



Monday, April 15 is Patriot's Day

America was not built on fear. America was built on courage, on imagination and an unbeatable determination - Harry S. Truman

MANCHESTER CRICKET

A Local Tradition Since 1888

VOL. 136, NO. 47

FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2024

PRICE: \$1.25

BRIEFLY

Reminder Hooper Fund Grant Deadline is 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.

Manchester Woman's Club

The Manchester Woman's Club invites the community on April 16 at 1 p.m. at the First Parish Chapel for a performance by Diane Edgecomb, storyteller and Margot Chamberlain, harpist of Living Myth. The hour-long performance by Edgecomb weaves myths from many cultures that speak of the rose and its origins. This program has been made available in part through a grant from the Manchester Cultural Council with support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. The program is free and open to the public.

Crib Addicts Kick Off the Season

Last night was the big opener for the spring season of Cribbage at the Manchester's American Legion, known to those in the know as the "Crib Addicts." After the first week of play, it was David Slade in the lead followed by John Bubrowski, Heather MacDonald, Stephen Chabot, Billy Bell, Harry Parsons, Ted Cakounes, Ben Conway, Tina Latassa, Jim Chabot, Michela Hirnak, Peter Gabriez, Clem Courcy, Joan Snow, Paul Clark, and Bob Torkildsen. The group meets every Tuesday at 6 p.m., and all skills are welcome.

Musicians Unleashed Sunday at Crowell Chapel

It's *Fantasy and Mythology* with Cape Ann Symphony on Sunday, April 14 at Manchester's Crowell Chapel as part of the symphony's intimate "Musicians Unleashed" program. Sunday's program will explore the sounds of the woodwind quintet and then showcase each of the instruments alone featuring works by Nielson, Poulenc, Mouquet, Debussy and others. Information including directions, venue, updates and ticket pricing at capeansymphony.org.



IT'S THE ECLIPSE!

More than 140 people attended the MBTS library's eclipse viewing party Monday where 75 eclipse glasses were handed out in just seven minutes. Local astronomers, Karen and Peter Burns brought their solar telescope, capable of safe, clear view of the eclipse. And the library appropriately gave out moonpies and Sun Chips for snacks!

Courtesy photos

Salem Judge Rules Against MCC in Lease Dispute, Criticizes Charity

By Erika Brown

A Salem District Court judge swiftly addressed the future of the Manchester Community Center (MCC) last week, ruling that the organization had violated its commercial lease by overstaying its welcome. The judge awarded \$199,000 in back rent and attorney's fees to the landlord, Harbor's Point Condominium Association, effectively exhausting the assets of the 54-year-old local charity.

Judge Richard Mori awarded Harbor's Point \$55,000 in back rent and \$144,000 in legal fees, as outlined in the lease signed in 2021 between Harbor's Point and the MCC. The MCC is currently appealing the decision.

The trial, lasting less than an hour, concluded a prolonged dispute between the MCC and Harbor's Point.

During the trial, Judge Richard Mori attempted no less than six times to prod, nudge, and encourage both parties to compromise and find a way to assure the future of the charity. He also castigated the MCC for its stubborn and reckless management, saying the board should be referred to the Mass. Attorney General for "mishandling the fiduciary duties" required of a charity.

Harbor's Point attorneys were prepared to cut a deal



that would allow the MCC to continue its tenancy for up to five years. But Michael Walsh, MCC's attorney, said the MCC was unwilling to make that deal, insisting on either full ownership rights of the property or a \$1 million settlement to vacate.

"I'm trying to cut you a better deal than you'd get if I ruled on summary judgment," Judge Mori said. "(The MCC) is a very laudable organization ... I'd hope the organization would continue in some other venue. You know, there is the Congregational Church that has space. Or the Legion."

"My guys have given me the instructions that this is, 'Do or die,'" responded Walsh.

"Do or die," the Judge asked incredulously. "Do or die, your honor,"

said Walsh. "This is where we will place our flag."

"Most people faced with utter defeat would choose to have a piece of the pie rather than no pie," he told Walsh.

"It's a public charity," said Grant Hecht, Harbor's Point attorney. "They have certain responsibilities with respect to their money than just throwing it away."

Walsh acknowledged that Harbor's Point had made the MCC "several very generous offers" and he'd recommended the MCC board take an offer, to no avail. He noted there was a block of MCC board members that had simply refused to compromise. One member, Walsh said, even resigned due to the board's inability to reach a consensus.

Judge Mori was unimpressed.

Lost Opportunities

Going into Wednesday, the MCC's legal path was limited. A March pre-trial hearing struck down nearly all the MCC's legal arguments because they either lacked evidence, were frivolous, or were irrelevant. The only way forward was to somehow argue that the leases the MCC signed should be overlooked or ignored, and Judge Mori ruled the case was simply too weak to argue before a jury and he'd deliver a summary judgement.

Notably absent from the trial were MCC's President Patrick Meehan, Co-President Raquel Przesiek, and Executive Director Kim Kaner.

The MCC's 2,400sf building was originally donated in 1976 by an Essex businessman, Augustus "Gus" Means, as a youth center. It sits on land owned by Harbor's Point, next to the train

"Most people faced with utter defeat would choose to have a piece of the pie rather than no pie."

station. But Means excluded the land from his gift of the building—emphasized by underlining "NO INTEREST IN LAND" in his notarized donor letter.

For decades the MCC signed a series of land leases, and Harbor's Point waived the rent each year as a gift to the MCC. But about five years ago, the relationship soured, and Harbor's Point required that the MCC pay \$200 per month, which it initially refused. By 2020, the MCC relented, and Harbor's Point moved the organization to a month-to-month lease.

...(Continued on page 2)

Weekly Weather Chart

Saturday 13 April		56°	45°
Sunday 14 April		53°	41°
Monday 15 April		60°	42°
Tuesday 16 April		47°	43°
Wednesday 17 April		46°	43°
Thursday 18 April		49°	44°
Friday 19 April		51°	45°

Weather data pulled Wednesday and is subject to change.



Gavel to Gavel This Week's Town Meetings

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

Town Halls Closed Monday, April 15, All Day

MERSD No School -- Spring Recess April 15 - 19

MBTS Welcoming Committee Wednesday, April 17 7 p.m. Town Hall, Room 7

IN THIS ISSUE

Obituaries	2
Town News.....	3
Letters & Library.....	4
School & Sports	6
Essex Echo.....	7
Puzzles.....	10
Pets and People	11
Real Estate.....	10, 12

State House News

Local Leaders Fret Over Accessory Units, Local Control

By Chris Lisinski

The Massachusetts Municipal Association supports Gov. Maura Healey's policy-heavy, \$4 billion housing bond bill, but there are pockets of concern among some city and town leaders, especially as the state deploys other carrots and sticks to generate more production.

A handful of local officials warned lawmakers Tuesday that the wide-ranging legislation Healey filed takes too heavy a touch in certain areas, infringing on the local control that community leaders cherish and that opponents contend is often used to stall development.

...(Continued on page 9)



Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll (right) testifies before the Joint Committee on Bonding about the administration's housing bill on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, accompanied by Administration and Finance Secretary Matthew Gorzkowicz (left) and Housing Secretary Edward Augustus (center). Photo: Sam Doran/SHNS



The Manchester Fire Dept. Wednesday held a training for public service officers, including MBTS Harbormaster Bion Pike, on what to do in the event of an oil spill in the harbor. (Photos: Erika Brown)

Annual Town Meeting: School Articles

By Gregory T. Federspiel

School expenditures account for roughly 50% of Manchester's total operating budgets.

