

April 15 is the last day your pooch can walk the beach. Enjoy these last days.



VOL. 136, NO. 46

FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2024

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BRIEFLY

Deadline for Hooper Fund Grants May 1

The deadline for Hooper Fund grant applications is fast approaching. Please make sure that all applications are submitted by Wednesday, May 1. Applications can be accessed online at hooperfund. org or picked up at the Parks and Recreation Dept. in Town Hall. The Hooper Fund is a local charity that funds school education and recreation programs, including school and town athletic leagues, youth recreational activities, summer programs and similar initiatives. Its grants fund start up programs, but not individuals.

MBTS Republican Town Committee

The next organizational meeting of the Manchester Republican Town Committee will take place at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 10 at Seaside One on Central Street in Manchester. Free and open to all.

MBTS Game Night & Potluck Saturday

There is an all-ages Family Game Night and Potluck happening this weekend, starting 5 to 8 p.m. Saturday, April 6 at the First Parish community hall located behind Santander Bank on Central Street. Free and open to all. Bring your family. Bring your friends. Bring your favorite board game and a dish to share!

Cribbage at the Legion is Finally Here

Another round of cribbage is gearing up to start at the Manchester Legion on Tuesday nights, starting on April 9 at 6 p.m. Come on down and see if anyone can beat Harry Parsons this time. Season runs through May 29 "at the 113." (That's the American Legion Post 113.)



And they are off. Youngsters "scramble" for Easter eggs during last weekend's Easter Egg Hunt at Masconomo Park. The cold weather was paired with a sunny day that didn't discourage the hunt. Hundreds of eggs were picked up in minutes. Photo Paul Clark

LCD Housing-for-Conservation Deal Explored, Coastal Eelgrass Update

By Erika Brown

wo back-to-back meetings on Monday of the Manchester Open Space Committee and the Harbor Management Plan Task Force yielded interesting updates on perennial issues addressing conservation, potential housing, and coastal eelgrass.

First, up, the Open Space



HALL NOTEBOOK



Kristin Uiterwyk, a consultant working with University of Massachusetts Urban Harbors Institute.

Some members of the Open Space Committee expressed optimism about potential funding from outside private groups like the Manchester Essex Conservation Trust (MECT). The MECT has never shown interest in collaborating with developers of private property, choosing instead to fight to the end in courts without any compromise. And Jack Burke, chair of Manchester's Community Preservation Committee, on Monday acknowledged the possibility that CPC funds may be used for a purchase, but the amount remains uncertain.

Sadly it has come to our attention ...

... that Ron Mastrogiacomo. sitting chair of the Manchester Planning Board, died Monday of a heart attack. Mastrogiacomo had been a steady. under-the-radar volunteer who quietly served Manchester for decades. He was a current sitting member of the Conservation Preservation Committee, the Planning Board (15+ years), and served on last year's Water **Resources Protection Task** Force. Ron was also a familiar "never miss it" face at monthly Manchester Club meetings, American Legion Dinners, and Manchester Historical Museum lectures. He was a good man with a good heart. A full obituary will run in The Cricket next week, and a local memorial is being planned for later in the spring.

Committee's meeting sought to take the lead on an issue that had dogged local conservation-minded residents for decades: the future of Gordon College's 130-acre wooded lands adjacent to Route 128 in the Limited Commercial District. The committee aimed to find a mutually agreeable plan in collaboration with Gordon College The proposal to negotiate for permanent conservation of the collegeowned parcel, which is popular among hikers and mountain bikers, initially emerged during discussions at the Manchester MBTA District Task Force, led by Dennison "Denny" Hall. The idea was to allocate and zone 7 to 10 acres for housing in exchange for a conservation restriction on the remaining 120 acres.

Earlier this year, Gang and Helen Bethell from the Open Space Committee had urged the Select Board to consider restricting the entire parcel. At the time, Bethell expressed regret over iden-

The latest Mass. Dept. of Environmental Protection mapping of eelgrass beds outside Manchester Harbor show efficacy of new style moorings. (Mass. DEP, 2024)

tifying the Gordon College parcel as a potential development site in Manchester's Master Plan, deeming it "a mistake." The Select Board declined to pursue their reauest.

On Monday, Bethell emphasized the significance of the Gordon College land, calling it "the most important piece of land in Manchester," and noted its environmental importance due to marshlands, vernal ponds, and woodlands. Her posture had turned more collaborative Monday. This may becasue Gordon College is protected by the state's "Dover Amendment" rule that grants educational and religious institutions development rights that can bypass restrictive local zoning, much like the 40B protections for developers of affordable housing.

According to Gang and Manchester's Town Planner Marc Resnick, Gordon College is exploring housing development opportunities in Manchester, with discussions underway with a developer for 100+ hous-

ing units, including low-cost options for faculty and staff. Chris Olney, chair of the MBTA District Task Force, indicated that the possibility of exchanging residential zoning for conserving most of Gordon's lands is being considered. The parcel is one of two currently being evaluated for the MBTA zoning in the LCD.

The specific approach to managing the Gordon College land remains unclear, with both the Open Space Committee and the MBTA Task Force pursuing their respective goals. The Open Space Committee advocates for perpetual protection of the majority of the land, while the MBTA Task Force seeks to balance state

mandates with preserving Manchester's small-town character and addressing housing challenges.

Options for collaborating with Gordon include purchasing the land outright, purchasing a conservation easement, or doing neither and instead challenging the college's development rights legally if a developer steps forward. The challenge is that despite decades of identifying the property as strategic for conservation, no monies have been put aside or on the table.

Harbor Management Planning, Good New on Eelgrass

Next up, the Manchester Harbor Management Plan Task Force also met Monday to deliberate over key is-

...(Continued on page 2)

Weekly Weather Ch	art		
Saturday 6 April	•••	41°	37°
Sunday 7 April		47°	37°
Monday 8 April	<u>لم</u>	60°	35°
Tuesday 9 April	*	50°	40°
Wednesday 10 April	•••	47°	45°
Thursday 11 April	•••	48°	46°
Friday 12 April		50°	47°

Weather data pulled Wednesday and is subject to change.

STATE HOUSE NEWS Gun Law Negotiators Close House-Senate Talks



Sen. Cindy Creem talks to Sen. Bruce Tarr about a vote to close meetings between the conference committee tasked with negotiating a major gun control reform bill to the public. Creem voted alongside other Democrats to keep the negotiations private, while Tarr (right, bottom), a Republican, and Republican Rep. Joseph McKenna dissented.

By Sam Drysdale

awmakers tasked with negotiating details of a major firearms bill left their work open to the public last week-a move that broke from opaque traditions on Beacon Hill. A week later, those negotiators moved to close their meetings to the public.

The conference committee negotiating significant gun law reform legislation voted Wednesday at the start of its second meeting to enter executive session, which means the media and members of the public are not allowed to attend the sessions.

After the vote, lawmakers sat silently and waited as reporters and others packed up their things to file out of the State House meeting room. Among those who had to leave were representatives from Moms Demand Action, a gun control advocacy group.

...(Continued on page 9)

Gavel to Gavel This Week's Town Meetings Manchester Town Hall is Essex BOS Monday, April 8 Open to the Public. Public hours are 9 a.m. - 4:45 6 p.m. p.m. Monday through **Essex Board of Health** Wednesday and 9 a.m. Thursday, April 11 - 6:15 p.m. on Thursday.

Essex Town Hall hours are Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

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).

Jan M. (Conroy) Anderson



March 8, 1945 - March 28, 2024

Mrs. Jan M. (Conroy) Anderson 79, of Manchester, beloved wife of Carl A. Anderson Jr., passed away unexpectedly on March 28, 2024 while vacationing with friends.

Born in Salem, she was the daughter of the late William and Evelyn (Saindon) Conroy. She was raised and educated in Danvers and was a graduate of Danvers High School. Jan continued her

education at Salem State University where she received her bachelor of arts in education and earned her master's in education from Cambridge College.

Jan dedicated her life to education, spending over 39 years teaching in the Peabody Public School System. As a high school teacher and later on as a department head her impact on generations of young minds is immeasurable. She chaperoned many exchange trips to London combining two of her greatest joys traveling and teaching. Through her work in education, she received the esteemed George F. Peabody Legacy Award as well as the Tradition of Excellence Teaching Award by Phi Kappa Phi honor society at Salem State University. Her dedication to mentoring extended beyond the classroom, as she guided students, former students, and colleagues with unwavering

support and care.

Family was everything She loved sailing to Jan. with her family throughout Vineyard Sound and the Caribbean. As a mother, she was dedicated to her two daughters and guided them to a life of service, following in her footsteps. She was blessed to be Nana to six grandsons and was their biggest supporter and a constant in their life.

Jan was an active member of the Essex County Club where she served on the Board of Governors, Chair of Ladies Tennis and on many committees. Jan was an avid bridge player and achieved the title of Life Master. Her bridge community included her weekly groups, tournament partners and many people she introduced to the game. Jan embraced life with enthusiasm and led an active life playing many sports at the Club. Jan was a woman of faith who was deeply involved in parish life at Sacred Heart Church. Her energy, kindness and compassion served her well in her duties as Eucharistic Minister. Ian embraced every moment with grace, style, and zest for life. Her love for fun, fashion, gardening, and travel will be

deeply missed by her loving family, friends and all those hearts she touched along the wav.

