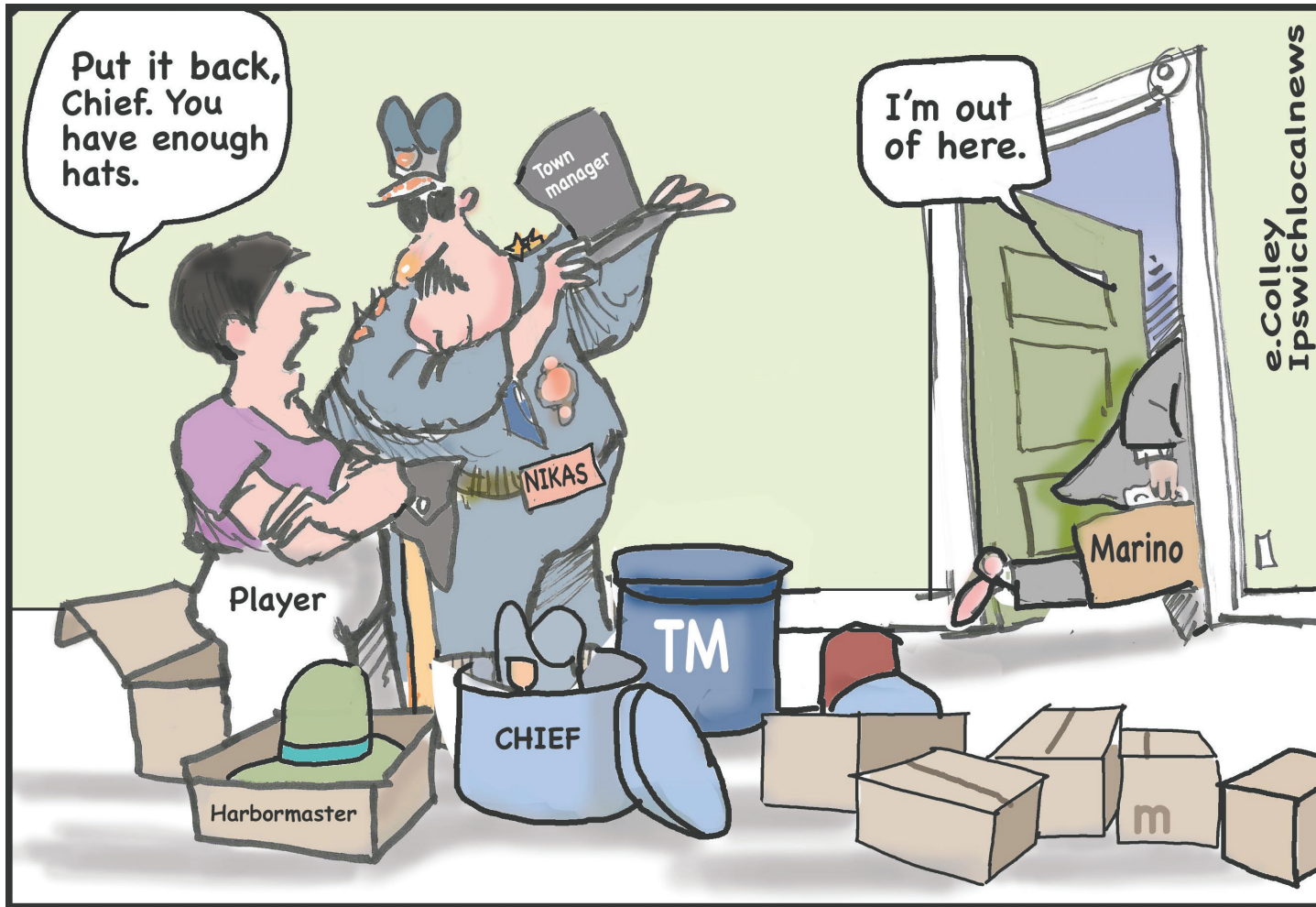
Photo of female ruby-throated hummingbird by Carl Jappe.

feeders.

Some people mix sugar water for them. There are three cautions, in case you are thinking of this.

First, keep cats indoors during the spring and summer seasons and watch for neighborhood cats who might come to hunt at your

Ed Colley



LETTER

Don't roll back an immigrant's ability to get a Massachusetts driver's license

To the editor:
 Recently, the commonwealth finally gave undocumented immigrants and refugees the right to get a Massachusetts license. This is a move fully supported by police departments across the commonwealth. And the reason is that if people are licensed and their cars are registered, they have insurance and they are not stranded, unable to get to doctor's appointments, jobs, grocery shopping.
 Remember, if you are coming into this country, it takes quite some time to become a citizen — years! It is hard to be independent and productive if you do not have a license in our society.
 There are groups trying to roll back this right for people in our commonwealth who are not citizens. Please do not sign their petition. Consider how hard it would be

for you if you did not have a license. Let's continue to elevate all living in the commonwealth, including those seeking to become citizens or temporary residents!
 We have refugees from Afghanistan and Ukraine as recent arrivals

as well as others from African and Central American nations. Let's support these hard-working people who have suffered so much!
 Thank you.
 Danby Whitmore
 Ipswich



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The Outsidah

In which the Outsidah witnesses that most rare of outdoor events: the chipmunk scurry

by Doug Brendel

There's never just one chipmunk, of course.

You know there are families of them, right? Or tribes, or whatever you call them. Flocks of chipmunks. Hordes. Oh, wait: Google says they're a "scurry."

Well, that should have been obvious.

But how often do you actually see a scurry of chipmunks? I can't recall ever seeing more than one at a time.

I've seen one chipmunk sitting on the rock wall in the backyard garden, chewing on a seed.

Or a lone chipmunk flitting about in the summer grass, looking for a seed to chew.

A single chipmunk poised on a step at the back door, as if he's posing for an Instagram pic. Or he somehow hears a seed, somewhere

in the distance, that needs chewing.

I figure they only let one chipmunk out at a time. He scouts the territory, chews a seed or two, and goes back to report to the rest of the family, tribe, flock, or horde.

Meanwhile, our cats love to sit on the screen porch and watch Chipmunk TV. Or maybe it's torture for them. I can't tell which.

They line up with their noses pressed to the screen, watching the chipmunk-seed-chewing, the chipmunk-flitting, even the chipmunk-posing, and their feline nervous systems quiver with frustration.

To a cat, there is nothing more delicious than the idea of coming back from a hunt with fresh chipmunk. (I'll have mine rare, please.)

Of course, with our exclusively indoor cats, this idea is total fantasy. Which may make it all the more delicious. I don't know. I'm not a cat.

I'm the cruel cat-owner who won't let them off the screen porch to decimate the chipmunk population.

This summer, Chipmunk TV has been more or less continuous. There's always a chipmunk out there offering entertainment, a card-carrying SAG/AFTRA-member chipmunk with obvious theatrical experience. Always doing a solo gig, of course, which, for any performer, is the best kind of gig there is. Usually on the rough-hewn stone steps leading up to our screen porch.

"All the world's a stage, / And all the chipmunks merely players: / They have their exits and their entrances; / And one chipmunk in his time plays many parts." (As You Like It, Act II, Scene VII, rodent version.)

So I realize, yes, what happened to me this week was silly.

I'm sitting on the screen porch, laptop on my lap, cats sitting in position, waiting for the next episode of Chipmunk TV. I hear the postal carrier pull up out front. I put down the laptop, stand up, and head toward the stone steps through the porch door.

