

#### VOL. 136, NO. 29

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2023

#### PRICE: \$1.25

#### BRIEFLY

#### Handel's Messiah Sing Dec. 10

Last year, the First Parish Church on Central Street hosted a very special historic holiday tradition that harkened back to the 19th Century when it performed Handel's "Messiah Sing" as it was originally designed-as a choral collaboration between audience, chorus and orchestra. Attendees are provided with music, and the full show will be presented under the direction of Conductor Herman Weiss and supported with professional musicians and orchestra. Last year, this was an incredibly dramatic "surround sound" holiday music experience. Sunday, Dec. 10, at 7:30 p.m., 10 Central St., Manchester, with a reception held after. \$20 suggested donation.

#### Also on Sunday, Dec. 10 ...

The Paul Madore Chorale will present a seasonal concert, "Follow the Star," starting at 3 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in Beverly. Benjamin Britten's "A Ceremony of Caroles" is the major piece that will be presented. Tickets \$20 each, and are available at the door.

#### Holiday Drag Brunch at Boo Bird in Manchester

Then, also on Sunday, Dec. 10, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. it's the Second Annual Holiday Drag Brunch, hosted by the North Shore Pride organization at Boo Bird in Manchester. Last year this event was a total hit, with a sold-out crowd at Boo Bird on Central Street. Come on down. Tickets \$20, and the event is 18+. Best if purchased



On Saturday, the Jolly Old Elf himself arrived by (sleigh) boat at Manchester's Masconomo Park. From his throne on the band stand he made the day special for dozens of youngsters as he listened to their requests for Christmas gifts. For some it was the first time in Santa's presence and the reactions from the children were heart-warming. The Jingle Bell Walk was sponsored by the Greater Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce, Manchester Community Center, Manchester Mothers' Club and the Parks and Recreation Department.

#### Photo Paul Clark

## **OMG, IT'S MBTA, CST, SLV, MCC!**

By Gregory T. Federspiel

ven in a small town we can have our list of acronyms that can make for confusing conversations! It is time for updates on these projects with a minimum of jargon.

The MBTA Task Force, the citizen's group that is researching options for how the Town might best comply with the state's mandate to allow multi-family housing on some 39 acres in Town by right (meaning no special permitting



a broad spectrum of experi- Task Force page on the ences that will help the Task Force in developing recom-

Town's web site will provide on-going updates.

range of topics including traffic management, environmental protection measures, aesthetics, and impacts on municipal services. The Planning Board will be hiring consultants to help assess these submittals and to develop appropriate conditions on the proposed development that enable the project to proceed without undue impacts on the Town. Indeed, the goal is to have a project that provides a net benefit to the community. Voters approved modifications to our zoning regulations to allow the project to

through the appeal process before the state Housing Appeals Commission. Our Zoning Board of Appeals denied the project and the applicant is appealing the denial to the state. A site walk for the HAC was held a few weeks ago. Many people opposed to the project assembled at the parking lot to the Wilderness Area but only parties to the appeal were allowed on the site walk. The formal hearing before the HAC is slated to begin March 4th and will last a week or so. A decision is expected about a year later. Further appeals to the courts may take place, adding additional years before a final decision is known.

in advance, on Eventbrite.

#### Finally, Sunday, It's Santa's MBTS Fire **Truck Tour!**

Santa's Tour of the Town is set for Sunday, December 10, starting at noon. This tour, sponsored by the Amaral Bailey Post # 113, American Legion and the Seaside Fireman's Club of the Manchester Fire Department will visit many neighborhoods around town for Santa's last trip in town before he goes back to the North Pole to rest up his big night on the 24th Families are welcome to drop in at the Manchester Fire Station at 11:45 a.m. December 10th to see Santa and visit with him before he gets up on the fire trucks for the trip around town. Santa will have animal crackers for all at the station as well as those who come out to the sidewalk in front of their houses to welcome him to their neighborhood during the tour. The tour will leave the station at 12 noon and travel around town. The full route for the tour was in last week's Cricket (12/1/23) and also will be posted on the Manchester Parks and Recreation site and will be sent out by email blast. Listen for the sirens as the MPD and MFD announce Santa's arrival into your neighborhood. Come out to say "Hi!" give Santa some cookies or a letter you want him to read and most of all let him know you will be waiting for him on Christmas Eve.

#### **Manchester Seniors Invited by Masons** to Holiday Dinner

On Wednesday, December 13 the Manchester Masons will host the Manchester Annual Holiday Dinner for seniors. Held at the Masonic Lodge beginning at 4:30 p.m. for appetizers and followed by a lovely dinner. The event is free, but reservations are required with the COA. This event has been hosted by the Manchester Msons for more than 20 years, underwritten entirely all these years by one generous anonymous resident.

process) while maintaining the character of the town, continues to research options. The Task Force, using grant funds, has hired planning consultant Emily Innes and her planning firm to assist. Ms. Innes helped craft the modeling tool the state is using to help assess the compliance of proposed new zoning regulations with the new law and thus is very familiar with what it takes to comply. She has worked with other communities as they work through the zoning requirements and brings mendations. Innes has also brought on team members from RKG Associates, an economic, planning and real estate consultancy, to assist with economic issues related to potential new zoning. The efforts will begin focusing on potential new zoning districts both in the Village core area as well as in areas further out. As specific proposals are developed public interest in the details will grow and the planned forums and opportunities for input will become even more important. The MBTA

Cell Signaling Technologies, CST, the biolab company that is planning to construct its new headquarters on the old quarry next to the Manchester Athletic Club, will be submitting their formal application to the Planning Board most likely in January. This is a large, significant project for the Town. The public hearings on the project will likely last through the winter months. The application submittals will include in-depth analysis of a wide

get to this stage.

A boost to the project has come in the form of a Mass-Works grant award to help pay for new water and sewer utilities to serve the site. The state has awarded the project \$3.5 million toward the cost of bringing both utilities under Route 128 through an existing conduit near Mill Street. CST will be providing the million dollar or so match needed to supplement the grant award.

SLV's proposed 40B project is slowly making its way The Manchester Community Center, MCC has notified Harbor's Point Associates (HPA) of their desire to exercise their option under the current lease agreement to relocate the building that MCC owns (they lease the land from HPA.) Relocating the building keeps the building under the ownership of the MCC.

...(Continued on page 6)

## Avi Urbas Says Good Bye to MERSD After 15 Years

t Tuesday's School Committee meeting, Avi Urbas, Director of Finance and Operations at Manchester Essex Regional School District, announced he will leave the district after 15 years for the private sector.

Urbas arrived at MERSD in 2009 when it was a young regional school district lacking many of the systems and reporting necessary for a mid-sized regional school district. He changed that and became known for a quiet, deliberate, steady style of work.

Urbas has needed that steady style in the last decade and a half. The role often placed him between the towns of Manchester and Essex, each pushing for different ideas about the cost and quality of public education. Urbas was also a central player in the \$52.2 million, 77,000-sf Manchester Memorial School building project, completed on time and slightly under budget in 2021 and required navigation of specialized finance and the arcane complexities of government grant funding.

Urbas' last day of work was Tuesday, the day of the SC meeting, which also had on its agenda a first look



MERSD Finance Director Avi Urbas and Superintendent Pam Beaudoin on Tuesday. Photo: Erika Brown

at the MERSD's "Tentative FY25 Budget." "This job has been very challenging and fun and varied," Urbas said Tuesday. "But the relationships have made it special as I wouldn't have expected as a 'numbers guy.'"

Those relationships were on full display Tuesday, with a robust showing of former School Committee members, chairpersons, and committee members publicly marking Urbas' service. Among them, Susan Coviello (Essex), Susan Beckmann (Manchester), Sarah Wolf (Essex), Ben Buttrick (Essex), Caroline Weld (Manchester), Sarah Creighton (Manchester), Annie Cameron (Essex), and Alva

Ingaharro (Essex).

One by one, they got up, praising Urbas' service to the district, saying that despite heated challenges reconciling budget inputs from Essex and Manchester, Urbas always brought a steady, competent, generous hand to work.

"You have saved us so many times, both towns," said Annie Cameron, who served several terms on the School Committee starting with regionalization. She thanked Urbas before choking up and stopping.

Former SC Chair Susan Beckmann said Urbas' personal character brought value to the district. But ...(Continued on page 3)

Weekly Weather Chart										
Saturday 9 Dec	<u>له</u>	48°	41°							
Sunday 10 Dec	<b>•</b> ••	52°	46°							
Monday 11 Dec	-	50°	34°							
Tuesday 12 Dec	-ờ́-	44°	34°							
Wednesday 13 Dec	*	43°	31°							
Thursday 14 Dec	<u>لم</u>	42°	31°							
Friday 15 Dec	<u>لم</u>	41°	33°							

Weather data pulled Wednesday and is subject to change.



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.

#### **MBTS** Bike & Pedestrian Committee Monday, December 11 6 p.m. - Hybrid Meeting

Essex ConCom Tuesday, December 12 7:15 p.m.

#### IN THIS ISSUE

Police Notes2
Town News3
Letters & Library4
Mushroom of the Week5
Essex Echo7
Point Counterpoint: College Debt Forgiveness9
Puzzles10
Pets and People11

Contents Copyright 2020 ne Manchester Cricket, LLC. All rights reserved.

**Subscriptions** 

\$52 / year (print / digital)

\$26 / year (digital only)

\$1.25 at newsstand

PUBLICATION NUMBER

USPS 327-420

New England Newspaper Association 2019 Winner For Best Website, Best Photo Feature Series, Best Front Page

### **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).

#### **Andrew Riker** Morss



Andrew Riker Morss, 61, of Boulder, CO, died at home on November 11, 2023. He is survived by his wife, Katherine Dunbar Morss, and three children: Sidney Wentworth Morss of Los Angeles, Riker Morss of Los Angeles, and Asa Shiverick Morss of Boulder, his father, Everett Morss, and stepmother, Pamela Morss of Magnolia MA, his sister, Esther (Cindy) Proctor Morss of Dearborn, Michigan, his stepbrother, William Mann of Manchester, MA, his stepsister, Heather Outlaw of San Miguel, MX, and his many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Andrew graduated from Shore Country Day School in Beverly, MA, Middlesex Academy in Concord, MA, and the University of Colorado in Boulder. He went on to become a teacher in the Denver area at Thornton Middle School and Legacy High School in Broomfield, Andrew was Colorado. loved by his students for his challenging and enthusiastic presentations.

Andrew loved the West, particularly the Rocky Mountains. He spent many happy summers in his youth in Jackson Hole and the Grand Tetons. He shared a love of sports with his father and brothers and was a lifelong Red Sox fan.

Andrew was pre deceased by his mother, Mary Shiverick Morss and his two older brothers, Everett Morss and Thomas Wentworth Morss.

Interment at Mt. Auburn cemetery in Cambridge, MA will be private.

#### Warren Everett Heath III

family most. An avid sports fan, he relished the opportunity to watch his sons compete; he and his wife, Pat, never missed a football, baseball, or hockey game. In his later years, health issues prevented him from attending his grandchildren's contests, but he loved hearing Ella and Matty discuss their

him dearly. His funeral service will be at Campbell-Porter Funeral Home, 6 High St. Ipswich, on Thursday December 7th, at 12 p.m. Relatives and friends are invited to attend. An hour of visitation will be held prior from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Burial will be at Spring Street Cemetery in Essex. Information, directions, condolences at campbell-porter.com.

games. His family will miss

#### Constance "Connie" Foxcroft Perrigo



Constance "Connie" Foxcroft Perrigo, 95 of Essex, passed away peacefully on November 28 at Seacoast Nursing Home in the presence of family.

