



## It's Time to Get Your Holiday Tree!

While there are many great choices to get a stunning tree this year, the ME Scouts are selling them at the Troop 3 Scout House on School Street for a good cause.

# MANCHESTER CRICKET

A Local Tradition Since 1888

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### BRIEFLY

#### North Shore Horticultural Society Holiday Arrangements Workshop

Just in time for the holiday season, the North Shore Horticultural Society will host a workshop on Thursday, December 7 to create festive holiday floral arrangements with NSHS President Carol Batdorf. Attendees who sign up should bring their own teacup, mug or stein for the take home arrangement. Fee is \$5, to be paid at the door, and sign ups must be in (for planning) by November 27. If you don't have a small container, the NSHS can cover you from its collection for a miniature arrangement. Also, you may want to bring sharp cutting shears or scissors and maybe a snack to share. The workshop will start at 7:30 p.m., with social time starting at 7. Info and sign up, call (978) 238-8773.

#### Out & About Holiday Season Continues

It's the season to be "Out & About on Cape Ann" for the holidays. Christmas by the Sea is fast approaching (Nov. 30 thru Dec 3) in Manchester, featuring Friday, Dec. 1's Holiday Stroll with retailers and then Saturday's Jingle Bell Walk with Santa and culminating in the Lighting of the Friendship Tree on Sunday, Dec. 3 at the Manchester Town Common. There are three new local holiday events that have come onto the radar. First, from 3 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, November 28 in Manchester, J. McLaughlin will host "Sip, Shop & Celebrate" benefiting the Manchester Women's Club (a great cause). Then, on Saturday, December 2 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. it's the Rocky Neck Holiday Art Walk in Gloucester, that includes Cove Gallery pop up show featuring work by Vanessa Michalak, Barbara Lynch, Sallie Strand, Stephan LaPierre, and many more. Check out the full itinerary online. Finally, Grand Banks in Gloucester will host a Holiday Market from 3 to 7 p.m. Friday, December 8 with local vendors, including Hot Glue Heroes, Rocky Neck Aprons, Herd Supply, C&K Designs, and more.

#### Pre-K Screening for Manchester Essex School District

Screening for next school year's ME Preschool program is Friday, Jan. 26. The combined screening will assess three- and four-year-olds who may require Special Education or wish to be considered as "PEER Pals." Info at (978) 526-6060.



**AND THEY'RE OFF!** It's a longtime tradition! The Essex Lions Club has been managing the Essex "Turkey Trot" race and walk the Sunday before Thanksgiving every year since 1978, making it the longest running such trot in the US. (Photo: Erika Brown)

## Cell Signaling Receives Height Variance From MBTS ZBA

By Jeff Pope

Cell Signaling Technology will be allowed to exceed the town's height restrictions at its proposed research-and-development laboratories off Atwater Avenue in Manchester's Limited Commercial District.

The Manchester-by-the-Sea Zoning Board of Appeal voted 5-0 on November 15 to allow CST to exceed by eight feet for the height of the building, to allow a four-foot increase in the height of mechanical appurtenances and to allow an 11-foot increase in the height of vent pipes.

The members of the ZBA along with officials from CST and their representatives conducted a site visit on November 11 to the area northeast of the Manchester Athletic Club, where a stone quarry had been active at one time. The quarry has left a cliff of over 40 feet high.

CST is proposing to build a multi-story laboratory and parking garage in two phases, where about 520 employees will work.

"Early on in our discussions with the Planning Board, we were informed that the town would prefer to see less of the (laboratory) building from (Route) 128," said CST's representative Attorney Mark Glovsky. "We were also encouraged to develop the disturbed portions of the property and to try to leave the undisturbed portions of the



Architectural designs for Cell Signaling Technology's proposed new headquarters in Manchester's Limited Commercial District, presented last week to the ZBA. Courtesy Image

**Because the building sits back from the top of the cliff and because there is a steep rise from the highway up to the upper meadow, Srouji said the building will not be seen from the highway.**

property undisturbed. So that is precisely what Cell Signaling is proposing to do."

Samir Srouji, the principal architect at HGA, the design firm for the CST project, explained that the proposed building would straddle the cliff, so that only two floors of the building would be above ground facing Route 128 but there would be multiple floors facing in the opposite direction of Cape Ann Storage, an industrial-purpose storage facility that abuts CST's site.

Because the building sits back from the top of the cliff and because there is a steep

rise from the highway up to the upper meadow, Srouji said the building will not be seen from the highway.

"Minimize the visual impact from 128 has always been a driver (for CST)," said Srouji. "But because it sits so low in the side, we actually achieve that."

Glovsky said that CST was reaching the second goal by only building on less than eight of the 48 acres it owns. The remaining 40 acres will be left as forest with walking trails connecting to the Trustee of Reservation's property at The Monoliths.

"CST decided to invest in a garage for parking to minimize the amount of paved

surface," said Srouji. "The garage is at a low point, so it minimizes its visibility from 128."

Sjouris said that the vent pipes and mechanicals on the roof of both the phase 1 and phase 2 sections of the building had been redesigned to minimize their being seen from the grounds around the buildings.

But he said they needed the addition 11 feet above the allowable 15 feet to make it safe for people to go up to the roof of the building.

"The height of the stack is also beneficial in lowering the fan speed," said Sjouris. "So, by requesting that height we will be lowering our consumption of energy and the greenhouse gas impact on the building."

Ron Mastrogiacomo of 9 Masconomo St. and chair of the Planning Board, asked if any of the mechanicals could be placed on the ground.

Srouji and other representatives said that the vents and mechanicals needed fresh air and were more energy efficient above the buildings.

ZBA member Jim Diedrich asked if the work CST conducted at its laboratories would present any harm to the town.

The answer was no. "We are not working with any type of biological reagents that would pose any harm," said Mark Allen of HGA.

After the ZBA voted in favor of granting the variance to CST, Glovsky said the next step was to file a request for a special permit to build the laboratories with the Planning Board. He said he expected to file that request by mid-December.

But the hearing of the special permit is likely not to start until January.

Both Mastrogiacomo and Susan Philbrick, Planning Board members, attended

#### Weekly Weather Chart

Saturday 25 Nov		46°	32°
Sunday 26 Nov		46°	29°
Monday 27 Nov		47°	33°
Tuesday 28 Nov		45°	41°
Wednesday 29 Nov		42°	38°
Thursday 30 Nov		41°	38°
Friday 1 Dec		41°	36°

Weather data pulled Wednesday and is subject to change.



#### Gavel to Gavel This Week's Town Meetings

Manchester Town Hall is Open to the Public. Public hours are 9 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and 9 a.m. - 6:15 p.m. on Thursday. Essex Town Hall hours are Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.

**Essex BOS**  
Monday, Nov 27, 6 p.m.

**Essex ZBA**  
Tuesday, Nov 28, 5 - 5:30 p.m.

**Essex ConCom**  
Tuesday, Nov 28, 7:15 p.m.

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## RIP Jim Witham

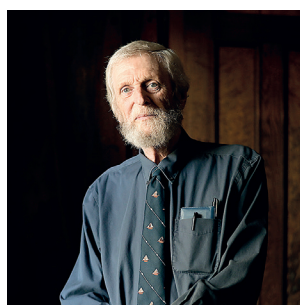
Sadly, it has come to our attention that Essex's Jim Witham died last week. The announcement of his passing was made at the Essex Special Town Meeting on Monday. As one of the founding members of the Essex Historical Society and Shipbuilding Museum in 1976, Jim was a tireless contributor to community history through the museum and as member of the Essex Town Community Preservation Committee. Jim had researched Essex history for the past 47 years and was recently recognized for his commitment to building the research archives by having the museum's archives formally dedicated to him in October. As part of that, he was lauded as "one of the town's most dedicated historians (and) has been an unyielding pillar of the Essex Historical Society and Shipbuilding Museum." Read Jim Witham's obituary, **Page 2**.

Jim Witham (left) at an historical reenactment for the 2019 rededication of the Essex Ancient Cemetery. Photo: Erika Brown

## Obituaries

Following a long-standing tradition, The Cricket publishes obituaries as a public service for our readers. If an obituary cannot be published in time for a service, we will post the notice to our website and Facebook page (facebook.com/TheManchesterCricket).

### James Edward Witham



James Edward Witham of Essex, MA died on Monday November 13. Born in Plymouth, NH, he was the youngest son of the late Cedric Ned and Francena (Hortense Eastman) Witham.

James (Jim) grew up in Laconia, NH graduating from Laconia High School in 1962. After high school, he attended Rochester Institute of Technology College of Fine and Applied Arts

where he was a member of Phi Sigma Kappa, worked on the school newspaper and met his wife, Pamela. After a brief hiatus his junior year to join the Air Force Reserves and attend basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, he returned and received his Bachelor of Fine Arts in 1967. After Rochester, NY, Jim and Pam moved to Boston and Jim joined the Air Force Reserves in 1967 serving 10 years traveling to Turkey, Greece, Germany working as a medic.

Jim's career as a graphic designer had him working in advertising agencies in Boston including Humphrey, Browning and MacDougall; Witham & Childs then moved on to start his own advertising firm Skunk Hollow Designs in Essex. In

his career, Jim was recognized for his excellence winning the Boston Advertising Hatch Award multiple times including Best of Show.

Jim had numerous hobbies including oil painting, art, genealogy, researching Essex ships, collecting steam engines and model trains. Jim traced his family back to the 1600s and identified several members that participated in the Revolutionary War allowing him to join the Sons of the American Revolution. He and his wife Pam participated in Revolutionary War re-enactments taking place throughout New England.

