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MANCHESTER CRICKET

A Local Tradition Since 1888

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2023: The Year That Was

Each year at this time, we republish snippets of the year's events that have made their way onto the pages of the newspaper. The "Year in Review," printed in two consecutive editions, provides a momentary slowing to reflect on 2023 before answering the call of 2024.

In looking at this past year on Cape Ann, it's been a whirlwind of milestones and change. Locally, there has been the heavy lifting of planning our future and what that will look like, from



A Local Tradition since 1888.

school budgets to infrastructure to new developments and state-mandated questions that will shape our community's future. Beyond Manchester and Essex, the entire region of Cape Ann was pulled this year into the gravitational pull of

Gloucester's monumental, 400+ anniversary celebration of local history, from Indigenous life to the decades and centuries of fishing, shipbuilding, quarrying, the arts, and more.

In looking back at the 52 weeks that made up 2023 in a Year In Review, it's comforting and even satisfying to revisit our community's life. Our goal at *The Cricket* is to chronicle our life together as a community with trustworthy content—in print and online—that drives a sense of belonging. The team sports

and games and rites and rituals of school life. The passing of important people in local life. The progress of our volunteer boards and the Town Meetings and elections that posed important questions to voters in Manchester and Essex. And the celebrations and milestones of people and organizations.

We hope you enjoy looking back at the year as much as we have.

May your holiday be spent happily and safely with family, friends, and neighbors.

Part II, next week!



Same time this year!

Keeping with the decades long tradition of plucking up your courage and bravely jumping into the icy waters of Singing Beach, local residents participated in the annual Polar Plunge on an unseasonably warm New Years Day. These four freshly plunged young men may look familiar as they were right here last year, having jumped into the New Year and the frigid waters together. Theo Kaplan, Charlie Rousmaniere, Nick Brown and Nick Rinaldi pose post-plunge. Starting the New Year with something challenging and fun sets a great tone for things to come. While many jumped in others enjoyed simply strolling the beach with family, friends, and lots and lots of dogs. The vibe was easy and spirits high. Here's to all of us keeping it just so as we welcome 2023!

Chapter 40B Appeal Is A Slow Process

The appeals process for the proposed Chapter 40B housing project off School Street is "slowly plodding through," according to Town Administrator Greg Federspiel. After the Manchester-By-The-Sea Zoning Board of Appeals voted to deny the comprehensive permit in August, developer Geoffrey Engler and SLV School St. LLC appealed that decision to the Massachusetts Housing Appeals Committee (HAC). Engler and SLV were seeking the comprehensive permit to build a 136-unit apartment building off School Street, opposite the entrance to Atwater Avenue, to be known as The Sanctuary at Manchester-By-The-Sea. As part of the Chapter 40B permit, 34 of the 136 units would be rented as affordable housing. The entire appeal is expected to take 18-24 months.

Apple Street Roadbed Elevation and Culvert Replacement Project Update

The Essex Board of Selectmen heard from the town's engineering firm as they finalize the firm's response memo to both Planning Board and general public comments and input with respect to the proposed Apple Street project to widen and elevate the road to make it a passable route from one side of town to the other for emergency vehicles in case of flooding of the Causeway bridge downtown. One key point was whether firm personnel are willing to, as professional engineers, specify a road width of anything less than the industry design standard of 20 feet (in accordance with AASHTO Geometric Design of Highways and Streets). The firm has responded that it will not produce a design that does not meet the standard, for both public safety and professional liability reasons. The full response memo is posted on the project web page at www.essexma.org/apple, along with the most recent version of the draft project plans.

Back in History: Sea Serpent Off Cape Ann!

Back in 1817, it was no hoax, and no hallucination; it was real, as many local mariners and observers could attest. A sea serpent, about 100 feet long, was a common sight in the waters of Cape Ann that summer, wrote Manchester Museum's Robert Booth. A boatload of Marbleheaders, armed with pistols and harpoons, got pretty close; but of the many who tried to approach the serpent, but no one got a better look than Manchester's Joseph Lee, who wrote a first-hand account of what he saw and is the only person who drew the beast. The drawing, on display, is part of the museum's permanent collection.

JANUARY

FY24 Budgeting Process Kicks Off

The Manchester Finance Committee and Select Board met before the end of the year to formally kick off the FY 2024 budgeting process. At Tuesday's SB meeting, members provided feedback on the draft, which will now be reviewed and finalized by the FinCom over the next two months.

The working draft of the \$40.5 million annual budget allocates \$19.3 million for the town's portion of the regional and tech school district budget, \$12.9 million for town operations,

\$4.6 million for capital expenditures, \$1.7 million in enterprise funds for Water & Sewer, and another \$2 million for debt payments, capital exclusions, Community Preservation Act projects, and other obligations (like retiree obligations and tax abatement funds).

The budget anticipates approximately \$2.03 million in new revenue (about one percent) from increased property tax rolls, local receipts, and enterprise fees. Manchester's average property tax increased 2.5 percent (to \$10.43 per \$1,000 in value),

slightly lower than the statewide average increase of 2.8 percent. Capital expenditures are up significantly (36 percent, or approximately \$1.2 million) this year, said Federspiel, with the town dipping into reserve funds to address some delayed projects. Salaries are up 2.2 percent. Health insurance premiums are up 8 percent. Pension costs are up 4 percent, but that increase is less than what had been projected last year. Energy costs are "a wild card," said Federspiel, as are costs related to supply chain issues.



Calista Lai, ME Hornet, works her way through a tangle of Swampscott defenders on the way to the basket during Wednesday's home game. The game started slowly with both teams struggling for points but the final score of 32-28 favored the Hornets.



NOW THAT'S A SHOW OF FORCE! From left, Officer Richard Chute, Lieutenant Mark McCoy, Det. Michael Richard, David McDougall (ret.), Alan Gilson, Craige McCoy (ret.), James Mulvey (ret.), Joe Aiello (ret.), and Manchester Chief of Police Todd Fitzgerald. And let's not forget, below left, it's Manchester Police Officer Jennifer Gilson (also, an attorney and Alan Gilson's daughter) getting it all on her phone.

50-Year Milestone

On January 12, retired Sergeant Alan Gilson was honored at Manchester Town Hall for his 50 years of service. Gilson is the longest-serving officer in the Manchester Police Department's 127-year history. To commemorate this special occasion, Senator Bruce Tarr and Representative Ann-Margaret Ferrante presented citations from the Senate, House and Governor's office. This was Fer-

rante's first official visit to Manchester since she was elected in November after redistricting.

Police Chief Todd Fitzgerald, who started with the department himself 31 years ago, working the midnight shift. Gilson was his first boss.

Gilson began his career in the US Navy in 1960 at the age of 17. A turning point for Gilson came in the summer of 1967 when he jumped

overboard to save a boater involved in an accident on the water in Manchester. Then Police Chief Allen Andrews asked him if he would ever consider becoming an officer. As they say, the rest is history. Gilson began as a reserve officer and then as a full-time patrolman before being promoted to sergeant until his retirement as a full-time officer in 2008. Gilson continued to serve the Manchester Police Department as a part time officer until 2017.

State Mandated "40A" Commuter Overlay District Consideration Begins

The daunting task of navigating the state's mandate for encouraging housing density in towns served by the MBTA has begun in Manchester and the other three Cape Ann municipalities that are impacted by the new law.

And at a joint meeting in Manchester Monday, the Planning Board and Select Board approved the first mandated milestone, which

is to submit an action plan with the state by the close of January. Signed into law by Governor Baker in 2021, "40A" seeks to establish by-right, multi-family housing within a half mile of all MBTA commuter rail stations. This impacts 175 communities, including Manchester, Essex Rockport, and Gloucester. Communities have time to comply or not by December 31, 2024.



It's STEM-tastic!

On Wednesday at ME Regional Middle School, Ross Cowman's 6th Grade Science class got a hands-on robotics lesson, thanks to parent Dan Ochs who brought in an operational robotic arm operated simply with the "driver" moving their hand and arm to pick up a rope. Here, Katie Jay celebrates success as (from left) Madelyn Nazzaro, Caralina Muniz and Dan Ochs look on.