Born July 28, 1928 in Pittsfield, MA, she was the youngest daughter of the late Marcia and Francis Foxcroft. Connie, a graduate of Reading High, attended Colby College before marrying Robert "Perry" Perrigo Jr. in 1948. Connie and Perry started their life together at Conomo Point, eventually settling at their Western Avenue home.

Connie led an active life. She raised five children and offered a kindergarten out of her home prior to becoming the first public Kindergarten Teacher in Essex. She continued in this role for almost 30 years, shaping the lives

friends, surrogate children and grandchildren across the globe.

Connie is predeceased by her husband, Perry, daughter Cathy Perrigo, son Robert "Bob" Perrigo III and sister Betsy Colby.

True to Connie's spirit and passion for education, she chose to donate her body to Tufts University's Anatomical Gift Program. Services are planned for 2024.

In Lieu of Flowers, donations may be made to the Mrs. Perrigo Scholarship Fund ( Brookline Bank, PO Box 188, Essex, MA 01929) to benefit Essex graduates pursuing Early childhood or special education.

#### **Charlie Mullen**



Charlie Mullen was called away to the heavenly baseball hall of fame on December 1st after a lengthy decline caused by Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis, a disease that claimed the lives of two of his brothers. He died at home on his own terms in his chair, as he wanted.

Charlie was born on August 9, 1954, and grew up in the wilds of West Gloucester. He spent his summers as a child playing baseball and swimming in Little River with his brothers and the West Gloucester Crew from sunup till sundown and pitched a perfect game for his Babe Ruth Team. Charlie loved muscle cars. He parted with his Green 73 Dodge Charger just a few weeks before he left us. Charlie was grateful and proud of his thirty-five years of sobriety, which led to many friendships.

Charlie began working as a longshoreman (lumper) alongside his father and his brothers around the age of 16 and up until his disease retired him at the end of 2020.



Holliston, MA passed away peacefully on Saturday, November 18. Born in Newton, he was the son of the late Ruth (Pearson) and Henry A. Dellicker, Sr. He was the beloved husband of 68 years to Jackie (Sturtevant) Dellicker of Holliston.

Henry was a proud Navy veteran, having served during the Korean Conflict from 1953-1957. He was a member of the American Legion and the VFW. Henry was a wellrespected, dedicated and active member of the Holliston community. There wasn't much Henry wasn't involved in. He served on the town's Planning Board for two separate terms, totaling 14 years, and the Select board for two separate terms, for a total of 12 years. He was on the Select board during the

Blizzard of '78. He was a member of the Zoning Board of Ap-

peals, and was a chair on the building committee for the very first police station the town built, as well as the current police station. He was also on the school building committee, a hall monitor at Holliston High School, was a Cub Master for Pack 74 and a Little League umpire. He was past President of the Kiwanis Club. He was a head of the civil defense of emergency management and was chairman for the 250th and the 275th birthdays for Holliston. He enjoyed helping out at the town elections and was a COA chairman of the senior center He was honored to have been chosen as Holliston's 2003 Citizen of

#### The Manchester Cricket

Founded in 1888. Published every Friday.

Erika M. Brown Publisher & Editorial Director

> Paul Clark Assistant Editor

Susan Zampell Business Development Director

Christy King Digital Direct

Susan Anthony

#### **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

**Display Advertising** ads@thecricket.com

**Classifieds & Legals** classifieds@thecricket.com

legals@thecricket.com

**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 vour weekend sales, lost and found, for rent, help wanted, services, etc. to 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 WISHES CAN COME TRUE— 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

#### SERVICES

HANDYMAN, MBTS—Handyman for light construction, home repairs, painting, cleanups, home repairs, painting cleanups, power washing, rototilling. Fully insured. Have truck and trailer. Clean, honest, references. Contact Bill mbtshandyman@ gmail.com or (978) 618-0999. TF

Read the hearwarming novel Five Wishes by local author Karin Gertsch. Publishing Number is ISBN 978-1-63988-791-0. At local bookstores and Amazon.. TF

**HOLIDAYS!** 

#### FOR SALE

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, \$300. Two Lifetime kayaks in excellent condition, \$200. Paddles and cart included. 617-817-1308 ..... 12/15





Warren Everett Heath III, 81, of Essex passed away on November 28th surrounded by family. Born in Beverly, he was the son of the late Warren Everett and Pauline Heath of Manchester-by-the-Sea. Raised in Manchesterby-the-Sea, Warren spent much of his youth and early adult years as a commercial fisherman.

He worked alongside his father for many years gill netting, Scottish Seining and lobstering off the coast of Manchester and Gloucester. He was married to Patricia M. Heath for 49 years, and with her started his family in Essex. During this time, he owned and operated Skippers Galley Restaurant with his brother, Brian, and the help of extended family. He retired from Dawson's Hardware (Aubuchon) in 2020, after 10+ years of service.

Warren is survived by his wife, Patricia of Essex, his son Matt and his wife, Jackie Heath of Hamilton and their two children, Ella (10) and Matthew (12), and his brother Brian Heath and his wife Fatima of Marco Island, FL and Rockport, MA. Additionally, Warren is survived by his loving nieces and nephews: Kimberlie O'Connell of Gloucester, Kristy Heath of Hamilton, and his nephews Justin Heath of Manchester-by-the-Sea, and Jay of Okemos, MI. In addition to his parents, Warren was predeceased by his first son, Alexander Heath (18), and his brother, Calvin Heath of Essex (51).

Warren was a devoted father to Matt and Aleck, husband to Pat, and grandfather to Matthew and Ella. He enjoyed being with his of countless children and becoming a fixture in the town. During this time, she worked to further her education and obtained her master's degree. Throughout her life, Connie supported many causes, such as The Special Olympics, Gloucester Pride Stride, The American Cancer Society, and The Open Door. Connie lent her quilting skills to The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, which remained the world's largest quilt until 2022. She hosted families from abroad and created relationships that crossed generations. She enjoyed an array of hobbies, including gardening, tennis, and travel to many destinations near and far. Her adventures led her to winding her way across the U.S., visiting friends and family in Brazil and the United Kingdom, biking the Netherlands, exploring the Soviet Union and more. She was an avid knitter and was rarely seen in winter without her Fisherman sweater or a hat and mittens of her own creation. She could often be seen headed downtown by foot, bike, or even on her cross-country skis. Connie was often on the move, driving to visit family and friends throughout New England well into her 80s.

She is survived by her sons Peter Perrigo and his wife Celeste of Berwick ME, David Perrigo of Glover, VT, John Perrigo and his wife Matilda of Warwick RI; daughters-inlaw, Joan Perrigo of Essex, Leanne Perrigo of Beverly; grandchildren Jessie Palm and her husband Michael of Essex, Pam Perrigo of Beverly, Carrie Perrigo-James of New Braunfels TX, Emily Johnson and her husband Benjamin of Chattanooga TN, Jeremy Perrigo and his partner Jenna Wyspianski of East Providence RI, John A. Perrigo of East Providence RI, Logan Perrigo of Warwick RI; great-grandchildren Zoey Palm of Essex, Theodore Johnson of Chattanooga; her niece and good friend Merrie Colby, of South Dennis: nieces, nephews, cousins,

He also owned a small landscaping business with his daughter Sara. He enjoyed walking the boulevard with his beloved dogs, swimming on Pavilion Beach, and working in his garden, Charlie and his partner Andrea enjoyed long rides around the back shore and visits to Todd's Farm on Sunday mornings.

Charlie was pre-deceased by his parents Henry and Miriam (Mattson) Mullen, his brothers Matt, Pat, John, and his sister Ann. He is survived by his long-term partner, Andrea Ramos and her sons Ron and Peter Ramos of Manchester-by- the-Sea, his daughter Sara Mullen, her partner Michael McLaughlin and their boys, Logan, Hunter, and Winter, his granddaughter Ariana (Mullen) Scola, his brother Peter all of Gloucester.

His family extends their gratitude to the many friends and relatives who visited or lent a helping hand and especially to Eddie Parnell whose daily caregiving allowed Charlie to stay in his home till the very end.

A graveside funeral service will be held at Pleasant Grove Cemetery, 128 Pine Street, Manchester-by-the-Sea, on Friday, December 8th at 10 a.m. Relatives and friends are invited to attend. Visiting hours at the Campbell Funeral Home, 61 Middle Street, Gloucester, on Thursday, December 7th from 4 to 7 p.m.

#### Henry A. Dellicker, Jr.

Henry A. Dellicker, Jr., 89, a longtime resident of

Henry was a dedicated husband, father and grandfather.

the Year. Most importantly,

Henry and his family also spent many Holidays and summers in Gloucester and Manchester-by-the-Sea. Henry's family had a summer home in Lanesville and Jackie's family had a home in Manchester.

In addition to his wife Jackie, Henry is survived by his five sons: Lee Dellicker and his wife, Liz of Manchesterby-the-Sea, MA; Mark Dellicker and Terry of Holliston. MA; Dale Dellicker and his wife, Sandy of Swansea, MA; Scott Dellicker and his wife, Kathy of Framingham, MA; and Gary Dellicker and his fiancee, Alison of Mendon, MA. He also leaves behind 17 grandchildren, 12 greatgrandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his sister, Judith Dellicker, and his grandson, Christopher Walk.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Holliston Food Pantry, 73 Charles St. Holliston, MA 01746, to Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB) https://www.ebresearch.org/, or to the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation at msfocus.org.

MANCHESTER **ELECTRIC Full Service Electrical Contractor** Daniel R. Houde Lic. #A13265 (978) 526-1194 MEC934@aol.com

**BUCKLEY** TREE CARE

pruning • vistas • tree removal • land clearing

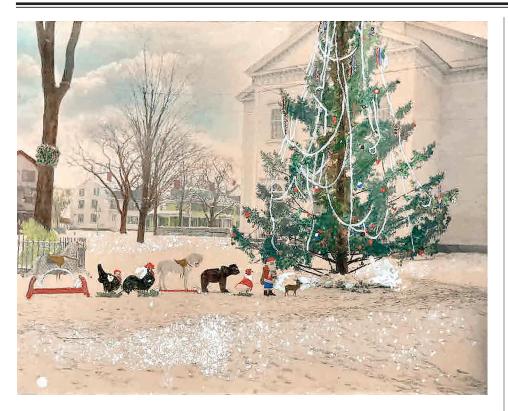
hazard mitigation • cabling • stump grinding

(978) 704-1441 · BUCKLEYTREECARE.COM

Family Law & Estate Planning LLC

ANDREA LANCE, ESQ. 36 UNION STREET MANCHESTER

(978) 704-9223 LANCELAWMASS.COM



Watercolor (on photograph) of "First Electrified Christmas Tree, Manchester Common, Dec. 25, 1914. Showing toys given by Hoopers. Wiring done by G.A. Knoerr" reads hand-written description on reverse side of framed original. © Manchester-by-the-Sea Museum. This charming artwork, in the collection of the MBTSM, captures the scene of the first electrified Christmas tree on Manchester Common, Dec. 25, 1914. The colorful, festive tableau was reproduced on holiday cards, which are now available for purchase at the Museum and online. Courtesy Photo

### First Electrified Christmas Tree

**F** ollowing the inaugural lighting of the tree, The Cricket (1-2-1915) issue) reported: "Christmas Tree a huge success -- The tree, resplendent in its festoons of tinsel, and lighted with scores of colored electric lights, an electric star surmounting all, was a conspicuously beautiful object

and delighted old and young alike. The tree was furnished by Frank P. Knight, set up by Roberts & Hoare, and was illuminated by G. A. Knoerr."