The cats watch in surly silence.

They clearly resent me for always shooing them away from the door and going out alone.

But the porch door isn't quiet. It squeaks, or screeches — I'm not sure what to call it. It makes a freaky sound every time I open it.

And what I couldn't know was that a scurry of chipmunks — an entire tribe, a huge flock, our entire massive horde of backyard chipmunks — takes their breaks be-

tween scenes in a cozy secret place under the stone steps.

So, as I plunge out onto the stone steps, the shrieking of the porch door sends the entire chipmunk population exploding into the backyard.

It's way more than scurrying. It's like fireworks, but furry.

And I'm so startled — a mass of tiny creatures zigzagging like electricity under my feet — that I lose my balance and tumble, sprawling into the grass.

The chipmunks vanish instantaneously.

But before I can recover, another backyard population perks up.

"To bite, or not to bite?" asks the leader of the ticks rhetorically. "No question."

As I scramble to pick myself up, flicking away the parasitic little arachnids as fast as I can, I can't help but overhear the cats' cynical review of the show.

"Uneasy lies the head that wears the crown," one sneers. (King Henry IV, Act III, Scene I, feline version.)

Doug Brendel lives in the jungles of outer Linebrook Road. Follow the slings and arrows of his outrageous fortune at Outsidah.com.



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COLUMN

Is a destination wedding is a good idea? Tiger Woods had one ... so how did that turn out?

by Bob Waite

After a two-year hiatus due to COVID, weddings are back with a vengeance. Venues such as the Great House at Castle Hill and the 1640 Hart House are booked solid. As for getting to the church on time — or getting a church at all — planning well ahead has never been more important.

All of this came to mind recently while attending the wedding of my wife's cousin's daughter, a lovely affair held close to their home with all manner of family and friends in attendance.

Which brings me to the topic of "destination weddings."

For the uninitiated, destination weddings are ones that take place in exotic or picturesque locations, like on a hilltop in Tuscany or at the Four Seasons in Bali.

A good example is Tiger Woods' marriage to Elin Nordegren at Sandy Lane in Barbados back in 2004. It cost a cool \$3 million. And I am still waiting for my invitation.

If you haven't guessed by now, I am deeply skeptical regarding this mode of tying the knot. And I am not alone. According to various surveys, about half of us think they're great ... while the other half think they are narcissistic, self-indulgent, and elitist.

Elitist because not everyone can afford an air ticket to Monte Carlo or Maui or a hotel room in Mauritius or Monterey.

Not surprisingly, the travel industry loves destination weddings, as do wedding planners (who get to tag along).

Here is an example from an Aus-

tralian publication called Cosmopolitan Event:

"The only way your destination wedding would be selfish and rude is if you (the couple getting married) were being brats. By this, I mean that you are insisting that everyone attend regardless of their financial situation. If you're making

guests feel bad for not being able to attend, then yes, you're selfish and rude by having a destination wedding!"

Basically, it is okay to leave out your financially strapped friends and family, as long as you don't taunt or shame them.

My skepticism regarding destination weddings goes back to having grown up in a relatively small town with close-knit ethnic enclaves. If you attended a Polish or Greek wedding in Ipswich, it was always a multi-generational, communal celebration. Sure, Uncle Thaddeus

might get a bit out of hand or Aunt Sophia a tad too frisky, but the overall experience strengthened bonds.





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There are, of course, arguments favoring destination weddings. Most of them come under the heading "Whose wedding is it, anyway?" And that is a fair question. In today's world, couples are much more likely to be in their 30s, rather than their early 20s. They are also more likely to be paying for things themselves, rather than having the bride's father foot the bill. And they may already be far from where they grew up. Their world is more likely to revolve primarily around friends rather than family. And if those friends have gobs of money, so much the better.

I get it. Being fabulous is fun.

This past week, for the first time in 34 years, my wife and I visited the venue for our wedding, the Enoch Turner Schoolhouse in Toronto. It is the oldest schoolhouse in the city; our guests actually sat on wooden benches adjacent to ancient

wooden desks for the ceremony. Next door was a bright, spacious hall where the reception was held

It was convenient to my wife's vast Toronto family — she has 28 cousins — but not too distant for mine to come up from Massachusetts. And it was fun.

Our daughter is now engaged. And she and her intended are mulling over the what and where when it comes to a wedding. Being the grumpy old traditionalist that I am, I prod them to opt for family over fabulous.

Unless, of course, the destination is Castle Hill or the Hart House. Then I'm all in.

Bob Waite was married in a Buddhist ceremony and the reception featured New England and Japanese cuisine, including a Boston cream pie wedding cake. He can be reached at bob.waite@senecacollege.ca.

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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Get out your pens (or laptops) and get writing!

by John P. Muldoon

After it was suggested by a reader, we have decided to publish a quarterly (or so) literary supplement in the paper.

The first supplement will be in the August 24 edition. We are going to take a “vacation” that week, and the theme of our inaugural supplement will be vacation-related.

So, if you are bursting with creative energy and ideas (or even just one idea), put pen to paper and submit your story, essay, or poem. The theme is “Summer-time in Ipswich.”

Your entry can be fiction, non-fiction, a personal recollection, or some combination of each (or none). All we are looking for is good writing.

Space is limited in the paper, so keep stories to 1,000 words or less. Poems should be way shorter. We particularly welcome submissions from young writers, so if you are still in school, tell us what age you are.

There isn’t much time to do this. We need everything in by August 17.

Send your entries to news@ipswichlocalnews.com and ... get writing!

LETTERS

Meeting to plan the future of elementary schools

To the editor:

I would like to encourage interested Ipswich citizens to attend our school committee’s planning workshop on Thursday, August 11, at 6 p.m. in the Town Hall’s meeting room B-2. The link for their agenda is www.ipsk12.net/Page/1118.

Item 7 on the agenda is a discussion on the future of the elementary school buildings.

This important meeting will not be televised or recorded, so if you want to know what is said, you must attend.

As the committee pursues these important discussions, I would urge them to respect the previous select board decision and keep Bialek Park off the list of potential school sites.

Irene Josephson
Ipswich

We’re grateful for wisdom and insight of neighbors

To the editor:

The Friends of Waldingfield want to thank the nearly 100 citizens who turned out to True North Ale on Tuesday evening for a spirited and in-depth discussion about the Great Estates bylaw and whether 55 Waldingfield Road is the right location in Ipswich for the proposed Ora, Inc. corporate complex.

From your engagement, insightful questions, and thoughtful discourse, the two-hour event was enlightening and informative for us all.

In the end, our dialogue is what connects us and what keeps us grounded in what is truly in the common good and the best interests of the town.

While we share the disappointment expressed by many attendees that no Select Board members were present to listen to the discussion and learn more about why 271 Ipswich residents — and counting — have signed a petition against this project, we still hope to meet with them individually in the coming week.

Please be sure your voice is heard by the planning board before the final vote, which may be as soon as their August 11 meeting.

We are grateful for the collective wisdom and insight of our friends and neighbors.

Sincerely,
Friends of Waldingfield

SERVICE DOG PROJECT

Dad's rule of thumb: Buy the dog who stretches his legs behind him

by Carlene White

I must start this article with a disclaimer: Having lived with an M.D. for a lot of years, in addition to being exposed to an awful lot of veterinarians along the way, I know an impressive list of medical terminology. I haven't a clue as to what any of it means.