Surviving Jan in addition to her husband Carl of Manchester are her daughters, Lauren Harrison of Manchester and Kirsten Skowron and her husband Jeffery of Wakefield, her grandsons, Colin, Aiden, William and Miles Harrison all of Manchester and Joseph and Jake Skowron of Wakefield, and her beloved sister, Bonnie L. Hamilton of Danvers

ARRANGEMENTS: Relatives and friends are invited to her funeral Mass which will be held in Visitation Parish at Sacred Heart Church, School St., Manchester on Friday, April 5, 2024 at 11 a.m. followed by a private burial. Please meet directly at the church. Visiting hours will be held at O'Donnell Cremations - Funerals - Celebrations, 167 Maple St., (Rte. 62) Danvers on Thursday, April 4th from 4 - 7 p.m. Expressions of sympathy may be made in Jan's memory to The American Heart Association, P.O. Box 840692, Dallas, TX 75284. To share a memory or offer a condolence, please www.odonnellfunervisit alservice.com.

The Manchester Cricket

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CLASSIFIEDS

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

FOR SALE

ST. JOHN USVI COTTAGE-Caneel Trailside Cottage is located a mile east of Cruz Bay, St. John, USVI. 2 bdr, 2 bath furnished villa, pool with palm-tree lined courtyard, veranda looking out to the south with a view of the Caribbean. Half-acre property borders USVI Nat'l Park and the trail to Caneel Bay. \$1.5 M. Photos at https://cateredto. com/#!/caneel-trailside-cottage Contact Steve Carhart at 978-407-8454..... TF OUTBOARD MOTOR, MBTS-Evinrude 6-hp 2-stroke with extra until school's out. TF propeller. \$275 firm. Call or text 1-WK TIMESHARE - ATTITASH MT VILLAGE-Not able to use any longer. Children long gone, students in Manchester, Essex, need to sell. Located across the and Gloucester, or meet on Zoom street from Attitash Mountain, for students outside of these Bartlett, NH. "Week 4," two sepa- areas. Each meeting 45 mins-1hr. rate units on main floor that can We will use the College Board's be used as one. Private hallway connects units. One with full bath and Q-bed. Other full bath, Wright: bellakwright@gmail.com watsher/dryer, full kitchen, living or 978-380-2599 to ask questions 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

WANTED

GOT A USED CAR FOR SALE? Fairly reliable used car wanted! New Endicott College professor in need of fairly reliable, inexpensive, used car.Please contact susan.we@comcast.net or 978 578 1546 TF HOUSE MANAGER, MBTS-Looking for year-round parttime house manager for home in Manchester. Duties include regular house visits to check on HVAC, electrical, security, pool, etc.; light maintenance;

coordinating with contractors,

etc. Ideal candidate has experi-

ence with carpentry/plumbing,

preference for a current MBTS

police officer, firefighter, teacher. Contact mbts_housemgr@icloud. com .. TF

WANTED-Someone to sell small treasures and knick knacks on EBay or other social platforms. Call or Text 617-909-5284. ... 3/29

SERVICES

3 STRONG BOYS ARE BACK!-Do you need help with mowing, cleaning, raking, moving furniture, weeding, or any other project? The 3 Strong Boys do it all! Call/text Atticus at 978-473-0034 or email 3strongboys.ma@gmail. com to schedule. Weekends only TUTOR AVAILABLE, PSAT & SAT!-High school and middle school tutor available for PSAT and the SAT prep! In-person for official SAT prep book and study materials on Khan Academy. Bella about qualifications/references or discuss rates and times! 3/29

REMODELING OR NEED A HANDYMAN?-Available for interior painting, carpetry, plaster projects and more. Local and insured. Call 508-932-1442. .. TF ASSISTANT-PERSONAL 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 HANDYMAN, MBTS-Handyman for light construction, home repairs, painting, cleanups, home repairs, painting cleanups, power washing, rototilling. Fully insured. Have truck and trailer. Clean, honest, references. Contact Bill mbtshandyman@ gmail.com or (978) 618-0999. TF

MANCHESTER POLICE NOTES

SUNDAY, MARCH 24

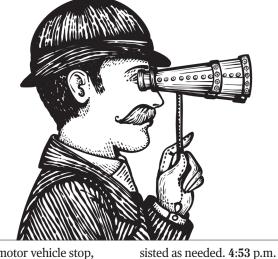
3:34 a.m. Desmond Ave., noise complaint, secured/ checked. 7:07 a.m. North St., traffic hazard, other. 2:15 p.m. Beach St., animal complaint, secured/checked. 2:39 p.m. School St., motor vehicle stop, verbal warning.

MONDAY, MARCH 25

9:29 a.m. Newport Park Rd., parking complaint, parking enforcement. 10:24 a.m. Mark St., fraud/scam, report to follow. 1:56 p.m. School St., motor vehicle stop, arrest. 5:35 p.m. Pine St., animal complaint, spoken to.

TUESDAY, MARCH 26

9:43 a.m. Summer St., motor vehicle stop, verbal warning. 12:45 p.m. Pipeline Rd., suspicious activity, gone on arrival. 2:46 p.m. Bridge St., parking complaint, secured/ checked. 7:27 p.m. Beach



St., motor vehicle stop, verbal warning.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27 11:30 a.m. Summer St., selective enforcement, no action taken. 4:13 p.m. Central St., citizen assist, asverbal warning. 12:40 p.m. Route 128SB, motor vehicle crash, assisted as needed. 6:39 p.m. Summer St., fire alarm, fire confirmed. FRIDAY, MARCH 29

tive enforcement, no action

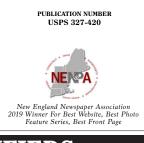
taken. 12:35 p.m. School

St., motor vehicle stop,

1:04 a.m. Beach St., directed patrol, secured/checked. 11:01 a.m. Lincoln St., motor vehicle lockout, assisted as needed. 2:40 p.m. Route 128NB, motor vehicle stop, verbal warning. 5:10 p.m. Beaver Dam Rd., directed patrol, secured/checked.

SATURDAY, MARCH 30

2:22 a.m. Summer St., motor vehicle stop, verbal warning. 8:59 a.m. School St., disabled motor vehicle, spoken to. 11:30 a.m. Route 128NB, motor vehicle stop, criminal application. 3:08 p.m. Route 128NB, motor vehicle stop, arrest.



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sues that arose from a public forum held last month at the ME Regional High School, including the contentious matter of recreational boaters anchoring off Sand Dollar Cove.

The task force was formed last year by the Select Board to draft a comprehensive plan to balance coastal environmental issues with commercial use, recreational boating, mooring management and public access.

The Task Force is now working with consultants from the University of Massachusetts Urban Harbors Institute, a group highly experienced with developing master harbor plans for coastal communities that was recommended by MBTS Harbormaster Bion Pike.

Monday was primarily about collecting feedback on the task force's public forum.

A recurring theme was the need for balance in addressing various issues such as public access, mooring management, and environmental concerns. Sarah Creighton and Jim Elder both emphasized the importance

<u>onuments</u>

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of striking the right balance in providing adequate access while ensuring the preservation of coastal resources.

Bion Pike raised concerns about access for different user groups, highlighting the challenges faced by residents with small sailboats who lack suitable mooring options. The discussion underscored the need for nuanced solutions that cater to diverse recreational needs.

Then, an issue with a big history came up: recreational boat anchoring off Sand Dollar Cove and Long Beach.

In the past several years, the increasing popularity of day-boat anchoring has surged there, albeit for just 8 to 10 days per year, triggering animated debate.

Creighton said coastal homeowners at the forum had decried the trash left behind by boaters. Others suggested a noise ordinance to cap impact to neighbors. She also said attendees cited eelgrass bed protection is an STIE COVE CIA

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issue.

Route 128SB, disabled motor

5:39 p.m. School St., motor

vehicle stop, verbal warning.

7:00 a.m. Pleasant St., selec-

vehicle, gone on arrival.

THURSDAY, MARCH 28

Four years ago eelgrass was a big push by homeowners on Smith's Point who said boaters were wiping out eelgrass beds, which are powerful agents of reducing greenhouse gasses.

But a look at the latest Massachusetts Dept. of Environmental Protection maps tell a powerful story, showing a dramatic expansion of eelgrass beds. Four years ago eelgrass beds were relegated largely to the outer

Massachusetts Port Authority ten years ago, said Pike, after Massport wiped out 14 acres of eelgrass habitat after a runway expansion project. To mitigate the loss, the agency donated the moorings to many coastal communities, including Manchester.

"Well, it looks like, now, it's pretty darned good," said Pike, adding that communities like Bourne even Sag Harbor, New York have reached out to learn about what Manchester is doing.



