FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2024 PRICE: \$1.25 VOL. 136, NO. 37

BRIEFLY

Nomination Papers Available for Local Municipal Seats

Nomination papers are now available for elected board seats. In Essex, two seats on the Board of Assessors are open (a one-year seat and a three-year seat); a seat on the Board of Selectmen; one Board of Health seat is open; a seat for a three year term on the Manchester Essex Regional School Committee; one three-year seat on the Board of Health; two Library Trustee seats (one two-year seat and a three year seat); a five-year seat on the Housing Authority; and two seats on the Planning board (both five years). In Manchester, elections will be held for the following seats: Town Moderator, Select Board, School Committee, Planning Board (two seats) and Library Trustee. Town elections will be held Tuesday, May 21.

... And While We're On Elections

Details on early voting for the March 5 US Presidential Primary are in from Town Clerk Dianne Bucco. Voters may choose to vote early in person on the following days at Town Hall, 10 Central Street, MBTS. Hours are Saturday Feb. 24, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Monday, Feb. 26, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Tuesday, Feb. 27, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Wednesday Feb. 28, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Thursday Feb. 29, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Also, Bucco reminds everyone that Saturday, Feb. 24 is the last day to register to vote or change your party affiliation.

Polar Plunge Season?

Typically it's a "New Year's" peg for polar plunges. But for those who want more opportunities for an invigorating swim in New England's winter waters there are two opportuntiies. First, at noon on Saturday, Feb. 10 as part of the Rocky Neck Winter Fest popup art festival, the Rocky Neck Art Colony in East Gloucester will host a polar plunge at the Breezeway. Then the next day, Magic Years in Manchester will hold its 4th Annual Polar Plunge at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 11 at Singing Beach. This is a fundraiser for the cooperative nursery school. Cold water plunges are all the rage now with health and wellness folks. Go ahead and get healthy, for art and the children!

Chamber Hosts Team Building

Next Thursday, Manchester's Courtney Joly-Lowdermilk from Bridge Educational Engineering will host a free educational program for business owners called "Love Your Work and They Will Too! ... Five Ways to Energize Your Team." This is a virtual session. Info and registration at capeannchamber.com.





TALE OF TWO THURSDAYS. Last week, Manchester Memorial Schoolers enjoyed a rock show from students at the Berkshire Hills Music Academy. Last year, Manchester's Ana Li Harper performed in the same program. That same evening over at 35 Beach, "plein air" artist David Drinon painted the beautiful views during dinner service as part of Cape Ann Plein Air's "Palate to Palette" monthly program that runs around Cape Ann until the CAPA art festival in October. Photo Memory Layne

Town Hall Notebook Manchester Residents Voice Concerns Over Proposed Private Well Regulations

By Erika Brown

esidents sounded off their opinions during a public hearing Thursday that addressed a proposed Board of Health regulation that would update rules for installing and maintaining private wells in Manchester. The central issue is whether the town can impose similar restrictions on homeowners who, at their own expense, install and maintain an independent water source, that mirror regulations for public water operators.

The proposed rules would apply to the estimated 140 existing and future Manchester wells and would update the current regulation drafted in 1984 governing wells that BOH Chairman, Peter Colarusso, characterized as overly broad and inadequate to meet today's public safety challenges for

water. draft regulation, largely based on a 133-page Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) template regulation, includes a series of state-recommended rules governing private well installation, rou-

tine testing, and reporting that have been legally and scientifically vetted. These are all in the BOH draft regulation, which would mandate regular testing for hazardous chemicals such as PFAS, as well as natural contaminants like coliform bacteria, E. coli bacteria, nitrates, nitrites, Ph conductivity, sodium, and iron. The regulation requires a baseline test for well owners to establish contaminant levels, with subsequent testing required every 10 years if levels comply with state and federal standards.

Public concern Thursday heightened in areas where the BOH tightened restrictions beyond the state's guidelines. A big issue gets to the heart of Manchester water supply itself, specifically an added provision that private well owners would be, "required to comply with the same conservation efforts as homes and properties on public water supplies, especially with regard to drought restrictions. If there is a water ban for irrigation, it also applies to well owners."

This didn't go over well with some residents who said water supply issues are irrelevant for many well owners. Stephen Kasnet of 1 University Lane called it a "manifest injustice" to subject private well owners to regulations demanding the same drought-related conservation as homes using municipal water. Kasnet pointed out that, in the 40 years since installing a private well for drinking water and irrigation, the Select Board allowed irrigation from well water and recommended erecting a lawn sign indicating the water source.

Alan Wilson of Spyrock Hill, a retired environmental trial lawyer, and a board member of the US Audubon Society, went further, contesting the impact of his private irrigation well on Manchester's water supply. Citing an Oct. 2023 letter from Scott Horsley, co-author of the 1990 water study of Manchester, Wilson emphasized that wells outside the DEP's wellhead protection zones have no impact on public water sup-

"Private irrigation wells that are not located within the Gravelly Pond watershed or in close proximity to the Lincoln Street well and within the Zone II area will not interfere or compete with the public water supply sources," Wilson said, quoting Horsley's October letter to Manchester ConCom Chair Steve Gang.

"These regulations are contrary to the town's own hydrology expert opinion," Wilson continued. aren't rational in that respect and are arbitrary and capricious."

Wilson's home is within the Zone 3 of the DEP's proof School Street, though lacking a well, strongly supported exempting well owners from conservationrelated drought restrictions, suggesting that private wells might one day alleviate demand on the public water supply.

"It is entirely possible that the creation of such wells in the future may provide the same benefits, provided that the sourcing is for the most part independent from that of the public water supply," Weld wrote.

...(Continued on page 5)

Weekly Weather Chart

Weekly Weather C	mar t		
Saturday 3 Feb	*	3 7 °	24°
Sunday 4 Feb	*	35°	26°
Monday 5 Feb	- <u>;</u> ċ;-	39°	24°
Tuesday 6 Feb	*	39°	30°
Wednesday 7 Feb	- <u>;</u> ¢-	40°	38°
Thursday 8 Feb	*	42°	38°
Friday 9 Feb		42°	38°

Weather data pulled Wednesday and is subject to change.

Possible Areas for MBTA Zoning Discussed

Sea MBTA Zoning Task Force narrowed its focus even more onto sections of town that allow it to meet the requirements of the state's new MBTA zoning law, at its meeting Jan. 25.

By Jeff Pope

The Manchester-by-the-

The requirements of the new state law for the town • rezone at least 37 acres;

- · those acres must average at least 15 units of multi-family housing per acre;
- allow for at least 559 units in the rezoned area, including existing residences;
- include at least 40 percent of the 37 acres (or 14.8 acres) within a half mile of the MBTA commuter rail station on Summer Street.



Members of the Manchester MBTA Overlay Zoning District Task Force, meeting last week in Manchester.

The deadline for approval of the new zoning plan is the end of 2024. The state requires a 90-day review process before the plan goes to Town Meeting for

approval. Because the Task Force members thought early November should be the latest in the year a special Town Meeting should be called, they set a goal of

sending their proposal to the state's Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities by June 15.

...(Continued on page 5)

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.

SC Meeting Tuesday, February 6 6 - 8 p.m.

MERSD

Essex Planning Board Wednesday, February 7 7 p.m.

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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).

Catherine H. (Lazisky) Angelson



Catherine H. (Lazisky) Angelson, 80, of Manchester-by-the-Sea, passed away with her devoted son-in-law Ted at her side on Tuesday evening, January 23 at the Kaplan Family Hospice House in Danvers. She was the beloved wife of the late John L. Angelson Jr with whom she shared 60 years of marriage. She was born in Boston, moved to Manchester-by-the-Sea in 1954 and graduated from Story High School with the class of 1961. Catherine resided in Manchester-by-the-Sea until she married John in 1963 and they moved to Gloucester. John and Catherine returned to Manchester-by-the-Sea in 1967 where she remained until the end of her life.

Catherine worked at the Manchester-by-the-Sea Town Hall until she became a mother. After staying home to raise her family, she went back to work for Dr. John R. Dainton as his office manager for the remainder of her career.

Catherine was a talented artist who could paint, make jewelry, and work with stained glass. She was an avid reader, loved gardening and was an excellent cook. Catherine loved to travel. She enjoyed multiple trips to the Caribbean and Costa

Rica with her husband, and Cathy and John traveled the U.S. National Parks with her sister Ioni and her husband Bucky. She has been to Europe several times with her daughter and finally realized her lifelong dream to visit Egypt in 2018 with her daughter and grandson Connor. In her retirement, she was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary and volunteered at the Senior Center in Beverly.

She enjoyed a special bond with her son-in-law Ted, and he frequently brought her to the monthly American Legion dinners which she enjoyed so very much.

She is survived by her daughter, Danielle Angelson-Welch and her husband Ted of Woburn; two grandchildren, Connor and Parker Welch both of Woburn; two sisters, Joan M. Burgess of Groveland and Fran Carusso

of Norwood and her nieces and nephews, Lynne Berkeley of Groveland, Diana Crane (Brett) of Gloucester, Tom Cusick (Lucimara) of Amesbury, Terry Cusick (Rachel) of Amesbury and Kim Angelson Maloney of Bay Bulls, Canada. She was predeceased by her son, Brett T. Angelson and her brother, Joseph A. Lazisky Jr.

Her funeral service was held on Saturday, January 27th. Contributions may be made in Catherine's memory to the Kaplan Family Hospice House, c/o Care Dimensions, 75 Sylvan Street, Suite B-102, Danvers, MA 01923.

> Love loves to love love.

~ James Joyce -

The Manchester Cricket

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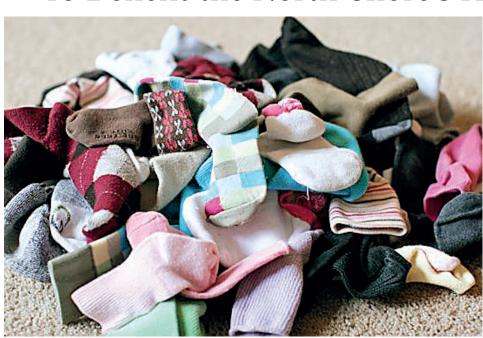
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New England Newspaper Association 2019 Winner For Best Website, Best Photo Feature Series, Best Front Page

Masconomo Council 1232 K of C Sock Drive To Benefit the North Shore's Homeless



ox in Socks. Sox in Socks. Socks for Those Who Need Socks!

Socks are one of the most important and useful clothing items that are provided to homeless people.

Clean socks promote good hygiene and health, and provide warmth during the cold winter months. They are the item most sought after by residents of homeless shel-

Masconomo Council 1232 Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a Sock Drive to coincide with the Red Sox beginning their Spring Training schedule on February 5th.

The Knights are looking for new, clean socks, which will be donated to local area homeless

shelters. Donations will be accepted until Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024.

There will be bins marked for the sock drive in the rear of both Sacred Heart church, Manchester-by-the-Sea and St John the Baptist church, Essex, Visitation Parish.

As wintry weather bears down on us, please consider donating a few (or more!) pairs of new socks to help the homeless. We appreciate your support!

Last year 1,000 pairs of socks were donated. Council 1232 hopes to exceed that number in 2024.

Contact: Ray McNulty rfmcnulty@gmail.com, 978 778 0060

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 sepabe used as one. Private hallway connects units. One with full bath and Q-bed. Other full bath, watsher/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

FOR RENT

MANCHESTER 1st FLOOR APARTMENT—One bedroom apartment on the first floor in downtown Manchester. Good size kitchen, living room, den, laundry in the building, off street PERSONAL parking for one car. Located in downtown area. \$2,000/month, heat included. Tenant at will, please call 978-526-7226. 2/19

MBTS VILLAGE—Upstairs at 38 patio and backyard,

space in the heart of MBTS right above Gray House Antiques! Email hello@grayhouseantiques.com.

