



Check it out!

The MERHS Winter Varsity Sport Schedule is here. Check it out, Page 8, and the local businesses that support them.

MANCHESTER CRICKET

A Local Tradition Since 1888

VOL. 136, NO. 30

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2023

PRICE: \$1.25

BRIEFLY

The Hooper Fund Coat Drive

This Saturday, Dec. 16 between 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. at the Memorial Elementary School cafeteria on Lincoln Street, the Hooper Fund and the MBTS Parks & Recreation Dept. will hold a winter coat drive. It's all for a great cause. Bring your lightly used coat (infant - adult) for a family in need and in return your child (and sibling) will craft and decorate a cookie with Heather Depriest and staff from the Parks & Rec Dept. Plan on staying after your child's basketball game!

College Board Honors MERHS for AP Excellence

ME Regional High School has been honored by the College Board for outstanding achievement on and commitment to Advanced Placement testing. The College Board awarded MERHS bronze recognition in its 2023 AP School Honor Roll. Schools are honored for increasing college-going culture, providing opportunities for students to earn college credit, and maximizing college readiness, ensuring consistent student outcomes. Nice job.

MBTS COA Shopping Trip to Gloucester

On Wednesday, December 20, the Manchester Council on Aging is offering a trip to Gloucester. Enjoy walking along festive Main Street, get some holiday shopping done, or grab lunch at one of the delicious restaurants. The van will start picking up seniors around 11 a.m. Return is expected around 2 p.m. For further information or to reserve your seat on the van, please call the C.O.A. office.

Positive Strategies for Tech and Children: Jan 3

On Jan. 3 from 6 to 7 p.m., Sarah Ward will speak on "Powerful Strategies to Help Children Develop Independent Executive Functioning Skills" with a focus on using technology in positive and helpful ways. Ward is a speech and language pathologist specializing in children's development and executive functioning. This will be a virtual program and is part of the Manchester Elementary School Council-sponsored Parent Education Series. All are welcome.

Pre-K Screening for Manchester Essex School District

Screening for next school year's preschool program for Manchester Essex has been scheduled for Friday, January 26. This is a combined screening to assess three- and four-year-olds from Manchester and Essex who present with possible developmental delays and may require Special Education or wish to be considered as "PEER Pals" for the 2024-25 school year. Interested should contact Shelley Mullarkey at the Student Services Office at (978) 526-6060.

Musings and Shipbuilding

Two highlights in this edition (although, aren't all items in every edition "highlights?"). First up, momentum for our reader-submitted essay writing series "Musings" continues this week with a lovely piece written by Manchester resident Liz Colbert, called "The Wicked Witch and Me," Page 5. Then, on Page 9 check out a preview of the Essex Shipbuilding's unique upcoming five-day boat building workshop. This workshop literally brings participants back in time to build, by hand, their own skiff.



Fans cheered on the Hornets in their game-day overalls during the boys' basketball home opener. ME defeated visiting team Cathedral. The game was paused to recognize Cade Furse for scoring his career 1000th point.

Photo Paul Clark

Town Wins Award for Village Vulnerability Planning

By Gregory T. Federspiel

At the December 8th Annual Awards luncheon of the Massachusetts' American Planning Association, Manchester received the Sustainability and Resiliency Award for our "Coastal Vulnerability Action Plan" we recently completed for protecting the Village core area from sea level rise and greater storms. The plan was crafted by a steering committee of residents along with a team of consultants from Fuss and O'Neill, an engineering and planning firm with offices in Boston. The work to create the plan was funded by a grant from the state's Coastal Zone Management office.

The graphic intensive 100-page report provides a wealth of information and a road map for action steps that can be taken in the short, medium, and long terms to protect the village core area from flooding. Even without increased sea-level rise the village has been subject to high waters. Many of the Town's critical facilities - the sewer plant,



the police station, and the fire station - have flooded in the past and will be subject to more frequent and more destructive flooding in the future. Private structures are vulnerable as well. Thus, steps are needed to maintain the viability of these buildings and facilities.

For the short term the plan lays out many protective actions that can be taken now as well as laying the groundwork for bigger measures in the years ahead. Making buildings more watertight can provide moderate flood protection in the near term. This means better sealed doors and having at the ready temporary barriers that can be put in place ahead of a storm. Electric panels, emergency

generators and other critical equipment can be elevated to avoid high water. Another immediate fix the plan recommends is to install "check valves" on drain outlets that prevent sea water from backing up these structures and reverse flowing out of collection basins. These actions are already proceeding with the help of additional state grant funding.

One of the medium-term recommendations is to see where room can be provided for the inland migration of marshes. These ecosystems offer an important buffer between the built environment and open water but with rising seas these marshlands will disappear unless room is provided for them to migrate inland. There are marshes around the harbor

that we might be able to facilitate their upland migration to enable them to offer their dampening effect on storm surge. In what may at first seem counterintuitive, this may mean removing hardened shoreline barriers to allow inland migration.

Similarly, the plan recommends a study of how Masconomo Park could be reconfigured as a "floodable park" that helps buffer the village area from surging seas. A community design exercise will be taking place later in the winter and into the spring of 2024 as part of the latest grant the Town has received to help implement part of the Action Plan. This area, like many other areas in the village, was once tide lands that have since been filled in. Selective reversal of some of these areas could form part of a strategy of protecting remaining built-up areas.

What is a floodable park? Examples are starting to emerge in other coastal areas. The idea is to create parklands that are resilient to occasional flooding with amenities that can with-

stand flood waters and be usable once the water recedes. For Masconomo that may mean relocating the parking area away from the harbor's edge, lowering the elevation in certain sections and rethinking the ground cover in these sections. These ideas and others will be explored through the upcoming public design process (charrette.)

Other longer-term potential actions include elevating buildings and roads (e.g.: Beach Street from the railroad tracks to past Old Neck Road) raising the MBTA tracks and creating a protective berm along with a flood gate at the drawbridge and relocating certain critical facilities like the police and fire stations. A more radical alternative is mentioned as well - retreating from the water's edge with a more extensive restoration of the natural shoreline.

The good news is that, thanks to the efforts of many, we have crafted an award-winning document that provides immediate steps that we are now taking to help reduce our vulnerability to flooding and we have identified longer term options that may offer even greater protections but that will require more study and discussion in the years ahead.

Santa's Return Visit Wrapped Up Kids Wishes



The last few weeks of Santa's visits to Manchester and Essex were on days that happened to have challenging weather. So when Santa returned to Manchester last Sunday morning take his annual ride around town on the back of Manchester Fire Dept.'s Squad 1 pick up truck, a big number of local children descended on the Fire House to meet up with Santa and get in those last minute lists. It didn't hurt that the weather was unseasonably warm and sunny. Once the line of kids was heard, it was off on the tour!

Weekly Weather Chart

Saturday 16 Dec		49°	36°
Sunday 17 Dec		46°	34°
Monday 18 Dec		47°	40°
Tuesday 19 Dec		46°	39°
Wednesday 20 Dec		42°	36°
Thursday 21 Dec		35°	32°
Friday 22 Dec		36°	32°

Weather data pulled Wednesday and is subject to change.



Gavel to Gavel This Week's Town Meetings

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

Essex BOS
Monday, Dec 18, 6 p.m.

MERSD
SC Meeting
Please note: If needed
Tuesday, Dec 19, 6 - 8 p.m.

Essex Planning Board
Wednesday, Dec 20, 7 p.m.

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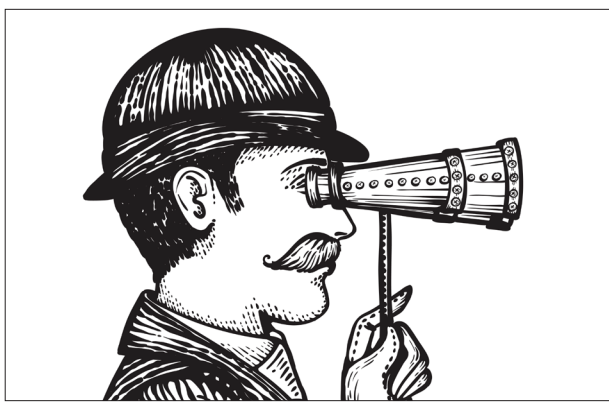


MBTS Golden Agers Luncheon

The morning temperature on Thursday, December 7 was 27 degrees and it did not rise above freezing for the day. Despite the cold temperature, 37 Golden Age Club members traveled to the Danversport Yacht Club to join with 600 people for lunch and a show. As usual the chefs prepared a delicious full-course meal

served by an amazing wait staff. After lunch guests were entertained with a Country Christmas show. Danversport got rave reviews from our members. All in all, it was a great way to end our 2023 season. Thank you, Mr. Sanford, for your generous gift to the Manchester-by-the-Sea Golden Age Club.

MANCHESTER POLICE NOTES



tion made. 6:35 p.m. Mill St., fire alarm, assisted as needed.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8
6:40 a.m. Mill St., suspicious activity, assisted as needed. 1:21 p.m. Woodholm Rd., welfare check, spoken to. 2:19 p.m. School St., motor vehicle stop, written warning. 9:33 p.m. Pine St., suspicious activity, spoken to.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9
2:01 a.m. The Plains Rd., directed patrol, secured/checked. 5:32 a.m. Smiths Point Rd., alarm, secured/checked. 10:25 a.m. Pine St., motor vehicle stop, spoken to. 3:19 p.m. Route 128SB, motor vehicle stop, vehicle towed.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10
4:43 a.m. Bennett St., disturbance, spoken to. 2:34 p.m. Route 128SB, disabled motor vehicle, assisted as needed. 8:14 p.m. Route 128SB, disabled motor vehicle, gone on arrival. 10:09 p.m. Beach St., motor vehicle stop, written warning.

secured/checked.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6
8:15 a.m. Beach St., community policing, other. 10:35 a.m. Summer St., parking complaint, spoken to. 2:31 p.m. Pine St., motor vehicle stop, written warning. 8:47 p.m. Lincoln St., motor vehicle stop, no action taken.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7
7:12 a.m. School Zone, community policing, secured/checked. 12:14 p.m. School St., motor vehicle stop, verbal warning. 5:24 p.m. Pleasant St., motor vehicle complaint, notifica-

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4
10:30 a.m. Summer St., selective enforcement, no action taken. 12:14 p.m. Brook St., welfare check secured/checked. 3:18 p.m. School St., motor vehicle stop, verbal warning. 6:17 p.m. Central St., disturbance, assisted as needed.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5
8:59 a.m. Lincoln Ave., citizen assist, inspection passed. 12:21 p.m. Pipeline Rd., theft, report to follow. 1:46 p.m. Route 128SB, motor vehicle stop, verbal warning. 9:19 p.m. Summer St., selective enforcement,

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).

