



MANCHESTER CRICKET A Local Tradition Since 1888

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BRIEFLY

5th Annual EES Polar Plunge. Mark Your Calendars

The Essex Elementary School Polar Plunge fundraiser hosted by the Friends of EES will happen at 9 a.m. Saturday, January 6 at Front Beach at Conomo Point in Essex.

Burgers and Bingo New Year's Eve

The First Parish Church in Manchester will ring in the New Year with some festive fun from 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday, December 31 at the Community Hall located behind Santander Bank.

Rotarians Light Up MBTS Streets

Typically, the downtown holiday season lighting in Manchester is taken up (read: paid for) by two locals, including the street lights that used to be donated by the ME Rotary and then the Greater Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce.

Year In Review!

On December 29 and January 5, the Cricket will publish its annual, two-part "Year in Review," giving us all a chance to reflect on the year that was 2023.

On Tuesday morning the MMES Cafegymnasium was packed with excited friends, parents, siblings and grandparents for the Annual Memorial School Winter Concert.

Photo Paul Clark



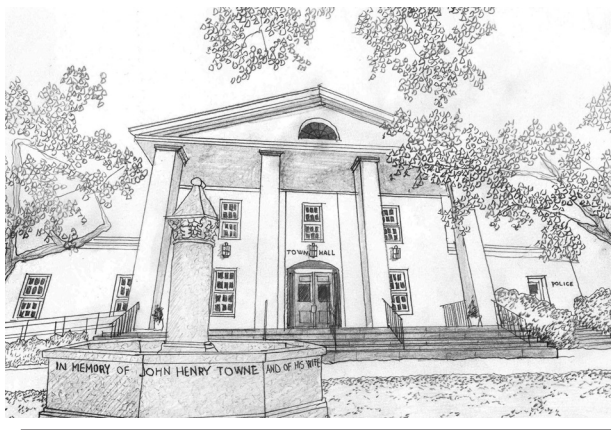
Preliminary Budgets Presented

By Gregory T. Federspiel

Within the past two weeks, both the School District and the Town have presented preliminary budgets for FY25.

The Town's operating budget is facing new pressures with the return of higher inflation these last couple of years.

Growth in the use of the harbor, which has been beneficial to our local mer-



For the past 10 years the town has relied almost entirely on annual cash appropriations to pay for needed capital projects.

chants, has strained the current staff. As part of the proposed FY25 budget, funds are provided to hire a new Deputy Harbormaster to ensure safety on the water and to prevent exhausting current staff.

The proposed budget also proposes boosting a couple

of part-time positions to full-time, again in response to higher workloads and resident demands.

greater continuity of service amongst these entities given that an applicant is often dealing with all three as well as better daily customer service related to land management and permitting.

The budget also includes proposals for more spending on infrastructure. For the past 10 years the Town has relied almost entirely on annual cash appropriations to pay for needed capital projects and equipment.

work for the new filtration systems that will be needed to remove PFAS from our drinking water both at the Lincoln Street Well and at Gravelly Pond.

For the School District, the School Committee reviewed a tentative budget for FY25 at their public hearing on Wednesday, December 13th.

...(Continued on page 2)

Manchester and Essex Awarded Nearly \$150,000 in State "Fair Share" Infrastructure Funding

By Erika Brown

Manchester and Essex learned this week that they will receive \$71,125 and \$74,103, respectively, when the state distributes approximately \$100 million to the state's 351 cities and towns to support local infrastructure.

The monies come from revenue generated by the Fair Share Amendment, passed in late 2022 when Massachusetts voters approved a 4% tax surcharge on residents with annual incomes in excess of \$1 million.

As part of the award, Rockport will receive \$100,559; Gloucester will receive \$310,251; Hamilton will receive \$133,505; and Ipswich



will receive \$234,667. Letters have been sent to each municipality certifying that community's Fair Share apportionment for Fiscal Year 2024.

formula based on local road mileage (58.33%), population (20.83%), and employment (20.83%), according to Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey's office.

The second \$50 million is being distributed using a formula based on each municipality's share of road mileage. Each community

is receiving a different total amount according to how the two formulas apportion the money. In all, 351 cities and towns will receive Fair Share support.

Communities may use the funds for construction, preservation, and improvement projects that create or extend the life of capital facilities. This includes costs for highway projects and pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

MERSD Begins Steep Trek To FY25 Budget

By Erika Brown

Last week was the first public hearing on the tentative FY25 budget of the Manchester Essex Regional School District, and it's clear: this will be hard.

The proposed education budget for FY25 recommended by district officials stands at \$30.258 million, marking a 3.42% increase from the previous year. This figure, cat-

egorized as "level services," maintains consistent staff and service levels from FY24. Personnel costs constitute the largest portion at \$18.861 million, reflecting a 3.41% rise from FY24.

Operating expenses, totaling \$11.897 million, have increased by 4.21% (\$480K) from FY24. Anticipated School Choice revenue of \$500K is expected to offset the operating expense, based

on the assumption of accepting 20 more out-of-district students in the 2024-2025 school year.

The tentative budget proposes a 3.45% (\$878K) increase in assessments for Manchester and Essex, translating to a 5.31% (\$501K) increase for Essex and a 2.35% (\$377K) increase for Manchester.

Essex's population remaining stable and Manchester experiencing a 3% decline in student numbers.

In addition to the recommended budget, two alternative scenarios were presented for FY25: a lower 2.5% increase, requiring program cuts as requested by Essex, and a higher 4% increase with program enhancements.

...(Continued on page 3)

Weekly Weather Chart

Table with 3 columns: Date, High/Low temperatures, and weather icons for Dec 23-29.

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.

MERSD Winter Recess Friday, December 22 - Monday, January 1

Town Halls Closed Monday, December 25

IN THIS ISSUE

Table listing contents: Obituaries, Town News, Letters & Library, Sports & Schools, Essex Echo, Mushroom of the Week, Puzzles, Pets & People.

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).

Jane Chandler Saltonstall



Jane Chandler Saltonstall, age 94, passed away peacefully and comfortably December 1 surrounded by family.

She was born in Auburn-dale MA to Marjorie Pollard Chandler of Masardis ME and Paul A. Chandler of Hastings NE. She was educated at Dana Hall and Vassar which engendered a lifelong enthusiasm for learning both as a student and supporting individuals and institutions in education. She pursued post graduate studies in Cambridge later in life.

Jane married William L. (Bill) Saltonstall April 18, 1953 and enjoyed 55 years of marriage before his death in 2009. They moved to Manchester after their wedding and she remained there for the rest of her life except for six years in Washington, D.C. in the '60s when Bill had a job in Government. Jane enthusiastically danced at the White House in her party dress "Pinkie Doodles", viewed iconic political figures such as Churchill and Khrushchev, used a trampoline to get an unobstructed view of Prince Hussain of Jordan and, while pregnant, rescued Caroline Kennedy from drowning in front of a sheepish Secret Service.

Jane was a warm and caring person who paid close attention to others. She was a mother, caregiver to her parents and to godparents Robert and Claire Ganz. She was a volunteer deeply involved with the St. John's refugee resettlement program, also Project Genesis, affordable housing and Wellspring House where she mentored and taught English for 11 years while having a recurring role in her friend's Math class as a mobile decimal.

Janie had a deep relationship with natural beauty and spent most of the summers of her life on Martha's Vineyard where she went to "Restore my soul" and rekindle connections with trees, animals, birds, rocks as well as her beloved house of the same age as herself.

She was preceded in death

by her husband Bill, daughter Claire, son Thomas and dog Jenny. She is survived by son Will, daughter Abigail, daughter in law Beth, extra daughter Liz Mathiot, sister-in-law Betsy McCombs grandchildren Christian, Cedar, Harry and great grandchildren Riley and Cooper of the Blankenship family of Palmer Alaska as well as step granddaughters Ericka Schenck and Katrina Moseley and great-grandchildren Henry Smith, Edwin Schenck and Aileen Moseley of Montana. She had many loved and loving nephews and nieces.

A service is planned for 11 a.m. January 27th at St. John's Church of Beverly Farms. It will be simulcast on YouTube via a link from the St John's Church of Beverly Farms website and available later by the same link. The family suggests donations in lieu of flowers to the Robert Rogers Educational Fund at Wellspring House 302 Essex Av. Gloucester MA 01930. The family is grateful to Care Dimensions Hospice Service and Caring for Caring home care for their loving attention to Jane.

Elizabeth J. Thorne (Libby)



Elizabeth J. Thorne (Libby) died peacefully on December 11, 2023, at Carleton-Willard Village in Bedford. She was 90.

Born in New York City, on October 24, 1933, to the late Richard and Leila (Bailey) Jones, she grew up in Greenwich, CT, graduated from Choate Rosemary Hall, in 1951, and graduated from Smith College, class of 1955 with a BA in Art History.

