



Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: January 15
"Out of the mountain of despair, a stone of hope."

MANCHESTER CRICKET

A Local Tradition Since 1888

VOL. 136, NO. 34

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2024

PRICE: \$1.25

BRIEFLY

MBTS Curbside Pick Up of Holiday Lights

Over the holiday break, the Sustainability Committee in Manchester sent word out that Black Earth Composting would be accepting non-functional holiday tree string lights for recycling at the Manchester Transfer Station on Upper Pine Street in the Limited Commercial District. The program has been expanded to include curbside recycling pick up as well. Sign up is required. The Sustainability Committee said this is an important way to recycle valuable metals which have been mined from the earth: lithium, aluminum, copper, gold etc. which would otherwise end up in a landfill. Details on the Black Earth website. In other transfer station news, after months of construction to build its state of the art compost facility (with capacity to process a reported 56,000 lbs of organic waste material from New Hampshire to Rhode Island per week!), the facility is open again Wednesdays from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

MLK, Jr. Holiday

Monday, Jan. 15 is a federal holiday with schools and business closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Schools, the Post Office, banks and libraries will be closed. Supermarkets, department stores and local retailers are open. One local event observing the holiday is the Gloucester Meetinghouse which has organized a free community event Monday starting at 2 p.m. that features Boston Globe associate editor and columnist Renée Graham who will give a talk entitled, "The racial reckoning that wasn't, isn't, but could still be." Graham will have a one-on-one conversation with Michea McCaffery, chair of the Gloucester Racial Justice Team on the group's recent survey of Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color residents in Gloucester. Public Q&A will follow.

Get Your Tickets for the ME Little League Fundraising Gala

The Manchester Essex Little League is hosting a fundraiser on Thursday, Feb. 1 from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Beauport Hotel's Grand Ballroom in Gloucester. The group promises an unforgettable evening of music, food, raffles and more, all to benefit important things the team needs like equipment, field upgrades at Sweeney Park, and more. Gary Backstrom and the Jingle Handle Band is on deck (get it?) for music. The event is donation driven, so a suggested minimum for each ticket is \$85 but feel free to overperform and give more. Check out the team's Facebook page for ticket information.

For the Sake of Service



Manchester's Bill Bell, shaking hands last month with Mass Gov. Maura Healey at the ribbon cutting ceremony at the newly reopened, \$200 million Veterans Home of Chelsea, where he's been a volunteer for 30 years. Below, state and federal dignitaries cut the ribbon.

By Erika Brown

When he started volunteering at the Veterans Home of Chelsea exactly 30 years ago, Manchester's Bill Bell didn't expect he'd ever be part of a high-profile ribbon cutting of a \$200 million state of the art veterans' senior long-term care facility with the Commonwealth's gold set.

But there he was last month, shaking the hands of Massachusetts Governor Maura T. Healey, U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Denis McDonough, Senator Elizabeth Warren, and Executive Office of Veterans Services Secretary Jon Santiago.

"It's by far the biggest thing I've been invited to in my life," Bell said, adding that it was truly special for the Boston veteran community to have Sec. McDonough up from Washington, DC, to mark the day.

The newly rehabilitated facility—which changed its name from the Chelsea Soldier's Home to the Veterans Home of Chelsea as part of the debut—promises to be a beacon of publicly funded gratitude for those who have served our country.

It's a 154-bed, environmentally sustainable building designed to provide lots of natural light and panoramic views of downtown Boston and the harbor. It's also a model structure, a big upgrade from the former facility with lots of amenities, including private rooms and shared spaces, a large rehabilitation room and environmentally sustainable elements. In fact, the new Veterans Home is 100% fos-



sil-fuel-free, powered by 145 geothermal wells and a rooftop solar array.

"The new Veterans Home in Chelsea is what our veterans earned and deserve," Gov. Healey said.

In October, after years of construction, the facility received the green light from state's Department of Public Health (DPH) and certification by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and officially opened its doors, welcoming the first 22 residents. By December's ribbon cutting, 20 more residents moved in. By the end of 2024, the facility will be fully occupied.

Bill Bell is an Air Force veteran of the Falkland Islands and Granada and a familiar face at the Amaral Bailey American Legion Post 113 in Manchester. Military service runs strong in his veins. Bill's older brother David served in the US Navy. Their father, Gordon S. Bell, Jr., was an Air Force veteran who served in Korea. Their

grandfather, Gordon, Sr., was a Navy veteran of World War I, making the brothers third-generation servicemen.

Given this, it's not surprising that by 17 Bill Bell knew he was destined for military service. Two months before graduation from Manchester High School, his Air Force recruiter traveled to Rockport to officially sign him up while Bell was at his work study job at the Whistlestop Mall. Fast forward to mid-July, Bell was in active duty, completed basic training and then shipped out for service to Incirlik Air Base in southeast Turkey.

After he was discharged, Bell slipped easily into life in Manchester and the Legion. This included joining his brother Dave to help with the Manchester Legion's annual Tuck's Point picnic for residents at the Chelsea Soldier's Home (as it was called then), giving the vets a taste of the coast and boat rides around the

harbor. In 1993, Bell led a Legion fundraiser that raised \$500 to purchase a set of parallel bars for stroke patient rehabilitation there. Later that year, Bell was all in, signing on as an official volunteer and making the weekly trek to Chelsea to work under Irma Vanderpool, longtime recreation director at the facility.

Maybe it was a coinci-

"It's by far the biggest thing I've been invited to in my life."

dence or maybe it was planned, but Bill's first one-on-one visit 30 years ago was with a 103-year-old man from Essex, William Dobson.

"He used to tell me stories about how they'd move houses into Manchester through the snow by ox-drawn carts," Bell laughs.

Bell has plenty of road ahead in his journey to support veterans, but that doesn't mean he can't look back at some highlights of the last 30 years. Like how, back in 2001, the actor Danny DeVito surprised veterans by showing up at the Tuck's Point picnic to thank them for their service. Or the fact that for 20 years he has served as the appointed MVS Rep (veteran advocate) for the Commander of the Massachusetts American Legion. Currently, Sandra Davis, who happens to be from Gloucester's American Legion Post 3, holds that position. And then, of course, there's the long chapter of his volunteer service in Chelsea, where he is a familiar and friendly face to all.

At the ribbon cutting, part of the day included a welcome for the newest group of residents returning to their new, swanky home. Bell said the roughly 40 residents now living on the 6th floor of the facility are in rooms that overlook the dramatic expanse across Boston and the harbor, and that's treatment they deserve.

Three of these residents, he said, have been at the Veterans Home for more than 20 years. One, a veteran of Korea, Pasquale Pizzarella, was the very first resident to be ushered in at the December event and he was greeted by a group of volunteers in the large entry foyer.

Bill Bell was right there in the center, where he stood tall and greeted Mr. Pizzarella with a salute.

Weekly Weather Chart

Saturday 13 Jan		55°	30°
Sunday 14 Jan		33°	24°
Monday 15 Jan		34°	23°
Tuesday 16 Jan		35°	33°
Wednesday 17 Jan		34°	31°
Thursday 18 Jan		37°	32°
Friday 19 Jan		39°	35°

Weather data pulled Wednesday and is subject to change.



Gavel to Gavel
This Week's Town Meetings

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

Town Halls Closed
MERSD No School
 Monday, January 15, ALL DAY

Essex Planning Board
 Wednesday, January 17 7 p.m.

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On Saturday, January 6 the MBTA Zoning Task Force took steps, literally, toward further understanding the State mandated MBTA Zoning Law by hosting a Density Walk in downtown Manchester-by-the-Sea. The purpose of this latest community engagement event was to visit eight properties in Town that exhibit different density and architectural style to better understand the requirements of MGL Chapter 40A, Section 3A. Task Force members spoke about specific site details, how it could potentially comply with the State mandate, and took questions along the way. The walk concluded with a complimentary warm drink at the Laughing Gull Cafe.

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).

Coreen Elizabeth (Wallace) Scharfe



Mrs. Coreen Elizabeth (Wallace) Scharfe, passed away surrounded by her loving family on December 27th.

Born on May 18th, 1950 to James and Coreen (Coleman) Wallace in New York, New York, Coreen spent most of her childhood living in West Islip, New York. It was there she met her husband, George, when they were only in eighth grade and began a life together that included 51 years of marriage.

Coreen and George started their married life in New York City before moving to Lexington, MA when work brought George to Boston. With starting a family on the horizon, they moved to their beloved Folly Cove in Gloucester, MA where they welcomed surprise twins, Molly and Gretchen, in 1977, and daughter, Kirsten, in 1981. A graduate of Colby Sawyer Jr College and SUNY Potsdam, Coreen ran a successful second-hand store, The Baby Exchange, before moving to Manchester. A highlight for her was when the store was featured on a segment of "Evening Magazine." Family was everything to Coreen and her love knew no bounds. She spent much of her time supporting her children, and later her grandchildren. She could often be found on the sidelines of games or shuttling someone to and from school. She was always there to lend a hand. Coreen was also very active in her children and grandchildren's schooling, serving as an elementary school trustee and also teaching Sunday School to her youngest granddaughters. She was very active in her church, St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Gloucester, arranging flowers for the altar, helping with holiday decorating, and even singing in the choir. Coreen also spent some time working for Lutheran Social Services.

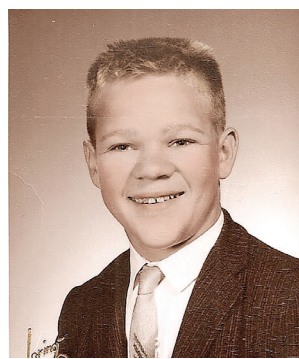
In her free time, Coreen enjoyed craft arts of all kinds, was an avid rug hooker and quilter, and very handy with a needle and thread. She loved flowers and "mucking in the dirt." Cor and George loved to ski, downhill and cross-country. Most of all, she loved to be on the water, sailing and boating (maybe napping). She and George had met sailing and being on the water continued to be a source of great joy. Coreen was a competitive sailor both as crew and skipper for most of her life but that had given way to casual Sunday sails, cocktail cruises and searching

for whales. She really loved her Friday evenings spent on the boat with George and their friends. She also won the Manchester Yacht Club's prestigious Henry Hall Trophy twice and the Crocodile Trophy. She will be missed by her friends at the MYC, Crocker's Boat Yard, and the Scharfes' home away from home, Cala's.

Coreen is predeceased by her husband George, who passed in July. She will be forever missed by her daughters, Gretchen Forsyth, Molly Prinn and Kirsten Richardson, her sons-in-law, Kirk Forsyth, Steve Prinn and Jesse Richardson, and her grandchildren, Katherine, Emily and Annie Prinn, Elizabeth and Charlotte Forsyth and Benjamin Richardson. She was predeceased by her brother, Frank Wallace, but leaves behind her sister, Ellen Wallace and brother, Jay Wallace and all their families. As she was a part of the Scharfe family for so long, it is also important to note she leaves her sister-in-law, Marie Jerge and her brother-in-law, Alan Scharfe and their families as well. She was a devoted aunt who doted on all her nieces and nephews.

ARRANGEMENTS: A service for friends and family will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1123 Washington St., Gloucester on Thursday, January 4th, 2024 at 11 a.m., with a reception to follow at the Essex County Club, 153 School St., Manchester. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1123 Washington St., Gloucester, MA 01930 or to Glen Urquhart School, 74 Hart St., Beverly, MA 01915.