This is typical for a community with percentages running even higher in some municipalities. To be sure, education is an important and expensive proposition.

At the April 24 Manchester Annual Town Meeting, voters will be asked to approve the School District's operating and capital budgets, as well as two special appropriations, one for the last portion of Manchester's share of the refurbished turf fields, and its share of the soon to be launched Feasibility Study for renovating or building a new Essex Elementary School. Voters also need to approve the Town's contribution to the Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School District.

The Technical School serves seventeen communities in our area. Thirteen students from Manchester attend the District. The District has proven to be very popular since a new facility was constructed a few years ago, with demand outpacing available space and it is providing an important learning experience for the students who attend. Both the Finance Committee and the Select Board recommend voters approve the Town's share of \$243,385, which is a slight decrease from this year's amount.

The MERSD operating budget is proposed to increase a total of 2.9%. The District typically needs an increase in the 3-3.5% range to maintain current programming. Essex and Manchester share the cost of the District based on an apportionment formula contained in the District agreement that takes into account three factors:

town population, student enrollment, and the total value of all properties in each town. Roughly speaking, this translates to Manchester paying two thirds and Essex paying one third.

However, yearly increases can—and do—vary between the two towns, depending on the changes in the three factors. Because Manchester student enrollment has been declining over the last few years with Essex growing very slightly, Essex is seeing a bigger percentage increase in their annual apportionment. A half dozen years ago or so, the reverse was true and Manchester was seeing larger annual percentage increases. For next year, the 2.9% District increase translates through the apportionment formula to require a 4.82% increase for Essex and a 1.84% increase for Manchester. Manchester's share for FY25 is slated to be \$16.3 million.

Again, both the Finance Committee and Select Board recommend approval of the proposed budget.

Last year, Essex failed to pass an override to pay for a similarly high increase and the District responded by proposing a lower spending total and drawing on more reserves. This lower budget was approved at subsequent town meetings for both towns. This year, Essex feels they can pay their proposed apportionment without seeking an override through the use of higher than typical taxes from new development and shifting some dollars from town to school expenditures.

However, the long-term challenges remain especially if enrollment patterns continue to shift toward Essex. Anytime either town faces a District apportionment increase above 3.5% it stresses the available resources derived from the normal 2.5%

tax increase limit imposed by Proposition 2 1/2 and any new taxation from new development. While there have been suggestions to revisit the District apportionment formula to try to avoid the wide differences in annual increases, no concrete recommendations for how best to do this have emerged.

The capital budget for the District covers the debt payments for the previously approved borrowings to pay for the Middle-High School and the Memorial School. Manchester's share is \$2.7 million and it is declining yearly as the total borrowed is gradually paid off. A separate vote seeks approval for the last portion of Manchester's share of the turf filed refurbishment projects - a final \$248,348. The Finance Committee and the Select Board recommend approval of both amounts.

The last school-related article pertains to paying for a Feasibility Study for the Essex Elementary School. This is the last of the big school building projects facing the District for the foreseeable future. The District was recently accepted into the state school building program to address the deficiencies of the 1950's-era school in Essex. A Feasibility Study is the first step in a multi-year process to determine the best course of action— consolidate, renovate in place, build new either in the same location or on a different site.

The Finance Committee and the Select Board recommend that voters approve \$660,000 as Manchester's share of the cost for the Feasibility Study through a one-time cash "capital exclusion" vote both at the Town Meeting and also at the ballot. (A capital exclusion means the tax rate needed to raise the funds is outside the limits of Proposition 2 1/2.)



BOARD UPDATES

Town Hall Closed: Town Hall will be closed on Monday, April 15 in observance of Patriots' Day. All trash, recycling, and compost collection will be delayed by one day.

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

Annual Town Meeting: The Annual Town Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 24 at 6:30 p.m. at Memorial School. Childcare will be available through Parks and Recreation, register at mbsrec.com.

Annual Town Reports: The Annual Report distribution has changed this year in an effort to conserve environmental resources.

Town Reports will be available online or for pick up at Town Hall, Library, and the Police Station by April 15 and also at Town Meeting. The Finance Committee Budget Book will be mailed directly to residents ahead of Town Meeting.

Planning Board Vacancy: Due to the unexpected vacancy on the Planning Board, the Town is seeking letters of interest from the community to help fill the elected position through May 2025. Please contact Debbie Powers at powersd@manchester.ma.us to learn more by May 1.

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 Singing 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 mbsrec.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.

Trash, recycling, and compost collection: Delayed Schedule. Please place curbside by 7 a.m. on day of collection. Transfer Station is open on Wednesdays from 7:30 a.m. 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 HAPPENING

90 YEARS AGO - 1934
Manchester set another record in rapid fire town meetings Monday evening when a special meeting was held followed by the adjourned annual meeting, the first being disposed of in 6 minutes while 20 minutes were required to do the business of the adjourned annual meeting.

Sunday brought us the first real day of spring and although the wind was cool the sun shown clear and warm enticing hosts of people into the great wide-open spaces. Motorists were out in force there being an almost unbroken procession of cars in either direction all through the day and evening.

75 YEARS AGO - 1949
An excellent turnout for the 1949 Legion baseball nine was evidenced Sunday afternoon at the Essex County Club practice grounds as mentor Tuey Cook put the players through their paces for the first time this season. Edmund Doucette has been awarded the contract to care for the floats at Masconomo Park by the Park Department. His bid was \$390 as compared to the only other bid, that of George Keighly of \$575.

60 YEARS AGO - 1964

Announcement was made at Boy Scout Troop Three meeting last week that William Phillips, senior patrol leader, is one of 10 boys picked from the North Shore Council to spend one week at the World's Fair in New York this summer. The Scouts will act as guides at the Boy Scout Pavilion. Parents are reminded that one of the most important Parent-Teacher Association meetings of the year will be presented by Mr. Herbert G. Shlegel, Jr., head of the Mathematic Department of the High School on Modern Math. It is hoped that all curious and interested parents will attend.

45 YEARS AGO - 1979
The Board of Selectman wish to publicize important facets of the so-called "New Drinking Age" in Massachusetts, which was made law after being signed by Governor King. Beginning at 2 o'clock, Monday, April 16th, a person must be aged 20 years before he or she will be allowed alcohol.

Perhaps the biggest upset in the men's Monday evening bowling league took place this week when the Table Four leglers buried the Standley's Garagement, 39-3.

30 YEARS AGO - 1994

Fire fighter Philip G. "Skip" Marr and Library volunteers Sherry Proctor, William Burroughs and Hugh Shepley were honored last Thursday at a reception held in the Manchester Community Center. The annual observance was conceived many years ago to honor those individuals, both employees and volunteers, who give above and beyond to what is expected of them.

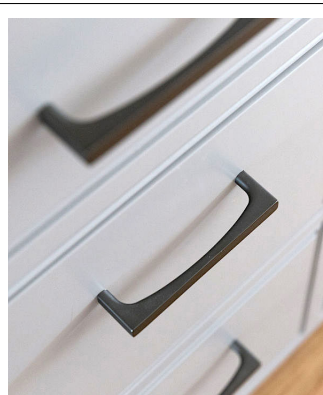
The Department of Public Works will open the Renaissance Farm compost site for the season on April 9, and will be open every Saturday from April through May for the disposal of grass clippings, hedge trimmings, chipped brush and other yard waste not exceeding 1" in diameter.

15 YEARS AGO - 2009
The Trustees of Reservations is inviting young adults to get involved and get outside this spring break as volunteers making a difference in the fields, forests, and coastlines in the North Shore.