Annual Town Meeting Articles Set

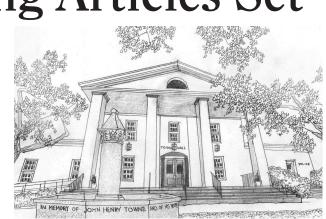
By Gregory T. Federspiel

The warrant for the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) is now set listing the 21 articles that voters will be asked to consider. Wednesday, April 24 is the date of the meeting scheduled for 6:30 p.m. at the Memorial Elementary School.

The warrant is posted both on the Town's website and at a handful of locations throughout the town. In a change from tradition, the Annual Report will not be delivered to all households, but it will be available online, in various locations around town and at the Annual Town Meeting. The Finance Committee Report, complete with the proposed budget and all the warrant articles will be mailed directly to all households.

Capital investments are a dominant theme for the upcoming ATM. Over the last 10 years we have made a concerted effort to boost our annual allocation of funds to needed infrastructure projects to the tune of \$3 to \$4 million a year (without borrowing). We have been able to do this in part by redirecting freed up debt payments as we retire previous borrowings and using the funds for direct payment of capital needs. This is now working well for the typical annual capital needs of vehicle and other large equipment replacements, annual road resurfacing and replacement of short sections of old water and sewer mains. However, our available cash is insufficient to take on larger facility projects and major upgrades of our water and sewer utility operations.

The reality is that much of the infrastructure we rely on today – from pipes to roads to buildings – was paid for and built by previous generations. Today's residents have benefited greatly from these previous investments.



But many of these important infrastructure elements have gone past their normal useful life span. The time for major re-investments is upon us. (We recently have made significant reinvestments in our schools but not our other major facilities.)

At the upcoming ATM and subsequently by ballot vote at the Town Elections in May, voters will be asked to approve the borrowing of \$7.55 million for important water and sewer infrastructure improvements. On the drinking water side, funds will be used to install new "smart" meters, reline the main along Pleasant Street and advance the design work and piloting of needed PFAS filtration systems (for which we just received almost \$1 million in grant funding thanks to Representative Moulton reducing how much we must borrow by this amount.) The funds will also pay for major equipment replacements and processing improvements at the wastewater treatment plant, including eliminating the need for using fresh drinking water at the plant.

Another capital investment being proposed is the purchase of part of the Mason building for the creation of the Manchester Senior Center. I wrote in detail about this proposal last week. Voters are being asked to approve \$1 million for this (\$500,000 from the Town's stabilization account and \$500,000 from taxation.

A third special capital request comes from the Library Trustees. They seek voter approval for reappropriating \$150,000 that had been previously approved for renovating the bathroom at the Library and instead use it for the required match to a state grant for the first phase of exploring options for renovating and expanding the Library. If accepted into the state's Public Library Construction Program, the Library would be eligible for a significant grant towards both the planning for and construction of an improved library.

Other articles will seek funding for a Feasibility Study for a renovated or a new Essex Elementary School as well as the Town's final share for the renovated turf fields - more on these articles next week.

In addition to these special articles, there is the usual list of capital projects using a combination of cash on hand and new tax revenue (Article 5) as well as a list of projects to be funded by the Community Preservation funds (a combination of a local tax surcharge and state funds) Article 14.

It's time to start preparing for the Annual Town Meeting - a good place to start is to read the 21 articles that comprise this year's warrant, now available on line.



BOARD UPDATES

MBTA Zoning Public Forum: The MBTA Zoning Task Force and Planning Board will host a Public Forum on Thursday, April 11 at 6:30 p.m. in Town Hall or on Zoom. Residents are invited to attend to ask questions and offer comment. Meeting details can be found on the Town Website.

Diaper Drive: The Board of Health is sponsoring a Diaper Drive during the month of April to benefit local families in need. Please consider dropping a diaper donation off at Town Hall, Library, Police Station, Crosby's, and 4 Beach.

Beach Tag Sale: 2024 Sing-

ing Beach Walk-On Tags are now on sale through the Parks & Recreation Department at a discounted rate of \$25, through April 30. Purchases made in April can be made online at mbtsrec.com or in the Parks & Recreation office on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Everyone between the ages of 12 and 65 needs a tag to access the beach.

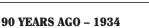
Pickleball Court Hours: The temporary hours for the Pickleball Court are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. until further notice. Complete rules can be found on the Town website.

Annual Town Meeting: Save the date! The Annual Town Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 24 at 6:30 p.m. at Memorial School. Childcare will available through Parks and Recreation.

Town Election: Save the Date! The Town Election will be held on Tuesday, May 21 at Memorial School from 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

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

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



WHAT WAS

90 YEARS AGO – 1934 Ideal weather conditions so

far this week have been of great assistance in the development of the large Story High baseball squad into something resembling a varsity team. Three complete nines could be recruited from the group of aspirants.

Tax Collector Charles E. Smith has a notice of interest to the taxpayers of Manchester, that property owners may now enjoy making partial payments on their tax assessments.

75 YEARS AGO - 1949

60 YEARS AGO – 1964 Boy Scout Troop Three set its best record to date last Saturday when they collected some 16 tons of paper

during their annual spring

paper drive. Manchester's Brownie Troops are going to collect sheets and blankets for the Angell Memorial Animal Hospital during the next two weeks. The girls hope that their Manchester friends and neighbors will help by donating clean clothes, sheets and blankets.

45 YEARS AGO - 1979

time for many. On Tuesday evening, March 22, more than 200 friends, family and customers gathered at J.P.'s Harbour Side to wish John Demarkis good luck in his forthcoming retirement.

HAPPENING

The 350th Committee is pleased to announce that the 350th Anniversary History Yearbook will be headed up by Chief Editor Meg Barrett; Graphic Design Director, Ed Halsted; and Photographic Coordinator, Carole Faller.

15 YEARS AGO - 2009

On March 12, 2009, members of the Manchester Essex

Part One A Short Guide to Town Meeting



By Alan Wilson, Town Moderator

Marchester's Annual Town Meeting will take place this year on Wednesday, April 24 at 6:30 p.m. at Manchester Memorial School in the gymnasium. Every year, hundreds of Manchester residents make time to attend the town meeting, but many do not. Last fall, more than 570 voters came to the special town meeting. If you have never been to a town meeting, please consider coming. Citizen participation makes town government work.

This guide provides a brief explanation of what the town meeting does and how it functions.

What is a town meeting?

Town meeting is Manchester's legislature. The meeting sets the town's budget, appropriates funds and enacts the town's governing laws - called bylaws. The Select Board, on the other hand, heads the town's executive arm. Manchester has an "open" town meeting, which means that every registered voter is entitled to participate in debate and cast his or her vote. Some larger towns have "representative" town meetings: there, every voter can speak, but only elected town meeting members can vote.

...(Continued on page 4)

Edwin Tuey Cook, for many years one of the best backstops in the New England area in the semi-professional class, and one of Manchester's past greats, has consented to take over the reins of the coaching duties of the Manchester Legion nine this year.

Miss Nancy Bachman of Pine Street, has been named as the alternate Representative to take the seat of Representative Dr. Cornelius Murray on Good Government Day, Friday, April 8. Amaral-Bailey Post 113, American Legion, will observe the 60th anniversary of the founding of that organization with a big shin-dig on Sunday, September 2, 1979.

Mrs. Theodore A. Nesbit. of 9 Hidden Ledge Rd., has been named House-to-House Chairman for the 1979 Manchester Cancer Crusade, it was announced by Mary Ann Dalton, General Chairman.

30 YEARS AGO – 1994 It was a grand and emotional Regional High School 2008-2009 Super Bowl Champion football team were the guests of Representative Hill, Senator Tarr and Representative Ferrante.

Reverend David Forsythe was selected as a Community Hero by the American Red Cross and honored at the annual Community Heroes Breakfast held on March 26 at the Danversport Yacht Club. He was recognized for his selfless dedication as a volunteer fireman and spiritual leader.

Tides & Sun Chart For The Week Ahead

	DATE						L	*			
	AIL	AM FT PM FT				AM	FT	РМ	FT	RISE	SET
5	Fri	8:54	9.8	9:35	9.2	2:56	1.0	3:38	0.4	6:15	7:15
6	Sat	9:58	10.2	10:32	9.9	3:57	0.4	4:34	-0.1	6:13	7:16
7	Sun	10:57	10.6	11:24	10.6	4:55	-0.3	5:27	-0.4	6:12	7:17
8	Mon	11:52	10.8			5:52	-0.8	6:17	-0.7	6:10	7:18
9	Tue	12:14	11.0	12:43	10.7	6:45	-1.1	7:06	-0.7	6:08	7:20
10	Wed	1:02	11.3	1:33	10.5	7:37	-1.2	7:53	-0.5	6:07	7:21
11	Thu	1:49	11.3	2:24	10.1	8:28	-1.1	8:40	-0.1	6:05	7:22



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The library's graphic novel club had a blast making these cool glasses and discussing "Four Eyes" by Rex Ogle. Grades 4-7 meet once a month on a Wednesday to explore new and new-to-you graphic novels with friends, snacks and activities. (Courtesy Photo)

Library Hours Changing in April

Spring is here and the library will be closed on Sundays after March 24th.