Celebration Of Life



Nicholas Joseph Loffredo

Nicholas Joseph Loffredo, 79, of Portland, ME, passed away peacefully at home on Sunday, December 3rd, 2023. He was predeceased by his parents, Angela Lena Nicolosi Loffredo and Nicholas J. Loffredo Sr., and leaves behind his wife of 53 years, Shirley Thibedeau Loffredo, his sons, Brett Loffredo and his wife Keaven Hartt, and Adam Loffredo and his wife Susannah Loffredo, three grandsons, Sam, Hank, & Vinny Loffredo, and his sisters Linda Giolito, of Duxbury, MA, and Joanne Miele, of Manchester, NH, and brothers Richard Loffredo, of Rotonda West, FL, and Larry Loffredo, of Philmont, NY, and several nieces and nephews.

Nick was born on February 19th, 1944 in Lawrence, MA, studied Mechanical Engineering at Lowell Tech, in Lowell, MA, and served in the US Army Reserves. He and Shirley met and raised their family on the North Shore of MA, where he also started and grew several businesses over the years.

Nick was a faithful Patriots fan, and an amateur carpenter and woodworker.

In lieu of flowers, please donate in Nick's name to the Herb Schlegel Scholarship Fund via the Cape Ann Savings Bank Trust Dept., 109 Main St., Gloucester, MA 01930

Family and Friends are welcome at a Celebration of Life to be held at the Manchester American Legion, 14 Church St., Manchester-by-the-Sea, on Saturday, December 16th, 2023, from noon to 4 p.m.

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CLASSIFIEDS

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

FOR RENT

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

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HOLIDAYS!

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

FOR SALE

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Last night was the High School auditorium was full of music as the MERHS Winter Concert was presented. Mr. Icenogle and Mr. Janack were responsible for this lovely performance. The Chorus, Soundwaves, Jazz Band and Cancer Band were featured. Mr. Icenogle and Mr. Janack would like to thank the ME Performing Arts for their support.

Photos Paul Clark



Act the way you'd like to be and soon you'll be the way you act.
~ Leonard Cohen ~

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Holiday's Reciprocal Sounds of Handel's Messiah



The First Parish Church Chorus, singing last week. Dr. Herman Weiss conducts. Photos Erika Brown



Dr. Herman Weiss, music director at First Parish Congregational Church, directing the chorus, orchestra and the audience singalong at Sunday's "Messiah Sings" holiday event. Tenor soloist Robert Cinnante is at left, with members of the Cape Ann Symphony at right.

On Sunday, despite an ugly afternoon of cold and rain, a record number of people packed the First Parish Church for the stunningly beautiful Messiah Sing which brought 13 members of the Cape Ann Symphony and professional choral singers together with the audience for a reciprocal traditional holiday sing-along written hundreds of years ago by George Frideric Handel.

"Yes, once again the weather wasn't especially cooperative," said Martha Farmer, who helped organize the event. "Although the warm and rainy was better than icy cold and snowing, which last year caused the kettle drum player, and his drums, to end up in a ditch and two other musicians to miss the performance!" And this year the performance was, indeed, festive and went off without a hitch. The program was again conducted under the musical direction of Dr. Herman Weiss. It was Weiss who brought the idea of this ambitious public holiday event to Manchester last year.

The format is an exciting one, where the audience is provided lyrics to sing along with a professional orchestra, a harpsichordist, choral singers from Boston, and, of course, the First Parish chorus. There is no rehearsal

for any participant in the Baroque-era oratorio. And Sunday's performance was open to anyone who wants to sing or listen, and lyric sheets were handed out as people entered.

Weiss has conducted several Messiah "sing-alongs" in the Greater Boston area. He had said the First Parish Church is perfect for Messiah Sing because the building was originally designed as both a public house of worship and a civic Meeting House in the early 1800s to execute town business (such as Town Meetings and elections) before Manchester had a formal Town Hall. This dual-purpose architecture, said Weiss, uniquely lends itself to good acoustics, public speaking and exchange. Perfect for a collaborative, joyful group singing program.

Soloists included Robert Cinnante (tenor) who also performed last year. He currently serves as president of the South Shore Conservatory. He is a graduate of the New England Conservatory - where he first collaborated with Dr. Weiss many years ago. Bass soloist was Andrew Stack, a relatively recent graduate of the New England Conservatory, who did a marvelous job. The other soloist was Marsha Johnson, who has performed extensively in opera, includ-

ing the Great Woods Opera, Janus Ensemble, and Bach Aria Festival, among others, and is another New England Conservatory graduate. Lastly, the fourth soloist was our own Rebecca Shrimpton, mezzo-soprano, who is Associate Professor of Voice at Berklee College of Music.

Once again, this year, Robert Littlefield played the "harpsichordist," in a remarkable semblance on a state-of-the-art electronic keyboard. Last year he brought his harpsichord to the event here in Manchester but he retired from the Unitarian Universalist Church in Beverly last spring, after 57 years as music director there, and, according to Farmer he "sadly has sold his harpsichord."

Most people are familiar with Handel's Messiah, especially the chorus that comes in Part II, "Halleluiah." It is said that Handel wrote his oratorio in just 25 days during which he never left his home, allowed no visitors, and barely stopped working to eat or sleep. It was first performed in Ireland in 1742 and became an immediate sensation throughout Europe. And here in Manchester, 281 years later, the joyful sound of collective singing and music cut right through the cold rain outside along the Town Common.

MBTS SELECT BOARD UPDATE

BOARD UPDATES

Select Board Meeting: The Select Board will meet on Monday, December 18 at 6:30 p.m. Meeting details can be found on the Town website.

DPW Rain Barrel Sale: Last minute holiday gift idea! DPW is selling rain barrels again this year. Order now and pick up on April 6, 2024. Fifty percent off the first barrel. Order at greatamerican-rainbarrel.com/community/.

2024 Resident Parking Stickers: 2024 Parking stickers will be mailed to residents in February. All 2023 stickers will be valid, regardless of expiration dates, until

distribution of the new 2024 stickers is complete. The Town will communicate to residents when enforcement of the new stickers begins on a later date.

Holiday Trash Delays: There will be a one-day delay for all trash, recycling, and compost collection during the weeks of December 25 and January 1 due to the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Town Hall Holiday Hours: Town Hall will be closed on Monday, December 25 and January 1 in observance of Christmas and New Year.

Walker Road Work: Water

Main work continues this week on Walker Road. The work will take place M-F 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 X (a.k.a., Twitter) @townofmbts and visit the Town website Manchester.ma.us to stay informed.

WHAT WAS HAPPENING

90 YEARS AGO - 1933

There was a bad break in the 12 - inch water main Sunday morning in front of the Manchester House. One of the connecting sleeves blowing out causing a flood of water to flow down the street. The break was repaired by the regular crew during the day.

Another touch of real winter was felt last Saturday and Sunday, Saturday bringing a light flight of snow and frigid temperature, the roadways being covered with a thin coating of ice that made wheeling a dangerous experience, but no serious accidents were reported.

75 YEARS AGO - 1948

In keeping with the trend of the times, the Postal rates will also increase, effective January 1, 1949. Postmaster Jacob Greenberg in announcing the increase in Manchester, urges all to study the changes carefully from 1c for each 2 oz. to 1½ for them and will not have to go to the bother of placing additional stamps.

One of Manchester's newest business enterprises is Vincent's, a watch and jewelry repair shop combined with a gift shop, located on Union Street next to the Wass Shoe repairing store.

60 YEARS AGO - 1963

Snow and cold arrived early this season, reminding many of the winters of yesteryear when it was conventional to be skating by Thanksgiving. It didn't get quite cold enough for skating at Thanksgiving but it is now and the youngsters, and some of the oldsters are enjoying the sport.

At the Board of Selectman meeting Tuesday, upon recommendation from selectman Benjamin J. Stasiak, the board agreed to notify the Highway Department to hook up the permanent Christmas tree on the Village Common and that the tree will be lighted Friday night.

45 YEARS AGO - 1978

An eight-horsepower snowblower, valued at between \$400 and \$500 was taken from the elderly housing project over the weekend. The theft was discovered by Craig McCoy. Police later received a tip that the snowblower was to be returned. After a stakeout, they arrested a 21-year-old from Fall River. He was charged with receiving stolen property.

Patrolman Kenneth Sucharski was one of three area Police Officers to graduate last Friday from the State Police Academy's school for Municipal Police Officers.

30 YEARS AGO - 1993

Fundraising efforts to replace the wooden flagpole on the Town Common have made good progress in the past several weeks-but there is still a long way to go. The goal is the \$12,000 cost of replacing the old wooden flagpole with a new white fiberglass pole. To date \$2,770 has been raised. Last weekend's major storm which spared Manchester from any major snowfall, stalled in the Atlantic Monday, bringing a backlash of rain and strong northeasterly gales. Coastal flood warnings were issued from Sunday to Tuesday.