After marriage, Libby settled in New Canaan, CT, where she lived for over 30 years, giving her time to many organizations including the New Canaan Country School, Visiting Nurses Association, and the Stamford Junior League. Professionally, she was a real estate broker for Brotherhood & Higley from 1968-1988.

When she moved to Boston and Manchester-by-the-

Sea in 1988 she focused her energy on two passions: art and gardening. At the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, she was a docent, member of the Ladies Committee, chaired the Membership Committee, was the Garden Club Coordinator for Art in Bloom from 1992-1994. In 2021, Libby was honored by the Garden Club of America for her 30 years of membership and service to the North Shore Garden Club.

Libby is survived by her husband of 52 years Samuel (Spike), sons Alva See (Alison) of New Orleans, LA. and Richard See of Foster City, CA, stepsons Samuel Thorne of Port St. Lucie, FL and Guyton Thorne (Pamela) of Manchester-by-the-Sea, six grandchildren Bennett, Nicholas, Trischa, Samuel, Phoebe and Hannah. She is also survived by her brother Gerard (Emily) Jones of Woodstock, VT and nieces, Gianna and Leila. She was predeceased by her first husband Alva See, her daughter Bailey See, her son Peter See and her stepdaughter Susan Thorne.

She and Spike enjoyed many years at the houses they built in Manchester and Spring Island, SC. They traveled extensively and cherished their summer cruises on the Maine Coast. Libby was a past member the Chilton Club, Essex County Club, Manchester Yacht Club, Singing Beach Club, and Myopia Hunt Club.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m., on Friday, April 5, 2024, at Emmanuel Church, 24 Masconomo St., Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA 01944.

Jacqueline S. Dellicker



Jacqueline S. Dellicker, 88, a longtime resident of Holliston MA, passed away peacefully on Monday, December 11, with her family at her side. Born in Boston, she was the daughter of the late George Sturtevant. She was the beloved wife of 68 years to the late Henry Dellicker, Jr. of Holliston.

Jackie was extremely in-

involved in community activities. She served the community of Holliston as their Town Clerk for a multitude of years. She touched many lives along the way with her participation in the Women's Club, PTA, Den Mother, League of Women Voters, Republican Town Committee, Citizens Scholarship Committee, Council on Aging, Senior Support Foundation, Holliston Cable Access TV, Massachusetts Town Clerk Association, New England Town Clerk Association, International Town Clerk Association, Holliston Library Committee, Holliston Pantry Shelf Board, Town Moderator, and MA Moderator Association.

In addition to all of these volunteer activities, she was wife to Henry, mother to five sons, grandmother of 18, and great-grandmother to 12. She was lovingly known as having a horrible sense of direction, but could find her way around the kitchen like no other. Her cookie jar was always full and her apple pies were award-winning. She was honored to have been chosen as Holliston's 1998 Citizen of the Year.

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

Jackie is survived by her five sons: Lee Dellicker and his wife, Liz of Manchester by the Sea, MA; Mark Dellicker - Terry of Holliston, MA; Dale Dellicker and his wife, Sandy of Swansea, MA; Scott Dellicker and his wife, Kathy of Framingham, MA; and Gary Dellicker and his fiancée, Alison of Mendon, MA. She also leaves behind 17 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. She is predeceased by her sister, Phyllis Sturtevant; brother, David Sturtevant; step-brother Alan Hodge; her grandson, Christopher Walk and her step-mother, Josephine Sturtevant

Visitation was held on Friday, December 15th from 3-7 p.m. at Chesmore Funeral Home, 854 Washington St. A private burial will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Holliston Food Pantry, 73 Charles St. Holliston, MA 01746, to Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB) <https://www.ebsearch.org/>, or to the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation at mfocus.org.

The Manchester Cricket

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Feature Series, Best Front Page

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.

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 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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MANCHESTER POLICE NOTES



MONDAY, DECEMBER 11
9:31 a.m. 128SB, motor ve-

hicle accident, no personal injury, assisted as needed.

11:38 a.m. School St., property damage, report to follow.
12:29 p.m. Summer St., disabled motor vehicle, assisted as needed. 2:31 p.m. Pleasant St., motor vehicle stop, written warning.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12
6:35 a.m. School St., motor vehicle stop, citation issued.
8:46 a.m. Summer St., traffic hazard, secured/checked.
1:54 p.m. Powder House Lane, fire alarm, fire false.
6:45 p.m. School St., disabled motor vehicle, assisted as needed.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13
7:17 a.m. Lincoln St., community policing, secured/checked. 1:54 p.m. School St., disabled motor vehicle, assisted as needed. 3:15 p.m. Pine St., disabled motor vehicle, assisted as needed. 5:29 p.m. Harbor St., suspicious activity, gone on arrival.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14
9:28 a.m. Woodholm Rd., citizen assist, assisted as needed. 1:46 p.m. Bridge St., motor vehicle stop, verbal warning. 7:06 p.m. School St., motor vehicle stop, verbal warning. 10:07 p.m. Raymond St., suspicious activity, gone on arrival.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15
8:13 a.m. Pleasant St., motor vehicle stop, written warning. 10:29 a.m. Beach St., welfare check, secured/checked. 5:22 p.m. Union St., motor vehicle stop, verbal warning. 6:16 p.m. School St., fire alarm, fire false.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16
7:18 a.m. School St., selective enforcement, secured/checked. 11:42 a.m. Woodholm Circle, animal complaint, notification made. 12:45 p.m. Masconomo St., citizen assist, assisted as needed. 8:24 p.m. Route 128SB, motor vehicle stop, written warning.

...(Continued from page 1)

Whatever budget gets approved at a joint town meeting must be accepted by both towns regardless of whether an override is approved or not (which can pose big challenges for the non-school budgets.)

Reconciling the competing interests surrounding the School District budget presents a significant chal-

lenge. It is likely the outcome will result in a lower than typical increased allocation from Manchester which means that even with higher-than-normal increases for non-school services, the FY25 budget for Manchester should come within the limitations of Proposition 2½ with the exception of the new bonds which,

if voters approve, would be excluded from the levy limit.

Starting in the New Year, the Finance Committee will be meeting weekly to discuss the proposals for FY25. These meetings are open to the public and meeting details are posted on the Town's website.

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...(Continued from page 1)

TENTATIVE MERSD FY25 BUDGET

Opening FY25 budget season, MERSD is considering three options for annual spending. The recommended approach (highlighted in blue) would increase the budget by 3.41%

| FY25 Budget | Spending Growth | Essex's Increased Share | MBTS Increased Share |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| \$29,987,799 | 2.5% | | |
| \$30,258,347 | 3.41% | \$501K (+ 5.31%) | \$377K (+2.35%) |
| \$30,558,766 | 4.45% | | |

Source: MERSD 12/2023 • Created with Datawrapper

Advocates for the recommended budget argue that it aligns with similar-sized districts in the state, despite not fully restoring previous cuts. They emphasize the need for a financial reset, suggesting that school districts require a Proposition 2½ override every two decades. The last time an override passed to reset the MERSD budget was 17 years ago.

Notably, Essex failed to pass a Proposition 2½ override last year to fund the gap in school funding, prompting the district to commit \$350K of reserve funds this year to alleviate assessment spikes in Essex.

This year, Essex has said it can't support a budget exceeding a 2.5% increase. And Manchester insists on backing at least a higher, "level services" budget.

Work Ahead: Reconciling the Differences

Finalizing the school district budget will take several months, and there are significant blind spots like health insurance premium figures and special education service costs that won't be finalized until next year could swing the final budget (and, correspondingly, each town's district assessment) in either direction. For instance, the district is currently assuming a 14% increase in health insurance for FY25, and that could come in lower or higher before March.

Two recent developments add uncertainty to the situation. The departure of Avi Urbas, the district's finance director for 15 years, introduces a new variable, with his replacement expected to be announced early next year. Additionally, the Massachusetts School Building Authority's approval of the Essex Elementary School replacement project introduces both positive and challenging aspects, including potential matching funds and an eligibility period coinciding with the district's financial and community readiness assessment.

A potential Super Town Meeting looms if a budget override is necessary and fails in Essex. The larger population of Manchester could potentially force approval on the smaller town, a scenario Essex officials anticipate as potentially devastating.

The MERSD Recommended Tentative FY25 Budget highlights include flat personnel levels, a 2.5% cost-of-living adjustment, a 14.5% assumed increase in healthcare insurance, and planned use of \$150K from the retiree benefits trust account. Out-of-district tuition and maintenance costs are projected to rise, while utility/energy costs have slightly decreased.