SEEKING RENTAL

MBTS, FAMILY—I, my husband, children 7 & 5, are looking for a 2+ bed house in Manchester rate units on main floor that can starting July/Aug/Sept during my 2 year position at Harvard. Year round or winter rental Sept-June. \$4000 max. Dr Clara Carus & Dr David Carus claracarus@gmail. com. Excellent references, very responsible. . 2/18

FREE!

YORKIES, MALE & FEMALE-Male & female Akc Registered yorkies puppies Free to a perfect Good Home if interested contact:danamorgan187@gmail.

SERVICES

ASSISTANT-Consider it Done/ Personal Assistant. (Services offered but not limited to) Errands, Shopping, Medical Appointments Gardening. Contact Tracy at 978-376-0950 or Email Te2photo2@gmail.com

bdrm/1bthrm with shower. Hdwd HANDYMAN, MBTS—Handyman floors, cathedral ceilings, exposed for light construction, home painting, two private entrances. W/D in home repairs, painting cleanunit. Central A/C. 700 sq.ft. +/-. ups, power washing, rototilling. \$2,500/month. Great light with Fully insured. Have truck and sunshine all day. Available now trailer. Clean, honest, references. thru May 2025. Come bring your Contact Bill mbtshandyman@ ideas to this ideal home or office $\underline{\text{gmail.com or (978) 618-0}}$ 999. TF

MANCHESTER POLICE **NOTES**



SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

10:33 a.m. Summer St., parking complaint, parking enforcement. 12:59 p.m. School St., MV stop, written warning. 2:01 p.m. Pleasant St., written warning.

MONDAY, JANUARY 22 8:59 a.m. Kings Way, fire -

hazmat, fire confirmed. 11:10 a.m. Summer St., traffic hazard, assisted as needed. 1:55 p.m. Atwater aband/false/discon-Ave.. nect/open, secured/checked. 2:17 p.m. Central St., harassment, spoken to. 4:29 p.m. Central St., animal complaint, assisted as needed.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23

7:44 a.m. Central St., fire other, assisted as needed. 1:05 p.m. solicitor reg/complaint, no action taken. 5:08 p.m. Jersey Lane, animal complaint, other. 8:53 p.m. Lincoln St., disabled mv, notification made.

WEDNESDAY, **JANUARY 24**

MANCHESTER **ELECTRIC**

Full Service Electrical Contractor Daniel R. Houde Lic. #A13265 (978) 526-1194

MEC934@aol.com

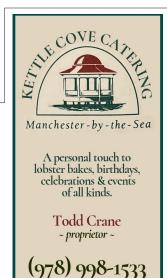
11:40 a.m. Summer St., animal complaint, notification made. 11:59 a.m. Pine St., parking complaint, secured/ checked. 4:30 p.m. Jersey Lane, animal complaint, secured/checked.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25

9:42 a.m. RTE 128 NB, mv stop, arrest. 12:57 p.m. Central St., police invest/follow up, report to follow. 1:08 p.m. Proctor St., fire motor vehicle lockout, assisted as needed. 4:54 p.m. Pine St., fire investigation, fire confirmed. 10:08 p.m. Lincoln St., police-alarm, secured/ checked.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

9:41 a.m. Summer St., selective enforcement, no action taken. 2:54 p.m. Central St., property lost/



found/held/returned, assisted as needed. 9:25 p.m. RTE 128NB, MV stop, written warning.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27 1:11 a.m. Boardman Ave., checked. 10:53 a.m. School St., property damage/vandalism, assisted as needed. 11:28 a.m. Washington St., suspicious activity, assisted as needed. 5:13 p.m. Summer St., traffic hazard, other.







Position Announcement

The Town of Manchester-by-the-Sea seeks qualified, highly motivated applicants for a Seasonal Parking Enforcement Officer from May 20th, 2024, to October 6th, 2024 (dates flexible).

The ability to function in a fast-paced environment, as well as the ability to multitask, is a must. Candidates must also have the highest integrity, excellent written and oral communication skills, and a basic knowledge of computers. Local knowledge of the Town of Manchester-by-the-Sea is a plus, but not required as training will be provided. The Parking Enforcement Officer will be responsible for enforc-

ing all current parking regulations in the Town of Manchesterby-the-Sea using handheld electronic ticketing software (training provided). Typical hours are either 9am-5pm or 10am-6pm. The work schedule is flexible and can be discussed, but must include weekend/holiday coverage, as these are our busiest times.

Candidates must be at least 18 years of age and possess a valid Massachusetts driver's license. Candidates will also be required to complete and pass a certified American Heart Association C.P.R. class and pass an extensive background investigation.

Interested candidates should submit a cover letter and current resume to Sergeant Stephen Louf, Manchester-by-the-Sea Police Department - 10 Central Street, Manchester, MA 01944 or via e-mail to loufs@manchester.ma.us no later than April 20th, 2024.

Starting Pay is \$19 per hour and summer uniforms (police polo and shorts) are provided. Thank you for your interest and we look forward to you joining our team!

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ATM Set for April 24th; Local Elections May 21st

By Gregory T. Federspiel

his year's Annual Town Meeting (ATM) will be on Wednesday, April 24 starting at 6:30 p.m. Voters approved a change in the Town's bylaw moving the ATM from the first Monday in April to the fourth Monday. However, this year, the fourth Monday coincides with the religious holiday of Passover thus the Select Board has exercised its authority to alter the date to avoid the conflict. The extra time will enable more certainty on various proposed budget items.

During the next three months budget proposals will be finalized both for town and school operations. It is shaping up to be a more challenging year to craft the annual spending proposals given the pressures caused by higher inflation the past couple of years and increasing demand for some departmental services. The Finance Committee meets weekly in order to review all departmental requests in detail and to prepare their recommendations for voters.

Typically, there are articles dealing with bylaw amendments as well as the occasional citizen petition article. The Planning Board may have additional amendments to the zoning regulations to propose but the proposals for complying with the state's MBTA zoning mandate will most likely be considered at a Special Town Meeting later in the year as the MBTA Task Force continues their due diligence in vetting various options. Once



the Task Force finalizes their recommendations the Planning Board will review them, finalize any proposals and schedule formal public hearings on possible new zoning that complies with Chapter 40A, Section 3a. Only then is the proposed new zoning ready to go before voters who have the final say at a Town Meeting.

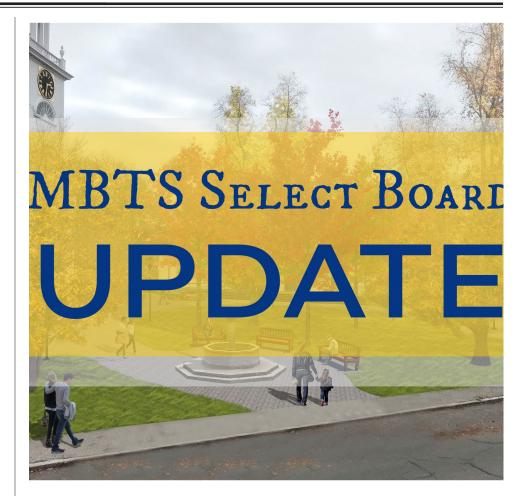
Citizen petition articles are due in the Select Board's Office at least 60 days prior to the ATM. Thus, the deadline for this year is February 22 (the 23rd is a Friday when Town Hall is closed.) Petition articles for the ATM need to have the signatures of at least 10 registered voters. Blank petition forms are available on the Town Clerk's page of the Town's website.

Town Elections are held on the third Tuesday of May - May 21st this year. Nomination papers are now available from the Town Clerk's Office. Elections will be held for Town Moderator, Select Board, School Committee, Planning Board (2 positions) and Library Trust-

Of course, it is an extra busy year for elections. There is the presidential primary on March 5, the state primary on September 3 and

the state and national elections on November 5. Election day voting takes place at the Memorial School from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Early voting is offered as well as voting by mail. Again, see the Town Clerk's page of the Town's website for details.

New Planner: In other news, please welcome to Town Marc Resnick, Manchester's new town planner. Marc started working for the town a couple of weeks ago and is getting right to work helping the Planning Board start the review process for the proposed new biolab Cell Signaling Technology is proposing up by the MAC and assisting the MBTA task force, among other projects. Marc comes to us with many years of experience in the planning profession including working for Lakeville, Foxborough, Brockton and Salisbury. He has worked on complex projects which often had competing interests to resolve - experiences that will serve him well as he helps Manchester deal with various challenges. Marc is looking forward to learning more about the Town and working with many of you. He also is looking forward to settling into the old family home in Gloucester.



BOARD UPDATES

Annual Town Meeting: Save the date! The Annual Town Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 24 at Memorial School. Learn about the Town Meeting process on the Town website.

Dog License Renewal: Dog registration opens on February 1. All dogs in Manchester are required by State and local law to be licensed through the Town Clerk's office. A dog license is valid from April 1 to March 31. Please see the Town website to renew today.

Select Board Meeting: The

Select Board will meet on Monday, February 5 at 6:30 p.m. Meeting details can be found on the Town website.

MBTA Zoning Task Force: The next Task Force Meeting will take place on Thursday, February 8 at 6:30 p.m. Meeting details can be found on the Town website.

Walker Road Work: Walker Road work will be completed by February 2. Thank you for your patience during construction. The entire road will be paved in Summer 2024.

DPW Rain Barrel Sale: Last minute New Year's 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 greatamericanrainbarell.com/community/.

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. - 3 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m.- 3 p.m.

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

WHAT WAS



HAPPENING

90 YEARS AGO - 1934

One of the worst auto casualties of the winter was that on Saturday night when one of our prominent citizens and businessmen, C. Lee Stanwood narrowly escaped with his life, when his auto was in a violent collision with a car on the Revere Beach Boulevard, near the Point of Pine bridge.

Manchester collected last year \$1240.80 in dog tax money of which \$607.74 was refunded to the town.

75 YEARS AGO - 1949

Police Chief L. Allan Andrews this week issued a warning to all children about snowball throwing around town. He states that property damage has been reported from this youthful pastime. The Chief requests all parents to caution their children about throwing snowballs, as it could result in a serious accident.

Sunday night and Monday proved trying times as Dame Nature unloaded a six-inch accumulation of snow and followed this with a rain that ended with freezing temperatures. However, once again Superintendent P. Edward Sweeney and his men were equal to the task and did a most incredible job.

60 YEARS AGO - 1964

A bill that would provide monies for an investigation of the sanitary conditions of the water of Manchester, Beverly, Salem, and Marblehead has been reported out favorably by both the Public Health and Ways and Means Committees.

Civil Defense Director Carl Christensen announces that the first session of a 10-hour First Aid Course for the Auxiliary Firemen and the Auxiliary Police of the Manchester Civil Defense will be held on Wednesday, February 26th.

45 YEARS AGO - 1979

Dr. William J. Otto, Jr. of Manchester was elected to Beverly Hospital's Board of Trustees at the annual meeting on January 22nd. Dr. Otto is a radiologist on the Hospital Medical staff.

A very interesting and colorful program on Icelandic Greenhouses and their use of thermal steam in the growing of flowering plants, vegetables and fruits in such a barren land was illustrated in a lecture by Bernhard Toombs at the recent North Shore Horticultural Society meet-

30 YEARS AGO - 1994 Massachusetts recently became the 46th state in the nation to enact a safety belt law for all motorists and passengers traveling in the Commonwealth.