The Annual Manchester Community Center's golf tournament will be held May 27, 2009. This year the Community Center celebrates over 40 years, providing activities, programs, and a meeting place for many different organizations.

Tides & Sun Chart For The Week Ahead

DATE	HIGH				LOW				☀️	
	AM	FT	PM	FT	AM	FT	PM	FT	RISE	SET
12 Fri	2:38	11.0	3:16	9.6	9:19	-0.7	9:28	0.3	6:03	7:23
13 Sat	3:28	10.6	4:09	9.1	10:10	-0.2	10:17	0.9	6:02	7:24
14 Sun	4:20	10.0	5:04	8.6	11:02	0.4	11:09	1.4	6:00	7:25
15 Mon	5:16	9.4	6:02	8.2	11:56	1.0			5:58	7:26
16 Tue	6:16	9.0	7:02	8.0	12:03	1.8	12:53	1.4	5:57	7:28
17 Wed	7:19	8.7	8:00	8.0	1:00	2.0	1:51	1.6	5:55	7:29
18 Thu	8:20	8.6	8:54	8.2	1:58	2.1	2:46	1.7	5:54	7:30



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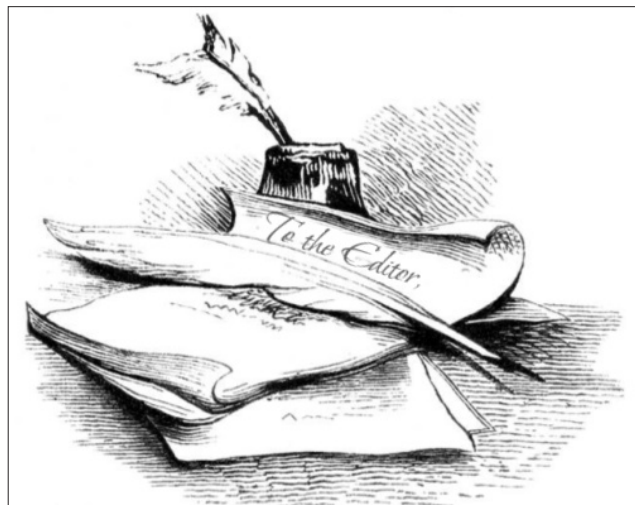
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The Cricket publishes every letter it receives. Letters should be original, no more than 400-600 words and written in a general spirit of discourse, signed and include an email/phone and a valid address in case we have questions. We may edit letters 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.**

Ron Mastrogiacomo: A Man Who Led Without Ego

To the Editor and Fellow Residents,

Last week we were all saddened to learn of the passing of Ron Mastrogiacomo, Planning Board chair.

One of the many things that Ron did quietly, and without fail, was to write to the residents of Manchester thanking any retiring board member. We carry out this tradition in his memory and express our heartfelt gratitude for all he did for Manchester.

For over 14 years, Ron dedicated his time as an elected member of the Planning Board, serving as chair since 2019. No one can recall him every missing a meeting!

Ron led without ego. He was unfailingly kind, patient, and diligent in his work on the Planning Board. He was always prepared, starting the next week's agenda upon returning home from each meeting. He arrived early to every meeting with a prepared script, in order to ensure that process was fol-

lowed and that nothing was forgotten. If we brought up things out of order, he would smile and say, "Don't worry, I'm getting to that!"

Ron was a good listener, who made room for varying points of view. He was civic-minded and polite, reminding us to treat one another with mutual respect. He exuded a gentle sense of humor and kindness that put others at ease around him. He loved Manchester and took pride in being a resident here - whether he was carefully stewarding his historic home or joining with other board members to pick up trash during the annual spring town clean up.

Ron had a remarkable 45-year career as a Professional Civil Engineer and contributed significant knowledge and guidance to the Board as we adjudicated numerous special permits, made improvements to the Town's Zoning Bylaw, and deliberated various Town projects. During his tenure on the Planning Board, Ron also served on the Donovan Field Ad Hoc Committee, The Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan Committee, and

the Community Preservation Committee.

We are truly saddened to lose such a good, kind, compassionate colleague and neighbor.

Manchester Planning Board

- Sarah Hammond Creighton
- Christina Delisio
- Mary Foley
- Chris Olney
- Susan Hansen Philbrick
- Laura Tenney

A Good Man...

Many of Ron Mastrogiacomo's former colleagues on the Planning Board—friends who served with him—were shocked and saddened by the news of his recent untimely death.

We were doubly affected, recalling him as a skilled, dedicated professional, a moderating voice, a generous colleague always willing to take on extra tasks for the community he loved -- and as a kind, unassuming man of warmth and humor.

Ron served on the Board for 14 years, a number of them as Chairman. He listened intently, shared his engineering expertise and presided over complex and sometimes contentious matters.

Although he was a gentle man with a visible distaste for controversy, if there was disagreement he worked firmly and quietly to achieve consensus and a fair outcome. The Town can be grateful for Ron's years dedicated to public service, his knowledge, integrity and patient leadership.

We write to express our appreciation for his many contributions and to extend our sympathy to his large and beloved family.

Carroll Cabot

- Peter Canny
- Kurt Melden
- Richard Blau
- Becky Jaques
- Gary Gilbert
- Andrea Fish

- Lauren Coons
- Frank Marangell
- Hope Watt-Bucci
- Bob Mehlman
- Helene Kwasié

Local Disabilities Committee: Support Library Renovation and Expansion at Manchester ATM

I am writing as a member of the Americans with Disabilities Advisory Committee. At our last meeting, the Board voted unanimously to support the Board and staff of our library in their efforts to make the library truly welcoming and accessible for all. By doing this they are not just following a legal mandate; they are making the library and it's many and varied assets and programs available to every resident of this town.

If you are not familiar with the library, you may not realize the current difficulties encountered by anyone with accessibility issues. Currently, the young adult programs are held on the upper level over the stacks, reached only by a full flight of somewhat difficult metal stairs. Imagine the feelings of a young person with physical challenges facing this obstacle.

For even younger library users, one must make a reservation for Story Hour because the space in the children's room is very limited. And I was told by a local grandmother that she had to change her grandson's diaper on the floor of the main room because there is no changing table. This brings me to the problem of the existing restroom. This very small facility, tucked into a corner of the reading room is hardly adequate for anyone, but certainly completely inaccessible to anyone in a wheelchair or even a walker or a parent with a child in a stroller.

The Library staff and Board have spent years and countless hours to bring a plan that will insure accessibility while preserving the historical beauty of the library build-

ing. Please support them by voting yes at Town Meeting on April 24th.

Gretchen Wood

- Lisa Bonneville
- Beth Heisey
- Laurie Werle
- Caitlin Eppes
- ADA Advisory Committee

Let's Support the Proposed Senior Center at Town Meeting

I was a youngster when efforts began to provide a dedicated Senior Center for Manchester residents. Now, decades later, it is within reach. It just takes our votes and our voices. As a Member of the Friends of the Council on Aging, I strongly nudge you to have your voice heard. Vote at the April 24th Town Meeting. Grab a neighbor, bother a friend, and attend to vote with another Senior. Please VOTE!

Thank you,
Sheila Roy
Manchester

Drinking Water Threatened

At the April 1 meeting of the Open Space Committee, we discussed Gordon College, whose land directly abuts Manchester's primary drinking water source, which lies in Hamilton. I did indeed emphasize the significance of this land, calling it "the most important piece of land in Manchester" - because it provides outstanding natural resource values and only the unbuildable wetland areas are protected.