Gerard L. Tobiason



Gerard L. Tobiason, 76, of Beverly passed away unexpectedly on December 27 at Lahey Medical Center in Burlington, MA. He was the son of the late Eilif H. (Toby) and Florence C. (Thompson) Tobiason. Jerry was born in East Rockaway, NY, raised in Elizabeth City, NC and Manchester, MA; he was a 1965 graduate of Manchester High School. He enlisted in the US Air Force in 1966 where he served for 20 years, having been stationed in many places during his years of service, including: Myrtle Beach, SC, Arizona, Oregon, Alaska, Key West, FL, Guam, Taiwan, and Thailand. After his retirement he went to work for Tedford and Martin's Hardware in Ipswich from 1987 until his



passing. He was a 37-year member of the American Legion, Post 0113, in Manchester, MA. He enjoyed New England foliage trips, repairing clocks and having breakfast at Steph's Kitchen in Beverly. Jerry is survived by his sister Marilyn J. (Tobiason) McElmon (and her late husband Robert C.) of Beverly, his nieces Kimberly D. (McElmon) Cunha and Katharine A. (McElmon) Shairs of Beverly, his nephew Robert S. McElmon and his wife Bonnie of Vancouver, WA, his nephews Michael D. and Edward P. McElmon of Peabody, his brother Paul S. Tobiason (and his late wife, Katherine) of Guam, his nieces Lisa Tobiason and Lorraine (Tobiason) Frohman and his nephews Eric Tobiason of Guam, Eilif Tobiason of FL and Edwin Tobiason of HI, as well as several great-nieces and great-nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and many friends. A graveside service will be held privately at the request of the family.

George Gardner "Gid" Loring passed away August 26 at Brooksby Village in Peabody. Born in Newton, he was the son of the late Caleb and Suzanne (Bailey) Loring and beloved husband of Sarah M. Loring. Gid grew up in Chestnut Hill and Prides Crossing and attended the Dexter School, Milton Academy, Cornell University Summer School, Harvard College and Harvard Business School.

In 1949, Gid married the love of his life, Sarah Yarnall Means of Manchester. Together with "Sally", they raised four children, George Jr., Helen, Laura and Susan in Manchester. In 2009, Gid and his wife Sally moved to Brooksby Village in Peabody where he lived for the last 14 years of his life. Gid worked in the financial industry for the Boston Fund, New England Mutual Fund, Boston Management & Research, and Loring, Wolcott & Coolidge. An avid conservationist, Gid co-founded the Manchester Conservation Trust, served as a former vice-president of Essex County Greenbelt Association, supported Vinalhaven Land Trust, New England Forestry Foundation and Nature Conservancy. From a young age, Gid was a passionate bird watcher and supported the Massachusetts Audubon Society. In retirement, Gid traveled extensively with Sally, mostly on birding trips. As a young boy, he spent summers on Bartlett Island in Maine. In 1968, he found a beautiful piece of property on Seal Bay in Vinalhaven, Maine where he and Sally spent their summers with visits from their children and grandchildren. He spent his

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days sailing, gardening, rowing, birding and playing his cornet when opportunity arose.

An avid jazz musician and collector, Gid played the cornet with numerous bands, especially after retiring. Although he never considered himself a professional musician, he kept busy playing professional, semi-professional gigs and casual jam sessions in the Greater Boston area. For decades he organized gigs under the name of "Gid's Giddy Gang" playing for life celebrations, dances and fundraisers. He sat in at the Colonial Inn in Concord, MA with long time banjo playing friend Jimmy Mazzy; and played with the Old Salty Jazz Band in Gloucester; and the Brooksby Irregulars in Peabody.

Gid is predeceased by his sister, Susan G. Loring and brothers, Caleb Loring Jr., David Loring and Joseph Peabody Loring as well as his son, George G. Loring, Jr.

Gid is survived by three of their four children and spouses; Susan Loring Wells, Shutesbury, MA; Laura H. Loring, Missoula, MT; and Helen C. Loring, Medford, MA and five grandchildren: Sarah, Julia, Hannah, Kayla, and Alex.

The family wishes to thank the staff at Brooksby Village and Care Dimensions for their care of Gid. He will be truly missed by all. In his memory, please send a contribution to a conservation organization of your choice.

A memorial service will be held in the summer of 2024.

Albert Omari



It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Albert Omari, a cherished family man. He leaves behind his loving wife, devoted daughter, caring son, and their spouses, as well as three adoring granddaughters.

Visiting hours will be held on Thursday, January 11, 2024, in the Greely Funeral Home, 212 Washington Street, Gloucester.

His funeral service is being held on Friday, January 12, at 12:30 p.m. in the Greely Funeral Home, followed by a burial at Pleasant Grove Cemetery in Manchester-by-the-Sea. The ceremony will be a time for eulogies and tributes, allowing us to celebrate Albert's life and the lasting legacy he leaves behind.

The Manchester Cricket

Founded in 1888.
Published every Friday.

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Subscriptions

\$52 / year (print / digital)
\$26 / year (digital only)

\$1.25 at newsstand

PUBLICATION NUMBER
USPS 327-420



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

CLASSIFIEDS

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

FOR SALE

TIMESHARE - ATTITASH MT VILLAGE—Not able to use any longer. Children long gone, need to sell. Located across the street from Attitash Mountain, Bartlett, NH. Week #4 (1/26/24 to 2/02/24). 2 separate units on main floor that can be used as one. Private hallway connects units. One with full bath and Qbed. Other full bath, washer/dryer, full kitchen, living rm, fireplace, pull down double bed. Main floor excess to pkg lot. Ski locker, use of pool & game rm. Pls call to make an offer: (978) 526-7036.

QUEEN SIZE BED—Queen size bed in excellent condition. High end Sealy mattress and box spring with custom made fabric headboard. \$275.00. Call 617-817-1308.

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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MBTS Town Clerk's Corner Here's the Opening of a New Year

By Dianne Bucco, Manchester Town Clerk

The role of a Town Clerk is rooted in history as one of the oldest positions in municipal government, whether in a small town, large city, on the East or West Coast, and even abroad. Originally tasked with taking the official records of the Town, the position has evolved over time to include elections, public records, and liaison between residents, staff, and state and federal agencies to name a few. With that dynamic of responsibilities, it is, in my opinion, the best job ever!



cepting the will of the majority. If people become too entrenched in their ideologies, unwilling to compromise or accept the legitimacy of opposing views, no forward progress can be accomplished. This can be seen today in the legislative gridlock at all levels of government in the US and beyond. Unfortunately, this can be apparent even on the local levels here in New England. I strive, along with my other Town Clerks, to advocate for a balance of scrutiny and acceptance, the importance of constructive criticism and open dialogue. By doing this we hope our municipalities will navigate the differences and find pragmatic solutions that serve the greater good.

As we start the New Year, I want to give a shout out to those residents who step up for positions in public office. It takes courage, time, and effort to request appointments to committees and/or run for election. Public officials must follow many general laws, comply with strict procedures, and work as part of a team to get results. It is not easy to step up for your community, however, it is my hope that they all feel the honor of doing so.

I also want to thank the students of Manchester-by-

the-Sea. Sharing my love and appreciation for democratic processes with the younger generations is an added benefit to being a Town Clerk. Whether I am teaching the 3rd graders about the election process, explaining local government to the 8th graders, or having high school interns/volunteers in the Town Clerk's office, connections with our younger generation are always the highlights of my year.

Lastly, I must thank the 5,000 residents of Manchester-by-the-Sea for their faith in municipal government. We are all here working for you. And as a heads up, 2024 will be a busy election year which includes a Presidential Primary, Town Election and Town Meeting, a State Primary, and the Presidential Election. With all that said, you will be hearing more from my office.

On another note, resident stickers will be mailed out in February. Parking enforcement on resident sticker parking will be waived until those new stickers arrive. For everyone's benefit, please continue to adhere to all parking regulations as posted.

Lastly, please be on the lookout for your 2024 street listing/census forms. These are mandated mailings and must be returned to this office regardless of any changes or not. Thank you for your compliance.



BOARD UPDATES

Town Hall Closed: Town Hall will be closed on Monday, January 15 in observance of Martin Luther King Day. All trash, recycling and compost will be delayed by one day.

Select Board Meeting: The Select Board will meet on Tuesday, January 16 at 6:30 p.m. Meeting details will be posted on the Town website.

Board of Health Public Hearing: A Public Hearing will be held on Thursday, January 25 at 6 p.m. to discuss new proposed private well regulations. A draft of the regulations and meeting details can be found on the

Town website.

MBTA Zoning Task Force: The MBTA Task Force is actively studying the new MBTA Zoning Law (MGL Chapter 40A, Section 3A) and how it applies to Manchester. Facts and upcoming meeting information are posted to the Town website at manchester.ma.us/774/MBTA-Zoning.

DPW Rain Barrel Sale: Last minute New Year's ideal! 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 Manchester.ma.us to stay informed.

The Town Clerk position requires a passion for democracy and upholding its very essence; allowing everyone to have a voice but to also encourage compromise and the support of the collective will of the people. Each committee within a municipality is a microcosm of democracy where every member has an equal voice and an equal vote. The challenge for any committee or democracy is to come to a resolution that everyone should support.

Democratic institutions can get sidelined from their goals if there is an excessive focus on finding errors and flaws in decisions without ac-



Winter Coat Drive

The Hooper Fund and Manchester Parks and Recreation held a Winter Coat Drive at Manchester Memorial School at the Winter Basketball Program on Saturday, December 16th from 9 a.m.- 1 p.m. We asked the basketball community to donate lightly used coats (infant - adult) for families in need

and in return we had a holiday craft section and cookie decorating station set up for the children with Frosty the Snowman. Do good and have fun doing it!

The Coat Drive was a HUGE success. We collected over 70 coats and donated to Beverly Bootstraps. Thank you to all the families that donated. The holiday spirit is alive and well Manchester-by-the-Sea.

WHAT WAS HAPPENING

90 YEARS AGO - 1934

The new year opened at Story High on Wednesday, January 3, when pupils returned after a vacation of 12 days. It was fortunate that the cold wave came during vacation, as it was found difficult to heat the building because pipes froze and one steam pipe burst.

For the first time in local history Manchester is enjoying the experience of having a real honest-to-goodness Sportsman's Club which blossomed forth on Tuesday night last under the euphonious title of the Masconomo Sportsman's Club, which of necessity must be all that its name implies.

75 YEARS AGO - 1949

In a surprise move the Manchester School Building Committee changed their original plans and have decided not to seek an appropriation at the 1949 Town Meeting for the erection of a School Building, but have placed articles in the Warrant seeking a \$9,000 appropriation for additional plans.

A large amount of oil was spilled Monday evening from an oil truck on Electric Light Hill, causing a fire hazard. Of-

ficer Connors contacted the Highway Department who covered the area with sand eliminating the danger.

60 YEARS AGO - 1964

We are pleased to report that Fire Captain and Mrs. Donald Burgess are both recovering satisfactorily at Beverly Hospital from injuries sustained Saturday evening when their car went out of control and struck a tree on Lincoln Street across from Memorial School.

Nearly 200 members of the Amaral-Bailey Post, No. 113, American Legion, and their guests welcomed in the New Year at the New Year's Eve Cabaret held at the Legion Home on Tuesday night, December 31st.

45 YEARS AGO - 1979

Police discovered a window broken at the Short Cut on Central St., just after midnight Sunday. A beer bottle had been thrown through the window.

Manchester lost a close game to Masco two weeks ago, after being ahead for the first three quarters. Manchester lost the game by 2 points when Masco outscored them by 10 points in

the final quarter of play. The final score was 40-38.

30 YEARS AGO - 1994

Snow tubing was great! 87 junior high students and adults bused out to the Amesbury Tubing Park and tubed down a very slick and crisp hill on Wednesday. Thank you to all the chaperones who slid along and the bus drivers who kept the bus warm.

The Manchester boys' basketball team ended the season Saturday afternoon with a 76-52 loss to a tough Winthrop team.

15 YEARS AGO - 2009

Memorial students are becoming media experts this year with projects such as Power Point presentations, podcasting, and blogging. A focus on collaboration between the School Library, the Technology Lab and the classroom teachers has put a new spin on research projects.

AAA's January 5 survey of prices in Massachusetts found regular unleaded averaging \$1.69 per gallon. The current price is five cents below the national average.