15 YEARS AGO - 2008

Manchester Essex first ever indoor track team met in Ipswich for their first meet of the season this past Friday. The team competed against Ipswich, North Reading, Masscomet, Wilmington, Hamilton-Wenham and Newburyport. Although the Hornets program is in its first year, the team over-whelmed the other teams with many first-place victories.

The Friends of the Council on Aging sponsored a Pancake Breakfast, with the kind help of Chris Shea and The Landing Restaurant on Saturday, December 6 as part of the annual Christmas -by-the-Sea weekend in Manchester.

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Are Government Restrictions the way to Address Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers? No.

To the Editor,

Your December 1 issue published a call for banning two-cycle leaf blowers ("Time to Consider Sensible Restrictions on Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers" by Sylvia Vriesendorp). The author, self-identified as a Public Health Professional, trotted out the standard playbook for pushing most governmental restrictions these days, namely threats to the operators, who apparently require our enlightened protection; threats to our neighbors, who require the same; and of course, threats to the planet, never omitted from proposals to bully the citizenry or their service providers.

Also introduced was the proforma villain, a group of obvious "deplorables" who displayed a sign at a public hearing suggesting that we "worry about real problems" (not all causes require a god, but they all require a devil).

The "me too" box was checked by pointing out that a ban would put us in the company of such lofty-minded communities as Lexing-

ton, Belmont, Arlington, and Concord. Like these prestigious towns, we could shed the hypocrisy of "proudly driving our hybrid or all-electric cars" while "allowing" the use of gas-powered equipment. Virtuous indeed.

Buried in this polemic boilerplate (although brilliantly highlighted by the cartoon) is the unadorned issue: the author finds this obnoxiously loud equipment personally annoying (as do I). I mean really, does anyone like it?

Communities often ban what they consider public nuisances, and rightly so. And the case can certainly be argued that gas leaf blowers constitute a public nuisance. The potential losers of such a ban would be, of course, the landscapers and their employees (who we should not pretend to be "helping"), as well their customers, who would bear increased costs. Some of these customers are likely folks on the margins of being able to afford removal services. While many of these might instead forfeit some weekends cleaning up after themselves, what the elderly might do is unclear. Our kids are not raking many leaves these days.

If a ban appeared on a

Town Warrant for consideration, I can't say just now if I would support or oppose it. I would love to see these contraptions magically disappear with no consequences to anybody. But consequences there would be.

So, the agonizing question is: does our irritation justify making the lives of our fellow residents more difficult? Perhaps, but that's THE question. We should stop trying to convince each other that the issue occupies any higher moral or ethical ground.

Off the topic, might our lawn maintenance habits and traditions be insane to begin with?

Paul Dozier
Manchester

Thank You from Santa

Sunday, December 10th started as a day with warm temperature and plenty of sunshine for Santa's Tour around town sponsored by the Amal Bailey Post # 113 and the Seaside Fireman's Club of the Manchester Fire Department. This truly Manchester tradition has been happening for over 65 years thanks to those two organizations.

Prior to the tour, over 50

youngsters and parents were at the fire station to meet and talk to Santa, then Santa and his helpers climbed on the fire apparatus for the tour around town. The trip took a little more than two hours and got all back inside the fire station just before the rain started. Following the tour, Santa headed back to the North Pole to rest and get ready for his December 24th trip around the world.

This trip would not have been possible without the work of many people. Thanks to Lt. Jim Doucette for piloting Engine # 1 around town, Thanks to Chief Jake McNeilly for piloting Squad # 4 around town carrying Santa. Thanks to Officer Ron Ramos and his trusty sidekick Andrea Ramos for leading the tour around town. Many thanks to Bill Bell from the Amal Bailey Post # 113 and Rick Curran from the Seaside Fireman's Club for throwing the bags of animal crackers to the youngsters of all ages who came out to welcome Santa to their neighborhood. Thanks to Breccan Curran and Henry McNeilly for their assistance and Thanks to Chief McNeilly for his support of the tour and to Tom Kehoe for organizing the event.

LIBRARY NEWS



Acoustic Memories.

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.

Forensic Science Roadshow

Wednesday, January 24 from 5:30-7 p.m. Venture into the world of CSI with this interactive program run by Paul Zambella, who spent 36 years with the Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory. Due to the nature of the subject matter the program is

recommended for people of high school age and older.

Pom Pom Garlands

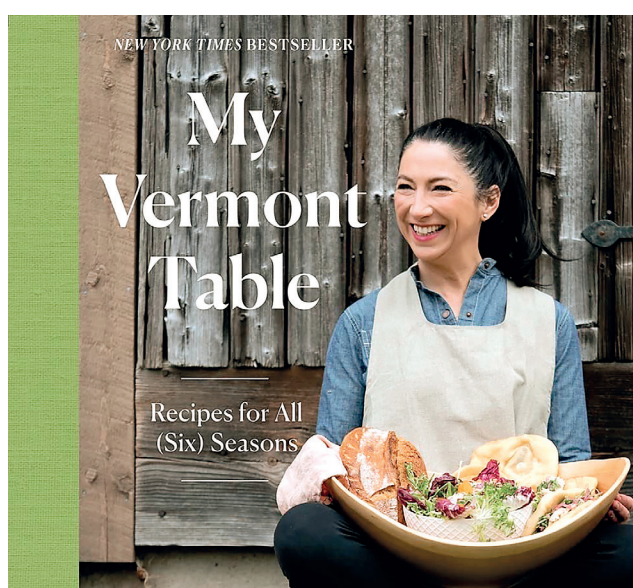
Monday, December 18 from 3-4 p.m. Join us in the reference room to create your own garlands for your festive decorations.

Diversity Matters Book Group

Tuesday, December 19 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. We will be reading "Another Country" by James Baldwin. "Another Country" is split into three books. We will be reading book 1 in December and books 2 and 3 in January.

Cookbook Club: "My Vermont Table"

Thursday, December 21 from 5:30-6:15 p.m. December's pick is "My Vermont Table: Recipes for all Six Seasons"



Cookbook Club.

Courtesy Photo

by Gesine Bullock-Prado. Register for any recipe from the cookbook. Per the Public Health Department: This is a potluck event, the food is donated and shared, it does not come from a licensed kitchen. The library is not liable for allergies but all cooks are encouraged to bring an ingredient card with their food so we can be aware of allergens.

"Acoustic Memories" with Sean Fullerton

Wednesday, December 27 from 2-3 p.m. Join us for this afternoon concert at Crowell Chapel. Sean Fullerton is a Massachusetts based solo Acoustic/Electric musician, singer/songwriter, recording engineer and producer with 28 years of professional experience. Registration for this event is requested but not required.

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 p.m. 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.

Graphic Novel Club

Wednesday, January 17 from 4-4:45 p.m. Grades 4-7. Do you enjoy graphic novel and want to read them with you friends? Join the library's Graphic Novel Club. We meet monthly from January to June. Our first book will be "Freestyle" by Gale Galligan. Tasty snacks and activities.

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.

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.



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Musings

The Wicked Witch and Me

By Liz Colbert

Like many children of the 1960s I loved *The Wizard of Oz*. It was shown on television at Thanksgiving, and I think only having access to it once a year, and no rewind or record button, made it more special, magical, momentous.

As excited as I was to watch every year, I remember covering my eyes when the Wicked Witch and her monkeys appeared on my television screen. Margaret Hamilton, the actress who played the witch, did an incredible job. I don't think anyone has ever played the part of a witch more believably. I would go to sleep certain she was living under my bed. And then, one night, I was proven right, she was indeed under my bed. Something had snagged my toe. I wrestled to free my foot. I was convinced it was the witch pulling me under to be hers forever. My parents would wake up in the morning to find me gone. This was the night I had feared my whole childhood.

It turns out my mother had innocently safety pinned a blanket to the foot of my bed and one of my fingerlike toes became tangled in it. I was not vanquished by the Wicked Witch of the West, but continued to live in fear of her. Where would she and her horrifying monkeys appear? On the playground? On the street while I walked to my grandma's house? In my basement? Could a swirl of green mist suddenly appear and there she would be with her broom, ready to snatch me away to her tower?

Though I grew out of my fright of witches and Oz, one day in my adulthood that fear was reawakened. I went to visit Grandma at her healthcare facility and found her sitting on a bench in the hallway with another old woman. They were huddled together, the other old woman with her arm around my grandma. That struck me as funny. Even though my grandma was a warm and loving person, she was Sicilian and was not open to strangers embracing her. I approached the happy couple and whose face looked up at me, but the Wicked Witch of the West.

I froze on the spot. What was happening? I was an adult and knew monsters weren't real, yet the monster of my childhood sat here before me. Now a diminutive old woman, she still took my breath away. Margaret Hamilton looked at me with that same scrunched up face that had haunted me in the 1960s, told me to go away, to leave her and her best friend alone. My grandmother was best friends with the Wicked Witch of the West? Again, what was happening?

Unfortunately, at this point in her life my grandma wasn't capable of being friends with anyone. She was practically catatonic, but Margaret Hamilton didn't seem to mind. I stood my ground, feet plant-



This image was generated using Adobe's Firefly AI image generator.

Even though I erred in indulging my toddler's obsession with Oz, I still loved watching my curly haired daughter happily run around in a much too big blue check nightgown with a picnic basket complete with Toto, singing "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" at the top of her lungs.

ed in front of my grandmother. Had the witch come for my grandma to remind me she was in fact real? I had managed to escape her as a child, but was she back for one more try? This bizarre moment became even more surreal. The Wicked Witch of the West kicked me. This occurred in the 1980s, years before I owned a cell phone with video, but it is etched in my mind for eternity, right next to the feeling of being pulled under my bed, albeit by a safety pin.

An aide came and led Margaret away. I sat down on the bench, still warm from the

Wicked Witch, and visited with my grandma. I could not believe what had just happened. I wish I could have told my younger self that the Wicked Witch would indeed get me one day but it would all turn out okay. I sat there with a smile, my arm around my grandma. She and I had vanquished the monster of my childhood.