Photo: Erika Brown

Weekly Weather Chart

Saturday 30 Dec		46°	36°
Sunday 31 Dec		39°	29°
Monday 1 Jan		39°	28°
Tuesday 2 Jan		40°	31°
Wednesday 3 Jan		43°	32°
Thursday 4 Jan		42°	38°
Friday 5 Jan		39°	37°

Weather data pulled Wednesday and is subject to change.

Year In Review

Part I, Dec. 29 & Part II, Jan 5!



All the bits and pieces that made 2023 a special one for our community. Feel free to reach out at news@thecricket.com with questions, updates or just to say "hello."

FEBRUARY



This month Black Earth Compost began prepping the site of Manchester's transfer station on upper Pine Street for construction of a state-of-the-art compost facility that will serve residents for 30 years.

Work Begins on Black Earth Compost's New Plant

Construction has begun on a new composting facility at the town's former landfill site off Pine Street. Andrew Brousseau, a partner in Black Earth Compost, now operating off School Street, not far from

the Manchester Athletic Club, says the new facility should be completed by October enabling the company to begin its move from one end of Manchester's Limited Commercial District, to the other.

"We will transition operations from School Street to Pine Street through the first half of 2024," wrote Brousseau in an email. "Hopefully residents will be dropping their autumn leaves at the new facility in the Fall of

2023." Construction of the new \$1.5 million facility on the site of the current transfer station broke ground weeks ago after more than two years of planning.

The Checkered Flag Goes to Pack 30 Cub Scouts

By Paige Donohoe, Cub Scout Pack 30

The stage was set for race day. Cub Scouts had picked up their Pinewood Derby Kits and attended a scheduled build night with aspirations of making the fastest car, or the coolest looking one.

Parents worked together with their Cub Scout to come up with a plan for their block of wood, four nails and four wheels. Some had previously built a car, for others, it was their first time. Some cars were sleekly painted, many cars intended to express a themed design, while others were decorated in a rainbow of colors. Once completed, the final step for the Cub Scout was to name their car.



Award Winners (left to right): Sebastian Ochs, Lucia Ochs, Gregory Ochs, Caroline Judge, Max Crosby; Scouts Pinewood Derby Winners (back row): Master of Ceremonies Mark Whitman, and Cub Master Mark Donohoe. Courtesy photos



Manchester's ConCom enjoyed an unseasonably mild Saturday morning for its three-hour tour of marked wetlands along Atwater Avenue owned by Cell Signaling, the biotechnology company that last year acquired 50 acres off upper School Street in the Limited Commercial District to build a corporate campus. The walk was part of the ConCom's confirmation of delineated wetland areas, especially along Saw Mill Brook that feeds under Route 128 on the property. Here (center), Devon Morse, a project manager and wetland scientist with Cell Signaling's consultant, Hancock Associates, with the ConCom's David Lumsden (left) and Steve Gang (right). Cell Signaling is expected to make an initial appearance before the Planning Board later this month, with designs coming later in the year.



Vikings Hockey: Strong ME Showing on Regional Team's Roster

The Rockport Vikings Hockey has had a great season so far, and the regional varsity high school team has had a strong showing from Manchester Essex students on this year's

roster, especially among seniors. Here are the seniors of the hockey team. Back row (from left) Michael Nocella, Jake Budrow, Dougie Pratt (ME), Jack Guelli, Derek Budrow. Front row: TJ

Brunner (ME), Michael DeOreo (ME), Finn Lawler (ME), Jack Crompton (ME), Mark Pollock (ME), and Oli Dunton. (Michael Murphy, a senior, is missing from this shot.)



Happy crafters hold up their Frost Fairies made at the Essex Library's most recent Crafternoon. Courtesy Photo

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Hope Watt-Bucci Honored

Members of the Salem State community and Salem Public Schools students were honored at the Salem State University's 33rd annual Martin Luther King, Jr. convocation.

Five individuals received the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. leadership awards for their contributions to freedom, justice and equity. As part of this, Dr. Hope Watt-Bucci '96G, of Manchester-by-the-Sea, was named the alumni award recipient. Dr. Watt-Bucci is the founder and president of North Shore Pride and is dedicated to advocating for the LGBTQIA+ community.

Under her leadership, North Shore Pride holds events throughout the year that raise awareness and raise funds to support partner organizations and LGBTQIA+ services. Some of these events include the North Shore Pride Parade and Festival, Drag Show fundraising events, Community Forum programs, Inter-faith services, and more.

Skate by the Sea Coming in March!

The finishing touches are being put together on a plan to bring ice skating to Masconomo Park. This new, fun event is coming to Manchester as part of our local efforts to promote a vibrant and successful village business district. The Town participated in the Local Rapid Recovery Program (LRRP) the state created to help communities provide assistance to businesses recovering from pandemic-induced closures. Out of the LRRP arose the idea of developing off-season special events to bring customers to the village businesses. Former Town Planner Sue Brown wrote a successful grant application to the state's Urban Agenda Grant Program for the development of such an event. Communications and Community Outreach Coordinator Tiffany Marletta has been working with a group of local merchants and fellow Town staff on the idea of setting up an ice-skating rink at Masconomo Park. The rink is comprised of eco-friendly synthetic ice made from plastics that needs no cooling, water resources or a machine to smooth it out after heavy use. The group is aiming to set up the temporary rink for use from March 3-5 and again from March 10-12.

Finn O'Hara at Boston University's indoor track.

Photo: Kris McGinn

Hornets Indoor Track Surges



The buzz around Indoor Track is something to be heard! Both the boys and girls finished their regular season improving their record to 2-2. Neither team has had this great of a record in close to six seasons.

Captains Nate Gardner, Megan Hurd, Jack Newton, and Finn O'Hara led the

way setting new school records in their respective events.

All of which will be competing Tuesday night in the Cape Ann League Championship at New Balance's, the TRACK. Also representing the Hornets in the CAL championships will be, Captain Caroline Mackinnon, Lucas Rodi, Charlie Latons, Sabine Cooper,

Logan Cooper, Whitney Turner, Stella Straub, Cia Donohoe. Both teams have 4x200m, 4x400m, and 4x800m relay teams competing. The team work and foundation we have been working on all season has been paying off. Each member has been committed and supportive of one another. As coaches, we cannot ask for anything more.



ME Regional School Committee Chair Theresa Whitman.

Photo: Erika Brown

Final FY24 Regional School District Budget Approved

The Manchester Essex Regional School District Committee approved a \$30,236,064 district budget at its meeting Tuesday, ending months of planning, negotiation and compromise.

The district's operating budget represents a 4.53% (or \$1.31 million) increase over last year and an \$848,000 gap between a "level services" budget and the slightly larger "target spending level. Based on the contracted formula that includes enrollment figures, Manchester's

apportionment of the budget after state aid is \$16.8 million, up 5.72% from last year. Essex's apportionment after state aid is \$9.89 million, up 8.96%. The average assessment increase between the two towns in the district is 6.90%.

"I was prepared to come here and argue down from the asks," said Kate Koch-Sundquist, School Committee member from Essex. "I am relieved that that's not where we arrived. ... We've found common ground."



Perfect Opportunity: ME Boys Hoop Eyes Post-season Run

With just a handful of games left in the regular season, a team that has already enjoyed a special season so far has the opportunity to add to its list of impressive accomplishments.

The Manchester Essex boys' basketball team has been spectacular this winter, amassing a 15-2 overall record and a 13-0 record at the start of the week. With two Cape Ann League games left (at Amesbury on February 14 and at Ipswich on February 16), the Hornets have a shot at attaining a perfect Cape Ann League record, just days after winning the Cape Ann League Baker Division crown with a 71-43 win over Hamilton-Wenham on February 10.



With Manchester Fire Chief Jason Cleary looking on, Manchester Town Clerk Dianne Bucco administers the oath to newly appointed Fire Dept. officers Lt. Robert Cavender (left) and Lt. Jon Happel (right), who have each served the department since 2009 and 2004, respectively. Chief Cleary said the officer candidates completed a rigorous process that included training and testing. Also at Saturday's ceremony, Josiah Peters was named as an on-call firefighter and Steven Dube was sworn in as department paramedic.