Tides & Sun Chart For The Week Ahead

DATE	HIGH				LOW				☀️	
	AM	FT	PM	FT	AM	FT	PM	FT	RISE	SET
12 Fri	11:43	11.1			5:50	0.3	6:34	-1.1	7:10	4:32
13 Sat	12:27	9.4	12:32	11.3	6:40	-0.1	7:21	-1.4	7:09	4:33
14 Sun	1:14	9.7	1:22	11.3	7:30	-0.3	8:08	-1.4	7:09	4:34
15 Mon	2:02	9.9	2:13	11.0	8:22	-0.4	8:56	-1.2	7:08	4:35
16 Tue	2:52	10.0	3:06	10.5	9:14	-0.3	9:44	-0.9	7:08	4:37
17 Wed	3:43	10.0	4:01	9.9	10:09	0.0	10:35	-0.4	7:07	4:38
18 Thu	4:38	10.0	5:01	9.2	11:07	0.3	11:27	0.1	7:07	4:39

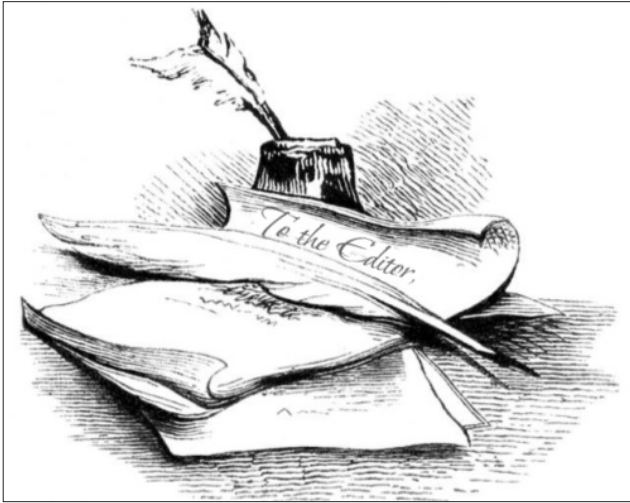
Winter is not a season, it's an occupation.
 ~ Sinclair Lewis ~

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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.**

Who Represents the Citizens of Rockport?

To the Editor,

We live in a Constitutional Republic. We elect representatives that, in theory, represent us and act on our behalf. They are not supposed to represent the Federal Govern-

ment or State Government or even the local town or city government. They actually represent us, the citizens that put them in office. They should represent us in our wishes and make every effort to meet our expectations and not any other entity. That is why I just don't understand the actions of the Rockport

Planning Board and Selectmen. They do not appear to be objecting to or fighting against the State's efforts to overrule our Legal Home Rule Rights and ultimately control our town's zoning. You can fabricate a diverting, self-delusional explanation as to what the MBTA/State is trying to do but it is simply their shameless attempt to steal our rights.

This attempted transparent seizure of our rights is going on in Gloucester and Manchester as well as many other communities. Other towns are standing up to our bullying state why not ours?

I would expect the representatives of the citizens of Rockport to be advising us on how they could fight this disguised seizure of our legal rights and not be selling us on complying with the state's illegal actions.

Many people spoke up against the MBTA/State's efforts to steal our rights at the Planning Board Presentation this past December 14th. Since it was apparent that many of Rockport Citizens are against this, I am hoping that our so-called representatives will actually start standing with their citizens and stand up to the State. Are they representing the citizens of Rockport or the MBTA/

State? I ask them to please make the right decision.

Thank you.

John T. Kolackovsky
Rockport

John L O'Brien Register of Deeds Announces Retirement

47 years ago, the people of Essex County gave me the honor and privilege of electing me to serve them as Register of Deeds.

I often think that this would never have happened if not for the people of Ward Six in the City of Lynn, who in 1971, took a chance and elected a 19-year-old to serve as a member of the Lynn City Council.

To my family, coworkers, friends and constituents, thank you for being so kind to me over those years. I had hoped to be able to finish my term which expires in January of 2025, but I realized that my health, particularly my diagnosis of Lewy Body Dementia, would no longer allow me to fulfill my responsibilities as Register of Deeds as I would want to do and as the people of Essex County deserve.

As this chapter in my professional life comes to a close

with my retirement on December 31st, 2023, thank you all for making it possible.

I sincerely thank you for your friendship, support and assistance in making the Southern Essex District Registry of Deeds the model of excellence that it is.

John, L. O'Brien
Register of Deeds
Southern Essex County District

Responding to Key Rumors RE: Essex, Spending and MERSD Budgets

Ever since last year's override for the Manchester Essex Regional School District (MERSD) failed in Essex, there have been several rumors circulating. I asked Town officials for clarity on two of them:

RUMOR: Essex will pay over \$200,000 for decorative streetlights but not for education.

FACT: The downtown streetlights are a Capital Project initiative that began with the Long-Term Planning Committee in 2009 and has been supported by the Economic Development Committee, the Local Rapid Recovery

Plan, the Essex Strategic Planning Committee and the Board of Selectmen. Since its inception, Essex has contributed a total of \$363,126 from town funds, which is less than 50% of the total project. This one-time capital expense, approved at Fall Town Meeting 2023, was equal to one year of the Town's income from the local meals tax. Had the article failed, the Town would have had to return substantial grant funds, jeopardizing future grant applications. Recognition that supporting Essex's economy supports the Town's budget, which supports our schools.

RUMOR: Last year MERSD used \$520K out of its reserves to "help Essex." Essex needs to pay up.

FACT: This statement is true; however, it is missing information: the District did put forth \$520K to "help," but they only actually contributed \$92K. The FY25 budget is being built assuming the district needed and spent all \$520K, leaving the other \$428K in their reserve account. If we didn't need it last year, why are we building it into the budget this year?

Antonella Muniz
Essex

LIBRARY NEWS



Generations of families enjoyed an acoustic concert at the Crowell Chapel performed by musician Sean Fullerton.

Art Across Asia (Virtual)
Sunday, January 14 from 2:30-4 p.m. Timeless Traditions: Expressions of the Divine in India Art with Mary Mead. Explore the vast panoply of South Asian art through the prism of four belief systems founded there: Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism.

Cookbook Club: "More is More"
Tuesday, January 16 from 5:30-6:15 p.m. January's pick is "More is More: Get Loose in the Kitchen" by Molly Baz. Register for any recipe from the cookbook. Make enough to share (for about 5-10 people) and bring your own serv-

ing utensils. Come and be prepared to eat, share, chat, and connect over food. We will be talking about what you liked or didn't like about the cookbook, how you picked your recipe, and if you modified it at all.

Haunted Happenings with Jeff DePaoli: Founder of Alterian, Inc. (Virtual)
Thursday, January 18 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Join Jeff DePaoli as he interviews Alterian, Inc. founder, Tony Gardner. Alterian, Inc. is a Los Angeles based studio specializing in the design and creation of animatronic and prosthetic makeup effects. Join Alterian, Inc. Founder

Tony Gardner, an American makeup designer, special effects designer and puppeteer, and Jeff DePaoli, Host of "That Halloween Podcast," as they talk all about the history, impact, and fun of this essential Hollywood Halloween staple.

Check Out Snowshoes
Did you know the library has three sizes of snowshoes available for kids and adults? Checkout is for a week and residents can reserve a pair from our Library of Things.

Looking to Read More in 2024
Join Manchester-by-the-Sea Public Library as we complete the Massachusetts Center for the Book Adult Reading Challenge for 2024. Select a book for January's challenge: A book you read years ago that you may feel differently about now.

Beekeeping with Local Beekeeper Mike Chapman
Saturday, January 20 from 1-2:15 p.m. Manchester residents Mike and Martha

Chapman have been beekeepers for over 15 years. Mike is a graduate of Essex County Beekeepers "Bee School". This is a great intro for beginners looking to get connected and learn the basics.

Help Us Plan the Library's Next Chapter
The library's community survey will close mid-January, so don't wait to share your hopes, dreams and needs for you public library. Take the survey at surveymanchester.mvlc.org/survey.

Forensic Science Roadshow
Thursday, January 25 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.

Library's Free Public WiFi
MBTS Library's WiFi is now encrypted, offering extra

security for our community and guests. Log on from inside the building or from the front garden by connecting to MBTSLibraryWifi using password library1887.

Mindfulness Meditation- 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. Join Susan Halpern in a new Tai Chi form, Longevity Tree. The Longevity Tree is a form that addresses the balance of mind, body, and spirit by combining movement, deep breathing, and alertness. It was designed to move all of the body, both internally and externally. The form begins with the image of the tree-progressing to other visual images as we journey through a variety of movements. This form will be offered for 12 weeks but registration is only available until 1/17/2024. If you are interested in the form but have missed the registration period, contact Maddy Willwerth and we will reach out when a new session is available. For now, the class will be held at the Manchester Community Center. Please complete the Safety Release Registration Form, on the event listing on the library website, before joining. Susan Halpern will update by email those who have completed the Safety Release Registration Form.

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

Shut Up and Write (Virtual)

Every Thursday from 10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Join a community of writers and artists on Zoom who just want to write. Come any time. No need to share, no need to critique or be critiqued.

MPL Children's Events:
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.

Winter and Spring Storytimes
Wednesdays from 10:30-11:15 a.m. starting January 24. Join Miss Audrey for Storytime for children ages 0-5 with their caregivers. We will share books, songs, and games. This program runs through April 24th.

Eyes on Owls
Saturday, January 27 from 2-3 p.m. Eyes on Owls is coming to Manchester. This live owl educational program gives participants an up-close look at these majestic creatures. Join us at the First Parish Church Hall. This is for all ages.

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

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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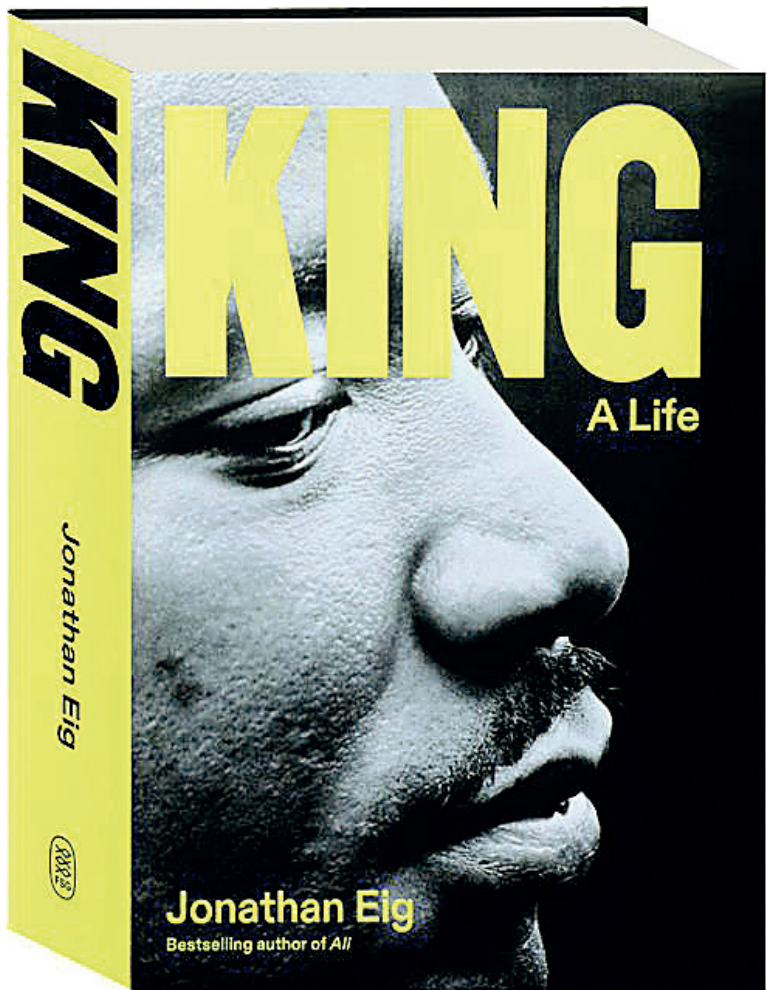
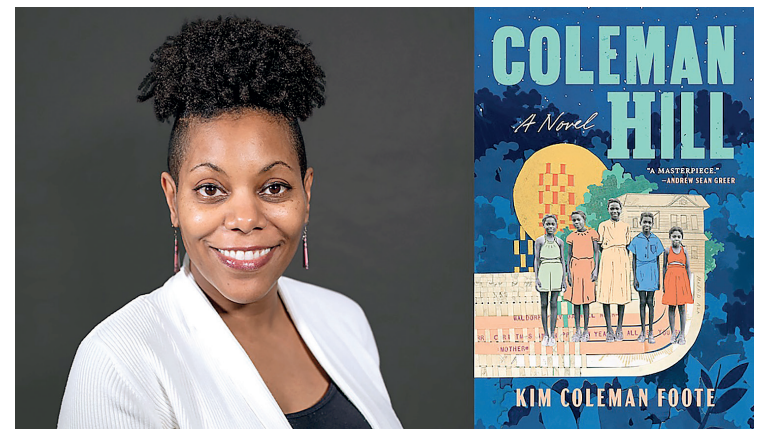
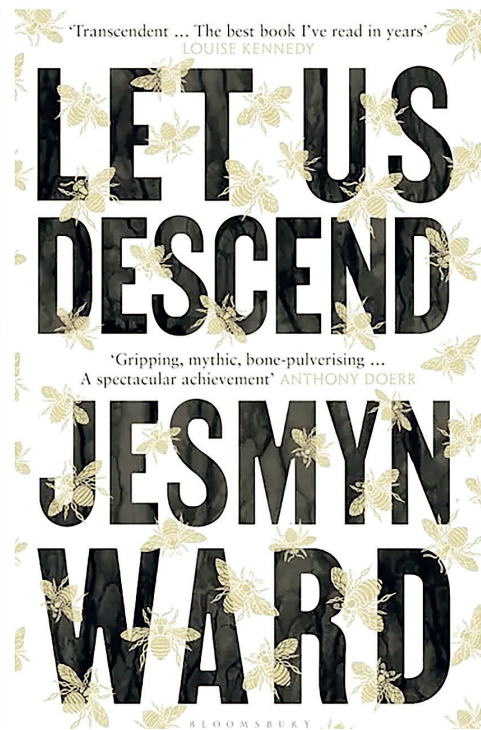
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Shop Thoughts