That being the case, this story starts back in 1900, when my father was born. Since they hadn't invented X-rays or school buses yet, he drove his sisters to school every day by a pony with a cart. They kept the pony in little barn that they built there at the schoolhouse in New Rochelle, New York.

Father was a farm kid who might have missed a lot of the reading and writing courses, but he certainly landed there in time to understand the arithmetic part of schooling. He had a favorite rule of thumb: "Earn it, then spend it."

He had another good "thumb": "When buying a puppy, get the pup who stretches his legs behind him" — as in the photo.

Skipping forward to 1998 ... The dog world had become obsessed with a genetic abnormality of the hip joint called hip dysplasia. The X-raying of dogs' hips were mostly done either by the OFA (I think that's the Orthopedic Foundation of America), which took just plain X-rays and would decide if your dog was good or bad, or PennHIP, which involved a more specific type of X-ray and had something to do with Pennsylvania.

Seeing as I had just imported a stud dog — Deagle — from Belgium, I was pressured by the dog world to have his hips X-rayed before we used him for breeding — which actually was reasonable advice. As he was a Great Dane puppy, most of the X-ray machines around this area could not accommodate his size. However, SRH vet clinic over there on Route 1A in Ipswich were game to try.

It took the veterinarian, two vet techs, the receptionist, and me to hold up the overflowing parts of this 150-pound puppy on their X-ray



Check out the hips on this Great Dane! This good dog could be the poster child for an 'excellent' rating (courtesy photo).

table. In the process of positioning him for the X-ray, a vet tech pulled his legs backwards in the exact position of this photograph. She said, "I can tell you that his hips are good, because if his hips were not good, I could not get his legs in this position." Deagle's hips were rated

"excellent."

Father, with his "farm wisdom," might have been ahead of the game.

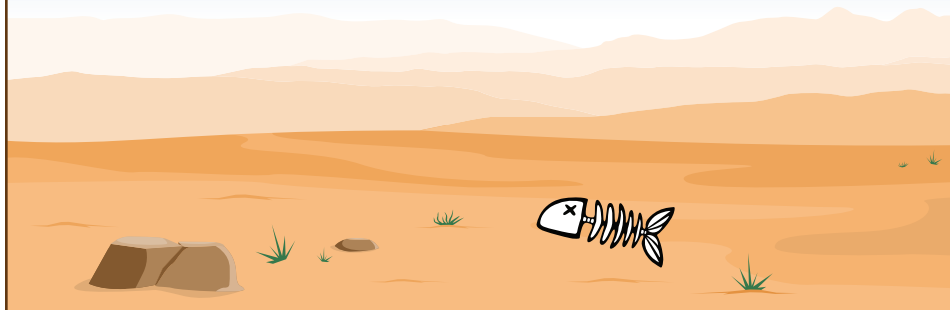
Now, if I were a responsible reporter, I would check the truth with more sources. I have not.

My father's thumbs were often right on.

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CONTRACT from page 1

“Nothing about the contract was or is illegal or nefarious,” Nikas said in an email on Tuesday. “Nothing in the contract is ‘unprecedented’ or outlandish. There is NO GOLDEN PAYOUT upon my retirement or a financial windfall in the contract.”

His statement, printed in the paper, also said his pay increased in line with annual increases awarded elsewhere in town government this year.

Nikas said he felt a contract was warranted “in light of police reform and the diminishing protections from Civil Service Law (MGL 31) due to the creation of POST,” or the Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission.

A native of Ipswich, Nikas has worked for the police department since December 1997, according to his LinkedIn profile. He was promoted to sergeant in February 2003.

He took on more responsibilities as he worked his way up the ranks, and he served as director of training and director of law enforcement before he became acting chief of police in October 2009.

After a job search, Nikas was confirmed as police chief in September 2010. His promotion followed a civil service competition, according to a

Salem News report at the time.

The new contract, which became effective on July 1 and runs for three years, confirms the chief will remain in the civil service system.

In that — and most other regards — the contract is very similar to a number of other Massachusetts police chief contracts posted online. They are all similar to a sample Massachusetts contract offered by a group called Americans for Effective Law Enforcement.

The civil service system is governed by a state law designed to ensure fairness in hiring and promotions in police. Proponents say the process keeps politics out of hiring. Opponents say they want flexibility in hiring and firing.

The civil service system usually means that internal candidates only are eligible for promotion. However, it can be widened statewide.

Ipswich’s fire chief is not a civil service position. When it was suggested by then-chief Greg Gagnon in 2017 that a new deputy chief position be outside the civil service, firefighters mounted a successful campaign to keep it in the system.

Pay and benefits

In the new contract, Nikas’ pay is \$166,133. That is a little more than Marino was making at the time.

Signed on October 6, 2020, Marino

agreed in that contract to hold his pay at \$159,200 for two years. Had he stayed in Ipswich, his pay would have jumped by \$9,750, or 6.1%, to \$168,950 on July 1, 2022.

Nikas’ contract also states he gets 35 vacation days a year. Marino was entitled to 20 vacation days in his contract.

Other terms in the police chief’s contract allow for working paid details and outside employment to give classes or to consul on law enforcement. The chief can also enroll in the town’s deferred compensation plan in which he would get \$500 for every \$1,000 contributed. The town’s contribution would be capped at \$2,000.

Outside employment is not allowed for the fire chief in his contract without advance permission of the town manager.

The same stipulation is in the town manager’s contract, except that person has to notify the select board.

There is one difference in wording between the three contracts. The police chief is allowed to take compensatory (or “comp”) time for irregular hours worked.

The fire chief and town manager contracts say comp time is not allowed. However, they use almost the same language as the police contract to allow “reasonable time off” during normal office hours to make up for hours worked at night or weekends.



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Statement from Chief Nikas

I have been a police officer since 1997 and chief in Ipswich since 2009. I am the most senior department director in Ipswich.

It is true I have never had a contract. So why execute a contract in 2022?

In light of police reform and the diminishing protections from Civil Service Law (MGL 31) due to the creation of POST (Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission), I thought it would be mutually beneficial to me and the town to establish clear lines on what my duties are, what the procedures are for my job evaluations, how disciplinary action is handled, and what benefits I currently have — and to memorialize them moving forward.

Negotiations between myself and the town manager started verbally back in January 2022 and continued for four months.

After a back-and-forth, the town manager sent the agreed-upon contract to the town's labor attorney, who approved the language, so we both signed in May.

Unfortunately, the town manager left Ipswich in mid-May, so the select board incorrectly assumed it was a last-minute agreement. I told them that was not the case and offered to provide them with the information.

They rejected my offer of an explanation and my offer to negotiate any minor concerns they had with them (even though I had no legal obligation to do so). They wanted me to rescind my contract because they didn't like what was negotiated.

If you review my contract, as it appears you have, there is nothing in there that is "unprecedented." It may be new to Ipswich, but every new contract signed by anybody brings new benefits — it's the nature of negotiations.

Much of it is standard contract language in every chief of police contract across the state.

There is no salary jump in the first year (it was the approved budgeted number from December), the annual raises are the

same as every other department director in Ipswich, and there is no retirement "golden parachute."

I get the same amount of vacation as the police union members with 20+ years of service; however, I do get to carry over 160 hours of vacation time versus 80 hours for union members. But in the past 14 years, and with different town managers in place, I have never NOT carried over at least 160 hours of vacation, so that is not a substantive change.

