

Nomination Papers Available Now!

Local board positions are open in Manchester and Essex and nomination papers are now available for May elections at Town Clerk offices. Your community needs you!



MANCHESTER CRICKET

A Local Tradition Since 1888

VOL. 136, NO. 36

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 2024

PRICE: \$1.25

BRIEFLY

New Mattress Recycling Program for Manchester

Surely local residents will welcome this piece of news. The Manchester Dept. of Public Works has launched a curbside pick-up service for mattress disposal. The DPW has partnered with a company for recycling mattresses. The service comes at a \$55 cost to schedule a pickup. Learn more about the program at the town website (To learn more about this new program please visit manchester.ma.us/223/Public-Works to learn more.

Cape Ann Symphony Orchestra's Annual Meeting

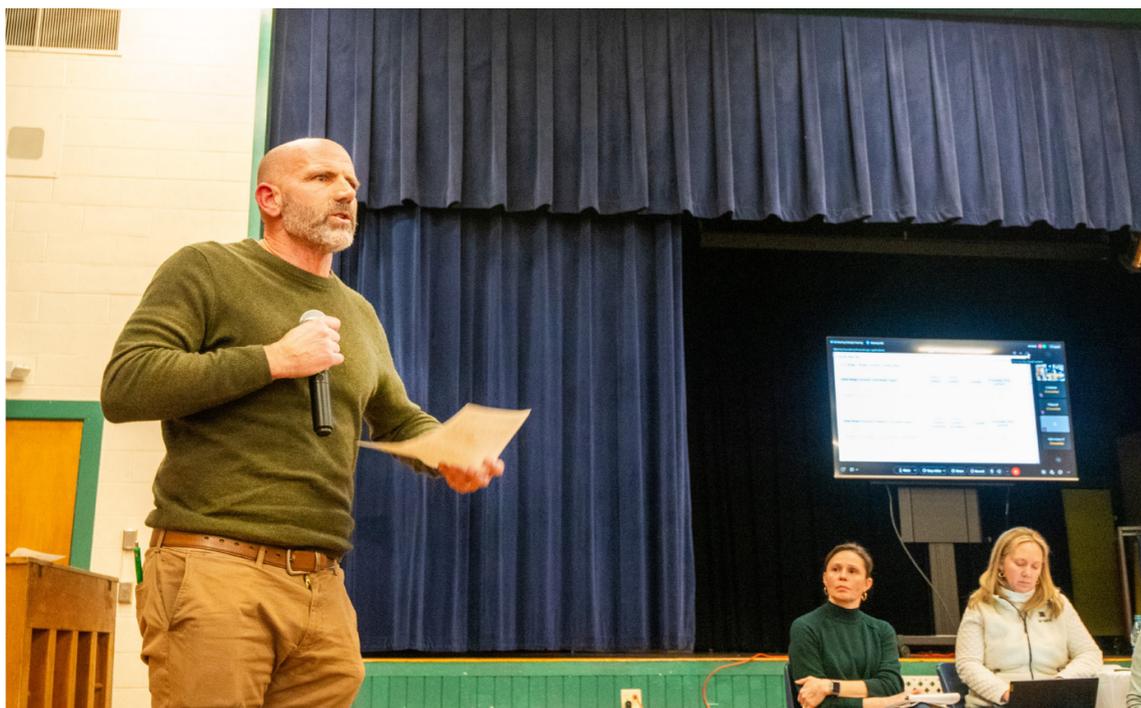
The annual meeting of the Cape Ann Symphony Orchestra, Inc. will be held on Wednesday, January 31 at 7 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is to hear reports of the past year's activity by the music director, president, treasurer, manager and board officers. The meeting is also convened to elect directors and officers for this next year. All regular patrons of the Cape Ann Symphony are welcome to attend. The meeting will be held at Minglewood restaurant in Gloucester.

Reading at St. John's Episcopal Church

World renowned poet Michael O'Siahail will be reading excerpts from his new book *Desire* at St. John's Episcopal Church in Beverly Farms on Sunday, February 4th at 4 p.m. The public is warmly invited. Another item over at the church is an award winning chamber music group presenting the works of German composer Clara Schumann. That's on Feb. 18. More info on **Page 9**.

Annual Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship This Sunday

In Manchester, the Masconomo Council 1232 Knights of Columbus will be hosting its annual "Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship" this coming Sunday, January 21. The competition will be held in the gym at Manchester Memorial Elementary School, as it is every year, and it's open to all resident boys and girls in Manchester and Essex (and any other students of the ME Regional School District who are 9 to 14 years old as of the first of this year). Preregistration begins at 11 a.m. sharp. The Free Throw Contest will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. There is no fee to participate. Info at davidwslade99@gmail.com.



Essex resident and ME Regional High School teacher Rob Billsbury spoke as a parent of students in the district at Tuesday's public hearing in Essex. He pled for support of the proposed FY25 MERSD budget, saying Manchester and Essex must "act as one community" to support strong education.

(Photo: Erika Brown)

District FY25 Proposed Budget Hearing: Different Visions of the Future

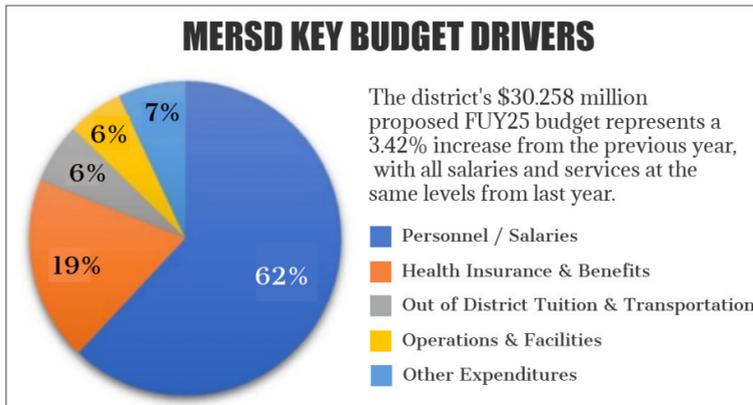
By Erika Brown

More than 100 individuals gathered on Tuesday for a school committee public hearing at Essex Elementary School and online to discuss the ME Regional School District's proposed FY25 budget that faces significant challenges before finalization this spring, sparking debates on apportionment formulas, reserve funds, cost-cutting, and scholastic performance.

Despite the heated discussions among Finance Committees, Select Boards, teachers, students, and residents, the evening remained relatively subdued. Comments echoed familiar refrains, with some advocating for maintaining service levels and others opposing budget increases, citing concerns about the affordability of school district funding.

Ann Harrison, Manchester's Select Board chair and former ME Regional School Committee member, said that in 20 years since regionalization, she has never seen the working relationship between Essex and Manchester deteriorate to this extent.

The towns' fundamental relationship posture is now more challenging than ever. Essex officials, while not echoing Harrison's message, nevertheless emphasized their position that the district's FY25 budget should not exceed a 2.5% increase from the previous year. Essex FinCom member Jody Harris said Essex has only \$365K to avoid a Proposition 2½ override this year, with no excess capacity to fall



The district's \$30.258 million proposed FY25 budget represents a 3.42% increase from the previous year, with all salaries and services at the same levels from last year.

back on. Essex BOS Chair Ruth Perea agreed, saying at the hearing that her board affirmed this stance, highlighting the town's financial constraints and limited capacity for an override.

The recommended FY25 district budget stands at \$30.258 million, representing a 3.42% increase from the previous year. This "level services" budget maintains staffing and service levels from FY24. Personnel costs constitute the largest portion at \$18.861 million, reflecting a 3.41% rise, while operating expenses have increased by 4.21% (\$480K) from FY24. Anticipated School Choice revenue of \$500K aims to offset operating expenses by accepting 20 more out-of-district students in the 2024-2025 school year.

The crux of the debate lies in apportionment, determining each town's share of the budget. The tentative budget proposes a 3.45% (\$878K) increase in assessments for Manchester and Essex, leading to a 5.31% (\$501K) increase for Essex and a 2.35% (\$377K)

increase for Manchester. The funding disparity results from Essex's stable population and Manchester's 3% decline in student numbers.

In addition to the recommended budget, two alternative scenarios were presented: a lower 2.5% increase with program cuts and a higher 4% increase with program enhancements. Advocates for the recommended budget argue that it aligns with similar-sized districts in the state, emphasizing the need for a financial reset.

Healthcare insurance premiums for district employees and retirees present an "X factor" in the budget proposal. Conservatively estimated at a 14.5% increase, a lower rate in March could positively impact the budget. The Essex FinCom hopes for a significant drop in insurance premiums to avoid a Proposition 2½ override this year, acknowledging the challenge of facing similar situations in the following years.

Residents and School

Committee members express divergent opinions, with some supporting increased investment in the district and others advocating for budget constraints. Concerns arise about program cuts, with community members like Rob Billsbury (an Essex resident, parent and ME high school teacher) and students like Wyeth Takayesu, Jack Cummins, and August Capatasto sharing personal experiences of the impact of previous cuts on education

programs. Essex, having failed to pass a Proposition 2½ override last year, insists on a 2.5% budget increase to avoid further financial strain. Manchester, on the other hand, supports at least a higher "level services" budget.

The debate extends to the broader community, with residents like Katie Vandt emphasizing the financial challenges faced by families and urging creative solutions like leveraging volunteers or clubs to fill the gap in programs. Offering some levity in the evening, Vandt said she appreciated the challenge facing the school committee.

"I'd still rather pick weeds on a July day than try to solve the problems facing you all," Vandt said.

Lindsay Torres Banks, a parent in Manchester, argues that more voters across both towns supported the higher "investment" district budget.

"We cannot run the district on volunteers and clubs," Banks said.

...(Continued on page 8)

Weekly Weather Chart

Saturday 27 Jan		39°	34°
Sunday 28 Jan		38°	34°
Monday 29 Jan		38°	20°
Tuesday 30 Jan		32°	19°
Wednesday 31 Jan		32°	27°
Thursday 1 Feb		34°	28°
Friday 2 Feb		38°	31°

Weather data pulled Wednesday and is subject to change.



Gavel to Gavel
This Week's Town Meetings

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

Essex ConCom
Tuesday, January 30
7:15 p.m.

Essex ZBA Zoning
Wednesday, January 31
5 p.m.

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ME Hornet, Kacy O'Connell, drives to the basket through Triton defenders during Tuesday nights' home game. The Hornets starting slow against a fast, good passing team, had a great second half and defeated the Vikings 41-32 to stand at 9-3-0 for the season. They next meet Hamilton Wenham on the 26th. Go Hornets.