As one of the founding members of the Essex Historical Society and Shipbuilding Museum, established in 1976, Jim contributed in various capacities including serving as President, curator, tour director, and a devoted volunteer. His commitment to community history extended beyond the museum's walls, as he was also an active member of the Essex Town Community Preservation Committee. One of the many town historians, Jim has been researching Essex history for the past 47 years. Jim was recently recognized for his commitment to building the research archives by having the archives formally dedicated to him on October 13, 2023. The recognition describes Jim as "one of the town's most dedicated historians (and) has been an unyielding pillar of the Essex Historical Society and Shipbuilding Museum." The research that Jim did united his own family genealogy with Essex history to identify one of his ancestors as one of the original settlers of Chebacco, which later became Essex.

Jim is survived by his loving wife, Pamela J (Daniel)

Witham of Essex; sister-in-law Marlene Witham of NH; in-laws Dr. Rolf Daniel and his wife Aimee of IN; four nephews, Glenn Hamburg of CA, Ned Witham of NH, Aaron Witham of NH, and Nathan Daniel of IN; five nieces, Karen Blake of MA, Marge Hart of NH, Laurie Hamburg of CO, Laurene Monet of FL, Bethany Lamprey of NH and Kristen Farnham of IN; their respective spouses and many great nieces, great-great nieces, and nephews.

Funeral services for James are private. Contributions may be made in his memory to the Essex Historical Society & Shipbuilding Museum, 66 Main Street, Essex, MA 01929. A celebration of life will be held at the museum spring of 2024, date to be announced.

### Lucille McDonough Goodwin



Lucille McDonough Goodwin, 83, wife of Donald Loring Goodwin, with whom she shared 53 years of marriage, passed away Sunday, November 12 at Seasons of Danvers Memory Care surrounded by loved ones after a courageous decade-long struggle with Alzheimer's disease. Born in Salem, she is the daughter of the late Eugene and Lucille McDonough.

Lucille was a life-long resident of Manchester-by-the-Sea. She graduated from Story High School in 1958 and attended Green Mountain College in Vermont. She loved her hometown of Manchester and spent many early mornings running with her dog on Singing Beach, sunning and socializing at Tucks Point, sailing with friends and was truly an amazing caregiver in her family. Lucille was an excellent cook and enjoyed entertaining and family gatherings. She loved live music and in particular enjoyed The Rolling Stones. In Lucille's later years, she enjoyed bird watching and spending time with her beloved great grandchildren and grand nieces and nephews.

She is survived by one daughter Lee Goodwin and her husband Richard Schwarzmann of Berkeley, CA; one sister Anne McDonough Mesgar of Manchester; one granddaughter Sophia Reed and her husband Brian of Richmond, CA; two great grandsons Christopher and Ryan of Richmond, CA; and a daughter-in-law Patricia Harris Goodwin of Beverly. She is also survived by her nephew David Mesgar and family of Wenham and niece Betsy McDonough Brown and family of Vermont. She is predeceased by her husband Donald L. Goodwin, son Daniel Judson Goodwin and brother Eugene P. McDonough.

A Celebration of Life for Lucille will be held at a later date. Contributions may be made in Lucille's memory to Alzheimer's Association at 2290 N. First St. #212, San Jose, CA 95131; www.alz.org or to Care Dimensions at 75 Sylvan St B 102, Danvers, MA 01923.

## MANCHESTER POLICE NOTES



**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13**  
5:52 a.m. Beach St., fire alarm, cleared, false alarm.  
7:09 a.m. Route 128NB, motor vehicle accident, no personal injury, secured/checked. 1:12 p.m. Summer St., motor vehicle stop, verbal warning. 10:34 p.m. School St., motor vehicle stop, verbal warning.

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14**  
9:49 a.m. Summer St., disabled motor vehicle, gone on arrival. 6:07 p.m. Route 128NB, motor vehicle stop, written warning. 6:42 p.m. Pine St., motor vehicle stop, other. 10:20 p.m. Beach St., motor vehicle stop, verbal warning.

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15**  
8:28 a.m. Union St., alarm, cleared, false alarm. 10:24 a.m. Central St., citizen assist, assisted as needed. 5:59 p.m. Overledge Rd., theft, report to follow. 10:31 p.m. Summer St., motor vehicle stop, written warning.

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16**  
10:19 a.m. School St., motor vehicle stop, verbal warning. 10:22 a.m. Beach St., alarm, secured/checked. 2:45 p.m. Lincoln St., community policing, secured/checked. 5:15 p.m. Beach St., motor vehicle stop, verbal warning.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17**

7:40 a.m. Boardman Ave., animal complaint, gone on arrival. 10:07 a.m. Mill St., utility request, notification made. 2:14 p.m. Arbella St., parking complaint, assisted as needed. 8:56 p.m. School St., motor vehicle stop, verbal warning.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18**  
10:20 a.m. Pine St., disabled motor vehicle, secured/checked. 1:51 p.m. Pine St., motor vehicle stop, verbal warning. 10:31 p.m. School St., suspicious activity, re-

port to follow. 11:01 p.m. School St., directed patrol, secured/checked.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19**  
3:14 a.m. Smiths Point Rd., alarm, secured/checked. 1:40 p.m. School St., directed patrol.

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Erika M. Brown  
Publisher & Editorial Director

Paul Clark  
Assistant Editor

Susan Zampell  
Business Development Director

Christy King  
Digital Director

Susan Anthony  
Subscriptions & Office Mgr.

**Business & Editorial Offices**  
P.O. Box 359  
Manchester, MA 01944  
11R Beach Street  
Manchester, MA 01944  
www.thecricket.com  
Phone | 978.526.7171  
Email | news@thecricket.com

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Postmaster, please address changes to:  
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PO Box 359  
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**NEW-PA**  
New England Newspaper Association  
2019 Winner For Best Website, Best Photo  
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## CLASSIFIEDS

First, the good news. For subscribers, classified ads are free (one listing / subscriber at a time, please ... and keep it to 25 words or so). For all others, submit your weekend sales, lost and found, for rent, help wanted, services, etc. to [classifieds@cricketpress.com](mailto:classifieds@cricketpress.com) or call us at 978-526-7171 and we'll take your payment over the phone. Cost: 65 cents/word the first week and 55 cents/word thereafter. Minimum charge \$12. Deadline for Classifieds Mondays, 5 p.m.

**FOR RENT**  
MBTS VILLAGE—Upstairs at 38 Union St features renovated 1 bdrm/1bthrm with shower. Hdwd floors, cathedral ceilings, exposed beams, patio and backyard, two private entrances. W/D in unit. Central A/C. 700 sq.ft. +/- \$2,500/month. Great light with sunshine all day. Available now thru May 2025. Come bring your ideas to this ideal home or office space in the heart of MBTS right above Gray House Antiques! Email [hello@grayhouseantiques.com](mailto:hello@grayhouseantiques.com).

MBTS DOWNTOWN, 1-br—Bright, modern one-bedroom condo for rent in downtown Manchester. Private patio. Walk to everything. Available Jan 1. Six-month or year-long lease. \$2,200/mo. 978-578-5016. .... TF

**HOLIDAYS!**  
WISHES CAN COME TRUE—Read the heartwarming novel *Five Wishes* by local author Karin Gertsch. Publishing Number is ISBN 978-1-63988-791-0. At local bookstores and Amazon.. TF

**FOR SALE**  
2012 TOYOTA TACOMA—Toyota Tacoma pick up truck 2012, 6' bed with cap, 2WD, 86,000 miles and runs like new. \$10,500 or BO. 207-551-1733 ..... 11/17

E-MOTORCYCLE—2018 FXS Electric motorcycle—excellent condition, low mileage. Call 860 601 8420 for test ride ..... 11/24

NEW DECKING—Approx 250 sq ft of Sylvanix Skyline Series Teak synthetic decking with hidden fasteners. Left over from project. Can source more if necessary. \$1,000. Please call 617-835-6281

CUSTOM MADE QUEEN BED—Queen bed in mint condition. Sealy mattress and box spring, rarely used. Custom made headboard, \$350.00. Two Lifetime kayaks in excellent condition, \$200.00. Paddles and cart included. 617-817-1308 ..... 11/24

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# Towards More Coordinated and Engaged Decision



By Gregory T. Federspiel

Priority for the Select Board is to improve the effectiveness of our governance structure. The focus is both on internal operations as well as communications with residents. The efforts started about a year ago and will be ongoing.

Communications with residents have improved significantly over the past few years. Voters approved funding a part-time Communications and Community Outreach Coordinator and with the hiring of Tiffany Marletta to fill this role the Town has been able to greatly expand the amount of information provided to the community.

Through Tiffany's initiative, we have The Tide, the weekly e-newsletter providing timely information on Town matters. There is also the weekly updates in The Cricket and the quarterly printed newsletter that is sent out with Town bills. Near daily postings to the website and social media provide another avenue for important information. The Town website has a handful of banner announcements in addition to the extensive department by department pages.

Looking more within Town government, we have some 30 boards, committees and special task forces that handle everything from Affordable Housing to Zoning Appeals. Over 200 residents volunteer to serve on these boards and committees. We are now scheduling semi-annual all board and committee sessions to better coordinate the work of the many boards and committees as well as to provide training on managing public meetings,

a web page whose content is continually expanding.

A new initiative is underway aimed at gaining important input from residents on topics facing the community. Every year there are a handful of critical issues that come up which would benefit from strong input from residents to develop solutions that have community support. During the crafting of the new Master Plan, there were various public forums held, surveys conducted, and presentations made, all geared toward soliciting public engagement.

The Town is seeking to build on these approaches as we pivot to implement the recommendations of the Master Plan as well as tackle the thorny issues that seem to continually arise. The goal here is to create a template for robust community input on the pressing issues of the day that all boards and committees can use. The new Select Board Open Forums and Conversation Corners are examples of new outreach efforts.

Boards and committees initiate a good amount of the work that gets accomplished in town. The Select Board's Governance Project aims to make sure the many boards and committees are working in concert with one another and in a manner that fosters trust and confidence amongst all residents. The Master Plan identified many recommendations and serves as our guide for what needs to get done. A more coordinated approach to addressing these needs and a more robust community engagement process can help get to the finish line on the many issues and needs the Town faces.

compliance with the state's open meeting law and other matters that help our boards and committees work effectively and always within the legal parameters as specified by statutes.