I do get a deferred compensation plan similar to the superintendent, but mine is capped at \$2,000 per year.

The compensatory time language is to provide me flex time during the weeks I have multiple meetings outside office hours — NOT to accrue from year to year and get paid out.

I do not understand how this contract undermines the board's faith in me to perform my obligations as interim town manager, which they believed I was capable of performing when they offered me the position. From what I was told by the chair, it was rescinded because I would not rescind a legally executed contract signed with the former town manager (appointing authority), which is my statutory right under MGL Ch41 s1080.

They lost faith in my ability to lead this town after 14 years of senior management because I would not agree to rescind a legal contract that they demanded I tear up?

Nothing about the contract was or is illegal or nefarious. Nothing in the contract is 'unprecedented' or outlandish. There is NO GOLDEN PAYOUT upon my retirement or a financial windfall in the contract. I do not know why it would "create significant obstacles for the board moving forward, both operationally and financially." The select board in Ipswich is not the appointing authority and is not involved in contract negotiations or the hire process.



WHERE IS IT? This gruesome twosome seems to be enjoying the dog days of summer in style. But where are they hanging out? It's somewhere in Ipswich, that's for sure. Send your answers to news@ipswichlocalnews.com, and check out more "Where is it?" photos at bit.ly.com/iln-wii.

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Vehicle Day brings out kids (young and old)

IPSWICH — Is it a triumphant return just because COVID canceled a couple of events? Hardly. That would be more of a welcome return.

Is it a triumphant return if an Olympic gold medalist shows up? Now we're talking!

Kali Flanagan brought her 2018 women's ice hockey gold medal — and those things are heavy. She is also a two-time Premier Hockey Foundation winner and was one of the Boston Bruins/Boston Pride group that showed up at this year's Vehicle Day.

Organized for Friday morning by the Ipswich Public Library, trustees and friends, the day was a "great success," said children's librarian Laurie Collins.

Police (including the new K-9 unit), firefighters, the highway and utilities departments, the Coast Guard, Salter Transportation, Action Ambulance, and the Lawrence Police department's service dog drew in the crowd.

"We estimate 350 participants attended," Collins said. "The Ipswich Public Library Board of Trustees and the Friends shared 275 hot dogs!"

While volunteers grilled hot dogs out front, fire chief Paul Parisi volunteered to read a story to young kids. It was all about Curious George and the day he spent in a fire station.

"It was wonderful to see all the kids," Parisi said afterwards, adding that he was particularly impressed by the song in which a firefighter puts on his turnout gear.



NOT THE ACTUAL FIRE CHIEF: Joey McCarthy tries out the driver's seat in a fire truck at Vehicle Day.



THE ACTUAL FIRE CHIEF: Paul Parisi reads a story to the kids.

The main event was held in the Ascension Church parking lot. In addition to first responders, the Lawrence Police Department sent their service dog to meet the public. Meanwhile, Ipswich's new K-9 unit, comprising Justin Ellenton and German shepherd Stryka, met a bunch of kids.

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary brought Coastie, a remote-controlled boat that "chatted" with small children about water safety.

Glen Gayton operated the boat and communicated remotely with the kids who stopped to talk with Coastie.

"It was so exciting to host the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and the Boston Bruins mascot, Blades," Collins said.

"The Bruins support summer reading in libraries throughout the commonwealth, and we were grateful to be a stop on Blade's tour across the state," she added.

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Library announces children's room photo contest winners for weeks two and three

“The Natural World — Find Beauty Wherever You Are” was the theme for the second week of the Ipswich Public Library’s photo contest.

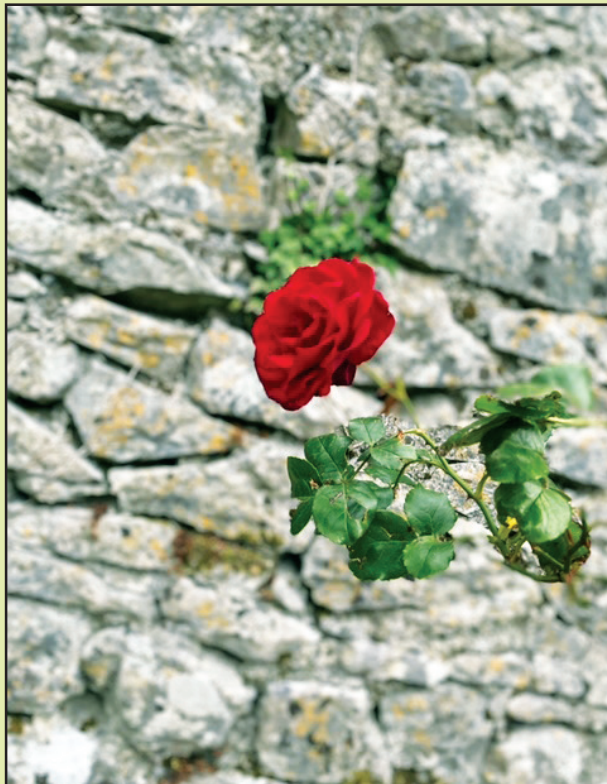
The theme for week three was “Up Close and Personal.” Participants were asked to focus in tightly on their subject and help us to see it in a new way.

The theme for the fourth and last week of the contest is “Portrait.” Kids between the ages of 6 and 13 are invited to try their hand at taking a photo of an individual’s face and showing the viewer who that person really is. To register, go to ipswichlibrary.org/events and find the registration link on the date of August 3.

An exhibition and reception featuring every photo taken, matted and mounted, is scheduled for Monday, August 15 from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Collins Room of the Ipswich Public Library.



Delilah Morse, 10, won for ‘Wildflowers.’



Niamh Higgins, 9, won for ‘An Irish Rose.’



Laith Harb, 9, took a photo of his sister’s bass guitar.



Sarah Belford, 13, got very personal with her dog.

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What's on? Wharf walks, Roaring Twenties Garden Party,

Please go to our website (bit.ly/iln-events) for more information about each item. If you have an event that you'd like us to feature, please send the information to news@ipswichlocalnews.com.

— Wednesday, August 3 —

Wednesday Walks: Meet at the Town Wharf at 9:25 a.m. to explore beautiful Ipswich hikes. Everyone is welcome! Contact Ed Murphy (978 500 9523) of the Ipswich Bay Circuit Trail Committee for more information.

Danvers summer concert series: Come to the lawn at the Peabody Institute Library at 7 p.m. to see contemporary country with the Annie Brobst Band.

Grief support: The Immanuel Baptist Church on Central Street hosts a community spousal/partner loss grief support group at 6:30 p.m. Call Amy (978 356 4215) or Tracy (978 356 5871) and leave a message if you have questions.

Grand Horizons: 50 years into

their marriage, Bill and Nancy want a divorce. The Gloucester Stage Company puts on this Tony Award-nominated play with performances at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and 3 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

— Thursday, August 4 —

Gardening Day: Join IRWA staff and other volunteers at their headquarter on County Road at 9 a.m. to keep their gardens looking their best. Come for two hours or just a little bit. Refreshments provided. Bring your tools or use theirs.

Coffee & Connections: The Greater Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce hosts a virtual networking event on Zoom from 9 to 10 a.m. Register at business.capeannchamber.com/events.

Cookbook Club: It's what happens when you cross a cookbook with a book group! Check out a copy of the selected cookbook, choose a recipe, and prepare it to share with the group. Contact Nathalie Harty (978 356 6648, nharty@ipswichlibrary.org) for details.