Photo Paul Clark

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).

Christopher Dutzman



Christopher Dutzman, 67, of Manchester, passed away on Sunday, January 14 at Brigham and Women's Hospital.

Born in Colville, WA, he was the beloved son of Rudolph and Joan (Dietrich) Dutzman.

Raised and educated in Pennsylvania, Chris graduated from Conestoga High School, class of 1974. In his senior year, Chris was a Pennsylvania state high school champion in one of competitive track's most challenging events, the two-mile relay. The relay team was among the top in the nation. He was also a mainstay for the team's high hurdles event. He furthered his education at Pennsylvania State University, where he obtained his bachelor's degree in finance.

Soon after graduation, Chris began his career with financial positions at General Electric, the US Federal Reserve, and The Boston Company. He subsequently was named partner at Capital Markets Outlook Group, an investment advisory firm serving clients in the US and Europe, where he remained for decades until retirement.

Chris was a lifelong runner and a familiar face at Singing Beach in Manchester, his home for more than 40 years. He especially enjoyed catching the late afternoon sun's rays there, enjoying walks up and down the beach, playing pick-up beach soccer, or riding boogie boards in the waves.

Chris was a prolific musician, mastering the clarinet, saxophone, guitar, and piano. His favorite musician was Pat Metheny. Chris loved to make music playlists and be the "DJ." He often attended the MERSD High School Band and Jazz Band concerts.

Chris loved sci-fi books, non-fiction books about the world's greatest adventures, and books about ancient symbolism. One of his favorite books was "Endurance," a book about the Antarctic explorer Ernest Shackleton.

He loved to make brunch and special meals for his friends (French toast and bacon, spaghetti Bolognese, and homemade french fries were some of his favorites). Chris was silly, witty, and uniquely capable of coming up with different jokes to make people laugh.

Chris' life was enriched by the many decades-long friendships and ties that spanned generations. He considered these deep friendships to be family. He was so supportive and believed in everyone he loved. He was extremely generous and selfless, often putting others before himself and taking great enjoyment in helping others. That generosity and kindness was most evident when it came to his relationships with his nieces and nephews, whether by blood or chosen.

Chris is survived by his mother, Joan Dutzman; brother Matt Dutzman; and sister Susan Crackel; as well as his four nieces and nephews, Meg, Tom, Laura and Nicole, who loved him very much.

A celebration of life will be held in Manchester at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Doctors Without Borders.

Norma Kelley

Norma Kelley, widow of E. Ray Kelley of Manchester, MA, went home to be with the Lord surrounded by her loving family on January 20 following a brief decline in health.

Norma was born in Port-



land, Maine, on November 13, 1925, and moved to Manchester in 1951, where she and her husband raised their three daughters. She was a member of Cornerstone Church (formerly First Baptist of Manchester), where she sang in the choir for many years and was involved in numerous community activities over her 98 years, including her role as a founding member of the Seaside Garden Club and volunteering at Addison Gilbert Hospital Coffee Shop and the Northshore Children's Hospital's Thrift Shop in Salem. She was an avid reader, which led to her eventual employment as a library assistant at the Manchester Public Library for over 30 years. She belonged to two book clubs, one in Manchester and the other in Palm City, FL, where she spent 18 winters and made many loving friends. Norma was also a member of the Manchester and Palm Cove Women's Clubs. She enjoyed traveling extensively with her husband and friends to all parts of the globe.

Norma considered her greatest accomplishment the raising of her three daughters to know and love the Lord.

She was predeceased by her husband, Ray; her brother, Robert Thing; her sister, Lillian Casta; and many, many dear friends.

She is survived by her daughters, Eileen Buckley and husband, Jack, of Manchester; Elizabeth Kelley Coughlin of Sandwich and Diane Heggerick and husband, Bob, of Palm City, FL. She is also survived by her grandchildren, whom she adored, David Buckley and his wife, Jeana, Ian Buckley and his wife, Jaimee, Jacqueline Coughlin, and Shelby Heggerick. She cherished her great-grandchildren, Gabriella, Aidan, Giana, Rachel, and Stella, and was joyfully anticipating the birth of her second great-grandson.

A memorial service will be held at the Cornerstone Church, 20 School Street, Manchester, on Saturday, January 27, at 1pm, followed by a reception at the Manchester Legion.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to the Manchester-by-the-Sea Public Library, 15 Union Street, Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA 01944 or Shriners Hospital for Children, Development Office, 51 Blossom Street, Boston, MA 02114.

Augusta Crocker Stewart



Augusta Crocker Stewart, 88, passed away on January 4, of heart failure. She died peacefully with her "Luv Luv," husband Richard Stewart, and close family caring for her in her North Hill home.

Gussie, as she was fondly known, was born on December 12, 1935, in Boston to Eleanor Batchelder Crocker and U. Haskell Crocker. After graduation from Colby Sawyer College, she went on to pursue her lifelong artistic passion at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and the De Cordova Museum School in Lincoln. She honed her skills while studying for five years with Master Painter Zygmund Jankowski in Gloucester. A member of multiple fine arts societies

throughout New England, she sold her award-winning paintings through Newbury Street and other notable galleries.

Gussie always tried to paint from her soul, believing, "Creative people are basically spiritual people. We all make things with our hands, hearts, minds, and souls at some time in our lives." She loved capturing how the light illuminates bright colors in flowers and landscapes.

Gussie spent her early years in Milton and moved to Manchester-by-the-Sea in 1950 where her mother and father developed two lovely seaside homes for the family. Gussie and the extended Crocker family have enjoyed this property for the many years since. She was most happy sitting on the beach, telling stories, swimming, playing with children, tending to the property, and storytelling. Her infectious laugh was unmistakable.

Gussie contributed much time and energy to the Nomanet Garden Club. During her many years as a member, she nurtured her love of flowers and developed lifelong friendships. Gussie was an active supporter of The Girl Scouts of America, from her days as a scout continuing on for the rest of her life.

She and her husband are devout Christians. During the 48 years of their marriage, church worship was a very important factor in improving the strength of their faith. Upon learning of her condition, she said, "I am not afraid because I have a reservation for Heaven!"

She was the Matriarch of the family, an excellent friend, a loving Mother, a gardener, and a master of the handwritten note. Gussie and her Husband Stewy enjoyed traveling to the Caribbean Islands where together they hiked trails and she painted on the sandy beaches. Hers was a life well lived.

Gussie is survived by her daughter Edith C. Beacham, her son Harold R. Beacham, Jr. and wife Heather Unruh, and grandsons Bradford L. Beacham and George S. Beacham. Close to her heart were her sister, Eleanor C. McKey (deceased) and husband John, her brothers Edgar Crocker and wife Joan (deceased), Robert G. Crocker and wife Ruthie. In addition, Gussie is survived by multiple generations of beloved nieces and nephews.

The home at North Hill is a special place with great staff, fine associations and faithful fellowship. Gussie and Dick were especially thankful for the loving care provided by their fine group of nurses.

Graveside services will be held at a later date.

Carmel Zampell



Carmel Zampell born August 10, 1924 died on Thursday, January 18, 2024 at home. Born in Beverly Farms, she is the daughter of the late Paul and Angelina (Delia) Zampell. Carmel was a lifelong Beverly Farms resident and was a graduate of Beverly High School. She attended nursing school at Beverly Hospital and worked as a private duty nurse for a short time. She spent the majority of her working ca-

reer at Mass Electric Company in Lynn, as a Credit Clerk, where she met and maintained many friends throughout the rest of her life. Carmel was an active member of St. Margaret's Parish. She was an avid baker. She'll always be remembered for sharing trays of cookies and cakes for every occasion and holidays with friends and family. Carmel is survived by her brother Paul Zampell of Naples FL, along with many nieces and nephews and great nieces and great nephews. She is predeceased by her siblings: Mary (Zampell) Martel, Ernest Zampell, Angelina (Zampell) Fiore, Lena Zampell, Louis Zampell, Thomas Zampell, James Zampell, Rose Zampell and Virginia (Zampell) Petrosino.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, January 25 at 10 a.m. at St. Margaret's Parish, 672 Hale Street, Beverly. Relatives and friends are invited to attend. Burial will be at Beverly Farms Cemetery. Contributions may be made in Carmel's Memory to Beth Israel Lahey Health at Home, Gift Processing Center, 41 Mall Road, Burlington, Ma 01805.

David S. Bither



David S. Bither, 67, died January 13 in Kennebunk, Maine within reach of his beloved wife of 17 years, Lisa Juel Bither. David was diagnosed with cancer in February 2023 and underwent the heroic fight with a truly remarkable healthcare team at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) Cancer Center and in particular Zofia Piotrowska, MD, MHS and Sara Stevens, CNP.

Lisa and David loved to travel and were lucky to travel to many interesting places. Their curiosity for different cultures, architecture and food spurred their travel. David experienced life to the fullest including a magical trip to London in mid-December 2023. It was a life well lived!

David was an exceptionally intelligent, extremely curious and committed individual. David worked for 15 years rising to the position of VP of Engineering for the communications company, Vanu, Inc. David's leadership was hallmarked by his pragmatic, principled, and humorous (sometimes a little snarky) approach to complex technical and legislative problems while laser focused on completing his goals. His work and personal life can be best encapsulated by his frequent saying (often to his daughter Sarah), "I'll change my mind when the facts change".

David's intellect was obvious in his early years. David graduated from Northfield Mount Hermon (NMH) preparatory school where he excelled in academics and school pranks. David graduated from Clarkson University as a Presidential Scholar with a degree in Electrical Engineering.

...(Continued on page 3)

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CLASSIFIEDS

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

FOR SALE

1-WK 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," two separate units on main floor that can be used as one. Private hallway connects units. One with full bath and Q-bed. 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 for details or to make an offer: (978) 526-7036. TF

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MANCHESTER APARTMENT—One bedroom apartment, good size kitchen, living room, den, laundry in the building, off street parking for one car. Located in downtown area. \$2,000/month, heat included. Tenant at will, please call 978-526-7226. 2/4

MBTS VILLAGE—Upstairs at 38 Union St features renovated 1

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High Waters a Warning



Flooding this month engulfed Masconomo Park in Manchester.

Courtesy photot

By Gregory T. Federspiel,
Manchester Town
Administrator

The storms that hit on January 10 and 13 brought rising seas into many built-up areas of Town, as illustrated by the pictures in last week's edition of the Cricket. High tides combined with strong winds from the south pushed water up and over coastal banks, flooding parks, roads, and parking lots as well as many basements. It was easy to see where the Town is vulnerable to storm surge and the challenges we will face when truly big storms hit.