Organizers of the Bob Fulford Annual Winter Basketball Tournament posed after a successful Sunday community tournament held each year at Manchester Memorial Elementary School with 3RD to 6TH Grades local students competing in a fun, friendly fashion. Left to right, Bob Fulford, Heather DePriest (league organizer), Mike Cronin and Brian Sollosy.

Courtesy image

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ME Winter Sports: Off and Running in Post Season

It's playoff time for winter sports teams at Manchester Essex, and the local basketball teams will host a doubleheader of post-season play on Friday night. The Manchester Essex girls' basketball

team finished in the top 15 in the Div. 4 Power Rankings, finishing 13th at this level in the state. The Hornets were 15-5 overall and 8-5 in a very competitive Cape Ann League, which should provide as preparation for the jump in challenge promised by postseason

play. The girls' team will host Blue Hills RVT on March 3 (5 p.m., MERHS) in the MIAA Div. 4 Round of 32.

The Manchester Essex boys' basketball team finished the season with a perfect 15-0 record in the Cape Ann League and a 17-3 record

overall. Next up for the Hornets is hosting a Div. 4 Round of 32 Tournament game against Bay Path RVT on March 3 (7 p.m., MERHS). The boys' team finished in the top ten of the Div. 4 Power Rankings, placing them ninth overall in the state at this level.



Driscoll Returns Close To Home

Massachusetts Lt. Governor and former Salem Mayor Kim Driscoll was the featured speaker Wednesday morning at the Greater Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce Economic Outlook Breakfast. Driscoll addressed new initiatives in the Governor Maura

Healy's proposed \$50 billion state budget addressing education, training, technology, and the creative economy. And she took time to specially address the state's housing crisis, which she said is the critical issue of our time.

Driscoll was more than comfortable

speaking to a familiar North Shore audience, easily dropping local references to GMGI, Gloucester Stage Co. and Harborlight Community Partners. At right, Driscoll laughed along with the entire room as Rep. Ann Margaret Ferrante (right) regaled attendees with a near comedy routine on the state budgeting process. (Ferrante is vice chair of the state's House Ways and Means Committee.)

In Essex, She Holds The Cane!



On Monday, Lorraine Hardy-Wyatt, 97, was honored as the town's eldest resident by Essex Board of Selectmen and State Sen. Bruce Tarr who presented her with the coveted Boston Post Cane, the ferruled, 18-ct gold-tipped walking stick made of mahogany that's been a tradition since 1909. The ceremony took place before a packed top floor of Essex Town Hall. Jim Witham of

the Essex Historical Society kicked things off with a short history of the Boston Post Cane, explaining why so few of the 700 original walking sticks given by the publisher of what was then America's second largest newspaper remain today. Mrs. Hardy-Wyatt is a member of the Hardy's Hatchery family that ran a mainstay chicken farm on Island Road and John Wise Avenue for more than three generations.





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First Annual Skate by the Sea

As part of a state economic grant to Manchester to support downtown retailers and restaurants during the quiet, post-holiday sales season, the Town of Manchester debuted its annual

"Skate by the Sea" event at Masconomo Park on Friday. Participants were curious about the all-season skating rink erected in the park for the event, and by all accounts it was a successful, enjoyable

affair. Besides a healthy public crowd, opening day saw visits by State Senator, Bruce Tarr, MBTS Chief of Police Todd Fitzgerald and MBTS Select Board member John Round. The event will return again this coming year.

(Courtesy Photo)

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At the Select Board meeting March 6, Officer Jennifer Gilson was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. A brief ceremony was held with family, friends, and other department members as she was sworn in by the Town Clerk, and was pinned by her father, Retired Sergeant Alan Gilson. We wish her all the best in her new role, and heartfelt congratulations as the department's first female Sergeant. Congratulations, Sergeant Gilson. *Courtesy Photo*



Photo: Rus Brown

Victory Is Theirs!

Tom Pallazola and Mike Story confirm victory for their "Little League Jackets" squad Saturday with plenty of local witnesses in what many are

calling the most coveted trophy on Cape Ann, the ME Gridiron Club's 2023 Bowling Tournament that raises money annually for youth athletic programs. Competi-

tion between the 16 teams (with names like "Hamma' Time," "The Piscators," and "Kirker United") is notoriously fierce and filled with a constant stream of trash talk. Bowling with Pallazola and Story that day

were Dave McPherson and Pat Baker. "The Real McCoys" swept into second place in the tournament's final round. (Better luck next year boys.) In the end, it was a great showing for a great cause.



These ice cream artists line up to offer a variety of delectable toppings at EES during the March 16th Ice Cream Social. *(Courtesy Photo)*

Proposed Budgets for the New Fiscal Year

The Manchester Annual Town Meeting has been set for April 3, starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Memorial School, voters will be asked to approve various budgets for the new fiscal year that begins July 1. The details of the proposed FY24 budget (so named because it ends June 30, 2024) can be found in the Finance Committee (FinCom) Report. The bulk of the Town's operating budget is contained within Article 4. Salary and operating expenses are listed by department.

The first half of the meeting is devoted primarily to the approval of various budgets. Details of the proposed FY24 Town budget are contained in the Finance Committee Report. Overall, town operating budgets are slated to increase 3 percent. The additional staff for Police and Fire have pushed the increase

up a bit more than usual. However, Manchester benefits from the savings that resulted from switching our dispatch services to the regional center along with reductions in public safety overtime budgets.

The School District lowered its proposed budget from what they approved back in February as they achieved last-minute savings in their health insurance expenses, in additional retirements, and in a few other measures. The School District's overall operating expenditures are now proposed to increase by 2.85 percent. However, because the district seeks to stop relying on reserve funds to pay for operating expenses (this is not sustainable in the long run) the proposed increase in Manchester's appropriation is slated to increase by 3.9 percent in order to make up for no longer using reserve funds.



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"HARBORHEAD" has stunning town and water views. Fabulous New Construction is modern but Classic Colonial design. Southwestern light reflects off the harbor and illuminates this sensational one of a kind 15 room waterfront home with oversized 3 bay garage. **\$12,650,000 | Karen Bernier | 978-807-5580**



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



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



Ipswich
Single level living! Stunning move-in condition home with a beautiful level yard and an oversized four car garage. Excellent opportunity. **\$829,000 | Philio Cushing | 978-884-9904**



Lowell
Beautifully renovated loft townhouse in the heart of historic downtown Lowell. Enjoy the spacious open-concept living area. **\$529,900 | Tara Farley | 978-267-7785**



Gloucester
Located at the top of Stanley Court minutes from beautiful downtown Gloucester. These are two properties being sold together. **\$595,000 | Bruce Figurido | 978-869-3151**



North Hampton, NH
This double wide mobile home is set on a quiet side street yet with great access for commuting and beaching. It has been recently renovated. **\$239,000 | Kelly Martinson | 978-360-1618**

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to our Newburyport office. If you are considering renting, buying or selling a home, contact Robin today at 508-954-8689 or RobinMoore@ChurchillProp.com



MARCH... (COND FROM 5)



Annual Low-Number Cape Ann License Plate Online Auction

Select low-number Cape Ann license plates will be available to the highest bidders and organizers warn that for every resident who wants to display their love and support for Cape

Ann, this is the chance to secure a coveted low-number Cape Ann license plate. The online auction begins Monday, April 10, with all proceeds going to the Cape Ann Community Foundation

(CACF), the nonprofit organization that supports local charitable initiatives and organizations on Cape Ann, including MERSD's Green Team. There are 22 remaining low-number plates between numbers 2 and 96, including some single-digit plates.