Part of the training taps into the recorded webinars the Massachusetts Municipal Association provides along with numerous state agencies and various state organizations like the Massachusetts Select Board's Association and the Finance Committee Association. We will be providing boards and committees with "crib notes" containing tips on running a good meeting, the basics of Robert's Rule of Order to keep a meeting on track, and strategies for earning the respect of meeting participants through good listening practices while maintaining meeting order and efficiency.

Boards and committees initiate a good amount of the work that gets accomplished in town. The Select Board's Governance Project aims to make sure the many boards and committees are working in concert with one another and in a manner that fosters trust and confidence amongst all residents. The Master Plan identified many recommendations and serves as our guide for what needs to get done. A more coordinated approach to addressing these needs and a more robust community engagement process can help get to the finish line on the many issues and needs the Town faces.



## BOARD UPDATES

**Town Hall Closed:** Town Hall will be closed on Thursday, November 23 in observance of Thanksgiving. We wish you a safe and happy Thanksgiving with your family and friends.

**Planning Board Meeting:** The Planning Board will meet on Monday, November 27 at 6:30 p.m. Meeting details can be found on the Town website.

**Curbside Leaf Collection:** The next curbside leaf collection date will be the week of November 27. Please place leaves in bags on curb by 7 a.m. on the Monday of collection week regardless of your

trash collection day. Please cover with a tarp if it rains.

**MBTA Zoning Task Force:** The MBTA Zoning Task Force will meet on Thursday, November 30 at 6:30 p.m. Meeting details can be found on the Town website.

**Transfer Station Hours Update:** The Transfer Station is now open on Wednesdays starting from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Transfer Station will continue to operate on Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**CPC Submission Deadline:** Grant applications for FY25 Community Preservation Committee grants are due by December 1, 2023.

**Walker Road Work:** Water Main work continues this week on Walker Road. The work will take place M-F from 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. and will take approximately 90 days to complete. Traffic will be one way on alternating sides of the road during work times.

**Trash, recycling, and compost collection:** Regular Schedule. Please place curbside by 7 a.m. on day of collection.

Follow Us on Facebook, Instagram, and X (formerly Twitter) @townofmbts and visit the Town website Manchester.ma.us to stay informed.

## WHAT WAS HAPPENING

### 90 YEARS AGO - 1933

Present indications seem to point to a long and hard winter snow coming unusually early and low temperatures the earliest for many years. About two inches of snow fell Friday night and the thermometer fell to ten above zero.

The Cricket adopted the policy this fall of sending the paper to former Story High students, boys and girls, who are away at college, believing they would enjoy its weekly visits and help them to feel better while away from home in getting the newsletter from town each week.

### 75 YEARS AGO - 1948

At a meeting of Manchester boating enthusiasts, with other yachtsmen from surrounding towns, held Thursday evening of last week in the Congregational Chapel, the Manchester Harbor Boat Club was formed. The clubs' purpose is to foster good fellowship, promote and stimulate interest in boating and to encourage the full enjoyment of Manchester Harbor.

All Pitch enthusiasts are reminded that a Pitch tournament, open to all, will be organized Saturday evening, at G.A.R. Memorial Hall, Brook Street, sponsored by

the Ways and Means Committee of the Red Men under the guidance of James McNamara and Joe Wrobel.

### 60 YEARS AGO - 1963

Johana Nahatis walked off this week with bowling high honors with a high single of 99 and a 276 triple. Fifty-two girls bowled this week.

Faced with the certainty that Christmas 1963 will set an all-time record for mailings of Christmas cards and gifts, Postmaster Jacob Greenberg today requested your cooperation in his annual "Mail Early For Christmas" Campaign.

### 45 YEARS AGO - 1978

The Manchester Hornets Football team are 10-0, undefeated for the first time in many years. They completed their regular season last Sunday with the annual rivalry game with Georgetown, the final score Manchester 14, Georgetown 2.

The Frostbiter Fleet challenged the outer harbor on Sunday for a first race, under Race Committee Chairman John Bradley, but after one dismasting and a too strong 15 knot northwesterly, they retired to the inner harbor for the balance of the afternoon's racing.

### 30 YEARS AGO - 1993

The controversial matter of building affordable housing on Standpipe Hill continues to divide residents and board members, as both sides aired the pros and cons of building 34 units on the 9-acre town owned site off Pine Street at Tuesday's Planning Board meeting.

Chief Ronald W. Ramos reminds all Manchester-by-the-Sea residents and their guests that effective December 1 the seasonal all night parking ban will begin. Parking on any street will be restricted to one (1) hour between 12:00 midnight and 6 a.m. from December 1st through March to allow for the plowing and removal of snow.

### 15 YEARS AGO - 2008

Thomas W. Bishop, CLU has been elected Vice President of the Boston Estate Planning Council (BEPC), President of The Bishop Company, Beverly, MA, Bishop has 30 years of experience in the financial service industry.

At the Troop 3 Eagle Scout Reunion and Celebration Weekend the creation of the Donald A. Towle Scholarship Fund was announced. Since that time, the scholarship committee has been hard at work establishing the Fund.



Thespians from ME Regional High School's performance this past weekend of Freaky Friday delighted audiences at the ME Regional High School auditorium. Appropriately, this photo was taken on Friday night's performance. Photo: Paul Clark



Freaky Friday, ME Regional High School (Photo Paul Clark)

## Tides & Sun Chart For The Week Ahead

DATE	HIGH				LOW				☀️	
	AM	FT	PM	FT	AM	FT	PM	FT	RISE	SET
24 Fri	8:31	10.2	9:00	9.5	2:22	0.2	3:00	0.1	6:43	4:15
25 Sat	9:24	10.7	9:56	9.4	3:15	0.2	3:58	-0.3	6:45	4:15
26 Sun	10:13	11.0	10:47	9.4	4:06	0.2	4:52	-0.5	6:46	4:14
27 Mon	11:00	11.1	11:36	9.3	4:55	0.3	5:42	-0.6	6:47	4:14
28 Tue	11:44	11.0			5:41	0.5	6:28	-0.6	6:48	4:13
29 Wed	12:22	9.1	12:26	10.7	6:25	0.7	7:11	-0.3	6:49	4:13
30 Thu	1:07	8.8	1:07	10.4	7:08	1.0	7:53	0.0	6:50	4:12



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### Significant Tech Volunteers Will ID and Solve Our Electronic Voting Issues

To the Editor,

My letter last week stated that I would form a small group with the expertise to analyze the failure of electronic voting at our special town meeting. This is an update on progress.

Four individuals have kindly agreed to help. Jim Starkey is a software engineer, entrepreneur and database architect who has worked on network issues since the early days of the ARPAnet. He has assisted the Town on electronic voting since we first introduced it. Lee Spence has a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering and has worked with radar and communication systems for over 50 years. His experience includes assessing performance of links similar to those used by the EV system. Kurt Melden has more than 35 years' experience designing data networking and communication products for worldwide markets. He most recently served as Chief Scientist at Juniper Networks. Bob Moffett has provided audio-visual services for Manchester's town meeting since 2020, including ra-

dio frequency (RF) coordination for simultaneous use of multiple RF devices. He provides similar services to the Regional School District and other municipalities.

The failure at this town meeting was completely different from that encountered at the fall meeting in 2022. We conducted that meeting in two rooms with two laptops operated by the vendor's staff. The laptops communicated through one of the vendor's servers. Jim Starkey analyzed the server's software and found that it was programmed to terminate communication between the laptops in a short time. Since the discussion of articles exceeded the time limit, the server cut the link before voting began. We therefore had to conduct separate counts in the two rooms and add them together manually. Whatever the problem was this time, it was not the same: we were in one room using a single laptop.

No one can be more frustrated than I am with another electronic voting failure. It is critical not only that the system work, but that we have confidence in the results. I am sure that Jim, Lee, Kurt and Bob will solve the problem.

**Alan Wilson**  
Manchester Town Moderator

### Serious Issues Drive Need for MERSD Third-party Audit

Aside from the poor financial choice to use reserves to repeatedly fund operational costs, a school budget that needs to be artificially suppressed year after year is not sustainable. The problem lies in the structure of the budget, not apportionment, but in the allocation of funds and equity of available resources.

MCAS scores are only one measure of a school's competence but a perfect way to assess the equity between the Manchester Memorial School (MMES) and the Essex Elementary School (EES). The following numbers represent the percentage of students that "meet" or "exceed" State standards last spring:

- Science/Tech/Engineering: MMES: 68%; EES: 29%
- Math: MMES: 67%; EES: 38%
- English Language Arts: MMES: 61%; EES: 50%

The difference in these scores is inexcusable. What's worse, scores in 2019 already dem-

onstrated a 10-to 20-point differential, making the lack of equity a chronic problem.

The State's Accountability system analyzes a set of measures (including MCAS scores, growth, absenteeism, etc.) to provide clear information about a school's performance as compared to other schools in the state.

Let's see how our elementary schools fared:

- MMES: In 2019 scored 92% and steadily increased to 94% in 2023.
- EES: In 2019 scored 72% and steadily declined to 55% in 2023.

While MMES performed better than 93% of elementary schools statewide, EES has continually declined.

Take note again, the difference in scores.

What is happening in our school district? Would YOU put more money into a district that so heavily favors one school over the other? And why DID the district's Finance Director resign? What other discrepancies need to be revealed?

We definitely need an audit.

**Antonella Muniz**  
Essex

## LIBRARY NEWS



Children and teens gathered at the MBTS Public Library on an early release day from school, to create masterpieces with Pop Up Art School using shadow, insect inspiration and their wonderful imaginations. Courtesy Photo

### Library Closing

The library will be closed all day November 23 and 24.