A few highlights of inundated areas include Raymond Street and Butler Avenue as the waves rolled right over the seawall at Magnolia (Grey) Beach. Ocean Street sustained significant damage as water washed over the barrier beaches it sits on.

Masconomo and Reed Parks were underwater, with water spilling over onto Beach Street, which had to be closed to traffic during the peak of high tide. The parking lot behind Town Hall was completely flooded with water lapping at the sandbags that were placed at the lower doors to Town Hall and the Police Department's garage door.

Central Pond overtopped its banks, flooding the lower level of the Fire Station. The Rotunda at Tuck's Point came close to being washed away, but it survived with damage to the railings and the ramp leading to it.

If we needed a reminder about our vulnerabilities,

these two storms certainly provided it!

The flooded areas matched those that the modeling done for the Town had predicted. The recently completed Vulnerability Action Plan for the village area prioritizes steps we should take to protect Town Hall, the wastewater plant, and the area around Reed and Masconomo Parks. We have received additional grant funding to begin implementing the recommendations contained in this plan, including installing mechanisms on storm drains that prevent ocean water coming up the wrong way. Soon we will engage the community in a discussion of ways to redesign Masconomo Park that allows it to still function as a park while better handling high water. Water-proofing the sewer plant and Town Hall are also priorities.

Other efforts have included updating and expanding on a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. Chief Fitzgerald, who has burnished his emergency management credentials with recent course work through FEMA and NOAA, has led this effort and will continue to work with our regional partners to ensure we are as prepared as possible for significant events. The Town has recently joined a regional consortium that can provide additional resources should we need them in an emergency.

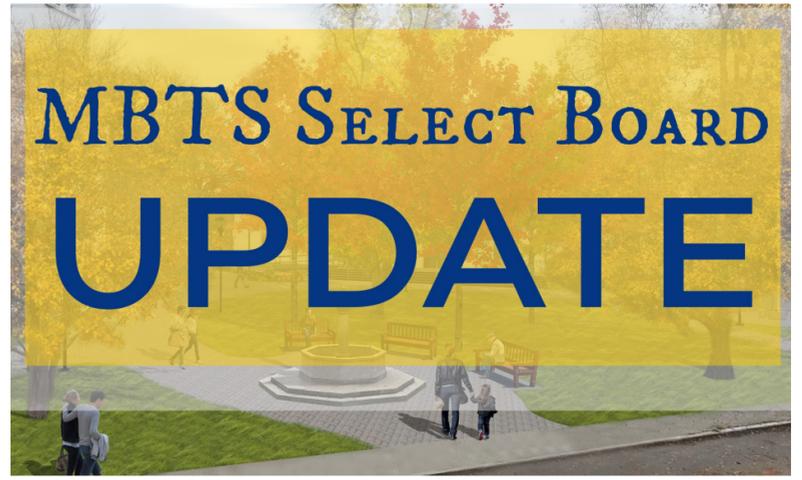
The recently completed Facilities Master Plan recommends we start down the path of replacing various facilities, including a new home for our public safety

operations outside of flood zones.

We are also about to undertake an update to the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan. This plan addresses a range of possible emergency events, from blizzards and hurricanes to wildfires and droughts, as well as other hazards that can threaten public safety.

Regional studies related to adapting to the impacts of climate change continue with the help of grant funding that the Town has been able to secure. Working with the Cape Ann Climate Coalition, Town Green, and Harvard's Graduate School of Design, we are assembling a wealth of information on a range of topics, including what we can expect to happen should a hurricane hit us, how we can take measures to mitigate the impacts, and how we can improve the health of various ecosystems (forests, salt marshes, urban parks, etc.) to bolster our resilience to a changing climate. New work is about to get underway that will assess the area's governance structures, financial resources, and community engagement around climate change threats with an eye toward making improvements that allow us to better manage our future given a warmer planet.

The flooding we experienced earlier this month was a strong reminder about what is at stake with climate change. We are rolling up our sleeves and pursuing measures that should help us meet at least some of the challenges.



BOARD UPDATES

New Mattress Recycling Program: DPW is partnering with a new company for recycling mattresses. Each mattress piece will cost \$55 for a scheduled curbside pickup. To learn more about this new program please visit manchester.ma.us/223/Public-Works to learn more.

Employment Opportunities: The Town is seeking applicants for an Administrative Assistant to Assessing/Building Department and some seasonal positions for summer 2024. Please see the Town website to learn more.

Nomination Papers: Run for office in 2024! Nomination papers are now available in the Town Clerk's office for Select Board, School Committee, Library Trustee, and Planning Board.

Annual Report Photo Contest: Did you take some great pictures in 2023 of MBTS places and faces? Submit them to be considered for the 2023 Annual Town Report by sending to marlettat@manchester.ma.us.

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

Walker Road Work: Water Main work continues this week on Walker Road. The work will take place M-F from 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. and will take approximately 90 days to complete.

Trash, recycling, and compost collection: Regular Schedule. Please place curbside by 7 a.m. on day of collection. Transfer Station is open on Wednesdays from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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

WHAT WAS HAPPENING

90 YEARS AGO - 1934

The members of the Manchester Club were treated to a most interesting travel talk Saturday evening when Robert Sanford of this town, traveling passenger agent for the Canadian National Lines took his audience through the Caribbean which was a delightful change from the wintry blasts outside to the warm sunshine and waving palms of the islands in the West Indies.

The Story High Girls' Basketball Team defeated Essex Aggies 31-12. V. Killiam was high scorer for Story with 20 points and Capt. Magnuson close behind with 10 points.

75 YEARS AGO - 1949

A real estate purchase of interest to Manchester residents is that of Kettle Cove Industries as they are buying the Manchester Motor property, Summer Street. Preliminary papers have been signed binding the agreement of sale and title will be passed this week.

Eight inches of snow was deposited locally Wednesday and early Thursday morning, but the efficient work of superintendent Sweeney and his Highway Department men kept all roads clear at all times, and thus no serious complications resulted.

Manchester will have the opportunity of joining with other friends of "Bill" Saltonstall to express their appreciation for a superior job done by the Senator during his 12 years in office.

60 YEARS AGO - 1964

The Manchester Industrial Development Commission, at Tuesday night's meeting of the Board of Selectman, recommended that an article be inserted in the 1964 annual town meeting warrant calling for a professional survey of the flow of traffic and the parking situation, with the purpose of making improvements for the benefit of the residents and businesses of Manchester.

Stan Koch and Pete Hyland with 20 and 18 points respectively paced the Manchester Hornets to their second victory of the season and second conquest of the Saints Friday at Kelleher gym. This was a closely contested match all the way, with the Hornets pulling away in the last three minutes to win by 10.

45 YEARS AGO - 1979

This Sunday residents of

The Fifth Grade Social Studies classes have been looking at Unit 6: "A New Nation." Historically, it covers the transition of the American colonies into a nation and will give the class some ideas about the basic philosophy of our government, how that philosophy developed, and how it was used as the basis for the Constitution.

30 YEARS AGO - 1994

The annual DECA fashion show will be held this year on Saturday, March 26th in the high school gym. DECA, is the school's competitive marketing program for junior and senior students.

They have been extremely successful in recent years, with Manchester students regularly winning at the local and state levels and going on to place at national tournaments.

Tides & Sun Chart For The Week Ahead

DATE	HIGH				LOW				☀️	
	AM	FT	PM	FT	AM	FT	PM	FT	RISE	SET
26 Fri	11:52	9.9			5:43	1.1	6:29	0.2	7:01	4:49
27 Sat	12:24	8.4	12:29	9.8	6:22	1.0	7:02	0.3	7:00	4:50
28 Sun	12:59	8.5	1:04	9.7	7:01	0.9	7:36	0.3	6:59	4:52
29 Mon	1:32	8.6	1:39	9.5	7:41	0.9	8:11	0.5	6:58	4:53
30 Tue	2:04	8.7	2:14	9.2	8:22	0.9	8:48	0.6	6:57	4:54
31 Wed	2:38	8.7	2:53	8.9	9:04	1.0	9:26	0.9	6:56	4:56
1 Thu	3:15	8.8	3:34	8.4	9:49	1.2	10:07	1.2	6:55	4:57

...(Continued from page 2)

He continued his education at the University of California, Berkeley earning a master's degree in electrical engineering and computer science. He was recruited to work in research at the Bell Labs where he contributed to multiple patents.

David is remembered for his intellectual curiosity. In middle school, he took the opportunity to open up sealed state-run data collection monitors that were placed along a highway to study driving levels. At NMH, David pulled a lot of pranks that confounded the school on how the outcomes occurred. As a brother, he often tormented his older brother through conversation to the point where one day, mom let the two box it

out on the front driveway as long as he wasn't hit in the mouth. He had just received braces.

Dave was much loved by his nephews, nieces, and other young adults who crossed his path. His intellect, opinions, stories, wit, and honesty made him easy to connect with. He was a great listener and offered pragmatic solutions to any problem with love and without judgment. One common memory is that he sent the BEST (funniest) cards and gifts. A big void is left in these young people who often looked forward to a conversation with Dave.

David was predeceased by his father and mother, Roy Arthur and Joan Harvey Bither. David is survived by his

grieving wife, Lisa Bither, his daughter Sarah Bither and her fiancé John McLaughlin, his sister Susan Johnston and her husband Joseph O'Shields, his brother Mark Bither and his wife, Cheryl and their three children, Patrick, Corey, and Mathew, his sister-in-law, Karen Juel Hatch and her sons Christopher and Oliver, Rory Juel Greer and her husband Derek and their daughter Mazie, Lisa's father, Kai and his wife Ann, and the many, many friends and co-workers that are so dear to the couple.

A Celebration of a Life So Well Lived will be next summer in his beloved Maine. Plans will be forthcoming.

Donations can be made to the Animal Welfare Society in Kennebunk, ME.

