

# PITA NEWSLETTER

Sponsored by the Plum Island Taxpayers and Associates, Inc.

Bringing Plum Island Together

[www.plumislandtaxpayers.org](http://www.plumislandtaxpayers.org)

Fall 2024 Issue2



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear PITA Members,

We are one island, and your community organization that speaks with a unified voice to address the most pressing issues facing our residents. Since 1948, PITA has remained steadfastly focused on ensuring that the issues we care about are presented and addressed by our local, state and federal officials. Please remember, your continued support through membership dues and contributions provides the majority of our annual operating capital. The past twelve months have been very productive for both Plum Island residents, as well as the PITA organization, and our efforts during this time have resulted in the following achievements:

**Christmas Fair at Plum Island Hall:** We continued our longstanding tradition of hosting the Christmas Fair last December. Crafters were invited back to our Hall to complement the availability of Christmas trees and wreaths for purchase in the parking lot. We look forward to seeing all of you again very soon for this year's Christmas Fair on Saturday, December 7, 2024.

**MRBA Working Group:** PITA continued in its role as the sponsor and host to the Merrimack River Beach Alliance (MRBA), our working group of federal, state, town and city officials whose combined efforts have been critical in responding to the most pressing issues facing Plum Island residents. PITA was instrumental in the successful completion of the recent river dredging operations during 2022 and 2023 that placed much needed sand on our beaches. Thankfully, sand nourishment efforts performed last year are still effectively protecting Plum Island's North Point neighborhoods from the erosion impacts created by the gyre emanating from the South Jetty "spur". And, through our role in MRBA, PITA is fully

engaged with the US Army Corp of Engineers to acquire funding / complete a study associated with the correction of this gyre in the near-term future.

**Plum Island Hall:** Building maintenance and a safe gathering environment, always remains two of our top priorities. The purchase and installation of a battery-operated automated external defibrillator (AED), the replacement of the Hall ceiling lights and wall sconces, and the meaningful landscaping improvements highlight our 2024 accomplishments.

**PITA Propane & Fuel Oil Buyers' Group:** As was offered in the past, PITA members who participate in the PITA Buyers' Group program will continue to enjoy access to a low, fixed price on oil and propane deliveries over the next heating season thanks to our friends at Townsend Total Energy.

Finally, we remain appreciative for your continued support of PITA. Please remember that your membership dues help to keep our Hall open and available for your use, for use by any of Plum Island's community organizations, and by our local first responders. Your support also allows PITA to assist local students with academic awards from the Alan J. White Scholarship. Please take a few moments to fill out the membership renewal form included in our newsletter, or consider rejoining PITA online ([www.plumislandtaxpayers.org/membership.html](http://www.plumislandtaxpayers.org/membership.html)).

If you would like to enclose an additional contribution of support, any amount no matter how small will be greatly appreciated and will have an enormous positive impact to our community. We continue to look forward to another great year with you and yours as members of PITA.

With kindest regards,

Ron Barrett, President

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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## EVENTS

**COA HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE** - NOVEMBER 13 10-2 AT COA IN BYFIELD  
**PLUM ISLAND CHRISTMAS FAIR** - DECEMBER 7 8-3 AT PITA HALL  
**PI LIGHT GEAR SALES** - DECEMBER 14&15 / 12-5 AT RIVERWALK BREWING  
**COA ONGOING YOGA AT PITA HALL** - MONDAYS 3 P.M.  
**SAVE THE DATE:**  
PLUMFEST 2025 - SATURDAY  
SEPTEMBER 13 (RAIN DATE 9/14)

## PITA MEMBERSHIP... IT'S TIME TO RENEW OR JOIN FOR 2025

It's our annual Fall membership drive and we really appreciate your support! We are asking for renewals for 2025 to continue our efforts and we welcome new members! The 2025 membership fee is only \$35/year individual or \$50/year for a family.

You can conveniently renew your membership or join online at [www.plumislandtaxpayers.org](http://www.plumislandtaxpayers.org) Just click on Membership and then click the link "Join PITA online" or "Renew". Alternatively, you can print out the Membership Form and mail it back to PITA with your paper check payment. Our mailing address is PITA at 8 Plum Island Boulevard, Newbury, MA 01951.