RIP Fred Rice



Sadly, we report that former Manchester-by-the-Sea resident Frederick Rice passed away March 3. Even after moving to Rome, New York to run the Oak and Ivy Bed and Breakfast, Fred's presence in Manchester endured through his love of local history, architecture and gardening. The English gardens at his family home on Friend Street

were a must-see on the local garden tour circuit, and Fred continued as a dependable and loved emcee every year at the North Shore Horticultural Society plant auction until last year. Also, Fred's mother, Alice Rice, ably ran his love of local history, architecture and gardening. The English gardens at his family home on Friend Street

APRIL



Monday's MBTS Annual Town Meeting took up the business of town budgets, with other items like the regulation of "adult entertainment" establishments and approval of Community Preservation grant projects. Photos Paul Clark, Erika Brown

2023 MBTS ATM: Money, Reserves, And Some Surprises

Exactly 310 Manchester residents showed up Monday at the Memorial Elementary School to review and approve all the elements of Manchester's \$40.5 million municipal budget and the 20-article Town Warrant. In fact, the big non-money tranche of articles were four Planning Board articles seeking to update and change areas of the town

bylaw. But the PB passed over three of them, leaving only one to take up, the decidedly uncontroversial article to regulate "adult entertainment." Municipal spending was the meat of the night, specifically Articles 4 and 5 appropriating \$15,694,873 and \$4,241,300, respectively, for municipal operations, staffing and expenditures. And there

was Manchester's \$16.5 million share of the FY24 regional school district budget (Article 6) and \$1.6 million to renovate two aging athletic turf fields, Hyland Field on Lincoln Street and Coach Field on Brook Street, a project shared equally by the Manchester Essex school district and Manchester taxpayers.



ME Hornet Anna Gardner winds up to pitch to her Rockport opponent. The Hornets put the hammer down by winning their first CAL match 17-5 at Sweeney Park. Photo Paul Clark

ME Softball Program Makes a Comeback in 2023

Even before the first pitch could be thrown off the mound, the Manchester Essex Regional High School softball team had already completed its biggest comeback of the season.

High School over the last few years, the last time the Hornets fielded a team of their own was 2019. With enough of a renewed interest from local student-athletes, the MERHS softball program started a spring season for the first time in almost half a decade with an impressive 21-0 win over Cristo Rey Bos-

ton on April 3. "It's been so great to be on the field again," explains ME softball coach Frank Sarro. "This team has such a great attitude and is always enthusiastic. They're a fun team to coach."

The groundswell of interest that was the catalyst for the return of the sport to Manchester Essex was due to an increase in popularity of the sport at the youth level. These younger players are now in high school.

Great Shot!

ME Hornet #3 Jesse Oliver slips by a Hamilton Wenham defender during Tuesday's home game at Hyland Field. With the win, 13-7, the Hornets are 5-0 for the young season. The team has scored 67 goals, giving up only 36. Their next game is Friday, 10:00 a.m. at Essex Tech.



Photo Mark DiPasquale



Essex Voters Pass On Apple Street Purchase And Look To ATM Next Month

Organizers of Monday's Special Town Meeting in Essex may have underestimated voter interest in whether the town should purchase a nine-acre, \$900,000 property at 31 Apple Street as part of its "right of first refusal" after the property went under agreement this month with a local builder.

About 210 residents packed the standing-room-only cafeteria at the Essex Elementary School cafeteria, and it was all business: just 20 minutes after the meeting was called to or-

der by Town Moderator Jeff Jones, voting was complete with nearly every resident there voting not to purchase the property.

Town officials had argued the purchase of 31 Apple Street could give the town options from affordable housing to simply flipping the property, which could provide up to \$1 million in profit later. But voters didn't agree, passing on the sale and looked to the town's Annual Town Meeting scheduled for May, when residents will be asked to consider a huge, 42-article

Warrant with two Proposition 2½ overrides, one to address the Manchester Essex Regional School District budget and another for Essex's apportionment to the North Shore Technical High School. They will also be asked to approve to acquire through eminent domain a series of property slivers along Apple Street to support a project that would raise and fortify a portion of Apple Street to make it a practical cut-through for emergency vehicles in case of flooding of the downtown causeway.



Easter Bunny Arrives ... On Schedule!

To the delight of local kids near and far, on Saturday morning at Masconomo Park in Manchester got a visit from the Easter Bunny as part of the Manchester Mother's Club and the Manchester Community Center's joint event. (by Fire truck no less!).

Photo: Paul Clark

Cell Signaling Checks in With Manchester Coastal Stream Team

Water flowing in Sawmill and Cat Brooks that abut Manchester's Limited Commercial District will be improved, not diminished in any way, by the construction of a research and development laboratory by Cell Signaling Technology (CST) at the end of Atwater Avenue, according to officials that met with the Manchester Coastal Stream Team on Monday night.

CST's Peter Gourdeau and Chris Comb, a Manchester by the Sea resident, and Charlie Wear of Hancock Associates presented an overview of the proposed project, including CST's commitment to environmentally friendly construction and sustainability.

Much of their presentation was a repeat of what was presented to the town's Planning Board in February. The company will be

formally presenting to Manchester boards as early as next month. For the Coastal Stream Team, the focus was on how the project would affect the nearby Sawmill Brook, which flows downhill from the project and under Atwater Avenue and across Route 128 behind the Manchester Athletic Club, and Cat Brook, which is runs along Mill Street on the opposite side of Route 128.



The American Legion Hall was one of three venues last weekend to host a model train extravaganza for residents young and old. The show was dedicated to Manchester's Dick Towle, who brought the show to Manchester 20 years ago. It was a big success, drawing train loving children of all ages. Photo Erika Brown

Numerous Manchester Studies Underway

Nearly a dozen important Town sponsored studies are or are about to be underway, and all promise future impacts to the town's infrastructure and long-range management. They include the Vulnerability Action Plan to address sea level rise; the Water Resources Task Force report to final recommendations from the group formed to study public water over 18 months;

MBTA Zoning from a newly-formed task force to determine if and how the Town should best respond to the new state mandate for by-right multi-unit housing near commuter rail stations; Future Zoning Amendments from the Planning Board; the Facility Master Plan addressing the upkeep, renovation, or replacement of town buildings; Tuck's Point Rotunda report to address how to upgrade the public structure; a Harbor Management Plan.

Also, Phase II Downtown Improvement; and a Governance Project to explore the town's system of committees, boards and departments all interact and how effective our operations are. So many reports!



HELLO CENTENARIAN!

On Sunday, Manchester's Gordon MacDougall was feted for his 100th birthday. From left, party organizer Barney Corning, MacDougall, Angela Corning and Massachusetts State Sen. Bruce Tarr, who presented Gordon with a State House Proclamation.

Photo Erika Brown

May Brings "Essex In Bloom"

After months of planning and successfully moving past some challenges, the town of Essex will kick off its "Essex In Bloom" weekend community celebration from May 19 to 21 that will open the visitors' season with floral-themed events and activities all over town.

The weekend is sponsored by the Essex Economic Development Committee and paid for with state pandemic recovery monies to energize local business during off-peak months.

"The idea is to give local businesses a boost during a key time of year, before the summer season is in full swing," said Jodi Harris, chair of the Essex Development Committee.

Organizers have created a festival-like vibe, with an official and a series of off-shoots by individual businesses. The official program includes a public ribbon cutting for the freshly reconstructed Causeway Bridge after more than a year of construction.

It's Derby Time

The Manchester-Essex Rotary Club's annual Kentucky Derby Party & Auction is here, set for Saturday, May 6 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the American Legion Hall behind Town Hall in Manchester. If this year's event goes as it has in the past, this event promises to be a great time, with a "best hat" contest, giveaways of roses and Woodman's Reserve whiskey as well as dozens of great auction items. And there's the buffet and (cash) bar. Tickets \$40 at the door, \$30 in advance. All for a good cause.

Cricket's Meet the Candidates, In Print and In Person

Local elections (a.k.a., "sign season") are here for Manchester and Essex. Most open seats on town boards and committees are unchallenged, meaning there is one candidate for every seat.

Candidates for the three "contested" races have all written introductions this week. They include, in Manchester and in alphabetical order, four candidates for two open seats on the Planning Board, Martin "Marty" Flood, Donna Furse, Chris Olney and Susan Philbrick. For Select Board, it's Karen Bennett, Ann Harrison and John Round vying for two open seats. In Essex, there are two candidates running for one open seat on the Manchester Essex Regional

School Committee: Nina McKinnon and Theresa Whitman. Next week, the Cricket will host an in-person, taped Meet the Candidate forum on Thursday, May 4 at the Manchester Essex Middle High School cafeteria. Select Board candidates are first, at 6 p.m. and Planning Board candidates follow at 7:30 p.m. The forum is open to the public, there will be a Q&A, and the sessions will be taped and will air on 1623 Studios Cape Ann television stations.

Essex's election is scheduled for Monday, May 8 at the Essex Public Safety Building. Manchester's election takes place Tuesday, May 16 at Manchester Memorial Elementary School.