Reading Inspired by MLK Jr.'s Vision



By Hannah Harlow

In celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s 94th birthday this month, here are a few books that are in the spirit of his vision for a more diverse nation with equal rights for all, books that grapple with our history and ask us to think about our future.

The obvious first choice is Jonathan Eig's brilliant new biography, *King: A Life*. It's the first comprehensive biography in nearly three decades, and Eig is a superb writer and biographer. He's the first to include newly released declassified FBI documents, and he's created a compulsively readable and intimate story of a legendary figure.

For younger readers, there's a new picture book called *We Dream a World* that honors the work of Dr. King and Coretta Scott King, written by their granddaughter, Yolanda Renee King (and illustrated by Nicole Tadgell). In the book, King addresses the many issues facing young people today—whether it's racial equality, gun violence, or climate change—and reassures readers that the next generation is strong and ready to lead and that they, too, can carry on the work of their elders and foster change.

But if you've read any of my columns and know me at all, you

probably remember that I'll almost always choose fiction over nonfiction, given the option. There are so many novels to choose from when thinking about how we can read to better understand our history of inequality and how we can move forward to a more just and equitable society. These are some recent favorites.

A gorgeous, haunting masterpiece, *Let Us Descend* is two-time National Book Award-winner and MacArthur fellow Jesmyn Ward's fourth novel and a harrowing, raw depiction of slavery suffused with poetry. When the enslaved Annis is sold south—separated from her mother—she begins a hellish journey to New Orleans on which her companions include her memories, the stories she's been told, and the spirit world. Ward's language, her appreciation for the natural and the spirit worlds, and moments of joy and tenderness are something to marvel at.

Did you know Sarah Jessica Parker has her own imprint now? The second book she published was *Coleman Hill* by Kim Coleman Foote, published in September. Parker had this to say about it, "Kim Coleman Foote has the rare talent of completely immersing you in time and place . . . A sweeping yet intimate family saga." Drawing from her own family history, Foote brings

to life three generations of two families living intertwined lives. In 1916, two women leave the South to settle in New Jersey and, following the deaths of their husbands, raise their families together. Through multiple points of view from various characters, we see how they each attempt to shrug out of the past and into themselves.

For readers who prefer their settings to be more contemporary, *Warrior Girl Unearthed* by Angeline Boulley opened my eyes to so many things, most notably the reprehensible practices keeping indigenous people from properly honoring the remains of their ancestors.

There's also a murder investigation and a heist worked into a realistic coming-of-age story for the teen protagonist, all of which keep the pages turning long into these cold nights. *Warrior Girl Unearthed* is also a satisfying follow-up to *Firekeeper's Daughter*, another favorite from a few years ago, that first introduced some of these characters (but is not required reading to appreciate the newer title). I highly recommend the pairing.

Chain-Gang All-Stars by Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah has a lot in common with *Let Us Descend* by Jesmyn Ward, despite being set centuries in the future—a disturbing, dystopian near-future in which

incarcerated people can fight to the death in order to earn their freedom. Both books depict desperate plights, but it's the language. The language will blow you away. Both have love stories that will break your heart, shake you up, and give you hope. Unlike Ward's, Adjei-Brenyah's is a satire about our very American prison-industrial complex, and I love that Adjei-Brenyah wears his heart and his politics on

his sleeve. Not all of these stories are easy to read, but they're important. To bear witness, to listen, to learn—sometimes this is exactly what reading is for.

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



WHAT A DIFFERENCE 48 HOURS MAKES Local weather earlier this week was a true roller coaster. From Sunday morning, when locals woke up to the season's first snow storm (left, Masconomo Park) to the surging tides that came in days later with the warming temperature (center, Singing Beach in Manchester) to the dramatic downtown flooding that submerged the parking lot at Masconomo Park (right, Wednesday morning) when the DPW closed the park off to traffic. Check out the parking lot markers under water! The flooding is sure to have caused costly damage. (Photos Todd Crane)



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Lady Hornets jump to control a rebound in a home game against North Reading. ME was victorious in a 47-42 Hornets vs Hornets match.

Photo Paul Clark

out the scoring with 3. On Friday the Hornets hosted league rival, Georgetown. After falling behind in the first quarter, the Hornets battled back to within 1 point in the second but could not close the gap any further despite a great defensive effort. Lily Oliver had 13 to lead the Hornets in scoring again. Harper Brooks added 7, Kacey O'Connell 6, Tess Carpenter 5, and Isabelle Donnellan Valade and Emerald Jakes each added 2 points in the effort. Harper Brooks also added 8 rebounds and 3 assists in the game. The Hornets are 5-2 and will face Essex Tech and Ipswich this week.

Swim/Dive:

The Manchester Essex Swimming and Diving teams are small but mighty.

The Girls team is led by the following captains: Junior Libby McKinnon and sophomores Megan Graeter and Sydney Hemme. These three are joined by 8th graders Claire Masters and Paisley Koppelin and 7th graders Maggie Bediz and Harper Hemme. The Girls have lost to Triton, Ipswich and Lynnfield. Their closest meet was against Ipswich where they won 7 out of the 11 events but lost by just 14 points. Graeter is an extremely strong and versatile swimmer. She has made Sectional and State cuts in 5 individual events, the 200 IM, 200 Free, 500 Free, 100 Butterfly and 100 Backstroke. The 200 Medley Relay team of Graeter, Hemme, McKinnon and Masters also made the Sectional cut. Hemme leads the Girls' team in points scored. The Boys team is led by the following captains: Seniors Diego Sanson and Erik Bischoff and Junior Colin Conway. They are joined by freshmen James Aloï and Max Deery and 7th grader Ben Ochs. The boys lost to Triton and Lynnfield but won against Ipswich! Conway leads the Boys' team in points scored.

Saturday, 1/13 is an away meet for both teams in North Reading. The next home meet for both teams is Sunday 1/21, 5 p.m. at the Beverly YMCA. It is Senior Night for Sanson and Bischoff. Please come and cheer the teams on!

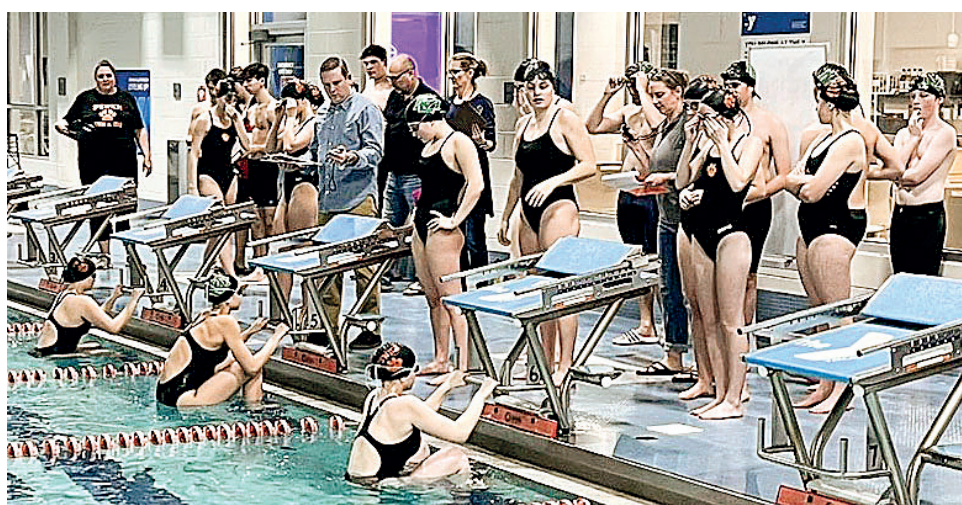


Tuesday night's game against Essex Tech.

Photo Erika Brown



In the Hornets' Nest



Hornets at Beverly YMCA.

Courtesy Photo

Girls Basketball:

The Manchester Essex Hornets went 1-1 in the week after the Winter break. On Wednesday, the Hornets traveled to Danvers to face off

against the Falcons in a non-league matchup. The Hornets built an early lead and held on to win 36-30. Lily Oliver led Manchester Essex in scoring with 10 points includ-

ing 2 three-pointers. Harper Brooks contributed 9 points and 13 rebounds while Kacey O'Connell added 8 points. Mechi O'Neil had 6 points and Mackay Brooks rounded

54 Manchester Essex High School Students Inducted into the National Honor Society

At an induction ceremony last month, 54 inductees from the junior and senior classes joined the current 37 members of the Masconomo Chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS).

Chapter President Finn O'Hara, Vice President and Leadership Officer Ella Chafe, Service Officer Kate Bappe, Character Officer Charles Viriden, and Scholarship Officer Aiden Brown organized and led the ceremony.

MERHS Spanish Teacher and Soccer Coach Robbie Bilsbury made a speech reflecting on his past and his

hopes for the future of the student scholars.

"These students have received this honor for their continued dedication to academics, development of leadership skills, and passion for helping others," said ME Regional High School Principal Julie Sgroi. "We are proud to recognize them for this well-deserved achievement."

ME Regional School District Superintendent Pam Beaudoin and Dean of Students Elisabeth Drinkwater were on hand for the ceremony.

...(Continued on page 9)

ScottEnergy Community Bulletin Board

Manchester Essex Little League Fundraiser

Thursday, Feb 17-10 p.m.
\$85 / person minimum donation

BEAUPORT HOTEL GRAND BALLROOM

Join us for an unforgettable evening with fantastic food, auctions, bar to support new equipment, field machines and other upgrades!

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By Kris McGinn

This past Saturday morning I found myself in a rather strange circumstance – surrounded by a sea of teenagers who chose, of their own free will, to get up at 5:30 a.m., shower, get dressed in casual business attire, board a bus, drive for an hour, and meet up with other freshly showered teenagers donning casual business attire. Why? A speech and debate competition, where hundreds of highly motivated high schoolers from all across Massachusetts gather, sharp and ready, to go toe to toe in all manner of categories testing their intellectual dexterity.