Thanks for your support!

## PITA BUYERS' GROUP FOR TOWNSEND FUEL DISCOUNTS

PITA has a Buyers' Group for fixed rate discount pricing with Townsend Energy for both propane and heating oil for PITA members. PITA has again negotiated with Townsend for the best rates possible.

The PITA Buyers' Group negotiated propane rate (fixed for 2 years from July 1, 2023 to July 1, 2025) is \$1.79 per gallon for 100+ gallons per household consumption (\$3.70 per gallon for less than 100 gallons consumption). These prices are with no extra fees, no rental fee, and no delivery fee. PITA was lucky to lock in this low price for the current 2-year contract period.

The PITA Buyers' Group heating oil rate (fixed for 1 year for the 2024-25 heating season) is \$2.90 per gallon. No minimum required.

Townsend requires PITA members to join or renew before July 1 each year to be eligible for the PITA Buyers' Group negotiated prices for a new contract period. The more members we have, the better negotiating power we have. If you didn't join or renew your PITA membership earlier this year, you can join PITA now and request to be part of the Buyers' Group for the next contract period.

All PITA members can join the PITA Buyers' Group for propane or oil, or both, regardless of who your service provider is today. However, PITA currently has negotiated pricing only with Townsend

and, to get these rates, you must switch to Townsend as your provider.

Also, for propane, you must have a Townsend tank. There is no charge for the new Townsend propane tank, provided your tank site location is in compliance with existing regulations. You may have a fee from your current alternative propane provider to remove their tank if you decide to make the switch to Townsend. For oil, you do not need to switch to a new oil tank, but Townsend must inspect your existing oil tank for safety compliance before they will fill it.

Interested??? Not a PITA member yet? Forgot to renew? No problem.

### JUST FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE STEPS:

1. Join PITA now or renew online or by mail. Visit our website [www.plumisland-taxpayers.org](http://www.plumisland-taxpayers.org) for more information or fill out the attached PITA Membership Application and mail it in with your membership fee (\$35/individual or \$50/family).
2. Contact Judy Rivera ([jrivera@townsendtotalenergy.com](mailto:jrivera@townsendtotalenergy.com)) to get on the PITA Buyers' Group list for Propane and/or Oil for the next contract period.
3. Email our PITA Townsend liaison, Diane Barrett at [diron@comcast.net](mailto:diron@comcast.net) to let her know you are now part of the PITA Buyers' Group.
4. Watch for more info next Spring about Townsend's propane and oil prices and the sign-up deadlines. If you don't like the Townsend prices, you don't have to change providers, but PITA only has a contract with Townsend for group discount pricing.

Still have questions? Contact Diane at

[diron@comcast.net](mailto:diron@comcast.net) for more information and she will help you through the process.



## PITA CHRISTMAS FAIR SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7 FROM 8 A.M. - 3 P.M.

The holidays are fast approaching, and our annual Plum Island Christmas Fair is scheduled! Mark your calendars now and plan to join us at PITA Hall on Saturday, December 7th.

We will have Christmas trees and wreaths for sale outside (delivered free to Island residents' homes), and inside we will be featuring hand-made arts and crafts for sale by local artisans. All crafter tables are already sold out.

Also, Santa will make an appearance after his usual route around Plum Island bringing holiday cheer to all our Island children! We will have a raffle along with pizza, muffins, cookies and other fun food items. Plans are still in the works for this festive event.



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## PERFECT SUMMER WEATHER FOR PLUMFEST MUSIC LOVERS

by Mary Ellen Powers

On September 14, the idyllic summer weather drew music lovers from near and far to Plum Island to enjoy more than 100 bands performing at 50 private host residences for the popular PlumFest annual music festival. Record cash donations resulted in an endowment of \$26,613.81 for this year's PlumFest beneficiary, The Boys and Girls Club of Lower Merrimack Valley. At a donation ceremony on October 16, Executive Director Jim Keenan told the PlumFest team and supporters, "On behalf of everyone at the Club, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to the PlumFest committee, homeowners, businesses, and musicians who make this event possible. This year's PlumFest felt like the perfect storm -- an amazing lineup of musicians, beautiful weather, and thousands of enthusiastic attendees! We truly love what PlumFest brings to our community and deeply appreciate its support for our music program. Excitingly, we're bringing on an additional employee to help us fully utilize our mixing and recording equipment. Thank you to everyone who participated -- you're all awesome!"