Outgoing MERHS Principal Patricia Puglisi with some of her students.

MERHS Chooses New Leader While Saying Goodbye to Former Principal

For any situation, MERHS has had a reliable and kind leader to visit for advice: Principal Patricia Puglisi.

After being gifted with her presence for 10 years, we are all beyond sad to see her go and tackle the position of principal at Lynnfield High School.

Her upcoming departure from our community this coming June will be the bittersweet end of an era.

Over the past two months, since Mrs. Puglisi's announcement on February 1, the school community has been in

search of a new principal.

There were several finalist candidates to replace Puglisi, and in the end it was Julie Sgroi who will serve as MERHS' next principal. Since 2020, Ms. Sgroi has been the assistant principal at Danvers High School. From this experience, many believe she will be a strong leader and that though she is fun and engaging, she will know when the matter is serious. Prior to her time at Danvers, Sgroi was a department head and Spanish language teacher at Lynnfield High School.



Incoming MERHS Principal Julie Sgroi. Courtesy Photos



Athletic Director Molinare receives prestigious certification. Courtesy image

And There's More!

The National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) is pleased to announce that Cameron Molinare has been recognized by the NIAAA as a Certified Athletic Administrator.

To earn this distinction, Cameron Molinare has demonstrated the highest level of knowledge and expertise in the field of interscholastic athletic

administration. The voluntary certification process included a thorough evaluation of the candidate's educational background, experience, and professional contributions, as well as a rigorous, comprehensive written examination. Cameron is one of an elite group of interscholastic athletic administrators nationwide to attain this level of professionalism.

Crib Addicts: The Finale

In Week 8, the final week of play at the Manchester Legion's Tuesday night Cribbage league, it was Tina Latassa who took the top spot, followed by Martha Emery, Betsy Nickless, Bob Torkildsen, Pierre Rumpf, Paul Clark, Stephen Chabot, Clem Courcy, Mark Kwiatkowski, Billy Bell, Ben Conway, Heather MacDonald, Harry Parsons, Jim Chabot, Ed Conway, Debi Madden, John McCarthy, David Slade, and Michela Hirnak.

CST may seek special permit for parking garage

Representatives of Cell Signaling Technology will most likely be seeking a special permit for their proposed multi-level garage at the June Special Town Meeting.

Attorney Mark Glovsky, representing CST, told the Manchester-By-The-Sea Planning Board Monday night that the company would like to build the parking garage with a different number of spaces and a different size parking space than what is set forth in the town's zoning bylaws.

Glovsky said that building the parking garage would cost about \$11 million, while an open surface parking lot would only cost about \$1.5 to \$2 million.

Essex Voters Pass School Overrides, Deny Apple Street Land Taking



On Monday, voters solidly supported school-related overrides to support FY24 district budgets. The overrides must be ratified by a simple majority of voters in Monday's election this coming week. Photo: Erika Brown

Essex voters approved \$345,351 in Proposition 2½ overrides to address a "reset" in funding for Manchester Essex Regional School District and the Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School fees. In another vote, they blocked a town effort to acquire a series of narrow roadside lands by eminent domain that are required to raise and widen Apple Street for emergency vehicle access.

The votes were among 10 articles addressed by 462 voters that attended Monday's Annual Town Meeting in the Essex Elementary School before business was

continued to Tuesday to tackle the rest of the 42-article 2023 Warrant.

In all, the town presented a FY24 budget is \$22.5 million, which includes \$9.2 million for general town operations, \$2.3 mil-

lion for the sewer enterprise fund, \$877,416 for the water enterprise fund and \$9.72 million for Essex's apportionment of the MERSD budget. Warrant articles also addressed non-substantive reordering of the

Town Bylaw, adoption of fee-based trash collection, surcharges for short term rentals, a proposed survey of historic homes, among others.

Article 3's \$289,165 override. Essex's share of the district budget—which is determined in part by enrollment—has been escalating by about five percent annually in recent years because the proportion of children from Manchester in the school district has been declining.

The school district produced \$780K in cuts and savings as it finalized the \$30 million FY24 budget, which was enough to secure a win from voters at Annual Town Meeting. Weeks later, however, voters at the ballot failed to support the override, forcing a reexamination of the school district budget.

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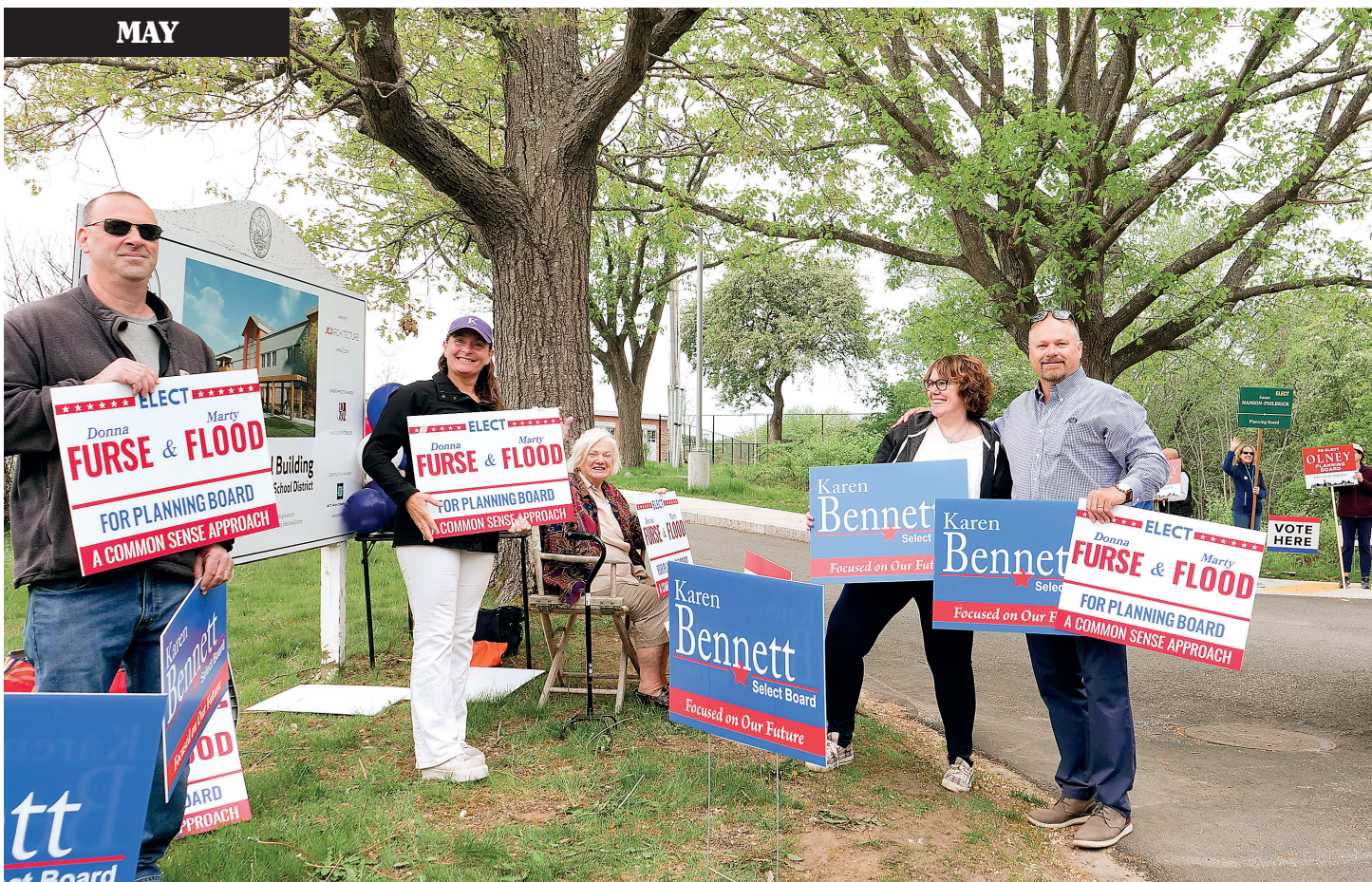
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MAY



Election Monday: Incumbents Win, Fields Financing Supported

In its annual election Tuesday, Manchester voters offered solid support for sitting candidates while eschewing all challengers. They also demurred from using town reserves or savings to fund Manchester's share of athletic turf field replacement scheduled for this summer at Brook Street and Lincoln Street.