Circus Smirkus: The troupe of young acrobats and clowns perform daring feats and silly antics for the young at heart at the Spencer-Peirce-Little Farm in Newbury at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Over-50 basketball: Come enjoy spirited but not aggressive basketball every Thursday from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the Ipswich Town Hall on Green Street. All are welcome!

Beer Garden and Concert: The Ipswich Masonic Lodge at 70 Topsfield Road is hosting a beer garden from 6 to 9 p.m. and live music



What Time Is It, Mr. Fox will be performing their brand of neo-soul and acoustic noir at Music on Meetinghouse Green in Gloucester on Friday night (courtesy photo).

starting at 7. This week, Local Strangers performs.

West Newbury Summer Concerts: Come hear bluegrass and Americana with the Rum Runners String Band at the town bandstand on Main Street at 6:30 p.m. Concerts are free!

Castle Hill Concerts: The Beantown Swing Orchestra brings the big-band sound to Castle Hill. Bring a picnic! Concert starts at 7 p.m. \$40 per vehicle to enter.

Kundalini yoga, meditation, and gong bath: Acupuncture Health and Wellness at the Cable Professional Building (lower level) is hosting a session of Kundalini yoga, meditation, and a deep-relaxation gong bath with Ravi Sirois from 7 to 8:15 p.m. on Thursday evenings.

Lyceum Thursdays: Penny West, author of London Letters Home presents a glimpse into the life of Ipswich's Gus Farley, who apprenticed as a tea-taster in London from 1861-1865, at 7:30 p.m. at the Take-Out Terrace on the Riverwalk.

Chris Isaac: The Grammy-nominated singer and actor will be performing at the Cabot in Beverly at 8 p.m.

— Friday, August 5 —

Walking tour of Ipswich: Town historian Gordon Harris shares the stories of historic houses and the people who lived in them. Tour starts at 2 p.m. and begins at the garden across from the public library. Email historicipswich@gmail.com or text 978 979 6598 to reserve a spot.

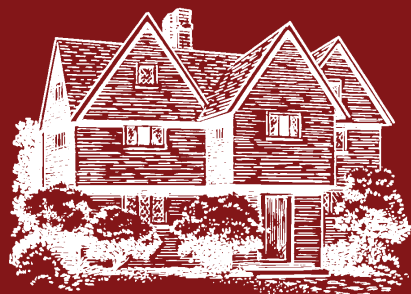
Circus Smirkus: The troupe of young acrobats and clowns perform daring feats and silly antics for the young at heart at the Spencer-Peirce-Little Farm in Newbury at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Hamilton-Wenham Farmers' Market: The Community House on Bay Road hosts the market from 3 to 7 p.m. through October 28.

Friday Night Wine Down: Mill River Winery on Route 1 in Rowley hosts this weekly event from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

DJ Beach Party: A night of oldies (with special guest vocalists) on Salisbury Beach with DJ Ralphie B

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Circus Smirkus, farmers' markets, Mead Day celebration!



The Roaring Twenties Garden Party is back on this weekend at Castle Hill. Bob and Nancy Stallard of Hamilton attended the event last year with Bob's grandfather's 1931 Model A Ford station wagon (file photo).

starting at 7:15 p.m. From 9 p.m., DJ Jeff B plays the music of today and leads kid-friendly activities (hula hoops, bubbles, karaoke, etc.).

Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukes: The rockers are at the Blue Ocean Hall in Salisbury at 8 p.m.

Once: Based on the award-winning film, this play follows an Irish musician and a Czech immigrant who are drawn together by their love of music. Performances are Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 3 p.m. at the Firehouse Center in Newburyport.

Music on Meetinghouse Green: Come to 10 Church Street in Gloucester to see What Time Is It, Mr. Fox? at 8 p.m. Non-profit

partner is the North Shore Health Project. Food vendor Rhea Pizzeria will be on site.

— **Saturday, August 6** —

Group run: Meet fellow runners at Jetties Bagels at Depot Square in Ipswich for a three-mile run from 9 to 10 a.m. Come early or stay after for a free bagel (toppings not included). Four-legged friends and walkers are always welcome.

Om Drum Circle: Drum up a storm at the Ipswich Town Hall at 11 a.m. Rent a drum or bring your own!

National Mead Day: The 1634 Meadery is offering indoor and outdoor tasting flights, a science area, a monarch butterfly egg giveaway, mead slushies, honey tastings, and free samples from noon to 6 p.m.

Roaring Twenties Lawn Party: Calling all hep cats and jazz babies! Put on your glad rags, because the joint will be jumping at Castle Hill from 3 to 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Live music, swing dancing, fashion stroll, and a Charleston Challenge are in store!

The Game of Love and Chance: Marivaux's comedic farce is free and open to the public at the Maudslay State Park in Newburyport Saturday and Sunday at 4 p.m.

Free Beachfront Concert: Enjoy some fun summer tunes at 7:30 p.m. at the Salisbury Waterfront Stage. This week: Doobie Brothers tribute act What a Fool Believes. Later, at 10:15, there's a weekly fireworks show!

— **Sunday, August 7** —

Patton Park Concerts: The Psychedelic Relics bring classic rock to Hamilton! The concert (park is on Route 1A) starts at 5 p.m.

The Bacon Brothers: The famous musician siblings will display exactly one degree of separation

at the Cabot in Beverly. The show (rescheduled from April) starts at 7 p.m.

— **Monday, August 8** —

Blood drive: The Ipswich Bay Yacht Club is hosting a vampire's buffet (har!) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sign up at tinyurl.com/YachtAug8. Sponsored by the Association of Great Neck.

Essex farmers' market: Held in the Shipbuilding Museum on Main Street from 3 to 6 p.m.

Food and fellowship: The Dinner Bell staves off hunger every Monday at the Masonic Hall from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Hot, nutritious meals are free to all.

— **Tuesday, August 9** —

Jazz at the May Flower: Jazz is back at the Depot Square restaurant from 6 to 9 p.m.

DownTown Tuesdays: The summer concert series on the RiverWalk will be folk dancing! Circles, lines, and squares. Music by Egrets Only and Bottles & Cans.



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Word search: Golden Raspberry winners

The Razzies, unlike the Oscars, have been honoring the worst of cinematic underachievement since 1981. Can you find these worst-picture winners? (And do they all truly deserve this honor?)

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 G T R G S D D A B H D O H B N M S U O L L E E C I A G
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Can't Stop the Music

Mommie Dearest

Inchon

The Lonely Lady

Bolero

Rambo: First Blood Part II

Howard the Duck

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Star Trek V: The Final Frontier

Adventures of Ford Fairlane

Ghosts Can't Do It

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Shining Through

Indecent Proposal

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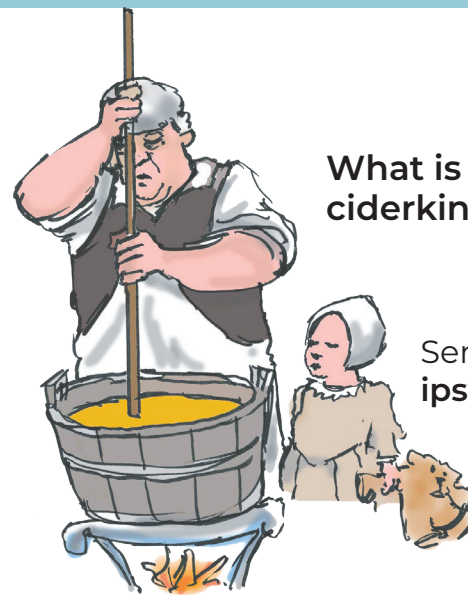
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COLONIAL TRIVIA

illustrated by Ed Colley



What is
ciderkin?