Event organizers owe much to island hosts, who did most of the heavy lifting in executing this event. They provided the stage, power, parking for musicians, and assistance of all kinds, all while entertaining their own guests. "Without their support, we couldn't put on a music event of this size," said event manager Mary Ellen Powers. "We are lucky to have so many engaged islanders keeping PlumFest alive!"

Long-time PlumFest supporter and returning host Gregg Higginbotham promoted a unique experience on his patch, known to locals as "The 65th Street Experience." As they do each year, Higginbotham and his partner Chelsea Watt, hosted three bands with neighbors Mike and Kelly Doyle and provided guests with

an afternoon of entertainment and food. In addition to raising a tidy sum for the beneficiary this year, Higginbotham and Watt supplemented the donations with proceeds from taco sales, which is what makes this special host location an "experience." Higginbotham explains, "Plum Island is magical and awe inspiring. Every day is a gift, and the greatest day of the year is PlumFest. We are honored to host a portion of the annual music festival and do what we can to make it greater each year. Chelsea and I have such a great time doing this and truly love all our guests, friends, and (most importantly) bands who help us to celebrate this amazing event. Bringing joy and fun to the community is a great reward for us. Come by for a taco or three next year. We promise you will not be disappointed."



These special experiences were in abundance all over the island where hosts went all out to create a welcoming atmosphere of belonging by providing event goers and musicians with an engaging place to listen and perform.

"The many performers who give up their summer Saturday to perform for free are just as critical to our operation. We have dozens of bands who come back year after year for the love of the event, and many say PlumFest is their favorite day of the year," declared Powers.

Popular Newburyport and Plum Island singer/songwriter Charlie Russell is among those who consider PlumFest the best day on Plum Island. Charlie says "Not only is PlumFest my favorite day -- our band Charlie and the Hustle was literally born out of PlumFest! A few years back, my PlumFest host was Chris Manning, who mentioned he was a drummer. Plum Islander and friend, Ken Cmar, plays

bass. Along with percussionist Jack Petras, we world-premiered at PlumFest 2022. Chris, Ken, and I decided to keep going and, in a few months, added keyboard player Frank Mele... and the rest is history!"

Jim Gould is an island musician who has been playing at the popular Plum Island Soap Company host location since the beginning and has not missed an event. He said, "The spirit of PlumFest must be felt to be believed. We've played in all kinds of weather, but 2024 was one for the books. We all love the day, our awesome host site, the friends we play with, and the total generosity that's been here since the beginning. I'm so thankful to be a part of this special event."

Among the many performers who filled the island with music were festival founders Cynthia Keefe and Kevin Kelley, who performed at their home on Northern Boulevard. Cynthia, whose vision has grown PlumFest into what it is today, remarked on the many aspects of PlumFest that make it special: "My favorite part of PlumFest is that it's impossible to choose one favorite part! It could be the special experience that it is for the musicians, or the participation of so many incredible island hosts, the contagious smiles you see everywhere all day long, the very significant impact PlumFest has in raising funds for our beneficiaries, and of course watching PlumFest continue to grow year after year into something unique, and knowing that so many islanders feel a deep, personal sense of pride and ownership in what we have all created and nurtured."

This year's lineup also included many young performers. One of PlumFest's goals is to encourage young musicians from Plum Island and surrounding communities to participate in the yearly event. PlumFest is always looking for youth talent, who festival organizers believe are the future of PlumFest!

Mad Martha's Café on Northern Boulevard has been a yearly host to a slate of youth musical performers. This year Kendall Bowie and Kyree Gerson, proprietors

*Continued Page 4.*

Plum Fest Continued from Page 3

of Mad Martha's, enjoyed supporting the energetic and promising musical acts delivered by younger participants -- North Shore original act Rabbits for Sale, Dragonfruit (whose lead singer Shaina Perates is a beloved staff member at the Rip-tide Café) and Hyperdrive (a Newburyport-based high school band with brothers Cedar and Bay Schumacher, along with Gabe Nelson). "Kyree and I love the energy that the young kids bring to the cafe. This year was extra special for us, as Cedar and Bay have been coming to the café since they were little boys. It meant the world to us to see them perform and draw such a huge crowd," said Bowie, noting they look forward to hosting more emerging young acts at future Plum-Fests.