In the end, 1,331 residents—31% of registered voters—turned out for the election. There were three consequential votes—Select Board, Planning Board, and the question of how to fund replacement of two athletic fields. The rest of the votes were for uncontested seats for Library Trustee, Moderator, Housing Authority, and School Committee.

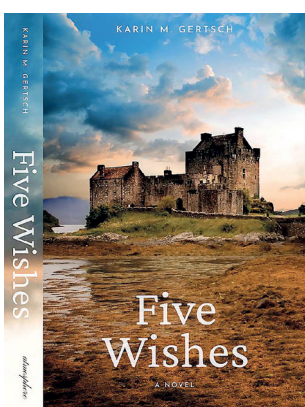
In the Select Board race, Ann Harrison and John Round won re-election relatively easily, securing 864 and 788 votes, respectively. For Planning Board, incumbent Chris Olney (838 votes) and newly appointed PB member Susan Hanson-Philbrick (863 votes) secured seats.

Photos Erika Brown

2023 MBTS Memorial Day Flags and Grave Markers

Ahead of the Memorial Day holiday, the Manchester American Legion placed flags and replaces grave markers on veteran graves at all the Manchester-by-the-Sea cemeteries. Volunteers helped with placement on Friday, May 26, at Rosedale Extension Cemetery. After the team moved to Pleasant Grove Cemetery. On Saturday, May 27, they met up at 1 p.m. at Rosedale Cemetery.

Author Karin Gertsch Expands Into Novel Genre



Locals may know Essex author and illustrator Karin M. Gertsch for her charming children's books (Flora Has an Adventure), but she has just released a debut novel about a family living in a small New England town. Gertsch's novel, *Five Wishes*, published by Atmosphere Press, will be available June 13. The story begins with a couple. Delbert MacInnes was born and raised in Hamlet and is content to remain grounded, while his wife, Matilda, has been itching to make her *Five Wishes* come true. Over the years her wish list was amended several times—her patience is wearing thin.

Hornets Boys Tennis Pick Up Three More Wins

The ME Boys Tennis team picked up three more wins this week over Rockport, Amesbury and Newburyport to bring their record up to 8-1 in the CAL and 10-4 overall. On Monday the boys traveled to Rockport and picked up the 4-1 win. Points came from the top two singles positions of Jack Cummins (6-0, 6-1) and Charlie Virden (6-3, 6-2) and the doubles tandems of Jan Vytopil and Sonder Breuker (6-4, 6-2) and Finn Birkeland and Jack Lawler (6-1, 6-0). On Wednesday, the boys took on Amesbury at home and came out with a 5-0 victory. Winning again at first singles was Jack Cummins (6-0, 6-0), and second singles Charlie Virden (6-0, 6-0), and making his debut in the varsity lineup in a singles match was first doubles player Jan Vytopil who also cruised to a straight set victory (6-2, 6-1). First doubles featured the normal second doubles duo of Finn Birkeland and Jack Lawler who won (6-3, 6-1) and at second doubles the senior tandem of TJ Brunner and Andy Gagnon won their match handily (6-2, 6-2) as well.



On Tuesday at the ME High School, hundreds of students, parents, teachers and community members protested cuts in the school budget.

Photo Erika Brown

School Committee Faces Protest to Cuts in FY24 Budget

Hundreds of people packed into the Manchester Essex High School cafeteria Tuesday as the regional school district committee faced hard program choices following a rejection by Essex voters two weeks ago of a \$289K

Proposition 2½ override that would have fully funded its share of a \$29.75 million FY24 district budget. ME Regional School Committee (MERSD), the Manchester and Essex Select Boards and members of both towns' Finance Committees

entered a room filled with approximately 300 parents, students, and teachers pleading with them not to cut into the arts, language (specifically French), and STEM programs they say make MERSD schools one of the best in the state. The district

is currently in a 30-day window to produce a new final FY24 budget or make \$781K in budget cuts to meet the spending level accepted by Essex before the override. The School Committee will make a final recommendation on June 6.



Out & About on Cape Ann Summer Guide Published

Cape Ann is known far and wide for its scenic beaches, historic landmarks, stunning marsh, and a vibrant cultural scene. And this week, *The Cricket* has produced a 48-page magazine, "Out & About on Cape Ann" as a summer guide for local residents of Rockport, Essex, Manchester and Gloucester. Read about the Gloucester 400+ celebration, food, music and ideas for how to have a "perfect" day on Cape Ann. Oh yes, and there's also a comprehensive calendar for the summer. Look for it in mailboxes next week for Memorial Day.



Saturday saw the Essex bridge being dedicated as town officials and guests cut the ribbon across the center of the bridge. This event took place during the 3-day Essex in Bloom celebration. Pictured left to right; Paul Stedman, District 4 Highway Director, MADOT, Tim Hezzy, Project Engineer, MADOT, State Senator Bruce Tarr, Ruth Pereen, Chairman, Essex Board of Selectmen, Brendan Zubricki, Town Administrator, Paul Francis, Chief of Police and Rick Bodi, General Superintendent, MAS Building & Bridge (project contractor).

Photo Paul Clark

JUNE



ME Junior/Senior Prom!

Last Thursday, seniors and juniors alongside their dates celebrated prom at the beautiful venue, Tupper Manor at Endicott in Beverly. The class of 2023 officers and advisers had been planning the evening since last summer—touring and choosing a venue, picking the menu items, hiring a photographer and selecting a photo booth, amongst other things. All this to celebrate a week that seniors have been working towards their entire high school career. With prom and senior week activities in mind, the class officers have been fundraising through various creative events since their freshmen year in 2019.

Before getting on the bus to the formal festivities, it was off to the Tuck's Point Rotunda for photos, and as sure as this day promised stunning dresses and tuxes on our local emerging adults, it was time to head down to Tuck's Point for some posing and preening.



Memorial Day 2023 ceremony at the Amaral Bailey American Legion Hall, Manchester.



Memorial Day 2023, Essex.



Manchester Memorial School 2023 ceremony.

Memorial Day 2023

This week, locals in Manchester and Essex woke up to the perfect day for a holi-

day when on Monday, May 29, the weather was clear and sun-filled making it the perfect morning to re-

member veterans who were lost in US wars.

In Manchester, formal ceremonies began early, just after 9 a.m. at the Manchester American Legion Amaral-Bailey Post 113 for the annual Waterside Service with

an invocation and benediction by Rabbi Judith Epstein before the service remembers those veterans lost at sea. Then, the Legion ceremony with a salute to departed comrades and trumpet taps is played before the parade began

and wound through town before stopping at Rosedale Cemetery. In Essex, residents descended upon Memorial Park for the ceremony commemorating local veterans and to listen to the ME Regional High School Band.



FARE WELL CAROL BENDER

Children, families and community members came by the library in droves last Friday to celebrate and thank MBTS Library's retiring Children's Librarian, Carol Bender.

Courtesy Photo

School Committee Passes Compromise Budget, 4-3

On Tuesday the Manchester Essex School Committee voted 4-3 to approve a \$29.2 million compromise budget that cuts \$763,876 from the regional school district's FY24 operating budget.

The move buys a year to work with the towns of Essex and Manchester to fix deep rooted issues reconciling apportionment realities with the type of education that will be offered to local students.

"Right now, we're in a messy middle," said SC Chair Theresa Whitman on Tuesday. "But

we're not going to allow this district to be destroyed. Or this relationship to be destroyed."

The compromise budget, first presented on May 23 by MERSD Superintendent Pamela Beaudoin, retains all high school elective courses, leverages teacher attrition, defers hiring, and reduces "COLA" cost of living increases to non-union staff. The compromise also taps \$252,000 in district reserve funds, something the district previously promised it would not do with officials from Essex and Manchester. But needs won in the end.

Manchester Harbor Team Championship – The Nelson Bowl

On Tuesday, the Manchester Yacht Club hosted its annual cook-out and celebration for the three teams that compete in Manchester Harbor: Landmark School; Manchester-Essex High School; and Pingree.