Solar Eclipse Viewing Party

...(Continued from page 3)

One of town meeting's essential functions is to approve Manchester's budget and its share of costs for the Manchester Essex Regional School District. Although town meeting adopts the budget, it does not have authority to approve an override of Proposition 21/2, the state law limiting spending to an annual increase of 2.5%, with an allowance for growth. That can only be done at a town election called by the Select Board.

Town meeting itself is governed by several provisions of state law, a section of Manchester's bylaws, and by traditional practices applied over many years, including those set out in a guidebook for moderators called Town Meeting Time. Our bylaw provides that the "annual" town meeting must take place on the fourth Monday in April each

p.m. Join us on the front lawn for the cosmic event of the year. We will have a good view of an almost complete eclipse so long as the weather cooperates. We have a limited number

Monday, April 8 from 3-4:30

of eclipse glasses that will be handed out during the event, 1 per person on a 1st come 1st served basis.

Hearthside Book Group Tuesday, April 9 from 4-5 p.m. We will discuss "Master

Slave Husband Wife: An Epic Journey from Slavery to Freedom" by Ilyon Woo which "relates the daring escape from bondage in Georgia to freedom in the North by an enslaved couple disguised as a wealthy planter and his

property.

Cookbook Club

Tuesday, April 9 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. The Cookbook Club meets once a month to share recipes from a new cookbook. April's pick is "Amboy: Recipes from the Filipino-American Dream" by Alivin Cailan with Alexandra Cuerdo and Susan Choung.

Minimizing Food Wastage with Sarah Robertson-**Barnes** (Virtual)

Tuesday, April 11 from 7-8 p.m. We learned so much from Sarah last time, we just had to have her back. This time, we'll be discussing how to minimize or eliminate food wastage in your family, especially with kids. Sarah will have all kinds of ideas to take baby steps to save, use, or compost food scraps so none (or little) goes into landfills.

Community Poetry Reading

Wednesday, April 10 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Join us as we celebrate the winners of Manchester Public Library's poetry contest. Come and hear our local poets of all ages read their winning poems. Light refreshments will be served at this special afterhours event.

Mindfulness Meditation at the First Parish Church **Meeting Room**

Every Tuesday from 11 a.m.-12 noon in the teen loft with Alida Bryant. Beginners and experienced meditators are welcome. There will be guided meditation, some silence, and discussion. Please register if this is your first time coming to this program. We need either an email or a phone number in case we need to cancel or change venues.

MBTS Library Renovation: Ask the Director

Tuesdays beginning March 26 from 11 a.m.-12 noon. The MBTS Library is in the process of apply for grant funding to renovate and expand the library. The Library Director will hold open table hours each Tuesday in the library. Drop in to ask questions and learn more about the project.

Shut Up and Write (Virtual)

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

MPL Children's Events:

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

New Stem Club

Friday, April 12 from 3:45-4:45 p.m. Grades 3-6. This club meets every second Friday of the month. Join Miss Audrey for some hands-on science fun. Registration is required.

year, but under state law, the Select Board has the authority to postpone it. It has done so this year to avoid a conflict

with the first night of Passover. The Select Board may call "special" town meetings at any time, with prescribed notice to the voters. The Select Board also sets the warrant, a compilation of all the "articles" or subjects to be addressed at the meeting. Since publication of the warrant gives legal notice to the voters of the subjects to be discussed, no action may be taken at the meeting that is not covered by a warrant article. While the Select Board writes most of the warrant articles with assistance from the administrator and town counsel, citizens may also submit articles for consideration. For the annual meeting, the Select Board must

citizen-sponsored include articles stated in a petition signed by at least 10 voters. For special meetings, however, citizen petitions require 100 signatures for the article to be included. Citizens seeking to sponsor a warrant article often consult with the moderator or town administrator to make sure it's in the proper form. The Finance Committee

also plays a critical role in preparation for town meeting. It meets frequently with town departments during the months before April to assist in developing budgets. It is required by Manchester's bylaw to make recommen-

dations to the meeting on all

warrant articles of a finan-

cial nature, and to publish a

report, made available to all

residents, that includes the

warrant articles and its rec-

ommendations. The Finance

Committee report also con-

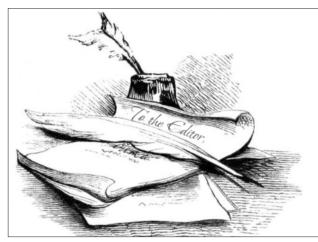
tains the recommendations of the Select Board and the Planning Board. This makes it the best guide for voters in preparing for town meeting and in following the meeting as it unfolds. The pamphlet is distributed to all Manchester households a few days before Town Meeting. Prior to that, the warrant is posted at Town Hall, at other locations required under the bylaw, and on the town website; copies are available at the Select Board's office.

The second installment of these articles will offer a roadmap to town meeting itself - from the first rap of the gavel through adjournment.

Register Now for April 6th Household Hazardous Waste Collection

egistration is now open for the Board of Health April 6th Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Examples of acceptable items for collection include: oil-based paints, turpentine, paint thinners, insecticides, pesticides, herbicides, weed killers, fertilizers, gasoline, antifreeze, oil filters, and brake fluid. A complete list of



The Cricket publishes every letter it receives. Letters should be original, no more than 400-600 words and written in a general spirit of discourse, signed and include an email/phone and a valid address in case we have questions. We may edit letters for clarity and accuracy. We do not accept multiple letters on a single issue by the same author. Longer pieces (up to 1,000 words) may be submitted for consideration as an Op-Ed Commentary. Please send submissions to letters@cricketpress.com.



Our Volunteers Deserve Better Than Carping by Those Too Busy to Serve

To the Editor,

I'm writing to express an opinion regarding the recently published letter in The Cricket from Ms. Betsy Kross of Manchester.

First, let me state that I have been involved in Manchester zoning both as a member and alternate member of the ZBA for many years. During all this time, I have never heard or witnessed any member of ZBA sitting around a table, of whatever shape, expressing ideas or opinions without regard to what's ethical, legal or in the best interests of our lovely Town. Please remember, we live here too, and we respect our history and culture.

I do wish that more of the general public would take the time to understand what the MBTA Zoning mandate stipulates instead of expressing opinions without regard

Please set aside the date and join this earliest creation of American democracy.

Residents with questions are welcome to call 978-526-4229 or send an e-mail addressed to awilson@spyrockhill.net.

to the facts. I recommend getting and reading the Frequently Asked Questions. which can be downloaded from *https://www.manches*ter.ma.us/DocumentCenter/ View/6297/MBTA-Zoning-FAO?bidId=

Statements like those in Ms. Kross' letter are inflammatory and promote fear. Speculation about what might occur should the MBTA Zoning mandate be approved do not help those on the Planning Board, the ZBA or MBTA Task Force do their job, nor do they serve to educate or inform our fellow Manchester residents.

Those who have the privilege and honor of serving on Town boards do so because they want to help do what is in the Town's best interest. They do not deserve to incur the wrath of those who are usually too busy to serve but not too busy to carp.

Thank you,

Jim Diedrich Manchester



acceptable materials can be found on the town website.

Attending the Collection Day

- To register for the event, please visit the town website @ www.manchester.ma.us to complete a household hazardous waste collection day registration form
- You will receive a link from the B.O.H. to pay a \$25.00 event copay.
- The BOH will then provide you with both an appointment time as well as a list of the acceptable/unacceptable items for the collection.
- As the cost is determined on a per car basis, we ask that you please contact your friends and neighbors and make every effort to carpool to this event.

In addition to this once-a-year collection day, the Town provides the following options for disposal of other household hazardous waste year-round. As such, these items are NOT collected at the April 6th event:

Mercury thermometers & thermostats

Collected at the Board of Health Office, Town Hall. Free digital thermometers to residents who turn in mercury thermometers

- Proper Disposal of Needles, Syringes & Lancets Contact Board of Health for further information and specifics
- Ni-Cad, Lithium, and Rechargeable Batteries Collected by the Department of Public Works Office, Town Hall
- Automotive Oil (no oil/gas mix) Collected at the D.P.W. Garage (off Pleasant Street) Wednesday mornings
- Fluorescent Bulbs

Collected at the Transfer Station during regular Transfer Station hours

• T.V.s & Computer Monitors

Requires prepurchase of sticker (fee charged) from Town Clerk's Office and disposal at Transfer Station.

- Propane Tanks, Fire Extinguishers, Auto Batteries Requires prepurchase of sticker (fee charged) from Town Clerk's Office and disposal at Transfer Station.
- D.EA. Prescription Take Back Day at Manchester **Police Station**

April 27, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Residents who have questions regarding these programs may contact Ellen Lufkin at the Board of Health office at lufkine@manchester.ma.us or 978-526-7385.





Joseph scored a Golden Egg and won this eggztreme Easter basket as a reward for his sharp eyes and quick hands at Saturdays' Easter Egg Hunt at Masconomo Park.

Photo Paul Clark



Face painting was a feature at the Easter Egg Hunt at Masconomo Park. This young man went with a March Madness theme. There were also crafts, refreshments, corn hole and a visit from the Easter Bumw for

Cost Incurrent

Photo Paul Clark

Gloucester Zine Fest Inaugural Event Set for April 27 in Downtown

The Sawyer Free Library will host the inaugural Gloucester Zine Fest from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 27, at 20 and 21 Main Street in downtown Gloucester. This event, open to all, offers a platform for artistic exploration, community engagement, and cultural enrichment with no admission fee.