### Dementia Friends Presentation

Thursday, December 7 from 5:30-7 p.m. Visit the library for a free information session and discussion led by volunteer Dementia Friends Champions, Abby Considine and Carrie Johnson.

### Hearthside Book Group

Tuesday, December 5 from 4-5 p.m. We will be discussing "The Art Thief" by Michael Finkel.

### Friends of the Library Holiday Book Fair

Friday, December 1 from 4-8 p.m. At the First Parish

Church Congregational Parish Hall, come peruse the hottest new book titles from the Beverly Farms Bookstore. Adults and children's books, stocking stuffers, wrapping paper, cards and more. Twenty percent of sales will support the Friends of the Library.

### Cookbook Club

Tuesday, November 28 from 5:30-6:15 p.m. November's pick is "The Book on Pie: Everything You Need To Know To Bake Perfect Pies" by Erin Jeanne McDowell. Erin will be presenting a virtual baking demo on Tuesday, December 5 at 7 p.m.

### Library Building Program

The library is preparing a

grant application for the next round of construction grant funding from the state. To apply for the grant, which is due next Spring, we are preparing a Library Building Program, a planning document which identifies what the community wants and needs from their library in the next few decades. To begin that process, we need lots of community feedback, so we are inviting community members, library users (and non-users) to participate in focus groups. If you are interested in participating in one of the focus groups, please contact the library. We will be hosting two public forums on November 15, one at 11 a.m. at Town Hall, room 5, and another at 6 p.m. at the library.

### Color Painting Class Series

Wednesday, November 29 from 11 a.m.-12 noon. Local artist, Allison Moir-Smith, whose work is on exhibit at the library in November and will be offering two beginner, concussion and arthritis friendly painting classes on November 8 and November 29. All adults of any skill level are welcome. When you register for the 1st session you will be registered automatically for the second so you can see how your technique progresses. Artists will work on their skills by painting the same subject with acrylic in both sessions. This event is for adults.

Allison's exhibit is called From Darkness-Color and will be on display from No-

vember 6-December 4. Allison Moir-Smith is a concussion activist, public speaker, brain-injury art teacher, and facilitator of an online concussed Moms support group. Library's Free Public WiFi MBTS Library's WiFi is now encrypted, offering extra security for our community and guests. Log on from inside the building or from the front garden by connecting to MBTSLibraryWifi using password library1887.

### Mindfulness Meditation

Every Tuesday from 11 a.m. - 12 noon. at the Community Center with Alida Bryant. Beginners and experienced meditators are welcome. There will be guided meditation, some silence, and discussion. Please register if this is your first time coming to this program. We need either an email or a phone number in case we need to cancel or change venues.

### Tai Chi

Wednesdays from 9:45-10:45 a.m. When the weather is good the class will be held on the library's front side lawn, if the weather is inclement, it will be held at the Manchester Community Center. Please complete the Safety Release Registration Form, on the event listing on the library website, before joining. Susan Halpern will update by email those who have completed the Safety Release Registration Form.

### Digital Advice Appointments and Drop-ins

Register for a dedication session on Mondays, or drop in most Fridays between 3-4 p.m. Increase your comfort level with technology or try out a digital service you have always wanted to try.

### Shut Up and Write (Virtual)

Every Thursday from 10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Join a community of writers and artists

on Zoom who just want to write. Come any time. No need to share, no need to critique or be critiqued.

### MPL Children's Events:

#### Trivia Contest

Rhetorical question for teens and Hunger Games fans of all ages: Are you psyched for the prequel movie, "The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes," opening this Friday? Stop by the library's teen loft, put a copy of the book or audiobook on hold and play our trivia contest for a chance to win an AMC Theatres gift card or a minty Hunger Games movie poster.

#### Lego Fun!

Saturday, November 25 from 2-3 p.m. Children ages 4-12 are invited to come to the library to build their own spectacular Lego creations. We've got tons of Legos for you to make the project of your dreams.

Lindsay and Her Puppet Pals Saturday, December 2 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Join puppet artist Lindsay for a holiday puppet show.

#### Make a Graham Cracker Gingerbread House

Thursday, December 14 at 5:30 p.m. Families are invited to the library to come make their own gingerbread house out of graham crackers. Registration is required.

#### Storytime with Miss Audrey

Fall and Winter story time, Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. for children ages 0-5 and their caregivers. Registration is required each week as space is limited.

#### Teen Advisory Board (TAB)

Second Tuesday of the month from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Want to earn community service hours while you design amusing activities for your friends and neighbors? Register on the library events calendar.

## Senior Highlights

There's a lot set to happen with the Council on Aging (COA) in the coming weeks. Check them out here, and for on any of these great trips or to reserve your seat on the van, please call 978-526-7500

ffering a Baked Haddock Luncheon on Tuesday, November 28 at the Congregational Chapel at 12 noon. Catered by the Causeway Restaurant, come and enjoy baked haddock or chicken broccoli ziti (for the non-fish lovers), potatoes, vegetable, dessert, and beverage.

The cost of this luncheon is \$10 per person and open to the first 40 who sign up. Reservations and prepayment are necessary by November 22. Transportation will be available.

### Chamber Music @ Crowell Chapel

On Wednesday, November 29, you are invited to see the Arpeggione Ensemble

perform a chamber music concert at Crowell Chapel. Arpeggione will perform Mozart's "The Magic Flute" and other works in dazzling chamber arrangements for flute, clarinet, and strings.

The event starts at 2 p.m. and is free of charge. Reservations are required. Transportation will be available.

### COA to Malls

On Friday, December 1, the Manchester COA van will be going to the Peabody and Danvers Malls. Seniors can pick between the North Shore Mall or Liberty Tree Mall. The van will start picking up seniors around 10 a.m.

### Lobster Roll or Chicken Salad Roll Lunch

The Manchester COA is offering a Lobster Roll or Chicken Salad Roll Lunch on Monday, December 4. Catered by Jeff's Variety of Gloucester enjoy a delicious lobster roll or chicken salad roll, potato chips and cookie. You'll be able to pick your lunch up at the

COA office around 12:30 p.m. or we can deliver it to you.

The cost of this luncheon is \$12 for the lobster roll, \$6 for chicken salad, per person, and open to the first 50 who sign up. You can drop your payment off or mail a check to the Council on Aging, 10 Central Street, Manchester, MA 01944.

### Holiday Tea at the Trask House

The Manchester Historical Society has extended an invitation to Manchester seniors to enjoy a "Holiday Tea" on Tuesday, December 5. Tea and treats will be served at 2 p.m. at the festively decorated Trask House. Celebrate the season with friends, food, Christmas carols and music.

Reservations are necessary so please call the Manchester Historical Museum at (978) 526-7230 to sign up. The event is limited to 40 individuals. Transportation is available.

### Parade of Trees at Tapley Memorial Hall

The Manchester COA will

be taking a trip to Tapley Memorial Hall in Danvers on Friday, December 8. Enjoy viewing beautifully decorated trees and wreaths at the Danvers Historical Society's 15th Annual Parade of Trees. If you like you can purchase a raffle ticket for a chance to win a tree or wreath. Don't forget to look at the "not your average" gingerbread houses on the stage.

Admission is \$5. The van will start picking up at 1:30 p.m.

### Manchester Seniors Invited by Masons to Holiday Dinner

On Wednesday, December 13 the Manchester Masons invite all Manchester senior citizens to the Annual Holiday Dinner. This seasonal event will be held at the Manchester Masonic Lodge beginning at 4:30 p.m. for appetizers and dinner. This party is free of charge to the first 80 Manchester senior citizens that call to make a reservation.

The C.O.A. van will be available for transportation to and from the Masonic Lodge.

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# Shop Thoughts: Third Time's a Charm

By Hannah Harlow

How many times do you need to hear about a book before you decide you want to read it? The answer varies, of course, depending on the description, who tells you about it, maybe even the cover. I first heard about *Absolution*, Alice McDermott's new novel, from—as is often the case—one of my sales reps. It was one of 194 titles I ordered that day from Macmillan's Fall 2023 list.

Three months later, at a trade show for New England booksellers, I found myself in conversation with an old bookseller friend who splits her time between bookstores in Maine (in the summer) and Pennsylvania. I knew we had similar taste in novels, so when she told me she had just read and loved *Absolution*, I took note. Later that day, I passed Macmillan's booth and grabbed one of the last advance reading copies for the book left on the table. At that trade show I picked up a dozen other advance reading copies, more than I could possibly read. (Not to mention the dozens more already stacked in my office and next to my bed.)

Then a news item crossed my social media transom: Ann Patchett, continuing to tour for her newest book *Tom Lake*, was telling people to read *Absolution*, that she thought it was going to win this year's Pulitzer Prize for fiction. That night, I started reading.