My daughter competes in Public Forum Debate where two teams, each with two students, debate a topic of current interest or policy. You all may be familiar with this format as the Cricket regularly runs *Point, Counterpoint*, in which debaters from the high school present two opposing sides to an issue or topic. So, I am familiar with this type of debate and have judged it. However, on this particular Saturday, I was judging Speech competitions. I had no idea how many categories of speech there are. I saw pairs of students perform 10 minute Duos—"A unique, memorized event challenging two performers to render a dynamic moment utilizing appropriate vocal expression, gesture, and interaction between partners. As a unit, the two performers will vocally and physically respond to each other's verbal and non-verbal cues while maintaining an off-stage focus," explained my judge's notes. I judged radio broadcasting, group discussions and a final where students presented their own original work, from slam poetry to long format essays to persuasive

Beautifully Said MERHS Debate Team Shines



Gwendolyn Berger, Stella Straub, and Sabine Cooper at the Speech and Debate Tournament at Newton South High School this past Saturday.

After a very long day, I left not only incredibly proud and grateful, but also intensely aware of the value and importance of this amazing extracurricular

speeches, each for six riveting minutes. The power and creativity of their work was surpassed only by the vulnerability, subtlety, and – truth.

Over a work lunch, discussing the topic of high school debate, Erika Brown, the Editor of the Cricket, made an excellent point: that the spirit of speech and debate, to have to learn both sides of an issue so completely that you can argue for and try

your best to defend opposing points of view is exactly what our country needs right now. A willingness to allow for dissenting voices. This is precisely what these high school debaters are doing.

Round after round I was delighted and impressed by these amazing young people who clearly spent countless hours outside of school preparing work that was, more often than not, seamless. Gwendolyn Berger and Stella Straub won four out of five of their debate rounds, just missing the finals, but qualifying for states. Sabine Cooper, new to Speech, competed in several Poetry rounds.

After a very long day, I left not only incredibly proud and grateful, but also intensely aware of the value and importance of this amazing extracurricular.

Any of us who read the

headlines or watch the nightly news can be left feeling at best anxious and at worst, hopeless. From our shattered politics to raging land wars to the mind-boggling uncertainty of AI, I have often wondered how our kids will navigate the world ahead of them.

Prior to this weekend, my answer would have been - I have no idea.

After this weekend, my answer may just be – beautifully.

The MERHS Debate Team is having its annual fundraising "Research Drive." Donate by sending a check to the ME Regional High School, 36 Lincoln St., or by giving your name to judge future tournaments; I suspect that you will, as I did, find it time very well spent.

ESSEX ECHO.

Town Administrator's Report

Board of Selectmen's Meeting
of January 8, 2024
Report covers from December
16, 2023 to January 5, 2024

Replacement of Fire Department Printer/Fax/Scanner

The all-in-one device at the Fire Department's fire prevention desk was no longer working well with the operating system on the server that the fire prevention computer terminal connects to. As such, the Town Administrator (TA) ordered, installed, and configured a printer with all of the necessary functions that is completely compatible with the server operating system and the new device is working well.

Provisioning of New Town Hall Network Users

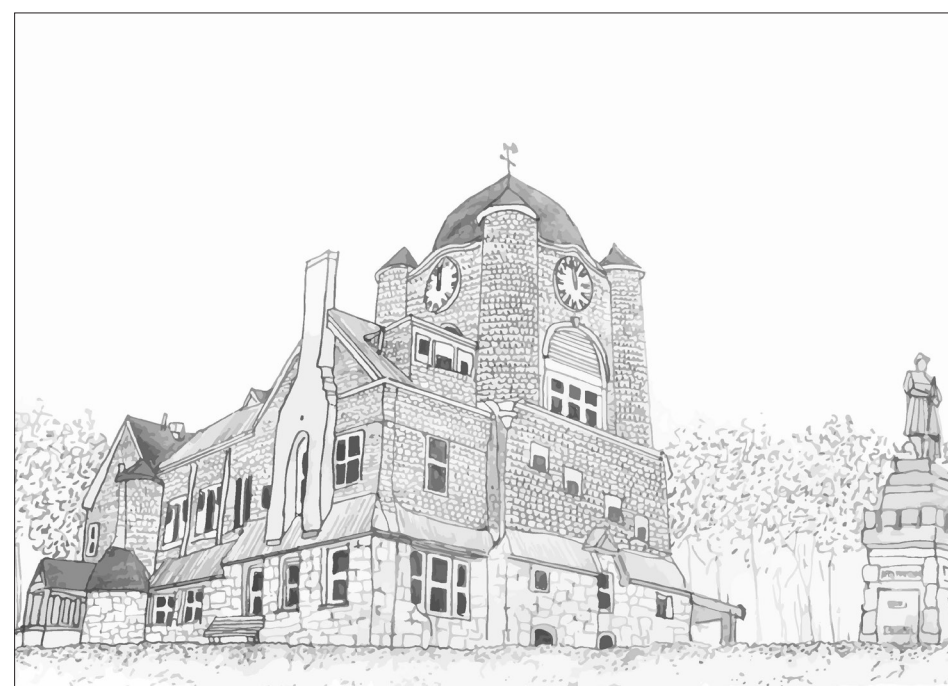
A new administrative assistant for the Planning Board and a new Assistant Town Clerk started work during the week of January 1, 2024. The TA assisted those two departments with computer network, website, meeting posting, and e-mail provisioning for the new employees, including copying resources from previous users to the new users.

Safety Committee Meeting Summary

Mr. Zubricki attended the subject meeting on December 20, 2023 as a member of the Committee, along with Chairman Perea. The meeting featured a discussion regarding ongoing challenge of building systems maintenance in Town Hall and the new public safety facility. The group also discussed progress made with respect to ongoing goals.

Revision of Town Administrator Goals for Calendar Year 2024

At the last meeting, the Board reviewed the TA's calendar year 2024 draft goals in more detail and asked that one new goal be added and that one existing goal be modified. With respect to the new goal, the Board was interested in more clearly defining the TA's coordination role with respect to the quarterly department head sessions that are held at Selectmen's meetings. Mr. Zubricki recommend the following wording: For each quarterly department heads meeting that is held at a Selectmen's meeting during the year, work with all departments to report specific information to the Selectmen including: a) recent achievements, b) obstacles to current goals and objectives, c) expectations for the coming quarter, d) long-term goals on the horizon, e) concerns, f) recent grants and an explanation of whether any particular grant will require the Town to pick up any ongoing costs in the Town's own operating budget when the grant is concluded. Specific participation from the Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School District will also be sought. The amended goal has to do with the Town-owned parcel at 30 Apple Street. The goal, as originally presented was: Explore the possibility of grant funding for a road across the Town-owned parcel at 30 Apple Street between Apple Street and the Town Transfer Station and DPW facility. A portion of the funding for the road may be possible via coastal resilience grants and moving forward may be dependent on whatever other uses are being considered for the parcel, both from a timing and from a physical perspective. Given that the full scope of that goal might be premature, the Board asked the TA to amend the goal in the following fashion: Explore the Town-owned parcel at 30 Apple Street as a possible site for a new Essex Elementary School as part of the Manchester Essex Regional School District's ongoing Massachusetts School Building Assistance Authority assessment and



funding process. If the site is determined to be a valid option, explore the possible incorporation of a road and waterline connection across the parcel between Apple Street and the Town Transfer Station and DPW facility. This work will be dependent on whatever other uses are being considered for the parcel, both from a timing and from a physical perspective.

Clarification of Public Safety Building Repair Engineering Proposal

At the last meeting, the Board reviewed an engineering services proposal from Copeland Building Envelope Consulting, which includes Northeast Roof Consultants as an engineering subcontractor, for repairs to the roof and building envelope of the public safety facility. The majority of the proposed cost is related to on-site construction administration since it is essential that the repairs address the issues once and for all. The TA asked Copeland to further break down these costs so that the Board could get a better sense of what is being proposed, both from Copeland and from Northeast. That breakdown has been provided and, generally, while a relatively small amount of money could be saved, it does not appear that the savings are worth the risk of poor field control over the contractor. Further, a follow-up call with Copeland and Northeast on December 22, 2023 included additional discussion on the potential scope that the Board should discuss.

Downtown Decorative Light Project Update

Our contractor for the downtown decorative lighting project was planning to begin work in the spring of 2024. However, given the window of mild weather/lack of snow recently, our contractor decided to begin the project by installing the underground bases for the light poles. Work occurred for two days so far (January 2 and 3, 2024) and may be completed by January 12, 2024, weather permitting. Prior to the work commencing, on December 22, 2023, the TA walked the site with the contractor to go over logistics. We are presently awaiting the actual light poles, fixtures, accessories, and control cabinets, which should arrive in Town sometime during February or March and work will resume at that time.

Process for Hiring a New Town Planner

The Board advertised for a new Town Planner shortly after Thanksgiving and several applications from qualified applicants have been submitted. The Board may now determine how the applicants might be interviewed (at a Board meeting or perhaps via one Board member and myself with a recommendation made to the Board).

Route 133 Sidewalk Reconstruction Project Update

As the Board may recall, MA DOT has been in the process of developing plans

for a complete reconstruction of the sidewalk system between Water Street and Harlow Street in Essex. The project also continues on into Gloucester. One particular matter of interest was an original proposal to eliminate a crosswalk over Route 133 linking the Goodwin Court and Lufkin Street neighborhoods. After discussion among Town officials, DOT, and Goodwin Court residents, DOT agreed to relocate the sidewalk slightly, with the inclusion of flashing, prewarning signs. That relocation is included in the final plans and DOT does not presently have a date for bid advertisement. However, it looks like the project will be bid and constructed during calendar year 2024. We have reached out to the Goodwin Court residents to provide them with a copy of the final plans.

Quarterly Facility Self-Inspection Checklists

Mr. Zubricki completed the subject checklists for the quarter ending December 31, 2023 for the Town Hall and the Senior Center. Other buildings are inspected by other personnel. The goal of the inspections is to detect and remedy any conditions in Town buildings that are cause for a safety concern. Checklists are reviewed by the Safety Committee on a quarterly basis. This quarter, the TA commented on the continuing issues that we have experienced with the Town Hall HVAC system and how the system appeared to be back in proper operation after additional repair work was completed. However, further diagnosis is required since the system runs for a few days and requires a reset. A manufacturer's representative has collected system data via a computer connection and is working on the root cause. Mr. Zubricki also commented on addressing the issue of the Senior Center elevator not properly working while on generator power. That situation is being corrected, with the installation of a "soft starter" which starts the elevator hydraulic pump motor less abruptly than the original starter, translating to a momentary amperage increase that the generator can actually handle.

Manchester Essex Regional School District Operations Review Update

At the last meeting, the TA explained how various consultants who offer school district operations review services generally like to have a certain degree of cooperation from district personnel and officials in order to provide a worthwhile product. At that time, the Board was hopeful that the School Committee would assent to some level of cooperation at their meeting of December 19, 2023. However, the School Committee did not take the topic up. Also, at two prior School Committee meetings, the Committee decided to not take a position (first meeting) and to table the matter (second meeting).

Massachusetts Fair Share Amendment Funding

At the last meeting, the TA

mentioned that the Town had received word that a voter passed initiative known as the Fair Share Amendment would be adding about \$71,000 to the Town's Chapter 90 funding for roadway maintenance. The money comes from a portion of the 4% surtax on taxable incomes that exceed \$1M in Massachusetts. Since the letter from the Governor also mentioned that a portion of the Fair Share funding is also going toward education, we reached out to the Manchester Essex Regional School District Superintendent to see if the District also got funding. The Superintendent explained that this year's education funding mostly went to stabilize the statewide free lunch program. As such, no additional funding that could subsidize general operations is available.

Final Review of Selectmen's FY25 Operating & Capital Budget Requests

At the last meeting, the Board briefly discussed Mr. Zubricki's recommendations for the Board's fiscal year 2025 operating and capital budget requests. The final version of the request package is due to the Finance Committee by January 12, 2024.

Preliminary List of Possible Annual Town Meeting Topics

We have developed a preliminary list of topics for possible Annual Town Meeting articles.

Release of Executive Session Minutes Concerning Roof Defects

The Chairman has reviewed the unreleased executive session minutes through December 31, 2023 and minutes concerning the defects in the public safety building roof are suitable for release, since that matter has been officially settled.

Town Administrator Leave

The TA was out of the office, on leave, on December 21, for a portion of the day on December 28, and all day on December 29, 2023.