A few years later, my two-year-old daughter would also become obsessed with the movie. We owned the special 50th anniversary edition, and she watched it repeatedly. She had a blue gingham nightgown that was many siz-

es too big that was her Dorothy dress, which she wore every day of her little life. Side note, what the heck was I thinking letting my not quite two-year-old watch that very scary movie? I guess I just couldn't wait for her to grow up to pass on my love for the wonder of Judy Garland and "Somewhere Over the Rainbow." Yet, my daughter showed no fear of the witch or her monkeys. She didn't cover her eyes or check under her bed. Maybe watching the movie on repeat desensitized her to the terror I felt. Perhaps I can give my mothering a small pat on the back, having raised a daughter to be braver than I had been.

Now my daughter is thirty-five and the mother of a one-year-old. I wonder when she will allow her child to watch *The Wizard of Oz* for the first time. Something tells me she will be more vigilant and wait until an age-appropriate time. I didn't have the benefit of instant parenting advice ala You Tube and

was flying by the seat of my pants. My Dr. Spock book didn't contain a chapter on age-appropriate exposure to scary movies. I couldn't ask Jeeves, and Google wasn't even a verb yet. Even though I erred in indulging my toddler's obsession with Oz, I still loved watching my curly haired daughter happily run around in a much too big blue check nightgown with a picnic basket complete with Toto, singing "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" at the top of her lungs.

Will the Wicked Witch hide under my granddaughter's bed? So far, that powerhouse of a one-year-old seems pretty fearless, and I hope it stays that way. Her mom is better equipped to help her find her confidence and courage with the tools and knowledge that we have today. Little girls

in the 1960s were taught to be quiet, polite, and submissive. We weren't taught we could face our fears and had the intelligence and strength to overcome them. Had I thought it was okay to talk about my worries and doubts, maybe I could have vanquished that witch myself as a child. I am glad things have changed. I know my granddaughter will feel the freedom to express herself, ask for help when needed, and face any challenges that come her way.

Lions, and tigers and bears aside, I hope *The Wizard of Oz* continues to be a theme in our family. After all, there's no place like home, even if the Wicked Witch is living under your bed.

Liz Colbert is writer and a resident of Manchester.

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ME Cross Country
Sabine Cooper
ME Soccer
Madi Cook
Libby Lawler
Mechi O'neil

ME's Stephen Martin led the team in yards gained during 2023 season. Photo Paul Clark

ME Girls Hoop Looks to Repeat Previous Successes

By Jason Brisbois

The Manchester Essex girls' basketball team is looking for more of the same during the 2023-24 season.

Of course, who would complain if the Hornets were able to reach similar heights this winter after a season in which the team went 15-5 during the regular season and made it to the Sweet 16 of the MIAA Div. 4 Tournament? Thankfully, the pieces should be in place for Manchester Essex to do just that.

"Definitely, we have a great team coming back with more experience and more excitement for what they know they can do," explains ME girls basketball coach Lauren Dubois. "We certainly can't rest on what happened last year, but the excitement is there."

To begin with, the Hornets only lost two players to graduation from last year's successful squad. While losing former seniors and team captains Calista Lai and Kendall Newton is no small loss, the players from last year's team that are returning should team up with some new faces to help the team pick up wins this winter. Those players also have the benefit of playing at the varsity level at a high level for a full season.

"We lost two seniors, and both were impact players, but we have everyone else coming back and some talented new players joining the squad," says Dubois. "We are hoping to play the same fast-paced style that we played last season."

Getting this group up and running will be its three captains: MacKay Brooks, Phileine De Widt and Mechi O'Neil.

"Phileine is a forward and MacKay and Mechi are guards, but all three are versatile players who will be asked to take on different roles this season," explains Dubois. "All three are great leaders and have stepped up their game this season."

The captains won't be the only ones coming back to give the Hornets a boost in 2023-24.

"Our captains, plus juniors Tess Carpenter and Ella Arnsten, who



ME Hornet, Phileine De Widt, wins the toss-up against Blue Hills in a game during the 2022 season.

Photo Paul Clark

both bring a spark with their aggressive play," says Dubois. "Sophomore guards Lily Oliver, Harper Brooks and Kacey O'Connell are also returning from last year's team, and all work hard to create offensive opportunities with their defensive pressure."

Meanwhile, Isabelle Donnellan Valade and Gabi D'Andrea take a big step up to the varsity team this

season and will provide defense, rebounding and a presence in the post.

"We are small but quick and hoping to play tough defense and get opportunities on offense through transition," says Dubois.

The Hornets will waste no time this season, diving into the deep end of the pool right at the start with a season-opening road game

against Lynnfield on Dec. 13.

"We wanted to get a game in before our league schedule started and Lynnfield is always a tough matchup for us," explains Dubois. "It should be a good game and help us set the tone for the season."

The rest of the December schedule for Manchester Essex includes hosting familiar Cape Ann League foes at home (Hamilton-Wenham on

Dec. 15 and North Reading on Dec. 19) followed by away games versus Triton (Dec. 27) and Swampscott (Dec. 29).

"All will be tough games," Dubois says of the early season slate. "We will be outsize in each matchup but hope to use our speed to counter that. I am excited to get the season started and see what we can do."

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Furse, Chareas Will Anchor ME Boys Hoop This Season

By Jason Brisbois

Even before the start of the season for the Manchester Essex boys' basketball team, the formula for potential success was pretty clear.

In the offseason, the Hornets experienced the inevitable attrition-due-to-graduation that affects all high school sports rosters, losing top-flight talent like Brennan Twombly and clutch-shooting Sam Athanas. Even with those losses, however, the Hornets still can boast a team core that most other schools in the Cape Ann League would be envious of.

"Luckily for us, even though we did lose four valuable seniors who contributed to the program heavily for the last two years, we do have Cade Furse - who averaged 25 points per game - coming back, and Eddie Chareas, our 6' 6" big man - one of the best one the North Shore - coming back." That combination of scor-



Eddie Chareas goes up for a dunk against Bay Path in a 2022 match at home.

Photo Paul Clark

ing potential and size should make the Hornets a matchup nightmare for opponents in 2023-24.

"Having a player who scores 25 points per game

and a big man that they have to double-team every time he touches the ball is an advantage for us," explains ME boys basketball coach Tim St. Laurent. "We can see

how they defend them, and then take advantage of that because you can't just play either player straight up."

...(Continued on page 9)

ESSEX ECHO.

Town Administrator's Report

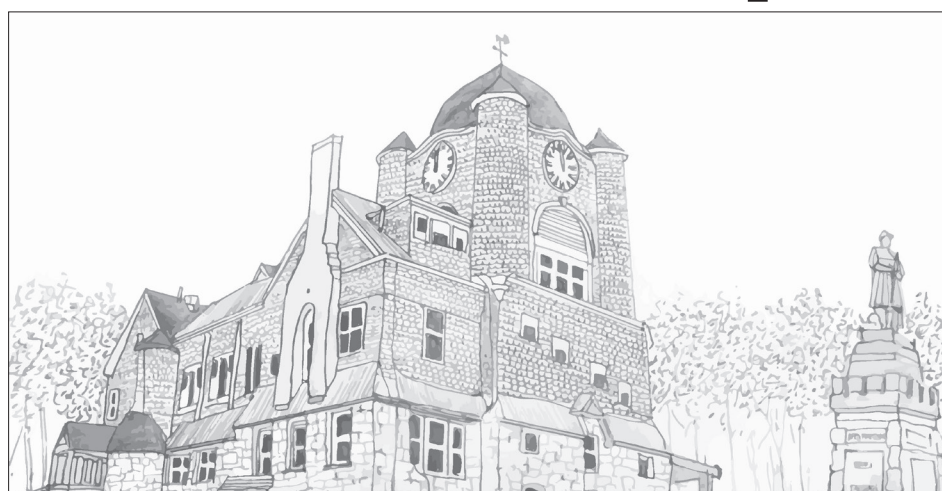
Board of Selectmen's Meeting
of December 4, 2023
Report covers from November
25, 2023 to December 1, 2023

Town Administrator's Performance Review and Goal Setting

At this time each year, the Board arranges to review the Town Administrator's (TA) performance and to set goals for the upcoming year. In the performance area, the TA will rely on the detailed reports filed with the Board at each Board meeting as a record of his activities and accomplishments. As the Board may recall, the evaluation template was updated with seven specific goals at the outset of this past calendar year for use at this time. Also, it is necessary to work with the Board to develop goals for the upcoming calendar year.

In addition to the general roles and responsibilities in his position description, which he will continue to update the Board on in detail for each new Board meeting, Mr. Zubricki recommends the following specific scope and welcomes discussion with the Board:

1. Coordinate the process for specifying, bidding, and completing repairs and corrections to the Essex Public Safety Facility roof and building envelope based upon recommendations from our roofing and building envelope consultants.
2. Explore the possibility of grant funding for a road across the Town-owned parcel at 30 Apple Street between Apple Street and the Town Transfer Station and DPW facility. A portion of the funding for the road may be possible via coastal resilience grants and moving forward may be dependent on whatever other uses are being considered for the parcel, both from a timing and from a physical perspective.
3. Continue to work collaboratively with the Superintendent of Public Works



and the Board of Public Works with respect to the ARPA-funded public water supply modernization project and the State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF)-funded water filtration plant modernization and partial renovation project. Work will involve overseeing procurement for the water supply construction contractor and proper reporting and closeout associated with both projects.

4. Continue to serve as a coordinator of and adviser to the Essex zoning bylaw evaluation project. Work will involve continued coordination among the Selectmen, the Planning Board, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), and the general public. The Community Planning Grant that the Town was awarded in 2023 will be aimed at continuing to collect public input and adding zoning components in 2024 to the changes that were successfully approved at the two Town Meetings in 2023.
5. Continue to work with the Selectmen and the Town Planner to support the work of the Essex Affordable Housing Trust (AHT) to allow the Trust to work toward the development of a Housing Production Plan.
6. Coordinate the acquisition of all materials necessary to complete the downtown decorative lighting project, along with overseeing the subsurface prepara-

tion work, the lighting system installation, and final power connection.