Attendees will have the opportunity to delve into the library's collection of zines, participate in zine-making activities, and immerse themselves in zine culture. "Zines," short for fan magazines, are small-batch, handmade publications that have historically provided a medium for self-expression outside mainstream channels.

"The Sawyer Free Library is honored to host Cape Ann's inaugural Zine Fest," said Library Director Jenny Benedict. "Zines serve as a conduit for diverse voices and narratives. Through this festival, we aim to foster creativity, celebrate community, and promote dialogue. Whether you are new to the



world of zines or a seasoned creator, there will be engaging activities for everyone."

The festival features a range of hands-on workshops, inspiring speakers, live music, and a vibrant Zine Marketplace at 20 Main Street, where attendees can connect with zinesters and explore their work.

Participants of all ages can engage in zine-making activities facilitated by local community partners Cape Ann Art Haven and Cape Ann Museum, as well as enjoy performances by the Gloucester Student Band. Attendees can also savor delicious treats from Holy Cow Ice Cream while exploring the world of zines.

The Sawyer Free Library aims to cultivate connections, ignite imaginations, inspire learning, and provide a welcoming space for all community members. The library's zine collection, now available for checkout, offers access to diverse perspectives and styles. Additionally, the library welcomes zine donations to expand this growing collection.

For more information about Gloucester Zine Fest, visit the library's website or call 978-325-5500.



From left, Atticus Smith, Charlie Rubens, and Jarrett Croft. Photo: Elior Daniel-Zaremba)



The Poetry Club. From left, Isabelle Donnellan-Valade, Charlotte Donnellan-Valade, Libby Mulry, Ms. Edgerton, Libby McKinnon, Harper Jay, Tim Wonson, Lily Francoeur, Alana Martinetti. Photo: Elior Daniel-Zaremba)





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ME Boys Tennis Ready for Challenges of 2024



Coach Bilsbury prepares his team for a successful season on a cold afternoon at the Memorial School courts.

By Jason Brisbois

f any group has the experience to handle some of Lthe high-level challenges in store for the Manchester Essex boys' tennis team this spring, it's this one.

The Hornets lost three seniors from a team that went 14-8 (9-3 in the Cape Ann

League) in 2023 and made it all the way to the Elite Eight of the MIAA Div. 4 tournament and yet were able to retain much of their top talent from last season. Seniors Erik Bischoff, Alexander Breuker and Charles Virden all return, as do juniors John Bediz, Finn Birkeland, Jack Cummins, Charles Langen-

dorf and Jack Lawler.

Manchester Essex is fortunate to have such a bounty of talent and experience returning with a schedule that ranks as one of the toughest in Div. 4 right out of the gate: The Hornets started the season on the road against challenging non-league foes Masconomet (April 1) and Marblehead

(April 2), with road matches against Ipswich (April 5, 3:30 p.m.) and Swampscott (April 8, 5 p.m.) just after that.

"These are good, feisty challenges for us to get ready to play this season," explains Manchester Essex coach Rob Bilsbury

After the road gauntlet to start the spring, divisional matchups with traditional rivals Hamilton-Wenham and Lynnfield await the team.

"The Cape Ann League is going to have some tough rivalry matches this year with Hamilton-Wenham and Lynnfield in position for the state tournament," says Bilsbury. "Those matches are going to be huge this year. We know

the margins are close with Lynnfield and Hamilton-Wenham, so the more practiced and focused we are, the more we are going to be able to elevate our game throughout the season."

Cummins returns to the number one singles spot one year after facing the opposition's number one player as a sophomore in 2023. He anchors the singles players, with Virden returning to his familiar spot at no. 2 singles. Jan Vytopil moves from first doubles to take the third singles slot.

Vytopil's move means the doubles teams saw a bit of rearranging from last year as well: Birkeland and Lawler will serve as the number one doubles team, while Langendorf returns to second doubles and will be joined by Burke. "I feel like the strength of our team is depth," explains Bilsbury. "We have a deep team that's pretty solid top-to-bottom, which is nice. We have good chemistry on this team, and they practice hard every day."

According to the coach, this team should be hungrier than ever to get back to the postseason and make a run.

"These kids know what it feels like when the season is suddenly over," says Bilsbury. "We were close to this, and now it's over. As a result, we had good focus and energy in the offseason."



On Wednesday, MERSD presented a K-12 STEAM Showcase in the High School gym and cafeteria. Here



Three youngsters perform experiments at a table set up by New England Biolabs at the K-12 STEAM

students in Mr. Hartan's AP Environmental Science class present How to Build an Aquascape. An Aquascape has been described as "underwater gardening" or "sunken gardens". Photos: Paul Clark

ME 8th grader Kiki Campbell at her very complete Monarch Butterfly presentation. Her exhibition was one of 50+ at MERSD's K-12 STEAM Showcase on Wednesday.

Showcase at the ME Middle and High School. Dozens of participants enjoyed 56 demonstration sites, and the Butter Ur Biscuit food truck.



Crowds filled the gym and cafeteria of the ME Middle/High School on Wednesday for the K-12 STEAM Showcase. Parents, students, teachers and friends were engaged at 50+ exhibits ranging from DNA to Robotics and everything in between. There was absolutely no parking in the upper or lower lot!





ME Hornet, Grayson Crocker, at first singles, returning the ball to her Masconomet opponent during Monday's match at MMES courts. This was the Hornets first match of the season. Photo Paul Clark





Essex Police Dept. to Wear and Sell Patches in Autism Awareness Program



ssex Police Department will wear and sell autism awareness patches as part of an Autism Awareness Program in collaboration with the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism.

The program will run for the month of April, which is Autism Awareness Month.

Beginning on April 1, the Essex Police Department began selling and wearing autism acceptance police patches.

The effort is part of an organized fundraising effort for the cause. Other Massachusetts towns participating in the campaign this month include Ipswich, Wilmington, Tewksbury, Reading, Winthrop, Halifax, Hingham, Weston, Natick, Franklin, and Watertown,



among others.

All proceeds from patch sales will go toward the Flutie Foundation's safety programs, which focus on keeping those affected by autism protected within their communities.

"The Essex Police Department is so proud to be partnering with the Doug Flutie Foundation," said Essex Police Chief Paul Francis. "The purpose of this partnership is to raise awareness and understanding of autism and how it affects 1 in 36 children in the United States. Please consider giving back to such a fundamental organization by buying a patch or donating directly to the Foundation."

By wearing and selling these patches, the Department hopes to bring acceptance and awareness of autism to the community in order to create an inclusive, safe space for everyone, as well as give back to the cause through their partnership with the Flutie Foundation.

The department's goal is to raise at least \$1,000. Those interested in purchasing a patch are encouraged to do so here.

Patches are \$10 each, and there are a limited number available for purchase. Once purchased, patches can be picked up from the Essex Police Station.

The Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism is a nonprofit organization based in Framingham started by the family of former Patriots quarterback Doug Flutie and was founded in honor of Doug and Laurie Flutie's son, Doug Flutie Jr. who has autism. The organization strives to support and empower those affected by autism by raising money and hosting community events.

More information about the Flutie Foundation can be found online.

get some exercise but concerned about winter road conditions? Enjoy the Gordon College Bennett Center indoor walking track for

LIBRARY NEWS Library



Children had an "egg-cellent" time making watercolor surprise eggs at the Easter Crafternoon. (Courtesy Photo)

Library Closed

Monday, April 15th the library will be closed in observance of Patriot's Day.

Women's Self Defense

Saturday, April 6 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. This is a free, 2-hour class for high school students and adults, taught by black belt instructor John Kotch and is designed for women to learn how to protect themselves when faced with uncomfortable situations and how to avoid them in the first place. Please register.

Queen Elizabeth II

Thursday, April 25 at 7 p.m. A theatrical performance with actress Sheryl Faye. Enjoy an evening with England's longest reigning monarch followed by tea and treats.

Snakes at the Library

Tuesday, April 16 at 4 p.m. Join us as we welcome back Rick Roth and the Cape Ann Vernal Pond team and their snakes of New England. Registration is required.

Community Book Group

Monday, April 29 at 10 a.m. Come by for a discussion of "Dancing at the Pity Party" by Tyler Feder.

Regional Social Worker

Wednesdays, 9 a.m.-12 noon 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

Wednesdays at 9 a.m. for Wee Ones, ages 0-2 yrs. 20 minutes for songs, rhymes, stories, and creative play. 10 a.m. Preschool ages 3-5 years. 30 minutes of songs,

rhymes and stories read aloud and concludes with a themed craft.

CFCE Science Thursdays

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

ESSEX POLICE NOTES

MONDAY, MARCH 18

8:56 a.m. John Wise Ave., citizen assist, assisted as needed. 12:54 p.m. Martin St., selective enforcement, secured/ checked. 2:43 p.m. Western Ave., selective enforcement,

Essex Senior Living

offers a variety of events and plies and would love to see 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.