Available at the Museum and available for shipping on our website www.manchesterhistoricalmuseum.org. Also featured in the holiday scene is the Hooper-Trask House, visible in the background, painted pea green and with remnant of the original portico visible. To commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Hooper-Trask house, the Museum has launched a Capital Campaign to raise funds to restore the portico.



MBTS Police Officers Zac Johnson and Sean Mullins from the Manchester Patrolmen Association donated to the Wellspring House Holiday Store. Action Inc. representatives Gretchen Wood and Margaret Driscoll, and Wellspring representatives Cathy Bilotta and Mary Hardwick were on hand to receive it. Courtesy image



#### **BOARD UPDATES**

Santa's Firetruck Tour: Santa will make his traditional tour of Town with the Manchester Fire Department on Sunday, December 10 at 12 noon. Listen for the sirens and come out to your driveway to say hello and receive a special holiday treat. The tour route is posted to the Town website.

**Planning Board Meeting:** The Planning Board will meet on Monday, December 11 at 6:30 p.m. Meeting details can be found on the Town website.

**Sidewalk Cleanup:** DPW would like to remind residents who own homes along

sidewalks to trim back hedges and bushes to allow pedestrians to safely pass.

**Free Blood Pressure Clinic:** The Board of Health will host the monthly Blood Pressure Clinic on Monday, December 11 from 11 a.m. to 12 noon at Town Hall. No appointment needed.

**Free COVID Home Tests:** The Board of Health has a limited supply of home CO-VID test kits. Please contact the Board of Health or stop by Town Hall during operating hours.

Walker Road Work: Water Main work continues this week on Walker Road. The work will take place Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 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. Transfer Station is open on Wednesdays from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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



#### 90 YEARS AGO - 1933

Charles White sighted a seal swimming in the river opposite his boat yard on Tuesday and securing his rifle he shot it and took the body to the office of the selectman as prima facie evidence of his prowess and collected the bounty of \$2.00 which the state offers. The seal weighed about 100 pounds.

William Walen, letter carrier on the West Manchester route, met with an unfortunate accident last Friday night slipping and falling down the cellar stairs and endeavoring to save himself grabbed the rail in such a way as to twist his wrist and fracture it. He will be laid up for some time. His place is being filled by Archibald Cool.

#### **75 YEARS AGO – 1948** Wednesday afternoon at

three o'clock in the Con-

Eddie Michalski, Story High's capable center was a unanimous choice of the voting coaches for the All-State six-man football team. Michalski, a Junior at Story, was a tower of strength on the Story defense.

#### 60 YEARS AGO - 1963

William Filias, owner of Filias Package Store, Brook Street, was elected president of the Manchester Professional and Businessmen's Association at the annual meeting of that organization, held Wednesday evening in Town Hall. Postmaster Jacob Greenberg announces that the Manchester Post Office will be open on Saturday, December 14 and Saturday, December 21 all day for the convenience of patrons. The office will close on those days at 5 p.m.

#### 30 YEARS AGO - 1993

Four members of the Planning Board, saying this was not a vote against affordable housing, rejected the final plan for 40 housing units presented by Community Builders Tuesday, effectively putting to an end Manchester's first real affordable housing development. The sixth grade recently went on a field trip to New England Biolabs Research Center in Beverly. Students were introduced to the concept of bacteria growth and its benefits. They were also introduced to the concept of DNA.

#### 15 YEARS AGO - 2008

What a beautiful day at Gillette Stadium in December with the Manchester-Essex Hornets taking on the Tri-County Cougars with the Division 4 Championship on the line. The undefeated

#### ...(Continued from page 1)

bringing the district's finances into line, she said, is "the legacy you'll leave."

Along with MERSD Superintendent Pamela Beaudoin, Urbas has been the tip of the spear for putting forth the school district's annual budget. This process has become increasingly heated, hitting a high point last year when Essex voters failed to support a Proposition 2½ override to address its disproportionate increase in the town's district assessment.

Ben Buttrick of the Essex Finance Committee, a group that in past years has outwardly withheld support of the district's budget, said Tuesday that Urbas was a steady, productive partner to the Town of Essex and worthy of high praise, and he thanked Urbas for being a great partner.

Then, Pamela Beaudoin, MERSD superintendent who

AM

7:28

8:15

9:01

9:45

**11:56** 10.8

DATE

Fri

Sat

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

arrived in her job just one year after Urbas, told Urbas that his impact on the district has been immeasurable and will be felt for years, saying, "You've put us in a very good position to move forward."

"We've had a lot of challenges but a lot of fun, too," she said.

Beaudoin said she has been interviewing replacements, "trying to find someone to fill these very big shoes." She said her office has identified a final candidate for Urbas' replacement and will be making an offer soon in time for the new director of finance to support the FY25 budget finalization process, which will go through March, 2024.

Urbas will return as a courtesy to support next week's public hearing on the district's FY25 tentative budget (6:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 13).

AM

1:15

2:05

2:54

3:44

4:32

5:21

6:09

LOW

PM

1:50

2:45

3:38

4:29

5:18

6:06

6:53

FT

1.7

1.3

0.9

0.4

0.0

-0.4

-0.7

RISE

6:58

6:59

7:00

7:01

7:02

7:02

7:03

SET

4:11

4:11

4:11

4:11

4:11

4:11

4:11

FT

1.6

1.6

1.5

1.3

1.1

1.0

0.8

Tides & Sun Chart For The Week Ahead

FT

7.9

8.0

8.1

8.3

8.5

8.8

HIGH

РМ

7:53

8:48

9:39

9.8 **10:26** 

FT

8.6

8.9

9.4

**10:28** 10.2 **11:12** 

11:12 10.5 11:57

As for his next position, Urbas will return to the consulting world that was his professional home before 2009. He is headed to CGI. a financial software company, where he will work in the company's public sector unit. Previously to MERSD, Urbas had been on a team at Educate, Inc. that successfully developed a business to tutor thousands of lowincome students at districts nationwide. He was also a senior consultant at The District Management Council, supporting nearly 70 school district superintendents and staff nationwide.

As part of a smooth departure, Urbas delivered the tentative FY25 MERSD budget early. He and Beaudoin presented the high-level draft Tuesday. The budget is based on level services with total spending up 3.42% or \$1.002 million to \$30.258 million. It will be the starting point of the four-month long budget process. gregational Chapel the new Brownies will receive their Brownie pins and be invested into the Brownie Scouts of America. Susan Cole will give the meaning of the Brownie ceremony; Marie Louise Barrier will take the part of the Wise Old Owl who shows the children to the Mystic Pool and Deborah Brown will be the Color Guard Leader. 45 YEARS AGO - 1978

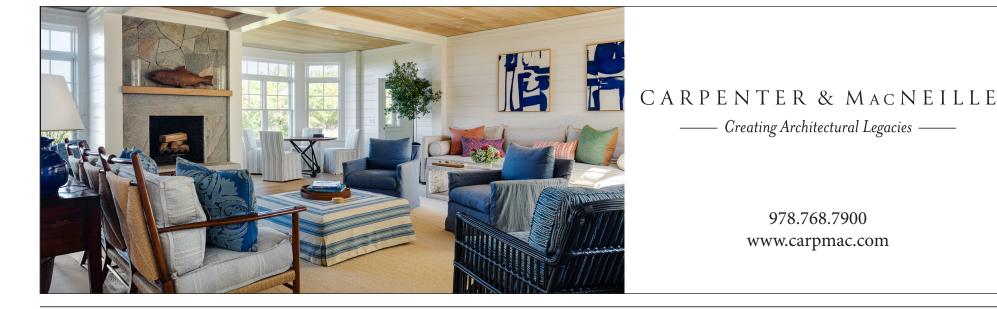
The Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce has a new Executive Director. Michael "Mike" Costello has been elected to head the Chamber.

Due to the storm conditions last week, the men were not able to bowl. They did return to the alleys this week and the Browns were the big winners over the team from Al's Café. Hornets took the lead on their first possession. They are the Super Bowl Champions. Final score 36-6.

The economy may officially be in recession. Black Friday may not have generated the numbers most retailers were looking for. But for us here in Manchester, the holidays have been welcomed in with the cheerful, festive new look in the downtown.



144 Main Street, Essex MA 978-768-4569 • larsonjewelrydesign.com





The Cricket publishes every letter it receives. However, letters should be original (no reprints), no more than 400 words and written in a general spirit of discourse, signed and include an email/phone and a valid address in case we have questions. Letters may be edited for clarity and accuracy. We have a "one letter, one person, one topic" policy, so please do not send multiple letters on a single issue. We do not publish press releases, anonymous letters, those judged to be libelous or an invasion of privacy. Longer pieces (up to 1,000 words) may be submitted for consideration as an Op-Ed Commentary. Please send submissions to letters@cricketpress.com.

#### Avi Urbas' Departure Leaves a Hard-to-Fill Gap at MERSD

#### To the Editor,

I am writing to thank Avi Urbas for his 15 years of dedication and commitment to the Manchester Essex Regional School District as its Director of Finance and Operations. His work has always been commendable and those of us who had the opportunity to work closely with him as School Committee members,

town officials, parents, and concerned citizens sincerely appreciate his contributions to our district.

Avi's hard work and effort have directly and positively impacted the students of Manchester and Essex. When he arrived the business office was barely existent, but he created systems and spreadsheets to get our district on the right track and has been instrumental in numerous cost-saving initiatives. Avi is one of the most patient people I know, always

ready to answer a call, explain a spreadsheet, or talk anyone through a difficult issue. He has spent many late nights and long meetings helping us all understand the intricacies of school finance, budget drivers, apportionments, and assessments. He has patiently explained and re-explained the ins and outs of the budget to new school committee members, new finance committee members, and new select boards as they have cycled through their terms. I have seen him handle many difficult situations with transparency, respect, and a smile. I have always valued his wise counsel and insights.

I have so much appreciation for all the work he has done, especially throughout COVID, when he figured out how to manage our expenses as we purchased PPE, COVID tests, covered leaves of absence, and supported the necessities of remote learning.

Over the last few years, I have seen first-hand the amount of extra time and effort that Avi has put into our district, and I hope that he knows how much we all appreciate him and how much we will miss him. Losing his expertise and knowledge leaves a gap that will not easilv be filled. I wish Avi the best of luck as he takes on the challenge of his new and well-deserved role in the private sector!

#### Sarah Wolf

Annie Cameron *Former Chairpersons* Manchester Essex Regional School Committee

#### **All-Around Holiday Celebration Thank** You from Manchester Woman's Club

The Manchester Woman's Club thanks everyone who worked on the Friendship

Tree Lighting on December 3. The rainy weather caused us to cancel the program and just flip the switch at 3:30 p.m., but a tremendous amount of work had occurred before that.