This is the second year that the three teams have met for dinner and celebrated the winner of the Nelson Bowl, awarded to the top High School team in the harbor.

The cook-out was a huge success, with Alex Felton, the Commodore of the Manchester Yacht Club welcoming all the sailors, coaches, and parents, followed by comments by each of the three coaches, Steve Hall for Pingree, Doug Walker for Landmark, and Tony Leggett for the Hornets.

Landmark School was this year's winner, given their enviable race record, beating both MERHS and Pingree by a score of 3-0. Paced by two excellent skippers, Dillon Almeida and Grant Dalton, the Landmark team also won B-Division North with a record of 8 wins and no losses.



Central Street Culvert Secures Millions in Funding

Manchester received a \$1.5 million in coastal resiliency funding to support next year's restoration and expansion of Manchester's Central Street culvert and restoration of Sawmill Brook in the critical areas along Elm Street, School Street and lower Brook Street.

Select Board Chairman Ann Harrison said success with this grant was critical for the future of Manchester's resilience posture. The project has been sore-

ly needed, said Harrison, "for decades."

She was joined by Town Administrator Greg Federspiel, DPW's Chuck Dam and Nate Desrosiers, Harbormaster Bion Pike, ConCom officials along with state and federal agency officials that included MA Secretary for Energy and Environmental Affairs Rebecca Tepper (EEA); Lisa Berry Engler, director at the Massachusetts office of the National Coastal Zone Management (CZM); and Betsy Nicholson,

north regional director of NOAA, the US Office of Coastal Management, among others. MA Representative Ann Margaret Ferrante and MA Senator Bruce Tarr were also on hand.

The \$1.5 million restoration grant will be combined with an additional \$4.5 million in US FEMA "BRIC" (Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities) grant to pay for the nearly \$7 million project. Local and state funds will cover the balance of the project's costs.



ME Spring Sports in 2023: A Look Back



Yet another memorable spring sports season has concluded at Manchester Essex Regional High School, and it's worth looking back at the highs and lows at the season that was, and how that might translate to the future for each of these teams.

Boys Tennis
Regular Season Record: 12-7
Postseason Record: 2-1
Rob Bilsbury

The boys' tennis team earned an eight seed after an impressive regular season, beat 29-seed West Bridgewater by a 5-0 score in the Round of 32 on May 30, advanced to the Sweet Sixteen and beat ninth-seeded Monomoy, 4-1, and was eliminated by a powerhouse in Weston in the Elite Eight on June 7.

Boys Lacrosse
Regular Season Record: 14-4
Postseason Record: 1-1

The boys' lacrosse team broke through in 2023, earning a coveted 10-seed in the MIAA Div. 4 tournament, earning an early bye and picking up a win over 23-seed Bourne, 17-6, in the Round of 32 on June 5. The Hornets lost, 10-6, to Lynnfield in the Sweet Sixteen on June 7, knocking the team out of the tournament and ending a memorable season.

Baseball
Regular Season Record: 6-13
Postseason Record: 1-1

The Manchester Essex baseball and softball teams shared some commonalities this season: This was a rebuilding (or, in the case of the softball team, the argument could be made that this was a "building" year) season, with the core of each squad made up primarily of younger players learning to compete at the varsity level. Both teams earned 30-seeds, both teams won in the MIAA Div. 4 Tournament's Preliminary Round, and both teams were knocked out of tournament contention by a three-seed.

Softball
Regular Season Record: 7-12
Postseason Record: 1-1

The softball team beat 35-seed Rising Tide Charter, 22-10, in the Preliminary Round of the tournament on June 3, and was knocked out by three-seed Clinton, 13-0, on June 5 in the Round of 32.

The biggest win of the spring for the softball team came before the start of the season: After a four-year hiatus in which the sport was not played at Manchester Essex, there was enough interest to not only bring softball back to town, but to find some success in doing so.



SCHOOLS' OUT FOR SUMMER!

The MERSD school calendar officially ended last Thursday, and these guys at Essex Elementary sure do know it. They are swinging away at the newly renovated Eagle's Nest Playground, now named (by vote of the EES student body) "Hornets Hive." All students were treated to free Kona Ice cones.

Special Town Meetings in Essex and Manchester

Two Special Town Meetings in Essex and Manchester have been set for later this month. In Essex, the June 26 meeting at Essex Elementary School will consider the revised "Compromise FY24 Budget" from the ME Regional School District. In Manchester, STM is set for June 28 at the Memorial School to consider the school district budget as well as revisions by the Planning Board to the Manchester Bylaw.



MBTS' Laughing Gull Gets Its Due

Last week the Greater Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce tapped five businesses for recognition as Small Business of the Year with a big fete at the Beauport Hotel. One of them, The Laughing Gull Cafe on Summer Street, got a double dip of love Friday when friends and town officials packed

their Summer Street Cafe for the official award presentation by Chamber CEO Steve Buckley and a generous showing of the Manchester Select Board, which offered an official town proclamation to the Warren Family that started the Laughing Gull four years ago. Here, above, at center are

(of center) Bruce, Dede, and Elizabeth Warren. Son Nick couldn't be there, but is a familiar presence behind the counter. Bruce and Dede say their business is nothing without loyal customers (and make no mistake, they're LOYAL) and, of course, family.



Yes to FY24 District Budget, Fire Truck, Bylaw Updates

Manchester and Essex each held Special Town Meetings this week and passed all warrant articles—including a critical lightning-fast, eight-minute meeting in Essex—that finally gave the ME School District approval to its compromise budget. In Manchester, residents endorsed the school budget at its town meeting and approved articles for funding on two turf athletic fields, a new fire truck and furthered updates to the town zoning bylaw. Then, in Essex, 173 residents assembled for the vote on

just one article of business, to reapprove \$9,434,813 to fund the town's assessment of the Manchester Essex Regional School District FY24 operating budget, technically ending a stand-off between the school district, the Town of Manchester and Essex voters, who last month voted down a Proposition 2½ override and left the School Committee and the district scrambling to find ways (including teacher layoffs) to reduce its budget. "It's not a solution, but it's a bridge," said ME School Committee Chair Theresa Whitman



Patton Bowl's Sailing Highlight

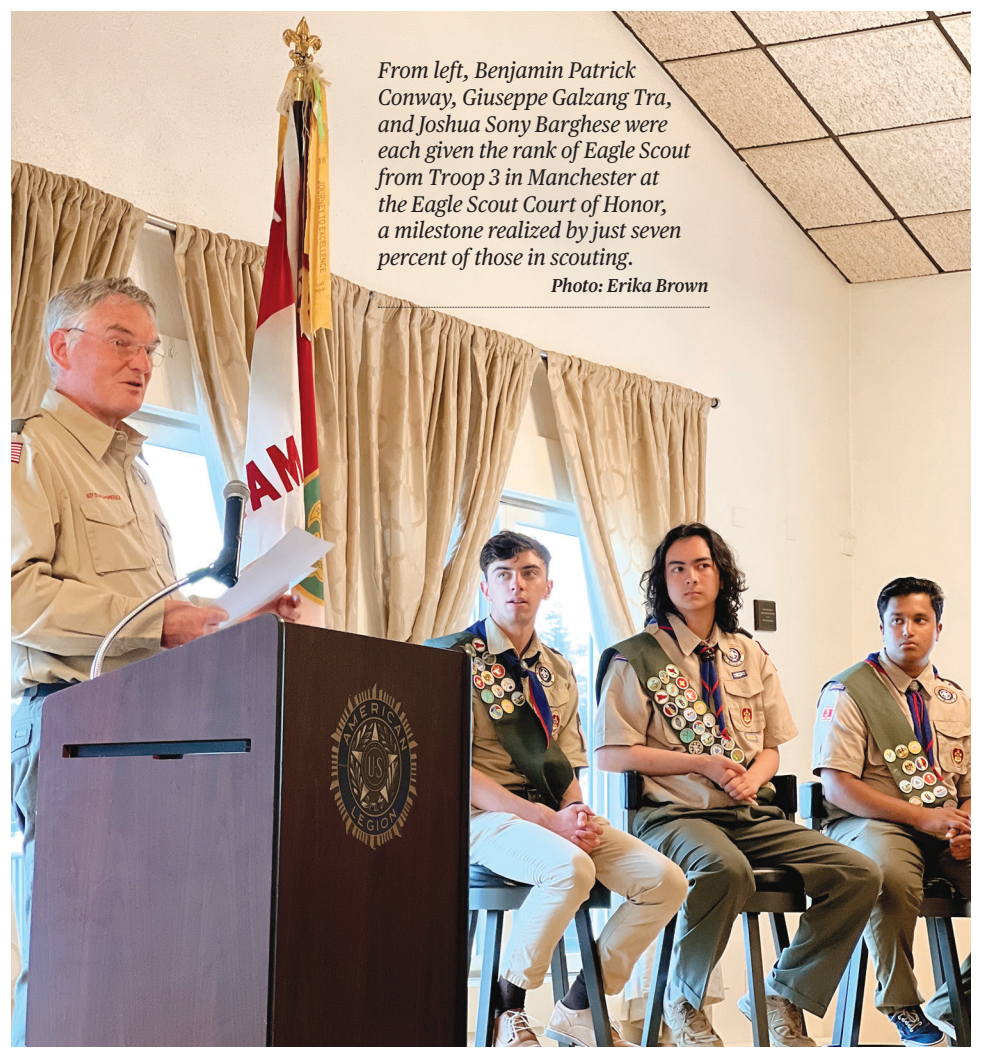
The fleet of seven boats, assembled for the 70th running of the Patton Bowl regatta, was pleasantly surprised when the wind, forecast to be light and from the south, turned into a strong 15 knot breeze from the southeast in bright sunshine. Most of the competitors appreciated the scenic route through the islands and reefs of Salem Bay, on a course that required sharp navigational skills as well as tactical input, wrote Tony Leggett. Here, pictured from left, it's the highflier's brigade: Carl Doane (Incentive), Wilfred Shrigley (Mischief), Guy Johnson (Puffin), Richard Sides (the 87-year-old and skipper of Atalanta), Tony Leggett (Race Committee Chair), George Putnam (Larus), David Martz (Osprey), and Mike Opal (Kahala).