The law went into effect February 1, 1994. The adult law requires motorists to have been stopped for another motor vehicle violation and then sighted for not wearing a seat belt, however, motorists can be stopped expressly for having children ages 12 and under unrestrained.

Konstantine "Charlie" Zolotas has decided to take life a little easier. After 30 years of running the ever-popular Peggy's Sub Shop, he retired this week, selling the business to Jane Pearson.

15 YEARS AGO - 2009

Axel Magnuson has been elected as Chair of the Community Preservation Committee replacing Joe Sabella who had served on the committee since its creation in

Celebrating a tradition that began with the inception of the debate program in the fall of 1971, the Manchester Essex Debate and Speech Team hosted its 38th annual Lasagna Lunch tournament on Saturday, January 31st.

Tides & Sun Chart For The Week Ahead

DATE		HIGH			LOW			*			
		AM	FT	PM	FT	AM	FT	PM	FT	RISE	SET
2	Fri	3:56	8.8	4:21	8.0	10:38	1.4	10:52	1.5	6:54	4:58
3	Sat	4:43	8.8	5:14	7.6	11:33	1.6	11:44	1.7	6:53	4:59
4	Sun	5:36	8.8	6:16	7.3			12:33	1.6	6:52	5:01
5	Mon	6:35	8.9	7:24	7.3	12:41	1.8	1:36	1.4	6:51	5:02
6	Tue	7:39	9.2	8:31	7.6	1:42	1.7	2:37	1.0	6:50	5:03
7	Wed	8:42	9.6	9:33	8.1	2:42	1.4	3:37	0.4	6:49	5:05
8	Thu	9:42	10.2	10:28	8.7	3:41	0.9	4:32	-0.3	6:47	5:06



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Join me for an informative evening as we embark on a European journey of elegance and exploration at our River Cruise Night! Immerse yourself in the world of river cruising and enjoy a delightful array of European snacks.

Tuesday, February 6 at 6:30 pm

In cooperation with AMAWATERWAYS

Congregational Parish Hall

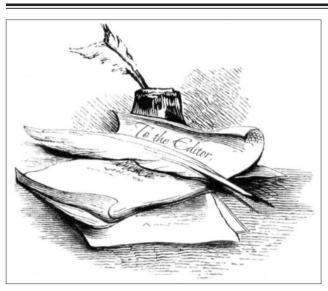
Please register as attendance is limited: www.RegineAdamTravel.com/RiverCruiseNight

1 Chapel Lane, Manchester-by-the-Sea



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

"Level Services" **MERSD FY25 Budget Means Cuts to Needed Student Services**

To the Editor,

Manchester Essex High School is currently in the process of changing the class schedule for the Fall of 2024. This change is directly precipitated by the budget cut and the need to pool resources between the middle and high schools. I want to make everyone aware of how the students and teachers will be adversely affected throughout this process.

In the proposed plan, we will switch over to six classes a day instead of five, each period being 10 to 15 minutes shorter than they are now. One of these periods is a 40-minute U block, which will also be shortened.

For me, U Block is the only time I can see teachers, interview peers and faculty for my Journalism class, meet with my fellow class officers, do group work with my classmates, or meet with my guidance counselor to discuss my

academic future. As a high school student, the 55- to 60-minute classes we have now are crucial when conducting a chemistry lab or taking an exam. Going back to a middle school schedule will only cut class discussions short in English and History and give students less time to dive into each subject and fully grasp the materials, detrimentally affecting not only their academic grades but their men-

tal health as well. And, what happens when a student is sick and misses an exam? That's a 50-minute test that they now have to take in a 40-minute U block. Neither student nor teacher should be expected to give up their lunch or stay after school, nor will that be feasible for many students. I live in Essex, both my parents are employed, I'm not old enough to drive, and we've already cut late buses from our budget, which means that many students would be left without a way home.

This is yet another example of budget cuts negatively affecting students, which we've also started to see in our middle and elementary schools. It is unfair to then put those kids into a high school that doesn't have the funding to provide them with the resources they need to be successful post-high school.

If we don't increase the budget soon, we are only perpetuating the rapid decline of our school system as a whole. It is my hope that Essex will support an increased budget that will stop unfavorable cuts that diminish the quality of our education.

August Capotosto Manchester Essex 10th grade High School student

The ME Regional School Committee's Key to **Success? Autonomy**

Theresa Whitman, School Committee Chair, reminded us at the recent joint finance committee meeting, "When the two towns formed a Regional School district, they essentially formed a third municipality within both towns." It seems as though the Finance Committee members from Essex have become confused as to their appointed roles in this relationship.

Both town finance committees serve as advisory boards. They are appointed committee members whose sole purpose is to make recommendations on all articles of a financial nature for voters at town meetings. They have "free access" to all TOWN financial records, but when it comes to the school district, they work through their elected representatives on the School Committee to influence budgets. This clear delineation maintains the in-

tegrity of each organization but acknowledges the importance of each town's role in funding the District. The Regional Agreement clearly states the powers and duties of the District as follows: "The Committee (School Committee) shall have ALL (emphasis mine) the powers and duties conferred and imposed upon regional school district communities by law and by this agreement and additions thereto or may be conferred and imposed upon it by any applicable general

or special law." At no point in the Regional agreement does it mention member towns' Select Boards or Finance Committee having ANY power or duty over the district. However, since the district's inception, it has worked in concert with each town, knowing that it is the largest portion of each town's overall budget.

About 10 years ago, a collaborative committee made up of representatives of each town's finance committees, select persons, town administrators, the MERSD superintendent and business manager, as well as a school committee representative was formed. This committee met and discussed what was happening in each community budget-wise. It was enormously effective in planning, collaborating, and problem-solving between the two towns.

Unfortunately, this collaborative effort has stopped due to questions related to open meeting law. In spite of the concerns, the District has committed to continuing these meetings in open session, but have not had full agreement from our member towns to meet openly. Yet, on Wednesday night, the Finance Committee of both towns held a joint meeting in open session with each other. The meeting was billed as an opportunity for the two boards to talk about school budget funding strategies. Because there was not one elected representative from the District or either towns' Select Boards at the table, this joint Manchester and Essex finance committee meeting was incredibly inappropriate. Having district representatives present for these conversations is necessary for a productive conversation rather than speculation. The meeting went wildly off course when they discussed topics not within their purview: the future of Essex Elementary School, a MERSD review, and a 10-year

plan. relevant elected The boards must be a part of the agenda and the conversation. It would behoove all town boards and any efforts to problem-solve around this budget to revisit their respective bylaws and discuss their scope of authority. We need to do better!

Caroline Weld Manchester

MBTA Zoning Task Force: Let's Keep **Manchester a Sanctuary** from the War Around

I write in response to a recent letter asserting the districts under consideration as part of the MBTA Zoning process reflect "NIMBYism" by the MBTA Zoning Task Force.

First, thank you members of the Task Force for volunteering and devoting substantial time and expertise to this important yet difficult process. Second, I object to the mischaracterization of the motivations of these, or other town volunteers, as personal. They do all residents a service through their efforts on our behalf. It's fine to disagree with recommendations or decisions, but please don't cross the line and question the character of our volunteers - they don't deserve it.

It is important to note the mission of the Task Force, set out more fully in the town's website: study downtown to determine existing uses and potential opportunities and obstacles to meeting town and state goals; consider the likely minimal modifications to current zoning to bring the town into compliance with the mandate and their potential impact; consider changes that would result in compliance with 40A; and provide opportunities for input. At the end, the Task Force will report to the Select and Planning Boards on its findings and alternative proposals and ultimately residents will have the ability to vote up or down any recommended by-

law changes. 40A mandates at least half the required acres permitting conforming housing (15 or more units per acre) be within ½ mile of the MBTA station. So, a primary focus in this area is a given. Separately, within this zone targeting areas already more densely populated makes good sense, because fewer changes from existing conditions are required to achieve compliance. That likely reduces the economic incentive of a developer to make wholesale changes to existing structures and potentially any significant changes. On the Master Plan Committee, we heard loudly that the highest priority of residents was not changing the character of this community. I'm confident the Task Force has heard the same. In general, it's reasonable to assume that the fewest changes to existing conditions will result in the least impact.

Iust to be clear that doesn't necessarily mean that avoiding substantial changes in any location (such as those outside the ½ mile radius) may be the best path to compliance while limiting overall impact on the character of the community.

My initial reaction to 40A was compliance very likely risked significant and adverse changes to Manchester and its character. I recently went on the walking tour sponsored by the Task Force and found it both informative and comforting regarding what might be possible to achieve compliance, at least within the ½ mile zone, while maintaining the 'look and feel' of existing conditions. Much work remains to be done, and I for one will remain open-minded and await the Task Force report and input of the Select and Planning Boards.

Please, let the process and good work continue. Do participate and comment as community input is welcome and will better inform us all and the ultimate recommendations of the Task Force and Boards. But don't just fall back and fire away - let's try to keep Manchester as somewhat of a sanctuary from that war raging all around us.

Jay Bothwick Manchester

NIMBY? No.

I am the member of the MBTA Task Force who lives on Bennett St. I am responding to the letter to the editor in last week's paper as an individual, not on behalf of the Task Force.

Why is Bennett St. not being considered? It was considered, as were many other areas, but deemed to be inconsistent with the goal of preserving the character of the town by excluding the Historic District. The south side of the first half of Bennett St. and both sides of Bridge St. are in the Historic District. There are also six antique houses on Bennett St. which are not in the Historic District, including the town's oldest house. I don't think people want to jeopardize those structures. There is a three family across the street from me in the General District where three units in an existing structure have been allowed by right for 50 years. There are also 6 two-

family homes on the street. By including well-designed multi-family properties such as Saw Mill Circle and the condos at 21 Pine Street, there is little incentive for a developer to redevelop them. The inclusion of small lots (6,000 sq. ft. in the General District) makes it difficult for a developer to acquire enough adjoining lots at \$1 million each to create a financially viable large-scale development. In the areas being considered, properties in the Historic District have not been included. The Task Force will make recommendations to the Planning Board for their consideration and any zoning change will be presented to the Town's voters at a Special Town Meeting.

Failure to comply will leave the town ineligible for \$1.9 million in dredging funds from the State which will add 6% to the tax rate. We recently received approval

for a \$3.5 million water works grant which could be in jeopardy. Loss of additional state funds will further increase the tax rate.

The Task Force goal is to preserve the Town's character and to minimize the number of new residential units that might be developed by complying with the law and not making it attractive for developers within the halfmile radius. It is complicated and there are tradeoffs. To date, we have received lots of criticism but few constructive ideas to help us in the process. We are doing the best we can to try to comply with a law that most people do not like.

Sarah Mellish Manchester

Please Consider Michael Scarlata for Republican **State Committee**

My dear friend Michael Scarlata is running for Republican State Committeeman in the First Essex and Middlesex district which includes Manchester and surrounding towns. I have known Michael for several years and have witnessed his compassion to building the Republican Party in the district and throughout Massachusetts. A year ago, he announced that he was running for the State Committee. At the time I had no idea what the position of State Committee entailed. I am sure I am not alone. Essentially what Michael told me was that the Republican State committee is the governing body of the Republican party in Massachusetts. The Republican State Committee is responsible for building the Republican Party in their district, recruiting candidates to run for office, helping with fundraising and registering new voters. Obviously living in Massachusetts, the bluest of blue states these tasks are very challenging. However, if anyone can be successful in accomplishing these tasks it is Michael Scarlata. He has been a Republican Political Activist for decades and has volunteered, managed, and advised several campaigns including State Representatives Brad Hill, Brad Jones, Lenny Mirra, Governor Charlie Baker, Gubernatorial candidate Geoff Diehl, Congressional Candidate Bob May to name a few. I can't think of a better man to be elected to the Republican State Committee than Michael Scarlata. He has a record of accomplishment within the Republican Party that is second to none. Please visit his website to learn more. Scarlata4statecommittee.com. Please join me in casting your vote on March 5, 2024, for Michael Scarlata our next Republican State Committeeman in the First Essex and Middlesex district. Thank You.