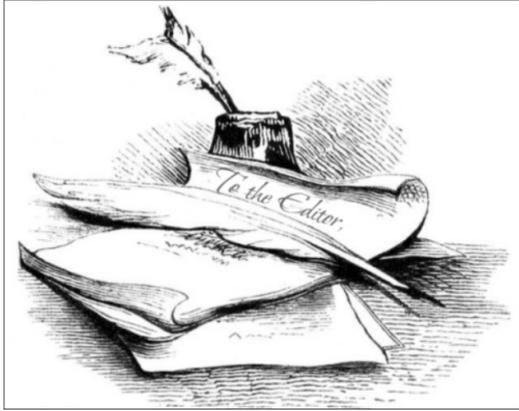
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NIMBY is alive and well in Manchester by the Sea

To the Editor,

I wish this were a funny coincidence. Instead, it is a clear example of NIMBY being alive and well in Manchester by the Sea.

dressess of each member of the town's MBTA Zoning Task Force, it seems that NONE of these members' streets have been included in the potential 39 acres of "MBTA zones" that would allow BY RIGHT (not even by special permit) 585 apartment units to be created! Protecting their own neighborhoods, these thoughtful volunteer task

force members have instead included streets where the average lot size is quite small, as are most of the homes that are now situated on said streets. And so the MBTA Task Force members decided it was much better to focus on wiping out existing bungalows and stuffing apartment buildings on both sides of upper Pine Street, along Morse Court, behind the Powder House apartments over to Friends Street, in the four blocks of downtown MBTS and on the marsh lands that line both sides of Atwater Ave., alongside the nearby industrial park, medical center, the future Cell Signaling Labs overlooking Rt 128 and the traffic from their hundreds of employees.

Hey... does this mean that Task Force members have now become potential cheer leaders for the Shingle Hill Project? It is amazing how NIMBY-minded folks can change their tune ... depending on the circumstances or choices.

Pray Tell.... why have Smith's Point, the lower end of Masconomo, Old Neck, Bridge Street, Jersey Lane, Forester Rd, Tucks Point Rd, Allen Ave, Washington, School, Forest, Dexter and Bennet Streets all been left out of the mix? And what about School

Street or Summer Street beyond Washington?! What about Bridge Street south of the train tracks?!

Meanwhile, just look at the numerous non-inhabited mansions that line Singing Beach, Masconomo and lower Beach Street today. Just think how many apartments could be created within those magnificent structures! (No new construction needed!)

What about the undeveloped acreage that still exists throughout "The Point" ... land just waiting to be developed with multi-story apartment buildings scattered here and there. A few apartment houses could also go up at the beginning of Old Neck, where just woods exist today.

And what about all of that beautiful land surrounding so many homes up on Old Neck, Jersey Lane, and Forster? Just imagine what creative architects could do when asked to design three-or four-story apartment buildings, with or without great ocean views, throughout these sections of town.

If these potential MBTA development districts remain unchanged, I for one... will vote to refuse the MBTA's developers' dream mandate. If this means the town will have to forgo state monies in the future... so be it. If this

means eliminating the Manchester Train Stop... so be it. One can drive to Beverly Farms or West Gloucester.

Those of us who live in Manchester.... but apparently on the "wrong side of the tracks", should not put up with the NIMBY Committee's current self-protective choices. The preservation of their bucolic neighborhoods and homesteads, is not more important than preserving "those other" neighborhoods.

**Susan Wadia-Ells
Manchester**

Update on MBTS 4th July

It is January 2024 and we are thinking about summer! It is a Fireworks year, and the cost of the fireworks display is rising by about 25%. Manchester was fortunate two years ago to have extra money thanks to the remaining balance from the 375th Town Anniversary account. This year we do not have that luxury. That combined with the Fireworks company being bought and the cost of the barge rising we are charged with raising more money just to keep the fireworks at the same level we all have come to enjoy. We are off to a great start

with generous donations coming in from the following families:

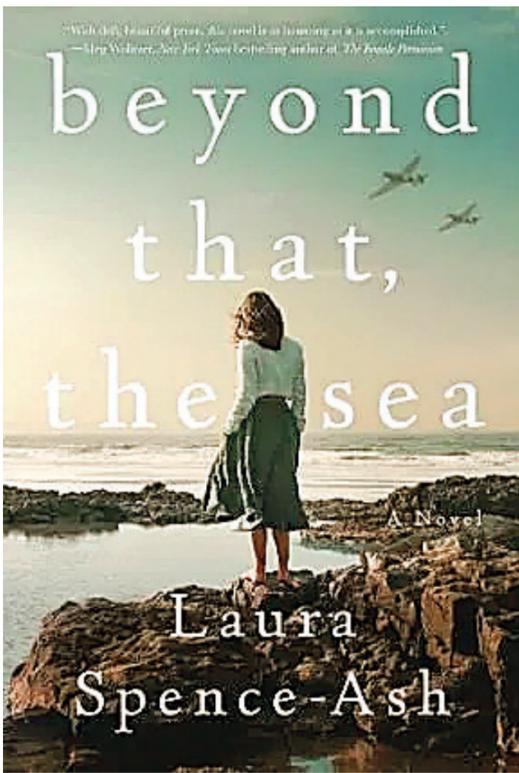
The Baer Family, The Bixby Family, The Blake Family, The Chase Family, The Creighton Family, the Daley Family, The Driscoll Family, The Durkin Family, The Goff Family, The Hutchins Family, The Cucchetti Family, The Maceachern Family, The Manganeillo Family, The Mastrogiacomo Family, The Nahatis Family, The Parker Family, The Shaughnessy Family, The Shipman Family, The Shneider Family, The Sullivan Family, The Surdam Family, The Twining Family and the Wood Family.

The Fourth of July Committee appreciates donations in all denominations. You can donate online through the Town's website (<https://manchester.ma.us/465/Town-Bills>) or via check or cash sent to Parks and Recreation at Town Hall. 2024 is going to be an amazing year for the Fourth of July Celebration in Manchester-by-the-Sea thanks to the residents and businesses who donate!

Thank you,

**Cheryl Marshall
Director of Parks and Recreation
Manchester-by-the-Sea**

LIBRARY NEWS



Hearthside Book Group selection by Laura Spence-Ash.

Courtesy Photo

Manchester-by-the-Sea Distinguished Speakers Series

Thursday, February 1 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Jack Hammond, a retired and decorated U.S. Army Brigadier General, is a private sector innovator who has served on advisory groups for presidents, governors, and businesses. Home Base, a Red Sox Foundation and Mass

General Program, is dedicated to healing the invisible wounds for Veterans of all eras, Service Members, Military Families and Families of the Fallen through world-class clinical care, wellness, education, and research. The inspiration for the series is to broaden education, awareness, and empathy via the fine tradition of learning from knowledgeable people.

New eCard Service

Residents can now sign up online for an electronic library card. Thanks to Manchester-by-the-Sea Public Library's membership in the Merrimack Valley Library Consortium, Manchester residents who do not yet have a library card can now register online for an eCard that provides immediate access to the library's electronic collections. eCards can be converted to a full library card, which allows card holders to borrow and place holds on physical materials, by visiting the library.

Mystery Book Group

Friday, January 26 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. We will discuss "Skinny Dip" by Carl Hiasson.

Hearthside Book Group

Tuesday, February 6 from 4-5 p.m. Join us in person at the library or on ZOOM to discuss "Beyond That, the Sea" by Laura Spence-Ash. "A sweeping, tenderhearted love story that tells the story of two families living through World War II on opposite sides of the Atlantic Ocean, and the shy, irresistible young woman who will call them both her own."

Made by Hand

Tuesday, January 30 from 6-8 p.m. Join us in the Reference Room every month for a new adult craft activity. No registration or experience needed. Come enjoy some tea and crafting with your community.

Free Friday Movies

Friday, January 26 from 6-8 p.m. We will be showing a movie in the Reference Room on the 4th Friday of every month at 6 p.m. We will supply the popcorn. The movie this month has an MPAA Rating: R, for drug use, sexual material and pervasive language.

"Food Waste, Food Insecurity, and the Globalization of Food Banks" (Virtual)

Tuesday, January 30 from 7-8 p.m. Join us for a virtual Q&A with author Daniel N. Warshawsky. So many of us are passionate about finding ways to reduce food waste so we're thrilled to be hosting author Daniel N. Warshawsky for a virtual discussion of his new book.

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 for a virtual discussion of his new book. 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:

Graphic Novel Club

Wednesday, February 28 from 4-4:45 p.m. This program is for grades 4-7. Join the graphic novel club, we meet once a month from January to June. We will be discussing "Ghost Book" by Remy Lai. Registration is required.

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.

Pajama Storytime

Thursday, February 22 from 6-6:45 p.m. Come dressed in your pjs for a Storytime and craft with Miss Audrey. This program is for ages 4-7.

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.

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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Award presentation to Free Throw Championship Winners: (Left to Right Foreground); Madison Day, Hadley Johnson, Zoey Palm, Iris Storella, Jack McLaughlin, Noah Rubin, Dante Moore, Dustin Rubin and Nico Bernini. (Left to Right Rear); Event Co-Chair Fred Newton, Steve Kuhn, Grand Knight Masconomo Council 1232-Manchester/Essex and Fred Johnson, District Deputy Knights of Columbus. Courtesy Photo

Knights of Columbus Shooters Turnout for Masconomo Council 1232 Event

An annual mid-January event, the Free Throw Championship, hosted by Masconomo Council 1232 Knights of Columbus, brightened a frigid winter morning. More than 100 competitors, parents, spectators and volunteers poured into the gym of Memorial School, Manchester-by-the-Sea, on Sunday January 21, 2024 to watch shooters show off their

free throw skills. "It was great to watch these kids. Many had amazing form and skill," said organizer Fred Newton of Magnolia. "The Knights first hosted a similar event 46 years ago. Last year's event was such fun, we had to do it again." Age group Free Throw Championship winners may choose to move on to the regional competition in March, whose location is yet to be

announced.
Girls Winners: 10 years: Iris Storella, 11 years: Zoey Palm, 12 years: Hadley Johnson and 13 years: Madison Day
Boys Winners: 9 years: Nico Bernini, 10 years: Dustin Rubin, 11 years: Dante Moore, 12 years: Jack McLaughlin and 13 years: Noah Rubin

...(Continued on page 5)

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Mushroom of the Week: Porcini Dip



By Gary Gilbert

Porcini mushrooms are one of the world's most iconic mushrooms. The Italians have had a love affair with them for centuries. Rightfully so because they don't require any cooking and are big, thick, chunky, delicious, and easy to identify. Porcini, or *Boletus edulis*, have a flavor that is always better once dried and then reconstituted. The perfect match for risottos and an incredible addition to this simple appetizer.



This dip is very easy to make and filled with a rich, meaty and earthy flavor that is hard not to like. It's quick to assemble if you are assigned the appetizers for a dinner party and best served slightly warm or at room temperature.

Porcini Dip
(30 mins.)