Send your answers to news@ipswichlocalnews.com.

Answer to the last trivia question:

*Listen, my children, and you shall hear
 Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere,
 On the eighteenth of April, in Seventy-five;
 Hardly a man in now alive
 Who remembers that famous day and year.*

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow penned these lines in 1860 after an inspiring visit to the Old North Church in Boston. America was on the verge of civil war, and the abolitionist wanted his poem to be a call to action for the Northern cause and to create a national hero (Longfellow had a habit of using his poetry for cultural and moral value signaling).

"Paul Revere's Ride" was written from the perspective of an innkeeper in Sudbury telling local history ... an innkeeper without a good grasp of that history, it turns out. Although the poem was based on historic events, Longfellow took certain liberties with the facts. For example:

- Revere was stopped by patrolling British Regulars in Lincoln — he never actually made it all the way to Concord.
- Revere wasn't relying on the "two if by sea" lanterns to tell him the British plans — he knew the plans. In fact, he was the one who ordered the signal to be set up.
- Revere was not the only rider that night.

And therein lies most of the criticism of the poem. Revere was one of two riders out of Boston that night. William Dawes rode a different route toward Concord, and Samuel Prescott — the only rider who actually made it to Concord to warn the militia there — joined in Lexington.

And we shouldn't forget Israel Bissell, a professional post rider, who made the longest ride — four days and six hours along the Old Post Road, covering 345 miles, from Watertown to Philadelphia — shouting "To arms, to arms, the war has begun!" along the way (the lungs on this guy!).

The joke is that "Revere" was the easiest name to rhyme. In 1896, Helen F. Moore wrote a parody of Longfellow's poem:

*'Tis all very well for the children to hear
 Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere;
 But why should my name be quite forgot,
 Who rode as bodily and well, God wot?
 Why should I ask? The reason is clear —
 My name was Dawes and his Revere.*





Potters Steve Ward and Jim Engel shared a booth with Jane Ward at Olde Ipswich Days (photo by Coco McCabe).



Andrea Maglio-Macullar paints all things Ipswich. Her booth at Olde Ipswich Days was filled with local scenes (photo by Coco McCabe).



Duffy enjoys Olde Ipswich Days with his owner Jean Voysey (in the red cap) and her sister, Margaret Nolan (photo by Coco McCabe).

DAD JOKES

What do you call a Frenchman wearing sandals?
Philippe Flop.



illustration by Ed Colley

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DATE	TIDE SET	HIGH TIDE	LOW TIDE
Wednesday, August 3	one	3:53 a.m.	10:13 a.m.
	two	4:20 p.m.	10:39 p.m.
Thursday, August 4	one	4:43 a.m.	10:58 a.m.
	two	5:09 p.m.	11:32 p.m.
Friday, August 5	one	5:36 a.m.	11:48 a.m.
	two	6:01 p.m.	
Saturday, August 6	one	6:32 a.m.	12:30 a.m.
	two	6:57 p.m.	12:43 p.m.
Sunday, August 7	one	7:32 a.m.	1:31 a.m.
	two	7:55 p.m.	1:41 p.m.
Monday, August 8	one	8:33 a.m.	2:31 a.m.
	two	8:54 p.m.	2:40 p.m.
Tuesday, August 9	one	9:34 a.m.	3:31 a.m.
	two	9:53 p.m.	3:40 p.m.

ANTICIPATING THE RISING TIDE? CALL US NOW FOR A QUOTE!



Daisy Nell and Capt. Stan, along with the Crabgrass Band, will “combine songs of the sea and shore with bluegrass standards” at Along The Way Coffeehouse on Saturday, August 13. Organizers promise an evening filled with “down-home, foot-stomping music and songs.” The group’s repertoire, which varies from folk standards to original compositions, is presented with a vocal blend that comes from over 20 years of making music together. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the show starts at 7 p.m. at the Along The Way Coffeehouse at 12 Meetinghouse Green in Ipswich. Tickets are \$10 per person at the door. Light refreshments will be available, and the venue is handicapped accessible. Call 978-350-2487 for more information.

Obituary: Peter Hodges

Peter Hodges, 90, passed away on August 1, 2022. He was the loving husband of the late Rita (Pinsky) Hodges, with whom he shared 63 years of marriage.

Born in New Haven, Connecticut, on August 26, 1931, he was the son of the late Sarah Vernon Hodges.

Peter was a proud grandfather and never missed an academic, concert, or sporting event.

He attended all the girls’ youth team soccer games and wrote weekly articles for the *Ipswich Chronicle* highlighting all the players’ accomplishments.

Peter was the vice president of marketing for several publishing companies. He wrote and published a book, *Magellan’s Wake*.

He was an avid reader and sail-or and, in his retirement, enjoyed building doll houses for his granddaughters.

He is survived by two daughters and sons-in-law: Sarah and Rich Nastasi of Salem and Elizabeth and Joseph McCarthy of Ipswich; a daughter-in-law, Sheila Hodges, of Lowell; six grandchildren: Allison Musto and her husband, Sergio; Peter Hodges and his wife, Alyssa; Charles Nastasi and his fiancée, Morgan Bresnahan; Frank Nastasi; Erica Verma and her husband, Mayank; and Abigail McCarthy.

He was predeceased by his son, Jonathan Hodges.

Peter was loved by many and will be missed by nieces, Debbie, Leslie, Vickie, and Jacquie, along with all his friends at Oak Hill, where he spent the last seven happy years.

His funeral services will be private. Arrangements made by Morris Funeral Home, 45 North Main Street, Ipswich. Online condolences are available at www.morrisfh.com.

TREATMENT PLANT from page 1

ty of the current situation.

“I would never want to work in the conditions I’m seeing in those pictures,” she said. “I mean, I can smell it in my mind’s eye as I’m looking at this. I know what that feels like, and those are really horrible conditions right now.”

As a result of these conditions, AECOM determined that the water treatment plant needed to be significantly upgraded, which was estimated to cost about \$23 million, or replaced entirely.

“I would like to point out that ‘do

nothing’ is not an option that was considered,” Halmen said. “This plant is past its useful life and cannot function into the future at its current state.”

The upgrade would allow for the use of existing infrastructure and is projected to be completed sooner — by December 2025.

However, there is a high risk that undiscovered issues that could drive up both cost and completion time, and the construction would significantly disrupt ongoing operations.

“It’s almost like if somebody’s in your house and they’re trying to renovate it while you’re living there ... so it becomes very disruptive,” Defrancesco said.

Replacing the facility, however, will leave space for expansion and the flexibility to treat more water sources and contaminants in the future.

Its construction will also be independent of the existing plant, allowing operations to run without interruption.

After reviewing the presentation, which was also given to the water subcommittee in June, the select board unanimously voted to support the construction of a new water treatment plant.



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Obituary: Phyllis M. Kent

Phyllis M. (Mozdziez) Kent, 93, died on Friday, July 22, 2022, in her home in Ipswich after a long illness.