Pam Damato North Reading

Chair and Associate Professor of Government at Suffolk University. Cobb specializes in U.S. elections, election administration, electoral politics, civic engagement, and political participation.

Hearthside Book Group

Tuesday, February 6 at 4-5 p.m. On Tuesday, February 6th at 4 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, Beyond That, the Sea by Laura Spence-Ash 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." Contact Lori Dumont at ldumont@manchesterpl. org or at 978-526-7711 for further information. Copies of this book are available at the circulation desk, curbside pickup or by home delivery.

*Art Across Asia: Lunar New Year (Virtual)

Sunday, February 11 at 2:30-4 p.m. Welcome in the lunar new year by learning about the traditions and symbolism which enrich this celebration each year on Zoom. Visit the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco virtually. This program is made possible through a partnership with the Chelmsford Public Library and other MA

LIBRARY NEWS

Check out More than

Books at the MBTS Library Did you know the library has three sizes of snowshoes available for kids and adults? Checkout is for a week. Manchester residents can reserve a pair from our Library of Things at manchesterpl.org/ borrow/library-of-things/ You can also checkout birdwatching kits, donated by Manchester By The Sea Friends of the Library or trekking poles.

Manchester Public Library Launches New eCard Service

No library card? No problem. Residents can now sign up online for an electronic library card.

Signing up for an electronic library card (eCard) has never been easier. Thanks Manchester-by-the-Sea Public Library's membership in the Merrimack Valley Library Consortium (MVLC), 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.

With an MVLC eCard from, Manchester-by-the-Sea Public Library residents gain free access to more than 65,000 eBooks, digital audiobooks. and online magazines, as well as numerous local and statewide electronic collections for entertainment, study and research such as Overdrive, Rocket Languages, and Con-

sumer Reports. MVLC 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. For more details and to apply for an MVLC eCard visit https://manchester.mvlc.org/manchesterecard. Contact the Manchester Public Library at 978-526-7711 for more information.

MPL News & Events for

Kids and Families:

*To register for the programs below and more: manchesterpl.org/events or call 978-526-7711

Winter and Spring Story-

Wednesdays at 10:30-11:15 a.m. Join Miss Audrey for Storytime for children ages 0-5 and their caregivers! We'll share books, songs, and games. Join us every Wednesday starting January 24th at 10:30 am. This program runs through to April 24th.

Early Childhood Partners

CFCE's Seaside Saturdays Saturday, February 10 at 10-11 a.m. Please join us for a SUPERHERO-THEMED story time and craft on Saturday, February 10th from 10-11 a.m.! This program is designed for children ages 0-6 and their adult and is presented by Early Childhood

Thursday, February 22 at 6-6:45 p.m. Get cozy at the library! Come dressed in



Massachusetts State Police Crime Lab veteran Paul Zambella dusts for attendees' fingerprints at his Forensic Science Roadshow program, which drew a crowd of mystery fans and others with a CSI affinity to the Manchester-by-the-Sea library last week.

Courtesy Photo

your pjs for a Storytime and craft with Miss Audrey on February 22nd at 6 p.m. This program is for ages 4-7.

MPL News & Events for Teens and Young Adults:

*To register for the programs below and more: manchesterpl.org/events or call 978-526-7711

*Graphic Novel Club

Wednesday, February 28 at 4-4:45 p.m. Join the graphic novel club. We meet once a month from January to June. Explore new and new-to-you graphic novels with friends, snacks and activities. We will be discussing "Ghost Book" by Remy Lai. Ask at the front desk for your copy now. This program is for grades 4-7, and

registration is required for each monthly meeting.

MPL News & Events for Adults:

*To register for the programs below and more: manchesterpl.org/events or call 978-526-7711

*Effective Grassroots **Movements that Impact Voting Rights (Virtual)**

Rachael V. Cobb, Ph.D. is

Monday, February 5 at 7-8 p.m. What does it take to take a Grassroots idea to a movement which can have significant impact on voting and elections? Join us for this virtual panel discussion to see how that happens and what you can do to be part of that movement!

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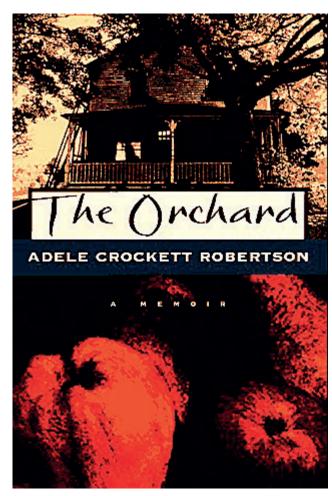
Working through Adele Crockett Robertson's "The Orchard"

By Hannah Harlow

ost literary locals likely already know of it, but it was not until Godine Publishers reissued it last year in a new edition, with a foreword by her daughter Betsy Robertson Cramer and an afterword by Jane Brox, that I finally picked up and read Adele "Kitty" Crockett Robertson's "The Orchard."

Published posthumously in 1995, when Kitty's daughter found the manuscript amongst her mother's belongings, her memoir captures her experience of managing the Ipswich farm her father left her, deeply in debt, in 1932. A practicing physician, her father operated the place as a hobby; in the depths of the Depression, at age 31, Kitty found herself with no such luxury.

I'm so glad this book continues to find its way to people, and found its way to me. Not only is it a great read, full of seasonal observations of the changing landscape and a joyful exuberance at her choice of occupation, I also found a good deal to relate to, in spite of nearly a century of time passing and our different occupational cir-



cumstances.

When Robertson takes over the farm, she does so as a single woman at a time when economic forces heaped difficulty upon difficulty. There's much to admire in her character – she has a strong moral compass (she insists on paying day laborers a fair

rate even though every other farm in the area has slashed their rates), she stands up for herself (there's a great scene of her scaring off thieves with an unloaded gun), she works

hard, and she's clever. It also turns out apple farming and bookselling are not so different. First, they can be solitary endeavors. While both require help at times – Robertson hires various people at times to help with things like the harvest and collecting and selling spoiled apples for cider production – there are also long days working solo. While Robertson sometimes did this for economic reasons, while apple prices were down and she tried to pay off debts, I was reminded of the long days of 2020 when the doors to the Book Shop were closed, and I processed orders online or over the phone with little contact with anyone save for a wave through the window during a curbside pick-up. Sure, it got lonely, but Robertson reminded me how that time alone and without distractions allowed me to look. The gorgeous marshy, seaside views Robertson describes out her window were the same ones I drove

through each day on empty

How lucky are we to live here?

here? Second, when we changed careers, we both moved from more sedentary lives into professions that required more physical labor. Sure, I got tennis elbow from lifting heavy boxes of books in my second year on the job, but Robertson reminded me how satisfying it is to be physically tired at the end of the day. How physical labor works your mind in a different way. While bookselling isn't anywhere near as demanding on the body as managing a farm, it's loads more demanding than the cubicle life. Kitty is constantly embarrassed by the soil under her nails; at the end of each day I find random bits of tape stuck mysteriously to some part of my body (the result of receiving and breaking down boxes of books daily).

Finally, there's the joy in knowing you've made the right decision. Robertson makes mistakes – plenty of them. So, do I. Both of our expertise is only partial – she knows what her father has taught her, which is thorough in those areas, but it's not complete. I know plenty about books and how the in-

dustry works from working in publishing, but I'd never actually run a bookstore before, so there was plenty I didn't know, too. But at the end of the day, we both know we made the right decision. Because even the mistakes, while sometimes groan-inducing, are kind of fun.

Maybe "fun" isn't quite the right word. They're ours. They make us stronger. They make us better in the long run. They're part of the process. They're part of the whole zany business.

So much of what makes these businesses zany is their tie to their communities. Kitty has to come to terms with the fact that New England weather and soil are never going to be predictable or easy – and the same, I think, can be said for the guesswork that goes into selecting books and seeing how the people who walk through our doors will respond to them.

And neither of us would have it any other way.

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

...(Continued from page 1)

One element of the BOH regulation that has been largely misunderstood addresses the chlorination of well water. When a well is open to the elements, the chances of contamination are high, so the DEP provides detailed guidelines for drillers and installers to chlorinate and then thoroughly flush a private well before it's closed. In fact, chlorination takes up a large portion of the state's template in the section governing installation and renovation of wells rather than a routine practice as some concluded after reading the BOH regulation. Wendy Hansbury, Manchester's Health Agent, acknowledged the language in the regulation could be misinterpreted and assured one resident that chlorination is an industry best practice, designed for public

Boards of Health are designed to collaborate closely with the Massachusetts Dept. of Health and the DEP because they serve as the local regulatory agent for various public health issues. The BOH inspects restaurant and camp food safety, conducts vaccine clinics, oversees mosquito spraying, and oversees residential septic system permitting, among other things.

And, of course, the BOH also regulates private wells, ensuring proper siting (away from septic leaching fields, livestock pens, or major public water resources) and requiring contamination testing.

The exact number of private working wells in Manchester is unknown, but estimates suggest around 140, with many built before 1984. Approximately 60 wells are used for potable drinking water, while others serve irrigation or fall under the category of "agriculture" involving livestock. The BOH is currently working on developing a software platform that will document all Manchester's septic systems and wells, including testing and compliance status. The Board of Health will hold another public hearing on its draft private well regulation in late March where it's likely the BOH will incorporate some of the feedback from Thursday's hearing. After that, the board may vote to adopt the regulation and, if it passes by a majority vote, the regulation will immediately be in force.

...(Continued from page 1)

The plan must be reviewed by both the Planning Board and Select Board as all zoning changes are required before going to a vote of Town Meeting.

Task Force member Richard Smith urged the force to stick to making the minimum number of changes to get the job done in time

"We have areas in town that probably should be rezoned," said Smith. "But the MBTA Zoning law is not necessarily the way it should be rezoned."

Task Force member Garland Morse agreed.

"Just because we are not setting aside places for subsidized and elderly (housing) doesn't mean we don't support them," said Morse. "All we are trying to do is follow a law. ... Does that limit us in any way from making improvements in the future? Of course not."

Task Force members Susan Philbrick and Sandy Bodmer-Turner said that many residents are hoping the Task Force will result in more affordable housing in town.

"Can't we use this as an opportunity," said Philbrick. "We need to keep talking about are their ways we can improve our zoning? We may decide not to do that, but I don't think we can dismiss that option."

"We're trying to get the best possible result for the town," said Bodmer-Turner. "I don't want to throw (any option) out just yet."

But Task Force member Sarah Mellish reminded them of the deadlines the town is facing.

"Our time is so limited," said Mellish. "We need to concentrate on the minimum for purposes of this Task Force and if we identify other areas that could be rezoned separately, that's a separate project."

Consultant Emily Innes of Innes Associates provided the Task Force with several options that met or nearly met the above goals.

Using the state's modeling program, Innes explained that the numbers she was providing included all of the town's current zoning.

"This has all the dimensional standards on zoning, so the lot size, building height, etc.," Innes said. "But setbacks don't fit into the model."