Colpoys, Filias Retire From Manchester Memorial School

Laurie Colpoys, Grade 4 teacher and Nancy Filias, Academic Specialist spent the afternoon before the last day of school celebrating their retirement from the Manchester Memorial Elementary School with several dozen well-wishers on hand. Stories were told and fond memories were shared and previously retired teachers mingled with the current staff.

Photo Paul Clark



From left, Benjamin Patrick Conway, Giuseppe Galzang Tra, and Joshua Sony Barghese were each given the rank of Eagle Scout from Troop 3 in Manchester at the Eagle Scout Court of Honor, a milestone realized by just seven percent of those in scouting.

Photo: Erika Brown

From New Year's on the outlook brightens; good humor lost in a mood of failure returns. I resolve to stop complaining.
Leonard Bernstein

LEGAL NOTICE



Manchester Town Hall
 10 Central Street
 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

Manchester Club Greet's NHL Scout

The Manchester Club's June meeting was the club's final dinner before summer break. Bob Wilwerth and his kitchen crew (primarily made up of brothers and brothers-in-law) served up a delicious meal of a garden salad, roast pork with potatoes and vegetables along with a dessert of brownie a la mode. At the conclusion of dinner, Club President, Bruce MacDonald led all in attendance to the Pledge of Allegiance and started the business portion of the meeting. After Club Secretary Craig McCoy's monthly report and a review

of club finances with Club Treasurer David Slade, President MacDonald called out the kitchen crew for a standing ovation and introduced the evening's guest speaker, Trevor Hanson, Northeast area scout for the Calgary Flames NHL hockey team. Mr. Hanson went on to share with the members and their guests how he found his way into scouting, what he looks for in an NHL prospect and gave some of his own personal observations of the inner workings of an NHL team and the Boston Bruins epic playoff collapse. Everyone enjoyed his talk immensely

and an excellent evening was had by all.

The next Manchester Club meeting will be held on Thursday, September 21 followed by the Club's annual Richard J. Lysiak Memorial

Golf Tournament on Monday, September 25. Members can expect to receive email announcements prior to each event closer to the date.

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 present 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 an 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. 14490-P as described in Certificate of Title No. 70252. The above described land is subject to and with benefit of the restrictions and provisions described in an instrument given by Janet W. Boynton and Reid Boynton dated April 27, 2007, and filed as Document 482241 in said Registry.

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

TERMS OF SALE:
 One Hundred Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$100,000.00) shall be paid in certified or bank cashier's check by the purchaser at the time and place of said sale, and the balance of the purchase price shall be paid by certified

or bank cashier's check at the offices of Erik T. Potter, Esq., Potter MacLellan LLP, 113 Ripley Road, Cohasset, MA 02025 within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. The successful bidder of the sale of the premises shall be required to sign a Memorandum of Terms of Sale containing the above terms at the Auction Sale. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the fore-closure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, the Mortgagee's attorney, 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.

Represent Holder of Said Mortgage: Raph DiGirolamo and Richard DiGirolamo, Trustees of R & R Trust - c/o Erik T. Potter, Esq. Potter MacLellan, LLP 113 Ripley Road, Cohasset, MA 02025 - 617-257-7050
 Dated: December 12, 2023

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

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

LEGAL NOTICE



Town of Manchester-by-the-Sea ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
 Town Hall, 10 Central Street,
 Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA 01944-1399

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Manchester-by-the-Sea will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Location: This is a Hybrid Meeting. ZBA Board will meet in Room 5, Town Hall. Applicants, Presenters, and Public are welcome to join the Board in Room 5.
 New Applications
 Application of Christina Delisio, 6 Lincoln Avenue appealing the driveway entrance granted by the Department of Public Works to 90 School St., Assessor's Map 41, Lot No. 87 in District G filed with the

Town Clerk on November 20, 2023. Application of Colin and Josefina O'Neil for a Special Permit under Sections 2.0, 4.2, and 12.5 of the Zoning By-Law to allow for the installation of an inground granite swimming pool. The pool is planned to be 18' x 40' surrounded by a brushed stamped concrete apron at 49 Forster Road, Assessor's Map 29, Lot No. 18, in District D2 filed with the Town Clerk on December 12, 2023. Zoom information will be available on the Town website prior to the meeting.

Sarah Mellish, Chair, Zoning Board of Appeals
 Posted to MNPA website:
<http://masspublicnotices.org>

December 29, 2023 MC
 January 5, 2024 MC



The North Shore's Premier Real Estate Agency



Hamilton \$2,300,000
 Post & Beam style home with handcrafted woodwork throughout, dramatic living room with soaring ceiling and stone fireplace. Plus 2-car garage, freestanding "barn" and patio with water views.

Kate Richard



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

Ted Richard



Essex \$1,450,000
 Multi-unit property with potential for developers, investors and/or owner occupants with three current units. Includes period details, wide plank flooring, ample parking and close to downtown.

Ann Olivo & Rick Marshall



Danvers \$1,275,000
 Live. Work. Generate Income. The Samuel Fowler House is an iconic landmark with rare potential: legal 3 family, 4,000 sf main house, 2 rental units, 7-car parking, upgraded systems.

Sheri Trocchi

Thinking of
 Buying or Selling
 YOUR Home -
**WE ARE HERE
 TO HELP!**



Wenham \$999,000
 Stately custom 4-bedroom, 2.5-bath Colonial style home in prime location has open floor plan, fireplaced living and family rooms, kitchen, pantry, sunroom. Yard, fire pit, fenced area.

Peggy McNamara



Newbury \$899,900
 Unique living experience in period church! Modern interior, soaring ceilings, custom millwork, stained-glass transom. FulGor appliances in granite kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. Bonus room.

Norman Banville



Gloucester \$655,000
 Artfully designed 2-story, 2-bedroom, 1.5-bath condo. White-quartz-stainless kitchen. High ceilings, restored floors in living and dining rooms. Office, 2-car parking. Near beaches, downtown.

Felicia Trupiano



Wenham \$629,900
 Sun-splashed Antique with timeless features, classic charm, enchanting character. Enclosed rear entry mudroom, sleeping porch, pantry in kitchen, 3 generous bedrooms, large yard. 1-car garage.

Fabyan & Filias Team

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

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