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. At the last meeting, the Board recalled that the Town of Manchester mentioned in the past (prior to the Manchester Town Meeting), via its Town Administrator, that the Town of Manchester may have access to funds to contribute toward the operations review not dependent on the Manchester Town Meeting. To that end, the Board asked that the TA reach out to the Manchester Town Administrator to see if Manchester still sees the use of other, existing funding as a possibility. We have learned that Manchester is not interested in using any funds on hand since the matter was not supported conceptually by

the Town Meeting.

Procurement of Public Restrooms at the Centennial Grove

At the last meeting, the Board agreed that Mr. Zubricki should start putting together the procurement process for new public restrooms at the Centennial Grove. The Board agreed that we are seeking a modular, precast concrete restroom building with six separate bathroom spaces, which will allow the structure to also serve as a changing facility. The goal is to have the structure be delivered complete, with the only onsite work being the preparation of the crushed stone pad and connection of plumbing and electrical feeds to the building (all by others). A separate procurement effort will also be undertaken for the design, approval, and installation of the tight tank that will serve the restroom facility. Presently, the TA has worked out that the project will go out to bid starting on December 20, 2023 and bids will be due by January 18, 2024. The Board will consider the bids and potentially make an award on January 22, 2024.

Second Round of Sale Offerings of Town Lots on Gregory Island

At the last meeting, the Board decided to move forward with the offering of five, Town-owned lots on Gregory Island for sale, for a second time.

Meet Carla Christensen, New Library Director at TOHP Burnham Library



Carla Christensen will begin her new position as Library Director at TOHP Burnham Library in January.

Photo: Erika Brown

Carla Christensen is our new Library Director at the TOHP Burnham Library in Essex, succeeding Deb French who retired last month after nearly 20 years. Christensen will begin her new role on January 8.

A resident of Essex since 2004, Carla has been a member of the Executive Board of

the Friends of the Essex Library as well as being elected as a Trustee of the library in May 2023.

Carla brings extensive community knowledge in addition to her experience as a teacher and in her business career in the educational publishing and software sectors. A collaborative in-

novator with 20 years of experience implementing and honing key communication, organization, and research skills along with managing, mentoring and inspiring teams, Carla looks forward to leading the library into the future. "Libraries are critical components of healthy communities," according to

Carla. "They offer equitable access to everyone, ensure education and continuous learning, support intellectual freedom, and bring culture and joy to communities." Stop by the library and welcome Carla after the New Year.

LIBRARY NEWS

T.O.H.P. Burnham
Public Library



Teens enjoyed donuts and cocoa while making a holiday wreath.
Courtesy Photo

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.

Author Meet & Greet

Tuesday, January 9 at 7 p.m. Meet Essex's own Karin Gertsch as she discusses her new novel "Five Wishes" and her writing journey. Refreshments will be served and guests will have the opportunity to purchase books and have them signed.

Community Book Group

Monday, January 29 at 10 a.m. Join author Karin Gertsch as we discuss her new novel "Five Wishes".

WiFi For All

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

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.

Buildwave STEM Workshop

Saturday, January 6 at 10 a.m. Grades K-6 register for a morning of collaborative building with a variety of materials.

Story Hours Begin

Beginning in the New Year on January 10, 2024
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

Beginning in the New Year on January 11, 2024
Thursdays 9-10 a.m. for ages 2-6 years old. Join Ms. Christine for some STEAM fun, you will listen to stories, then explore science, technology, engineering, art, and math. Space is limited so please register.

ESSEX POLICE NOTES

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

1:07 a.m. Martin St., directed patrol, secured/checked.
1:15 a.m. Eastern Ave., selective enforcement, no action taken. 6:04 a.m. Southern Ave., selective enforcement, no action taken. 7:09 a.m. Centennial Grove Rd., directed patrol, secured/checked.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

No report.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

7:46 a.m. Grove St., male with breathing difficulty, transported to hospital. 4:34 p.m. Choate St., suspicious activity, gone on arrival. 5:00 p.m. Eastern Ave., motor vehicle stop, verbal warning. 5:35 p.m. John Wise Ave., motor vehicle stop, citation issued.



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7
1:59 a.m. Eastern Ave., motor vehicle stop, criminal application. 6:47 a.m. Main St., alarm, secured/checked. 10:00 a.m. Southern Ave., male with abdominal pain, transported to hospital. 5:47 p.m. Martin St., directed patrol, secured/checked.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

12:26 a.m. Main St., selective enforcement, no action taken. 2:01 a.m. Story St., directed patrol, secured/checked. 6:14 a.m. Centennial Grove Rd., directed patrol, secured/checked. 6:47 a.m. Spring St., selective enforcement, no action taken.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

9:21 a.m. John Wise Ave., citizen assist, assisted as needed. 10:27 a.m. John Wise Ave., parking complaint, no action taken. 6:08 p.m. Spring St., directed patrol, no action taken. 10:16 p.m. Main St., selective enforcement, no action taken.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

12:47 a.m. Main St., selective enforcement, other. 5:53 a.m. Spring St., directed patrol, secured/checked. 6:11 a.m. John Wise Ave., directed patrol, secured/checked. 6:32 a.m. Southern Ave., selective enforcement, no action taken.

Essex Locals | Dec 15

115 Years Ago - 1908

Mr. S. Stephen Wright, who had the misfortune to shoot himself in the leg and was taken to the Beverly Hospital returned last week to his boarding house and on Tuesday morning commenced his duties in school. The scholars were glad to extend the welcome hand to him.

90 Years Ago - 1933

Phillip Terrio has established a record in raising a porker, a little shot which he purchased last spring having shown remarkable growth during the summer and fall. Last week he was led to the sacrifice and after being dressed and made ready for the Christmas feast, tipped the balances at 471 pounds, which is believed to be a record for local growers.

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MERHS Winter Sports Schedules



Boys Basketball

*Home Games				
12/12	*6:30	Cathedral	MERHS	
12/15	6:30	Hamilton-Wenham	Hamilton Wenham HS	
12/19	7:00	No Reading	No Reading HS	
12/27	*6:30	Peabody Veterans	MERHS	
1/3	*6:30	Rockport	MERHS	
1/5	6:30	Georgetown	Georgetown MHS	
1/9	*6:30	Essex Tech	MERHS	
1/12	*6:30	Ipswich	MERHS	
1/15	1:00	Lynnfield	Lynnfield HS	
1/19	*6:30	Amesbury	MERHS	
1/23	5:30	Triton	Triton RHS	
1/26	*6:30	Ham-Wen	MERHS	
1/29	*6:30	Pentucket	MERHS	
2/1	6:00	Rockport	Rockport HS	
2/5	*6:30	Newburyport	MERHS	
2/8	*6:30	Georgetown	MERHS	
2/12	6:00	Burke	Burke HS	
2/13	6:30	Ipswich	Ipswich HS	
2/15	6:30	Amesbury	Amesbury HS	
2/21	*5:00	Randolph	MERHS	

Boys Indoor Track

12/10	10:00	MSTCA Invitational	Reggie Lewis State Track
12/12	3:00	Ipswich	Track @ New Balance
12/16	10:00	MSTCA Invitational	Reggie Lewis State Track
12/28	8:15A	MSTCA Invitational	Reggie Lewis State Track
1/6	10:00	MSTCA Invitational	Reggie Lewis State Track
1/9	5:30	Amesbury	Track @ New Balance
1/19	4:00	MSTCA Invitational	Reggie Lewis State Track
1/23	5:30	Ham-Wen	Track @ New Balance
1/28	10:00	MSTCA Invitational	Reggie Lewis State Track
1/30	5:30	Lynnfield	Track @ New Balance
2/6	5:30	TBA	Track @ New Balance
2/10	10:00	MSTCA Invitational	Reggie Lewis State Track
2/14	4:30	MIAA Divisional	Reggie Lewis State Track
2/24	10:30	MIAA All State Meet	Reggie Lewis State Track
2/27	3:30	MSTCA Invitational	Reggie Lewis State Track

Boys Swimming

12/10	1:30	Triton/Pent	Greater Beverly YMCA
12/17	4:00	Ipswich	Greater Beverly YMCA
1/05	7:50	Lynnfield	Greater Beverly YMCA
1/13	5:00	No Reading	Burbank YMCA
1/21	4:00	Ham-Wen	Greater Beverly YMCA Senior Night
1/28	5:00	CAL-Open	Greater Beverly YMCA
1/31	7:30	Ipswich	Ipswich YMCA

Girls Indoor Track

12/10	10:00	MSTCA Invitational	Reggie Lewis State Track
12/12	3:00	Ipswich	Track @ New Balance
12/16	10:00	MSTCA Invitational	Reggie Lewis State Track
12/28	8:15A	MSTCA Invitational	Reggie Lewis State Track
1/6	10:00	MSTCA Invitational	Reggie Lewis State Track
1/9	5:30	Amesbury	Track @ New Balance
1/19	4:00	MSTCA Invitational	Reggie Lewis State Track
1/23	5:30	Ham-Wen	Track @ New Balance
1/28	10:00	MSTCA Invitational	Reggie Lewis State Track
1/30	5:30	Lynnfield	Track @ New Balance
2/6	5:30	TBA	Track @ New Balance
2/10	10:00	MSTCA Invitational	Reggie Lewis State Track
2/14	4:30	MIAA Divisional	Reggie Lewis State Track
2/24	10:30	MIAA All State Meet	Reggie Lewis State Track
2/28	3:30	MSTCA Invitational	Reggie Lewis State Track