Christmas Holiday

The Office was closed on December 25, 2023 in observance of the subject holiday

New Year's Day Holiday

The office was closed on January 1, 2024, in observance of the subject holiday.

This report is available at www.essexma.org on the morning after any regularly scheduled Essex Board of Selectmen's Meeting.

LIBRARY NEWS

T.O.H.P. Burnha
Public Library



Children grades K-7 built and created together with over a dozen different building materials including "Lego", "PlusPlus", and custom-made Buildwave materials.

Library Holiday Hours

Monday, January 15 the Library will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Demystify Your Finances (Virtual)

Thursday, January 18 at 7 p.m. join Ariel Nathanson, founder of Finance for Feminists as she helps program participants expand their understanding of personal finance with practical advice and useful tools.

Meet Author & Veterinarian Karen Fine, "The Other Family Doctor"

Saturday, January 20 at 10 a.m. Fans of All Creatures Great & Small will enjoy this informal gathering as Karen shares her personal story and answers your questions. Enjoy scones and tea and a cozy morning with other animal lovers. On the third floor of the library.

Community Book Group

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

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.

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

7:00 a.m. John Wise Ave., directed patrol, secured/checked.
5:02 p.m. Main St., male sick, transported to hospital.
9:01 p.m. John Wise Ave., motor vehicle stop, verbal warning.
10:57 p.m. Eastern Ave., selective enforcement, secured/checked.

MONDAY, JANUARY 1

12:19 a.m. Martin St., directed patrol, secured/checked.
1:25 a.m. Scotts Way, directed patrol, secured/checked.
1:29 a.m. John Wise Ave., directed patrol, secured/checked.
6:43 a.m. Spring St., directed patrol, secured/checked.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

No report.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

9:13 a.m. Kings Court, selective enforcement, no action taken.
10:22 a.m. Lufkin Point Rd., animal complaint, gone on arrival.
3:04 p.m. Andrews St., suspicious activity, spoken to.
9:22 p.m. Martin St., directed patrol, secured/checked.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4

1:38 a.m. Scotts Way, directed patrol, secured/checked.
2:00 a.m. Route 128NB, directed patrol, secured/checked.
2:56 a.m. Martin St., directed patrol, secured/checked.
6:37 a.m. Centennial Grove Rd., directed patrol, secured/checked.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5

7:25 a.m. John Wise Ave., citizen assist, spoken to.
10:46 a.m. John Wise Ave., disabled motor vehicle, assisted as needed.
6:38 p.m. Landing Rd., police investigation follow-up, spoken to.
8:19 p.m. Lufkin St., welfare check, report to follow.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

9:12 a.m. Conomo Point Rd., community policing, assisted as needed.
11:45 a.m. Apple St., suspicious activity, spoken to.
2:24 p.m. Eastern Ave., male with stroke, transported to hospital.
4:09 p.m. Eastern Ave., motor vehicle crash, vehicle towed.

Essex Locals | Jan 12

115 Years Ago - 1909

Notices were read in the Churches Sunday from the selectman of the town calling for contributions for the sufferers from the earthquake in Italy. Clarence C. Perkins will receive and forward to, proper authorities, all amounts contributed.

90 Years Ago - 1934

By the action of the recent town meeting \$1,000 was appropriated for the purpose of making an addition to Spring Street cemetery which has been practically filled making additional lots an absolute necessity.

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At Home Now Designing a Great Room? Make it Great



By Jen Coles

Great rooms. There are so many of us that have them. Perhaps you have one because you own a large older home, with its elegant bones, grand rooms and high ceilings. Or maybe your great room came with a newer development-style home, where they have become a standard feature. Or perhaps neither. Perhaps you built a large addition or created a room above your double garage. Regardless of how you got here, great rooms can be tricky to get right.

There are a few rules of thumb that might feel intuitive enough. For instance, in a small space, you'll want smaller scale furniture that stands on legs so that it's not solid to the floor. You'll also use airy coffee tables with glass tops, and for the most part you'll stay away from busy patterns and lots of color. Because in these small spaces, you want to minimize the chaos. Here you are creating that illusion of space.

So, for the larger spaces, unsurprisingly, you do the opposite. This kind of room can handle large-scale furniture pieces, built-ins that go floor to ceiling, multiple seating zones, and a mixture of patterns and textures (done tastefully of course.) Because in these large spaces you are creating the illusion of intimacy.

But before you get caught up in all that, you and your loved ones must first agree

on how you envision using your great room space. Because the answer impacts what you put in there and how you set it up.

One common scenario is the ultra-casual family space where the large-screen TV is anchored front and center. Perhaps you have young kids who need a place to jump and climb and play. And when you all gather or entertain, you are enjoying a movie or watching a game with friends. You want a couch comfy enough for you and your dog to nap on, and sturdy enough to withstand your kids creating a fort out of its cushions.

Great rooms like these? Bring on the giant u-shaped, super-squishy sectional sofa and a TV that is bigger than the state of Rhode Island. Because here, comfort and durability are king. Heck, even bring in wall-to-wall carpeting if that's your thing, but also consider some built-ins to store the toys and games and family photo albums. If you have enough room for two seating zones, maybe the second zone has foosball or a craft table. But that tv will be the focal point of the room, and there is absolutely no shame in that.

I still ponder the wisdom behind the expensive armoires we bought to house our back-in-the-day elephant-sized televisions. Yes, it did hide that TV, but then there was the problem of the elephant-sized armoire.... So, yes! Put that television front and center and be glad

You and your loved ones must first agree on how you envision using your great room space. Because the answer impacts what you put in there and how you set it up.

we now have flat screens. (I mean, we even have flat screens that really and truly look like framed artwork when not in use.) But spend the money to mount them properly. Those dangling black cords are the worst.

Here's one last tip on those squishy sectional sofas, though. DO splurge on something high quality with durable fabric in a sensible color to hide the wear. The high-quality sofas use fabrics that clean up better, and some of them are guaranteed to boot. But DON'T splurge on the down cushions. Because after a few busy years, those cushions will get soft enough to gobble you up when you sit down. And, trust me, a gracious exit from one of those when you're sporting your favorite jean skirt? Well, it's just not possible. Never mind your elderly great aunt. For her you'll need to pull together a search party.

But we are not all suited to that kind of all-encompassing casual living. Some of us feel

most comfortable in rooms that are a little more buttoned up. Here is another common scenario. Sure, you want to be able to sit in your great room and watch the news or catch up on the game, but you really want that room to be more multi-purpose and conversation-centered. And yes, you like to entertain, but maybe for your book club or for dinner with a few friends. Here, your fireplace may be your focal point or, if you're lucky enough, your view. Instead of a sectional, perhaps you use two facing sofas with some nice, upholstered chairs. And you anchor in your floor plan with an area rug and some accent lighting.

And speaking of floor plans, this may possibly rock your world, but not much of your furniture in a room this size will be touching the walls. So, it's different than the living room you had in your first apartment. Also, you may have so much space you will need a second zone. But my advice is this: get going with your main zone first and figure the rest out later.

So, for starters, don't even think about the walls or zones. Take the furniture you have and focus on how it relates to itself. When you've gathered it all together, do your guests have a surface nearby to rest their drink? Can everyone reach the snacks? Can the people sitting across from you easily participate in a nearby conversation? Do you have enough flexible seating around (like square ottomans



stored under a sofa table) to cover you for a larger crowd? And how does your furniture all look together?

All that is the important stuff. And when you're done, there might be quite a bit of space left over. But live with it for a week or two. Sometimes, the concept of extra space can take time to get used to. Once you embrace the idea of it, you can fill in the empty areas prudently. It doesn't always pay to rush to get it done.

What are other tips for making that large space feel warm and inviting? Well,

there are tons, of course. You can eat up some of that visual space with paneled walls, wallpaper, textiles, layered window treatments, a signature piece of furniture, large potted plants, paint, and don't forget lighting. Not all those things all at once, of course, but you get the idea. Plus, the internet is always there to help. And quite possibly your great aunt as well. Just look for her between the couch cushions.

Jennifer Coles is a local interior designer. Her website is: colescoloranddesign.com

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New Book Explores Hopes and Challenges for Local News

By Erika Brown

Dan, tell us about the book and how it came to be.

Well, I've spent pretty much my entire career tracking the media industry, first as a journalist and now as a professor at Northeastern University. I also host a weekly podcast exploring the future of news, called "What Works," with Ellen Clegg, who served several significant roles at the *Boston Globe*, including managing the paper's weekly local news sections.

My last two books, which were also about the future of news, were solo projects. But Ellen and I had already decided to work together, and we both knew there would be way too much travel for one person. It was the first time I'd ever worked with a collaborator, and it was wonderful. We shared the workload, and it was great also to have somebody to bounce ideas back and forth. We were able to profile news projects in Minnesota, California, Tennessee, New Haven, Iowa, Texas, and New Jersey as part of this.

A popular study cites that some 2,900 newspapers have closed in the last 20 years. Your research shows that local news is essential to democracy and that without it, meaningful participation in civic life is impossible.

That's right. Significant problems that arise when you don't have a reliable source of local news and information. A big issue is that the rise of "news deserts" has most often affected marginalized communities—often highly rural communities or those of color—and they have been left without the day-to-day journalism they need to govern themselves in a democracy. In the book, we explain why that's important. And then we give an in-depth overview of local and regional news projects in nine regions of the country are profiled in our book.

It's funny, there have been various surveys taken over the years about whether people understand that local news is in crisis. And often they say no. To them, news seems pretty healthy. But what they are usually referring to is local TV news. And they're correct. Local TV news is relatively healthy. But Boston's Channel 25 isn't coming to cover the Manchester Select Board every week. I like local TV news. I think they perform a service, but it's not really local. It's regional.

What are some trends happening with bigger newspapers?

One notable trend has been the rise of newspaper ownership by the wealthy, especially in saving a few legacy newspapers, which I wrote about in my last book, *The Return of the Moguls*. John Henry at the *Boston Globe*, for instance. Jeff Bezos at the *Washington Post* is another. And then Aaron Kushner—who's not quite a billionaire ... just a rich guy—at the *Orange County Register*. Unfortunately, the *Orange County Register* today is part of the Alden Global Capital hedge fund, so it's been pretty much decimated. We'll see how this all goes.

Then there is the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, which went into bankruptcy about 15 years ago and was eventually acquired by a billionaire, Glen Taylor. He is not running the *Star Tribune* as a charity. He's put a lot of investment into reinvigorating the paper and, today, it's profitable and growing, winning Pulitzers. It's a great example showing that large regional papers can be a commercial success.

Your book introduces some bright spots in community news, correct?

There are innovative journalism models we can see across the country to fill news deserts and empower communities. Many are evolving, like the *New Haven Independent*, a wonderful nonprofit local news project that we profile in the current book. I wrote my 2013 book, *The Wired City*, mainly about New Haven. Ellen and I are revisiting New Haven in *What Works in Community News* because the project has changed quite a bit. It now has expanded to include a community radio station that really brings in the voice of the communities of color in New Haven in a way that the *Independent* alone really wasn't doing.

I notice many of the organizations you profile are non-profits.

That's because that structure is working. A great example is the *NJ Spotlight News*, started about 10 or 12 years ago as a website covering state policy and politics. There were a number of those around the country. The best known is the *Texas Tribune*. But what's interesting about *NJ Spotlight News* is that about three or four years ago, they ran into financial trouble and then merged with NJ PBS, the big public television operation. Today, they run a daily half hour newscast on TV that often features reporting by the website. And it features interviews with reporters by the website.



and well, but they struggle. They really struggle. It's a rural area without an awful lot of money to support them. That's a concern.

I've learned that cities without a newspaper have lower bond ratings than comparable cities that do have a newspaper.

That's right. People who are lending money know that there's absolutely no one keeping track of how their money's been spent. So, they demand a premium to account for that. We also know that in cities with no newspaper, fewer people run for political office, and voter turnout declines. We also really believe that it contributes to the terrible political polarization that we're going through these days, because people are very engaged with national news or engaging in national news sources that feed their pre-existing beliefs about national politics and feeding off a steady diet of lies and propaganda.

What about the impact in local life?