The soils and wetlands of the Gordon College land filter surface and groundwater heading for Round and Gravelly Ponds. Some of this natural infrastructure would be replaced by housing, generating pollutants. As the area lacks municipal sewage, on-site septic systems would be needed. The danger of septic failure would be added

to the loss of beneficial water-cleansing.

Allowing development is hardly a fair trade-off for a conservation restriction of little significance, as it would mainly apply to inaccessible upland areas and wetlands already protected by state and local law. Nothing is more important to Manchester residents than a safe supply of drinking water.

Helen Bethell
Manchester

Climate Change is Real, Right Here Where We Live

It was disappointing that less than one half of one-tenth of a percent of Manchester residents attended the presentation on Tuesday April 2 by TownGreen about how Manchester will be impacted by climate change, in particular water level rises and storm surges.

We are battling each other about things that may seem big now but that will seem small and irrelevant 35 years hence in the face of Mother Nature taking back what was once hers.

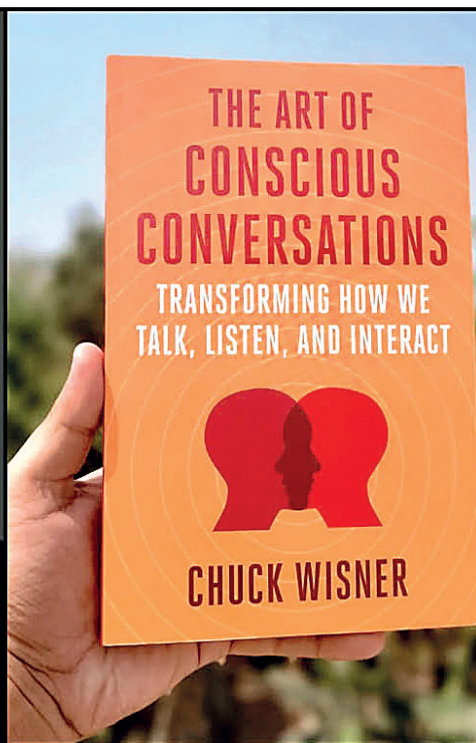
We are worried now about changes to the character of our town, but much bigger changes are ahead that will shift much more than character: some roads will no longer be navigable, some houses will be sliding into the sea, Masconomet Park will be covered by water and Singing Beach will slowly be taken back by the sea.

Our children and grandchildren will have to bear the brunt of managing the changes that are coming.

Luckily, we have people in our town government who are planning ahead. Check it out on the Manchester website (look for coastal vulnerability). The meeting was recorded. To watch the recording, contact town-green2025.org.

Sylvia Vriesendorp
Manchester

LIBRARY NEWS



On Thursday, April 18 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. for the Cultural Council's 4th session, the Manchester Public Library will be hosting Chuck Wisner a leadership coach and consultant. He will be discussing his book "The Art of Conscious Conversations: Transforming How We Talk, Listen, and Interact." Registration is required.

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 a 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.

Art Across Asia: Persia (Virtual)

Sunday, April 14 from 2:30-4 p.m. Uncover the unique artistic elements of ancient Middle Eastern art, and its influence on art across Asia and Europe. Visit the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco virtually.

"Cooking with Scraps" (Virtual)

Wednesday, April 17 from 7-8 p.m. Do you feel bad about throwing away (or even composting) food scraps that could be used? Lindsay-Jean Hard, cookbook author and sustainability warrior, and Amy Emberling, managing partner of Zingerman's Bakehouse, are here to help us learn how we can make use of those scraps, keep them out of landfills, and still have

enough left-over for our compost pile. Register online or over the phone.

Author Chuck Wisner

Thursday, April 18 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. For the Cultural Council's 4th session, we will be hosting Chuck Wisner a leadership coach and consultant. He will be discussing his book "The Art of Conscious Conversations: Transforming How We Talk, Listen, and Interact." Registration is required.

Haunted Happenings: Fear Town and Factory of Terror (Virtual)

Thursday, April 18 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Fear Town Haunted House in Seekonk, MA is an outdoor haunted trail through the woods. Factory of Terror in Fall River, MA is a well loved and known local attraction. Join owner Mike Quill and Jeff DePaoli, host of "That Halloween Podcast", as they talk about these fantastic haunted experiences right in our backyard. Register online or by phone.

Free Friday Movie

Friday, April 26 from 6-8 p.m. We will be showing a movie in the Reference Room on the 4th Friday of every month. We will supply the popcorn, feel free to bring covered, non-alcoholic beverages.

Check out what is showing on our website.

Plant Swap

Saturday, April 27 from 11 a.m.- 1 p.m. Have some spider plants that are ready to propagate? Buy an eight pack of flowers and only need six? Why not swap the plants with your neighbors? Trade some spider plants for some aloe. Some zucchini for some tomatoes. Notice: These plants are from home gardens and may carry pests and disease that may not be healthy for your garden. Trade with caution and when you can, remove the soil from new plants and plant them as bare roots to limit the spread.

Manchester Reads 2024

This May discover the universe together with a space-themed Manchester Reads. Check out books, programs for all ages, crafts and even a telescope.

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 Story-times

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

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.



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She's Running for Something Special



Jen DeSimon beams at the 2020 Boston Marathon.



16 years ago, DeSimone runs the 2008 Boston Marathon.

(Courtesy photos)

By Norm Weeks

Successfully completing the Boston Marathon is a true accomplishment for many Cape Ann residents who run or walk those 26.2 miles from Hopkinton to downtown Boston. But this year Manchester's Jennifer DeSimone, a veteran of the race, will be running the 128th Boston Marathon for something more: a rare spot in the event's "Quarter Century Club."

The Boston Athletic Association (B.A.A.) has organized the Boston Marathon since its inception in 1897. It is the world's oldest annual marathon and has become both an American classic as well as an incomparable road race with great traditions. Hundreds of thousands line the course each year.

A long-time avid runner, DeSimone will be looking on Monday to complete her 25th consecutive Boston Marathon, a feat that would place her in truly rare company.

If DeSimone completes the 2024 Boston Marathon, she will become just the eighteenth woman in the world to be a member of the Quarter Century Club marking those elite runners who completed 25 consecutive Boston Marathons.

Moreover, relatively few runners have ever attained such a lengthy streak.

A marathoner's year of preparation is full of regular sets of short- and long-distance runs, and these runs can easily result in hundreds or even thousands of miles of getting ready. Typically, the routine includes a practice

run in the 20-mile range as race day nears - a distance more than most of us could ever accomplish. And for the day of the race, one cannot be sick, injured, or otherwise unavailable for this grueling effort.

The B.A.A.'s Quarter Century Club (QCC) was established to honor those who are able to finish 25 consecutive Boston Marathons.

These streaks are rare. Mark Buciak of Chicago, the president of the QCC, reports that there are only 120 active streaks from among the thousands of people who have competed in the race. If Jen completes the 2024 Boston Marathon, she will become just the eighteenth woman in the world to be a member of the QCC.

So, keep your fingers crossed for each of the runners and hope for fair weather this coming Monday, April 15. It is a special marathon for everyone who participates, but an extra special one for our Jen.



A public display congratulates DeSimone on the jumbo sign across Boylston Street at last year's race.

Did You Know...