The PlumFest team is excited and energized by this banner year. **They are already back at work planning for next year and the date has been set for Saturday, September 13, 2025!** For more information and photos of the day, visit <https://plumfest.org>. To get involved, submit photos, or provide feedback and ideas, contact info@plumfest.org. You can also find PlumFest on Facebook and Instagram. As PlumFest Board member Cathy Hal-lisey says about this extraordinary community event, "It takes an island!"

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## TRIBUTE TO THE PINK HOUSE *by Sandy Tilton*

The Pink House, for almost 100 years, has been a staple of The Plum Island experience. Love it, or leave it... the legend lives on. It all began in 1925, when George Cutter's widow Gertrude purchased the land on the edge of the marsh from fellow widow Abbie K. Little and built The Pink House. Formerly, the land was used for salt haying. Gertrude, known as an "overbearing" mother, encouraged her only son Harry to move his recent bride Ruth Morin and their infant son Harry, Jr. into the house. Records show that shortly after moving his family in, however, Harry (well known for his controversial behavior) abandoned them out on the marsh. Meanwhile, Harry was reportedly enjoying lovely dinners in Newburyport with his mother, and was also seen in Boston in the company of Beatrice Bowry, who eventually became wife #2.

Ruth soon tired of her struggle to provide for herself and her son. Alone on the marsh with no car, little money, and using dish towels for curtains became unappealing. Upon advice from her attorney, Ruth gathered her son and their belongings and fled to her own mother's home in Salem, MA -- never to return. A few years later, Ruth filed a lawsuit against her mother-in-law Gertrude in an unsuccessful attempt to "acquire" some of the plentiful monies Gertrude inherited from her deceased husband George.

In the meantime, the "talk of the town" was frequently mentioned in The Prattler, a popular gossip column in The

Newburyport Daily News, keeping the growing legend alive. Divorce papers were filed in 1934 by both Ruth and her husband (9 years after their separation) claiming "desertion on November 17, 1925" as a reason for divorce. Their request was denied by a Judge in Massachusetts. Divorce papers filed in Florida, however, were approved and Harry married Beatrice Bowry in Florida in 1937. Harry and Beatrice had a son, Steven, born in 1940. Steven, former president of The Palm Beach Realtors Association, passed in 2016. His daughters say he often spoke of and dreamed about his summers at "the little pink house" on the Newbury marsh. Time moves on: The Legend continues to be told.

After 22 years in the Cutter family, The Pink House was sold in 1947 to the Rogers who then sold it to the Proctor family in 1949. A year later, Mrs. Proctor decided she did not enjoy life on the marsh and convinced her husband to sell the house back to the Rogers family. In 1955, William DeHart arrived and purchased The Pink House for his family home while working as a designer at Towle Silversmiths in Newburyport. In 1960, Milton and Juliette Stott purchased The Pink House and built a life filled with treasured memories. Juliette is reported to be the first female Realtor in Massachusetts. Her children grew strong on the marsh and her son Bruce married his bride Linda in that beautiful scenic backyard 41 years ago. Milton passed away in 1978 and Juliette passed in 2006, but the house remained in the family for 50 years.

In 2011, The Pink House was purchased by U.S. Fish & Wildlife for the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge (PRNWR). For the first time in its long history, The

Pink House was no longer a family home and it went into a state of disrepair. The initial recorded intention of PRNWR was to refurbish the house and utilize it as a bunkhouse for their staff. In 2016, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife's announcement of plans to demolish this local icon hit the community hard. A new chapter to The Legend of The Pink House began brewing.

A grass roots movement began and grew quickly to become the current non-profit known as Support The Pink house, Inc. (<https://supportthepinkhouse.org>) Eight years of hard work, dedication, research, land trade proposals, community meetings and more, created several solutions along with proposals to save, preserve and restore The Pink House for the community. Every solution was rejected by U.S. Fish & Wildlife & PRNWR. Yet, the legend continues to be told.