- 1 C dried porcini chunks, broken into very small pieces, about ¼ C when done

- ¾ C chicken stock, approx., enough to keep mushrooms covered
- 1 can condensed cream of mushroom soup
- 2 cloves garlic
- 1 lb. cream cheese, broken into tablespoon sized chunks

You'll need one or two packages of dried porcini if you

are buying them at the grocery. Enough to densely overflow a one cup measure when coarsely broken up. This is a great opportunity to use the mortar and pestle you might have laying around the kitchen. Crush them well in the mortar and pestle or put in a plastic bag and roll with a rolling pin. Grind the dried porcini into small bits, also

using fingertips at the end, so the chunks are no bigger than pumpkin seeds. Barely cover the porcini with broth and simmer on very low heat about 7 minutes until fully softened (reconstituted), stirring often. Add the mushroom soup concentrate along with 2 lightly smashed garlic cloves. Yes, using a premade soup

seems almost like cheating, but it works really well and this is meant as a quickie recipe, right? Heat this mixture to thin it out and cook the flavors through, about 5 more minutes. You may want to add a bit more chicken broth to thin it out as you go, if necessary.

Next, add the cream cheese, broken up into chunks so it dissolves well into the mixture. Once it is all smooth and melted together, remove from heat and serve

when it is slightly warmer than room temperature, or just set aside until your dinner guests come. This dish freezes well, if there are any leftovers at all. Enjoy!

Gary Gilbert serves on the Executive Committee of the Boston Mycological Club, lectures and leads identification walks. He is the author of "Mycocards", flashcards for learning mushroom identification (mycocards.com) and resides in Manchester by the Sea.



Manchester Friends of the Performing Arts held a music trivia fund raising event at MERHS. Trivia night was a success. The Friends thank all who came out to participate. They are definitely prepping more for next year's competition. Tough questions.

Photo Courtesy Caroline C. Class of '25.

...(Continued from page 4)

Competitor Raffle Winners: Two \$50 gift certificates to DICK'S SPORTING GOODS, Madison Day and Noah Rubin David Slade, event co-chair, thanked the Manchester Essex Regional School District and Heather De Priest of Manchester's Parks and Recreation Department for making the Memorial School gym available for the event. He also noted, "the skills and sportsmanship of the competitors we observed are a credit to the local youth basketball program. It was a pleasure to watch these young boys and girls shoot."

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SCAN TO DONATE

ME Boys Hoop Undeclared at Season's Midway Point

By Jason Brisbois

Perfect. That's the only word necessary when trying to define the first half of the season for the Manchester Essex boys' basketball team.

As in, "ten wins in ten games," perfect. A 10-0 record with road wins against heavy hitters like Cathedral, Peabody Veterans Memorial and Georgetown in the books, and more key matchups looming on the way to an inevitable foray into the postseason.

"I knew we would be good, and right now we're undefeated in the [Cape Ann League], we thought we could do that," explains MERHS boys basketball coach Tim St. Laurent. "The difference is last year, we couldn't get over the hump on non-league games, and we've won two of those already.

The first of those two non-league games - games against top opponents that can be used as a measuring stick for how a squad might fare against playoff-caliber opposition - was the season-opening victory over nemesis Cathedral. The Panthers knocked a 17-3 Hornets squad out of the Div. 4 tournament last winter, and have proven to be a formidable foe in the postseason over the years. This year, however, Manchester Essex looked dominant in an 85-34 win over Cathedral on Dec. 12, and then fared just as well against Peabody at the end of the month, winning 65-38 on Dec. 27 against a much larger school.

"We've played Cathedrals both of the last two years in the tournament and we got a nice win versus them opening night," says St. Laurent. "We also had a monster win against Peabody; in Peabody they have something like 50,000 people, and we are around 8,000. They are 11-1 and we are their only loss. We also held them to 38 points."

That last detail is not one to overlook when considering why the Hornets have played so well in 2023-24. Defense has been the squad's success this season, with Manchester Essex holding five of their first 10 opponents to 40 points or under. The Hornets have yet to allow an opponent reach even the 60-point threshold.

"First, we are playing un-

believable defense," explains St. Laurent. "If you look at the scores through the week, we are holding opponents to very low margins. It's a complete five-man effort."

There are two defensive stalwarts who serve as the catalyst for the Manchester Essex defense.

"Milo Zeltzer and Zach Hurd, it starts with them," says St. Laurent. "They rotate in on the best offensive player for the opposition every game, and they put tremendous pressure on that player. Then, they have excellent athletes around them to help."

On the other end of the floor, the Hornets feature two core pillars surrounded by accurate shotmakers: Cade Furse is a creative, athletic scoring burst waiting to happen - the senior captain is averaging 24 points per game this season - and 6-foot, 6-inch Eddie Chareas (another Hornet captain) provides an intimidating presence in the paint and a scoring option that's difficult for the opposition to defend.

"On the offensive end, everything runs through them," says St. Laurent. "We see how the defense responds to them and go from there."

The rest of the eight-man rotation complements the two captains perfectly. Jake Zschau, Ben Jacobsen and John Chareas - Eddie's younger brother - are skilled shooters from the outside. Senior guard Preston Potter runs the offense and is a strong defensive presence on the perimeter.

"This is a completely unselfish group of kids," says St. Laurent. "They buy into the game plan and take tremendous pride in executing it."

St. Laurent also lauds his trio of assistant coaches - Ralph Quinn, Steve Paccone and Drennan Burns - for helping to get the team to this point halfway through the winter season.

"They've been with me a long time, and they're a tremendous part of the success of this program," explains the coach.

The Hornets were scheduled to face Triton on Jan. 23, Hamilton-Wenham on Jan. 26 and Pentucket on Jan. 29. In February, the gauntlet of top opposition begins again, with home games versus Newburyport (Feb. 5) and Georgetown (Feb. 8) looming.



ME Senior guard, Preston Potter, dribbles into the paint in a home game against Amesbury. The Hornets defeated the Red Hawks 85-46 to keep their undefeated streak alive at 10-0. They next meet Triton for an away game on Tuesday the 23rd.

Photos Paul Clark



The Hornets' cheer squad showed up to give their support for ME's joust against Amesbury on Tuesday. The stands were filled with eager fans.

"Both teams come to Manchester in early February, and they will be humongous games," says St. Laurent.

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Sunday night was Senior Night for ME's swimmers. On this night the seniors honor their parents for the sacrifice and support they give them over the course of their high school careers. Pictured are Erik Bischoff and Diego Sanson with their parents after defeating Hamilton-Wenham 62-17 at home.

Photo Courtesy MERSD

ScottEnergy Community Bulletin Board

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Thursday night at the MERSD auditorium was a treat for attendees. It was the night of the MERMS Winter Concert. The participants were very grateful to Mr. Janack and Mr. Icenogle for the time and support for their efforts.

Courtesy Photo

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Paul Theroux

ESSEX ECHO.

Town Administrator's Report

Board of Selectmen's Meeting
of January 22, 2024
Report covers from January 6,
2024 to January 19, 2024

OpenGov Permitting Software Users Group Meeting

Now that the Town has had adequate time for users of the OpenGov on-line permitting platform to fully understand the system, it was suggested that all users of the system meet to discuss how to make its use most efficient and effective. Presently, the Town uses the platform for building permits and related trade permits as well as Board of Health permits. On January 11, 2024, a large number of users representing many Town departments (selectmen, building, plumbing & gas, board of health, conservation commission, department of public works, fire department, board of assessors, planning board, and historical commission) gathered to discuss the system. The Town Administrator (TA) was in attendance, along with Chairman Pereen.

Generally, everyone from the group was able to provide input on how to improve on the Town's use of OpenGov, including several proposed solutions that will involve collaboration between departments. Action items were generated and we will move forward with the implementation of all of the suggestions.

Setup and Provisioning of Video Redaction Computer

The Police Department maintains a full system related to the capture and storage of body-worn cameras. When video footage is requested by the public or other entities, it is sometimes necessary to redact portions of the video based upon legal allowances. The computer that was supplied by the system vendor for redaction work was not initially operative and had to be sent back to the vendor for an operating system issue. The Police Department received the repaired computer recently and the TA was asked to configure and provision it so that it can be used for its intended purpose. After conferring with the vendor during the week of January 8, 2024, the TA was able to get the system up and running.

Procurement of Network Equipment for Centennial Grove Cameras and WiFi

As the Board is aware, the Fall Town Meeting appropriated funding from the Town Technology Fund to run fiber optic lines out to two separate areas of the Centennial Grove. That work has not yet occurred and we expect its commencement in the coming month or two. It is also necessary to purchase equipment that will make the new fiber lines operational and connect them to the Town's network via our switch at the Water Filtration Plant. A collection of fiber optic transceivers and network switches are necessary to get the system up and running and Mr. Zubricki has made arrangements to purchase the required equipment. Once the fiber lines have been installed and lit up with this new network equipment, we will begin the process of considering the best type of WiFi and security camera equipment that will plug into the network equipment. WiFi will be made available to the public



and security camera recording could potentially occur in the police station.

Offer of Sale of Town-owned Properties on Gregory Island

The Board offered for sale in 2023 a total of 12 Town-owned properties in the Gregory Island neighborhood of Essex. Of those properties, three were sold, one was found to not actually be Town-owned, and three were taken off of the market. The remaining five properties had substantial offers made on them but the buyer would only agree to the purchase of the properties if the Board agreed to sell the properties without restrictions. Since the 2023 solicitation had clearly referenced future deed restrictions, the sales could not be completed. The Board then decided to offer those five properties for sale again, without restriction and with substantial minimum offers. Offers on the five properties via this second solicitation were due on January 18, 2024 and no offers were received under the new terms.

Offer of Contract for Centennial Grove Restroom Facility

Bids for a precast concrete, prefabricated restroom facility for the Centennial Grove were due on January 18 and we did not receive any bids after eight prospective bidders had obtained copies of the bid documents. We were hopeful that one contractor in the region would submit a bid but that contractor dropped out after a staffing shortage discouraged them from making any new commitments.

Disposal of Council on Aging Vehicle

Back in August of 2023, the Board authorized the disposal of an old Council on Aging sedan that is no longer operative. Unfortunately, neither the Police Department nor the Council on Aging could locate the vehicle's original title (the vehicle was originally a police vehicle). It took many months to work through the process of receiving a replacement title due to an issue with how the Registry of Motor Vehicles had the vehicle listed in its system. The replacement title arrived during the week of January 1, 2024 and the vehicle was sold for scrap value on January 9, 2024.