The Essex Council on Aging Art time! We have some sup-

on strength, stamina, and stretching... energize yourself and leave feeling good! \$5 Donation suggested.

Monday Groove (Video), Mondays, 9:30 a.m.: Get your dancing shoes on and join this fun, energetic dance class! Video, no instructor. \$5 donation suggested.

Creative **Connections:** Mondays, 10 a.m. - 12 noon: Bring your art projects or start a new one at our Open

you!

Arts Group: Tuesdays, 1 - 3 **p.m.:** Are you artsy? Do you love to paint, knit, crochet, or sew? Do you like creating different projects? Join us with your own project or help with making items for the Friends Boutique.

Balance in Motion, Tuesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m.: \$5 Donation requested.

Fitness With Gil: Wednesdays, 10 a.m.: Start your day than with Gil and focus

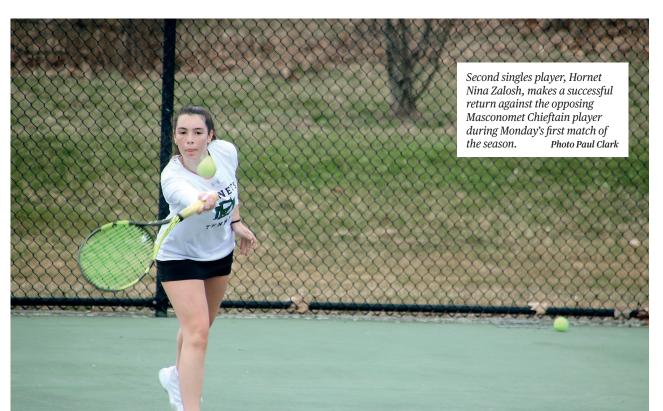
Technology Assistance, Wednesdays 1-3 p.m.: Do you have questions about your computer, tablet, phone, or other technological challenges? Drop in and see Curt or Bill for help.

Games with Gil at the Senior Center: Wednesdays 1 - 3 p.m.: ALL AGES WEL-COME, come play BOARD games or Scrabble, Boggle, Backgammon, Cribbage, join us or bring a friend and come play ANYTIME!

Walking Club: Want to

FREE! Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays, 9:30- 11:30 a.m. Please register by calling Hamilton-Wenham Recreation 978-468-2178. Transportation is available from CATA.

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



other. **3**:**13** p.m. Maple St., fraud/scam, report to follow.

TUESDAY, MARCH 19

8:45 a.m. Turtleback Rd., repossession, spoken to. 10:28 a.m. Eastern Ave., parking complaint, spoken to. 5:43 p.m. Belcher St., directed patrol, secured/checked. 7:05 p.m. Southern Ave., selective enforcement, other.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

10:29 a.m. John Wise Ave., directed patrol, secured/checked. 2:50 p.m. Story St., community policing, secured/checked. 4:58 p.m. School St., erratic operator, gone on arrival. 8:02 p.m. Main St., directed patrol, secured/checked.

THURSDAY, MARCH 21

10:59 a.m. Centennial Grove Rd., directed patrol, secured/ checked. 1:14 p.m. Main St., fire alarm, cleared false alarm. 2:54 p.m. Soginese Creek Rd., fire brush, fire confirmed. 9:27 p.m. Main St., directed patrol, secured/checked.

FRIDAY, MARCH 22

12:56 a.m. Chebacco Terrace, directed patrol, secured/ checked. 1:04 a.m. John Wise Ave., selective enforcement, no action taken. 1:43 a.m. Island Rd., directed patrol, secured/checked. 6:29 a.m. Scotts Way, directed patrol, secured/checked.

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

8:28 a.m. Walnut Park, male fall, transported to hospital. 10:54 a.m. Martin St., directed patrol, secured/checked. 1:30 p.m. Story St., directed patrol, secured/checked. 6:44 p.m. Route 128SB, agency assist, assisted as needed.

SUNDAY, MARCH 24

7:02 a.m. Main St., utility request, notification made. 1:42 p.m. Southern Ave., selective enforcement, no action taken. 2:42 p.m. Martin St., property check, secured/ checked. 6:51 p.m. Centennial Grove Rd., directed patrol.





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It's Fantasy and Mythology with Cape Ann Symphony on Sunday, April 14 at Crowell Chapel



he Cape Ann Symphony's 72nd season is in full swing, and at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 14 the group will reprise one of its most popular programs, the intimate and scaled down "Musicians Unleashed" series at Manchester's Crowell Chapel.

This year's program takes on the theme of fantasy, with "Fantasies and Mythology Concert," featuring the Cape Ann Symphony Woodwind Quintet and pianist Kathleen Forgac, presenting musical fantasies and works inspired by myths, legends and lore.

The program will explore the magical sounds of the woodwind quintet and then showcase each of the instruments alone featuring works by Nielson, Poulenc, Mouquet, Debussy and others.

Featured musicians include Stephanie Strathos on flute; Izumi Sakamoto, oboe; William Kirkley, clarinet; Sam Childers, bassoon; and Michael Bellofatto, horn.

"Our goal is to present to you concerts of the highest artistic standards that are guided by an enthusiasm for learning, a passion for the joy of music and love of good oldfashioned fun and humor," said Cape Ann Symphony Music Director Yoichi Udagawa. "Looking forward to seeing you at our concerts!"

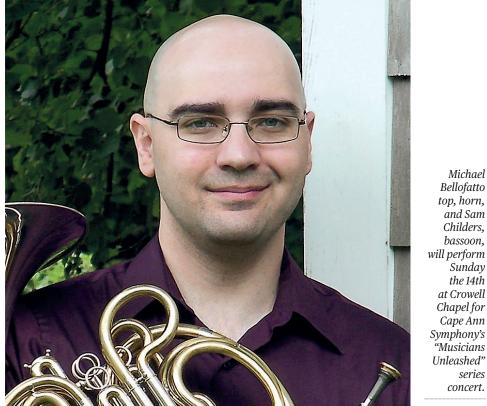
April's "Fantasies and My-



Flautist Stephanie Stathos.







Michael Bellofatto top, horn, and Sam Childers, bassoon. will perform Sunday the 14th at Crowell

Chapel for

Cape Ann

"Musicians

series

concert.

thology Concert" music program will include:

- JULES MOUQUET Pan and the Shepherd (flute and piano)
- CARL NIELSEN Fantasy for Clarinet
- DEBUSSY La danse de Puck and Les fees sont d'exquises danseuses (piano)
- WAYNE BARLOW Winter's Passed (oboe and piano)
- MALCOLM ARNOLD Fantasy for Bassoon
- MIKE KEEGAN Gloach Horn (solo horn)
- POULENC Sextet (winds and piano)

Stephanie Stathos earned her Bachelor of Music degree in Flute Performance from Boston University's School for the Arts where she was a student of Doriot Anthony Dwyer. She currently holds the principal flute position

with the Cape Ann Symphony and the piccolo position with the Lexington Symphony. Stephanie has been the featured soloist with the Cape Ann Symphony on numerous occasions, most recently in 2023. From 2003-2013 she served as the piccolo and second flute with the touring orchestra of the National Lyric Opera of New York. As a soloist Stephanie has performed throughout the United States and Europe, recently performing

Yoichi Udagawa, Cape Ann Symphony Music Director. Courtesy photos)

> Hampshire, Atlantic Symphony Orchestra, Concord Chorale (NH), Newburyport Choral Society, North Shore Chamber Music, and with vo-

Cimarosa's Concerto for Two Flutes with the Orchestra Del Concentus Musicus Patavinus in Padua, Italy. An active freelancer and chamber musician appearances include performances with New England's best ensembles including Boston Landmarks Orchestra, Rhode Island Philharmonic, Symphony New

The program will explore the magical sounds of the woodwind quintet and then showcase each of the instruments alone

calist Catherine Hammond. with whom she has done recordings. Also passionate about jazz, New Music and World Music she has toured and recorded with Argentinean vocalist Mili Bermejo and jazz ensemble, Orange Then Blue.



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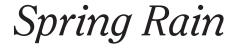
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Our New Kitchen showroom is open 7 days a week, 11am-5pm. Visit Kitchens-N-More, 175 Amherst St., Nashua. (Exit 7E off Route 3)



978-621-3501





All the stars in the universe washed down from the sky today to ornament bare twigs of March, a crystal bud for each leaf of May

Some stars cling to my window now dropped by the trees they come, then trickle slowly down to earth to await a warming sun

Terri Carter

Terri Carter is a poet who lives in Essex.

Brian Pellinen named President of Montserrat College of Art



Brian Pellinen, President of Montserrat College of Art.

A fter serving as interim president, Brian Pellinen has been named President of Montserrat College of Art following a yearlong national search. Pellinen, 53, stepped in to fill the vacancy left by former President Kurt T. Steinberg, who left the school in January 2023 to oversee operations at the Peabody Essex Museum.

Pellinen will be the Montserrat's eighth president.