Generation after generation have passed along this story. I believe that will always be. A community's history is important. It gives us strength, teaches important lessons and brings that all important feeling of belonging. Future generations will talk of the strength that inspired this community for almost a century. Those who worked to save The Pink House and those who failed to conserve it, will be remembered forevermore.

Love it, or not... Save it, or not... The Pink House Legend will live on!

*Sandy Tilton is a local history activist and photographer. Follow her on Instagram or Facebook at Plum Island & Beyond.*



# NEWBURY COUNCIL ON AGING UPDATE

By COA Director Cindy Currier

The Newbury Council on Aging (COA) continues to provide valuable services and ongoing fun and educational events/programs for our seniors at the Center in Byfield and also at PITA Hall on Plum Island. Below are a few special events coming up this Fall. To register for events, call the COA at 978-462-8114 or visit the office at 12 Kent Way in Byfield.

For more information, visit the COA website at:

<https://townofnewbury.org/council-aging>

- **HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE** -- sponsored by the Friends of the Newbury Council on Aging (FNCOA). Please join us for a Holiday Boutique with items for sale that have been created and designed by the vendors. This event is on Wednesday, November 13th from 10am-12pm at the Newbury Council on Aging. Items for sale include: jewelry, shell art, ceramics, rug braiding, candles, sea glass ornaments, soaps, cookie bake sale, and there will be raffles! No registration required.

- **THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON** -- Join us for our annual Thanksgiving Luncheon with a traditional turkey dinner and all the fixings on Wednesday, November 20th at noon at PITA Hall (8 Plum Island Boulevard). Doors open no earlier than 11:30am. Need a ride? Call the COA to book your seat on our van. Sorry, but registration is currently full. Call the COA to get on the wait-list. The snow date for this event is Thursday, November 21st. We ask that everyone attending bring one can of chunky soup (not condensed soup) that we will donate to the First Parish Newbury Food Pantry.

- **FESTIVE HOLIDAY LUNCHEON** - Join us for our annual Holiday Luncheon on Wednesday, December 18th at noon at PITA Hall. Doors open no earlier than 11:30 a.m. This event fills fast so call the COA today to register. Need a ride? Call the COA to book your seat on our van. The snow date for this event is Thursday, December 19.

- **ONGOING YOGA** with Chris Howe on Mondays at PITA Hall 3-4 p.m.

To stay up-to-date about more fun events coming up in 2025, read the COA newsletter and calendar! If you don't already receive it, call the COA to get on the mailing list.

You can also find the newsletters at:

[townofnewbury.org/council-aging/pages/newsletters](https://townofnewbury.org/council-aging/pages/newsletters)

If you want to get involved or donate to the COA, please visit the Friends' website at [friendsofthenewburycoa.org](http://friendsofthenewburycoa.org) for more info or contact the COA directly by calling or visiting the center in Byfield.



## RENT PITA HALL

**PITA Member ..... \$400/day**  
**PI Resident Non-Member ..... \$450/day**  
**Non-Member ..... \$550/day**  
**Weddings ..... \$ 1100 for the weekend**  
**Weekday Monday-Thursday**  
**Non-commercial ..... 300/day**  
**Commercial ..... \$550/day**

**Mercy Meals:** Free use of the Hall to Island residents for mercy meals, and recognition of your loved one on the PITA sign.

**To rent PITA Hall contact Frank at**  
**HallManager@plumislandtaxpayers.org or visit**  
**www.plumislandtaxpayers.org to fill out the PITA Hall**  
**Rental Agreement.**



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## ARTIST SPOTLIGHT: LOOKING THRU AN ABSTRACT LENS

Written by Sandra Turner



Life's experiences, good and bad, effect all of us. Whether we choose to "make lemonade when we are given lemons" is what we all hope to do, which is just what Plum Island artist Megan Biddle was able to accomplish.

For over twenty years Megan's love for art has spawned creativity in her middle and high school students who attend her art classes in the North Andover schools. A MFA with focus on Mixed Media and Printmaking at Heartwood College of Art was a defining experience providing her with a great career support system.