Kyle Van Amberg of Bartlett Tree and Dan Houde of Manchester Electric brought their crews to string the lights on the magnificent Norway Spruce on Town Green. Michelle Pepin and the Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce organized and supported the whole weekend of events in Town and helped get out the word when our program was cancelled. At Manchester Town Hall, Ann Harrison, Greg Federspiel, and Nate Desrosiers supported our proposal to perform on the steps of Town Hall. Nancy Klebart, Bethany Woods, Mark Jackson, Jeff Parker, Allison Moir-Smith and Martha Farmer from the First Parish Church provided shelter from the rain plus a viewing spot and also produced a delightful carol sing beforehand and made space for the dancers of Lauren D'Ambrosio's Ballet de Mar to run their performance afterward. The Library also provided shelter and a viewing spot for the lighting. Charlotte Minasian, president of the Manchester Woman's Club, has been instrumental in the event's success.

The Sponsor-a-Bulb program was well-managed by Elaine Persons, Eileen Morse, and Joanne Donnelly. Erika Brown of the Manchester Cricket graciously published the donors' lists each week and helped advertise our event. Daily Printing in Beverly handled the printing of envelopes and programs.

Other Club members who were involved include the following: Patricia Fenton managed the installation of lights; Valerie McAskill and her committee decorated

the fountain on Town Green; Ann Gilson and Jane Hoysradt brought Mrs. Claus and her Elf to the event in spite of rain; Joanne Donnelly and her committee managed publicity; Jean Spencer and Dorothy Sieradzki provided technical support.

The music teachers and their students at Manchester-Essex Regional Schools were rained out, but we thank them for being willing to come, and we look forward to next year. Those teachers are Joseph Janack, Fiona Dooley, and Ben Icenogle. Tyler Cummins didn't get to perform the song "Glow" that he wrote for this occasion, and Maggie Whitman didn't get to sing it, either. Art Bevilacqua of Essex Radio didn't have to run the sound for the event; Kristin Francoeur didn't get to be the M.C.; Joanne Donnelly and her committee didn't get to serve cocoa nor the Masons to provide it; Patricia Fenton, Ginny Germond, Shirley Preston, and Wendy Thomas didn't need to usher at the event; and Justin Mason and Dallas Raleigh didn't get to wrangle chairs for the performance.

We thank them all for being willing. And thanks to all the organizations and individuals who gave so generously toward the Friendship Tree this year.

#### Sincerely,

#### Pam Spencer Festive Program Chair

Manchester Women's Club

#### We're Supposed to be a **Unified School District.** Let's Act Like It

Diversity: A multidimensional state that realizes differences in gender, culture, abilities, skills and countless other domains.

When discussing MCAS

scores, MERSD Superintendent Pam Beaudoin publicly stated, "The two [elementary] schools have different cultures, different challenges... and are not really comparable."

So, the diversity in our district renders Essex kids' incapable of meeting the academic achievements of their Manchester counterparts? Diversity is a celebration, Pam, not an excuse.

Equity: The quality of being fair and impartial. Diverse needs between our elementary schools should be addressed and resources allocated to achieve equal outcomes. With decades of MCAS scores well below those of the Manchester Memorial, opportunities available to Essex kids were either not appropriate for their learning needs or nonexistent.

Inclusion: A culture where all people feel their voices have been heard. While the learning environment at Essex Elementary falls short of meeting the needs of the kids there, town leaders continue to threaten: "...we could NOT build a new Essex Elementary...THAT would save money..." completely misses the point of inclusion and problem solving.

Our schools teach DEI ("Diversity, Equity, Inclusion") but the administration does not practice it. I question if they even understand it.

Pitting the two towns against each other is not inclusive but divisive.

Giving the elementary schools equal budgets is not equity (there is a difference).

Using the community's diverse makeup as an excuse is intolerant. The budget is not "an Essex problem", it is a district problem. We are supposed to be a unified entitylet's start acting like one.

Antonella Muniz Essex

## **MANCHESTER POLICE NOTES**



St., harassment, assisted as needed. 2:03 p.m. Pleasant St., community policing, assisted as needed. 5:26 p.m. Central St., citizen assist, assisted as needed.

#### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER

30 11:19 a.m. Route 128SB, mo-

### Sponsor a Bulb **Donors Setting Up Manchester Holiday Tradition**

he Manchester Woman's Club (MWC) has launched its annual Friendship Tree lighting program tradi-L tion, 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

#### **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27** 2:20 p.m. Arbella St., parking complaint, no action taken.

4:24 p.m. Summer St., fire alarm, fire false. 6:51 p.m. Woodholm Rd., harassment, report to follow. 9:30 p.m. Forster Rd., fire wires down,

fire confirmed.

CKI

pruning • vistas • tree removal • land clearing

hazard mitigation • cabling • stump grinding

TREE CARE

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28** 9:03 a.m. Ocean St., animal complaint, other.

10:19 a.m. Anthony Ave., animal complaint, assisted as needed. 2:52 p.m. Route 128NB., motor vehicle stop,

criminal application. 6:21 p.m. Highwood Rd., disturbance, spoken to.

#### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

8:16 a.m. Lincoln St., selective enforcement, secured/ checked. 9:11 a.m. Central

508-932-1442

SERVI

tor vehicle stop, no action taken. 11:26 a.m. Raymond St., citizen assist, assisted as needed. 3:21 p.m. Central St., fire alarm, fire false. 4:36 p.m. Lincoln St., selective enforcement, no action taken.

#### **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1**

7:01 a.m. School Zone, community policing, secured/ checked. 9:42 a.m. Route 128SB, traffic hazard, gone on arrival. 5:00 p.m. School St., motor vehicle accident, no personal injury, report to follow. 6:16 p.m. Beach St., fire alarm, fire false.

#### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2**

11:40 a.m. Bridge St., property damage, vandalism, other. 1:55 p.m. School St., traffic hazard, assisted as needed. 5:19 p.m. Summer St., utility request, assisted as needed. 6:36 p.m. Summer St., motor vehicle stop, verbal warning.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3** No report.

PAINT-CARPENTRY-PLASTER

- INSURED



of the Holiday Stroll in Manchester. Each year the MWC sponsors the program which includes a concert on the Town Green, hot cocoa provided 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.

NAME OF DONOR	REMEMBERING
Virginia Germond	W. G. Jaques, W. Jacques, A. P. Germond
Chelsie Quesenberry	Donation
Lisa Vassar	J. Clifford,
Margaret Wooding	G. Wooding, A, Henrich, E.
	Henrich, K. Badenduck, E. Walls
Glen Lemay	W. Lochner, P. Lochner, B. Le- may, W. Lemay
Judith O'Leary	T. O'Leary, M. Paradis, M. Col- gan, L. Colgan, S. O'Leary
David DeMoura	R. DeMoura, E. DeMoura, K. Mummau, A. Mummau, A. Pe-
Jeffrey Milne	terson S. Milne, L. Milne, K. Milne, C. Milne, A. Milne
David & Kirsten Page	A. Smith, C. Smith, R. Olsson, C. Olsson, W. Page, H. Page, J. Graves, J. Graves, A. Smith, J.
Lisa Bonneville	Smith Elaine, Bob, Dwight, Les, Jeff, Brian, Tom, Carol, Dorner, Del

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



and

www.thecricket.com

## Mushroom of the Week (Porcini) Soup's On!





Our resident mushroom expert **Gary Gilbert** is back with some "souper" ideas for easy and delicious warm winter dinners.

When the provide the provided the p

If you like a thinner version, you can increase the amount of broth by a half cup or so and slightly decrease the light cream by a quarter cup. If you do so, be sure to use at least 2 ounces of dried mushrooms or increase the number of fresh ones to be sure their flavor comes through.

There are many ways to make a thicker soup. Typically, mushroom soup recipes might have a medium potato added, cooked and blended in. Some will have a tablespoon of flour added to the onions to cook it five minutes or so before blending together and reheating well. Bulking them out by simply increasing the number of mushrooms can also make them heartier. Personally, I have been seeking a lighter, but full-bodied soup flavor so I slightly vary the ingredients each time I make one.

To capture the flavor of fresh mushrooms to their fullest, try to cook them down in a hot skillet while, at the end, increasing the heat and singeing them well. This is particularly a good technique for white button mushrooms which are a species not to be ignored. Other mushrooms that work well in soups are Chanterelles. This is one place dried Chanterelles, which are otherwise tough and leathery, can be used. Be sure to soak them in hot broth a good hour before adding, cooking, and blending very thoroughly. Fresh Chanterelles can be used like white button mushrooms, fresh Shitake, or Hen of the Woods. Cook them down, singe them at the end, and always be sure to add the famous soup ingredient, some nice sherry in the end. That is a chef's secret that always rounds out and brightens up the flavor of any soup. Enjoy!

#### **PORCINI SOUP** YIELD: 8 SERVINGS

- 1 T butter
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 leek, cleaned well, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped

- 1 medium potato, peeled, chopped
- 1 full T fresh thyme, or <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> tsp dried
- 5 cup 5-1/2 C good chicken broth
- 1-1/2 2 oz dried porcini mushrooms
- 1/3 cup dry sherry
- 1 cup light cream
- 1 tsp salt
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> tsp white pepper

Sauté onion & leek in butter on med-low heat until translucent or caramelized, about 10 minutes. Add garlic for last 2 minutes.

Add the potatoes, mushrooms, broth & herbs. Bring to a boil on medium heat, slightly covered, and cook for 10 minutes. Add the sherry and cook uncovered another 5 minutes.

Remove from heat, cool, blend very well until very smooth. Add cream and salt. Reheat gently at least 5-10 minutes before serving.

#### **Options:**

Many species of mushrooms can be used for this: 1 cup fresh button mushrooms sautéed till crisp and 1 oz dried Porcini, or Chanterelles or Craterellus or Fairy Rings, etc. Vary the cream/broth ratios to taste.

Garnish with crème fraiche, a couple of small cooked mushroom pieces, or some minced chives.

# SHOPPING LOCAL MAKES YOU MERRY!

4 Beach Gifts & Goodies Allen's Pharmacy Cargo Unlimited GLADSTONE Gray House Art & Antiques Helen's Bottle Shop J. McLaughlin Madam Had'em MAHRI Manchester by the Book Manchester Hardware Riverside Cycle The Stock Exchange Style Snoop



Downtown merchants rely on the holiday season, so why shop anywhere else? Local shops offer the best customer service and make sure all your gifts are just right. (Especially the last minute ones!)



Lindsay and her Puppet Pals performed for youngsters on Saturday at the First Congregational Parish Hall. The event was sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Courtesy Photo

#### The Library is a Pet Free Zone

The library loves your dogs, but for the safety and comfort of all our visitors, pets must stay outside the library unless they are a service animal or are part of a scheduled library program.

Need to pick up holds while on a walk? Use the dog leash hitch on the side of the building or call us and we will bring your items out to you.

**Pom Pom Garlands** 

Monday, December 11 from 3-4 p.m. Join us in the reference room to create your own pom pom garlands for your festive decorations. No registration or experience needed. Come enjoy some tea and crafting with your community.

#### Gallery Talk with the Addison Gallery (Virtual)

Tuesday, December 12 from 2-3 p.m. Curators Gordon Wilkins and Rachel Vogel will lead participants on a virtual tour through the works and themes presented in the exhibition Free Association: New Acquisitions in Context. This exhibit demonstrates how recently acquired works complement the Addisons current holdings, drawing out new narratives, juxtapositions, and conversations across time and media. The Addison Gallery of American Art is located at 3 Chapel Ave., Andover, MA on the campus of Phillips Academy.