Ben Buttrick, who last week announced he would be stepping down as chair of the Essex Finance Committee, emphasized that his board's stance hasn't changed since last fall when it requested that the District come in with an FY25 budget of no more than 2.5% increase overall, which would mean an apportionment of 4.35% for Essex and 1.41% for Manchester. He said the 2.5% scenario is the only one that may save Essex from a Proposition 2½ override. The other two scenarios guarantee an override request.

Buttrick added that at a 2.5% overall budget increase Essex may be able to "squeeze by" but not without making tough choices in other areas of the town budget.

"Our (town's) estimated overall budget growth tax capacity for FY25 is \$465,000. With that being said, at the 2.5% version of the MERSD

tentative budget, an overall assessment for the district that would come in at \$410,000 of the \$465,000," he told the School Committee Wednesday. "We still need \$145,000 more for town departments, assuming just 2% COLA (cost of living) increase for town personnel and \$10,000 for Essex Tech, roughly speaking, so it still leaves us about \$90,000 in the hole."

"Simply put, we have a math problem," Buttrick concluded.

Jody Harris of the Essex FinCom said forcing an override in Essex could negatively transform the future of her town. She said Essex is a "blue collar town," that depends on a volunteer on call Fire Department. Tax increases could force homeowners on the margins to leave town, and that could force adoption of a paid department, costing an estimated \$1 million per year, Harris said.

Everyone's eyes are on health insurance premiums, which have the power to save at least part of the day. The Essex FinCom estimates that for every 1% drop in premiums the district gains \$44K. But SC Chair Theresa Whitman said the district can't hope for lower premiums and instead must be conservative with its budgeting. Buttrick agreed.

"Hope is not a strategy," he said.

Manchester Select Board Chair Ann Harrison said she appreciates that Manchester and Essex are different communities. Several years ago, it was Manchester that bore a disproportionate assessment due to enrollment. Manchester, she said, understands Essex's current position.

"On the other hand, I find it very hard to hear people say, yes, we want level services, but we don't want to pay for it," Harrison said. "I just don't see how we can solve this."

As for cuts to education to accommodate the lower, 2.5% version of the FY25 MERSD budget?

"I don't think Manchester to be happy with that," she said.

Rob Billsbury lives in Essex, is a parent of children

in the public school system, and teaches at ME Regional High School. He warned that going with the 2.5% overall increase every year would plunge the quality of education, and that would shirk a fundamental promise a community makes to its children.

"We live in a community and it's our job to educate the kids in our community," Billsbury said.

"We have to find a way to do that, even if it costs a little bit more money. That's what has to happen because it's our job," he concluded.

Highlights in the MERSD Tentative FY25 Budget

- Personnel levels are flat, with no added positions or reductions in staff.
- A 2.5% cost of living adjustment (COLA) is included for employees not in the Manchester Essex Teachers Association (META), including Teaching Assistants, for whom an initial contract is incomplete. In the META category, a 2.25% COLA combined with the impact of step and anticipated column moves yields an estimated growth of 4.0%. Stipends in the META contract are budgeted with 0% growth.
- Healthcare insurance assumed at a 14.5% increase, with actuals expected in February or March.
- MERSD plans to use \$150K from its retiree benefits (OPEB) trust account, which totalled \$4.8 million as of June 30, to offset retiree health insurance costs.
- The out of district (OOD) tuition category is up 4.8% or \$54K based on an updated analysis of individual student placements.
- Cost of maintenance is up 4.6% or \$40K due to aging buildings, particularly at the Essex Elementary School and the ME Middle High School.
- Cost of utilities/energy has ebbed slightly by \$20K or 2.5% in FY25.

The next MERSD FY25 budget public hearing is 6 p.m. Tuesday, January 23 at the Essex Elementary School.



BOARD UPDATES

We wish all residents a safe and joyful Christmas and New Year. Please remember to support our local shops and restaurants during this holiday season and beyond.

Town Hall Holiday Hours:

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

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.

Christmas Tree Collection:

Black Earth will collect Christmas Trees curbside during the weeks of January 2 and 8. Please remove all decoration and place curbside on your collection day. Leave out until picked up.

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 greatamericanrainbarrel.com/community/.

Walker Road Work:

Water

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

Trash, recycling, and compost collection:

Delayed Schedule. Please place curbside by 7 a.m. on day of collection. Transfer Station is open on Wednesdays from 7:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Follow Us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter @townofmbts and visit the Town website www.Manchester.ma.us to stay informed.

WHAT WAS HAPPENING

90 YEARS AGO – 1933

One of the stormiest and most disagreeable nights of the winter greeted the Parent-Teacher Association for its Annual Christmas meeting which was held Wednesday evening at Price School Hall and was well attended despite the inclement weather.

Little has changed on the unemployment situation. There is now a total of 184 who are seeking employment, 10 of these being women.

75 YEARS AGO – 1948

Several very outstanding Christmas parties featured the social activities of town this week, with Santa Claus playing a prominent role at most of the gatherings. Joke Christmas gifts seemed to also be in favor with the more serious spirit for giving left for Christmas day.

Manchester's first snow of the season fell Sunday afternoon and evening, an accumulation of 5-6 inches being recorded and handled in an expeditious manner by

Superintendent of Streets P. Edward Seeney and his men.

60 YEARS AGO – 1963

Two hundred and thirty children enjoyed the Amaral-Bailey Post No. 113, American Legion annual Christmas party Sunday afternoon at Legion Hall.

A heavy northeast snowstorm hit Manchester about 10 p.m. Monday and continued through the night, ending about 7 a.m. Plowing crews worked through the night both on the State and Town roads and in the morning as the storm abated all roads were open and passable.

45 YEARS AGO – 1978

At a meeting on Wednesday of last week, the Board of Public Works presented a real "shocker" when the Board of Selectman was told that the Chowder House at Tuck's Point should be boarded up and not used until the foundation repairs are made. BPW Chairman Timothy Kirby stated firmly that the building is structurally dangerous and outlined that supports are needed for the carrying beam, the porch has pulled away from the main building and that inside the building rests on the floor.

The residents of The Plains, on Old Essex Road,

would like to express their sincere thanks to the scouts who serenaded them with beautiful Christmas Carols on Monday evening.

30 YEARS AGO – 1993

During the month of December, the students at Memorial School were busy earning money for a Christmas Fund Raiser. Children made beds, did dishes, fed pets and stacked wood in an effort to help needy people. Santa's little helpers raised \$1,100.00

In a move hailed as victory for consumers, Massachusetts recently joined a number of states in allowing people on limited incomes to get free prescription through their doctors.

15 YEARS AGO – 2008

The Manchester Club held its annual Christmas dinner and food drive at the American Legion Hall on December 18th. About 125 members and guests were in attendance.

A big thank you to all the community members and scout troops who made 50 Emergency Medical Supply kits and delivered them to the Council on Aging holiday luncheon. The medical supply kits contain bandages, ice packs, ace bandages, and phone numbers to get help.

Tides & Sun Chart For The Week Ahead

| DATE | HIGH | | | | LOW | | | | ☀️ | |
|--------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|-----|------|------|------|------|
| | AM | FT | PM | FT | AM | FT | PM | FT | RISE | SET |
| 22 Fri | 7:09 | 9.8 | 7:39 | 8.8 | 12:57 | 0.3 | 1:40 | 0.5 | 7:08 | 4:14 |
| 23 Sat | 8:08 | 10.1 | 8:41 | 8.6 | 1:53 | 0.5 | 2:45 | 0.3 | 7:09 | 4:15 |
| 24 Sun | 9:03 | 10.3 | 9:39 | 8.6 | 2:49 | 0.7 | 3:46 | 0.1 | 7:09 | 4:15 |
| 25 Mon | 9:55 | 10.4 | 10:33 | 8.6 | 3:42 | 0.8 | 4:42 | -0.1 | 7:09 | 4:16 |
| 26 Tue | 10:43 | 10.5 | 11:21 | 8.6 | 4:33 | 0.8 | 5:30 | -0.2 | 7:10 | 4:17 |
| 27 Wed | 11:27 | 10.4 | | | 5:20 | 0.9 | 6:13 | -0.2 | 7:10 | 4:17 |
| 28 Thu | 12:05 | 8.6 | 12:08 | 10.3 | 6:03 | 1.0 | 6:52 | -0.1 | 7:10 | 4:18 |



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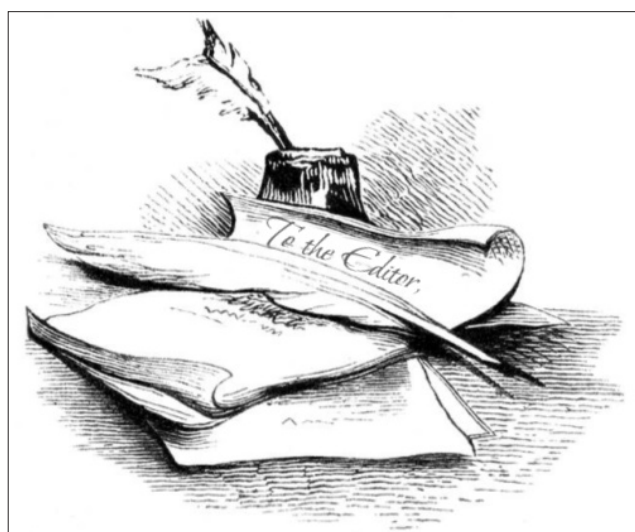
ScottEnergy Community Bulletin Board

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

Thank You to MBTS' Fire & Police

To the Editor,

We wish to thank the Manchester Fire and Police Departments for their quick response to our recent needed

emergency.