Born in Ipswich on October 24, 1929, she was the daughter of the late Felix and Justyna (Treat) Mozdziez. She was the wife of the late John K. Kent.

Mrs. Kent was a lifelong resident of Ipswich. She was a homemaker who loved to be outside in her garden.

She enjoyed walks down at the beach with her husband, John. She was predeceased by him on October 27, 2008.

Mrs. Kent is survived by her son, Daniel M. Kent, of Ipswich, four nieces, and one nephew.

She was predeceased by her four sisters: Victoria Anzuoni, Gertrude

Conley, Alice Marshall, and Stella Buonfiglio; and her three brothers: Henry Mozdziez, former Ipswich

fire chief Theodore Mozdziez, and Fabian Mozdziez.

A private funeral service will be held. Burial will be in the Cowles Memorial Cemetery, 29 Farm Road, Ipswich.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in Mrs. Kent's name to MA Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, 114 16th Street #2011, Mass

General Hospital, Charlestown, MA 02129.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Morris Funeral Home of Ipswich.

To send a letter of condolence, please go to MorrisFH.com.



Obituary: Thomas Trepanier

Thomas Trepanier, 59, of South Daytona, Fla., passed away on July 13, 2022, at his residence after a resilient battle with heart issues.

Thomas was born on September 25, 1962, to the late Sandra Duke and Albert F. Trepanier in Beverly.

He landed long-term jobs as a screen printer for Mid Florida Sportswear and as an usher for Daytona International Speedway for numerous years.

In 1992, he met his long-term partner Patricia Menchaca, and they went on to have four daughters: Cassidy Trepanier, Ashley Streichert, Tiffany Menchaca, and Natasha Dobronite.

Thomas was a force of nature, determined to provide for his family and give them the life he felt they deserved.

His family meant more to him than anything else in the world,

something he often mentioned.

He was unendingly proud of his daughters and always tried his best to support them.

Thomas was also a passionate about sports — the New England Patriots, Boston Celtics, and NASCAR. He could often be found at the beach when he wasn't at home.

Thomas is survived by his partner, daughters, siblings, aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces, and many other

remarkable and close family and friends.

Anyone who knew Thomas knew that he was the most loving brother, uncle, father, and partner that a family could ask for.

The family requests that all flowers and notes are sent to the memorial on Sunday, August 21 from 1 to 3 p.m. at Shannon Maloney Funeral Home (4084 Halifax Dr., Port Orange, FL 32127).



DEATH NOTICE: Mary St. Laurent

Mary B. (Torrise) St. Laurent, 96, of Salisbury, formerly of Georgetown, died peacefully on Thursday, July 28, 2022, in her son's home. She was the wife of the late Charles E. St. Laurent of Ipswich, who died in October of 2015, and the late Wilfred L. Carpenter of Salem, N.H., who died in September of 1988.

She is survived by her son, Wilfred N. Carpenter, and his fiancée, Karen M. Champoux, of Salisbury; her stepson, Michael J. St. Laurent of Danvers; two step-daughters: Susan E. Hardy of Rockport and Dianna M. Gibson of Methuen; three grandchildren: Justin A. Carpenter of Salem, N.H., and Laura M. and Nicole R. Carpenter of Methuen; and three great-grandchildren: Kenna and Caitlyn Carpenter and Isla Worthen.

A visitation and funeral for family and friends was held on Monday, August 1 at the Whittier-Porter Funeral Home, followed by a celebration of life funeral Mass of Christian burial in Our Lady of Hope Church. Interment will be in the Highland Cemetery in Ipswich at a later date. To leave a condolence, please visit www.whittier-porter.com.

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Obituary: Peter W. Klimaszewski

Peter W. Klimaszewski, 63, of Ipswich passed away on July 24, 2022, after a long illness.

Born in Ipswich on August 24, 1958, he was the son of the late Walter and Gloria (Michetti) Klimaszewski.

Peter attended Ipswich schools and earned a GED. He had previously been employed by Soffron Brothers and on the Crane estate.

His greatest pleasures were working outdoors, animals, and playing with his nieces and nephews.

Peter was predeceased by his sis-



ter, Mary Theresa.

He leaves behind four siblings:

Theresa (Dana) Ashe of Florida, Anne Marie (Mark) Boissoneau of Amesbury, Janet (Bob) Warren of Ipswich, and John Klimaszewski of Florida.

Peter also leaves behind nieces Nicole Zapata and Allison Boissoneau and nephews Jamie Foote, Andrew Boissoneau, and Zachary Klimaszewski, as well as four great-nieces and a great-nephew.

A graveside service was held on July 30 in the Cowles Memorial Cemetery, 29 Town Farm Road, Ipswich.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Ipswich Humane Group, PO Box 873, Ipswich, MA 01938.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Morris Funeral Home of Ipswich.

To send a letter of condolence to Peter's family, please go to Morris-FH.com.



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Obituary: Deborah Young

Deborah Young, 73, of Somerville and Punta Gorda, Fla., died on July 15, 2022, of respiratory ailments.

Family members were at her bedside.

Deborah Slater was born in Chicago to Morton L. Slater and Ruth Anne (Haskell) Slater.

Ruth's marriage did not last, and she and her two children moved to St. Croix, Virgin Islands. In 1957, Ruth married Warren H. Young, then a prominent island attorney and later a federal judge.

Warren, who had two children from earlier marriages (Rodney and Lauren), adopted Jonathan and Deborah, and he and Ruth had two more together (Gar and Timothy).

Deborah attended St. Mary's and St. John's schools in St. Croix, and then George School in Pennsylvania, followed by Barnard College, from which she graduated in 1970 with a bachelor's degree in English.

Deborah taught school in St. Croix, then worked in the financial industry — first as a financial advisor at Merrill Lynch and then a compliance officer at several Boston asset-management firms.

Deborah's lifelong hobbies and interests included cooking for friends and family, completing three cir-

cumnavigations aboard Semester at Sea, sailing, scuba diving, and photography.

She loved attending family reunions in Deer Isle, Maine, and bone-dry vodka martinis.

Deborah's ashes will be scattered at sea in a private service, with a memorial service to be announced.

Deborah is survived by siblings Rodney Young (Edie),

Jonathan Young (Janis), Lauren (Larsen), Gar, and Timothy Young (Priscilla Serafin); her aunt, Soon Ok Haskell; nieces Shanin Speas-Frost and Rebecca Young; nephew Ethan Young; close friends Martha Savard, Warren Johnson, and Jo Masciulli; and a crowd of cousins and relatives.

Donations may be made in Deborah's name to George School (Newtown, Penn.), Semester at Sea, or Doctors Without Borders.

Assisting Deborah's family is the Morris Funeral Home of Ipswich. To send a condolence to her family, please go to MorrisFH.com.



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Obituary: Pierre Doucet

It is commonly believed that one's life begins at birth. But this was really not the case for one of Ipswich's most familiar faces, Pierre Doucet.

His life really began, oddly enough, on the sandy shores of Hawaii. Ironically, that's where two Ipswich townies met for the first time.

He met his future wife, Joanne Petrowicz, also an Ipswich local, a world away.

Maybe it was the trade winds that pushed these two together, but they came back to Ipswich and started what would be a 52-year adventure.

They filled their lives with children, boating, fishing, and traveling.

It is said that the measure of one's life is not material collections but experiences. And in their 52 years of marriage, Pierre and Joanne were able to amass a collection of experiences that would make any seasoned traveler jealous.