Using the areas discussed at the Jan. 11 meeting, Innes pointed out that including 1-A (Newport Park), 1-B (lower Pine Street), 1-C (between and Pine and Elm streets, north of Central Street), G-1 (an area created at the last meeting generally west of Summer Street) and A (the medical center and Manchester Athletic Club) would meet and often exceed all of the requirements. Those districts would include 53.8 acres, 28.4 within the half mile of the train station, allow for 858 units, and include a density of 17.33 units per acre.

"It's one option, it's not that only option," said Innes. "It's higher on the unit capacity than we need to be, it's a little higher of the density than we need to be, but it shows that there are many ways of putting this together." Task Force members said that they believed Newport Park has an age restriction as part of its deed. Innes said that would disqualify the 1-A district if that were true.

Innes said she had eliminated the 1-D district (Powder House

Lane) because its density was so low it brought the average below 15 per acre and that board members had suggested it was a possible area for mandatory mixed-

Adding 1-D into the mix would allow the board to drop G-1. With that combination (of 1-B, 1-C, 1-D, and A), the numbers would be 42.1 total acres and 19.1 acres inside the station area, but the total number of units and the density would be a little low.

"Maybe we should think seriously about changing what the zoning is for 1-D," said Task Force member Ann Harrison.

"That is certainly a strategy that communities are using," said Innes. "They are saying, (what's there) makes sense. Let's zone it for what it is. Absolutely, that's a possibility."

Innes also said that if the num-

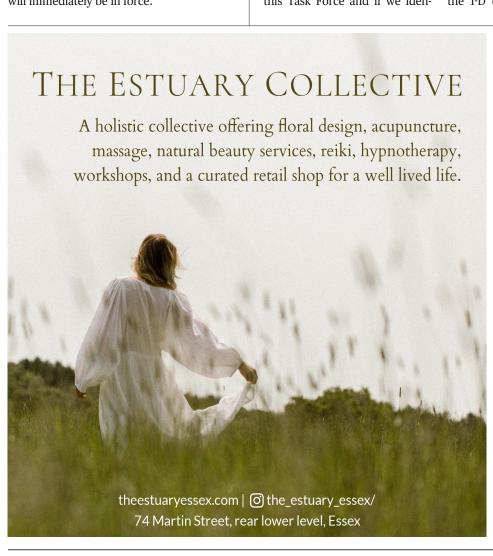
ber of units allowed was too high, well above the 559 required, the Task Force could place more restrictive zoning on the A district to even things out.

The only other area outside of the station area that was discussed was Gordon College's land in the northwest corner of town. Using 20 acres of that land would allow the Task Force to disregard the A district.

While several liked the idea of allowing housing in that area west of Pine Street and north of Route 128, especially if that meant that the other 100 acres in that area became conservation land, others pointed out that the number of things that needed to happen in the short time they had until June 15 made it almost impossible to consider.

The Task Force will next meet with Innes on Feb. 8.









In the Hornets' Nest

Girls Basketball

The Manchester Essex Girls Basketball team improved to 10-3 overall and 7-2 in the CAL this week. On Tuesday, the Hornets hosted Triton in a rematch from earlier in the season. The Hornets were able to redeem the earlier loss with a 41-32 victory over the Vikings. The Hornets fell behind in the first quarter but used spectacular defense to take a 1-point lead at the half and go on to build the lead in the second half. Ella Arntsen led the way on defense, holding Triton's best scorer to just 4 points (14 points below her average). Lily Oliver led the Hornets in scoring with 14 points. Harper Brooks added 9, Mechi O'Neil 7, and Phileine de Widt 6. Isabelle Donnellan Valade had 4 and Ella Arntsen added a point in the victory. Harper Brooks also contributed 13 rebounds for the Hornets.

On Friday, the Hornets traveled to Hamilton Wenham for another rematch. The Hornets won a double OT game by 1 point against the Generals at home in December. Once again, the Hornets fell behind in the 1st quarter but went on to outscore the Generals in the final three frames to win the game 48-39. Lily Oliver led the Hornets with 19 points including 4 three pointers. Harper Brooks added 13 points and 10 rebounds. Mechi O'Neil added 8 and Phileine de Widt 4. Isabelle Donnellan Valade and Ella Arntsen each had 2 in the win.

The Hornets will travel to Pentucket on Monday night.

Alpine Ski:

The Manchester Essex Alpine Ski team's season is off to a great start! Last week, the Hornets competed in two races - continuing to improve each race! The team's scores are misleading. For those unfamiliar with the alpine ski scoring system, the more skiers you have, the more points you can score. As a small, but mighty team, the Hornets are not able to put up as many points, but they put in tremendous effort and runs! Congratulations to our top three Hornets finishers of the week: Sienna Crocker, Gracelyn O'Neil (Triton), and Kiernan Day. Also, congratu-

lations to our lone male skier, Hennix Ogren (Triton) who continues to finish 1st in each of his JV races!

This week, the Hornets compete in two more races with Wednesday's (1/31) race being Senior Day. We are excited to celebrate our three seniors: Grayson Crocker, Sienna Crocker, and Kate Bappe. Let's Go Hornets!

Indoor Track:

Last Tuesday was a great night to be a Hornet. 100% of the Manchester Essex Boys and Girls Indoor Track team either placed or set a personal record!

Led by our captains - Nate Gardner, placed 1st in the 55 hurdles with a new school record of 7.79. Nate also placed first in the 300m. Megan Hurd placed first in the high jump, 4'6, which was also a PR. Meg also placed in the long jump & 55m dash (PR). Charlie Lations, placed 3rd in the 1000m. Sabine Cooper and Summer Demeo both had first place finishes. Sabine in the 1000m, 3:31.49 and Summer in the shot put, 21'02.50" (PR).

The Hornets have been showing up strong each meet this season and we're excited to take on Lynnfield on Tuesday (1/30) at New Balance.

ME Swim Teams Make Waves Against HW, in CAL Meet



ME Hornets swim team, Girls 200 IM Relay (2nd Place at CAL's): Sydney Hemme, Megan Graeter, Claire Masters and Libby McKinnon.

Courtesy Photos



Hornet Colin Conway finished 2nd Place at CAL's in 200 IM, and 100 Breaststroke.

ScottEnergy Community Bulletin Board

Come Register for Spring Softball!



Manchester-Essex Softball
Association (MESA)
registration will be open
Feb. 1 thru March 24 for
all participants
Kindergarten thru
8th Grade. All players
who are enrolled in
MERSD or who live in
Manchester or Essex are
eligible and welcome!

Details & Registration

https://manchesteressexsoftball.sportngin.com/home or on our Facebook page: Manchester Essex Softball Association - MESA.

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By Jason Brisbois

uring a season in which small rosters have hampered both the Manchester Essex girls and boys swim teams' ability to pick up victories, the last few weeks can be seen as a bit of a breakthrough. Over this past weekend (Jan. 27-28), the Hornets participated in the Cape Ann League Championships and saw some incredibly impressive individual performances. In addition to that, both teams also picked up victories against Hamilton-Wenham on Jan. 21 - the first win of the season for the girls, the second for the boys' team.

Most recently, both teams recorded some noteworthy numbers in the CAL Championships. For the girls' team, Megan Graeter finished first in the 200 IM (2:17.64) and second in the 100 Backstroke (1:00.15), while Sydney Hemme was first in the 100 Breaststroke (1:14.84) and second in the 100 Butterfly (1:04.95). The 200 Medley Relay team of Megan Graeter, Sydney Hemme, Libby McKinnon and Claire Masters finished second overall with a time of 2:04.39.

Other noteworthy performances on the girls' side came from McKinnon (5th in the 200 Free, 2:16.19; 4th in the 100 Free, 101.64), Masters (11th in the 50 Free, 30.85; 10th in the 100 Breaststroke, 1:31.51), Maggie Bediz (seventh in the 500 free; ninth in the 100 backstroke, 1:29.00) and Paisley Koeplin (15th in the 50 Free, 33.4; 18th in the 100 free, 1:24.33). The 200 Freestyle Relay team (Bediz, Masters, Koeplin and Hemme with a time of 2:04.24) and 400 Freestyle Relay team (McKinnon, Koeplin, Bediz and Graeter with a time of 4:38.33) both finished fifth overall.

"The girls swam very fast," explains Manchester Essex swim coach Teresa Holland. "Every single event we either got a best time from the season and in some cases best time ever."

The boys finished fourth overall in the CAL Championships, boosted by a pair of strong performances from Colin Conway, who finished with times of 2:14.5 in the 200 IM and 1:08.86 in the 100 Breaststroke.

"Colin Conway swam great and got two second places," says Holland.

Other noteworthy performances for the boys team came from Max Deery (seventh in the 200 Free, 2:16.85; eighth in the 100 free, 1:00.37), Erik Bischoff (10th in the 50 Free, 26.55; sixth in the 100 Butterfly, 1:08.94), Diego Sanson (sixth in the 50 free, 25.41; fifth in the 100 Free, 57.29), James Aloi (fifth in the 500 Free, 6:24.73; eighth in the 100 Backstroke, 1:14.41) and Ben Ochs (29th in the 50 Free, 36.48; tenth in the 100 Backstroke, 1:30.20).

The 200 Free Relay of Bischoff, Deery, Conway and Sanson and 400 Free Relay of Aloi, Deery, Ochs, Sanson both finished fourth at the CAL meet, while the 200 Medley Relay team of Ochs, Conway, Sanson and Aloi finished fifth. Prior to that, both teams were able to pick up wins against Hamilton-Wenham on Jan. 21. The girls won their first meet of the season against the Generals by a 78-73 score. The meet was a nailbiter, with the Hornets up by a 70-69 score heading into the 400 Freestyle Relay.

"Whichever team wins the relay would win the meet," explains Holland. "It was so exciting. It came down to the very last lap with the swimmers tied. Sydney Hemme did her best time (57.7) to anchor the relay for the win. She touched out the other swimmer to win by .1 of second! It was an extremely gutsy swim by Sydney."

The Hornets placed first in multiple events against Hamilton-Wenham, including Sydney Hemme in the 200 IM and 100 Breaststroke, McKinnon in the 100 Butterfly and Graeter in the 100 Freestyle and 100 Backstroke. The 200 Medley Relay (Graeter, Masters, McKinnon, Bediz) and 200 Freestyle Relay (Masters, Koeplin, Harper Hemme, Sydney Hemme) teams were also first-place finishers.

The boys earned their second win of the season, winning every single event and defeating the Generals by a 62-17 score. Sanson (50 Free, 100 Free), Conway (100 Breast, 200 IM), Aloi (500 Free, 100 Backstroke), Deery (200 Free) and Bischoff (100 Butterfly) all recorded top finishes, while the 200 Medley Relay team of Ochs, Conway, Sanson and Aloi finished in first with a time of 2:06.6.

One more regular season meet was scheduled for Jan. 31 against Ipswich, followed by the sectional meet on Feb. 10-11. The boys 200 Free Relay is close to qualifying for the sectionals, with the Ipswich meet serving as the last chance for that team to do so. All six members of the ME girls' team have al-

ready qualified for the event. "Megan Graeter has qualified for seven individual events and will have to decide which two she will swim," says Holland. "Sydney Hemme has qualified for two individual events. McKinnon, Masters, Koeplin and Bediz will be swimming in the relays. All three relays



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Monday night the Hornets held Senior Night for the boys' basketball team. The seniors honored their parents for the support they provided during their athletic careers. Kneeling, left to right, are; Eddie Chareas, Cade Furse, Preston Potter and Kevin McKenna. ME defeated the Pentucket Panthers 77-51 moving to 13-0 for the season.