We are so very lucky to have such professional, courteous people serving our town.

**The Mackin Family
Manchester**



MBTS LIBRARY CEILING LEAK CAUSES DAMAGE

On Monday, December 11th, a leak that apparently came through the flashing around the chimney caused a portion of the plaster ceiling to fall. The library was open at the time of the collapse, but fortunately no one was hurt but the photocopier was damaged. Temporary plastic sheeting was installed over the ceiling's hole. In an update from the library, "Despite efforts by the DPW, the Library continues to have serious rainwater and, a week later, the library staff is collecting rainwater dripping from the ceiling onto the floor."

LIBRARY NEWS



Our community enjoyed creating colorful acrylic works with local artist Allison Moir-Smith at the Manchester Community Center.

Courtesy Photo

Holiday Hours

The library will be closed Sunday, December 24 and Monday, December 25 for the Christmas Holiday and Sunday, December 31 and Monday, January 1 for New Years.

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.

Mystery Book Group

Friday, December 29 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. December's meeting will occur in the library's reading room and over Zoom. We will discuss "Past Reason Hated" by Peter Robinson.

Hearthside Book Group

Tuesday, January 9 at 4 p.m. We will be discussing "Lessons in Chemistry."

What Works in Community News' with Journalism Professor Dan Kennedy (Virtual)

Thursday, January 11 from 7-8 p.m. Journalism professor and author Dan Kennedy will discuss his new book, "What Works In Community News: Media Startups, News Deserts, and the Future of the Fourth Estate" which serves as a groundbreaking study of the journalism startups that are solving the local news crisis one community at a time. Local news is essential to democracy.

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.

"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 pass-

word library1887.

Mindfulness Meditation- Moving Back to the Library

Every Tuesday from 11 a.m.-12 noon in the teen loft starting January 2 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 web-

site, 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: Storytime and Craft at the Manchester Museum

Friday, January 12 from 2:30-3:30 for ages 5-10. Hosted by the Manchester-by-the-Sea Museum.

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 your 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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Troop 3 Summits Mount Garfield



ter, the scouts eventually reached the campsite and ate lunch in the three-walled wooden shelter. Then, they summited the mountain. With strong winds and snow, they needed to layer up and bring their daypacks. There were beautiful sights of the mountains and the ground below, but because of the cold, they had to leave after 10 minutes. At the campsite they found out only one of their two stoves worked, but they still ate soup, and later ate cheese tortellini with salmon.

The scouts also taught amateur hikers, whom they met along the way, tips about winter hiking such as putting your boots in a bag and at the bottom of your sleeping bag so they aren't too cold in the morning. Finally, the scouts got ready for bed in their sleeping bags, rated for 0°-20° temperatures, and listened to poetry read by one of their adult leaders.

In the morning, they cleaned up, hiked out, and drove to a diner for lunch. It was an eventful, amazing, enjoyable hiking trip that won't be forgotten anytime soon.

By Ian Campbell

3 Manchester conquered Mount Garfield.

Mount Garfield in the White Mountains, NH, has an elevation of 4480-ft and is five miles from the trailhead. Mount Garfield however, was not the original plan; instead, we had to change plans because of how cold it

was. With a high in the teens, the scouts still prevailed with high spirits that were never brought down.

After staying Friday night in a condo, the scouts left for the trailhead in the morning. Hiking four hours and a 2,500-ft elevation gain with friendly ban-

On a brisk late fall New England weekend, six scouts from BSA Troop

Mary Cody-Kenney and John Kenney: 50 Years Together

Ryan O'Neal, "Love Story." And the rest, they say, is a love story, with a slice of realism.

Four days after Christmas is an unusual time to get married. But it was John's only time off from service in the US Army. Always practical over fuss, the couple wed with the altar still decorated in poinsettias from the Christmas Mass service at church. Peter Shomphe served as John's best man, with Mary's sister, Gretchen, serving as the maid of honor.

John is a true "townie," having been in his family's Manchester home on Norwood Avenue since he was three years old. It is unusual to find a person who was born, raised, lived, and worked in the same community, but that is just what John has done. He served on the Manchester Police Department while Mary worked as a nurse, most recently at Beverly Hospital. For all his time in town, John has countless



John Kenney and Mary Cody-Kenney of Manchester, who will celebrate 50 years of marriage on December 29.

Courtesy Image

stories about Manchester's history, the people, and the places. The

number of stories is only matched by Mary's patience to keep listening after all these years.

On television, PBS' Mr. Rogers always said to look for the "Helpers." Mary and John are helpers, serving the community in small but significant ways. Their caring for others is what connects them. From Mary taking Father Harrington's blood pressure every Sunday after Mass, to John serving on the Manchester Finance Committee and Housing Authority, to Mary building and delivering floral bouquets to shut-ins as part of the Seaside Garden Club, to John coaching his daughters in little league softball, to Mary serving on the board of Summer Stage for many years, their acts of kindness are many.

The Manchester community has been lucky enough to have these two great humans live here for their 50 years of marriage. Life certainly takes a village, and Mary and John

have made this village better. Mary and John will be the first to admit marriage is not all rainbows and glitter. When John drives, Mary's passenger "pedals" don't always work. When you expect the grass to be cut, John will give you 93% of the grass cut.

Marriage is hard, with trying times and maybe moments of not talking. But being together is better than not. During the Covid lockdown, Mary said she was grateful she liked her husband because not everyone felt that way about their spouse. They hold hands every night, falling asleep. Mary and John can be found at Tucks Point with their amazing dog Jack, at the monthly Legion dinners, tackling a puzzle together, or helping someone in need.

Here is to the happiest of anniversaries to Mary and John! Congratulations on 50 years of marriage!

- Alycia Kenney Montero



Thank You & Happy Holidays

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Congratulations to Senior Captain, Cade Furse, on scoring his 1,000th-career point in the Hornet's season opener! Here he is with his proud mom and dad. Cade is now one of 7 Hornets in Manchester Essex history to reach this milestone -- joining his brother, Kellen, from the Class of 2020.

Courtesy Photo

Museum Partnership Connects Manchester, Essex Students to Virginia Lee Burton



Grade 3 Manchester and Essex students learned about the groundbreaking local author and artist Virginia Lee Burton through a hands-on educational partnership with Cape Ann Museum earlier this month.

Manchester Essex Regional School District Superintendent Pam Beaudoin, Essex Elementary Principal Sheila McAdams and Manchester Memorial Principal John Willis worked with Cathy Kelly, director of Education at Cape Ann Museum and facilitated hands-on workshops for students as part of this partnership.

Claudette Yutkins, a District elementary art teacher, organized the partnership with Cape Ann Museum.

"The Folly Cove/Virginia Lee Burton unit is one of my favorite units to teach," said Yutkins. "Learning the art of printing by hand using traditional tools the Folly Cove

Designers used, seeing the excitement with each student as they pull their first print, and having a connection to local history is what makes this such an amazing learning experience."

With her husband, Burton led an artist collaborative in Gloucester's Folly Cove starting in the 1950s and whose illustrated children's books have been cherished worldwide. Burton's books include "Katy and the Big Snow," "The Little House," and "Mike Mulligan and the Big Shovel." She was also the founder of Folly Cove Designers, an elite group of artists who made printed fabrics sold in stores across America and are now highly collectible.

Students could create their own print projects as part of the workshops. Hundreds of students from all over Cape Ann are participating in the project; each print made will become a larger piece of art on display at the museum.