"Brian has shown his effectiveness as a leader during the past year through his careful attention to the student-centered mission of Montserrat, his receipt of a \$2.1 million federal grant, his push to launch new degree programs and opportunities for adult-learners, and his relentless community-wide efforts to raise the profile of Montserrat," said Trustees Chair Mercedes Sherrod Evans. "Working with the search firm, Isaacson Miller of Boston, the trustees and search committee conducted a nationwide search, interviewed many candidates, and determined that Brian is the best choice for Montserrat's future."

Commenting on his new role, Pellinen was enthusiastic.

"I first started at Montserrat in 2005; I immediately fell in love with the incredibly creative students, the small, personalized education model that allows for students to be themselves and find themselves, and the way faculty and staff pull together to help ensure our graduates find success.," he said. "It is an absolute honor to be able to lead this college into its bright future. I'm grateful to the community that put its trust in me. Montserrat is transformative to the people who study and work here and transformative to the City of Beverly. I'm excited to launch the college into its next chapter and see how our future graduates will shape their world."

An accomplished higher education administrator, he has served in academic leadership positions for 30 years. President Pellinen served as Academic Dean of Montserrat since 2017 and, before that, as Associate Dean from 2005 to 2009. He has also worked as the Academic Dean of Professional Studies at Endicott College, Vice President of Academic Affairs at Nashua Community College, and Chair of Language and Letters at Northern New Mexico College. He has also been a teaching faculty member at several of his prior institutions.

During his service as Academic Dean, he was credited with helping to lead the college through the challenges of COVID-19, landing grants and gifts that increased internship and mentorship opportunities, successfully hiring new full-time faculty members, and creating new areas of study. Under Brian's leadership in Academic Affairs, the college ranked for the first time by the US News and World Report guide to the country's best colleges, gaining notice in the "North Region" and "Social Mobility" categories.

Pellinen holds a Master's Degree from the York University, in Toronto, Ontario and a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. He is also an active visual artist and writer with recent shows in Massachusetts and theater performances produced in Washington DC's Fringe Festival. Montserrat College of Art is a private, residential college of visual art educating designers, artists, and entrepreneurs seeking to be prepared for work life at the intersection of art, design and technology. The college offers international study programs, 12 concentrations, five minors and a required internship program. Montserrat alumni are employed by some of the country's biggest brands, including Disney, Puma, Hasbro, and more.

...(Continued from page 1)

Democrats on the committee claimed they supported transparency in the Legislature, but felt private talks are appropriate in this instance. The six conferees voted 4-2 along party lines to go into executive session.

Sen. Joan Lovely of Salem, who seconded Rep. Carlos González of Springfield's motion to move into executive session, said she supported private talks because her family was targeted by a gun owner.

"I'm very much in favor of conducting this conference committee in public, however I will tell you why today I "pretty highly charged language and tone." The Salem Democrat later added, "I don't feel safe."

Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr opposed the motion to close the meeting, saying that it would hurt public trust.

The Gloucester Republican said he was sorry to hear what Lovely and her daughter went through, calling it "clearly inappropriate" but said it would promote public goodwill for people to be able to witness the negotiations.

"We will not be coerced, we will conduct our business and we will move forward, and we will condemn in the strongest possible terms anyone who threatens the safety of any legislator. And I will point out that our names, our identities, our addresses are already known. Closing the conference committee will not change that," Tarr said. "My fear is that by closing we may as well stoke, in the presence of a vacuum relative to public awareness of what we're doing, we may stoke a kind of distrust that can lead to some of the actions that have been described."

Senator Bruce Tarr opposed the motion to close the meeting, saying it would hurt public trust

somewhere down the road," the Newton Democrat said, calling gun control reform a "moving target."

Republican Rep. Joseph McKenna echoed Tarr, saying that cloaking the negotiations in shadow would further misinformation about the bill.

"By closing this conference, we are allowing the opponents of this measure to make their own narrative about what is happening behind closed doors," he said. Even after reporters and members of the public filed out of the State House room where the negotiations were being held, Democrats leading the work were not very forthcoming with information about how those talks went. agree on, Rep. Mike Day of Stoneham replied, "Look at the bills. You can find out the areas that are -- certain sections are touched on by both chambers."

Reporters pressed Day on which of the areas of agreement came up at Wednesday's meeting.

"A bunch of issues," he said.

The Senate's bill is 94 pages shorter than the House's. Areas of agreement include expanding the state's red flag law, allowing more people to petition the courts to remove the firearms of someone deemed to be in danger, banning weapons in government buildings, allowing health care providers to ask courts to take guns away from people, and several other points. There are also key differences as representatives are seeking to prohibit carrying in polling places and expand the list of people who can remove someone's weapons under the "red flag" law, while the Senate hopes to ban the firearm industry from marketing to minors. Day has repeatedly said the gun control bill is

urgent, citing shootings that have happened in the state over the past year.

"Since we met last week, three more shootings in Massachusetts, two in Springfield," Day said. "Our job here in the executive committee, in this group here, is to get a bill up. To iron out differences between the two bills. We've got to do that with alacrity. We're going to do that as expeditiously as possible."

The gun reform bill sat for months without any movement before House Speaker Ron Mariano tried to push it through his chamber last summer before lawmakers broke for an August recess. That first attempt failed, and representatives passed their version of the bill in October, and the Senate passed its version of the sweeping reform in February. day. "People are waiting to hear what's going to happen on both sides."

Amy Carnevale, chair of the Massachusetts Republican Party released a statement about closing off the talks.

"The negotiations on pending gun legislation ought to be done in the public eye, not in back rooms," she said. "Aside from the troubling contents of this legislation, it is appalling that the Democratic Supermajority is seeking to shield these important discussions from the public. When debating legislation with considerable impact on the law-abiding sportsmen and outdoor enthusiasts of the Commonwealth, it is imperative that we, the voters, have an idea of how our Senators and Representatives build such controversial and impactful legislation."

ntored mission

Photo: David Shopper

move to go into executive session," Lovely said. "In 2020 or 2019, both my daughter and I ... received threats, gun threats, from an individual that lived in my district at the time."

Lovely said the man followed her daughter and found out where she lived.

"Then I started receiving emails, hundreds of emails, very threatening emails, gun emails which had to do with high powered firearms," Lovely said. "Because of those threats to myself and my daughter I got my license to carry. I wanted to be able to, if I needed to, purchase a firearm to protect my family. I do see this heavily charged atmosphere of, not just these two bills that we're now conferencing, but the world in general."

She said the conferees have all received "hundreds of hundreds of emails from folks who are opposed to both these bills" which have Creem, who is leading negotiations on the Senate side, said she voted to make the meetings private in case there was a lawsuit against the eventual compromise bill.

"I support transparency in the Legislature. But my understanding of when you go into executive session is when there are issues that might be discussed that could potentially result in litigation Asked by reporters as they came out of the meeting room about which topics representatives and senators



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"We all have a sense of urgency," Creem said Wednes-

~ State House News Service

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Religious Notes

Cornerstone Church

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

ule

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 Chris-

topher Kolentas, are held each Sunday.

Sunday's Divine Liturgy, with Father Christopher, starts at 9:30 a.m. followed by a weekly sermon. All

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First Parish Church

First Parish Church Manchester-bythe-Sea - a lovely place to start your week, join us for a moving message, beautiful music and community in the center of town

Saturday, April 6, all are welcome to an all-ages family Game Night and Potluck in our community hall, 5-8 p.m.

Sunday worship at First Parish 10 a.m. worship leader, Rev. Katherine Schofield, music led by Dr. Herman Weiss, and the First Parish Choir

Monday Friends of the COA Senior Choir rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Thursday Bible Study, Via Zoom 4 p.m., join in with computer, smart device or dial in on a phone from wherever you are - email office.fpchurch@gmail.com or call 978-526-7661 for the link

St. John's Church Worship:

Every Sunday we hold services at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Child care is available during the 10 a.m. service. Holy Eucharist at 8 a.m. & 10 a.m. ...(Continued on page 11)

Visitation Parish - Mass Sched-



IT BROFFI 200 Cabot St, Unit 7, Beverly | 109 Bay Kd, Hamilton | 49 Union St, Manchester 230 North St, Unit 2, Danvers | 127 Eastern Ave, Gloucester | 1 Merrimac St, Suite 6, Newburyport

OPERTIES



Essex

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Discover this rare and charming colonial on a quiet cul-de-sac. Situated a short drive from shops, train, lake, ponds, and beaches. \$1,095,000| Kristin Bouchard | 617-571-8823



Gloucester "PRUDENCE HILL"- A rare opportunity to own one of Gloucester's historic "Back Shore" properties. \$3,495,000 | Karen Bernier | 978-807-5580



Gloucester Rare opportunity to live in the tranquility of the woods and near the ocean in Magnolia. Onehalf mile from Kettle Cove. \$599,900 | Jane Darrah | 978-273-6397



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\$699,900 | Tara Farley | 603-247-7800



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Solution to puzzles on page 10

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PET OF THE WEEK



By Joanne MacInnis RN CDP, President, Aberdeen Home Care, Inc.

tion. But that only works for so long. Eventually, you need to come up for air... We vote, we donate, we resist, we march. We educate

I choose three things that I can do in my own corner

taking a deep dive into the boiling lava. It is satisfying for about five minutes, and then I know it's get out or get cooked. Dipping your foot into the "this is a mess" pool is inevitable, but don't linger. Not allowing myself to surrender to the "it's all lost" mindset. I choose three things that I can do in my own corner of the world that will offset the madness: make eve contact with the people on the street and say hello; smile if I can manage it; let someone go at the intersection. Not starting with Olympic training, starting with the meatball pitch. Low-hanging fruit. Neuroscience practitioners estimate that new habits can be created in 21 days. The payoff that you will get might not be immediate. Imagine if your children/ grands noticed your "empowerment." Remember, our actions are so loud, that kids often can't hear what we say. Modeling the best, the kind, the steady and stable can only be a good thing. From road rage to gun violence to social unrest, we can reclaim our power. Try out the super-power of good and see what happens.

t certainly feels like it. Violent and dangerous behavior seems to be standard. We aren't shocked by mass shootings anymore. A cargo ship takes down a major inner city bridge, causing chaos and death, AND not to be outdone, war is raging on the planet with all its horror.