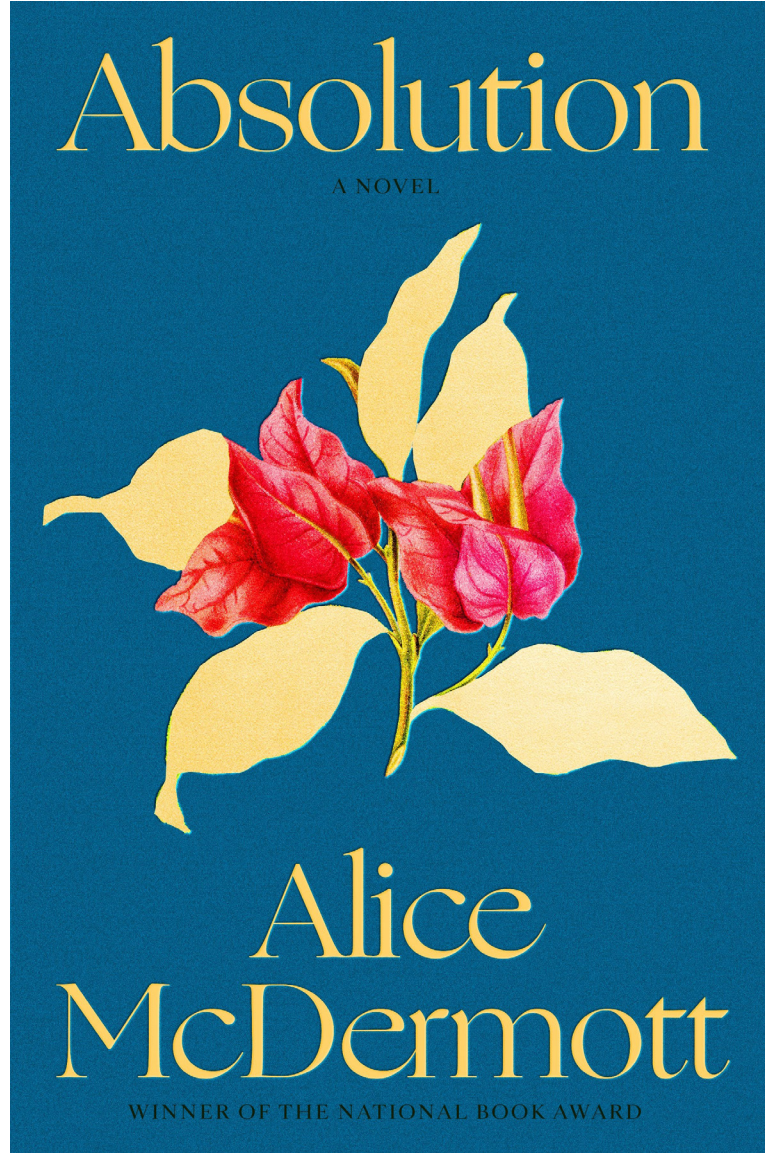
I had never read Alice McDermott.



*Absolution*, the new book out by Alice McDermott. Courtesy image

She's most famous for her National Book Award-winning novel *Charming Billy*. She's known for writing about Irish-American New Yorkers, and while that's still the case in *Absolution*, this time she's set the story in Saigon 1963. Newly married Patricia Kelly arrives with her husband, an engineer who has taken a job working with the Navy, and believes it's her greatest duty to be a good "helpmeet" to her husband. (The term makes me want to gag, too, but such were the times.)

Once in Saigon Patricia meets the slightly older Charlene, a charismatic if bossy woman who seems to have everything Patricia wants: confidence, children, direction. Patricia allows herself to get caught up in Charlene's philanthropy, raising money in order to buy small gifts to hand out at the hospital. As Char-



lene's urge to help others increases, so do the stakes, until a final act of altruism puts Patricia in a tricky situation and forces her to make an excruciating decision.

The book asks us to confront the question of who acts of giving are really for, the recipient or the giver, in both obvious and subtle ways. In doing so, it comes at the war sideways and is all the more powerful for it. After I closed the book for the last time, I was haunted by certain scenes, ones I'm sure I'll be going back to again and again to see how McDermott worked her magic.

Patricia tells her story from a distance of some 50 years, presumably in a very long letter she is writing to Charlene's daughter, Rainey, who was a child when Patricia first met her in Saigon. They are now reconnecting after Charlene's death. This distance gives a much wiser Patricia the gift of reflection, and Rainey's input allows us to better understand Charlene. I think I'll leave it at that. Really I don't want to tell you anymore than I already have. Sometimes it's better not to know too much. Sometimes you just need a few people to tell you a book is worth reading, so let me be the first (or second or third) to say, *Absolution* is really good.

Hannah Harlow is owner of The Book Shop, an independent bookstore in Beverly Farms. Harlow writes bi-weekly recommendations for us. See more of what she recommends reading at thecricket.com.

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The Manchester Woman's Club (MWC) has launched its annual Friendship Tree lighting program tradition, with local residents sponsoring bulbs on the tree at the Town Common when it is lit up for the season on Sunday December 3, as part of the Holiday Stroll in Manchester.

Each year the MWC sponsors the program which includes a concert on the Town Green, hot cocoa pro-

vided by the Manchester Masonic Lodge and served by the MWC, and the lighting of the Friendship Tree ceremony starts at 3:30 p.m.

The following people have already sponsored a bulb on the tree in the name of loved ones. The Friendship Tree has a long history dating back to 1965 when the MWC organized a campaign to raise funds to acquire a tree on the Town Green, as a "symbol of a friendly community."

### SPONSOR A BULB DONORS



**Lighting of the Friendship Tree Sunday, Dec. 3**

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Community Carol Sing: 2:30 - 3:15 p.m.

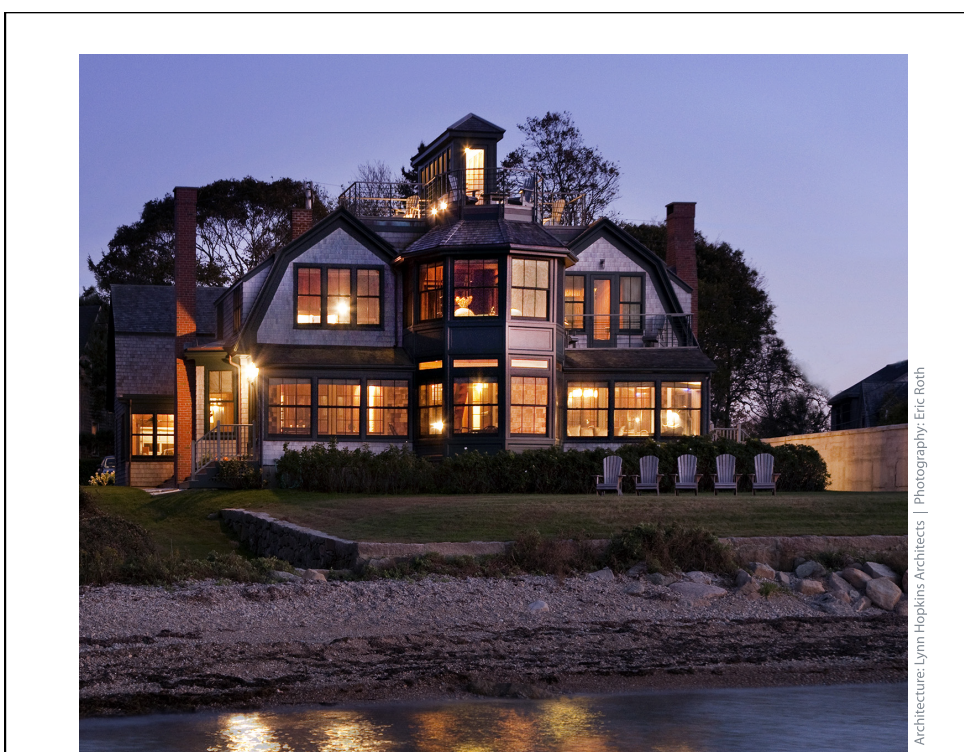
Inside First Parish Church Meeting House.

Community Friendship Tree Lighting & Program: 3:30 p.m.

MERHS Band, Chorus & Sound Waves, performance by Ballet de Mar School. Chocolate donated by the Manchester Masons!

The Friendship Tree has a long history dating back to 1965 when the MWC organized a campaign to raise funds to acquire a tree on the Town Green, as a "symbol of a friendly community."

### Manchester Woman's Club



Architecture: Lynn Hopkins Architects | Photography: Eric Roth

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**Santa Arrives by Boat**  
Saturday, December 2 | 1 - 3 PM | Masconomo Park

**Friendship Tree Lighting & Program**  
Sunday, December 3 | 3:30 PM | Town Hall Common

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# Monomoy Ends ME Field Hockey's Memorable Season

By Jason Brisbois

The 2023 season seemed to end one game too soon for the Manchester Essex field hockey team.

The Hornets enjoyed a stellar regular season, and looked fairly dominant on their way to their Final Four matchup with Monomoy in the MIAA Div. 4 tournament. A win there would have put Manchester Essex into the state final game for the second year in a row, with the opportunity to finally knock off nemesis Uxbridge -- the Spartans knocked the Hornets out of the playoffs in the semi-final game in 2021, and then again in the state final last year.

That dream matchup, however, was not meant to be. Manchester Essex lost to the Sharks by a 2-1 score on Nov. 15. The loss ended another sensational season for the Hornets, even if it didn't end in the game that the team was aiming for from the very start of the fall.

"Oh, absolutely, we're nothing but proud of this season," says Manchester Essex field hockey coach Courtney Brown. "While we would have loved making it to the finals, the girls gave the semi-finals game everything they had. I'd rather lose a tight game knowing we tried our hardest." She adds: "More so, the girls and I share the same feelings of just being sad that this team's run is over. They have been my favorite group to coach and we'll miss the seniors dearly."

While it ultimately ended in defeat, Manchester Essex was in this one right up until the end.

"The first half of the game was back-and-forth, and yes, a very close game overall," says Brown. "In the third quarter, Laila Mears was able



Senior Hornet, Caelie Patrick, drives through two Monomoy defenders during the Final-Four matchup with the Sharks in Hingham.

Photo Vicki Donnellan

to touch the ball over the goal line on the right post. This really gave us energy and drive to take control for the rest of the quarter."

The Hornets gave Monomoy too many opportunities near the end of the game, however, and struggled to claw back into things after the Sharks tallied two quick scores. "In the fourth, we gave up several corners, and ultimately, that four-minute series of play wilted us," explains Brown. "Monomoy scored just minutes apart,

leaving us only five minutes in the rest of the fourth quarter to try to rally."

Caelie Patrick, Aisling Twombly and goaltender Bridgid Carovillano all played well in the Monomoy game, drawing praise from their coach.

"Caelie, Aisling, and Brigid were some of the standout players from this game," says Brown. "Brigid made some incredible saves, and Cae and Aisling worked hard to get the ball out of our defensive circle. Brig had eight saves,

which undoubtedly kept us in the game."