Advertisement of Public Water Supply Well Improvement Project

The modernization of Essex's three public water supply wells is being financed by the Town's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. The project had been sched-

uled for commencement in the fall of 2023 but a change of personnel at the engineering firm that is designing the project introduced a delay. The design has now been finalized and the Invitation for Bids was released on January 10, 2024. Filed sub-bids for subcontractors are due on January 31, 2024 and general bids are due on February 7, 2024. A site visit for bidders was held on January 17, 2024 (the TA attended along with Water Department staff and our engineering personnel). The TA had arranged for the project's advertisement in the newspaper, local posting, the Central Register, and Comm-Buys as required during the week of January 8, 2024.

Commencement of Public Safety Facility Roof & Bldg Envelope Specification

At the last meeting, the Board agreed that the Town should accept the full scope of services proposed by Copeland Building Envelope Consultants, which includes Northeast Roof Consultants as a subcontractor. Mr. Zubricki has since signed the necessary contract on behalf of the Board and Copeland will soon commence work. The project will specify what needs to be done to correct the roof issue and to deal with siding and trim issues. After specification is complete, we will work with our consultants to package the project for bid.

Annual Senior Center Elevator State Inspection and Testing

The annual State elevator inspection and testing occurred with respect to the Senior Center elevator on January 9, 2024. As the Board may recall, lately, we had been having trouble with getting the elevator to run on generator power. While this was not a problem in past years, it seems that the 2007 elevator system may have aged sufficiently to warrant parts replacement for proper operation. In this case, our elevator contractor replaced the starter for the hydraulic pump motor with a "soft starter" which creates much less of an initial amperage spike when the motor starts up. The TA had arranged in advance for our elevator contractor, our fire alarm contractor, and our generator contractor to be on site, as required, for the State Inspector. The system passed inspection but the new soft starter may require fine tuning in the future.

Centennial Grove Cottage Power Outage

The recent severe weather cut power to the Centennial Grove Cottage, which is fed via a long utility line that runs through the woods. The TA reported the outage and National Grid restored power to the facility.

Town Hall Roof Damage

The recent severe weather ripped asphalt shingles off of the top of the bell tower roof. The TA discussed the damage with a roofing contractor that has assisted us with small repairs in the past and that repair has been made. Also, the roof in the rear of the Town Hall has had roofing adhesive run down the face of the shingles over time during hot weather and has

created a minor aesthetic issue. The repair of the aesthetic problem would involve stripping a substantial number of shingles and there is no leakage problem. At this point, we have only requested that the contractor repair the damage to the bell tower roof.

Senior Center Network Reset

The recent melting of a significant snowpack due to warm temperatures and heavy rain caused water to temporarily pool in the Senior Center basement. This type of minor flooding does happen from time to time in that building and a large sump pump is in place to evacuate the water. On this particular occasion, a power supply to a device on the Senior Center computer network had dropped down onto the floor and touched the water. This tripped the outlet supplying power to the UPS device for the network equipment and the Center lost power to the computer network and to the IP-based telephones. The TA was able to reset the ground fault protection on the outlet and I have ordered a new power supply for the device in question.

Senior Center Sprinkler System Connection

The connection between the sprinkler main from the street and the actual sprinkler system for the Senior Center has developed a very slow, drip leak. The TA brought a local plumbing contractor in to determine whether the leak was serious and he suggested that our sprinkler contractor replace certain components. We have contacted our sprinkler contractor to quote and perform the work.

Senior Center Heating System Repair

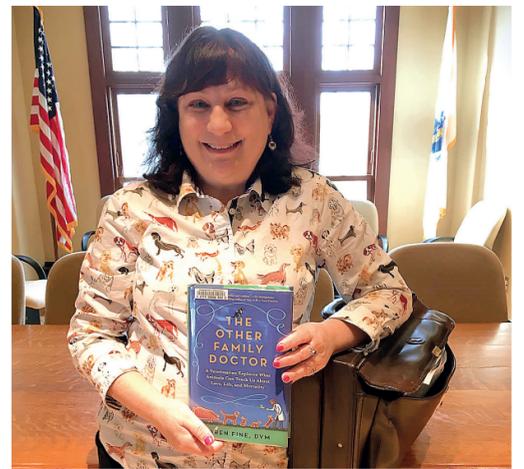
Lately, the heating system at the Senior Center has not been providing the same level of heat as the building users have been accustomed to. Our HVAC contractor reviewed the matter and found that the burner tubes for the gas-fired furnace have become corroded and require replacement in order to restore the heating system to its full output. The Council on Aging is presently reviewing the proposal for this repair work and will probably elect to move forward with it.

Finance Committee Public Forum "Tax Talk" Summary

Mr. Zubricki attended the subject forum on January 11, 2024 along with members of the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee. The forum featured an in-depth review of how Prop 2 1/2 affects the operating budget.

LIBRARY NEWS

T.O.H.P. Burnha
Public Library



The Essex Library hosted Author and Veterinarian Karen Fine, guests enjoyed scones and tea and a discussion about her book "The Other Family Doctor." Courtesy Photo

Bending Toward Justice: (Virtual)

Wednesday, February 21 at 7 p.m. African Americans as Subject and Creators in American Art.

Community Book Group

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

Armchair Travel Around the Globe

Wednesday, February 7 at 7 p.m. Join us as we hear from Essex Locals, the Fouser family, about their adventure after deciding to rent their home, sell their car, leave their jobs and travel the globe for a full year.

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.

Chinese New Year Storytime & Craft

Monday, February 12 at 3:30 p.m. Children ages 4 and older, join us to learn about this special celebration through stories and a craft.

CFCE Science Thursdays

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

ESSEX POLICE NOTES

MONDAY, JANUARY 15

No report.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16

No report.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17

No report.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18

10:52 a.m. Centennial Grove Rd., directed patrol, secured/checked. 2:19 p.m. Martin St., directed patrol, secured/checked. 7:19 p.m. Main St., directed patrol, secured/checked. 8:28 p.m. Conomo Point Rd., directed patrol.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19

1:06 a.m. John Wise Ave., directed patrol, secured/checked. 2:33 a.m. John Wise Ave., citizen assist, public assist. 6:03 a.m. Scotts Way, directed patrol, secured/checked. 6:51 a.m. Southern Ave., selective enforcement, no action taken.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

9:55 a.m. Western Ave., male with chest pain, transported to hospital. 2:21 p.m. Southern Ave., selective enforcement, no action taken. 5:27 p.m. Main St., directed patrol, secured/checked. 7:48 p.m. John Wise Ave., traffic hazard, notification made.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

1:10 a.m. Spring St., directed patrol, secured/checked. 2:15 a.m. John Wise Ave., selective enforcement, other. 6:28 a.m. Conomo Point Rd., directed patrol, secured/checked. 7:07 a.m. Centennial Grove Rd., secured/checked.

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Essex Locals | Jan 26

115 Years Ago - 1909

During the severest storm of the season Sunday, limbs were broken from several trees and the car service was somewhat crippled on the main line. The Ipswich cars were delayed considerably, and one snowplow got off the track.

90 Years Ago - 1934

Jacob Perkins, one of our highly respected residents on Apple Street, observed the passing of his 75th birthday last Saturday, entertaining a number of callers and relatives. The day was made very enjoyable for him and his many friends wish for him many happy returns of the day.

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Arpeggione to Perform Feb. 18 at St. John's in Beverly Farms

Arpeggione, the chamber music group that is known as the "North Shore's only historically informed chamber music ensemble," will perform the works of Clara Schumann at 4 p.m. Sunday, February 18, as part of St. John's Concert Series in Beverly Farms.

Arpeggione will explore the extraordinary world and legacy of Clara Schumann, the German composer, pianist and teacher. Schumann expert David Kim will join Arpeggione's musicians to perform Schumann's chamber works as well as improvisations in her own style.

Arpeggione's musicians will be performing on instruments original to or copied from Clara Schumann's time, including flute, clarinet, violin, cello, and a Viennese-style fortepiano by Rod Regier of Freeport, ME.

The chamber music group, Arpeggione, which will perform next month at St. John's in Beverly Farms. (Courtesy)

...(Continued from page 1)

Sarah Stone, a resident of Manchester and a 7th-grade teacher, draws attention to the importance of early reading intervention and criticizes potential cuts to teaching assistants. She pointed to a *Boston Globe* in-depth story on school systems in wealthy Massachusetts districts that refuse to embrace research that shows that focused, early reading intervention at the elementary school level can have dramatic impacts on high school performance and cost efficiencies throughout the district years later. A cost cutting view that looks to clip teaching assistants at Memorial or Essex Elementary, she said, may satisfy budget hawks in the short term but is foolish in the long view.

The fear looms that if the FY25 budget fails, both towns may face a "Super

Town Meeting," where the larger population of Manchester could potentially force approval on the smaller town, a scenario Essex officials consider devastating.

Proposed FY25 MERSD Budget Highlights

- Personnel levels are flat, with no added positions or reductions in staff.
- A 2.5% cost of living adjustment (COLA) is included for employees not in the Manchester Essex Teachers Association (META), including Teaching Assistants, for whom an initial contract is incomplete. In the META category, a 2.25% COLA combined with the impact of step and anticipated column moves yields an estimated growth of 4.0%. Stipends in the META contract are budgeted with 0% growth.

- Healthcare insurance is assumed at a 14.5% increase, with actuals expected in February or March.
- MERSD plans to use \$150K from its retiree benefits (OPEB) trust account, which totaled \$4.8 million as of June 30, to offset retiree health insurance costs.
- Based on an updated analysis of individual student placements, the out of district (OOD) tuition category is up 4.8% or \$54K.
- Cost of maintenance is up 4.6% or \$40K due to aging buildings, particularly at the Essex Elementary School and the ME Middle High School.
- Cost of utilities/energy has ebbed slightly by \$20K or 2.5% in FY25.

The next MERSD FY25 budget meeting is 6 p.m. Tuesday, February 6 at the ME Regional High School.

Michelle Cresta Will Join MERSD as New Director of Finance and Operations



Michelle Cresta (Courtesy image)

Manchester Essex Regional School District announced that it has hired Michelle Cresta as the district's new director of finance and operations. She will officially begin in her position on March 25.

Cresta was introduced to the ME Regional School Committee earlier this month, where the board voted unanimously to approve her hiring. Currently, she works for the Marblehead Public Schools, where she is assistant superintendent of finance and operations.

Cresta steps into the shoes of Avi Urbas, who left the district in December for the private sector after heading up district financing for 20 years. During this time, he helped stabilize and navigate big financial challenges in budgeting.