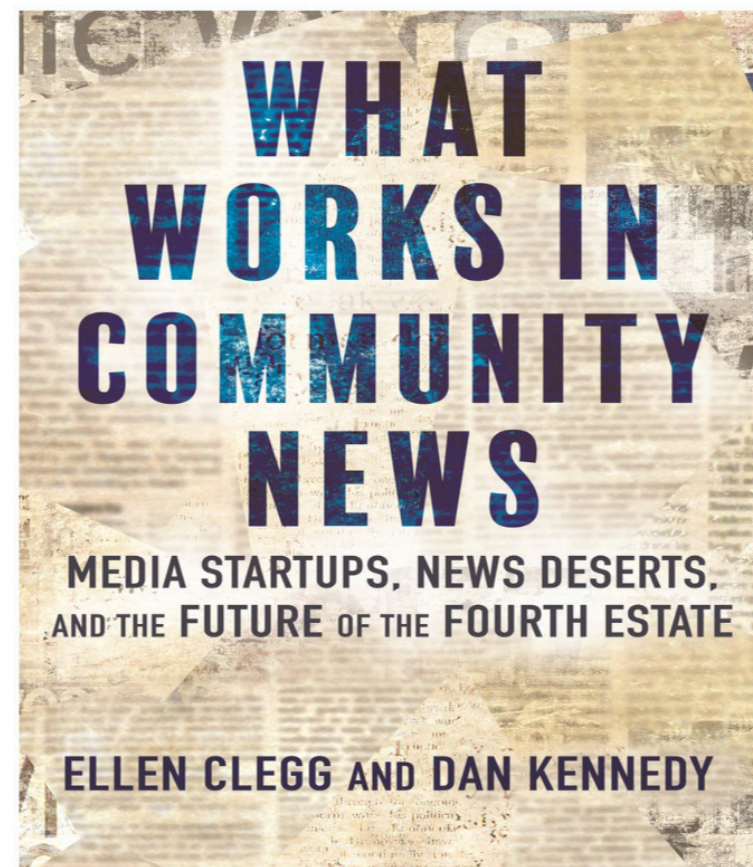
You might see people descend on school committee meetings, and instead of saying, "How come our math scores aren't what they should be?" they're talking about book banning or transgender issues. That's what happens in places where the only information diet they have is national sources interested in lies and polarization. It's really unfortunate.

There was another study that was done a few years ago. It was a complicated study, where they compared a Gannett newspaper — let me see if I can explain this. The study looked at a daily newspaper owned by Gannett that replaced all nationally syndicated content from its OpEd page and replaced it with local and regional opinion for one month. In the study, scholars measured political polarization against another paper that kept the nationally syndicated political content. They found that political polarization measurably declined during that period among readers of the Gannett paper.

You've given us a lot to think about. Thank you, Dan.

Thank you.

"What Works in Community News: Media Startups, News Deserts, and the Future of the Fourth Estate," by Ellen Clegg and Dan Kennedy, is available now for purchase online, or it can be ordered at your local independent book shop.



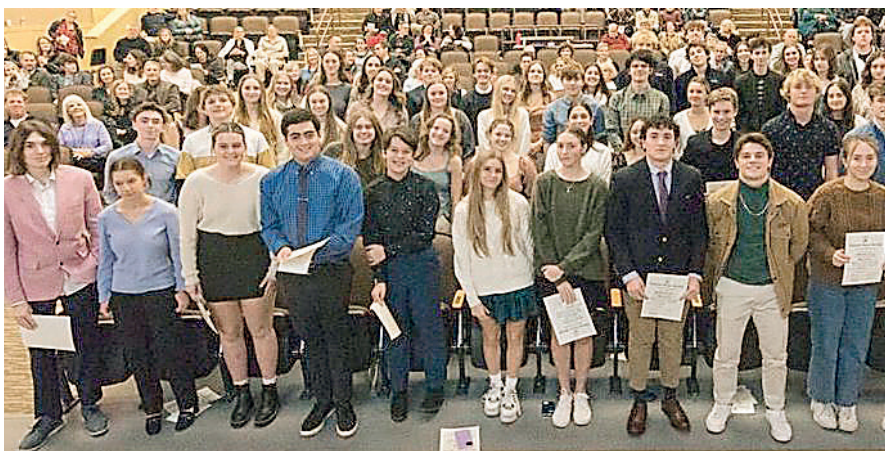
And at the same time, the newscast is broken up into its individual stories. And those all get posted on the website.

What are the areas of optimism and concern for you?

Well, I think that the biggest thing that Ellen and I are concerned about is the unserved markets. The fairly

affluent, well-educated suburban areas will find ways to take care of themselves. I mean, my goodness, Marblehead has three competing startups at this point. But rural markets and communities of color aren't being overlooked. The *Storm Lake Times Pilot* in Iowa, which we write about, is a good example. They're a for-profit, they're alive

...(Continued from page 6)



The chapter officers then inducted new members, who read quotes submitted by various MERHS staff to honor the inductees. Inductees recited the NHS Pledge and were presented with certificates.

MERHS French and Spanish Teacher Erin Fortunato was inducted as the honorary teacher inductee. She was chosen by the society to be recognized by students for her leadership in the classroom and guidance in the student council.

The 2023 MERHS National

Honor Society inductees include:

Annaleigh Akerley, Ella Arntsen, Gwendolyn Berger, Quinn Brady, Nicholas Brown, Brigid Carovillano, Tess Carpenter, Caroline Chrzanowski, Josh Cohen, Madilyn Cook, Sabine Cooper, Cole Cote, Charlotte Crocker, Carson Croft, Jarrett Croft, Jack Cummins, Hannah Davis, Summer Demeo, Charlotte Donnellan-Valade, Isabelle Donnellan-Valade, Fiona Flynn, Cade Furse, Eleanor Hammer, Sam Heanue, Luke Holmes, Marga-

ret Holsomback, Skyler Hough, Benjamin Jacobsen, Olivia Kent, Adrian Kuehnemund, Charlie Langendorf, Maggie Light, Celia Mannal, Libby McKinnon, Alice Moody, Victoria Moulton, Madeline O'Grady, Alessia Omari, Hayden Remington, Samuel Rizzico, Charles Rubens, Atticus Smith, Hayden Spencer, Lily Stefanovich, Henry Stevens, Stella Straub, Brodie Tolo, Whitney Turner, Aisling Twombly, Caroline Willwerth, Timothy Wonson, Emily Woodman, Nina Zalosh and Milo Zeltzer.

MANCHESTER POLICE NOTES



MONDAY, JANUARY 1

10:17 a.m. School St., motor vehicle stop, written warning. 10:18 a.m. Hickory Hill Rd., male with altered mental status, transported to hospital. 9:03 a.m. Burnham Lane, animal complaint, other. 9:16 a.m. Route 128SB, disable motor vehicle, gone on arrival. 2:29 p.m. Wood-

holm Rd., motor vehicle

lockout, assisted as needed.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

4:31 a.m. Loading Place Rd., male sick, transported to hospital. 9:03 a.m. Burnham Lane, animal complaint, other. 9:16 a.m. Route 128SB, disable motor vehicle, gone on arrival. 2:29 p.m. Wood-

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

7:55 a.m. Hickory Hill Rd., fire investigation, assisted as needed. 2:14 p.m. Tappan St., animal complaint, assisted as needed. 8:22 p.m. Cobb Ave., fire alarm,

cleared false alarm. 8:44 p.m. The Plains St., welfare check, assisted as needed.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4

11:28 a.m. Pine St., motor vehicle complaint, no action taken. 2:05 p.m. School St., motor vehicle stop, verbal warning. 5:36 p.m. Boardman Ave., alarm, cleared false alarm. 10:54 p.m. School St., fire alarm, fire false.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5

11:51 a.m. Central St., citizen assist, assisted as needed. 3:37 p.m. Pine St., male with stroke, transported to hospital. 7:27 p.m. Atwater Ave., male trauma with injury, transported to hospital. 10:20 p.m. Summer St., motor vehicle stop, written warning.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

12:57 a.m. Ancient County Way, disturbance, gone on arrival. 4:09 p.m. School St., motor vehicle accident, gone on arrival. 4:14 p.m. Blyman Circle, male fall, patient refusal. 6:36 p.m. Blyman Circle, male bleeding, non-traumatic, transported to hospital.



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Puzzle

THEME: GEOGRAPHY 101

ACROSS

1. Village People's "___ Man"
6. Certain tray content
9. Little bit, in Mexico
13. Ammo in a quiver, sing.
14. Geological Society of America
15. Young eel
16. Song of praise
17. Snowy ___ or great horned ___
18. Must-haves
19. *Strait between Russia and Alaska
21. *Smallest of the Great Lakes
23. Crime scene evidence
24. Peter the Great, e.g.
25. Consumer-protecting org.
28. Skiing helmet manufacturer
30. Mother-of-pearl, pl.
35. Type of sail, pl.
37. #29 Down anagram
39. Like Raphael's cherubs
40. Face shape
41. Tie with a morning coat
43. Dwarf buffalo
44. Short version
46. "At __, soldier"
47. Supposed giant Himalayan
48. Drool
50. Swimming hole
52. D.C. V.I.P.
53. Jim Acosta's announcement
55. *Baltic ___
57. *O] latitude
61. *Bay east of India
64. Cuban dance
65. John Keats' "To Autumn," e.g.
67. Fortune teller's card
69. Jeered
70. China's drinkable export
71. Bird-related
72. Dick and Jane's dog
73. "Slippery" tree
74. Lean, past tense

CROSSWORD														
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72						73				74				

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DOWN

1. *Atlas page
2. Speedy steed
3. First Nation nation
4. Squirrel away
5. Possessing
6. Full of excitement
7. *Opposite of NNE
8. Saintry rings
9. Guilty, e.g.
10. Last word on walkie-talkie
11. Ghana money
12. Guesstimate phrase (2 words)
15. Catch in a snare
20. Nigerian money
22. A Bobbsey twin
24. Steel on boots, pl.
25. *Inlet in Norway
26. Abalone seeker
27. Olden day calculators

Sudoku

SUDOKU

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SPECIAL OFFER

SAFE STEP WALK-IN TUB 1-855-576-5653

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 008299 0083445

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

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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

29. *Compass ___
31. TV personality Aiken
32. Ancient Scandinavian characters
33. What actors do
34. *Iberian Peninsula country
36. Serb or Croat
38. Comme ci, comme ça
42. Past or present
45. Group of five
49. Actor DiCaprio
51. Like floss
54. "That's all she ___"
56. Tequila source
57. Work units
58. Wisecrack
59. Rounded protuberance
60. Aid in crime
61. Show pleasure
62. Cantatrice's offering
63. Student aid
66. *Tierra ___ Fuego
68. Big bang maker, acr.

Religious Notes

Cornerstone Church

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

Visitation Parish - Mass Schedule

The Visitation Parish Mass Schedule:

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

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

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

The Assumption of the Virgin

Mary Greek Orthodox Church

8 Lafayette Road, Ipswich Mass. Church services, with Father Christopher Kolentas, are held each Sunday. Sunday's Divine Liturgy, with Father Christopher, starts at 9:30 a.m. followed by a weekly sermon. All are welcome to attend.

First Parish Church

FirstParishChurchManchesterMa. Jan. 14, 2024, 10 a.m., Worship Leader, Rev. Katherine Schofield Music led by Dr. Herman Weiss, with the First Parish Choir.

We invite everyone to join us for hospitality following the service. Monday Office closed Wednesday Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Thursday VNA Health Clinic 10 a.m. - 12 Noon, open to all, free Thursday Seaside Parish Knitters 1-3 p.m., all knitters welcome to drop in Thursday Bible Study, Via Zoom 4 p.m. join in with computer, smart device or dial in on a phone - email office.fpchurch@gmail.com or call 978-526-7661 for the link

St. John's Church Worship:

Every Sunday we hold services at 8 and 10 a.m. Child care is available during the 10 a.m. service. This Sunday we will have a guest speaker discussing Electric Transportation following the 10 a.m. service.

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.