If you are like me, you consider all this chaos and feel profoundly guilty as I ponder red or white geraniums, what to have for dinner, or what to wear. Then, in a "twinkling of an eye," I am filled with shame for not living in full appreciation of the ease of my life in comparison with my earthly cohabitants.

What if we were them?

No food for our children everyone suffering. It leaves me feeling far too helpless to consider for very long. Alas, how do we cope? How do we stay engaged and aware but not paralyzed by what's all around us?

In the big picture, I have no idea. Should I reduce my exposure, hideout, or isolate to protect myself from the extreme discomfort of it all? I do my fair share of burying my head in the sand, escaping, and diverting my attenourselves and have robust discussions with those who are sympatico and those who are not. We experience the issues on fire, as much as we can tolerate. It seems like a cycle to me. We get fired up and intolerant of injustice and suffering. We carry it around, talk about it, feel the visceral sting, and might, ultimately... feel voiceless and useless in the face of such global chaos.

Reality is happening in Gaza, in the Ukraine, at the border. It's also happening in our backyard, on our Main Street, in our schools, and at our jobs. As much as we wish it were so, we cannot stop any of the madness in the "Macro-World." In truth, we live our lives in the "micro-world." Our universes of friends, family, neighbors, irritants, annoyances, joys, and devastation contribute to a feeling of powerlessness and can lead to "I quit."

My life raft is a deep dive into my own world.

Where can I be useful? Who could I help in a meaningful way? How can I bring some genuine goodness to someone in my orbit? What are my resources? Energy, money, time, ser-

of the world that will offset the madness: make eye contact with the people on the street and say hello; smile if I can manage it; let someone go at the intersection.

vice? The opportunities are there, no question.

You won't have to look far. People are hurting and in need at your job, in your town, in your neighborhood, and possibly in your own house. Start there. Start with what is obvious. Just because it isn't on the news or at the mega-disaster level doesn't mean it's not of extreme value.

Mindset and attitude reign supreme here.

The anger and rage in the public arena can be as seductive as the flip side. We all have pain and disappointment that can be fed by the "mob" and cultivated to toxicity. I feel it sometimes, pulling me to join in. Every once in a while, I allow myself the indulgence of

Gorgeous George

George, and I'm an **L**adorable, baby male pup. I'm incredibly friendly, affectionate, and playful, and I love making new doggy friends. I enjoy romping around and playing with my puppy pals, but I'm just as happy curling up for a nice long nap afterwards. My caretakers tell me I have a very playful and curious side to me, and that I've got plenty of puppy energy to burn. Even though I'm just a baby, I already know some basic commands like "sit", and I'm working on my house training. I'm a quick learner and

PUBLIC NOTICE

Town of Manchester-by-Sea

Office of the

Town Hall, 10 Central Street,

Tey there! My name is I love to impress my humans -- I can't wait to learn more tricks. If you're looking for a fun, furry friend to join your family, look no further. I'm always up for a good snuggle and some playtime, so please consider adopting me. I can't wait to meet you and join my forever home. Love, George.

I am available for foster to adopt as I am scheduled to be neutered on April 3 so as long as you are willing to bring me back for my surgery, I am good to go.

You can find the application at https://capeannanimalaid. org/adopt.html

PUBLIC NOTICE



Town of Manchester-by-Sea Office of the CONSERVATION COMMISSION Town Hall, 10 Central Street. Manchester-by-Sea, MA 01944-1399

Public Hearing Notice to be Published on or before 4/5/24Town of Manchester requests the Commission make a decision regarding a Notice of Intent for guest house development and vegetation maintenance within Isolated Land Subject to Flooding and Land Subject to Coastal Strom Flowage at 9 and 10 Norton's Point Road (map 21, lots 37 and 36). This request will be discussed at a VIRTUAL meeting Tuesday, April 16 at 6:30 p.m. and will be reviewed under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (MGL Chapter 131, Section 40) and/or the Manchester

General Wetlands Bylaw.

MNPA website: http:// masspublicnotices.org/ April 5, 2023 MC

...(Continued from page 10)

Quaker Meeting

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

People in our community hail from the traditional tribal lands of the Pawtucket and Massachusetts now called Manchester, Gloucester, Beverly, Ipswich, Rockport, Salem, Lynn and Marblehead. Whether you have 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 Urouhart School led by Jessica Kagle from the Kestrel Foundation. Blessings To You



Town of Manchester-by-Sea Office of the CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Town Hall, 10 Central Street, Manchester-by-Sea, MA 01944-1399

Public Hearing Notice to be Published on or before 4/5/24 Town of Manchester requests Commission make a the decision regarding a Request for Determination of Applicability for pier repair at 33 Proctor Street (map 19, lot 5)

This request will be discussed at a VIRTUAL meeting Tuesday, April 16 at 6:30 p.m. and will be reviewed under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (MGL Chapter 131, Section 40) and/or the Manchester General Wetlands Bylaw.

MNPA website: http:// masspublicnotices.org/ April 5, 2023 MC

Town of Manchester-by-Sea Office of the

Town Hall, 10 Central Street, Manchester-by-Sea, MA 01944-1399

Public Hearing Notice to be Published on or before 4/5/24 Town of Manchester requests the Commission make a decision regarding a Notice of Intent for ecological restoration plan within the buffer zone to Coastal Bank at 58 Masconomo Street (map 19, lot 15) This request will be discussed at a VIRTUAL meeting Tuesday, April 16 at 6:30 p.m. and will be reviewed under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (MGL Chapter 131, Section 40) and/or the Manchester General Wetlands Bylaw.

MNPA website: http:// masspublicnotices.org/ April 5, 2023 MC

PUBLIC NOTICE

CONSERVATION COMMISSION CONSERVATION COMMISSION Manchester-by-Sea, MA 01944-1399

> Public Hearing Notice to be Published on or before 4/5/24 Town of Manchester requests Commission make a the decision regarding a Request for Determination of Applicability for tree removal and restoration of habitat on Kettle Island (map 3, lot 15) This request will be discussed at a

VIRTUAL meeting Tuesday, April 16 at 6:30 p.m. and will be reviewed under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (MGL Chapter 131, Section 40) and/or the Manchester General Wetlands Bylaw.

MNPA website: http:// masspublicnotices.org/ April 5, 2023 MC



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\$4,900,000 | Ann Olivo & Rick Marshall

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Stunning grounds, wrap-around porch, stone patio,

\$2,150,000 | Ted Richard

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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.



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Beach meets the farm with this Gothic Colonial home with 2 bedrooms, farmer's kitchen, rooftop deck and more! Additional space in attached 2-level barn with in-law potential.

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COLDWELL BANKER MANCHESTER-BY-THE-SEA







101 Western Ave Gloucester | \$1,125,000

Rare opportunity to own a waterfront mixed use multifamily right on beautiful Stacy Boulevard! A special place to enjoy the historic harbor of Gloucester. Well maintained and updated property with endless potential suitable for an owner occupied who wants to live in the residential unit and get income from the commercial space or a savvy investor/developer who would like to convert this multifamily into two condos.

Gaby DeBenedictis | Realtor



126 School St Manchester | \$1,399,000

Beautifully expanded and renovated 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home with easy access to 128, close to schools and town.

OH - SATURDAY 12:30 -1 & SUNDAY 11-1.

Marianne Round | Realtor 978-902-5452





1 Pine St Manchester | \$699,000

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Marianne Round | Realtor 978-902-5452

4 Lane St

Annisquam | \$3,475,000

Iconic Annisquam waterfront property located at the head of Lobster Cove. Proudly sited on over an acre of land with rolling lawns, bountiful seaside gardens and private tidal float and dock. The property enjoys stunning views of the mesmerizing changing tides in Lobster Cove. The property consists of a 9 room, 3 bedroom, 3.5 main house and handsome barn conversion guest house with great room, kitchen, bathroom and bedroom. Both structures offer stone terraces and stellar water views from every window.

Scott Smith | Realtor | 617-750-2793 Lynda Surdam | Realtor | 978-764-7474

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*AS OF 12/31/



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Krista Julian | Realtor 617-312-5413

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