- That the current longest streak by a woman is 37? The holder is Patty Hung, a 78 years young nurse from Orinda, CA. She didn't start running until she was in her late 30's, and set the new mark in 2023.
- That the previous longest streak by a woman was 36 and was held by Andrea Hatch of Maine?
- That the most famous of all Boston Marathoners, Johnny Kelley (the Elder), ran 61 Boston Marathons? He did not finish his first attempt in 1928, and ran his last complete Boston in 1992. Remarkably, he won Boston twice (in 1935 and 1945), and had seven second-place and eighteen top-10 finishes. And yet, his longest consecutive streaks were 23 and 24, making him ineligible for the Quarter Century Club!



ECLIPSE! Over 140 people attended the MBTS library's eclipse viewing party and 75 eclipse glasses were handed out in 7 minutes. Thank you so much to local astronomers, Karen and Peter Burns, who brought their solar telescope, capable of safely viewing the sun so that everyone could enjoy a clear view of the eclipse. (Courtesy Photos)



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In the Hornets' Nest



ME Hornet, Anna Gardner, fires one by her Hamilton-Wenham opponent during Monday's softball game at Sweeney Park. The Hornets defeated the Generals 4-3 and are 2-0 for the season. *Photos Paul Clark*

BASEBALL:

The Baseball team has been working hard for the first three weeks. The captains (Troy Flood and Matt Mckenna) have done an outstanding job leading the team and holding them accountable.

The Baseball team opened up on April 2nd but ran into a very talented Arlington Catholic team and lost 9-0. The game was very competitive for the first 4 innings, but some defensive mistakes allowed Arlington Catholic to score 5 late in the game. Matteo Sarmanian threw 3 strong innings only letting up 1 earned run. Nick Brown threw a 1,2,3, 4th. In the 5th Nick got in trouble and Troy Flood came in to throw 2 strong innings only letting up 1 earned run. Chris Heims threw a scoreless 7th.

Satchel Rubin had the lone hit with a double. Troy Flood stole a base and walked.

GIRLS TENNIS:

Hornets' Girls Tennis, led by their awesome senior captains Grayson and Sienna Crocker, got off to an excellent start to the season finishing the first week with a record of 2-1 after playing three highly competitive matches. The girls kicked off with a home match against Masconomet, the two-time reigning Division 2 champions. The Hornets put up a great fight, winning both doubles matches but ultimately falling 3-2. Highlights included wins for the teams of Grace Scarbrough / Sarah Cort and Mackay Brooks / Emily Parkins, with Cort and Brooks both competing in their first varsity matches!

The week continued with two big wins over quality opponents, 4-1 away at Marblehead and 3-2 at home against Ipswich. Grayson Crocker won twice at first singles, Nina Zalosh earned her first varsity victory at second singles against Marblehead, and Sienna Crocker competed incredibly well in her hard-fought debut singles matches. Lastly, congrats



Sienna Crocker returns a ground shot during her match with Bishop Fenwick, Monday. The Hornets took game 3-2 and are standing at 3-1-0 early in the season.

to the first doubles team of Scarbrough / Cort who went undefeated over the course of the week.

The upcoming week features an eclipse-delayed match at home against Bishop Fenwick and an away match against North Reading on Wednesday.

BOYS TENNIS:

The Manchester Essex boys' tennis team is off to an impressive 2-0 start with non-league wins over both Masco and Marblehead. On Monday, the boys traveled to Masco where they would play a solid Masco team with well coached doubles. The singles trio of Jack Cummins at one, Charlie Virden at two, and Jan Vytopil at three handled their business efficiently all with straight set wins. The doubles teams of Finn Birkenland and Jack Lawler at first

doubles and second doubles of Sander Breuker and Charlie Langendorf also won their matches in straight sets (6-2, 7-5) and (6-3, 6-4) respectively. The match of the week, however, would come on Tuesday ahead of the rain against Division II perennial power Marblehead. Jan Vytopil had a battle with the Marblehead third singles player and came away with a hard fought (6-4, 6-4) win to get the Hornets on the board. Second doubles had an even tougher battle taking their match in three sets (6-2, 4-6,

7-5). But the match of the day came at the second singles spot with Charlie Virden earning a three-set win over the extremely talented Marblehead two (6-2, 4-6, 6-4). Charlie cruised in the first, but the Marblehead player found his game in the second to force the third where both players were playing amazing tennis point after point. With the win over Marblehead, the boys will surely get a lift in the state tournament rankings. The Hornets travel to Swampscott and then host North Reading this week be-

fore the vacation week.

BOYS LACROSSE:

Manchester Essex Boys Lacrosse split their first two home games of the season beating Masconomet HS 12-8, and falling to Baker Rival Ipswich HS 9-7. Through the first two games, senior Quinn Brady has tallied 7 goals, and has gone sub 60% at the face-off dot. Senior Mac Edgerton has 4 goals, Senior Henry Thurlow has 2 goals 2 assists, and sophomore Charlie Thurlow had a hat trick vs Masco. Connor Dickson has a 62% save percentage, and 29 saves through the first two games backstopping the Hornets defense.

Week 2 games for the Hornets are Tuesday 4/9 at Winthrop HS, and Friday 4/12 home vs another CAL Baker rival Hamilton-Wenham.

GIRLS LACROSSE:

Manchester Essex Girls Lacrosse is off to a great start to the season. We were expecting a good physical game against Marblehead and we got one. We were ready from the first draw, and played a strong full-field lacrosse game until the final buzzer. Highlights of the game included our first season goal from Laila Mears! It is always exciting to get that first goal of the season, and because it was the first goal of the game, it helped start us off fast and confident. From there we settled in and played very strong, aggressive defense and patient offense.

Goals were scored by Ella Chafe (4), Laila Mears (1), Maggie Light (2), Lucy O'Flynn (3), Sylvie McCavanagh (2) and Mechi O'Neil (3).

We talk a lot about putting pressure in the mid-field and we began this season focusing on that. This game saw great mid-field coverage by Maggie Light, Sylvie McCavanagh and Lucy O'Flynn using their speed to get back to the ball, helping to cause multiple mid-field turnovers.

Also in the midfield our middies found a way to win 15 draw controls. This is particularly essential in girls' lacrosse and something we work hard on each day. Sometimes the ball goes our direction and sometimes it doesn't but this game was ours on the draw all day long.

Brigid Carovillano had 4 terrific saves and played with composure in the net. She provided an outlet for us on defense that really helps us start our drive off well. I believe this will be an enormous asset for us all season long.

Our second battle of the season was also at home. We took on Georgetown and our attitude was to start the game with intensity. We did just that! It was a day of great effort by the entire team to stay focused and composed. It is easy to have a letdown

in the middle of a game like when things are clicking and easy to start making careless errors. Today's game was well played and disciplined. A proud day for our ME Hornets!

Highlights of the day: Mechi O'Neil 6 goals, Ella Chafe 1 goal, Maggie Light 1 goal, Lucy O'Flynn 2 goals, Sylvie McCavanagh 2 goals, Ellie Morgan 1 goal, Charlotte Crocker 1 goal. Six of the goals had brilliant assists, one each by: Ella Chafe, Abby Kent, Harper Brooks, Ellie Morgan, Sadie Potter and Charlotte Crocker. Brigid Carovillano had 5 saves. Mechi O'Neil had five draw control wins, and Charlotte Crocker had three beautiful, caused turnovers.

To finish the week, Manchester Essex traveled to Ipswich. Games against Ipswich are always hard fought, full of emotion and courage to the final buzzer. We all look forward to these games, but Manchester Essex has for the last three match-ups fallen short by two goals, our last loss coming in the state tournament last year when the game was held over two days due to inclement weather. Our Hornets this year were determined to stay positive, stay driven and stay gritty. We, as their coaches, are so proud of them even as we fell short again Friday by just two goals.