Megan personally grappled for years with her vision, only able to see shapes without detail for a considerable amount of time until her vision was restored.

Her art now took on a new direction. Suddenly she was looking through "Abstract Lens "

Megan chose to look thru that lens and create on paper what she was seeing. She was able to process her feelings about her personal losses, grief from loss of a loved one. She chose purposeful shapes, her color patterns became more selective, and the marks she made, were made with confidence.

Her work borders modern expressive abstraction where her marking is inspired by the actions of both organic and mechanical structures.

More specifically, Megan views parallel functions between the human body and architectural structures in the world, and she finds interest in the tenacity of the body during illness and stress.

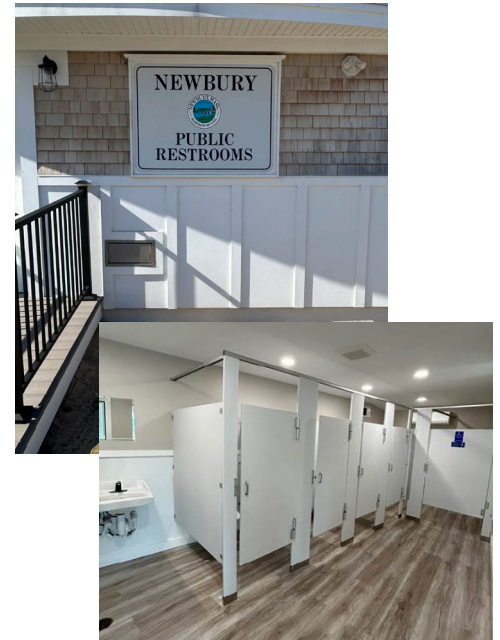
Megan's artwork as been displayed in many local and New England Galleries. You can reach Megan at [Megan.biddle@comcast.net](mailto:Megan.biddle@comcast.net)



**Sandra Turner**  
Artist/Owner, PlumIslander Art  
978-519-6353  
[plumislanderart@gmail.com](mailto:plumislanderart@gmail.com)

## NEWBURY PUBLIC RESTROOMS UPDATE

The new Town of Newbury public restrooms were a welcome relief to Plum Island visitors this past summer. They were clean, convenient and used by many. Thanks to the Town for providing and maintaining this new facility!



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## PLUM ISLAND LIGHT UPDATE *by Jenn Bogard and Anne Morin*

Friends of Plum Island Light is wrapping up a wonderful season of education events, tours, and celebrations. They have a request for PITA members: "If you are not yet a member of the Friends of Plum Island Light, would you consider joining us?" Their latest goal is to bolster membership and they need you! An individual annual membership with Friends of Plum Island Light is ten dollars. The Friends have upgraded their website to make it easier to become a member. Here is the link to the membership levels <https://www.friendsofplumisland-light.org/memberships>.

The 1898 structure is cared for by the Board members and volunteers in the community. Folks are always full of gratitude to learn this. One special volunteer is Steve Atherton, a founder and Board

member for 30 plus years! You likely saw the recent September 16th Newburyport Daily News article by Lisa Rinaldi honoring Steve's outstanding service, and the Friends honored him at their annual members meeting. Steve's family and friends were present to hear the heartfelt words spoken by president Jenn Bogard and it was hard to keep a dry eye during the speeches by Bill Cooper and Dan May (RADM, ret). The Board presented Steve a beautiful photograph taken by Marie Sapienza—the lighthouse dressed in holiday decorations that Steve helps hang year after year. Although retiring from the Board after his remarkable tenure, Steve will continue on as a volunteer much to the relief of the Board as his expertise is invaluable.

After the annual meeting concluded, the Friends and PITA hosted local Newburyport group The Portermen for the general public to enjoy. They sang sea shanties, including an original song about lighthouses called "Man in the House with the Light" by Jono Gray. Before singing each shanty, they explained the history and meaning behind each song.



Singers included Jono Gray, Chris O'Donnell, James Dorau, Shawn Kinneen, Tim Fountain, and Ron Schmidt.