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



Troop 3 Girls and Boys held their Winter Court of Honor, January 29, 2024. Pictured here (left to right) are first year Scouts who earned their Scout rank: Zoe Coshow, Clara Donohoe, Eleanor Hall, Adelaide Hall, Harper Wynne, Shane Conway, and Dante Bruno. Also earning rank but not pictured: Jackson Proven (Tenderfoot), Ben Ochs (Second Class), Saskia Kuehnemund (First Class), Ian Campbell (Star), Cia Donohoe (Star), Paul Coughlin (Life), Ian Carlin and Jack Surette (recognized new Eagle Scouts). Merit Badges were also awarded to members of the troops.

Courtesy Photo

Off at School and Doing Great

Local students enrolled in college are now returning to school for the spring semester, but now is the time that colleges and universities across the country announce last semester's successes from local students. We're happy to see that so many are doing well and have achieved academic honors:

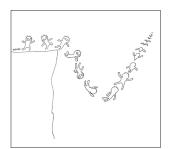
sity for the fall 2023 semester, which means that McCue, who is majoring in political science, has carried at least 12 graded credit hours and

elsey McCue of Man-earn a GPA of between 3.5 chester has been and 3.899. Founded in 1908, named to the Dean's James Madison University is List at James Madison Univer- a public university located in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley and is one of the nation's leading lights in higher edu-

At the College of Charles-

ton, Manchester's Emma Fitzgerald was named to the school's Fall 2023 Dean's List. Fitzgerald is majoring in marketing. To qualify for Dean's List students must earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher and complete a minimum of 12 semester hours. Located in historic Charleston, South Carolina and founded in 1770, the College of Charleston is a nationally recognized public liberal arts and sciences university.

Sneha Rising and Lila Carpenter, both Manchester residents, have been named to the Fall 2023 Dean's List at Lasell University. In order to qualify, students are required to have completed at least 12



credits as a full-time student in that semester and have achieved a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher. An innovator in education for over 150 years, Lasell University today is a comprehensive coeducational university offering professionally oriented bachelor's and master's degree programs on a 50-acre campus is located in suburban Newton, Massachusetts.

At Bucknell University in Pennsylvania, Lewisburg. Manchester resident Maren Graves was named to the university's dean's list for outstanding academic achievement during the fall semester of the 2023-24 academic year. A student must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a scale of 4.0 to receive dean's list recognition.

Seton Hall University in New Jersey reports that Maximillian Samiei of Manchester has qualified for the Fall 2023 Dean's List. After the close of every semester, undergraduate students completing all courses with a GPA of 3.4, with no grades lower than "C", qualify for

the Dean's List. Founded in 1856, Seton Hall is one of the nation's leading Catholic universities and home to more than 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students and offers more than 90 rigorous majors.

Sarah Potter of Manchester has been named to the University of Delaware Dean's List for the Fall 2023 semester. To meet eligibility requirements for the Dean's List, a student must be enrolled full-time and earn a GPA of 3.5 or above (on a 4.0 scale) for the semester.

Congratulations to everyone. Do you have some news from a student we should know about? Email us at news@thecricket.com and we'll include it here in Off at School and Doing Great.

Big Wins Keep Coming for ME Girls Hoop

Triton. North Reading. Hamilton-Wenham.

The Manchester Essex girls' basketball team already has a few big wins in its pocket this season, and the potential is there for them to add to that collec-

Just past the midpoint of the season, the Hornets are 10-3 (7-2 in the Cape Ann League) and have looked good against some of the tougher opponents on the schedule - all of which portends to a likely postseason berth in the MIAA Div. 4 Tournament and the possibility of making a deep run into the postseason.

"We have some tough matchups coming up, so we want to stay focused and keep battling," explains Manchester Essex girls basketball coach Lauren DuBois. "The success is all due to the toughness of our players. They come to battle every game and have really stepped up in big moments on both ends of the court. We talk about focusing on what we can control, and they have really been playing smart basketball as a result."

Thanks to that focus, positive results have followed. The Hornets swept a challenging divisional foe in Hamilton-Wenham with a recent 48-39 win over the Generals on the road on Jan. 26, after going to double-overtime to beat them earlier this season. There were also statement wins over North Reading in late December and a 41-32 win over Triton on Jan. 23.

"We just had a huge win over Triton," says DuBois. "We lost to them earlier in the season by 12 in a nonleague matchup, so to come



ME Hornet Harper Brooks drives through Lynnfield opponents on the way to the hoop during a rare loss for the home team. They have only lost two at home and boast a record of 10-4 for the season.

back and beat them by nine in the league game was huge - and our defense was the difference in the two games."

Things are no easier for the Hornets after their recent slate of victories, however. CAL Large teams Pentucket (Jan. 29) and Newburyport (Feb. 5) were immediate challenges after the wins over Triton and the Generals. An away game against nemesis Georgetown looms on Feb. 8 after Manchester Essex lost to the Royals by a 46-35 score on Jan. 5.

"Georgetown is going to be a huge game for us in two weeks," says Dubois. "We are playing at their gym which is a tough place to play, but we will be ready to make adjustments from our first game against them earlier this sea-

The key to success for Manchester Essex this season has been defense.

"Our focus is always defense first," explains DuBois. "We want to create offense from our defense in transition. We play aggressive and we have started playing better defense as a team in our last couple of games, which has been key."

Ella Arnsten and Phileine de Widt have been defensive catalysts for the Hornets, setting the tempo for the rest of the squad. Tess Carpenter also seems to make big defensive plays in nearly every game and Isabelle Donnellan Valade has come on defensively as of late.

"Ella Arnsten has been stellar for us on defense, taking on the toughest defensive assignments and playing bigger than she is," says DuBois. "Phileine de Widt has also been matched up defensively against people six inches taller than her every night and has been outstanding keeping them off the boards and out of the paint."

On the offensive side, Harper Brooks is averaging nine points and pulling down 10 rebounds per game while also showing off her basketball IQ and defensive skills. Lily Oliver quarterbacks the offense from the point guard position and is averaging 11.6 points per game. Mechi O'Neil provides nine points per game, MacKay Brooks is an important presence on the boards and Kacey O'Connell

"Offensively, we are doing a good job scoring from the perimeter and being able to take the ball to the hoop and make plays," explains Du-Bois. "We have players who can create their own offense and are unselfish in creating for their teammates as well. The key for us as a small team is boxing out. We have to commit to boxing out on every shot in every game."

Freshman Emerald Jakes has stepped up to help Manchester Essex in the rebounding department, as has senior Gabbi D'Andrea who is back after a two-year hiatus due to injury.

"She had six rebounds in our win against Amesbury," DuBois says of D'Andrea. "We are a small team so having another forward ready to step into a defensive assignment and control the boards has been important for us."



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Creature Comforts Essex Bird and Pet Supply Has It All



By Kris McGinn

ong live dogs. This is the sentence I saw printed on the side of a box being unloaded from a delivery truck earlier this week. Indeed. As I write this, four are strewn about my office in various states of canine slumber. And despite their heart attack barking, exuberant mauling of visitors, their consumption of beloved Birkenstocks or the quiche we worked so hard on, regardless of their unwelcome smells and infuriating need to take ages to pee when you take them out in 20 degrees, we love them. Like love love them. And as such, we, their willing caretakers, find ourselves in need of many an item to keep them happy and fed - how wonderful to find a place that has everything we need, and, it seems, loves our pets nearly as much as we do.

Welcome to Essex Bird and Pet Supply. Off to the side, tucked just behind The Mill on Eastern Avenue in Essex sits a small but mighty pet supply store. And inside is everything you need. Not unlike Crosby's, Essex Pet has a shocking and highly varied number of items in a very small space. It seems that whatever you are looking for is always, kind of remarkably, there. Hemp chews for calming your manic pet,

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yes. Crickets to feed your bearded dragon, sure. Toys for your African Gray parrot, you bet. It goes on and on. And furthermore, behind the counter you will find two sisters who, together, have an incredible breadth of knowledge, surpassed only by their desire to help you.

Susan Lufkin and Shelly Nicastro always wanted to own a business helping animals. Growing up on a small horse farm in West Gloucester, started by their mother who purchased her first horse when Shelly was just an infant, instilled in them a deep love of animals. They both rode and worked with the horses on the farm. Dogs





and cats came and went. Animals were just part of the fabric of their lives. The opportunity to finally have their own business came in 2008 when the local pet store, started in 1978, came up for sale.

When I first began shopping at Essex Pet years ago, one of the sisters (before I could tell them apart) noted that, while she was happy to sell me the food I usually purchased, there was a better priced option with the same nutritional value, if I was interested; my dogs loved it

and I saved a bundle. When I acquired six pet ducks, they ordered the exact food I needed, though they had not carried it previously. And just one year ago, when I changed dog food for all four of my dogs, I chose a brand that I felt was great, but had gotten some bad reviews based on a study that some said was funded by the major pet food brands. I mentioned this to Shelly and she reached beneath the counter to pull out a thick file filled with information about this very topic; I'm not kidding. She not only had and opinion, she had the answer.

I have overheard countless conversations, inquiring about which songbirds prefer which seeds, which toothpastes work best for dogs, if freeze dried mealworms are better than live, and on and on; thoughtful answers are always given. They remember nearly every customer and, more often than not, their lucky pets.

When you ask Susan and Shelly what they love most about having the store, you already know the answer, because you have already felt it; they love their customers. "We have the best customers," Shelly declares, to which Susan enthusiastically nods. They attribute this to the fact that 99.9% of the folks that walk through the door are animal lovers, like them. Shelly and Susan continue to live locally, next door to one another, and both still have horses and ride. There is an air of independence and capability about the pair; they have no employees. It's just the two of them. And it works.

So yes, long live dogs. And cats. And chickens, ducks, swans, horses, sheep, goats, parakeets, geckos, and on and on. But also, long live this small family-owned community business that cares. About our beloved, smelly, sometimes annoying, but mostly awesome, pets. And

Essex Bird and Pet Supply, 121R Easter Avenue, Essex

Two Regional Artists Featured at Solo **Exhibitions at Montserrat College of Art**

tarting next week two artists, Karmimadeebora McMillan and Loretta Park, will be featured at the Montserrat Gallery in solo exhibitions that explore new forms of beauty for everyday objects and themes of memory and how Black histories are held and carried.

Karmimadeebora Millan: Wandering stars... for whom it is reserved... the blackness...the darkness...forever opens on January 30 and runs through March 6. McMillan mines Black material culture and historical archives to reimagine Black histories

through diverse media. In her first major solo exhibition in the region, McMillan creates an immersive installation featuring animation, painting, and sound. Wandering stars... for whom it is reserved...the blackness...the darkness... forever is a kaleidoscopic journey through time that draws inspiration from scifi, speculative fiction, and

Afrofuturism. An opening reception for McMillan will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, February 7 at the Montserrat Gallery in Beverly.

Presented in partnership with bkprojects in Watertown, Mass., the exhibition premiers two new anima-



"New Dawn" (2024), by Karmimadeebora McMillan

tions and a series of mixed media artworks. Figures such as the "Protector," a character drawn from the Black Panther Coloring Book, a propaganda piece disseminated by the US government in the 1960s, appear throughout McMillan's paintings and animations. Also central to McMillan's futuristic narrative is "Ms Merri Mack," a doll-like figure based on a vintage children's toy portraying a black caricature. Wandering stars...for whom it is reserved...the blackness... the darkness...forever reenvisions the past, present, and future to explore the power of memory and how Black histories are held and carried.

Then, on Feb. 5, Montser-



"Small Yellow) (2024) by Loretta Park.

Courtesy)

rat College of Art will host another solo exhibition by Loretta Park, entitled **About to Thaw** in the Carol Schlosberg Gallery.