While there is understandable disappointment in this special season coming to an end, the fall of 2023 was certainly no disappointment when looking back at the Hornets' accomplishments.

"Remarkable," Brown says of the season that was. "With a record of 17-2-3, I don't think anyone could argue with that. We won our league, earned a CAL Player of the Year and Coach of the Year. This team also grew im-

mensely close and it showed on the field." "Remarkable," could also be used to describe the contributions of the team's senior class.

"We are graduating six incredible seniors," says Brown. "They're each so different from one another, but have each made an incredible impact on the program and their teammates. I can honestly say that some of my best players ever are in this graduating class."

Now that 2023 is in the books, there is still plenty to

look forward to in 2024 for the MERHS field hockey program.

"We are lucky to have 14 returners, but still very big shoes to fill," explains Brown. "Our greatest challenge next year will be working to our returning team's strengths and figuring out which positions/combinations of players work best together. The team will be relying big time on Summer Demeo on defense/midfield, Abby Kent at forward/mid, and Brigid Carovillano in goal."



ME Hornet, Mechi O'Neil, officially committed to Loyola University of Maryland for Women's Lacrosse. Congratulations Mechi on a great sports career. Courtesy Photo

## ScottEnergy Community Bulletin Board

Thursday - Sunday Nov. 30 - Dec. 3

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ME graduate, Shea Furse, qualified for her first Olympic trials in the 200-meter freestyle. Olympic trials will be held this June at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. Shea swims for the UGA Dawgs. Congratulations Shea.

Courtesy Photo

# ESSEX ECHO.

## Town Administrator's Report

Board of Selectmen's Meeting of Nov. 13, 2023  
Report covers from October 24, 2023 to November 10, 2023

### Affordable Housing Trust Update

Chairman Pereen also chairs the Essex Affordable Housing Trust. The Trust was to meet on October 26, 2023 but a quorum was not achieved. The meeting was to feature a discussion of the consideration by the upcoming Fall Town Meeting of the transfer of an additional \$100,000 from the Community Preservation Fund into the Trust (bringing the Trust's total to \$200,000). The Community Preservation Committee has already voted to support this second transfer of funds. In addition, we have learned that the Town's application to the Massachusetts Housing Partnership's (MHP) Affordable Housing Trust Fund Intensive Technical Assistance Program was not successful. MHP has commented that they agree that the subject of our application, the development of a Housing Production Plan (HPP) is a critical next step for the Essex Trust. However, MHP does not have the expertise in-house to assist the Town with that endeavor. MHP recommended that the Town get in touch with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) to determine if MAPC has technical assistance funding available in the near future to start to make progress on an HPP. The Town Planner made that contact and technical assistance funding is not likely, given that Essex had received a great deal of technical assistance on other projects lately. Options include possibly spending a portion of the Trust's own funding on a HPP or applying for a different State grant program in the spring. The cost of developing a HPP is estimated to be \$80,000-\$100,000.

### Economic Development Committee Meeting Summary

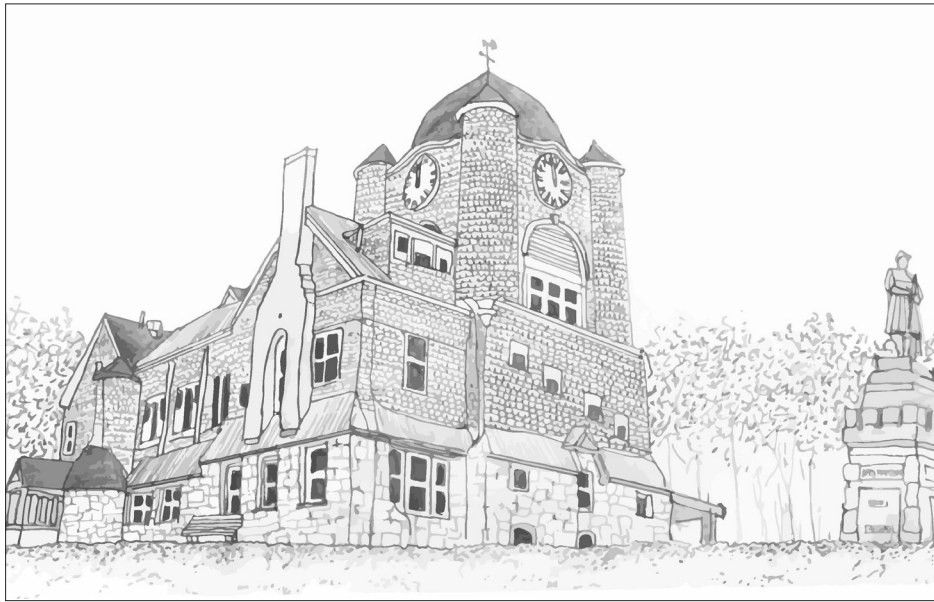
The Town Administrator (TA) attended the subject meeting on November 2, 2023 along with Chairman Pereen and Town Planner Menon. The meeting featured a discussion with respect to various Fall Town Meeting articles that are supported by the Committee and various Committee members committed to reading various motions. The Committee also agreed on the final format of an informational mailer that will be sent out with the next round of tax bills in later December.

### Replacement of Public Computer Kiosk in Town Hall

We have a public computer kiosk in Town Hall for public Internet access. The kiosk is particularly useful if an applicant for some type of permit that is only offered online needs access after discussing an application with one of our offices. The kiosk had been running on an older model Chromebox which can no longer accommodate the newest versions of Chrome (which our on-line permitting systems require in order to function properly). As such, the TA has replaced the Chromebox and the kiosk can again access our on-line permitting systems.

### Summer Camp and Youth/Adult Enrichment Services Contract Update

At the last meeting, the



Board voted to award a five-year contract for summer camp and youth/adult enrichment programs to the YMCA of the North Shore. The YMCA will soon sign the contract and is ready to begin marketing the summer camp right away. The YMCA will then gear up to establish and promote a variety of youth and adult enrichment programs on a year-round basis.

### Zoning Review Project Discussion Meeting

Mr. Zubricki attended the subject, virtual meeting along with Planning Board Chair Lisa O'Donnell, Planning Board Vice-Chair Simone Early, Town Planner Dana Menon, and personnel from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC). The meeting featured a discussion with respect to the Town's official status concerning Section 3A of Chapter 40A of the General Laws, which requires all communities with MBTA transit service within or near their borders to ensure a certain level of multi-family zoning is available. Since Essex is known as an "adjacent small town", our existing zoning very likely already complies with Section 3A. The Town Planner is working presently with MAPC to file the official application for final compliance status with the Commonwealth. The group also discussed the overall plan with respect to the MAPC zoning review project, including the various topic areas that the Planning Board has highlighted as being most important to focus work on. While some initial proposals are being considered by the Fall Town Meeting on November 13, 2023, the Planning Board hopes to have additional proposals, including perhaps for some specific zones, for the Annual Town Meeting in May of 2024. The next opportunity for public comment will be on December 6, 2023.

### Public Safety Building - Building Envelope Assessment Report

Copeland Building Envelope Consultants has completed its assessment of various building envelope issues that have started to appear with respect to the new public safety facility on John Wise Avenue. Generally, Copeland looked at stain delamination on the cedar shingle portions of the building, miscellaneous HardiPlank grout issues, various board and batten siding issues, and PVC trim issues. Correcting all of these issues may carry a cost as high as \$330,000 with the replacement of the cedar shingles using a maintenance-free product accounting for approximately one-third of that total cost.

### List of Possible Departments/Organizations for Benefactor Donations

At the last meeting, the Board asked that the TA pull together a list of Town departments and non-profit organizations within the Town that potential benefactors (such as BB Botanics) could choose to donate to. Mr. Zubricki has developed that list for the Board's review.

### Massachusetts Health Officers Association Annual Meeting & Trade Show

The TA attended the subject conference on Cape Cod on October 25 and 26, 2023. The conference provides an excellent networking opportunity with respect to public health issues and allows us to meet continuing education requirements for Registered Sanitarian, approved System Inspector, and approved Soil Evaluator certifications.

### Fall Town Meeting Motions

The TA has prepared motions for the Fall Town Meeting - to be utilized at the Fall Town Meeting later this evening.

### Planning Board Public Hearing for Proposed Zoning Bylaw Changes

Mr. Zubricki attended the subject public hearing along with Chairman Pereen and Selectman Hippen on November 8, 2023. A public hearing is required prior to the discussion of proposed zoning bylaw changes at any town meeting. The Planning Board Chairman summarized each of the four zoning bylaw proposals and those in attendance had an opportunity to ask detailed questions.

### Shared Streets and Spaces Street Lighting Grant Extension

As the Board is aware, the Town is under contract with Pine Ridge Technologies, Inc. (PRT) for the subsurface preparation work necessary to install decorative streetlights in a portion of the downtown area. We have had difficulty in obtaining the bolts that need to be embedded into what will be custom-cast concrete light pole anchors and this delay has the project coming up against cold weather. In addition to trying to avoid pouring the new sidewalk sections in cold weather, we know that the light poles themselves will not be available for installation until the spring. As such, it will be much better to just put the subsurface preparation work off until the spring and complete all of the work at once (PRT is willing to sign a no-cost, time-only change order for the subsurface work contract that puts the work completion deadline out to April 30, 2024). This option is particularly important since it will not leave light pole anchors with exposed bolts in place over the winter (a tripping hazard and a hazard for the sidewalk plow). MA DOT,

which is the grant awarding authority, approved a six-month extension for the project (through June 30, 2024) after we filed a request for extension in recognition of the issues discussed above. Our hope is that the Fall Town Meeting will approve the necessary funding to complete the project (i.e. all of the work beyond the already-contracted subsurface work) and that we can go ahead and order the light poles for delivery over the winter. A change order with PRT or a State Contract quote from PRT for light assembly, placement, and wiring is an option that may be considered for the spring. It is also still possible that another municipal light department will be interested in quoting that work.

### Northeastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council Membership

The TA attended a meeting hosted by the Rockport Police Department on October 23, 2023 where personnel from the Northeastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council (NEMLEC) presented the organization's offerings to us and the Rockport and Manchester town administrators (along with the police chiefs from all three communities). NEMLEC has been in existence since the late 1960's and operates by charging an identical annual fee of \$5,500 from each member community, at a minimum. The Chief of Police may be approaching the Board in the near future to discuss possible membership further.

### Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Public Survey

At the last meeting, Martin Pillsbury from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) presented the status of the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan update project and began to take public input on the project. He noted that MAPC has developed an on-line public survey as part of the project and asked that the Town assist with the publication and promotion of the survey address.

The survey is available at <http://www.mapc.ma/EssexSurvey> and we have promoted it on both of the Town's Facebook pages, the Essex News and Notices private Facebook page, our subscribed Town News e-mail list, and at the Town website. The survey will remain open through December 15, 2023 and will help the planning team formulate the final content of the plan as the project continues. We have also shared the survey link with the Manchester Essex Regional School District in the event that the District would like to encourage high school students to participate.

## LIBRARY NEWS

T.O.H.P. Burnha  
Public Library



During story time, Thanksgiving pies were "baked" in time for upcoming holiday. Courtesy Photo

### Community Book Group

Monday, December 11 at 10 a.m. We will be discussing "Ask Again, Yes", by Mary Beth Keane.

### Meet the Elf On The Shelf

Tuesday, December 12 at 4 p.m. Kids ages 2-10, please reserve your spot.

### Holiday Baking Demo

Tuesday, December 5 at 7 p.m. with Chef Erin Jeanne McDowell.

### Holiday Romance Book Recommendations

Monday, December 11 at 7 p.m. with "Booklist" reviewer, John Charles.

### Regional Social Worker

Wednesdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in the first-floor meeting room. Free, private, and confidential, learn about resources, gain strategies and skill to assist in stress reduction and management. No appointment necessary.

### Monthly Scavenger Hunt

Stop by and enjoy our themed scavenger hunt all throughout the library.

### Puppet Story Time

Tuesday, November 28 at 2 p.m. with the Waldorf School at Moraine Farm.

### Story Hours Begin

Wednesdays at 9 a.m. for Wee Ones, ages 0-2 yrs. Twenty minutes for songs, rhymes, stories and creative play. Please register. 10 a.m. Preschool ages 3-5 years. Thirty minutes of songs, rhymes and stories read aloud and concludes with a themed craft. Please register.

### CFCE Science Thursdays

Thursdays 9-10 a.m. for ages 2-6 years old. Join Ms. Christine for some STEAM fun, you will listen to stories, then explore science, technology, engineering, art, and math. Space is limited so please register.

## ESSEX POLICE NOTES

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12

7:20 a.m. Story St., directed patrol, secured/checked.  
12:00 p.m. Southern Ave., motor vehicle stop, citation issued.  
5:08 p.m. Conomo Point Rd., watercraft incident, secured/checked.  
6:24 p.m. Eastern Ave., motor vehicle stop, verbal warning.

### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13

7:28 a.m. Main St., citizen assist, assisted as needed.  
4:55 p.m. John Wise Ave., motor vehicle stop, verbal warning.  
6:09 p.m. John Wise Ave., motor vehicle stop, verbal warning.  
9:27 p.m. Southern Ave., motor vehicle stop, verbal warning.

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

8:19 a.m. Western Ave., selective enforcement, secured/checked.  
11:04 a.m. Conomo Point Rd., directed patrol, secured/checked.  
2:45 p.m. Eastern Ave., male fall, transported to hospital.  
3:06 p.m. Western Ave., animal complaint, assisted as needed.

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

9:37 a.m. Southern Ave., motor vehicle stop, verbal warning.  
12:35 p.m. Martin St., directed patrol, no action taken.  
2:39 p.m. John Wise Ave., motor vehicle stop, verbal warning.  
5:30 p.m. Chebacco Terrace, male sick, transported to hospital.

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16

2:25 a.m. Story St., directed patrol, secured/checked.  
5:56 a.m. Main St., directed patrol, secured/checked.  
6:15 a.m. John Wise Ave., directed patrol, secured/checked.  
6:24 a.m. Centennial Grove Rd., directed patrol, secured/checked.

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17

10:35 a.m. John Wise Ave., citizen assist, assisted as needed.  
1:09 p.m. Martin St., directed patrol, secured/checked.  
6:09 p.m. Main St., motor vehicle stop, citation issued.  
9:32 p.m. Main St., motor vehicle stop, citation issued.

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

12:53 a.m. Chebacco Terrace, directed patrol, secured/checked.  
7:45 a.m. Southern Ave., parking complaint, no action taken.  
2:14 p.m. Story St., directed patrol, no action taken.  
6:57 p.m. Spring St., directed patrol, secured/checked.

## Essex Locals | Nov 24

### 115 Years Ago - 1908

The tree men have been kept busy these few warm days finding and destroying large quantities of moth nests. Some of the trees along Western Avenue are quite badly infested, and are said to be the tallest in town, requiring a vast amount of climbing.

### 90 Years Ago - 1933

A most enjoyable event of the week was a costume party held at the social hall of the Universalist society Monday evening by the dancing classes. All of the participants being in costume making a very colorful affair.

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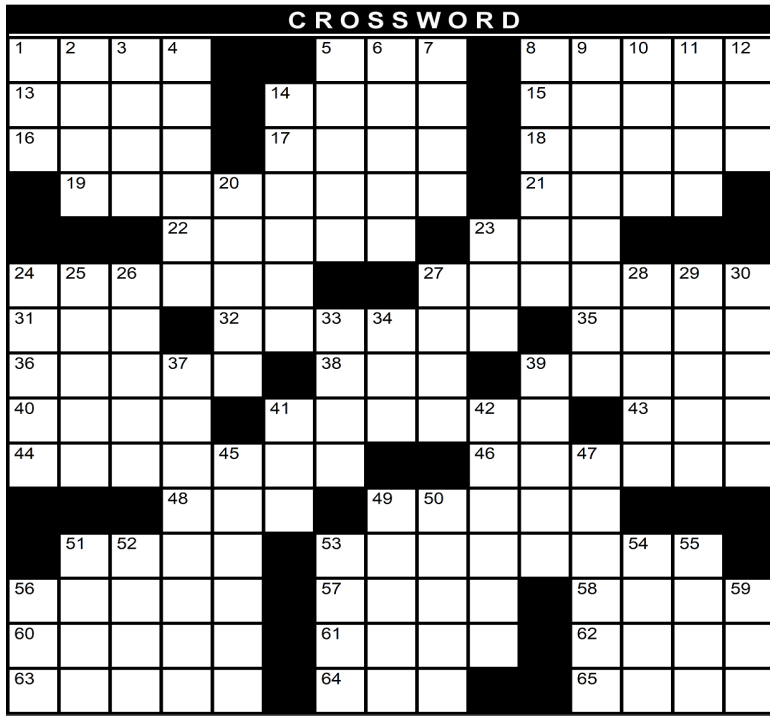
# Puzzle

## ACROSS

1. \*Heaven's on Fire" band
5. \*Setting of "Cheers" TV show
8. Derive
13. "I'm \_\_\_ you!"
14. Gas station brand
15. Affirmatives
16. Image in Orthodox Church
17. \*Robert Wagner or Stephanie Powers, on TV
18. \*Vote for H.W. Bush, e.g.
19. \*Weird Al's last name
21. Forum, pl.
22. Dog-\_\_\_ book
23. Clingy plant
24. Spiky succulent
27. Accumulates (2 words)
31. Turkish military leader
32. Consequence
35. \*Wintour of Vogue
36. Zoroaster follower
38. E in B.C.E.
39. #53 Down, third person singular
40. Do like exhaust pipe
41. Hertz' offering
43. Extra cost
44. Expert, in U.K. (2 words)
46. \*Ricky Martin's boy band
48. Arrival time acronym
49. \*Piano player Lee Curreri on "Fame"
51. \*Baltimore player
53. \*Mikhail Gorbachev's policy
56. Recipient of money
57. \*Umberto Eco's "The \_\_\_ of the Rose"
58. Oration station
60. Some tournaments
61. In the thick of
62. Place, in French
63. Not at all good
64. Bitty
65. Other than what is

## DOWN

1. Ornamental pond dweller



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2. Deep black
3. Greek promenade
4. Shakespeare's output
5. \* Lou Reed's "Home of the \_\_\_"
6. Like thick smoke
7. Campus military org.
8. Attractive to look at
9. \*\*Back to the Future" car
10. One on drugs
11. Cecum, pl.
12. Is, in Paris
14. "A horse is \_\_\_\_, of course, of course"
20. Resin-producing tree
23. Took the bait
24. \*Christopher Reeve's sartorial style in "Superman II"
25. Old World lizard
26. Indigenous person from Suriname or Guyana
27. Surveyor's map
28. Mix-up

# Sudoku

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

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**Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9. Solutions on Page 9**

29. Not married
30. Promenade in Spain
33. Tournament ranking
34. Remains container
37. \*Washington's volcano Mount \_\_\_
39. \*Close of "The Big Chill"
41. Genetic initials
42. Entertained
45. Affirm to be true
47. Cavatappi or udon, sing.
49. Scapegoat's due
50. Fiber crop variety
51. Head of family
52. Deed hearing
53. Chew on
54. Schooner canvas
55. \*TV's "Family \_\_\_"
56. Sound of explosion
59. \*\*Peggy \_\_\_ Got Married"

# Religious Notes

## Cornerstone Church

We gather for worship each Sunday at 10 a.m. and welcome you to join us for a time of studying the scriptures and praising the Lord. Other ministry updates and details can be found on our website, www.CornerstoneNorthShore.org. If you have any special needs or concerns, please let us know! We're here to serve!