Co-Op Gymnastics with Hamilton Wenham

1/9	7:45	Beverly	YMCA-Sterling Center
1/15	1:00	Multiple	Yellow Jackets Gymnastic Club
1/20	5:45	Essex Tech	Yellow Jackets Gymnastic Club
1/23	7:00	Gloucester	Ham-Wen RHS Iron Rail Gymnastics Academy
1/25	7:30	Marblehead	Lynch/van Otterloo YMCA
1/28	11:30	Bish Fenwick	Ham-Wen RH Iron Rail Gymnastics Academy
2/10	TBD	Beverly	Beverly High School League Championship

Co-Op Boys Hockey with Rockport

12/13	7:00	North Reading	Dorothy Talbot Skating Rink
12/16	2:00	Swampscott	Salem State College
12/20	6:00	Beverly	Endicott College
12/27	12:00	Shawsheen	Dorothy Talbot Skating Rink
12/30	6:00	Pentucket	Veteran's Memorial Rink
1/2	7:00	NE Metro Tech	Allied Veterans Skating Rink
1/3	7:10	Nashoba Valley	Chelmsford Forum
1/6	8:00	Lynnfield	Dorothy Talbot Skating Rink
1/10	5:00	Triton	Henry Graf Jr. Memorial Rink
1/13	7:50	Amesbury	Lawrence Valley Forum
1/15	12:00	Swampscott	Dorothy Talbot Skating Rink
1/17	7:00	Beverly	Dorothy Talbot Skating Rink
1/20	8:00	Pentucket	Dorothy Talbot Skating Rink
1/24	8:00	Newburyport	Dorothy Talbot Skating Rink
1/27	7:10	North Reading	Kasabuski Rink
1/31	7:10	Essex Tech	Dorothy Talbot Skating Rink
2/10	4:00	Northeast Metro	Dorothy Talbot Skating Rink
2/14	7:00	Amesbury	Dorothy Talbot Skating Rink
2/19	5:00	Amesbury	Henry Graf Jr. Memorial Rink
2/21	TBD	TBA	Henry Graf Jr. Memorial Rink

Co-Op Girls Hockey with Marblehead

12/7	7:30	Medford	Salem State - O'Keefe Center
12/9	7:25	Masco RHS	Valley Forum - Haverhill
12/14	5:00	Gloucester	Salem State - O'Keefe Center
12/16	2:00	Beverly HS	Ray Bourque Arena
12/20	6:00	Winthrop HS	Salem State - O'Keefe Center
1/3	4:05	Shawsheen	Edge Ice Arena
1/6	7:30	Peabody Veterans	Salem State - O'Keefe Center
1/10	8:40	Bishop Fenwick	Essex Sports Center
1/13	12:00	Newburyport	Graf Skating Rink
1/14	10:30	Bishop Fenwick	Salem State - O'Keefe Center
1/17	7:30	Pope Francis Prep	Salem State - O'Keefe Center
1/24	5:00	Medford	LaConte Rink
1/27	3:00	Masco RHS	Salem State - O'Keefe Center
1/31	4:00	Gloucester	Talbot Rink
2/3	6:00	Beverly HS	Salem State - O'Keefe Center
2/7	6:10	Winthrop HS	Larsen Arena
2/10	5:00	Shawsheen	Salem State - O'Keefe Center
2/14	5:15	Peabody Veterans	McVann/Okeefe Memorial Rink
2/17	7:00	Newburyport	Salem State - O'Keefe Center
2/19	1:30	Leominster	Wallace Civic Center

Girls Basketball

*Home Games				
12/13	5:30	Lynnfield	Lynnfield HS	
12/15	*6:30	Ham-Wen	MERHS	
12/19	*6:30	No Reading	MERHS	
12/27	5:30	Triton	Triton RHS	
12/29	7:00	Swampscott	Swampscott HS	
1/3	7:00	Danvers	Danvers HS	
1/5	*6:30	Georgetown	MERHS	
1/9	6:30	Essex Tech	Essex Tech	
1/12	6:30	Ipswich	Ipswich HS	
1/15	*12:00	Lynnfield	MERHS	
1/19	6:30	Amesbury	Amesbury HS	
1/23	*6:30	Triton	MERHS	
1/26	6:30	Ham-Wen	Ham-Wen RHS	
1/29	6:30	Pentucket	Pentucket HS	
2/5	6:30	Newburyport	Newburyport HS	
2/6	*6:30	Swampscott	MERHS	
2/8	6:30	Georgetown	Georgetown HS	
2/13	*6:30	Ipswich	MERHS	
2/15	*6:30	Amesbury	MERHS	
2/16	*6:30	Danvers	MERHS	
		Senior Night		

Girls Swimming

12/10	1:30	Triton/Pent	Greater Beverly YMCA
12/17	4:00	Ipswich	Greater Beverly YMCA
1/05	7:50	Lynnfield	Greater Beverly YMCA
1/13	5:00	No Reading	Burbank YMCA
1/21	4:00	Ham-Wen	Greater Beverly YMCA Senior Night
1/27	TBD	League Champ	Greater Beverly YMCA
	5:00	CAL-Open	Beverly Sterling YMCA

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KD Montgomery, EHSSM's Executive Director, working on her project for the Massachusetts Cultural Council Traditional Artist Apprenticeship program, under the guidance of Harold Burnham, which inspired the upcoming course at the Essex Historical Society and Shipbuilding Museum. *Courtesy image*

Essex Shipbuilding Museum Offers Five-day Model Workshop

Looking for a holiday gift for the shipbuilder in your life? Look no further. The Essex Historical Society and Shipbuilding Museum (EHSSM) announced its upcoming program, "Heritage and Hulls: From A Carved Model to the Lofting Floor", a five-day half model workshop. This hands-on course, running from February 19 - 23, offers a deep dive into the traditional shipbuilding techniques that have been a cornerstone of Essex's heritage for over three centuries.

Under the expert guidance of National Heritage Fellow and Master Shipwright Harold Burnham and EHSSM's Executive Director KD Mont-

gomery, participants will explore the intricacies of the Essex ship design process. The workshop provides a unique opportunity to engage in half hull carving, creating a working model of the historically significant SYLVINA W. BEAL. This process not only teaches the art of model making but also bridges the gap between theoretical design and practical application, with each step relating back to the lofting floor.

By joining this course, participants contribute to EHSSM's mission of preserving and celebrating Essex's rich maritime heritage. The SYLVINA W. BEAL, chosen for its historical significance, serves as an engaging subject for this immersive educational experience.

The workshop is open to all, with EHSSM members enjoying a special discount. For more information visit www.essexshipbuilding.org.

...(Continued from page 6)

The rest of the CAL should also be wary that Chareas has been working on his game beyond the arc over the last few months.

"Eddie has worked hard on his three-point shot this offseason," says St. Laurent. "It introduces a new element for us, extending his range."

The senior center isn't the only Hornet player who provides a size advantage over the opposition. Christopher Glass is a 6'5" sophomore who will come off the bench for Chareas. Eddie's younger brother Johnny provides size on the inside as well, while Furse and Jake Zschau are big guards with a whole lot of talent.

Zschau returns to Manchester Essex after attending St. John's Prep for a year, and he should provide a boost at shooting guard.

"He made varsity as a freshman there," St. Laurent says of Zchau's time at St. Johns. "Having him back in school has been a nice addition. He plays on the wing and he's long, fast and athletic."

Milo Zeltzer is also back for the Hornets, another athletic player who will be a go-to small forward for the team. Zeltzer is versatile and broke out last year in a game against Gloucester. Keeping with the theme of athletic players up and down the roster, Preston Potter, Zach Hurd and Kevin McKenna were standouts for the ME football team this fall and add to a group that already jumps off the page and out of the gym. Potter will play at point guard and Hurd will be one of the team's top lockdown defenders and re-

bounders, while McKenna is one of the top leaders on the team. Backing up Zschau at the two-guard spot is sharpshooter Ben Jacobsen.

"Glass is doing a great job and he's got size," explains St. Laurent. "Johnny Chareas can play a role inside, he's big, too. Zschau and Furse are big guards as well, and Zach Hurd and Zeltzer are so athletic it's unbelievable."

The Hornets were slated to begin the season on Dec. 12 at home against the opponent that ended their season last winter: Manchester Essex is scheduled to face Cathedral in the season opener, the same team that knocked the 17-3 Hornets out of the Div. 4 tournament in a tight game. After that, the team heads to Hamilton-Wenham to play the Generals on Dec. 15, and then face North Reading on Dec. 19 and Peabody Veterans Memorial on Dec. 27 to close out the calendar year and the first month of play.

The opener promised to be a memorable one no matter the result - not only will it serve as a measuring stick of two top programs at the start of the season, but it has the potential to be the game in which Furse reaches the 1,000-point threshold in his career at Manchester Essex. After that, the Generals promise to be much improved after some growing pains in 2022-23.

"Hamilton-Wenham was a young team last year, and they're certainly going to be stronger," explains St. Laurent. "They play a tough 2-3 zone; we've got to shoot the ball well and take advantage of Eddie inside."



Master Shipwright Harold Burnham working in the woodshop. *Courtesy image*

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by John F. Gallagher to Ralph DiGirolamo and Richard DiGirolamo, Trustees of R & R Trust, dated September 24, 2008 and filed on September 26, 2008 with the Essex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds as Document Number 492826 of which mortgage the undersigned is the pre-sent holder, and in which the mortgaged premises consist of a certain parcel of land with the buildings and improvements thereon located in Manchester-by-the-Sea known as 9 Moses Hill Road, Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at 1:00 PM on the 18th day of January 2024, at the mortgaged premises located at 9 Moses Hill Road, Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage.