Loretta Park incorporates weaving and fiber-art techniques with an array of everyday objects to create colorful and tactile sculptures. From colorful nylon rope, plastic ice-cube trays, plates, and cups to scraps of cloth and paper, Park transforms commonplace materials and classic techniques into newly imagined color blocks of form and texture.

The reception for the artist will also be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, February and is open to the public.

About to Thaw runs through March 16.





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ESSEX



Classroom scene from the presentation of High School Musical Jr. by the YMCA of the North Shore and the Manchester-Essex Middle School last weekend. The cast meshed together well and entertained an appreciative audience. Photo Paul Clark

ESSEX SENIOR LIVING | FEB 2

The Essex Council on Aging offers a variety of fantastic events and trips for seniors. For further information or to sign up for an event, please call the Essex COA Office at 978-768-7932 or visit the Senior Center at 17 Pickering Street.

Arts & Crafts activities: Tuesdays, 1 - 3 p.m.

Computer & Technology Assistance, Wednesdays 1 - 3 p.m.: Do you have questions about your computer, tablet, phone, or other technological challenges? Drop in and see Curt or Bill for

Games with Gil at the Senior Center: Wednesdays 1 p.m.: ALL AGES WELCOME, come play BOARD games or Scrabble, Boggle, Cribbage, Backgammon, join us or bring a friend and come play ANYTIME!

COA Fitness Programs - \$5 Donation Requested:

- BALANCE IN MOTION: Tuesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m.
- GROOVE FITNESS VIDEO: Mondays, 9:30 a.m. - get your dancing shoes on and join this fun, energetic dance class! Video, no instructor.
- FITNESS WITH GIL: Wednesdays, 10 a.m. -What better way to start your day than with Gil! Focus will be on building strength and stamina. along with stretching... energize yourself and leave feeling good and ready to face the day!!
- CAPE ANN VIRTUAL SE-NIOR CENTER: Tune into channel 67 for a number

of fitness programs sponsored by the Cape Ann Councils on Aging and the Friends of the Essex Council on Aging.

Walking Club: Want to get some exercise but concerned about winter road conditions? Enjoy the Gordon College Bennett Center indoor walking track for FREE! Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays, 9:30 -11:30 a.m. Please register by calling Hamilton-Wenham Recreation 978-468-2178. Transportation is available from

Grab and Go Meals, Mondays & Thursdays, 12 Noon (must be picked up by 12:30): Monday meals provided by Open Door, Thursday meals provided by Senior Care. Please register two business days in advance - 978-768-7932.

Mobile Market at the Essex Senior Center, Friday, February 2 and Friday, February 16, 10:30-11:30 a.m., On the first and third Fridays of each month the COA hosts a Mobile Market for Essex seniors. These markets are open to Essex seniors, regardless of income, and are sponsored by Acord Food Pantry and The Open Door. For more information or to register in advance, please contact Tess Leary at the Essex COA.

Essex Trash Bags - Tuesday, February 6, 11:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.: Discounted Trash Bags are available to Essex Residents aged 60 and older. Limit of one roll per household per month. Bags are sold on a first come, first serve basis. \$7 Small bags, \$15 Large bags.

Guest Chef: Friday, February 9, 11 a.m.: Join us as we welcome Dawn Burnham

for a special Valentine's edition of our monthly cooking demonstration! Samples and recipes will be available. Free to participants - advance registration is re-

Friendship Day - Tuesday, February 13, at 1 p.m.: Come celebrate Valentine's Day with friends. Bingo, special activities and tasty treats. Bring a friend! RSVP 978-768-7932.

Men's Coffee and Donuts: Second Wednesday of the month (February 14), 9:30

Cape Ann Cinema and Pizza! - Thursday, February 15: Movie: "Perfect Storm." The story of the Andrea Gail, starring George Clooney and Mark Wahlberg. Movie and pizza start at 11 a.m.; CATA departs Memorial Park at 10:30 a.m. \$4 round trip fare (pay CATA). Advance registration is required.

Ladies Brunch, Third Tuesday of the month, February 20, 11 a.m.: Come and enjoy socializing and some tasty treats. Please RSVP five days before. Sponsored by FECOA

Elder Law Assistance -Atty. Brian DesRosiers, Wednesday, February 21, **9:30 to10:30 a.m.:** Brian is an Elder Law Specialist who will be at the Senior Center every 3rd Wednesday of the month to answer your questions. Appointments are preferred; drop-ins are wel-

??Mystery Ride?? Wednesday, February 21: Join us for an adventure, a scenic ride, and a stop for a sweet treat! Please arrive at Memorial Park at 12:15 p.m. The van leaves at 12:30

p.m. Transportation provided by CATA - \$4 round trip (pay CATA). Advance registration required so please call 978-768-7932 to register.

Remember When...Essex: Thursday, February 22, 1 p.m.: Please join us to talk and share stories about the people and places of Essex. We are excited to offer this special program and can't wait to hear your reminiscences! Diane Polley will lead the group.

Monthly Book Club:

- Tuesday, February 27, 1 p.m.: Join us for lively discussion! "The Thread Collectors" by Alyson Richman and Shaunna J. Edwards.
- Tuesday, March 26, 1 p.m.: "Horse" by Geraldine Brooks.

Through the generosity of the Friends, multiple copies of each title are available to borrow! New members are always welcome!

Bowling - Knock 'em down, spin 'em around! Wednesday, February 28, 11 a.m.: Cape Ann Lanes: Shoe rental is \$3.50 per person. Transportation available via CATA, \$4 roundtrip fare - departs Memorial Park at 10:45 a.m. Let us know you're coming - and let's go bowling!

Bonus Day Celebration! Thursday, February 29, at 1 p.m.: Leap Year only comes every four years so we're leaping into action and celebrating!

- 1 p.m. Extra Special Ice Cream Sundae Bar
- 2 p.m. Viewing of the movie: "Leap Year"

This event is FREE. Please call the COA to register in advance: 978-768-7932

ESSEX EATS! - Returning March 2024

LIBRARY NEWS





Beginners and seasoned players alike were welcomed to the Essex Library over the weekend for the first of two Rummikub game

The Library will be closed on Monday, February 19th in observance of President's Day

State & Federal tax forms are now available at the Library. Drop in to pick them up.

Bending Toward Justice: (Virtual)

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

Community Book Group

Monday, February 26 at 10 a.m. Join us as we discuss "The High House" by Jessie Greengrass. Copies of the book are available at the Circulation Desk.

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.

Community Rummikub: Saturday, Feb. 24 from 10 a.m.-12 Noon. No experience necessary. Enjoy meeting others from the community over this popular game!

ESSEX POLICE NOTES

MONDAY, JANUARY 22

5:51 a.m. John Wise Ave., solicitor reg/complaint, assisted as needed. 6:42 a.m. Main St., selective enforcement, no action taken. 10:57 p.m. John Wise Ave., police-citizen assist, assisted as needed.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23

1:34 a.m. Conomo Point Rd., directed patrol, secured/ checked. 9:17 a.m. Southern Ave., utility request, notification made. 10:32 a.m. John Wise Ave., animal complaint, notification made. 11:08 a.m. Main St., agency assist, spoken to. 4:01 p.m. John Wise Ave., trauma with injury, patient refusal.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24

6:05 a.m. Southern Ave., unconscious/unresponsive, transported. 12:01 p.m. Southern Ave., property damage/vandalism, assisted as needed. 1:46 p.m. Story St., welfare check, secured/checked. 3:42 p.m. Chebacco Terr., back pain, transported.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25

sisted as needed.

12:41 a.m. Wood Dr., m-sick/other, transported. 6:48 a.m. John Wise Ave., traffic hazard, secured/checked. 10:49 a.m. Prospect St., animal complaint, notification made. 12:06 p.m. Main St., police-motor vehicle crash, as-

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Puzzle

THEME: SUPER BOWL

ACROSS 1. Desert bloomers

- 6. Request for tailor
- 9. Paul Bunyan's companion 13. Delivered by plane
- 14. Boiling emotion
- 15. Match play result?
- 16. Like the North vs. the South war
- 17. Bag, ‡ Paris 18. Nymph of lakes and
- springs 19. *Team that never made it
- to Super Bowl 21. *Last year's Super Bowl winner
- 23. *Safety value
- 24. Disfigure 25. *Birthplace of NFL
- 28. Roofed colonnade
- 30. Dr. Seuss' Yertle
- 35. Auctioneer's final word 37. Sea eagles
- 39. Popular winter boot
- 40. Largest ethnic group in Rwanda
- 41. User's destination
- 43. Like Twiggy's skirt 44. Former anesthetic

- 46. Not all
- 47. Death notice
- 48. Like r in American English
- 50. Luau souvenirs 52. Opposite of WSW
- 53. Vatican's head 55. Cattle prod
- 57. *AFC's top seed 60. *Host state of this year's
- Super Bowl
- 63. Like allergy spray
- 64. Second person of be 66. Pleasant odor
- 68. Fervent
- 69. Grazing ground 70. "When pigs fly!"
- 71. Modeling material
- 72. *NFL Honors' announcement
- 73. Trento's Council of

- 1. Chlorofluorocarbon, abbr.
- 2. Alight, past tense 3. Boat mooring spot, e.g.
- 4. Short for betwixt
- 5. Wife's parents
- 6. Serpentarium noise
- 7. Time period
- 8. Hajj destination
- 9. Hillside, in Scotland
- 10. "Dream on!" (2 words)
- 11. Constricting snakes 12. * zone
- 15. Bad blood
- 20. Post-it user
- 22. Not miss
- 24. Street opening
- 25. *Half-time show entertainer
- 26. Compass point
- 27. In spite of the fact, arch.
- 29. Loads from lodes
- 31. *CBS announcer and former OB
- 32. Native American group 33. Famous Bolshevik

Sudoku



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

Solutions on Page 11

- 34. *Like the Super Bowl players
- 36. Sonny & Cher, e.g.
- 38. Ditto 42. Neutral shade
- 45. With mature appearance
- 49. Bamboozle 51. Learned one
- 54. Religious song 56. Defier
- 57. Not top-shelf
- 58. On the ocean 59. Deviate
- 60. Type of tide
- 61. Peace symbol
- 62. End of grace 63. *49ers' conference
- 65. Short for one time around
- 67. Short for Arthur

Senior Highlights

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

Income Tax Advice for Seniors

Free income tax advice is available for qualified senior citizens and low-income residents beginning on Thursday, February 8, 2024. This service is available through a cooperative effort of the AARP Foundation tax-aid program and the SeniorCare RSVP program.

All volunteer counselors are trained by the

have hours at the Town Hall in Manchester on Thursday mornings with appointments scheduled every 15 minutes. This is a drop off service. APPOINTMENTS ARE NECES-SARY AND CAN BE SCHEDULED BY CALL-ING THE COUNCIL ON AGING OFFICE. (978) 526-7500. Seniors coming in for tax advice should bring with them copies of their previous year's federal and state tax returns, any forms including W-2s and other relevant material showing income for the year. Intake paperwork will be mailed to you and must be completed prior to your appointment. If it is not completed by your appointment time you will need to reschedule.