## Visitation Parish - Mass Schedule

The Visitation Parish Mass Schedule:  
Sacred Heart Church - Saturday Vigil Mass - Virtual Mass - on our YouTube as well as www.mecatholic.org  
Sunday Mass - 8:30 a.m.

St. John the Baptist Church - Saturday Vigil Mass - 5 p.m.  
Sunday Mass - 10 a.m.

Please go to our website: www.mecatholic.org for Sacramental Information as well as Parish Registration if you are new to town or looking to join a Catholic Church.

## The Assumption of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church

8 Lafayette Road, Ipswich Mass.  
Church services, with Father Christopher Kolentsas, are held each Sunday.

Sunday's Divine Liturgy, with Father Christopher, starts at 9:30 a.m. followed by a weekly sermon. All are welcome to attend.

## First Parish Church Manchester-by-the-Sea

Worship service, Sunday Nov. 26,

2023, 10 a.m., we invite everyone to join us for hospitality following the service. Worship Leader, Rev. Ellie Richardson

Music led by Dr. Herman Weiss, with the First Parish Choir.  
Monday Friends of the COA Senior Drop in 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.

Coming up in December, mark your calendar! Happening before the outdoor concert in coordination with The Manchester Woman's Club tree lighting event, Sunday, December 3, -- Community Carol Sing at 2:30-3:15 p.m. inside First Parish Church, 10 Central St. Join us around the piano to sing some traditional carols and get in the mood for the tree lighting. Happening no matter the weather.  
Sunday, December 10, 2nd Annual Messiah Sing, 7:30 p.m. with a re-

ception held following.

## St. John's Episcopal Church (Beverly Farms)

FALL SERVICE SCHEDULE - 8 a.m. Rite I & 10 a.m. Rite II  
Our Children's Chapel is the first Sunday of every month. Our first children's chapel will be October 1.

## Gloucester Unitarian Universalist Church

10 Church Street, holds Sunday morning services at 10 a.m. in-person in its historic sanctuary, as well as online. Please visit the church's website, www.gloucesteruu.org, for the link to the livestream. Activities provided for elementary school-aged children during the service. Masks are always now optional. Our church is handicap accessible. All are welcome.

## Quaker Meeting

Quakers of the North Shore worship every Sunday from 10-11 a.m. at the Glen Urquhart School: 74 Hart Street, Beverly Farms, Mass. It is an unprogrammed Quaker Meeting. There is no Pastor (or leader) save the spirit of God in and among us. Our worship is primarily silent. When a worshiper is moved, it may include a brief, spoken ministry offered in a 'spirit of worship.' Friends gather quietly, awaiting the experience of God's presence.

If you are new to Quakers, someone will be happy to talk with you and answer any questions you may have. Send an email to: northshorequaker@gmail.com. First Day School, our Children's Program, consists of forest walks near the Glen Urquhart School led by Jessica Kagle from the Kestrel Foundation. Blessings To You.

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Kevin Fruh | 978.500.7409



**GLOUCESTER**  
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McDermott Group | 978.857.0343



**ROCKPORT**  
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The Cronin Team | 978.609.0740



**NEWBURYPORT**  
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# Holiday Hazards for Pets



By Lawrence Lamb, DVM

The holiday season is upon us, and many people plan to include their companions in the festivities. As you get ready for the holidays, it is important to try to keep your pet's eating and exercise habits as close to their normal routine as possible. Also, please keep pets clear of the following unhealthy treats, toxic plants and dangerous decorations.

**Be Careful with Seasonal Plants and Decorations**

- **The Christmas Tree:** Securely anchor your Christmas tree so it doesn't tip and fall, causing possible injury to your pet. This will also prevent the tree water—which may contain fertilizers that can cause stomach upset—from spilling. Stagnant tree water is a breeding ground for bacteria, and your pet could end up with nausea or diarrhea should he imbibe.
- **Avoid Mistletoe and Holly:** Holly, when ingested, can cause pets to suffer nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Mistletoe can cause gastrointestinal upset and cardiovascular problems. And many varieties of lilies can cause kidney failure in cats if ingested.
- **Tinsel:** Kitties love this sparkly, light-catching "toy" that's easy to bat around and carry in their mouths. But a taste can lead to a swallow, which can lead to an obstructed digestive tract, severe vomiting, dehydration and possible surgery.
- **Candles:** Don't leave lighted candles unattended. Pets may burn themselves or cause a fire if they knock candles over. Be sure to use appropriate candle holders, placed on a stable surface. And if you leave the room, put the candle out!
- **Wires, Glass and Plastic:** Keep wires, batteries and glass or plastic ornaments out of paws' reach. A wire can deliver a potentially lethal electrical shock and a punctured battery can cause burns to the mouth and esophagus, while shards of breakable ornaments can damage your pet's mouth and digestive tract.

**Avoid Holiday Food Dan-**

gers

- **No Sweets:** By now you know not to feed your pets chocolate, and anything sweetened with xylitol, but do you know the lengths to which a pet will go to chomp on something tempting? Make sure to keep your pets away from the table and unattended plates of food and be sure to secure the lids on garbage cans.
- **Leftovers:** Fatty, spicy and no-no human foods, as well as bones, should not be fed to your companion Pet. Pets can join the festivities in other fun ways that won't lead to costly medical bills.
- **Alcoholic Beverages:** If your celebration includes adult holiday beverages, be sure to place your unattended alcoholic drinks where pets cannot get to them. If ingested, your pet could become weak, ill and may even go into a coma, possibly resulting in death from respiratory failure.
- **Special Treats:** Looking to stuff your pet's stockings? Stick with chew toys that are basically indestructible, Kongs that can be stuffed with healthy foods or chew treats that are designed to be safely digestible. Long, stringy things are a feline's dream, but the riskiest toys for cats involve ribbon, yarn and loose little parts that can get stuck in the intestines, often necessitating surgery. Surprise kitty with a new ball that's too big to swallow, a stuffed catnip toy or the interactive cat dancer.

**Plan a Pet-Safe Holiday Gathering**

- **House Rules:** If your animal-loving guests would like to give your pets a little extra attention and exercise while you're busy tending to the party, ask them to feel free to start a nice play or petting session. A walk is always welcome.
- **Keep Meds Away:** Make sure all of your medications are locked behind secure doors, and be sure to tell your guests to keep their meds zipped up and packed away, too.
- **If Possible, a Room of Their Own:** Give your pet his own quiet space to retreat to—complete with

fresh water and a place to snuggle. Shy pups and cats might want to hide out under a piece of furniture, in their carrying case or in a separate room away from the hubbub.

- **New Year's Noise:** As you count down to the new year, please keep in mind that strings of thrown confetti can get lodged in a cat's intestines, if ingested, perhaps necessitating surgery. Noisy poppers can terrify pets and cause possible damage to sensitive ears. And remember that many pets are also scared of fireworks, so be sure to secure them in a safe, escape-proof area as midnight approaches.

**Urgent Care: Just in Case**

Your animal may become poisoned in spite of your best efforts to prevent it. You should keep telephone numbers for your veterinarian, a local emergency veterinary service, and the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center 1-888-4ANI-HELP (1-888-426-4435, for a fee) in a convenient location. If you suspect that your pet has ingested something poisonous, seek medical attention immediately.

**ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center**  
**1-888-4ANI-HELP (for a fee)**  
**1-888-426-4435**  
[www.apcc.aspc.org](http://www.apcc.aspc.org)

**ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center**  
 The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center, an operat-

**PUBLIC NOTICE**



**Town Hall**  
 10 Central Street  
 Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA, 01944  
**SELECT BOARD**  
**Public Hearing**

In accordance with Chapter 369, Acts of 1982, Section 1, the Select Board of the Town of Manchester-by-the-Sea will hold a public hearing on the determination of the percentage of tax levy to be borne by each class of real property for Fiscal Year 2024. Hearing is to be held on Monday, December 4, 2023, at 6:30pm in room 5 of Town Hall and by Zoom.

Posted to MNPA website:  
<http://masspublicnotices.org>  
 November 17, 2023 MC  
 November 24, 2023

Solution to puzzles on page 8

K	I	S	S		B	A	R		E	D	U	C	E			
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2	6	4	1	3	9	7	8	5
1	5	7	6	2	8	9	4	3
5	8	6	2	9	7	3	1	4
3	7	1	8	4	6	5	9	2
9	4	2	3	1	5	6	7	8

**PET OF THE WEEK**



**I'M MUMMY**

Hey, I'm Mummy. I'm a year-old black spayed girl looking for my forever home. I came to Cape Ann Animal Aid with some other cats from a hoarding situation. I am a shy girl who isn't quite sure why I'm here and would love a family to adopt me. I will allow you to pat me if you are slow and with due time

I will come out of my shell and show my cute personality. Do I sound like a perfect match for you? If so, stop by and visit me today! Visit [www.capeannanimalaid.org](http://www.capeannanimalaid.org) for more information about me and all the other animals waiting for homes here at the Christopher Cutler Rich Animal Shelter, 4 Paws Lane in Gloucester.



Dr. Lamb is the Veterinarian at the Manchester Animal Hospital.

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At this time of celebration, our thoughts turn gratefully to you with warm appreciation. We hope your Thanksgiving was spent with family and friends.



Kim Arntsen



Cindy Bane



Gretchen Berg



Jeanne Carpenter



Alle Cutler



Ida Doane



Holly Fabyan



Robert Garlitz



Tracy Gothie



Christine Grammas



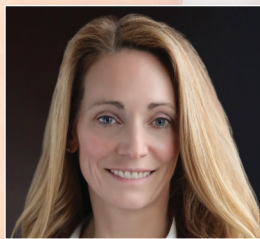
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HAPPY THANKSGIVING



COLDWELL BANKER REALTY

Thank you all

for your help and donations to our recent Food Drive for the Open Door this past week. It was a wonderful success to help many families have a brighter holiday season.