The Friends hope you got a chance to participate in one or more of the education events on the lighthouse lawn this season, whether it be the painting class given by local Newbury Elementary Art Teacher Brittany Williams; the read aloud hosted by retired Newburyport teacher Karin Caves; or the simulation of bringing goods to port by local historian and poet Ted Olsson. If you missed these events, that's okay because the Friends plan to bring them back again next season— they were a huge success!

The Friends will be at PITA fair selling merchandise, including a few special items for holiday gift giving. All proceeds go to preserving the light and sharing its history. This year, The Friends will also be selling merchandise at Riverwalk Brewing from 12-5 on December 14th and 15th! Please swing by and support them as they maintain the light as a 501(c)3 with donations, memberships, and sales.



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## MRBA UPDATE ON THE MIT ARCHITECTED REEF PROJECT

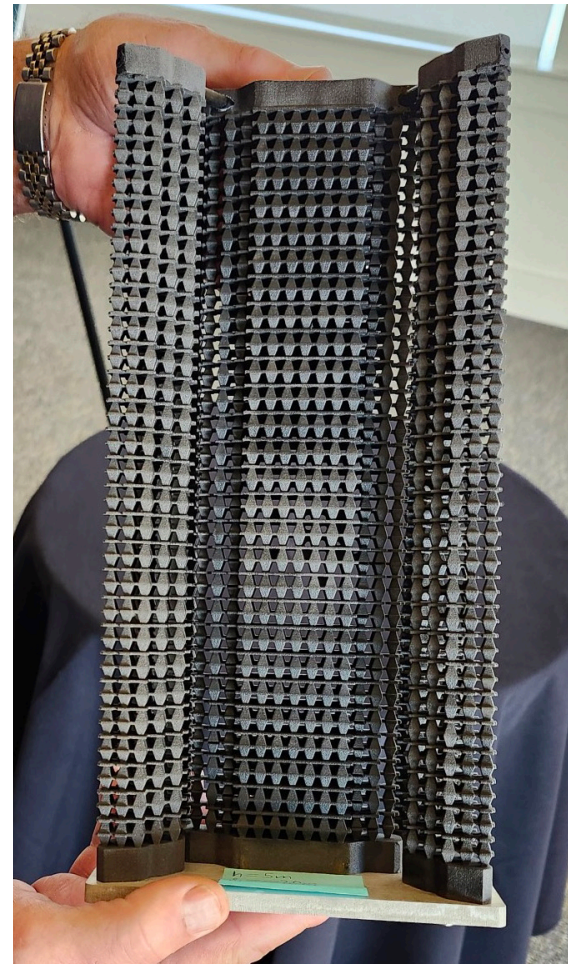
by Kevin Byrne

On October 8, 2024, Senator Bruce Tarr, in conjunction with the Merrimack River Beach Alliance (MRBA), hosted a Q&A forum at The Blue Ocean Music Hall at Salisbury Beach. The forum introduced a new technology that could potentially help slow coastal erosion and combat climate change on Massachusetts coastlines, including Plum Island and Salisbury Beach.

Michael Triantafyllou from the MIT Sea Grant College Program presented a new sequence of modules (i.e., a cylindrical structure surrounded by four rudder-like slats) connected to form a long, semipermeable wall approximately one thousand feet from shore. The structure could destroy wave energy by a factor of ten (as compared to both natural reef and current artificial reef options), using ten-times less material compared to current artificial reef options (while also providing a refuge for marine life).

Michael Triantafyllou further indicated that the MIT team published its study in March of 2024, and is actively seeking to work with beach towns in Massachusetts to test the structures on a pilot scale. The modules are designed to last twenty years before repair.

At the conclusion of the Q&A, Senator Tarr stated that MRBA will discuss the technology's merits, appropriate next steps, and potential timeline for action during its next meeting on November 8, 2024 at PITA Hall.