Cresta seems right to step into those shoes. She brings 18 years of municipal and school district financial experience to Manchester Essex—including at Triton

School District and at the Chelmsford and Stoneham Public Schools—and eight years of experience in the private sector.

"Michelle is a highly respected and valued business official with extensive experience in school, municipal, and board finance," said MERSD Superintendent Pamela Beaudoin. "She will bring to MERSD a demonstrated understanding of regional school finance and governance, expertise in accounting and financial crisis management, and first-hand experience with MSBA building projects as well as strong communication skills and collaborative style."

Cresta holds a bachelor's degree in accounting and business management from Merrimack College. She also holds statewide certifications in accounting and school business administration.

"I am returning to my roots in regional school finance, joining one of the Commonwealth's top regional school

districts where I will be leading finance and operations," Cresta said earlier this month when she announced she was leaving Marblehead, the district she's served since 2019. "This new role will allow me to best utilize my experience and talents, while providing me the important work-life balance that is important in this position."

Cresta is active in her community of Middleton, where she has served on the town's Finance Committee since 2007.

"I cannot wait to get to know the students, staff, families, and communities that make Manchester Essex one of the state's best regional school districts," Cresta said.

When she begins her position in March, Cresta will develop an entry plan to transition to her new role that will be shared with the school community. Then, she will meet with groups in the spring and summer to ensure all stakeholders can provide feedback.

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Sawyer Free Library to Unveil Ambitious Public Interactive History Tool Jan 31

By Erika Brown

It's been more than two years under development, and next week the Sawyer Free Library (SFL) will unveil an interactive platform that charts Gloucester's history, from Indigenous life before its founding in 1623 by settlers through its deep and varied history as America's oldest seaport.

"Gloucester Timeline: An Interactive History" is the library's legacy gift to the city to mark its anniversary, celebrated all last year with programming by the Gloucester 400+ organization.

The unveiling will take place from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, January 31, at the Beauport Hotel in Gloucester. It is free, open to the public, and does not require reservations.

As part of the event, as its official last act before retiring its mandate, the Gloucester 400+ organization will also officially donate its award-winning "400 Stories Project" archive to the library as its own legacy gift to the city. Both archives will be publicly available immediately through the SFL's website, and they will be an experiential feature in the Sawyer Free Library's new, \$29 million renovation after it's completed in 2025.

The event at the Beauport will feature storytellers from the community, an interactive Gloucester trivia game, and a demonstration of the new interactive research tool.

The Gloucester Timeline online platform contains thousands of asset files spanning text, im-

ages, video, and audio exploring themes ranging across local life and culture of the indigenous Pawtucket, English settlers, Gloucester's center in trade and maritime history, immigration, women's empowerment, LGBTQ+, and The Arts, tracing Gloucester's history through culturally and historically significant people, places and events.

The considerable effort was spearheaded by the Sawyer Free Library with support from the Cape Ann Museum and Gloucester City Archives. The platform has been designed as an information hub, designed whenever possible to connect people to cultural organizations, archival repositories and historical collections where more information is available.

During its "beta" phase of development, the Gloucester 400+ staff made extensive use of the Timeline in 2023 to illustrate and highlight significant events in the city's history. It was also supportive in assembling the Gloucester 400 Stories Project, the Gloucester 400+'s award-winning digital collection of personal stories, poems, and videos launched in late 2022 on the Gloucester 400+ website. The collection is about Gloucester people by Gloucester people and is a powerful voice of ordinary and notable citizens.

Now that the quadricentennial year is over, the plan is to permanently house both archives at the 2025 Sawyer Free Library's new Local History Research Center, which will be located on the first floor of the expanded and



modernized library. The SFL Foundation is leading a separate \$700K fundraising effort aimed at

regional corporate sponsors to enhance the research center, expanding it to be an area for teaching

and exhibitions that explore and leverage the 4,000-file Gloucester Timeline.



MBTS Fire Department Group 4 took advantage of the ice and a sunny Sunday, to do some company-level training on ice rescue. Courtesy Photo MFD

SV Design Announces Three New Partners in Beverly and Chatham Offices

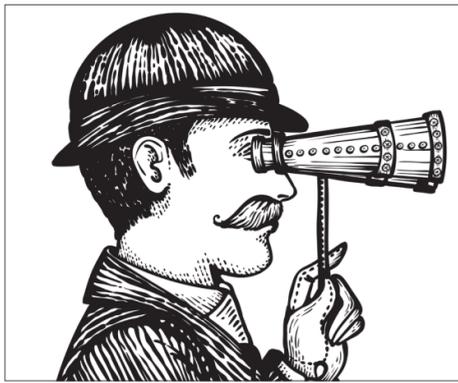
SV Design, which has offices in Beverly and Chatham, announced that it's added three new partners to its firm, including Jennifer Hocherman, AIA, a resident of Manchester who has been with the firm since 2013.

Hocherman has over 20 years of experience designing institutional, educational, and community-focused buildings. Her portfolio ranges from private schools and colleges to numerous YMCA facilities across Massachusetts to multi-generational affordable housing developments.

Along with Hocherman, Stefano Basso, AIA and Paul Muldoon, AIA were also promoted as leaders in the firm.

"Our new Partners' past accomplishments and their ability to lead high-performing teams have led to this well-deserved milestone today," said Tobin Shulman, AIA, Principal of SV Design. "Their combined experience across residential, multi-family, commercial, and institutional design is invaluable, and we're excited to welcome them as Partners."

MANCHESTER POLICE NOTES



SUNDAY, JANUARY 14
12:04 p.m. School St., selective enforcement, other. 1:52 p.m. Pine St., animal complaint, gone on arrival. 3:45 p.m. Ocean St., traffic hazard, secured/checked. 9:19 p.m. School St., selective enforcement, secured/checked.

MONDAY, JANUARY 15
2:10 p.m. Central St., citizen assist, assisted as needed. 2:54 p.m. Proctor St., alarm, secured/checked. 7:59 p.m.

Pine St., theft, assisted as needed. 8:41 p.m. Beach St., motor vehicle stop, verbal warning.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16
6:38 a.m. School St., motor vehicle crash, report to follow. 7:31 a.m. Lincoln St., community policing, no action taken. 7:31 a.m. School St., utility request, notification made. 7:09 p.m. Ancient County Way, disabled motor vehicle, no action taken.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17

8:47 a.m. Beach St., traffic hazard, notification made. 12:26 p.m. School St., motor vehicle crash, written warning. 3:02 p.m. School St., motor vehicle crash, vehicle towed. 3:43 p.m. Bridge St., animal complaint, notification made.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18
12:59 p.m. Beach St., directed patrol, secured/checked. 1:19 p.m. Central St., citizen assist, assisted as needed. 8:38 p.m. Tuck's Point Rd., fire alarm, fire confirmed. 9:48 p.m. Norwood Ave., parking complaint, parking enforcement.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19
1:38 a.m. Lincoln St., alarm, secured/checked. 9:53 a.m. Church St., motor vehicle stop, verbal warning. 10:15 a.m. Beach St., traffic hazard, assisted as needed. 3:30 p.m. Beach St., animal complaint, no action taken.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20
1:40 a.m. Pine St., motor vehicle stop, report to follow. 8:11 a.m. Powder House Lane, fire other, other. 6:18 p.m. Central St., traffic hazard, notification made. 11:26 p.m. Route 128NB, selective enforcement, secured/checked.



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Puzzle

THEME: CLASSIC TOYS

ACROSS

1. Sri Lankan language
 6. Something to chew on, especially for cows
 9. Mascara holder
 13. Muscat resident
 14. “ ___ Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest”
 15. Father, colloquially
 16. Jewish folklore creature
 17. Debtor’s letters
 18. Art class prop
 19. *Barbie’s little sister
 21. * ___ 4 game
 23. One less than jack
 24. * ___ Frog educational toy
 25. Nutcracker’s distinguishing feature
 28. Taboo, alt. sp.
 30. Cooking fat
 35. Deserter’s acronym
 37. President’s David
 39. Shower accessory
 40. Pro ___
 41. Conical dwellings
 43. Prep flour
 44. *Thomas or Henry, e.g.
 46. Law school test acronym
 47. Genealogist’s creation
 48. Maurice of “Where the Wild Things Are”
 50. Flying saucers
 52. Make mistakes
 53. Chemically-induced curls
 55. Harry Potter’s Hedwig
 57. *Certain Patch
 61. *Not real dough
 65. Normal
 66. Clingy seed container
 68. ___-___-la
 69. Theater curtain fabric
 70. Put into service
 71. Female deer, pl.
 72. Pub offering
 73. Goo on a trunk
 74. What’s in your e-wallet?
- DOWN

CROSSWORD														
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1. Duds or threads
2. Wildly
3. French Sudan after 1960
4. All thumbs
5. Marine gastropod
6. Coconut fiber
7. *Shedding-type card game
8. Tie in tennis
9. Shark’s provision
10. Part of cathedral
11. Work detail
12. “Stop!” to marchers
15. Correspondence friend (2 words)
20. Make, as in a law
22. Edible type of grass
24. Complete payment (2 words)
25. *Banned lawn darts
26. Fully informed
27. Supreme Teutonic god
29. Get-out-of-jail money
31. Like Neverland boys
32. France’s longest river

Sudoku

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		4			1			
	3			9	4			8

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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

33. Bid on a house, e.g.
34. *Certain gun ammo
36. “Best ___ schemes o’Mice an’ Men”
38. “La Vie en rose” singer
42. Counter seat
45. Flamethrower fuel
49. Party barrel
51. Swaddle
54. Type of puzzle
56. Words in song, sing.
57. Intersection of two arcs
58. Ascus, pl.
59. “ ___ after reading”
60. Switch’s partner
61. Get ready, for short
62. Comedian Carvey
63. Ford contemporary
64. Jumble
67. North American country

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 Sched-

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

The Assumption of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church

8 Lafayette Road, Ipswich Mass. Church services, with Father Christopher 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

First Parish Church Manchester-by-the-Sea - join us for a moving message, beautiful music and community at the center of town, 10 a.m. Sundays 10 Central St and streamed on Facebook, FirstParishChurch-

ManchesterMa. Jan. 28, 2024, 10 a.m., Worship Leader, Rev. Katherine Schofield, Holding the Future in Our Hands. Luke 2:22-40
 Music led by Dr. Herman Weiss, with the First Parish Choir.
 Sunday school 10 a.m. led by Jeanne Westcott.
 We invite everyone to join us for hospitality following the service.
 Monday Friends of the COA Senior Drop in 10 a.m. - 12 Noon.
 Book Group 6:30 p.m. at Mary Ellen’s home, 23 Harold St. The book is Hello Beautiful by Ann Napolitano.