In the first quarter the Hornets were able to control possession of the ball, getting a few shots on net and playing strong defense when we needed it. We ended the first quarter in a tie, 1-1. The battle was on. Unfortunately, due to a few untimely errors, we fell behind in the second quarter 5-1. This is where the girls came together, made a decision to fight harder, stay committed to the game plan and battle back. At the end of the third quarter, we had made a dent in our deficit at 6-3. In the fourth quarter, we ran out of time, as Ipswich tactfully began to stall the ball with 6:41 remaining in the game. Anyone who knows girls' lacrosse understands how difficult it is to gain back possession during a stall, especially a man-down, which we were!

Highlights: Goals scored by Mechi O'Neil (2), Ella Chafe (1) and Sylvie McCavanagh (1). Chafe was able to win 4 draw controls, Charlotte Crocker had several important ground ball wins, and Brigid Carovillano (goalie) broke up an amazing play by Ipswich with a key interception.

A tough day of lessons on the field, but a resolution to come back to practice Monday ready to work even harder. Next time, we will be a different team and our fight will be even bigger. Join us at HOME on Thursday May 9, 2024 at 7 p.m.



Morgan Laspesa puts one away during Monday's game against Hamilton-Wenham. The Hornets got the W, 4-3. The game was enhanced by a new scoreboard and sound system. The game was well-attended as the two schools are perennial rivals in all sports. *(Photo Paul Clark)*

ScottEnergy Community Bulletin Board

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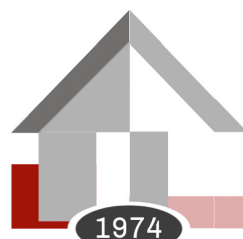


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ESSEX ECHO.



Director Ben Icenogle introduces the ME High School Chorus during the Spring Concert on Thursday. The concert featured the HS Chorus, the Soundwaves, the Jazz Band and the Concert Band. This was the last opportunity for seniors to perform during their last year. (Photo Paul Clark)



Director Joe Janack led a ten-piece jazz band in three selections with a solo by Caroline Chrzanowski singing Cry Me A River. (Photo Paul Clark)



The Soundwaves performed several selections, a cappella during the HS Spring Concert. Members include Simone Argento, Elsa Ballock, Josh Cohen, Lainie Falk, Saskia Kuehnemund, Lilah Malone, Alessia Omari, Jordan VargheseCate Vendt and Maggie Whitman. They are directed by Ben Icenogle and their accompanist is Betsey Vicksell. (Photo Paul Clark)

ESSEX SENIOR LIVING | APRIL 12

The Essex Council on Aging offers a variety of 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.

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 Art time! We have some supplies and would love to see 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 on strength, stamina, and stretching... energize yourself and leave feeling good! \$5 Donation suggested.

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 WELCOME, come play BOARD games or Scrabble, Boggle, Cribbage, Backgammon, join us or bring a friend and come play ANYTIME!

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 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.

ESSEX LOCALS | APRIL 12

115 Years Ago - 1909

E. Bennett Burnham, while conducting a portable sawmill at Manchester a few days ago, had the misfortune to receive serious injury to a finger. It was attended by Dr. Tyler of Manchester.

90 Years Ago - 1934

The epidemic of mumps which closed Essex High School, forced the school to postpone baseball until May.

LIBRARY NEWS



Children enjoy visiting the library and participating in monthly, themed scavenger hunts. (Courtesy Photo)

Library Closed

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

Teen Minute to Win-it

Monday, April 29 at 4 p.m. for grades 5-8. Tweens and Teens, enjoy an afternoon of fun, fast-paced challenges with your friends.

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.

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, APRIL 1

1:16 a.m. Conomo Point Rd., directed patrol, secured/checked. 1:22 a.m. Main St., selective enforcement, no action taken. 6:01 a.m. Scotts Way, directed patrol, secured/checked. 6:30 a.m. John Wise Ave., directed patrol, secured/checked.

TUESDAY, APRIL 2

No report.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

7:01 a.m. Eastern Ave., selective enforcement, no action taken. 1:17 p.m. Main St., fire alarm, fire false. 5:57 p.m. John Wise Ave., utility request, notification made. 10:39 p.m. Lufkin St., parking complaint, spoken to.

THURSDAY, APRIL 4

1:14 a.m. Story St., directed patrol, secured/checked. 7:03 a.m. Main St., traffic hazard, assisted as needed. 9:22 a.m. Western Ave., disturbance, secured/checked. 8:33 p.m. John Wise Ave., fire alarm, fire false.

FRIDAY, APRIL 5

7:08 a.m. John Wise Ave., harassment, spoken to. 11:38 a.m. Pickering St., male fall, transported to hospital. 5:34 p.m. John Wise Ave., disturbance, report to follow. 9:57 p.m. Newbury St., agency assist, assisted as needed.

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

12:36 a.m. Martin St., directed patrol, secured/checked. 1:00 a.m. John Wise Ave., directed patrol, secured/checked. 2:00 a.m. Centennial Grove Rd., directed patrol, secured/checked. 6:49 a.m. Scotts Way, directed patrol, secured/checked.

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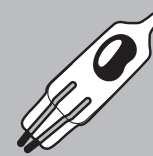
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AT HOME NOW: WHAT'S NEW?



By Jen Coles

Spring is finally starting to be sprung. Those brave spring bulbs are sticking their skinny green necks out, and so far, all I've wanted to do is wrap a scarf around them—but they are determined. Good for them. I love the newness in the air. The expectation of change.

And it all gets me thinking about where we are going with design these days. Which is worth talking about because I think we are in a really interesting transitional phase. Design is slowly ushering out some rigid adherence to everything gray, including the carrera marble, quartz countertops, and white kitchens associated with that period. And that's a significant shift because the gray period has been with us for the better part of 15 years.

So, what are we ushering in? Well, lots of things—which, as a designer, I find both interesting and also somewhat liberating. Because in this transitional space, there aren't as many rules to follow or preconceived notions of what a home should look like. There is more room than ever to let you-do-you, which is frequently the beginning of the most inspired design in my opinion.

I do recognize, however, that some may feel frustrated by the loosey-goosey nature of this transition. I mean, what if you just finished painting the last room in your house gray? You would be understandably resentful if you now felt you were expected to incorporate... well, what?? What is it exactly?

I hear you. But here's the first thing to remember. It's you-do-you, right? So, hang on to those grays as long as they are serving you. There is no timeline, or design police. You will not be arrested. And

a warm home that reflects the joys and challenges of its inhabitants doesn't really care what color it's painted. Plus, design trends don't so much change as they evolve. You'll find plenty of ways to add a pillow here or a duvet cover there to keep up with it all. And you can assess more lasting changes when you next need to paint or replace your couch.

But that said, it's also a good time to educate your eye toward what's new. Because why not? There's no pressure, and it's kind of fun to know what's out there. Organic is a word that comes to my mind when I try to encompass the changes that I'm noticing. Where the grays were about coolness, smoothness, straight lines, and expansiveness, the "organics" are about warmth, texture, natural curves, and cozier spaces.

And to this end, I celebrate the undeniable fact that natural wood is officially IN. Architecturally, much of it is currently blonde and in a matte finish, but that may change. But you'll notice it being used for kitchen pantries, or in tailored Scandinavian style beams, or in the shelves of a built-in bookcase. Or in all three places so that warmth is balanced throughout. I'm also noticing the increased use of one-of-a-kind furniture pieces—which is a niche industry I've been supporting for years. These "bespoke" pieces make great coffee tables or bedframes, but I also incorporate them into my built-in features by using them for vanities, counter tops, or kitchen islands.