ME Hornet, Eddie Chareas, drives to the hoop for a lay-up in the home opener in front of a large crowd of fans. The Hornets defeated the visiting Cathedral team 85-34. Their next game is away against North Reading on Tuesday the 19th at 7 p.m. Photo Paul Clark



Thursday, December 14th was the night of the elementary concert band, rock band, and chorus. Here the chorus, directed by Fiona Dooley, performs to a full house. Courtesy Photo

LEGAL NOTICE



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT

Docket Number: 21 SM 000685

ORDER OF NOTICE

To: Timothy P. Girian

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):

Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, d/b/a Christiana Trust, not individually but as trustee for Pretium Mortgage Acquisition Trust claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Manchester (Manchester By The Sea), numbered 14 Old Neck Road, given by Timothy P. Girian, Ann W. Girian to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Countrywide Home Loans, Inc., dated July 25, 2007, and recorded in the Essex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds in Book 27056, Page 2, as modified by a certain modification agreement dated February 14, 2020, and recorded with said Essex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds in

Book 38844, Page 559, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before January 22, 2024, or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on December 5, 2023.

Attest:

Deborah J. Patterson

Recorder 20162

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

December 22, 2023 MC

MERCURY RECOVERY PROGRAM

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Town Administrator's Report

Board of Selectmen's Meeting
of Dec. 18, 2023
Report covers from December
2, 2023 to December 15, 2023

Planning Board Zoning Review Project Public Forum Summary

The Planning Board held a public forum on December 6, 2023 hosted by personnel from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), both at Town Hall and via virtual connection. The Town Administrator (TA) was in attendance along with the Selectmen and the forum focused on defining a list of possible "place types" that are a precursor to possibly setting up defined district zones in Essex. Presently, outside of three small zoning districts in the Town, every other parcel is within the Town's General Zone. It is possible to bring to a future Town Meeting a proposal to designate selected portions of the General Zone as new zoning districts, likely starting with residential districts. Any parcel that does not get included in a proposal for a new district will remain in the General Zone and all uses will remain possible there.

At the forum, members of the public in the meeting room and participating on line, began to express ideas and opinions concerning whether certain areas of the Town were good candidates for specific zones. MAPC has developed an on-line tool that will remain available to the public until early in 2024 that allows residents to make their own assertions about possible new zones. Thereafter, MAPC will review all of the input and present the data. The on-line tool, known as Social Pinpoint, may be accessed here. On December 7, 2023, MAPC personnel held a check-in meeting with Town personnel and officials to go over the mechanics of continuing to collect public input on the prospect of future zoning districts.

Revision to Essex Police Association Collective Bargaining Agreement

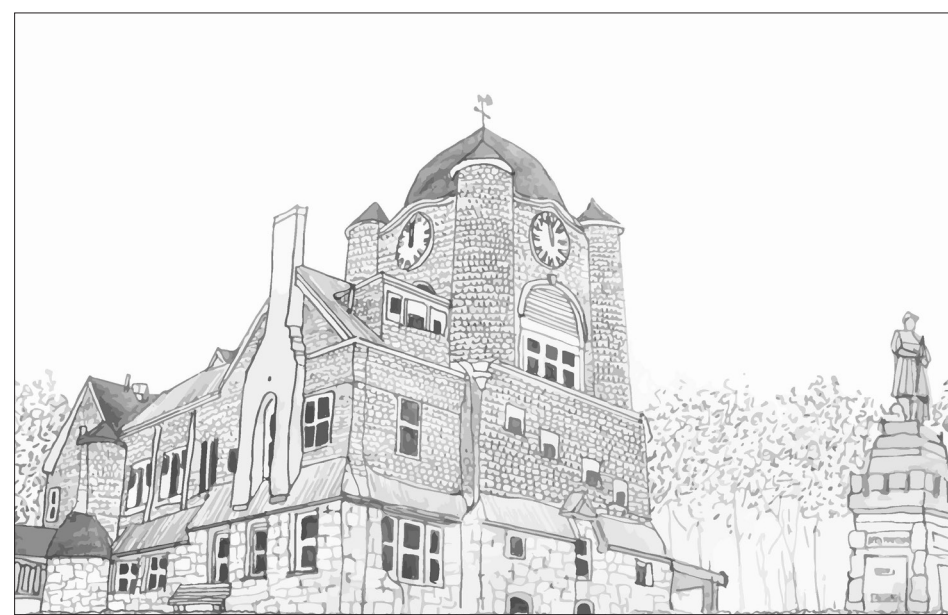
The Town and the Essex Police Association have been discussing the union's request for additional compensation for certified Field Training Officers (FTOs) while training new personnel. Recent changes to standards in this area require all new personnel to undergo 20 shifts of training under the supervision of a FTO and, along with the required documentation process, FTOs have increased responsibilities and liabilities. The parties have developed a proposal for the Board's review and approval that would provide FTOs with an additional \$7.50 per hour, only while training new personnel, with no contribution to an FTO's overtime rate.

Next Safety Committee Meeting

The next Safety Committee meeting will be held on December 20, 2023. The TA will attend as a member of the Committee and Chairman Pereen usually attends as well.

Specification, Bid Assistance, & Oversight of Public Safety Building Repairs

At the last meeting, the Board agreed that the TA should reach out to Copeland Building Consultants to seek a proposal for specification, bid assistance, and construction oversight for repairs to the roof and building envelope of the public safety facility. The proposal will include the development of a scope of services arrived at



by specifying all repairs that are necessary and options for each type of repair that might vary the cost (where possible). The next service included in the proposal would be to develop a construction-level cost estimate. The consultant would then provide bidding assistance (from the technical side only) and construction oversight (with involvement from our roofing expert, Northeast Roof Consultants).

Copeland has developed a proposal to manage this project along with Northeast Roof Consultants for a total cost of \$112,400. About \$50,000 of that proposed cost appears to be for construction administration, since it will be important to have our experts on site to direct and scrutinize the repair work. That cost could certainly be decreased but the quality of the work could suffer.

Possible School District Operations Review

At the last meeting, the Board agreed that I should reach out to several consulting firms that customarily conduct school district operations reviews to determine whether any firm saw the current level of available funding (\$40,000) as being able to produce any worthwhile results. The Board also asked me to reach out to academia to understand whether a group at a university had the potential to assist the Town in a similar fashion. With respect to private firms, Mr. Zubricki contacted Hanover Research, New Solutions K12, SchoolWorks, DMG, and PCG. Of those five firms, two (Hanover and New Solutions) expressed interest in discussing a possible engagement further. Preliminary discussions with the two firms indicate that cooperation from the District is very important in working toward a worthwhile product.

With respect to academia, the TA began by contacting the Collins Center at UMass Boston, since we have used that group in the past (shared service study between Essex and Manchester). Collins Center personnel have the ability to conduct this type of work but they will not do so without full buy-in from District personnel and officials. Presently, we expect that the School Committee will be discussing possible cooperation in this type of operations review when the Committee meets on December 19, 2023. The Committee's stance on the matter is very important to how any type of scope of work with a consultant will be structured.

Procurement for Centennial Grove Restroom Facility

At a previous meeting, the Board agreed that the new restroom facility for the Centennial Grove that was funded at the Fall Town

Meeting should be of the pre-cast concrete type. As such, Mr. Zubricki has finalized an Invitation for Bids (IFB) for a modular facility with six, separate restrooms that will also serve as changing facilities (similar to the sample design that the Board reviewed). The IFB will be available as of December 20, 2023 and bids are due by January 18, 2024. The TA has taken steps to advertise the IFB in the Central Register, the Gloucester Times, the Comm-Buys State website, and via local posting, all as required.

Procurement for the Potential Sale of Gregory Island Road Properties

At a previous meeting, the Board agreed that five Town-owned parcels on Gregory Island should again be put up for possible sale. As such, all property owners on Gregory Island have been notified about the new offering and we have posted the offering in Town Hall and have advertised it in the Central Register. All five properties will have minimum offer amounts as specified by the Board but, unlike in the first offering, no use restrictions are being sought. All offers are due on January 18, 2024.

Fixed-Rate Natural Gas and Electricity Contract Discussion

As the Board may recall, Chairman Pereen has been authorized to enter into a new, fixed-rate natural gas contract with supplier NRG when rates are favorable. At the time of that authorization, natural gas rates were higher than the Town's fixed-rate that expired in late-November (the Town is currently under the National Grid default supply rate). Recently, natural gas prices decreased precipitously and the TA contacted NRG for a new quote. Since the Town is not a particularly large user of natural gas, NRG explained that this factor, in conjunction with the fact that NRG purchases natural gas in advance, will still not allow for favorable pricing at this time. However, if the natural gas price decline becomes sustained, it is very possible that a favorable rate could be offered in the near future. Chairman Pereen has already been authorized by the Board to sign a long-term contract if this occurs.

With this sharp decrease in natural gas prices, future fixed-rate pricing for electricity has also substantially declined. Even though the Town is still in a fixed-rate electricity contract with Constellation for another year, it is possible to supersede that contract with more favorable pricing. Constellation is presently working to provide the Town with some pricing options.

