

# Tewksbury Town Crier



71ST YEAR NO. 26 PHONE 978-658-2346

www.HomeNewsHere.com 16 PAGES

Thursday, July 17, 2025

## OPINION



*Letters to  
the editor*

## Tewksbury remains against lithium-ion storage facility

A recent *New York Times* story says many of the world's largest airlines have changed the rules this year regarding the use of portable batteries on planes because of the risk of fires.

"Lithium-ion batteries, used to power smartphones and laptops, have cells that can heat up quickly in a chain reaction that causes it to catch fire or explode," the *Times* story said.

If airline operators are worried about cellphone batteries that probably weigh only a few ounces, I wonder what they'd think of a lithium-ion storage facility that would have 169 such batteries, each weighing 93,700 pounds! That's the kind of facility that an energy company wants to build in a Tewksbury neighborhood.

Is storing energy for future needs a good idea? Yes. Certainly. But storing these batteries where more than 1,200 people live within a half mile? Hell, no.

Facilities like this have caught fire, exploded and spewed toxic smoke and gases as far as prevailing winds will carry them.

Tewksbury residents opposed to this current plan have demonstrated against it and will be doing so again on Main Street near Town Hall on Saturday, July 19, from 9 a.m. until noon. Anyone who opposes the planting of more than 15 million pounds of lithium-ion batteries in a residential neighborhood is invited to take part.

Jack McDonough  
Tewksbury