Sadly, however, Pierre's life ended. Those of us that knew him well could easily recount any of the following information.

He was a lifelong Ipswich resident who served his country with honor as a U.S. Coast Guard radioman during the Vietnam War.

He spent countless hours volunteering for Ipswich's wonderful Polish church, also known as Sacred Heart Parish.

Every July, he could be found quarterbacking the Polish Picnic, running between the roulette table and delivering Fr. Lucas a kielbasa lunch.

Those were truly wonderful times.

His volunteerism extended itself into scouting, where he helped lead local Boy Scout Troop 13. Later on, his blue truck was commonly parked outside the AmVets, where

he served as president for as long as anyone can remember.

He always marched in our local parades, where his patriotism and Coast Guard heritage was on display.



If you didn't catch him there, perhaps you'd have seen him launching a boat out of the IOC, where he was commodore, to check his lobster traps. Or maybe you once waved to him in "houseboat row" where he spent many beautiful Ipswich summer days quietly surveying our coastal heaven.

Those who knew him will miss him. However, those who were closest to him will miss his daily presence most.

He leaves behind his wife, Joanne; son John P. Doucet and daughter-in-law Carissa; son Michael W. Doucet and daughter-in-law Angela; and son Steven R. Doucet and daughter-in-law Denise. He also leaves his beloved grandchildren: Autumn-Leigh, Breanne, Korbin-Robert, and Aubrey.

Pierre is also survived by his sister, Irene Forster, his extended family, and many dear friends.

Family and friends are invited to

a celebration of Pierre's life from 4 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, September 25 at AmVets Post #201, 49 Market Street, Ipswich.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the AmVets Post #201 Scholarship Fund.

Assisting the Doucet family is the Morris Funeral Home of Ipswich. To send a letter of condolence to Pierre's family, please go to Morris-FH.com.

LEGAL NOTICE

Residents of the Town of Ipswich please note the Select Board will hold a public hearing on **Monday, August 22, 2022, at 7:15 p.m.** at Ipswich Town Hall, 25 Green Street, to make the following amendment to Traffic Rules and Regulations: **Article V: Stopping, Standing, Parking** of the *Town of Ipswich Traffic Rules and Regulations*.

Section 7. Parking Permitted by Those Who are Handicapped Only

No person shall allow, permit, or suffer any vehicle registered in his name to stand or park in any space designated by these Traffic Rules and Regulations as a Handicapped Parking Space unless said vehicle displays a valid "handicapped" vehicle registration plate or placard. The following spaces are designated as handicapped parking spaces:

ADD the following subsection

(o.1.) Market Street – Easterly side, beginning at a point forty-five (45) feet south of the intersection with Union Street and thence southerly for a distance of twenty (20) feet (1space).

DELETE the following subsections*

(e) Topsfield Road off street parking lot two angle parking spaces adjacent to the handicapped ramp, as designated by signs [11/13/86]

(p) Union Street, easterly side, beginning at a point one hundred fourteen (114) feet southerly from the intersection of Union Street and Market Street, thence southerly for a distance of twenty (20) feet [Adopted 5/11/98]

(z) Police Station parking lot – westerly side beginning seventy-four (74) feet from Elm Street for a distance of twelve (12) feet and eleven (11) feet from the southeasterly corner of the District Court (1 space).

William D. Whitmore, Chair
Select Board

Patrick J. McNally

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LEGAL NOTICE

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Ipswich Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, August 18, 2022, at 7:30 p.m.** in Room 'A' of Town Hall, 25 Green Street, to act on the following petitions pursuant to the Ipswich Protective Zoning Bylaw:

110 Little Neck Road: Michael and Annie Mortara request two variances pursuant to but not necessarily limited to, Sections II.B.2 and VI Table of Dimensional and Density Regulations Footnote 21 and XI.K for relief over 9.5% of the allowed lot coverage from the existing 13.6% (894sf) to 29.5% (1,914sf) and over 14% of the allowed floor area ratio from existing 13.% (868sf) to 44% (2,888sf) for proposed construction of a new single-family dwelling. The subject property is located in the Rural Residential B (RRB) District and is shown on the Ipswich Assessor's May 23, Lot 18/18.

183 Topsfield Road: Paul Wallace requests a special permit and/or variance pursuant, but not necessarily limited to, Sections II.B.2 -XI. J, XI.K and IX.J for the addition of a farmer's porch to be constructed five feet closer than allowed to the front yard setback. The subject property is located in the Rural Residential A (RRA) Zoning District and shown on the Assessor's Map 52D, Lot 016.

38 (A/K/A 36-38) East Street: Anthony Traverso requests a variance pursuant, but not necessarily limited to Sections XI.K to reconfigure the 38 East Street property as a 7,287 square foot parcel. The subject property is located in the Intown Residential (IR) District and Rural Residential A (RRA) Zoning District and shown on the Assessor's Map 31C, Lot 127 and 122.

5 Old England Road: Jan Lindsay requests a special permit and/or variance pursuant, but not necessarily limited to, Sections XI.J, and V. D Table of Use Regulations for a Private Guest House. The subject property is located in the Rural Residential A (RRA) Zoning District and shown on the Assessor's Map 42D, Lot 17.

Petitions may be viewed at the Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, 25 Green Street.

Robert Gambale, Chairman
Ipswich Zoning Board of Appeals



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Essex

Don't miss this centrally located side by side two family in the heart of downtown Essex. Wide pine floors, and a beamed ceiling.
\$769,000 Bryan Shields 978-290-2497



Gloucester

Investors/Developers! This mixed use building offers an excellent potential return. Main street and includes two retail stores, and 3 apartments.
1,800,000 Bethany Pratt 617-388-9571



Boxford

Classic Elegance perfectly describes this Stately Custom Brick Colonial set on 6 acres at the end of an impressive private drive. Large entry pillars give way to a two-story entry foyer with sweeping stairway, wainscoting archway, and thick crown moldings.
\$2,250,000 Karen Bernier 978-807-5580



Beverly

This captivating single-level home offers much more than meets the eye! Located in one of North Beverly's sought after neighborhood.
\$625,000 Deborah Brown 978-317-8811



Manchester

Experience the ultimate lifestyle in Manchester-by-The-Sea in this stunning 5 bedroom colonial sited on over two scenic acres with a swimming pool. Located in West Manchester in close proximity to the Village of Manchester, Tuck's Point, and the Manchester Yacht Club.
\$2,498,000 Philio Cushing 978-884-9904



Gloucester

Outstanding oceanfront townhouse overlooking Historic Gloucester Harbor! Designer quality throughout this amazing home.
\$1,695,000 Michael Beaton 978-884-9910



Essex

Gracious 4800 sqft, 5 bedroom Colonial on 4.25 acres of land with views of Castle Neck Creek. Quality craftsmanship and many custom details.
\$1,575,000 Karen Bernier 978-807-5580

Churchill Properties is pleased to announce new homes are now being built at **Turner Hill in Ipswich, MA.**

Philio Cushing of Churchill Properties is the **Exclusive Listing Agent** for these properties.

Contact Philio at **978-884-9904** or **Philio.Cushing@ChurchillProp.com.**



Churchill Properties is Pleased to Welcome Sheryl Sterner-Caldwell

to our Newburyport office. If you are considering buying or selling a home, contact Sheryl today at **978-270-9473** or **SherylCaldwell@ChurchillProp.com**



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