Monthly Pothole Log

The TA has received from the DPW the pothole log for

the month of November. No potholes were reported. The log is intended to document potholes and their rapid repair in order to limit the Town's liability.

Senior Center Generator Pre-Test

Each year, the State Elevator Inspector requires the Town to test the elevator at the Essex Senior Center on generator power. Recently, we have had issues with getting the generator test to be successful. The Assistant Electrical Inspector and the TA ran some pre-testing on December 4, 2023, in order to be ready for this year's elevator inspection. The elevator once again is not operating properly on generator power, despite the fact that the generator appears to have ample output. During the test, the Assistant Electrical Inspector noted that a component within the Automatic Transfer Switch (ATS) in the basement may have had circuitry problems associated with it when the building is being run by generator.

On December 13, 2023, a technician from our generator contractor came out and conducted additional testing. While he understood the symptoms that seemed to be pointing to the ATS component, he explained that the component in question is not related to the power path for the elevator's hydraulic pump motor. Instead, he suggested that the problem is either a faulty voltage regulator within the generator or that the pump motor in the elevator is reaching the end of its useful life and is drawing way too much current on startup (beyond the capacity of the generator). The latter would explain why we did not have a problem running the elevator on generator in the past (either with our old generator or with our new one - which is the same size as the old one). Presently, before any additional funding is spent on this matter, the TA is awaiting guidance from our elevator contractor concerning whether a motor problem is the likely cause.

Transfer of Municipal Fiber Cable and Light to New Utility Poles

National Grid has set two new utility poles that have Town utilities on them and Verizon is working to manage getting all utilities moved over to the new poles. One of the poles just has municipal fiber optic cables on it but the other pole also has a Town-owned streetlight on it. We contacted our fiber optic contractor and will arrange for the relocation of the municipal fiber optic cables. With respect to the streetlight, the TA will be attempting to see if the Ipswich Light Department will handle that work.

LIBRARY NEWS

T.O.H.P. Burnha
Public Library



During last week's Children's Event we were visited by The Elf on the Shelf! (Local actress Carole Finn).
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.

Buildwawe 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 11

10:54 a.m. Southern Ave., male sick, transported to hospital.
11:37 a.m. Main St., motor vehicle accident, no personal injury, report to follow. 12:03 p.m. Apple St., male with seizure, transported to hospital. 9:28 p.m. John Wise Ave., motor vehicle stop, written warning.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

7:05 a.m. Spring St., selective enforcement, secured/checked. 4:35 p.m. Scotts Way, utility request, notification made. 9:32 p.m. Main St., directed patrol, secured/checked. 10:48 p.m. John Wise Ave., directed patrol, arrest.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

7:06 a.m. Chebacco Terrace, directed patrol, secured/checked. 3:59 p.m. John Wise Ave., motor vehicle accident with injury, assisted as needed. 4:14 p.m. John Wise Ave., disabled motor vehicle, assisted as needed. 9:31 p.m. Western Ave., motor vehicle stop, verbal warning.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

8:56 a.m. Eastern Ave., male sick, transported to hospital. 10:15 a.m. John Wise Ave., citizen assist, assisted as needed. 8:57 p.m. Main St., directed patrol, secured/checked. 10:06 p.m. John Wise Ave., motor vehicle stop, verbal warning.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

6:05 a.m. John Wise Ave., harassment, spoken to. 11:07 a.m. Spring St., directed patrol, secured/checked. 2:49 p.m. John Wise Ave., male with mental, emotional, psychologic, transported to hospital. 5:39 p.m. Martin St., motor vehicle stop, written warning.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

7:43 a.m. John Wise Ave., animal complaint, assisted as needed. 10:30 a.m. Main St., motor vehicle stop, citation issued. 1:00 p.m. Eastern Ave., male with unknown medical problem, secured/checked. 9:50 p.m. John Wise Ave., motor vehicle stop, verbal warning.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

6:06 a.m. Centennial Grove Rd., directed patrol, secured/checked. 8:15 a.m. John Wise Ave., animal complaint, other. 2:54 p.m. Martin St., directed patrol, secured/checked. 10:05 p.m. Chebacco Terrace, directed patrol, secured/checked.

Essex Locals | Dec 22

115 Years Ago - 1908

Christmas was observed by the schools by trees and exercises on Friday last before closing for the Christmas vacation and a general good time was enjoyed.

90 Years Ago - 1933

Essex will get a generous slice from the state emergency public works commissioners Governor Elys last week having approved the state highway improvement project, which provides \$182,600 for the rebuilding of the state road beginning in the eastern section of the town toward Gloucester.

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Mushroom Of The Week

Mushroom Macro Photography



Photos: Gary Gilbert

As the regular contributor of our Mushroom of the Week column, Gary Gilbert typically focuses on mushroom foraging, identification, and how to cook edible mushrooms at home. This week, he tackles something completely different: photography. Effective photography of fungi on the forest floor is downright technical. But it can be done with “photo stacking,” which Gary explains here. Learn it and you’ll have skills that are elevate photography for any close up subjects!

By Gary Gilbert

Mushroom hunting as a hobby has taken off in popularity in recent years, and so has the art of mushroom photography, the art of photographing very small, quirky, and colorful fungal fruiting bodies in the woods. Many of us walk in the woods and casually snap a photo of a brightly colored mushroom and are happy as a lark, or a toadstool, as the case may be. These photos, especially with modern cell phones, can work out just fine to capture the moment or be sent out through social media. However, if you desire to enlarge your images or print them, it is best to have a good camera and a good technique. It is better still to use a tripod for longer exposures or while taking multiple photos, which you later compress into a single image; a technique called “photo-stacking.”

When you shoot a picture

of your daughter in a soccer game, you can clearly see all the players, the grass, and probably the bleachers, like what you see with the naked eye, but if you shoot a photo really closeup of a mushroom, the opposite will be true. Often you will have a clear image of the cap, but the far edge of the cap or the gills will likely be out of focus. This range of focus is called the depth of field, and it is the biggest stumbling block in good closeup, or ‘macro’, photography. To improve your depth of field, one technique is to put your camera on a tripod to hold it still and then adjust the aperture so it is smaller and lets in less light. This will also require a slower shutter speed and thus, the need for a tripod to keep the camera steady. The result will be a foreground and background that will be more in focus. But even this technique has its limitations; images will have limited sharpness and clarity.

“Bracketing” is another

approach where you focus your camera, on the closest edge of the mushroom, then shoot another identical photo except only about 1/32 inch further away. Then, you continue to shoot identical photos a fraction of an inch at a time until you are at the other end of the mushroom. If you then take all those photos, maybe 20 to 40 of them, and combine them into a single image where only the parts that were in focus are used, you end up with what is called a “stacked” image. A single, ultra-clear photograph. There are many ways to shoot bracketed photographs. You can mount your camera to a movable rail, which smoothly slides the camera along, allowing you to shoot as many photos as you wish along its length. You can also mount the camera on a tripod or set it on the ground and simply rotate the focus adjustment ring very small increments, even as small as a 32nd of an inch at

a time if you wish and keep shooting photos until you are eventually focusing beyond the furthest edge of the mushroom. However, the very best technique is to get a camera that can do something called “automatic bracketing.” Autobracketing allows your camera to automatically shoot 20, or 40, or even 80 or more photographs, all within seconds, while automatically adjusting the focus further and further away from your starting point. When you are done and your images are stacked, you will have produced photographs with clarity very close to what the human eye can see. Perhaps even better. They are magnificent. If you want to experiment with bracketing and photo stacking, an excellent software is available called HeliconFocus. They offer a free one-month trial to try your hand at photo stacking once you have shot your bracketed photographs. After the trial

period, you can use it for a year for only about \$30. It may sound trite but try it; you’ll like it. You can learn a lot more about improving your macro photography skills as well as photo stacking by attending the next Northeast Mycological Federation (NEMF) Conference to be held in Hyannis on Cape Cod, October 11-14, 2024. Alan Rockefeller, one of the country’s most well-known mycologists, will lead a 3-hour workshop there and answer all of your photography questions. Registration is targeted to begin next March or April. Stay tuned. Gary Gilbert is a member of the Executive Committee of the Boston Mycological Club, and lectures and leads identification walks. He is the author of “Mycocards”, flashcards for learning mushroom identification (mycocards.com). He lives in Manchester and can often be found in the local woods, photographing mushrooms.

Architecture: Lynn Hopkins Architects | Photography: Eric Roth

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The Manchester Masonic Lodge hosted its Annual Community Christmas Dinner on Wednesday, December 13th. With over 80 guests attending, the evening was a big success. The members of the Manchester Masonic Lodge greatly enjoy providing the community a place for people to kick off the holiday season with friends and family, and enjoy a wonderful dinner. Once again, the kitchen crew served a delicious meal including roast beef, roast turkey and all the fixings. We would like to thank those of you that attended and we wish you a healthy and happy new year!