To wit: The land in Manchester-by-the-Sea with the buildings shown as Lot 55 on a plan of land entitled: "Plan of Land in Manchester, Massachusetts, Prepared by Reid and Janet Boynton, 9-11 Moses Hill Road, Prepared by LeBlanc Survey Associates, Inc., 161 Holten Street, Danvers, MA 01923; Dated: December 13, 2006; Scale 1"=30'. Said Lot 55 is shown on Land Court Plan #1449-3 and contains 30,005 square feet according to

said Plan. All of said boundaries are determined by the Court to be located as shown on said Plan, as approved by the Court and filed in the Land Registration Office, a copy of which is filed in the South Essex Registry District in Registration Book 448, Page 80512 with Certificate No. 80512. The above described land has the benefit of a right of way over lot 37, shown on plan filed with Certificate of Title 32808, being a way twenty (20) feet wide, as described in deed from Moses Hill Corporation to the Core House Corporation dated November 20, 1963, and filed as Document 108395 in said Registry. The above described land is subject to and has the benefit of a right of way over Moses Hill Road, as shown on said plan. The above described land is subject to the restrictions and provisions as described in a instrument given by Moses Hill Corporation dated January 6, 1961, and filed as Document 95706 in said Registry. See Approval as to Restrictions dated November 20, 1963, and filed as Document 108439 in said Registry. The above described land is conveyed together with a 1/30 interest in Lot 31 shown on Certificate of Title No. 70252. The above described land is subject to and with benefit of the restrictions and provisions described in an instrument given by Janet W. Boynton and Reid Boynton dated April 27, 2007, and filed as Document 482241 in said Registry.

For title see Deed filed with the Essex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds as Document Number 487563 with Certificate of Title Number 82177. Said sale is subject to a mortgage to IndyMac Bank, F.S.B in the original principal amount of \$948,000.00 dated April 27, 2007, and filed with the Essex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds as Document Number 478607 and assigned to IndyMac Venture LLC as Document Number 505059 filed on Certificate of Title Number 82177 and Certificate 70252. Premises to be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid condominium fees, taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed. No representations express or implied are made with respect to any matter concerning the premises, which will be sold "as-is".

TERMS OF SALE: One Hundred Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$100,000.00) shall be paid in certified or bank cashier's check by the purchaser at the time and place of said sale, and the balance of the purchase price shall be paid by certified or bank cashier's check at the offices of Erik T. Potter, Esq., Potter MacLellan LLP, 113 Ripley Road, Cohasset, MA 02025 within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. The successful bidder of the sale of the premises shall be required to sign a Memorandum of Terms of Sale containing the above terms at the Auction Sale. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the fore-closure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, the Mortgagee, or the Mortgagee's attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the time and place of sale. Present Holder of Said Mortgage: Raph DiGirolamo and Richard DiGirolamo, Trustees of R & R Trust - c/o Erik T. Potter, Esq. Potter MacLellan, LLP 113 Ripley Road, Cohasset, MA 02025 - 617-257-7050 Dated: December 12, 2023

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

December 15, 2023 MC
December 22, 2023 MC
December 29, 2023 MC

Puzzle

THEME: YEAR-IN-REVIEW

ACROSS

1. *Herald, Idalia or Ophelia
6. Do this in the bud
9. Parts of play
13. Cocoon dwellers
14. Paleozoic or mesozoic, e.g.
15. Alexandre Duma's "The Black ___"
16. Concerning, archaic
17. Talking Heads' "And She ___"
18. Give a speech
19. *2023 World Series winners
21. *Imploded submersible's destination
23. *Kali Uchis' "I Wish ___ Roses"
24. Don't step on it twice!
25. *Ryan Gosling's #48 Across role
28. Winter window picture
30. Imprisons
35. Aphrodite's son
37. Hindu serpent deity
39. Toughness
40. Angler's hope
41. Stephen Curry, e.g.
43. Opposed to
44. Tastes like lemon
46. Seven-year desire
47. Turf alternative
48. *Highest-grossing 2023 movie to date
50. Chris Hemsworth's repeating role
52. Auction batch
53. Cheese on Peloponnese
55. Kombucha, e.g.
57. *Retired media magnate
61. *King Charles III's Royal House
65. On the radio (2 words)
66. *Ryder Cup 2023 runner-up
68. 1000 kilograms
69. "Beat it!"
70. Lake, in France
71. Manila hemp
72. Foot digits
73. Freudian topic

CROSSWORD														
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
16						17				18				
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48						49		50			51		52	
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65						66	67			68				
69						70				71				
72						73				74				

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74. Runner

DOWN

1. Joust verbally
2. Cat food flavor
3. Word before sesame
4. Gangly
5. Type of shower
6. *Company from which #57 Across retired, ___ Corp
7. Nest egg, acr.
8. Trattoria staple
9. Sign of a saint

10. Kin group
11. South American monkey
12. Design detail, for short
15. Sacred objects on a pole
20. Bitterly regretting
22. Dwight D. Eisenhower
24. Boat race
25. Meat on a stick
26. "Fear of Flying" author Jong
27. Post-it user
29. *Site of tragic wildfires
31. Objectivity preventer

Sudoku

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

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9. Solutions on Page 11

32. Declare invalid
33. Like 1950s style, today
34. *"The Eras Tour" star
36. Balkan native
38. St. Louis attraction
42. Hindu garment
45. Combining two forms
49. What kneecap and leech have in common
51. Airbnb offering
54. Northernmost land, to the ancients

56. a.k.a. adobar or carne de vinha d'alhos
57. Lion's share
58. Beyond natural, in U.K.
59. Steak preference
60. Days, in Havana
61. *Showtime's "___: The Aftermath"
62. Certain social media message
63. A third of thrice
64. Infantry's last rows
67. *___-AFTRA

Religious Notes

Cornerstone Church

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will take place on December 24th at 5 p.m. at 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 Sched-

ule:

Sacred Heart Church - Saturday Vigil Mass - Virtual Mass - on our YouTube as well as www.mecatholic.org

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 Kolentas, are held each Sunday.

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

First Parish Church Manchester-by-the-Sea

Worship, Sunday Dec. 17, 2023, 10 a.m., we invite everyone to join us for hospitality following the service. Music led by Dr. Herman Weiss, with the First Parish Choir.

Our Advent theme - Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you... So affirms the beloved carol in whose shelter we gather ourselves togeth-

er, 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 Decem-

ber 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)



CHURCHILL PROPERTIES

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230 North St, Unit 2, Danvers | 127 Eastern Ave, Gloucester | 1 Merrimac St, Suite 6, Newburyport



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Ipswich
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Beverly
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Salisbury
Rare opportunity to own your mobile home on its own land. No HOA fees. Title V approved for 3 bedrooms. Nice open concept kitchen. \$299,999 | Judith Mussells | 978-618-8301



Newbury
New Custom Designed Modern Farmhouse with 1 year warranty! Exquisite 4 bedroom home sits on a private, level 1 acre lot abutting farmland. \$1,789,000 | Leshia Crestin | 617-543-3104



Manchester
"HARBORHEAD" has stunning town and water views. Fabulous New Construction is modern but Classic Colonial design. \$12,650,000 | Karen Bernier | 978-807-5580



Beverly
Waterfront/Beach/New Construction - Rare opportunity to purchase a 1.83 acre waterfront building lot on Boston's North Shore Gold coast \$5,250,000 | Robin Martyn | 978-815-4497



Gloucester
Look no further. This is your opportunity to live with so much at your finger tips. Beaches, Gloucester harbor, restaurants, and more! \$595,000 | Bruce Figurido | 978-869-3151



Lowell
Discover this beautifully renovated loft townhouse in the heart of historic downtown Lowell. Spacious open-concept living area! \$529,000 | Tara Farley | 603-247-7800



Gloucester
Opportunity to own a prime mixed-use property. A combination of 4 residential units and 3 commercial units with extensive renovations. \$2,650,000 | Debra Lovelace | 978-879-7356



West Newbury
LAND- Here's your opportunity to build your dream home and create a lifetime of memories in picturesque West Newbury! \$350,000 | Maritza Macleod | 860-287-6419



Boston
Welcome home to this lovely two bedroom, two bath condo situated on one of the South End's tree-lined, cul-de-sac streets. \$1,224,900 | Theresa DiPiro | 617-275-6624

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Churchill Properties is pleased to welcome Pamela Colantuono

to our Newburyport office. If you are considering renting, buying or selling a home, contact Pamela today at 603-661-9017 or Pamela@ChurchillProp.com



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The Best Holiday Gift



By Joanne MacInnis RN
CDP, President, Aberdeen Home Care, Inc.

Want to know what one of the best Holiday gifts you can give your loved ones this year? It's not what you think. It's not an all-expense paid Viking River Cruise, although I'm totally good with that. It's not the new flying hybrid car or the iPhone-99.

It's a signed, ready-to-go HEALTH CARE PROXY.

What? Maybe it's not what you've always wanted, but once you know what happens without the proxy, it's at the top of your gift list.

True Story: An elderly reclusive aunt lives in another state and is hospitalized; mental and physical status: not great. She is a widow with no children but has nieces. Two of the five are very engaged and willing to take on some responsibility for her. They have NO documents giving them any authority, no Health Care Proxy, no power of attorney... zip.

How has this turned into a Holiday nightmare for these two women? They can't get any information from the medical facility because they don't have...guess what...the Proxy. They cannot influence any part of her care, including cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, life support, and nursing home placement. Often, we think that our "estate plan" or "will" covers what's important. Obviously, it does, but what about BEFORE you die? What about your life?

We wouldn't dream of letting the medical community assume total control over the health decisions of our minor children. Why would we feel differently about the seniors in our families? No one I speak with today is without some "dodge the bullet" story about a recent

hospital or rehab center stay. That's another article... but for today, the lesson is to get your "stuff" together. Why? Because it's terribly consequential. For everyone.

For your "next of kin," trying to have meaningful involvement and influence in a serious medical crisis will be next to impossible without your Health Care Proxy. This document gives your agent of choice (and an alternate) access to all medical information, the ability to dialogue with the care team, including physicians, and to direct the interventions based on your loved ones' wishes.

And what might those wishes be? Most people have no idea. How do we get that information? Spoiler alert: we have a conversation. Using the Health Care Proxy document as a tool can be a big help as an icebreaker. Picture this: tell the story I've given you here (or use one of the many you've heard). "So and so never selected a proxy, and so when she wasn't able to make her own decisions, the hospital made them for her." Most likely, it's not what any of us want.