Wider planked, light-wood floors in a shine-free finish is a trend I'm guessing we will see for a while. And if you are in the market, it's worth going to a high-quality flooring store to review the options. There really are some amazing alternatives to



traditional wood out there—some of them with a lifetime warranty. I frequently use these products in basements, but the quality has gotten so good that I think they may be ready for prime time. Not to say natural wood floors aren't amazing, because they are (and will never go out of style), but as I get old and crotchety I get more and more attracted to maintenance-free.

Color-wise, the neutral warms are starting to make their way back in as the cool grays, well, cool. But remember, light neutrals seem to defy categories. A warm

gray may pull towards green in one light and then pull towards tan in another. If that's not your thing, then use a color that's a bit darker. In general, the more pigment the color has in it, the more stable the color is in different lighting.

At the other end of the color spectrum, I am loving bold colors like earthy greens, or terra cottas, or purpley-browns. Or yes, some of those rich jewel tones. I've had great results painting a whole room the same dramatic color -- walls, trim, built-ins, ceilings -- all of it. (Just watch your pets

because I'll paint them too.) Or sometimes I just hit the ceiling with color or maybe just the window trim. Conversely, you can get your drama by pulling the trigger on that velvet couch you've been eyeing in raspberry. It's you-do-you after all! But remember, in some ways you need the courage to go all-in, but in other ways it's still all about balance. So, proceed with some caution here.

You may also be noticing some changes in the catalogs in your mailbox. The upholstered furniture used to be square and clean, sitting on metal legs and covered in

crisp fabrics or leather. But now we are seeing the introduction of the curve. You'll notice the upholstered furniture is sort of round and bulbous and molded. The new ones tend to sit low to the ground and are covered in fabrics that have lots of texture. It's really a dramatic change in that furniture industry and I'm curious to see where it all lands. Although I must admit that some of those pieces remind me of the bubble letters I used to write my name in as a kid.

Another way I've seen the curve that I really like is in the introduction of crescent-shaped sofas. They still look fresh to me, and it can do wonders to cozy up the conversation area in your family room. You do need some square footage to make this look work though; I think those couches need some room to breathe.

And one last "curve" ball is that many people are saying the open floor plan is out and that people now want enclosed spaces with some privacy, especially with the work-from-home push of late.

I tend to land in the middle on this one. I mean, I've always enjoyed some closed-in spaces, especially in rooms specific to a task, like working. But I've also always really appreciated what an open floor plan, with its expansive sightlines, can accomplish. So, I think you need to carefully pick and choose on that front and not overthink the trends.

And there you have it. I just said it. Pick and choose what works for you. It's nice to be aware of what's out there, but you-do-you, because that's where the most inspired design originates.

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

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Annual Low-Number Cape Ann License Plate Online Auction Opens April 8



Sale of 11 Low-Number Plates Will Support Local Community Initiatives

Just 11 low-number Cape Ann license plates are left in the Cape Ann Com-

munity Foundation (CACF) stock, and they will all be up for auction online starting Monday, April 8, with all proceeds benefiting local charitable initiatives and organizations.

The auction will run until Patriot's Day, Monday, April 15.

Massachusetts residents who wish to express their affection for Cape Ann can vie

for the 11 remaining Cape Ann license plates, numbered between 1 and 100. The available plates are: 4, 8, 55, 66, 78, 79, 87, 88, 90, 91, and 92.

This year, the CACF will, for the first time, allow donors to choose from available 3-digit and 4-digit license plates in addition to participating in the auction.

For further details on the auction and to register for

bidding, please visit www.lovecapeann.com. The website also provides information on how to request a specific plate through the foundation and the simple steps to order a random Cape Ann license plate via the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles.

"Since its establishment in 2015, the foundation has granted nearly 50 awards totaling over \$100,000 to Cape

Ann non-profit organizations and schools, thanks to the sale of these license plates and donations to CACF," said Britta Cahoon, co-chair of the Cape Ann Community Foundation board of directors. "This year, we're expanding the auction to allow donors to select from available 3-digit and 4-digit plates."

"Our annual low-number plate auction is a crucial as-

pect of the foundation's efforts to support deserving non-profit organizations, enabling us to raise essential funds for grants," remarked board co-chair Tony Sapienza. "It's fitting that this year's auction concludes on Patriot's Day, as we celebrate our nation's proud history. With these license plates, we offer Cape Ann enthusiasts an opportunity to not only demonstrate their support but also showcase their pride in our community."

The CACF board aims to raise at least \$10,000 in this year's auction. Existing Cape Ann license plate holders can still back the Foundation by donating on lovecapeann.com.

To preview and register for the auction, visit the Cape Ann Community Foundation website at www.lovecapeann.com.

Established in 2015 by the Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce, the Cape Ann Community Foundation is a local non-profit tasked with managing and awarding grants from the proceeds of Cape Ann License Plate sales.

CACF provides grants for projects that align with the foundation's mission to enhance the economy and overall quality of life for Cape Ann residents.

For more information about the low-number plate auction and assistance in obtaining a Cape Ann license plate, contact the Greater Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce at 978-283-1601 or visit the Chamber office at 24 Harbor Loop in Gloucester.

...(Continued from page 1)

Virginia Crocker Timmins, vice chair of the Chelmsford Select Board, told a legislative panel her colleagues are especially concerned about the part of the bill that would allow accessory dwelling units by right in single-family zoning districts.

"It not only obviates single-family housing zoning throughout the state, but it completely usurps the rights of each municipality to set criteria for this type of usage that's tailored to that municipality," Crocker Timmins said.

Chelmsford, a Merrimack Valley town of about 36,000 people, already has its own bylaws in place to regulate ADUs and grants permits "on a reasonable basis," Crocker Timmins said. She warned that opening the door to allowing additional units in single-family zones could put more strain on Chelmsford's sewer network and other infrastructure.

The ADU-by-right measure is just one piece of many in the bill Healey filed in the fall, alongside ideas like sealing no-fault eviction records and controversial measures like allowing cities and towns to tax pricey real estate transactions and then use the revenue for housing investments.

Lowell Planning Board Vice Chair Gerard Frechette said while he believes the funding and tax credits in the bill will bring benefits to many cities and towns, he's also worried about "potential negative impact" from ADU reforms.

"In a community like Low-

ell that has legal conforming single-family building lots as small as 3,000 square feet, and our largest single-family lots being only 10,000 square feet, the by-right ability to create two-family rental houses in every single-family zone could have a detrimental effect on various areas of the city," Frechette said.

Healey administration officials previously projected that its accessory dwelling measure could generate as many as 10,000 new units over five years.

But Crocker Timmins said Chelmsford's community development director estimated the town alone would have as many as 4,500 properties that could become eligible for ADUs under Healey's proposal. She said the town "cannot respond to that in terms of infrastructure or what our residents want for their quality of life."

She linked her concerns about parts of Healey's housing bond bill to another housing-related statute that's emerged as a flashpoint: the so-called MBTA Communities Act, which requires communities near T service to allow multi-family housing by right in certain areas.

"It's to a point where the pace is becoming inaccessible for the municipalities to keep up. We would strongly recommend that the Legislature take pause to proactively engage the municipalities and the constituents on this aspect of the bill to adequately inform the process and the decisions being made,"

Crocker Timmins said. "Once it's in place, it's going to be very difficult, if not impossible, to restrain it. We think local control should be maintained and that municipalities should be able to tailor as appropriate for each municipality."