Wednesday Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m.
 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 a.m. 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.
 ...*(Continued on page 11)*



Churchill PROPERTIES

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
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Wenham
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\$1,095,000 | Tracey Hutchinson | 978-473-9720



Beverly
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\$5,250,000 | Robin Martyn | 978-815-4497



Rowley
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\$249,900 | Tara Farley | 603-247-7800



Boston
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\$1,224,900 | Theresa DiPiro | 617-275-6624



Manchester
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\$12,650,000 | Karen Bernier | 978-807-5580



Haverhill
 Looking for one level living? Solid ranch with lovely hardwood floors. It is in need of a bit of updating, but offers easy living.
\$459,900 | Valerie McGillivray | 978-360-4209



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\$600,000 | Heidi Roy | 978-270-7336



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Churchill Properties is pleased to welcome Pete Michals

to our Newburyport office. If you are considering renting, buying or selling a home, contact Pete today at **978-790-8511 or petem01913@yahoo.com**



Cataracts in Dogs and Cats



By Lawrence Lamb, DVM

A cataract is an opacity in the lens. Cataracts can be congenital, which means born with it, age-related; of genetic origin, caused by trauma; dietary deficiency; electric shock; or toxins. The patient with a cataract is not able to see through the opacity. If the entire lens is involved, the eye will be blind.

One cause is diabetes mellitus. In this condition, the blood sugar soars as does the sugar level of the eye fluids. The fluid of the eye's anterior chamber is the fluid that normally nurtures the lens but there is only so much glucose that the lens is able to consume. The excess sugar is absorbed by the lens and transformed into sorbitol. Sorbitol within the lens unfortunately draws water into the lens, causing an irreversible cataract in each eye. Cataracts are virtually unavoidable in diabetic dogs no matter how good the insulin regulation is; diabetic cats have alternative sugar metabolism in the eye and do not get cataracts from diabetes.

The normal lens of the eye is a focusing device. It is completely clear and is suspended in position by tissue fibers called zonules just inside the pupil. The pupil opens and closes to control the light entering the eye so as to project an image onto the retina in the back of the eye, the way a projector projects an image onto a movie screen. The lens focuses the projected image in a process called accommodation. The focusing power of the dog's lens is at least three times weaker than that of a human lens, while a cat's lens is at best half the power of a human. Dogs and cats have a sense of smell at least 1,000 times more accurate than ours and this is their primary means of perceiving the world.

Despite its clarity, the lens is in fact made of tissue fibers. As the animal ages, the lens cannot change its size

and grow larger; instead, it becomes more compact with fibers. The older lens, being denser, appears cloudy. This condition is called nuclear sclerosis and is responsible for the cloudy-eyed appearance of older dogs. The lenses with nuclear sclerosis may look cloudy but they are still clear and the dog can still see through them; these are not cataracts.

The lens is enclosed in a capsule that, if disrupted, allows the immune system to see the lens proteins for the first time, recognize them as foreign, and attack. The result is painful and can be damaging to the eye. A cataract can result from this inflammation.

A small cataract that does not restrict vision is probably not significant. A more complete cataract may warrant treatment. Cataracts have different behavior depending on their origin. If a cataract is a type that can be expected to progress rapidly (such as the hereditary cataracts of young cocker spaniels) it may be beneficial to pursue treatment (i.e. surgical removal) when the cataract is smaller and softer, as surgery will be easier.

Cataract treatment generally involves surgical removal or physical dissolution of the cataract under anesthesia. This is invasive and expensive and is not considered unless it can restore vision or resolve pain. Pets with one normal eye and the other with a cataract can still see with their good eye and may not need surgery depending on circumstances.

Obviously, the patient must be in good general health to undergo surgery; diabetic dogs must be well-regulated before cataract surgery. Also, it should be obvious that in order for a patient to be a good candidate for surgery, the patient must have a temperament conducive to getting eye drops at home. Pre-anesthetic lab work can be done with the patient's regular veterinarian. Some ophthalmologists prefer that patients

have their teeth cleaned before surgery to minimize infection sources in the eye.

A complete examination of the eye should be performed. If your veterinarian is not comfortable treating cataracts or does not have the appropriate equipment, your pet may be referred to a veterinary ophthalmologist.

It is impossible to see the retina through a cataract; an electroretinogram test can determine if the eye has a functional retina and can benefit from cataract surgery. Ultrasound of the eye can be used to look for retinal detachments. If the eye has a blinded retina, there is no point in subjecting the patient to surgery. Inflammation in the eye will require treatment prior to surgery. Sometimes, other eye drops are prescribed for a period before surgery depending on the veterinarian's preference.

Historically, removing the cataract meant surgically cutting into the eye and physically removing the lens. This is still done for older patients whose lenses are compact. For younger patients in whom the lens is soft, a technique called phacoemulsification is preferred.

This technique has become the most common method of removing cataracts in dogs. Here, the lens is broken apart by sound waves and removed with an instrument similar to a small vacuum cleaner.

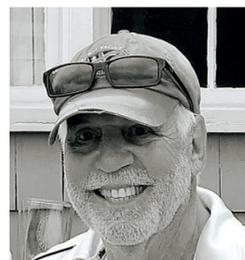
After surgery, the pet must wear an Elizabethan collar for a good three weeks, and eye drops to reduce inflammation will be needed for several months. A harness may be recommended for walks instead of a collar to reduce pressure on the head and eye from pulling. There will be a schedule of recheck appointments.

Bleeding after surgery can be an enormous complication and can easily be caused by excess barking or activity after surgery. Small bleeds are of little consequence, but a large bleed could ruin vision.

Glaucoma can develop at any time after cataract surgery. This complication is not only blinding but painful as well. The risk of this complication has been decreased by placing a prosthetic lens.

A cataract by itself does not necessarily require treatment. If there is no associated inflammation or glaucoma and the only problem is blindness, it is perfectly reasonable to have a blind pet. Blind animals have good life quality and do well though it is important not to move furniture around or leave any hazardous clutter in the home. Some dogs, however, become anxious or even aggressive when they lose their vision. Restoring vision for the pet is weighed against risk and expense and is a decision for each owner to make individually. Many cataracts will progress to a hypermature state where they will begin to dissolve and anti-inflammatory eye drops are needed as mentioned.

Many owners cannot tell which portion of the eye looks cloudy. Cloudiness on the cornea, as caused by other eye diseases, can be mistaken for a cataract by an inexperienced owner. Also, in dogs, the lens will become cloudy with age as more and more fibers are laid down, as described above. Nuclear sclerosis can mimic the appearance of a cataract, yet the eye with this condition can see and is not diseased. It is a good idea to have your veterinarian examine your pet if you think there is a cataract, as you could be mistaken.



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

Solution to puzzles on page 10

T	A	M	I	L	C	U	D	L	A	S	H		
O	M	A	N	I	O	N	E	P	O	P	P	A	
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		T	E	N	L	E	A	P					
J	A	W	T	A	B	U	T	A	L	L	O	W	
A	W	O	L	C	A	M	P	L	O	O	F	A	
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8	4	2	6	1	3	7	5	9
3	6	7	4	5	9	1	2	8
1	9	5	8	2	7	4	6	3
7	8	1	2	6	5	3	9	4
9	2	4	3	8	1	6	7	5
5	3	6	7	9	4	2	8	1

PET OF THE WEEK



Can't Resist Dauphine

Hi there, my name is Dauphine. I'm a sweet 3-month-old female puppy with a long body and short little legs, a "low-rider" type of pup. I came to Cape Ann Animal Aid from North Carolina. I weigh around 10 lbs right now so they're guessing I'll be on the medium side when I grow up. I have a playful and confident personality. I love both people and other doggies. If you're looking for a great all-around dog, I'm your pup! I have my spay surgery scheduled for Friday January 26th so I am ready for foster-to-adopt. We could start making our new family memories together today as long as you live in Massachusetts and can get me back to the shelter on Friday for my surgery and to complete the adoption process.

...*(Continued from page 10)*

Quaker Meeting

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



Manchester Club's 2024 Executive Board: Back row; Chuck Filias, Ken Davis, Bruce MacDonald Jr., Gary Rudolph, new President, Kevin Delaney, Mark McCoy, Dave Slade, Dave Marletta and Jim O'Neil. Front row; Craige McCoy, Jeff Gilson and Alan Kirker. Photo Paul Clark

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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.

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

Ann Olivo & Rick Marshall



Salem \$1,875,000
Elegant. Sophisticated. The White Silsbee House. Magnificent brick Federal at Salem Common. Luxury 21st Century renovation with spectacular kitchen, spa baths. Potential for owner-occupied B&B.

Ted Richard



Wenham \$1,797,000
Enchanting custom Colonial with contemporary flair, grand foyer & home office. 4 bedrooms (2 en suite), 4.5 baths. Open floor plan gourmet kitchen and family room. Pool-patio, 3-car garage.

Fabyan & Filias Team



Wenham \$925,000
Newman-Fiske-Dodge House, a Wenham Icon since 1658. Historic home in excellent condition with 4,000 sq. ft., 5 bedrooms and 3.5 baths. Large barn, 3 driveways and scenic grounds.

Peggy McNamara



Ipswich \$874,900
Scoop up the last unit at Farm Village! MAYAPPLE. 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath 2,500 sf attached townhome with 1st floor main suite, loft, additional flex space, 2-car garage. Delivery end of October.

Alle Cutler & Ed Dick



Rockport \$795,000
Beachfront condo unit with two bedrooms, one bath and separate studio space. Modern finishes and amenities, plus rental opportunity. Spend time on Long Beach – the North Shore's best beach getaway.

Jackelyn Enslow



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



Manchester \$575,000
Design your dream home! 2.2-acre hillside lot with southern exposure and overland views near downtown and Singing Beach. Engineering for 5-bedroom septic system and shared driveway approved.

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**8 Orchard Road
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Orchard Estates by the Sea is a unique residential project featuring single-family townhouses that boast unparalleled comfort and luxury in an optimal location in East Gloucester. Designed and executed by a team of architects, designers and builders, each residence offers chef's kitchen open concept living and dining area with primary first & second floor bedroom suite

Michelle Mineo | Realtor
978-471-9178



**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



**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.

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**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



**33 Way Road
Gloucester | \$3,895,000**
Stunning East Gloucester estate with impressive ocean views. Carriage, barn, and paddocks on 28+ acres.

Scott Smith | Realtor
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WELCOME TO THE TEAM!



Kara Lattanzi Eagan

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