Who do you recognize from this years' Masonic Lodge Annual Christmas Dinner?

Photo Paul Clark

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

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, call the C.O.A. office.

Ring in the New Year With "J-LO" (a.k.a., Ocean State Job Lots)

On Friday, January 5th, the Manchester Council on Aging van will be going to Ocean State Job Lots Plaza in Danvers. Ocean State Job Lots sell an ever-changing array of household goods, apparel, pet supplies, kitchen pantry staples, and seasonal products (such as holiday, gardening, and pool supply) at a fraction of their typical price. You can also visit neighboring stores such as Savers, US Nails, Market Basket, or CVS. Van will start picking up seniors around 10 a.m.

Giuseppe's, Yes!

On Wednesday, January 10th, the Manchester Council on Aging is offering a trip to Giuseppe's Italian Restaurant and Marketplace in Beverly for a delicious lunch. This family owned and operated Italian restaurant has been serving up homestyle Italian pasta dishes in generous portions and at very reasonable prices since 1995 and now you can experience their new restaurant in Beverly. You can even bring home dishes from their grab and go case. The van will start picking up seniors around 11 a.m. Return is expected by 2 p.m.

Tendercrop Farm

On Friday, January 12th, the Manchester Council on Aging is pleased to offer a trip to Tendercrop Farm in Wenham. Support local farms and check out their locally sourced meats, eggs, fruits, and veggies. There is prepared food, locally made jams, jellies, cheese, coffee, desserts and more. The van will start picking up seniors around 10:30 a.m. Return is expected by 1 p.m.

Sunnyside Bowladrome

On Wednesday, January 17th, the Manchester Council on Aging is pleased to offer a trip to Sunnyside Bowladrome in Danvers. Enjoy a few strings of candlepin bowling. No experience needed. Get some exercise and have fun and laughs in return. The van will start picking up seniors at 11 a.m.

Stonewall Kitchen in York, Maine

On Friday, January 19th, the Manchester Council on Aging is pleased to offer a trip to the Stonewall Kitchen Store and Café in York, Maine. Stonewall Kitchen is a leader and award-winning producer of specialty food products.

They offer preserves, condiments, mustards, relishes, baking mixes, pancake and waffle mixes and many more interesting items.

At Stonewall Kitchen, you can visit the Café for a light lunch or cup of coffee and then you can go to the Viewing Gallery Window to watch their operation production line and continue into their store where you'll have plenty of time for shopping. The van will start picking up seniors around 10:30 a.m. and return home around 2 p.m. Lunch is on your own. For further information or to reserve your seat on the van, please call the C.O.A. Office.

Real Pirates Museum

The Manchester Council on Aging is pleased to offer a trip to the Real Pirates - The Wreck of the Whydah Museum in Salem on Friday, January 26th. This new and very unique museum was recently on the History Channel, NECN, and Channel 5's Chronicle. It showcases the world's only fully authenticated pirate shipwreck trea-

sure from the Whydah Gally, which sank off the coast of Cape Cod in 1717. Learn about pirate captain Black Sam Bellamy as well as the underwater recovery of the artifacts from the Whydah. Afterwards grab a treat at Lulu's Bakery and Pantry. The Council on Aging van will begin to pick up at 10 a.m. The price of admission is \$16. A treat at Lulu's is on your own.

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT

DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
DOCKET NO. 23 SM 004629
ORDER OF NOTICE

TO: Paula Karahalas, as Trustee of the Paula Karahalas Realty Trust u/d/t dated May 13, 2021

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. C. 50 §3901 (et seq):

Bank of America, N.A.

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Manchester by the Sea, numbered 27 Norwood Avenue, Unit No. 8, of the Norwood Village Condominium, given by John A. Karahalas to Bank of America, N.A. dated July 27, 2007, and recorded in Essex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds in Book 27097, Page 279, has/have filed with this

court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before 1/29/2024 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of non-compliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER
Chief Justice of this Court on 12/14/2023.

Attest: Deborah J. Patterson,
Recorder

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

December 22, 2023 MC

LEGAL NOTICE

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Town of Manchester
Town Hall
10 Central Street
Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA, 01944

Public Hearing Notice

Public Hearing Notice to be Published on or before 12/22/23

David Doucette requests the Commission make a decision regarding a Notice of Intent for demolition and reconstruction of a new dwelling within the 200-ft Riverfront Area, and within the 100-foot, 50-foot No Build Zone, and 30-foot No Disturb Zone Buffers to BVW and Inland Bank at 168 Pine Street (map 32, lot 54) Carlos Delgado requests the Commission make a decision regarding a Notice of Intent for removal of a deck, stairs and retaining wall, construction of an addition, deck, covered porch and garage, extension of a driveway, walkway and retaining wall, grading and installation of utilities within the 100-foot, 50-foot No Build Zone, and 30-foot No Disturb Zone Buffers to BVW at 21 Rockwood Heights Road (map 32, lot 126) Meredith and John Pasquesi request the Commission make a decision regarding a Notice of Intent for

installation of hardscape and landscaping within the 100-foot Buffer to Coastal Bank at 19 Smith's Point Road (map 20, lot 16) Michael Dalton requests the Commission make a decision regarding a Notice of Intent for installation of landscape, hardscape, driveway improvements and drainage improvements within the 200-ft Riverfront Area and within the 100-foot, 50-foot No Build Zone, and 30-foot No Disturb Zone Buffers to BVW and Inland Bank at 5 Ledgewood Circle (map 35, lot 12) Arinda Lachapelle requests the Commission make a decision regarding a Notice of Intent for construction of two garage additions within the 200-ft Riverfront Area at 3 Brook Street (map 5, lot 7) This request will be discussed at a VIRTUAL meeting Tuesday, January 2 at 6:30 p.m. and will be reviewed under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (MGL Chapter 131, Section 40) and/or the Manchester General Wetlands Bylaw.

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

December 22, 2023 MC

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 for 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.

Said lot is conveyed together with a 1/30 interest in Lot 31 shown on Plan No. 1449-P as de-scribed in Certificate of Title No. 70252. The above described land is subject to and with benefit of the restrictions and provisions de-scribed 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 refer-ence 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 Mortgagor, 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. Pot-ter 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



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LEGAL NOTICE



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Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA, 01944

Manchester Board of Health PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Manchester Board of Health will hold a public hearing on Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. to review the following proposed regulations:

- 1.) Environmental Tobacco, Marijuana, and Electronic Delivery Regulation, revised
- 2.) Regulation Prohibiting the Manufacture, Sale, or Distribution of Synthetically derived Cannabinoids

The public hearing will be held in room #7 of the Manchester Town

Hall, located at 10 Central Street in Manchester-by-the-Sea as well as on the Zoom meeting platform. Copies of the draft regulations are available on the Town website and from the Board of Health office. The Zoom link for the meeting will be made available on the Town website www.manchester.ma.us.

Questions may be directed to the Board of Health.

Peter Colarusso, Chairperson
Manchester Board of Health
Town Hall
10 Central Street
Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA

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

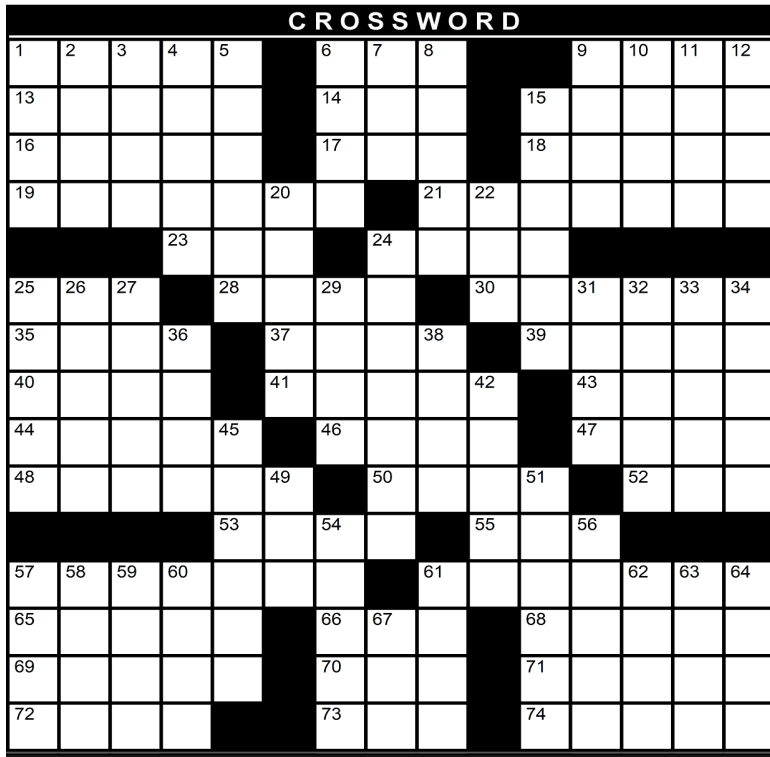
December 22, 2023 MC
December 29, 2023 MC