#### When the Tiger Smoked a Pipe: The Art of Korea (Virtual)

Sunday, December 10 from 2:30-4 p.m. The Art of Korea with Ginny Meyer and the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco. Explore the varied and fascinating art that Koreans have produced for thousands of years.

#### 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: Seaside Saturday

Saturday, December 16 from 10-11 a.m. Ages 0-6 with caregiver. Join us for a winter themed story time and craft. Registration requested but not required.

#### 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.

### 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.



Members of the boy's and girl's middle school cross-country team

Courtesy Photo

## ME Middle School XC Finishes Third in the State

hat a remarkable season for the Middle School Cross Country teams for this Fall. They both had the HIGHEST finishes EVER for both the Boys & Girls XC teams in the State Meet. Third place for both teams is just an unbelievable achievement. These

teams exceeded the coaches' expectations for every race and had a remarkable season. In the State Meet over 300 runners per gender par-

ticipated in each race.

The boys finished the season UNDEFEATED for the FIRST time ever with a record of 23-0 in dual meets & invi-

tationals while the Girls were 22-1 and BOTH teams won the Northeastern Invitational @ Stage Fort Park beating large schools like Peabody,

Beverly, Salem, Marblehead, Gloucester and Swampscott. Our team had a record 41 participants this season (another record).

#### ...(Continued from page 1)

This decision puts on hold the option voters approved at the Special Town Meeting where the Town would enter into a new lease agreement with HPA for the building and the land on which it sits. The MCC has 90 days to move the building to another site otherwise the ownership of the building transfers to HPA. If the MCC is not successful in their efforts, then it could be possible for the Town and HPA to restart the discussions about a new lease arrangement as a path forward for continued public uses of the building.

While we have our own alphabet soup of acronyms, by walking you through these updates I hope I have added clarity to what they mean and where things stand with each.

### ScottEnergy Community Bulletin Board Register now for this year's FOURTH ANNUAL "SANTA'S CALLING" EVENT Brought to you by the Manchester Parks & Recreation Dept.



REGISTER at www.mbtsrec.com. Santa will be calling on Tuesday, Dec. 12th between 4:30 and 6:30 p.m.!

Supporting Our Community Since 1946



ScottEnergyCo.com

This ad space has been purchased by the ScottEnergy Company and is offered free of charge to local non-profits 501(c)(3) and public organizations. Call the Manchester Cricket at 978-526-7171 to reserve this space for your group.



The ME girls' basketball team runs floor sprints in preparation for the winter season. Their first home game is against rivals Hamilton Wenham on Friday, December 15th at 6:30 p.m. Photo Paul Clark



ME boy's and girl's indoor track participants in training at the high school. Their first meet is against Triton on Tuesday, January 16th at the Track at New Balance. Photo Paul Clark



## Town Administrator's Report



#### Board of Selectmen's Meeting of Nov. 27, 2023 Report covers from November 11, 2023 to November 24, 2023

#### Arrival of New Town Accountant

New Town Accountant Charles Benevento arrived to start work on November 16, 2023. Outgoing Town Accountant Jeff Soulard (who has accepted a position in another community) will continue on a part-time basis for a period of weeks or months as Assistant Town Accountant to help support office operations and to transfer institutional knowledge. The two employees will work to hire a new clerk for the department who can learn from both of them and eventually allow Mr. Soulard to completely cease his own operations in Essex. It is possible that the new clerk could eventually become the Assistant Town Accountant and perhaps, later on, the Town Accountant, all depending on performance and mastery of the subject matter.

work will be \$19,942.20 and the cost of the camera and Wi-Fi components will likely be available by meeting time. The work carries a 13-to-15week lead time.

#### Approval of Light Pole, Fixture, Control, and Accessory Order

The recent Fall Town Meeting appropriated approximately \$263,000, which, combined with other, existing funds, will cover the purchase and installation of the decorative street lighting system for the downtown area. The subsurface preparation work is already under contract to Pine Ridge Technologies, Inc. (PRT) and that contract has been extended through April 30, 2023, without cost and with a commensurate extension from the MA DOT which is funding that work via a grant. The Town has been purchasing all necessary materials for the project through a vendor on the State Contract (Standard Electric) and an updated quote for the light poles, luminaires, pole accessories, and lighting control cabinets is presently being developed. When all other sources of funding are considered (two grants and another Town Meeting appropriation), a sufficient amount should remain uncommitted and that remainder will be used to have a contractor install the lighting system (see next item).

### Landscaping Maintenance for 2024

The Town used a landscaping contractor to maintain the downtown public areas during the 2023 season. The Town's contract with that particular contractor was only for one season and the TA is working with the Chairman of the Economic Development Committee to review the scope of services and tailor it to our changing needs. We will be soliciting quotations for the 2024 season over the winter and would like to have the Board's feedback on what the focus should be.

#### Delivery of Tree for Memory Tree Ceremony

Each year, Essex residents gather in front of Town Hall to remember loved ones who have passed away. Participants hang ornaments on a tree known as the "Memory Tree" - which was once a large evergreen planted on the Town Hall grounds. After that tree and others were removed in the past due to overgrowth, we have been arranging for the purchase

(MVP) grant personnel and our engineering consultant on November 15, 2023 and updated them on the result of the Town Meeting vote. Given the circumstances, the MVP agrees that we should close out the grant at this time. To that end, Mr. Zubricki can prepare the necessary case study summary and PowerPoint slides that the MVP program requires of all grantees and any unspent grant funds for fiscal year 2024 will be reabsorbed by the grant program.

#### Debrief Concerning Unsuccessful Rural and Small Town Grant

As the Board is aware, the Town had applied for a \$500,000 Rural and Small-Town Development Fund Grant for improvements at the Centennial Grove. The TA met virtually with representatives of the grant awarding authority on November 20, 2023 and they explained that the Town's application did not fare well mainly since it does not have any direct or even indirect connection to affordable housing or zoning revision. Although municipal facilities were technically eligible within the grant program, projects such as ours lose significant points right from the start because of the lack of those connections. The agency responsible for awarding these grants is primarily interested in affordable housing. Our project scored as high as was possible for financial feasibility given the high degree of local and donated matching funds. We also did well in the Economic Development category. However, this was not enough to overcome the lack of specificity with respect to housing and other outcomes that the funding agency is most interested in. We are told that this program will most likely deem municipal construction projects ineligible in its next round in the spring and that the Governor's Office may create a new type of grant program that focuses more on this type of project. Program staff definitely agreed that it can be a real challenge to weave the sought- after aspects into a municipal building construction project and were unable at the time of printing of this report to provide an example of a similar project that did actually get funded.





Grinchy Holiday Scavenger Hunt.

Photo by Geoffrey Moffett on Unsplash

#### **Holiday Hours**

The library will be closed Saturday, December 23 through Monday, December 25 in observance of the Christmas Holiday. The library will be closed Saturday, December 30 through Monday, January 1 in observance of New Years.

#### WiFi For All

Stop by the circulation desk to borrow a hot spot for your holiday travels or to accommodate extra company.

#### **Community Book Group**

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

#### Teen Cocoa & Craft

Friday, December 8 at 3:30 for grades 6-12.

#### Meet the Elf on the Shelf

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

#### 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.

#### **Grinchy Holiday Scavenger Hunt**

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

#### **Story Hours Begin**

Wednesdays at 9 a.m. for Wee Ones, ages 0-2 yrs. 20 minutes for songs, rhymes, stories and creative play. Please register. 10 a.m. Preschool ages 3-5 years. 30 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.

#### Possible Manchester Essex Regional School District Operations Review

Even though the Manchester Town Meeting was not in favor of appropriating funds for a review of the Manchester Essex Regional School District's operations, the Essex Town Meeting did appropriate the sum of \$40,000. While this sum may not be sufficient to procure the entire scope of consultant services that had been envisioned, it may be sufficient for some preliminary work. As such, if the Board desires to explore hiring a consultant for this operations review, a scope of services could be arrived at and presented to the School Committee for discussion.

#### Approval of Fiber Optic Spur Contract for Centennial Grove

The recent Fall Town Meeting appropriated \$20,000 for a fiber optic spur from the Water Filtration Plant to two different areas within the Centennial Grove (the picnic grove adjacent to the new pavilion and the cottage area). This build-out will connect the Grove back through the Town's network to a building such as the fire and police station where video monitoring and recording can take place. The new spur will also be able to offer Wi-Fi service to people using the Grove. The lead time for the spur work is about 13 to 15 weeks after placing the order and the video and Wi-Fi systems can be added after the spur is constructed, likely using funds that have been set aside for general Grove improvements. The total cost for the fiber spur

#### Approval of Lighting System Installation Order

As noted above, sufficient funds will remain with respect to the downtown decorative lighting project after subsurface engineering, preparation, and materials purchase are considered, to allow for the installation of the actual above-ground portion of the lighting system. The contractor that is presently under contract for the subsurface construction work (Pine Ridge Technologies, Inc. - PRT) is also on the State Contract for electrical work and has quoted the work at \$74,870.

#### Centennial Grove Restroom Modular Construction Bid Process

When the Town Administrator (TA) was developing the budget for the possibility of a grant for Centennial Grove improvements, we studied the costs of site-built public restrooms versus modular public restrooms and modular restrooms are less expensive and more durable. This is particularly the case when pre-cast concrete modular buildings are concerned. As such, I would like to move ahead with a procurement process for a modular building.

Quotations for Downtown

## Essex Locals | Dec 8

#### 115 Years Ago - 1908

The temperature this past week has been quite variable. Sunday morning at daylight the mercury registered 6 above zero, Monday morning at the same hour it stood just 40 degrees higher.

#### 90 Years Ago - 1933

After a considerable period of preparation, the selectman and welfare board have arranged a program of work for the unemployed, some 175 men now being registered.

and delivery of a cut tree. The TA expects that the tree will be delivered sufficiently in advance of the ceremony, which will be held on November 30 this year.

#### Zoning Bylaw Review Project Meeting Summary

The TA participated in the subject meeting along with Chairman Pereen, Town Planner Dana Menon, Planning Board Chairman O'Donnell, and Planning Board Member Early, along with personnel from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) on November 16, 2023. The successful passage of four zoning articles at the recent Fall Town Meeting adds to the passage of the Zoning Bylaw recodification that was approved at the Annual Town Meeting back in May and the Planning Board is looking forward toward proposing district zoning in May of 2024. To that end, MAPC will continue to assist the Planning Board with development of proposals and the next public forum will be held on December 6, 2023.

#### Apple Street Project MVP Grant Status Update Meeting Summary

As the Board is aware, Town Meeting decided not to obtain easements over private property in conjunction with the proposed roadbed elevation and culvert replacement on the Southern Avenue end of Apple Street. Without those easements, it is not possible to complete the permitting process for the proposed project. The TA discussed the status of the project with Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness

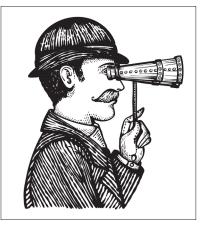
#### Thanksgiving Holiday

The office was closed on November 23 and 24, in observance of the subject holiday. This report is also available at essexma.org after Essex BOS meetings.