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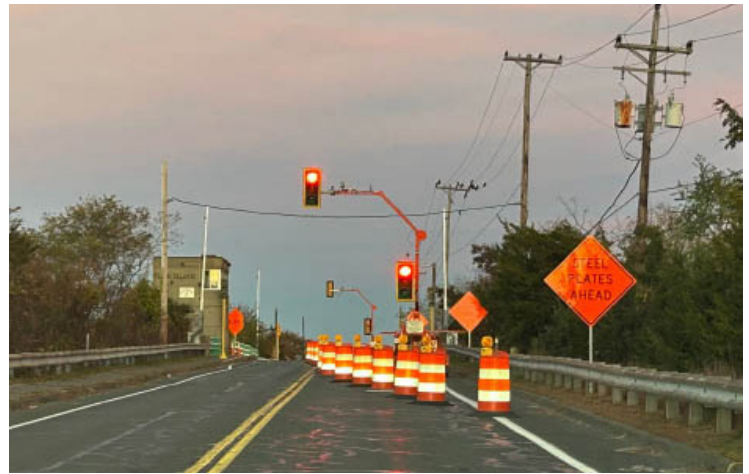
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## WHAT'S UP (OR DOWN) WITH THE PLUM ISLAND BRIDGE?

The October 16 letter below from the Newburyport Department of Public Services to residents explains a lot! Please honor the traffic signals and be cautious traveling on and off Plum Island.

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) has announced that there will be a temporary traffic pattern on the Plum Island Drawbridge beginning Thursday, October 17th in order to allow for structural repairs. This is a 24/7 alternating traffic pattern that is expected to last through December 16th to allow for these steel bridge repairs.

Temporary traffic control signals and barriers will remain in place, with a 24/7 signal-controlled, alternating traffic pattern on the bridge to allow crews to safely perform bridge structural repair activities underneath the bridge deck. One lane of traffic will be maintained at all times.



The repair work is being completed as part of an ongoing \$7.7 million district-wide drawbridge operations and repair contract.

Appropriate signage and messaging will be in place to guide drivers through the work area. Drivers traveling through the affected area should expect delays, reduce speed, and use caution. All scheduled work is weather dependent and subject to change without notice.

**For more information on traffic conditions, travelers are encouraged to:**

- Download the Mass511 mobile app or visit [www.mass511.com](http://www.mass511.com) to view live cameras, travel times, real-time traffic conditions, and project information before setting out on the road. Users can subscribe to receive text and email alerts for traffic conditions.
- Dial 511 and select a route to hear real-time conditions.
- Follow @MassDOT on X, (formerly known as Twitter), to receive regular updates on road and traffic conditions.

City of Newburyport Department of Public Services

## VISIT PITA'S WEBSITE!

- Renew Membership/Donate to PITA
- Advertise
- Download the Newsletter
- See Photos
- Volunteer Opportunities

**Please renew your PITA membership for 2025**

It's only \$35/year individual or \$50/year family membership.

**Now you can renew and join online at**

[www.plumislandtaxpayers.org](http://www.plumislandtaxpayers.org)



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### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2025

**PLEASE NOTE:** You can pay conveniently online via PayPal at <http://www.PlumIslandTaxpayers.org>  
Or mail your completed Membership Application and check payment to the PITA at the address above.  
We do not sell or publish your membership for any reason.  
We will not call your mobile phone or send a text unless there is an island specific need.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Primary Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: Street or P.O. Box \_\_\_\_\_ My E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  Please email the PITA Newsletter to me to save printing costs

Plum Island Address:  Same as above

<b>Individual Membership: \$35 per year</b>	<b>Dues Amount</b>	\$ _____
<b>Family Membership: \$50 per year</b>	<b>Additional Amount for projects:</b>	\$ _____
<i>Please consider additional contributions - any amount will be most appreciated and will be used for Plum Island projects.</i>	<b>Total Amount</b>	\$ _____

*I would like to be contacted for PITA volunteer projects:*  **Yes**  **No**

*If you like, tell us your special skills or interest for volunteering:*

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#### PLEASE COMPLETE THIS MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS SURVEY:

Do you currently participate in the Townsend Energy Buyers Group for PITA members?  **Yes**  **No**  
For Propane?  **Yes**  **No** For Oil?  **Yes**  **No**  
If NO, would you like to participate in this Buyers Group Program?  **Yes**  **No**

>> **If Mailing, Please** make your check payable to "PITA" for the correct dues amount plus any additional funds, and your check and fold over your check and put it in the envelope (no staples please)

Office Use: Dues Paid \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ Check#: \_\_\_\_\_