Puzzle

THEME: COCKTAILS

ACROSS

1. Great divide
6. Priestly vestment
9. Took to court
13. Haile Selassie's disciple
14. 10 decibels
15. *Appletini's ___ schnapps
16. Rose oil
17. Maui garland
18. Birth-related
19. *Old Fashioned liquor option
21. *Gin+vermouth rosso+Campari
23. Not him
24. Bye, in Palermo
25. VA.gov beneficiary
28. Puerto follower
30. Like Ferris Bueller
35. Exclude
37. "___ Your Enthusiasm"
39. Green-light
40. Tiny coffee cup, or ___-tasse
41. Cut mission short
43. Not final or absolute
44. Makes a sweater
46. Wing-shaped
47. Bird, in Latin
48. One with drug dependency
50. Do like a frog
52. A U.S. time zone
53. Dance with #17 Across
55. Anatomical duct
57. *It usually comes in a conical glass
61. *Popular cocktail mixer
65. Spy's other name
66. Knicks' org.
68. Give a speech
69. Clan emblem
70. Party barrel
71. Clean a spill (2 words)
72. Part of pump
73. Sargasso or Barents
74. Same as apse



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DOWN

1. Sticking point, in alimentary tract
2. Possesses, archaic
3. *Bellini with ___ Spumante
4. Squirrel away
5. a.k.a. felt-pen
6. Competently
7. M tley Cr e's Tommy ___
8. Russian pancakes
9. Practice in the ring
10. As far as (2 words)
11. Distinctive flair

12. Place for a hero
15. Fluffy sweater material
20. "All My Children" vixen ___ Kane
22. 2010 Movie "___ Pray Love"
24. Toyota model
25. *Moscow Mule spirit
26. Make corrections
27. Shy
29. * ___ Libre
31. Forearm bone
32. Not dead
33. Honkers

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| | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| | 7 | | 6 | | 3 | | | 9 | |
| 9 | 8 | | | | | | | | 6 |

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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

34. *Lemon or orange piece
36. South American monkey
38. Highlands hillside
42. Crossbeam
45. Religious split
49. 252-gallon wine cask
51. * Tequila+grapefruit juice+sparkling water
54. Kind of golf course
56. Razor sharpener
57. S.A.T. section
58. Balm ingredient
59. Baptism or shiva, e.g.
60. Asian weight unit
61. John Galsworthy's "The Forsyte ___"
62. Nukes
63. Sewing case
64. Gym set
67. * ___'s Knees

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 Schedule:
Sacred Heart Church - Saturday Vigil Mass - Virtual Mass - on our YouTube as well as www.mecatholic.org
 Sunday Mass - 8:30 a.m.
St. John the Baptist Church - Saturday Vigil Mass - 5 p.m.
 Sunday Mass - 10 a.m.
 Please go to our website: www.mecatholic.org for Sacramental Information as well as Parish Registration if you are new to town or looking to join a Catholic Church.

The Assumption of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church
 8 Lafayette Road, Ipswich Mass.
 Church services, with Father Christopher Kolentzas, 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. 24, 2023, 10 a.m., we invite everyone to join us for hospitality following the service.

Worship Leader, Rev. Rick Christman
 Music led by Dr. Herman Weiss, with the First Parish Choir.
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.

Christmas Eve 7:30 p.m. Traditional Candlelight open to all! Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you... Rev. Rick Spalding. Music led by Dr. Herman Weiss, with the First Parish Choir.

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.

...(Continued on page 11)

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Tom Kennedy | 617.947.9201



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SALEM
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Michael Selbst | 617.504.9159



NEWBURYPORT
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Behavior and the Senior Dog



By Lawrence Lamb, DVM

Clinical Signs of CCDS:

The good news is that I am observing my patients living longer than ever at Manchester Animal Hospital due to advanced veterinary care and better nutrition. As they get older, I also see age-related diseases such as arthritis, dental disease, diabetes, Cushing's disease, thyroid disease, cancer, and decreases in vision and hearing can all result in subtle or more obvious behavioral changes in dogs. These changes can include decreased activity, loss of appetite, and even aggression.

Similar to Alzheimer's disease in humans, another disease I have to consider in older dogs is canine cognitive dysfunction syndrome (CCDS). This disease affects the brain, causing behavioral changes such as disorientation, decreased social interactions, vocalization, increased restlessness at night, house soiling, anxiety, irritability, and sometimes agitation. We may think of cognitive decline as an "old dog" disease, but clinical signs can emerge as early as five years of age in some dogs, especially larger breeds.

1. Disorientation
2. Changes in social interaction
3. Changes in sleep-wake
4. House soiling
5. Changes in activity level and anxiety

When determining the cause for behavioral changes in older dogs, we must first rule out underlying medical diseases with lab tests such as a complete blood count, serum chemistry, thyroid profile, and urinalysis. Diagnostics such as radiographs can show signs of arthritis or certain cancers. Specific exams to look at teeth, eyes, and even the nervous system can help narrow down the cause. Cognitive disease is often diagnosed based on behavioral signs once other medical causes have been ruled out.

The goal for these dogs is to improve their welfare rather than to cure them. Pain is often a common factor resulting in decreased activity, increased anxiety, restlessness, and, in some cases, even aggression. Anti-inflammatories (NSAIDs) and other pain medications often improve the dog's comfort level and subsequent quality

of life. Behavioral supplements, pheromones, prescription diets, and anti-anxiety medications may also be helpful.

In addition to medications, enrichment using interactive food dispensing or puzzle toys can provide mental stimulation, sharpen problem-solving skills, and exercise the brain. Using a variety of new smells hidden around the house or in the yard often stimulates interest and physical activity.

Positive reinforcement training is another form of enrichment for older dogs and can be used when teaching new tricks or playing memory games. This training helps to sharpen your dog's memory while providing positive human interactions. Many of these techniques can be just as mentally tiring as if you just took your final exam for chemistry. They can also help your dog sleep better at night and slow down the canine cognitive dysfunction syndrome progression in some dogs.

If you observe behavior changes in your older dog, a trip to the veterinarian is encouraged. What you are seeing may not just be your dog slowing down. There may

be more to the picture than meets the eye. You may be able to significantly enhance your dog's quality of life in their senior years.



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

Solution to puzzles on page 10

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | H | A | S | M | A | L | B | S | U | E | D | | |
| R | A | S | T | A | B | E | L | A | P | P | L | E | |
| A | T | T | A | R | L | E | I | N | A | T | A | L | |
| W | H | I | S | K | E | Y | N | E | G | R | O | N | I |
| | | H | E | R | | C | I | A | O | | | | |
| V | E | T | R | I | C | O | T | R | U | A | N | T | |
| O | M | I | T | C | U | R | B | A | L | L | O | W | |
| D | E | M | I | A | B | O | R | T | N | I | S | I | |
| K | N | I | T | S | A | L | A | R | A | V | E | S | |
| A | D | D | I | C | T | L | E | A | P | E | S | T | |
| | | | H | U | L | A | V | A | S | | | | |
| M | A | R | T | I | N | I | S | E | L | T | Z | E | R |
| A | L | I | A | S | N | B | A | O | R | A | T | E | |
| T | O | T | E | M | K | E | G | M | O | P | U | P | |
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| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 7 |
| 1 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 3 |
| 3 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 1 |
| 4 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 5 |
| 7 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 9 |
| 8 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 4 |
| 5 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 2 |
| 2 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 8 |
| 9 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 6 |

PET OF THE WEEK



IN THE STARS FOR YOU

Meet Gemini. This 5-month-old Labrador retriever mix's one wish for the holidays is family. She is playful and goofy, and pretty smart, too. Gemini has been learning verbal cues like "sit" and "down." She loves learning new things. She likes other dogs but some still make her a little nervous and she'll bark when scared. She would do well if with another dog to help her learn to be confident and respectful. Visit www.capeanimalaid.org for more information about Gemini 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)

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

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

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

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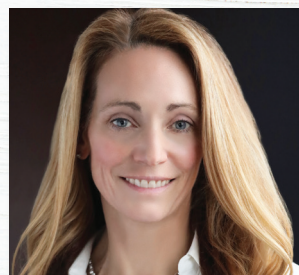
Joyce Herman



Marne Malloy



Emily McPherson



Paula Polo-Filias



Kate Richard



Mandy Sheriff



Shelly Shuka



Cricket Sperry



Julia Virden



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