### **ESSEX POLICE NOTES**

#### SUNDAY, NOVEM-BER 26

**9:00** a.m. Iohn Wise Ave., animal complaint, secured/ checked. 11:14 a.m. Main St., community policing, secured/checked. 11:23 a.m. Southern Ave., motor vehicle stop, citation issued. 5:26 p.m. Riverview Hill. alarm, secured/ checked.



#### **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27**

12:35 a.m. Southern Ave., selective enforcement, no action taken. 1:00 a.m. Story St., directed patrol, secured/checked. 1:21 a.m. Conomo Point Rd., directed patrol, secured/ checked. 6:07 a.m. Scotts Way, directed patrol, secured/ checked.

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28** No report.

#### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

**7:22** a.m. Main St., directed patrol, secured/checked. **3:03** p.m. Centennial Grove Rd., directed patrol, secured/ checked. **10:22** p.m. Eastern Ave., motor vehicle accident with injury, criminal application. **10:59** p.m. Low Land Farm Rd., agency assist, assisted as needed.

#### **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30**

12:35 a.m. Chebacco Terrace, directed patrol, secured/ checked. 1:01 a.m. Main St., selective enforcement, no action taken. 5:38 a.m. Eastern Ave., directed patrol, secured/ checked. 6:58 a.m. Spring St., directed patrol, secured/ checked.

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

No report.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2** No report.



**Builders of Quality Crafted Outdoor Spaces** 180 SOUTHERN AVENUE ESSEX, MA

978 ~ 768 ~ 3359 www.jeffreyscreek.com

#### Page 8 | THE MANCHESTER CRICKET | FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2023

www.thecricket.com



This past weekend's Christmas by the Sea celebration was laden with cold and rain, but that didn't stop youngsters and their families from coming out to celebrate together and catch a glimpse of Old Saint Nick, who arrived by boat to Masconomo Park in Manchester Saturday as part of the Jingle Bell Walk. (Photos: Paul Clark)









## 12th Annual Night of Stars Talent Show Makes Triumphant Return



he stars were sparkling brightly on Saturday at the Spaulding Education Fund's 12th Annual Night of Stars Talent Show. This year the gala production featured 40 performers from throughout the community. The show was led by the Masters of Ceremonies Quinn Brady and Beckett Walker and produced by MERSD teacher Tyler Garofalo. Students from all four MERSD schools showcased their talents, with the youngest performer in kindergarten at Manchester Memorial Elementary. The audience was treated to banjo, piano, guitar, and tenor sax performances, as well as songs from a kid rock band; ballet, tap and jazz dances; parody rap music; a gymnastics routine; a performance by the high school acapella group The Soundwaves; and other fabulous acts. The Spaulding Education Fund was delighted to host the 12th year of the talent showcase, bringing back Night of Stars after a brief pause during the pandemic. The Spaulding Education Fund is an independent, non-profit organization supporting programs that enhance the MERSD curriculum beyond the tax-supported



Beckett Walker holds the flag as Quinn Brady sings the National

Anthem at Spaulding Education Fund's Night of the Stars. Photo Paul

The Davis Family Singers perform at the Night of the Stars. Photo Paul Clark See more pictures at: https://www.facebook.com/TheManchesterCricket



FIRST PARISH CHURCH

INVITES YOU TO A COMMUNITY

Messiah Sin

#### COME SING WITH US OR JUST COME LISTEN

MUSIC BY G.F. HANDEL, PART ONE & "HALLELUJAH" CHORUS WITH MARSHA JOHNSON, SOPRANO REBECCA SHRIMPTON, MEZZO-SOPRANO ROBERT CINNANTE, TENOR PAUL KNOX, BARITONE AND MEMBERS OF THE CAPE ANN SYMPHONY CONDUCTED BY DR. HERMAN WEISS

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023, 7:30 PM

ON THE VILLAGE GREEN AT 10 CENTRAL ST., MANCHESTER-BY-THE-SEA

DOORS OPEN AT 7 PM

BRING YOUR OWN MUSIC OR DOWNLOAD HERE: HTTPS://WWW.FIRSTPARISHCHURCH.ORG/EVENTS/MESSIAH-SING/ EXTRA SCORES WILL BE AVAILABLE

KINDLY DONATE \$20 AT THE DOOR TO HELP PAY FOR THE MUSICIANS

#### **RECEPTION FOLLOWS**

FIRST PARISH COMMUNITY HALL (BEHIND SANTANDER BANK)

For more information: (978) 526-7661 or www.firstparishchurch.org This event will be live streamed & video available later on the FPC website budget. With the generous support of attendees and sponsors, this year the fundraiser exceeded all expectations, raising almost \$20,000 for the organization.

Clark

A special thank you was noted to the large team of volunteers who helped produce the event, from ushers and stage assistants to audio-visual specialists and janitorial staff. Concessions were provided by the MERHS Robotics Team, a Spaulding Education Fund grant recipient. Stars was an overwhelming success, with 23 incredible acts and a supportive community filling the auditorium. We are so grateful to our sponsors, the performers, and everyone who helped create this special night," said SEF Steering Committee Member Wendy Brady, who spearheaded the event. "This event is such an important way to show community support for our outstanding public school system," added Brooke Orr, SEF Steering Committee co-chair.

"The 12th Annual Night of





Residential Building & Renovations Exceptional Staircases & Millwork General Contracting

617.445.4323 paynebouchier.com

## Point Counterpoint Student Loan Forgiveness

**By Gwendolyn Berger and** Stella Straub ME Regional High School Debate Team

he November/Decem-ber topic for Public Forum Debate is "Resolved: The United States federal government should forgive all federal student loan debt." This is an ideal topic for high school students and their parents to explore, with college expenses continuing to rise, and families stretched to provide the monetary support to enroll in the colleges of their choice. As of this year, American students owe over \$1.7 trillion in student loan debt, with many people taking years to pay off their loans and to make commitments to marriage, buying homes, and building personal wealth.

During the pandemic, the federal government excused recipients of loans from paying the interest on their federal educational loans, but now those payments have resumed. While forgiving debt may seem to some as an unearned privilege, many economists suggest that debt forgiveness would stimulate the economy and lead to growth; at the same time, to those who have paid off their loans, it seems unfair as well as an incentive for colleges to continue raising their tuitions.

The Manchester Essex Education Fund is holding its annual fundraising campaign, so this topic is directly relevant to all college bound students. The following is a discussion of the primary issues Manchester Essex Debate has been exploring in their research. Please feel free to offer comments and suggestions.

Nota Bene: High school debates center on a controversial topic and follow specific rules of debate to ensure a fair and challenging competition. Competitors are required to argue both sides of the topic, both pro and con. Arguments and opinions do not represent the opinion of the debater. This article first





A regular feature from the Manchester Essex Regional High School Debate Team offering *Cricket* readers aurguments for both sides of a timely event, topic or issue.

#### As of this year, American students owe over \$1.7 trillion in student loan debt, with many people taking years to pay off their loans and to make commitments to marriage, buying homes, and building personal wealth.

is involved with it. When students take out a loan, they borrow money (either from the government or a private lender) to pay for college tuition or other educational expenses. In this particular

amount totals over 1.7 trillion dollars, with each borrower owing an average of \$37,787. Unfortunately, student loan debt has more than doubled over the last two decades, a fact that would likely be included in a PRO case -- to cement the idea that while some of the older generations may view relief of debt as unfair, college tuition rates have risen faster than the average income, thus making it more difficult to pay off debts. Furthermore, PRO might argue the issue of defaulting.

When one defaults on their student loans, the entire unpaid balance and interest owed is immediately due (a process called acceleration). Furthermore, said defaulter can no longer receive deferment (postponing paying temporarily) or forbearance (stop making payments/or lessen monthly payments for up to one year). The defaulter will lose eligibility for other benefits like choosing a repayment plan and will receive a lower credit score and wage garnishment (one's wages are legally required to be held by employers for the payment of a debt). So, with that, what are a few main PRO arguments? The first may be national debt slowing the economy and forgiveness boosting the economy. This is because student loans limit consumer spending thus limcover their tuition costs.

With more students able to pay tuition costs, there will be no incentive for U.S. colleges and universities to slow or halt rising tuition costs.

This is particularly important because college tuition prices are already unaffordable as is. Rising prices only exacerbates this problem.

As Michael Smith wrote in his 2022 article for The Hill, "Since 1978, college tuition has increased by 1,375 percent, more than four times the rate of inflation. By focusing on debt forgiveness rather than what caused the debt, we're treating the symptom rather than the disease."

Unfortunately, the high cost of college impacts low-income students the most.

As Jon Marcus and Fazil Khan wrote for their 2023 article in USA Today, "At two out of three colleges and universities where the net price increased for both low- and high-income students over the past decade - that is, the amount paid after discounts and financial aid - it rose faster for the lowest-income students: about 70% versus 27%, on average, the federal data shows."

Higher education is one of the best paths out of poverty. Without access to it, low-income students are far more likely to be trapped in poverty.

These long-term impacts must be considered when weighing the potential benefits of forgiving student loan debt. Additionally, it can be argued that student loan forgiveness is unfair. The debt must be paid from somewhere; with all likelihood, it will be society's taxpayers.

This would hurt the pockets of average Americans, many of whom had to pay back their own student loan debt. Those who paid back their own debt were held responsible for their own personal economic decisions. However, with student loan debt forgiveness, the loan system is undermined, and people would no longer be held accountable.

goes through the affirmative side then the negation.

#### **PRO:** Why Supporting College Loan Forgiveness is Good

To begin, the topic requires a thorough knowledge base on student loan debt and how the federal government debate, debaters would be focused on the governmental role in student loan debt relief. According to the 2023 U.S. Student Loan Debt Statistics on Credit.com, by the end of 2022, the Federal Reserve announced that about 43.5 million Americans have student loan debt. This ition prices, would not be addressed by the one-time forgiveness of student loans. In fact, forgiveness may even exacerbate the problem.

iting the growth of new busi-

nesses. Theoretically, forgive-

ness of student loans would

make the economy easier for

people to participate in. An-

other argument that could be

made is that by having to pay

back student loans, one's life

is also pushed back. People

are held back from marrying,

purchasing a house, having

children, etc. With student

loans forgiven, people would

be able to engage in more

CON: Why College Loan

Forgiveness is a Bad Idea

When discussing the for-

giveness of student loan

debt, it is also important to

consider the potential reper-

cussions it would have on the

Instead of fixing the root

cause of rising debt due to

student loans, forgiveness

only offers a temporary solu-

which is inflated college tu-

The larger issue at hand,

productive citizenry.

nation.

tion.

If the government creates the expectation to forgive student loan debt, then students will be far more willing to take out student loans to Gwendolyn Berger and Stella Straub are juniors on Manchester Essex Regional High School Debate Team. Point / Counterpoint is a regular feature in the Manchester Cricket by the debate team. Readers who would like to respond or follow up with the team, please email news@thecricket.com.



Production photo of the Northeast Youth Ballet's production of The Nutcracker which will run this weekend in Andover. A Manchester youth, Toby McDonald, is one of the 85 dancers who will be featured.

### Manchester Youth one of 85 Dancers in NYB's 25th Anniversary Production

The Nutcracker is the enchanting story of a young girl named Clara in 1835's Germany who embarks upon a magical journey through a winter wonderland. And this year, one young Manchester resident, Toby McDonald, will be among the young dancers in the Andover-based Northeast Youth Ballet's 25th-anniversary production of the show.