Internal Revenue Service; counselors will

...(Continued on page 12)

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MANCHESTER-BY-THE-SEA 146 Bridge Street 5 Beds | 4F 2H Baths | 8,808 Sq. Ft. Offered at \$4,295,000

McDermott Group | 978.857.0343





5 Plum Court 4 Beds | 1.5 Baths | 2,975 Sq. Ft.

Eileen Gagnon | 978.270.6843

Offered at \$2,500,000



NEWBURYPORT

347 High Street 5 Beds | 5.5 Baths | 5,567 Sq. Ft. Offered at \$2,349,900

Kevin Fruh | 978.500.7409





IPSWICH

43 Country Club Way 4 Beds | 3F 2H Baths | 5,962 Sq. Ft. Offered at \$1,599,000

Tom Kennedy | 617.947.9201



ANDOVER

34 Pleasant Street 4 Beds | 2.5 Baths | 2,208 Sq. Ft.

Offered at \$899,000 Henry Gourdeau | 617.955.0443



10 Briarstone Road

Offered at \$1,950,000

3 Beds | 1.5 Baths | 1,759 Sq. Ft.

Jill Michaud | 978.766.8064

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Solution to puzzles on page 10

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Cape Ann Savings Bank Welcomes Diane Walker as Chief **Financial Officer**



ape Ann Savings Bank announced this week that Diane Walker will

join the bank as senior vice president and Chief Financial Officer. As part of her role, Walker will serve on the bank's executive team. Walker has strong expe-

banks in senior financial positions in the Merrimack Valley and Boston area. She is a non-practicing CPA who began her career at KPMG before attaining leadership roles in the banking industry. In each capacity, Walker served as chief financial officer, senior vice president, or president.

rience working at various

"Diane brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the Bank and is a tremendous addition to the senior management team. Her proven track record in the community banking realm lends itself nicely to the bank's mission and commitment to mutuality," said Cape Ann Savings Bank President Marianne Smith. "I look forward to working closely with Diane and I m excited to see what the future holds."

Walker holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Raising her family in Reading, she was an active volunteer in their activities and enjoys traveling, the outdoors, and the beach. Cape Ann Savings Bank has a long history serving Cape Ann as a commercial and retail bank since 1846, with locations in Gloucester, Manchester-bythe-Sea, and Rockport.

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¡Buenos Dias! Nacho

Thether he's bounding after a ball, attempting squeeze onto a lap, or covered in bubbles in the bathtub, Nacho has provided his caretakers with many laughs. He responds to his name, as well as to the cues "sit," "paw," and "down." He is looking for an experienced dog owner who understands that despite being largely laid back, Nacho expects humans to respect his space. If you too enjoy avoiding strangers on your walks, a simple game of fetch, and sharing snacks, then Nacho might

just be your guy. If you think you have what it takes to be this boy's numero uno then please fill out an online application today. Nacho is a member of the Extended Stay Club so his adoption includes 3-month's supply of heartworm and flea/tick prevention along with a reduced adoption fee.

Visit www.capeannanimalaid.org for more information about Nacho and all the other animals waiting for homes here at the Christopher Cutler Rich Animal Shelter, 4 Paws Lane in Gloucester.

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.CornerstoneNorth-Shore.org. If you have any special needs or concerns, please let us know! We're here to serve!

Visitation Parish - Mass

Schedule The Visitation Parish Mass

Schedule:

Sacred Heart Church - Saturday Vigil Mass - Virtual Mass - on our Youtube as well as www.mecatholic.org Sunday Mass - 8:30 a.m.

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

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

The Assumption of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church

8 Lafayette Road, Ipswich Mass.

Church services, with Father Christopher 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, FirstParishChurchManches-

Worship Leader, Rev. Katherine Schofield with music led by Dr. Herman Weiss, and the First Parish Choir. Sunday school 10 a.m. led by Jeanne Westcott.

Feb. 4, Annual meeting at 11:30 a.m.

We invite everyone to join us for hospitality following the

Our youth fellowship will host an intergenerational Valentines Creation Workshop, free and open to all, Sunday evening, Feb 4, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., in the Chapel Community Hall.

Monday Friends of the COA Senior Drop in 10 a.m.-12 Noon.

7:30 p.m.

Wednesday Choir rehearsal

Thursday VNA Health Clinic 10 a.m. - 12 Noon, open to all,

Seaside Parish Knitters 1-3 p.m., all knitters welcome to drop in

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 The Season of Lent will begin with a traditional Ash Wednesday service, in the Sanctuary on Wednesday, February 14th from 6:30-7

p.m. Weekly Vespers Services: Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. in

the Sanctuary Weekly Lenten Group Study Series on Five Spiritual Disciplines That Draw Us Closer to God: Mondays, 5-6 p.m.

Weekly At-Home Devotional: "Wendell Berry and the Sabbath Poetry of Lent"

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.

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 Massachusett now called Manchester, Gloucester, Beverly, Ipswich, Rockport, Salem, Lynn and Marblehead. Whether you have worshiped in other Quaker (Friends) Meetings or not, we welcome you to join us. If you are new to Quakers, someone will be happy to talk with you and answer any questions you may have. Send an email to: northshorequaker@gmail. com. First Day School, our Children's Program, consists of forest walks near the Glen Urguhart School led by Jessica Kagle from the Kestrel Foundation. Blessings To

LEGAL NOTICE Society, FSB, as Trustee of Stanwich Mortgage Loan Trust A to Stanwich Mortgage Acquisition Company IV, LLC, recorded on July 31, 2019, in Book No. 37717, at Page 557

Stanwich Mortgage Acquisition Company IV, LLC to Morgan Stanley Mortgage Capital Holdings LLC, recorded on July 31, 2019, in Book No. 37717, at Page 560

Morgan Stanley Mortgage Capital Holdings LLC to FV-I, Inc. in trust for Morgan Stanley Mortgage Capital Holdings LLC, recorded on August 14, 2019, in Book No. 37751, at Page 153

FV-I, Inc. in trust for Morgan Stanley Mortgage Capital Holdings LLC to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, d/b/a Christiana Trust, not individually but as Trustee for Pretium Mortgage Acquisition Trust, recorded on May 13, 2020, in Book No. 38510, at Page 433 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 3:00 PM on March 4, 2024, on the mortgaged premises located at 14 Old Neck Road, Manchester (Manchester By The Sea), Essex County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT: The land in said Manchester, with the buildings thereon, shown on a plan entitled. "Plan of Land in Manchester, Mass.

Scale 1" = 50' Arthur Mickelini, C.E., Manchester, Mass., May 1950", recorded with Essex South District Registry of Deeds, Book 3750, Page 532, and being bounded and described, according to said plan, as follows: SOUTHERLY by Old Neck Road, a public way, on three courses, 33.43 feet; 30.07 feet, and 86.50 feet, respectively; WESTERLY by land of Maynard B. Gilman, 360.28 feet; NORTHERLY by land of said Gilman and land of Michael Bakulla and Emily Bakulla, 150.00 feet; and EASTERLY by said land of Bakulla on two courses, 237.20 feet and 113.60 feet, respectively.

For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Essex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds in Book 16690, Page 541.

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of Thirty Thousand

(\$30,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, D/B/A CHRISTIANA TRUST, NOT INDIVIDUALLY BUT AS TRUSTEE FOR PRETIUM MORTGAGE ACQUISITION TRUST Present holder of said mortgage

By its Attorneys, HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C. 150 California St. Newton, MA 02458 (617)558-0500

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

February 2, 2023 MC February 9, 2023 MC February 16, 2023 MC

...(Continued from page 10)

Mall Bound

On Friday, February 2nd, the Manchester Council on Aging van will be going to the Peabody and Danvers Malls. Seniors can pick between the North Shore Mall or Liberty Tree Mall. The van will start picking up seniors around 10 a.m. For further information or to reserve your seat on the van, please call the COA office.

Bowling at Cape Ann Lanes

Get your wind up ready, because on Wednesday, February 7th the COA is off to Cape Ann Lanes in Gloucester. Enjoy a few strings of candlepin bowling. No experience needed. Get some exercise and have fun and laughs in return. The costs are \$3 per person per string, \$3 shoe rental. The van will start picking up seniors at 11 a.m. Sign up by calling the COA.

LEGAL NOTICE



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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING The Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Manchester-by-the-

Sea will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at Location: This is a Hybrid meeting. ZBA Board will meet in Room 5,

Town Hall. Applicants, Presenters, and Public are welcome to join the Board in Room 5. New Application

Application of Brian Stein, BDS Design, for Special Permit under Sections 7.2 and 12.5 of the Zoning

By-Law to allow for combining 3 single dormers into one large dormer on the rear of the carriage house and add a deck and stairway on the end of structure within 15' of the side setback: at 29 Old Neck Road, Assessor's Map13, Lot No. 35, in District E filed with the Town Clerk on January 16, 2024. Zoom information will be available on the Town website prior to the

Sarah Mellish, Chair, Zoning Board of Appeals

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

February 2, 2024 MC February 9, 2024 MC

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Timothy P. Girian, Ann W. Girian to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Countrywide Home Loans, Inc., dated July 25, 2007 and recorded in the Essex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds in Book 27056, Page 2, as modified by a certain modification agreement dated February 14, 2020, and recorded with said Essex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds in Book 38844, Page 559, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., a separate corporation that is acting solely as nominee for "Lender", Countrywide Home Loans, Inc. and its successors and assigns to BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP f/k/a Countrywide Home Loans Servicing, LP, recorded on December 13, 2010, in Book No. 30054, at Page 273

Bank of America, N.A., successor by merger to BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP, formerly known as Countrywide Home Loans Servicing LP to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, as Trustee of Stanwich Mortgage Loan Trust A, recorded on April 18, 2017, in Book No. 35801, at

Wilmington Savings Fund



The North Shore's Premier Real Estate Agency



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



Gloucester

\$2,600,000

Development opportunity. 20-acre lot abuts Ravenswood Park, near beach. Has potential as private estate or single-family-condo-40B development. Has existing dwelling, drive, pristine wooded lot.

Kate Richard



Salem

\$2,250,000

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

Ted Richard



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

room. Pool-patio, 3-car garage.

\$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

Fabyan & Filias Team



Wenham

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



Danvers

\$550,000

Awesome Danvers location for this lovingly maintained and updated 3-bedroom, 1.5-bath townhouse. Great space, hardwood floors, off-street parking. Near Rail Trail, downtown and major highways.

Holly Baldassare



Peabody

\$545,000

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

Christine Grammas

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

Find us on f: **JBarrettRealtyNorthShore**

WE'RE LOCAL WE'RE GLOBAL

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www.jbarrettrealty.com

J Barrett & Company, LLC supports the principles of both the Fair Housing and the Equal Opportunity Acts

MANCHESTER-BY-THE-SEA





4 Lane Road Annisquam | \$3,475,000

Iconic Annisquam waterfront property located at the head of Lobster Cove. Sited on over an acre of rolling lawns and gardens, the property enjoys stunning views of Lobster Cove with direct access to a private tidal float and dock. The property consists of a 9 room, 3 BR, 3.5 BAmain house and an enchanting barn conversion quest house w/ kitchen, 3/4 bathroom and bedroom with waterfront terrace.

Scott Smith & Lynda Surdam | Realtors 617-750-2793 (Scott) | 978-764-7474 (Lynda)



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



8 Orchard Road Gloucester | \$1,795,000

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



6 Lattof Farm Circle Rockport | \$1,495,000

Impeccable Colonial on private cul-de-sac in Rockport. 4-5 beds/3.5 baths. Impressive great room, great fenced yard and 2 car garage.

Scott Smith | Realtor 617-750-2793



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 617-750-2793





184 Western Ave Essex | \$1,989,000 Stunning new construction with

sophisticated flair throughout 3 sunfilled levels. Boasts 6 bedrooms & 3 full baths. Grand 2-story light-filled family room with dramatic fireplace leads to expansive outdoor stone patio. Thoughtful floor plan with stylish chefs' kitchen & designer finishes, quartz waterfall island, gas cooktop and stainless-steel appliances—all ideal for entertaining.

Michelle Mineo | Realtor 978-471-9178