What would you want if you had a serious illness?

Would you want full treatment even if that made you uncomfortable (chemotherapy, for instance)? Would you want surgery? How do you feel about living somewhere other than your own home? Who would you want to make decisions if you could not? The harsh reality here is that the lack of a choice IS a choice. A choice for a stranger to take on this role in your life. That's what will happen.

The Health Care Proxy is not immediately activated like a power of attorney (POA). Once the POA is signed, whoever has those "powers" can transact business for you right then, and unless it is revoked, it is en-

Imagine trying to be an effective participant without proxy – it would be like chopping wood with a nail file. It's almost impossible and outrageously frustrating

acted until death, when its powers end. The Health Care Proxy is activated if a physician determines on examination that you cannot understand diagnoses, treatment options, and consequences of that treatment. Often, proxies are enacted after an unpredicted medical crisis that leaves the senior (or anyone, for that matter) in an altered mental state. This cause could be as simple as an infection or TIA, stroke, cardiac event, or trauma-related injury.

Most people don't realize that once you suffer any event that could compromise your decision-making process, you cannot select a proxy. Should your condition not improve to the point that you were able to make this choice, you have essentially given your decision-making powers to someone not of your choosing, which may be permanent.

Would you ever give powers of attorney to a stranger? I think not.

Then why would you gamble with your health, and what could be life-altering decisions? The fallout from the scenario mentioned above is this: standard care, changes in goals depending on which "hospitalist" is in charge, no input into care decisions, and no input into discharge plans from the hospital.

If you have ever participated in anything like this, even WITH a proxy, you know

the complexity and energy required. Imagine trying to be an effective participant without proxy - it would be like chopping wood with a nail file. It's almost impossible and outrageously frustrating. Never mind the poor aunt who is now at the mercy of whichever medical team is on duty at any given moment...

You can find more information about the Health Care Proxy and download the document at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-law-about-health-care-proxies-and-living-wills>.

This is the best holiday gift you can give or get. The chaos that will be avoided is significant. The outcome can be far better for both the patient and the proxy. Discuss your wishes with your choice of proxy agent and the alternate. Ask if they can advocate for you, knowing what your wishes are. Get their buy-in before you sign. Make sure everyone has a copy of this document. I recommend a photo on your phone, and at every medical appointment, ensure they have your document in their file.

As we long for, pray for, and work for peace in our world, country, neighborhood, home, and hearts, bringing peace and avoiding chaos in our lives seems a worthy cause. Get your proxy done, then get your holiday on!



Solution to puzzles on page 10

S	T	O	R	M	N	I	P	A	C	T	S		
P	U	P	A	E	E	R	A	T	U	L	I	P	
A	N	E	N	T	W	A	S	O	R	A	T	E	
R	A	N	G	E	R	S	T	I	T	A	N	I	C
		Y	O	U	R	A	K	E					
K	E	N	R	I	M	E	E	M	B	A	R	S	
E	R	O	S	N	A	G	A	S	I	N	E	W	
B	I	T	E	G	U	A	R	D	A	N	T	I	
A	C	E	R	B	I	T	C	H	S	U	R	F	
B	A	R	B	I	E	T	H	O	R	L	O	T	
		F	E	T	A	T	E	A					
M	U	R	D	O	C	H	W	I	N	D	S	O	R
O	N	A	I	R	U	S	A	T	O	N	N	E	
S	C	R	A	M	L	A	C	A	B	A	C	A	
T	O	E	S	E	G	O	L	O	P	E	R		

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

PET OF THE WEEK



CIAO

Hey there! Remus and Romulus here. We are two brothers around 3 years old. Both of us are a tag-team duo with lots of love to give. We are quite shy here at the shelter; however, we are very sweet and will allow you to pat us if you are slow about it.

We are sure in a home environment; we will open

up and show our incredible personalities. Just give us a little bit of time to adjust and you will surely fall in love with us forever. If you think we'd make a good addition to your family, stop by and visit us today. Visit www.capeannanimalaid.org for more information about me and all the other animals waiting for homes here at the Christopher Cutler Rich Animal Shelter, 4 Paws Lane in Gloucester.

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

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

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

Shopping Trip to Gloucester

On **Wednesday, December 20**, the Manchester Council on Aging is offering a trip to Gloucester. Enjoy walking along festive Main Street, get some holiday shopping done, or grab lunch at one of the delicious restaurants. The van will start picking up seniors around 11 a.m. Return is expected around 2 p.m. For further information or to reserve your seat on the van, please call the C.O.A. office.

It's Walmart

On **Friday, December 29**, the COA van will be going to Walmart in Danvers. The van will start picking up seniors around 10 a.m. For further information or to reserve your seat on the van, please call the C.O.A. office.

Senior Highlights

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

A Christmas Carol at the Crowell Chapel

The Delvena Theatre Company will present a dramatic reading of the Charles Dickens classic, A Christmas Carol, for the Manchester COA, at the Crowell Chapel, 4 Rosedale Avenue, Manchester on **Thursday, December 14**, at 1 p.m. Admission is free.

Watch in fascination as Marley comes back from the dead to help Scrooge amend

his miserly ways here on Earth and transform himself into a pleasant, giving old gentleman. With the help of three ghosts - the Ghost of Christmas Past, Ghost of Christmas Present and the Ghost of Christmas Future - the audience will be mesmerized as old Scrooge takes a long look at his life and re-evaluates its path.

Classic Christmas music will put the finishing touch on this wonderful message of hope and love - so fitting for the Christmas season!

A Christmas Carol is supported in part by a grant from the Manchester Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

China Jade and Dollar Tree

On **Friday, December 15**, the Manchester Council on Aging is offering a trip to The China Jade Restaurant in Beverly. Come and enjoy a delicious lunch of Asian cuisine. After lunch head over to Dollar Tree to do a little shopping. The van will start picking up seniors around 11 a.m. Return is expected by 1:30 p.m. For further information or to reserve your seat on the van, please call the C.O.A. office.

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ho ho ho!

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Tides & Sun Chart For The Week Ahead

DATE	HIGH				LOW				☀️	
	AM	FT	PM	FT	AM	FT	PM	FT	RISE	SET
15 Fri	12:42	8.9	12:43	10.9	6:57	0.6	7:41	-0.8	7:04	4:11
16 Sat	1:30	9.1	1:33	10.9	7:48	0.5	8:30	-0.8	7:05	4:12
17 Sun	2:21	9.2	2:26	10.7	8:39	0.5	9:20	-0.7	7:05	4:12
18 Mon	3:13	9.3	3:22	10.3	9:33	0.5	10:11	-0.5	7:06	4:12
19 Tue	4:09	9.4	4:21	9.9	10:30	0.6	11:05	-0.2	7:07	4:13
20 Wed	5:07	9.5	5:25	9.5	11:31	0.7			7:07	4:13
21 Thu	6:08	9.6	6:32	9.0	12:00	0.1	12:35	0.7	7:08	4:14



The North Shore's Premier Real Estate Agency



Manchester \$5,835,000
Elusive "small" house on the water exists! Updated Contemporary with versatile, multi-level floor plan, floor-to-ceiling slider access to multiple decks, views from every window, 3-car garage.
Fabyan & Filias Team



Hamilton \$3,985,000
Savin Hill - 15 acres of rolling lawns and direct trail access for equestrians are idyllic backdrops to 6-plus bedroom English country manor house (in-law suite, too), barn and 3-car garage.
Gretchen Berg



Salem \$2,250,000
Majestic Queen Ann Victorian overlooks Salem Common. 13 masterfully appointed rooms, 6 beds, 4.5 baths, 7 fireplaces. Exquisite 2-story foyer, grand staircase, chef's kitchen, handsome library.
Ted Richard



Beverly \$695,000
Charming c. 1895, 4-bedroom, 1.5-bath Colonial in one family for generations awaits your renovating touch. Period details, hardwood floors, built-ins, decorative moldings plus expansion potential.
Michelle Vivian

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TO HELP!**



Gloucester \$599,000
Ranch/cottage style home with two bedrooms and close to the Annisquam River. Well maintained and includes newer gas hot water, replacement windows and more! Don't miss out on this wonderful home!
Guittarr Group



Manchester \$525,000
Unique opportunity to build your dream home on 6.18-acre private, hillside lot near downtown and Singing Beach. Engineering for 5-bedroom septic system and shared driveway approved. 1 of 2 lots.
Fabyan & Filias Team



Gloucester \$519,000
Wonderful 2-level condo with Annisquam River and marsh views from deck with sun-setter awning and private patio. 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, large storage pantry. Near marina, park and restaurants.
Ann Olivo & Rick Marshall



Beverly \$405,900
RARE offering. Spacious 3rd level, 2-bedroom, 2-bath corner unit with walls of glass, updated granite/stainless kitchen and baths. 2019 replacement windows. 2-car deeded parking. Near train.
Shelly Shuka

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**4 Pulaski Drive
Manchester | \$685,000**
Snow Birds Take Notice! 3 bedroom, 1 bath ranch, attached garage, A/C, full unfinished basement, level yard, good condition.
Marianne Round | Realtor
978-902-5452



**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 5 bedroom, 4 bath well maintained Colonial is perched on over an acre of land with an additional acre of usage.
Krista Julian | Realtor
617-312-5413



**89 Postgate Road
Hamilton | \$809,000**
Beautiful quality four bedroom home with hardwood floors and newer roof and furnace on a large lot in Hamilton.
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



**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

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LIVING, WE'LL
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THERE.

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**74 Cherry Street
Wenham | \$4,250,000**
Sited on over 40 acres of private rolling lush fields overlooking a majestic pond. This property is move-in condition six bedrooms, five and half baths and 7 fireplaces.
Lynda Surdam | Realtor
978-764-7474