Returning to the J. Everett Collins Center for the Performing Arts in Andover, the Northeast Youth Ballet (NYB) full-length production of The Nutcracker features Tchaikovsky's brilliant score with exquisite dancing, beautiful costumes, and lavish sets.

This year's production showcases the talents of more than 85 dancers who auditioned from the Greater Boston area, one of whom, Toby McDonald, hails from Manchester-by-the-Sea. The Nutcracker is a delightful story that includes a battle with mice, mischief, magic, and a beautiful Sugar Plum Fairy dancing in her Palace

of Sweets.

NYB, known for producing quality ballet productions at affordable prices at home and abroad, has held non-profit status since 1996. Critics raves and past praises for NYB performances include The Boston Globe, The Medford Daily Mercury, WBZ Channel 4, The Lynn Item, and countless other local papers and cable channels. NYB's The Nutcracker will run from Friday, December 8 through Sunday, December 10. Tickets available at NSBinc.org.



Anika Taylor, of Manchesterby-the-Sea, volunteers to distribute turkeys on Emerson Avenue through The Open Door Holiday Basket program.

Photo Courtesy of The Open Door



16

25

40

44

48

26 27

58

28

69

ALL CONSUMER CELLULAR

### Puzzle

#### **THEME: HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

#### ACROSS

- 1. Bag holder
- 6. P in mpg
- 9. Eye part
- 13. Dog
- 14. \_\_\_ Gershwin
- 15. \*Eggnog ingredient
- 16. Hold the floor
- 17. \_\_\_ Mahal
- 18. Anti-elderly one
- 19. \*Breaking news, to a caroler
- 21. \*Coming, in Latin
- 23. 'easter
- 24. "Begone!"
- 25. Parent-child divide
- 28. Fur-dwelling parasites
- 30. Lacrosse stick
- 35. Kiln for hops
- 37. Feline vibration
- 39. Little Richard's "\_\_\_\_ Frutti"
- 40. Cream-filled treat
- 41. \*Number of candles in kinara
- 43. Mountain goat terrain
- 44. \*"Prancing and pawing of each
- little hoof," e.g.
- 46. Carpenter's joint
- 47. Drug-induced state
- 48. Make lovable
- 50. "Cheers" regular
- 52. \*Max to #57 Across
- 53. Overwhelming defeat
- 55. Thailand native
- 57. \*Dr. Seuss' spoilsport
- 60. \*Santa chute
- 64. Water border
- 65. "What?"
- 67. D in LED
- 68. Carved
- 69. Stars and Stripes land
- 70. Astronomer \_\_\_\_ Hubble
- 71. Hitler's sidekick
- 72. Joaquin Phoenix' 2013 movie
- 73. Crows' homes
- DOWN

#### 2023 Consumer Cellular Inc. For © StatePoint Media 1. Dick's and Jane's dog 2. Famous Amos 3. Cormac McCarthy's "The " 4. Join the cast of (2 words) 5. Carbolic acid 6. Deodorant target 7. Pitcher's stat 8. Indian prince 9. More than suggest 10. Blood tunnel 11. 90 degrees, on compass

Consumer 888-804-0913 12. Invoice qty. 15. Romp around 20. Key \_\_ on a movie set, pl. 22. Med school grad 24. Passepartout to Phileas Fogg 25. \*Popular traditional holiday entree 26. Home run hero 27. Impostor 29. Prompted 31. "That hurts!"

CROSSWORD

10 11 12

32 33

62

18

Suuoku									
			SU	јрок	(U				
With		ew Safe Step W		WEF \$160 P 1	7 PA 00 O 1-85!	СКА FF 5-57	6-56	vailable	
								6	
		6	5				4		
	2			1	6		7		
6					3	7		2	
8	7						3	9	
1		3	8					4	
	5		3	8			9		
	8				4	2			
3									
© StatePo	oint Media								

Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every

Sudaku

row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9. Solutions on Page 11

- 32. Vegas' main drag 33. Coach-and-four 34. \*Number of days in Hanukkah 36. Muscle quality 38. Word processor command 42. \*Like Santa's pole 45. Repaired, as in socks 49. Mythical giant bird 51. Unmarried woman, archaic 54. Affirmative interjection 56. What timidest and polyimide
- have in common 57. Clarified butter
- 58. Theater seat arrangement
- 59. Wraths
- 60. Burn to a crisp
- 61. "\_\_\_\_ your chance..," contraction
- 62. Make changes
- 63. Yearnings
- 64. "Be quiet!"
- 66. Don't waste

**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 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 Manchesterby-the-Sea

Worship with Communion, Sunday Dec. 10, 2023, 10 a.m., we invite everyone to join us for hospitality following the service. Worship Leader, Rev. Rick Spalding

Music led by Dr. Herman Weiss, with the First Parish Choir.

Sunday, Dec. 10, 2nd Annual Messiah Sing, 7:30 p.m. with a reception held following.

Our Advent theme - Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you... So affirms the beloved carol in whose shelter we gather ourselves together, each Advent - to wait and to wonder. The prophet Isaiah proclaims that God's name means "God with us". What are the implications of the with-ness of God - for each of us alone, for all of us together? How does the with-ness of God change our ways of being with each other? with ourselves? with the world? These are some of the questions we'll be pondering as we worship together during this momentous Advent at First Parish - on the cusp of an exciting new chapter in the life of our church, and a season of urgent need in the world. In light of everything that's going on around us, let's be sure to be with one another, and with God, as we prepare ourselves again through the month of December to receive tidings of great joy which shall be to all people! Monday Friends of the COA Senior Drop in 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Wednesday Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve 5 p.m. Come one and all to our 5 p.m. Christmas Eve Intergenerational Service for people of all ages. Infused into the service will be a recreation of an older pageant script, slightly modernized, entitled Looking Back is Looking Forward. Music, joy, and the humanness of this ancient tale is sure to set your Christmas Eve with just the right tone to meet Christmas Day with arms and eyes wide! Don't miss it.

...(Continued on page 11)



YouTube as well as www.mecatholic.org Sunday Mass - 8:30 a.m.

#### **DISCOVER HOMES ON THE NORTH SHORE**



MANCHESTER-BY-THE-SEA 146 Bridge Street 5 Beds | 4F 2H Baths | 8,808 Sq. Ft. Offered at \$4,295,000

McDermott Group | 978.857.0343



GLOUCESTER 5 Plum Court 4 Beds | 1F 5H Baths | 2,975 Sq. Ft. Offered at \$2,999,999 Eileen Gagnon | 978.270.6843



NEWBURYPORT 347 High Street 5 Beds | 5.5 Baths | 5,567 Sq. Ft. Offered at \$2,349,900 Kevin Fruh | 978.500.7409



GLOUCESTER 42 Fort Hill Avenue 4 Beds | 4 Baths | 3,547 Sq. Ft. Offered at \$2,095,000 McDermott Group | 978.857.0343



ROCKPORT 10 Briarstone Road 3 Beds | 1.5 Baths | 1,759 Sq. Ft. Offered at \$1,950,000 Jill Michaud | 978.766.8064



IPSWICH 43 Country Club Way 4 Beds | 3F 2H Baths | 5,962 Sq. Ft. Offered at \$1,599,000

Tom Kennedy | 617.947.9201



BOXFORD 55 Burning Bush Drive 4 Beds | 2.5 Baths | 4,769 Sq. Ft. Offered at \$1,399,999 Kristin Francoeur | 978.270.7929



WEST NEWBURY 64 Bridge Street 3 Beds | 2.5 Baths | 2,800 Sq. Ft. Offered at \$1,199,000

The Cronin Team | 978.609.0740

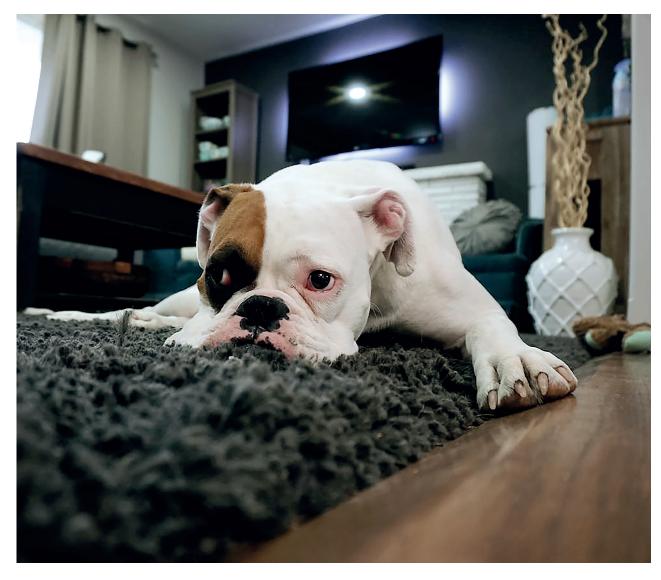


SCAN TO VIEW MORE PROPERTIES

GIBSONSOTHEBYSREALTY.COM

Fall

## The Reported Outbreak of **Respiratory Disease in Dogs**



By Lawrence Lamb, DVM

ecently, at a Veterinary Association of the North Shore meeting, I did a random survey of our mutual experience with this reported outbreak. I'm not sure there's a new disease here. I'm not even sure there's a major outbreak (or any outbreak).

The disease, (which we refer to as canine infectious respiratory disease complex, or CIRDC) in dogs has been reported fairly extensively in the media. There's always limited info about numbers, and the disease description is coughing dogs, some that get pneumonia, a few that die.

That largely describes our normal state. CIRDC is endemic in dogs, with various

#### I recommend a continued observation of general trends; however, at this time, I see little reason to panic.

tice it more at times, either because of local clusters or, increasingly, local increases in awareness because of media coverage. Media and social media can drive outbreak concerns. They can be great to get the word out and help sort out issues, but sometimes they lead to false alarms.

We don't have any idea if the current stories reflect a multistate outbreak caused by some new bacterium/ virusA, multistate outbreak for an individual dog.

In my opinion, this is an outbreak of media attention and a somewhat increased rate of disease that we've seen over the past year.

However, I cannot be 100% sure, which is why we're still trying to figure things out. But I don't see a reason for extra concern. If you're worried about canine respiratory disease, still, it is a good idea to limit your dog's contact, especially transient contact with dogs of unknown health status. Keep your dog away from sick dogs. If your dog is sick, keep it away from other dogs.

Talk to your vet about vaccination against canine parainfluenza (CPIV) and Bordetella bronchiseptica and

such as coughing, lack of appetite, fever, and lethargy. The symptoms usually clear up in one to three weeks if it's a kennel cough. With the latest respiratory illness, however, veterinarians report that dogs can have symptoms for six weeks or more.

#### Where has this been reported?

The illness has been found in at least seven states: Colorado, Massachusetts, Oregon, Rhode Island, Illinois, Maryland and Wyoming.

It's unclear how many dogs have been infected because there is no official count of the cases.