...(Continued on page 11)



CHURCHILL PROPERTIES

266 Cabot St, Unit 7, Beverly | 169 Bay Rd, Hamilton | 49 Union St, Manchester
230 North St, Unit 2, Danvers | 127 Eastern Ave, Gloucester | 1 Merrimac St, Suite 6, Newburyport



Amesbury
Well maintained condo includes a kitchen, dining, living, primary bedroom, bath and bonus room. Laundry and additional storage.
\$255,000 | Robin Moore | 508-954-8689



Groveland
Sprawling move in ready Groveland Ranch perfectly situated on a corner lot with partially fenced in yard and a screened in Gazebo.
\$629,900 | Joanne Kimball | 978-807-8488



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



Boxford
Multi-level living on 2 acres with lots of potential in this 7 Room, 3 Bedroom, 1 Bath, home. Lots of space in the back yard.
\$550,000 | Virginia Havey | 978-852-2082



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



Manchester
Towering over Manchester Harbor, "HARBORHEAD" stunning town and water views. New Construction with classic design.
\$12,650,000 | Karen Bernier | 978-807-5580



Saugus
New Year, New Home!! This adorable home features an abundance of character and charm, along with its convenient location.
\$625,000 | Lisa Sullivan | 978-979-1779



Exeter, NH
A luxurious 55+ community on over 11 wooded acres, exceptionally manicured to evoke peace and serenity. Just 10 miles from Hampton Beach.
\$600,000 | Heidi Roy | 978-270-7336



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



Salisbury
No HOA fees. Title V approved for 3 bedrooms. Prime location and easy access to public beach and major highways to all directions.
\$299,999 | Judith Muss'ells | 978-618-8301



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



West Newbury - Land
Opportunity to build your dream home and create a lifetime of memories in picturesque West Newbury! Beautiful tree-lined land.
\$350,000 | Maritza MacLeod | 860-287-6419

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This tool will instantly give you the value range and estimated value of your home. Try it today!



Churchill Properties is pleased to welcome Gretchen Stone to our Newburyport office. If you are considering renting, buying or selling a home, contact Gretchen today at **603-608-8910** or **Gretchen.Stone@ChurchillProp.com**



Call 833-MOVING-9 | Visit www.ChurchillProp.com



CBD Use in Dogs and Cats



By Lawrence Lamb, DVM

Studies have shown that pain associated with osteoarthritis in dogs may be better controlled if CBD is added to drugs such as nonsteroidal anti-inflammatories. The important word is maybe. So far, at the Manchester Animal Hospital my experience is limited in the use of CBD for osteoarthritis. I am still withholding a firm conviction that it is any better than the combination of medications I use to treat osteoarthritis. CBD appears to help other drugs control pain in humans, especially if it is chronic.

Animals must receive CBD orally. It is commonly given to pets as a treat, in oil, or as a capsule supplement. In the last decade, many supplements containing CBD have been marketed for use to treat a wide variety of diseases in animals. While CBD may prove to help treat some of these diseases, using these supplements to treat a pet can be a problem for several reasons.

It is important to understand that supplements are not like drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Approved drugs have undergone a rigorous assessment to ensure that the drug is safe and effective for the disease being treated. The label guarantees the product contains the correct medication in listed amounts, strength, and quality. Any additional ingredients are clearly listed.

Cannabidiol, or CBD, is a commonly recognized cannabinoid produced by Cannabis sativa (THC), however, unlike THC, CBD is not psychoactive. The United States Congress passed a law allowing industrial hemp to be grown. Hemp is a strain of Cannabis sativa that still has CBD but has very little THC. Cannabidiol derived from hemp is not a controlled substance.

Plants make many different chemicals called phytochemicals, many of which have positive medical benefits. Cannabis sativa, commonly known as THC and marijuana, produces over 500 other phytochemicals. The most

recognized is tetrahydrocannabinol, also known as THC. Drugs that affect the mind are called psychoactive, and THC is one of these. This is one reason marijuana is used recreationally by humans. It is also why marijuana is a Schedule I controlled substance in the United States and many other countries. THC is not the only phytochemical made by the marijuana plant. Of the over 500 phytochemicals that can be made, at least 100 are other phytocannabinoids.

Cannabis is a Schedule I substance in the US, which means it has a high chance of abuse (due to the THC, which is the psychoactive substance in marijuana) and has no currently accepted medical use. Nevertheless, research is showing that THC may help many diseases. In Manchester Marijuana is legal and is used recreationally and prescribed medically. It is not within the federal law permitting its passage to states where it is still not legal.

Some synthetic versions of THC for humans are approved as drugs and are federally legal, but none are currently approved for pets. However, CBD is approved in humans as a drug, and is available in pharmacies and from veterinarians without a prescription.

One of the many systems working to keep the body healthy is the endocannabinoid system in the brain. This system is made of naturally produced chemical compounds produced by neurons which are cells that make up nerves that are then sent on to direct many other cells. The endocannabinoid system includes receptors located on different body cells, especially the nervous system. Phytocannabinoids may work at receptors like endocannabinoids.

Scientists are increasingly finding more diseases can be treated by targeting the endocannabinoid system. The endocannabinoid system includes receptors located on different body cells, especially the nervous system. Phytocannabinoids may work at receptors like endocannabinoids. A common endocannabinoid, anandamide

(AEA), is called the "bliss" endocannabinoid because it helps relieve stress.

THC interacts with cannabinoid receptors like AEA does, causing the same positive psychoactive effects in most people. CBD also interacts with the endocannabinoid system, but not at the same sites that THC works, which is why it does not affect the brain the same way THC does. Both THC and CBD can potentially interact with other receptors in the body. Because CBD may have many of the medical benefits of marijuana but does not have psychoactive effects, CBD is emerging as the cannabinoid most used medicinally in animals.

Because cannabinoids are mainly present in the brain, diseases involving the nervous system have been the focus of study for positive benefits. Some studies in humans have not found a clinical effect of CBD, but that does not mean that CBD does not work. Another potential indication for CBD is epilepsy, or seizures, that have not responded sufficiently to other antiseizure medications.

The use of CBD in treating diseases involving the nervous system, such as anxiety and pruritis (itchy skin), needs further research but may be promising. Studies involving cancer are also underway. CBD for treating various cat diseases has not

yet been studied.

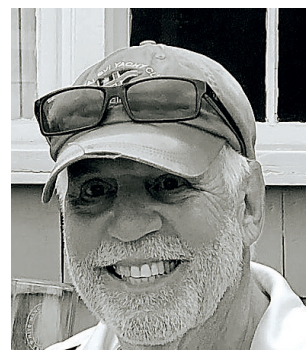
Supplements, including those containing CBD, are not held to the FDA standard. There is no guarantee that what is listed on the label is correct. CBD products can be inconsistently labeled. Hemp oil is not the same as hemp extract, and the amount of CBD in the product can vary. Labels can list the amount of CBD in ounces, by ml, in the total container, per dose, or per serving. This can make it difficult to ensure you give your pet the correct amount of CBD needed.

Another issue with CBD supplements is that they may contain other compounds added by the manufacturer. The compound might be a drug or, worse, a synthetic cannabinoid. Added synthetic cannabinoids are also Schedule I products and are illegal but hard to identify. This includes metabolites of THC. They are much more likely to be toxic compared to phytocannabinoids. Yet another concern is how the CBD is "delivered" to your pet. Some manufacturers are trying to increase CBD absorption by changing what it is in. However, CBD may be absorbed differently if mixed in hemp oil, sesame seed oil, or other fats or added to a cookie or biscuit. A final consideration is to be aware of the cost of CBD in these supplements, which can vary greatly. Higher cost does not equate to a better product.

CBD appears very safe in dogs and is not likely to cause behavior changes. Studies have shown that CBD in oil, even at very high doses, does not cause any more side effects than oil alone in dogs or cats. However, longer-term studies need to be done because there is some suggestion that the liver might be affected. This may be more likely if CBD is combined with other drugs.

Another safety consideration is whether CBD might change how other drugs work in the body. Some drugs inhibit the metabolism (or processing) of other medications, making it possible for other medications to become toxic. In most cases, studies show that the effects of CBD are seen around two weeks after beginning treatment at the dose recommended by your veterinarian. However, the body often develops a tolerance for drugs used in treating the nervous system. If tolerance develops, a higher dose may be necessary to control the clinical signs.

You must discuss with your veterinarian any other drug or supplement your pet may be receiving and make sure you know the potential benefits, dosing suggestions, and any cautions to look for when giving CBD to your pet.



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

Solution to puzzles on page 10

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

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

PET OF THE WEEK



JOVIAL JOVIE

Jovie is a 3-year-old spayed terrier-pit bull mix who loves to play and run. She is as sweet as they get and will run right up to you for some attention. Jovie will ask you to throw her toy so she can go chase it and repeat the cycle. She is pretty laid back and not a huge barker. Jovie would love a home with a nice yard

to run around and play with toys and a cozy doggy bed to call her own. If you think Jovie would be a good addition to your family, visit www.capeannanimalaid.org for more information about her and all the other animals waiting for homes at the Christopher Cutler Rich Animal Shelter, 4 Paws Lane in Gloucester.

...(Continued from page 10)

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 together quietly, awaiting the experience of God's presence.

People in our community hail from the traditional tribal lands of the Pawtucket and Massachusetts now called Manchester, Gloucester, Beverly, Ipswich, Rockport, Salem, Lynn and Marblehead. Whether you

have worshiped in other Quaker (Friends) Meetings or not, we welcome you to join us. 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.

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 25, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. to review the following proposed regulations:

- Regulations for Private Wells, revised

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 Board of Health 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>

January 5, 2024 MC
January 12, 2024 MC

LEGAL

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Essex Division

INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE
Docket No. ES23P3760EA

Estate of Alice C. Strangman
Date of Death: 6/17/2023

To all persons interested in the above-captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Annette B. Gauthier of Gloucester, MA. A Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Annette B. Gauthier of Gloucester, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the

Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

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

January 12, 2024 MC



The North Shore's Premier Real Estate Agency



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



Beverly \$3,998,000
Secluded 3.7-acre haven near private beach. Renovated 1929 Colonial has 5 bedrooms, 6.5 baths, in-law suite, heated pool, tennis court. Enjoy comfortable daily living, effortless entertaining.
Fabyan & Filias Team



Gloucester \$2,600,000
Development opportunity. 20-acre lot abuts Ravenswood Park, near beach. Has potential as private estate or single-family-condo-40B development. Has existing dwelling, drive, pristine wooded lot.
Kate Richard



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!**



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



Danvers \$799,900
Newly decorated gem in St. John's Prep area! Refinished hardwood in all bedrooms, living-dining-family room and granite kitchen. Finished lower level, upgraded heating system. Fenced yard.
Ted Richard



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



Peabody \$545,000
Bright 2-bedroom, 1.5-bath end unit condo at Essex Green at Peabody with hardwood floors, fireplaced living room, eat-in kitchen, dining room, in-unit laundry, deck, basement. 2-car parking.
Christine Grammas

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

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MANCHESTER-BY-THE-SEA**



**8 Harold Street
Manchester | \$975,000**
A contemporary three-level home nestled in a serene natural setting. This exceptional home offers not only abundant space, but also a seamless indoor-outdoor living experience and breathtaking views.
**Brian Rothe | Realtor
978-968-6272**



**2 Raymond Street
Manchester | \$850,000**
Sweet coastal home with seasonal peaks of ocean. 3 bedroom, 2 bath large living and family rooms with fireplaces overlooking pond. Large deck with terrace, two car garage.
**Lynda Surdam | Realtor
978-764-7474**



**6 Lattof Farm Circle
Rockport | \$1,495,000**
Impeccable Colonial on private cul-de-sac in Rockport. 4-5 beds/3.5 baths. Impressive great room, great fenced yard and 2 car garage.
**Scott Smith | Realtor
617-750-2793**



**1 Beacon Hill
Gloucester | \$1,550,000**
Impressive ocean views from this Nantucket shingle saltbox in East Gloucester, set on 4.49 acres. 3DB, 2BD main house, carriage house.
**Scott Smith | Realtor
617-750-2793**



WHAT'S YOUR HOME WORTH?



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