#### The cause is not clear.

It's unclear what causes the illness. Researchers are

#### Solution to puzzles on page 10

S	Т	R	А	Ρ		Ρ	Е	R			U	V	Е	А
Ρ	0	0	С	Н		Ι	R	А		С	R	E	А	М
0	R	Α	Т	Е		Т	А	J		А	G	1	S	Т
Т	Ι	D	Ι	Ν	G	S		А	D	V	Е	N	Т	
			Ν	0	R		S	Η	0	0				
G	А	Ρ		L	Ι	С	Е		С	R	0	S	S	Е
0	A	S	Т		Ρ	U	R	R		Т	U	Т	Т	Ι
0	R	E	0		S	E	V	Е	Ν		С	R	Α	G
S	0	U	Ν	D		D	А	D	0		Η	Ι	G	Н
Е	Ν	D	Ε	А	R		Ν	0	R	М		Ρ	Ε	Т
				R	0	U	Т		Т	A	Ι			
	G	R	Ι	Ν	С	Н		С	Н	Ι	М	N	Е	Y
S	Н	0	R	Е		Н	U	Н		D	Ι	0	D	Е
Н	Е	W	Е	D		U	S	А		Е	D	W	Ι	Ν
H	E	S	S			H	E	R		N	E	S	Т	S
L											_			
	;			a					7					
5	;	1		9	4		3		7	8		2		6
	+			9 6	4			ŀ	7 8		3			
5	′	1				-	3			8	;	2		6
5	<b>/</b>	1		6	5	; ; )	3 2		8	8	)	2 4		6 1
5 7 4	,  -  }	1 3 2		6 8	5 0	; ;	3 2 1		8 6	8 0 3	) ) /	2 4 7		6 1 5
5 7 4 6	7  -  }	1 3 2 4		6 8 5	5 9 1	)	3 2 1 9		8 6 3	8 0 3 7	) ) ,	2 4 7 8		ô 1 5 2
5 7 4 6 8	7  -  }  }	1 3 2 4 7		6 8 5 2	5 9 1 6	- 5 ) }	3 2 1 9 4		8 6 3 5	8 9 7 1	) ) ;	2 4 7 8 3		6 1 5 9
5 7 4 6 8	7  -  -  -	1 3 2 4 7 9		6 8 5 2 3	5 9 1 6	) ) }	3 2 1 9 4 7		8 6 3 5 2	8 9 7 1 5	) ) )	2 4 7 8 3 6		6 1 5 2 9

#### PET OF THE WEEK



known causes (e.g. canine parainfluenza virus, Bordetella bronchiseptica, canine respiratory coronavirus, canine pneumovirus, canine influenza virus, Streptococcus zooepidemicus, generally in that order of occurrence, and perhaps Mycoplasma. There are also presumably a range of viruses that have been present for a long time but that we don't diagnose.

We see CIRDC all the time, everywhere. A background level of disease usually occurs under the radar, alongside periodic clusters.

I get questions every week asking whether there's more or more severe CIRDC activity at the moment. To me, that reflects the fact that there's always circulation of CIRDC and that we no-

#### ...(Continued from page 10)

Christmas Eve 7:30 p.m. Traditional Candlelight open to all! Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you... Rev. Rick Spalding

#### 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 Uni**versalist 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 schoolaged 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

caused by our usual suspects, for some reason, unconnected sporadic local outbreaks caused by usual suspA, a slight increase in baseline disease or our normal disease activity that's resulted in an outbreak of media attention

I suspect that we have been seeing a bit more CIRDC activity over the past couple of years and that we see a somewhat greater incidence of severe cases. However, with more cases, we see more severe diseases, so those are linked.

I cannot discount something new, and we continue to try to get a better handle on what's happening. It's tough since there's no effective surveillance system. Testing is expensive and rarely impacts how we care

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

canine influenza.

So far, this is what has been reported. Dogs in at least seven states have been infected. Symptoms include coughing, fever, lethargy, and intermittent loss of appetite.

The symptoms are similar to kennel cough, an upper respiratory infection, but can last much longer and, in some cases, prove fatal, according to veterinarians.

#### What are the symptoms?

The infected dogs develop a cough, fever, lethargy, and intermittent loss of appetite. While infected, some dogs will develop pneumonia. Veterinarians have reported seeing blue and purple gums in those cases.

may show some symptoms,

someone will be happy to

talk with you and answer

any questions you may have.

Send an email to: north-

LEGAL

of God's presence.

still running tests to learn more about the illness. Some disagree on whether a virus or bacteria causes the illness.

I recommend a continued observation of general trends; however, at this time, I see little reason to panic.



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

Urquhart School led by Jes-

YOYO

i there, my name is Yoyo. I'm a sweet, en-Lergetic 10-month-old looking for an active home. I'm a good hiking buddy and I enjoy learning new commands while out in nature.! I love giving kisses and playing fetch. I have made some good doggo friends here that love to chase and romp. On occa-

sion my outgoing personality has helped bring shy dogs out of their shells. If you're looking for an all-around good companion dog to go on adventures with, please stop in at the Christopher Cutler Rich Animal Shelter, 4 Paws Lane in Gloucester, to meet me. Visit www.capeannanimalaid.org for more information about me and all the other animals waiting for homes at the shelter.

#### LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Essex Division 36 Federal Street

Salem, MA 01970 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Docket No. ES23P3374EA

Estate of Rachel Holly Roberts.

Also known as: Rachel Holly, Rachel S. Roberts, Rachel Spencer Roberts, Rachel Thelma Holly Roberts

Date of Death: 06/19/2023

To all interested persons:

A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Sally S. Montoya of Netherlands 1391 requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Sally S. Montoya of Netherlands 1391 be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve without surety on the bond in an unsupervised administration.

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this

Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/09/2023.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

#### UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Frances M. Giordano, First Justice of this Court.

November 29, 2023

Pamela A. Casey O'Brien, Register of Probate.

> Posted to MNPA website: http://masspublicnotices.org.

Town of Manchester-by-Sea Office of the ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS Town Hall, 10 Central Street, Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA 01944-

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

1399

The Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Manchester-by-the-Sea will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, December 20, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

ZBA Board will meet in Room 5, allow for the construction of an Town Hall. Applicants, Presenters, accessory 62' x 32' sports court at and Public are welcome to join the 1 Crooked Lane, Assessors Map 32, Board in Room 5.

#### New Applications

Application of Joseph Falzone on behalf of Francesca C. Falzone, Trustee of the Black Cove Realty

Trust for a Special Permit under Zoning By-Law for the installation family residence in a nonconforma Variance under Sections 7.2, 7.4, Map 22, Lot No. 32 in District E filed with Town Clerk on October 12, 2023.

Valdimer Ratushny for a Special on November 13, 2023. Permit under Sections 4.3.2, 7.2, Location: This is a Hybrid meeting. and 12,5 of the Zoning By-Law to Lot 98 in District A filed with Town Clerk on November 7, 2023.

> Application of Andrew and Jennifer Migonis, for a Special Permit under Sections, 4.3.2, 7.2, and 12.5 of the December 8, 2023 MC

Sections 5.0, 7.2 and 12.5 of the of an in-ground swimming pool at Zoning By-Law to allow for the 89 Bridge Street, Assessor's Map 27, change from a nonconforming use Lot No. 13 in District C filed with (parking and storage) to a single- Town Clerk on November 14, 2023.

and 12.5 of the Zoning By-Law for a Shed installed within the front setback at 16 Jersey Lane, Assessor's Map 26. Lot No. 12, in Application of Lindsay and District C filed with the Town Clerk

> Zoom information will be available on the Town website prior to the meeting.

> > Sarah Mellish, Chair, Zoning Board of Appeals

Posted to MNPA website: http://masspublicnotices.org. December 1, 2023 MC

sica Kagle from the Kestrel Foundation. Blessings To

worship.' Friends gather quishorequaker@gmail.com. etly, awaiting the experience First Day School, our Children's Program, consists of If you are new to Quakers, forest walks near the Glen

You.

## Dogs with kennel cough

## Barrett

### The North Shore's Premier Real Estate Agency



Gloucester \$4,900,000 Miles of ocean views, direct Plum Cove Beach access, mooring, huge paver patio top long list of highlights in custom 4-bedroom, 4.5-bath, 2016 stunner. Heated garage, generator, geothermal heat. Ann Olivo & Rick Marshall

New pool. 2-car attached garage.



Thinking of

Buying or Selling

YOUR Home -

WE ARE HERE

**TO HELP!** 

#### Hamilton

\$2,600,000 Dream estate on 5+ acres on private road! Magnificent

Hackett & Glessner



dwelling, drive, pristine wooded lot.

Kate Richard

\$2,600,000

#### **Beverly**

\$1,299,000

At the end of a cul de sac, exquisite 5-bedroom, 2.5-bath Colonial offers an array of amenities such as spacious main suite, 3rd floor family room, finished basement. Fully fenced yard, deck.

**Daniel Meegan** 



\$874,900 **Ipswich** Farm Village Phase III. Only 1 Unit Remains! Beautiful new, architect-designed home adjacent to 40+acres Near Downtown. open space. Several designs, 2-car garages.





Rockport

Beachfront condo unit with two bedrooms, one bath and separate studio space. Modern finishes and amenities, plus rental opportunity. Spend time on Long Beach - the North Shore's best beach getaway.

has awning. Central AC, 2-car parking. Ann Olivo & Rick Marshall

#### 1 Beach Street • Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA 01944 • 978.526.8555

Leading Companies



J Barrett & Company, LLC supports the principles of both the Fair Housing and the Equal Opportunity Acts



www.jbarrettrealty.com



#### Wenham

#### \$1,050,000

Newman-Fiske-Dodge House, a Wenham Icon since 1658. Historic home in excellent condition with 4,000 sq. ft., 5 bedrooms and 3.5 baths. Large barn, 3 driveways and scenic grounds.

#### Peggy McNamara



Rockport Picturesque setting overlooks colorful Rockport rooftops. 2-level, 3-bed, 2-bath condo with eat-in

kitchen, 2nd level primary suite, in-unit laundry. Deck

\$679,000



## ANK MANCHESTER-BY-THE-SEA



**Jackelyn Enslow** 





#### 74 Cherry St Wenham | \$4,250,000

WE'RE LOCAL WE'RE GLOBAL®

Sited on over 40 acres of private rolling lush fields overlooking a majestic pond. This property is in move-in condition six bedrooms, five and half baths and 7 fireplaces.

Lynda Surdam | Realtor 978-764-7474



#### 304 Summer St Manchester | \$1,950,000

This is a rare find as it brings together beauty and privacy in an incredible and convenient location near the ocean. This five bedroom, four bath well maintained Colonial is perched on over an acre of land with an additional acre of usage.

#### Krista Julian | Realtor 617-312-5413



2 Raymond Street Manchester | \$850,000

Sweet coastal home with seasonal peaks of ocean. 3 bedroom, 2 bath large living and family rooms with fireplaces overlooking pond. Large deck with terrace, two-car garage.

Lynda Surdam | Realtor 978-764-7474



#### 28 Granite St Rockport | \$920,000

Character, comfort, and potential! Check out this freshly painted, handsome Rockport four bedroom antique near the beach, town and train.

Paula Murphy | Realtor 978-559-1465



6 Lattof Farm Circle Rockport | \$1,495,000 Impeccable Colonial on private cut-de-sac in Rockport. 4-5 beds/3.5 baths. Impressive great room, great fenced yard and two-car garage.

Scott Smith | Realtor 617-750-2793



WHEREVER YOU DREAM OF LIVING, WE'LL **HELP GUIDE YOU** THERE.





office, studio or gym. Marianne Round | Realtor 978-902-5452

Joan McDonald | Realtor 978-979-3190

#### 40 BEACH STREET, MANCHESTER-BY-THE-SEA, MA 01944 **TELEPHONE 978-526-7572**

#### COLDWELLBANKERHOMES.COM