Administration officials and supporters have pitched the housing bond bill as a necessarily bold push to unlock much-needed housing production, which they believe will drive down the sky-high prices suffocating many residents or pushing them to relocate to other states altogether.

"When people ask me what the issue is I hear about most from my constituency, the answer is housing, housing, housing and housing," Rep. Christopher Worrell of Boston told his colleagues Tuesday.

The total borrowing authorization in the bill now pending before the Legislature's Bonding Committee is more than twice as large as the state's last housing bond bill, a \$1.8 billion package former Gov. Charlie Baker signed in 2018.

It would clear the way for \$1.6 billion in capital investments to improve the state's aging public housing stock, inject \$800 million into the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and steer millions more toward other programs, and roll out more than two dozen policy changes.

Rep. Michael Finn, who co-chairs the Bonding Committee, asked Administra-

tion and Finance Secretary Matthew Gorkowicz during Tuesday's hearing how the state would manage to stay within its borrowing limits if lawmakers approve the more than \$8 billion in bonding that features across the housing bond bill, an economic development bill and an IT bond bill.

Gorkowicz replied by noting that although the "balancing act" can be a challenge, much of the combined bottom line -- including about half of the housing bond bill -- would reauthorize money already woven into the state's capital investment plan.

"You have to keep in mind that we already have a base of those authorizations that are being funded in our capital investment plan, and how do we grow that?" he said.

Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll added that the housing bill in particular would carry a significant "return" on the state investment by creating jobs and wrangling one of the most potent policy issues.

"There's a price of saying no to this that, lost opportunity and lost revenues, that may not necessarily be true for all of our bonding," she said.

Some real estate industry leaders have also voiced concerns about individual pieces of the package, especially the proposed transfer fee, which won vocal support Tuesday from officials representing Boston and other communities.

Those opponents appeared not to show up in

force to repeat their qualms at Tuesday's hearing, which stretched for nearly four hours.

The right-leaning Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance slammed the local-option transfer tax idea as "100% off the mark."

"This bill will not bring down the cost of housing in our state and will only exacerbate the decline in economic competitiveness we've seen in the last several years which is causing a massive flood of people and wealth out of our state," said Paul Craney, a spokesperson for the group.

Sen. Lydia Edwards, who co-chairs the Housing Committee that already awarded Healey's bill a favorable recommendation, chimed into the hearing to tell her colleagues she views the proposal as "a moonshot moment for us as a state and for us as a legislative body."

"We're going to be looking back on this decision and how we move this piece of legislation in a way that's going to impact generations,"

the Boston Democrat said.

The Housing Committee had more than four months to review Healey's bill and convened its own lengthy hearing on the topic in January. Last month, the panel voted to advance the measure without changing a single word.

House Speaker Ron Mariano signaled last month that he plans to "go big" with his chamber's rewrite of the housing bond bill, which will include language expanding the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority service area.

Referring to the transfer tax measure, Mariano said to business leaders that the state must "explore all options that have the potential to make a real difference" before telling reporters he's not sure if there are enough votes to advance that provision in the House.

The speaker said the House would take up the housing bill after its late-April budget debate.

(State House News Service)



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The Manchester Harbor Boat Club (MHBC) held its annual spring dinner on April 4th at the American Legion. K.D. Montgomery, executive director and Louis Somma, board president of the Essex Historical Society and Shipbuilding Museum gave a well-received presentation on Essex's shipbuilding heritage. From left, Louis Somma, K.D. Montgomery, EHSSM, Jim O'Neill, MHBC. (Courtesy photo)

Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it.

~ Ferris Bueller ~



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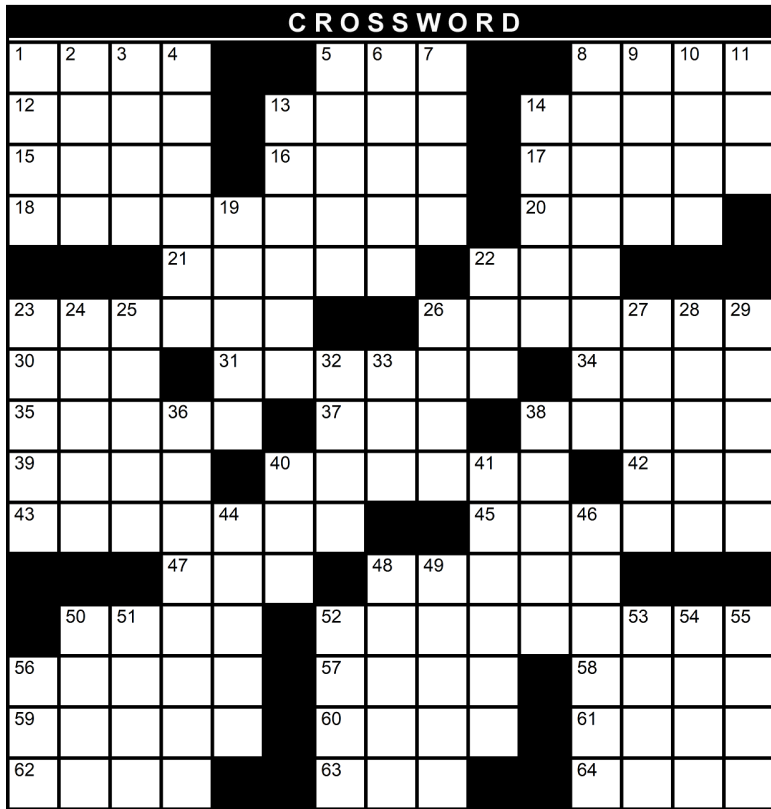
Puzzle

THEME: NATIONAL PARKS

ACROSS

1. Rhymes with, and similar in meaning, to blob
5. Refrigerator sound
8. Action word
12. Left, in Russia
13. Departed
14. Locomotive hair
15. As opposed to St. in a city, pl.
16. French cordial flavoring
17. Type of lily, pl.
18. *Voyageurs National Park location
20. Like Andersen's duckling
21. Poacher's ware
22. Unit of pressure
23. *Volcanoes National Park location
26. Dionysus' female followers
30. U.N. labor agency
31. Camels' relatives
34. Pelvic bones
35. Smears
37. "___ of the land"
38. Gertrude Stein's reception room
39. Sicilian rumbler
40. Strong influence
42. To sum
43. Blushes
45. *Utah national park
47. What blanket and landing have in common
48. State before birth
50. Eastern European
52. *Yosemite's famous monolith (2 words)
56. Cockamamie
57. Effect of pain?
58. First weekly news magazine in U.S.
59. South African currency, pl.
60. Tolstoy's Karenina
61. The 15th of March
62. King Kong and Koko, e.g.
63. Hot one in a bun
64. Copper coin

Down



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1. Type of shot
2. Strauss of jeans fame
3. Often found under a range
4. Herzegovina's partner
5. Kind of roll, in school
6. Togetherness
7. *___ Verde National Park
8. *Shenandoah National Park location
9. Twelfth month of Jewish civil year
10. Frost-covered
11. Like certain relief
13. ___ is a byproduct of ___ (2 3-letter words)
14. "___ for alarm"
19. See nor hear this? pl.
22. Faux ___
23. Opposite of seeker
24. Winged
25. One of Florence Nightingale's concerns
26. American Indians of Yucatan
27. Islam's Supreme Being
28. D in LED

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

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

Solutions on Page 11

29. *White ___ National Park in New Mexico
32. Financial help
33. *Need one to navigate a National Park?
36. *The Lakota called it "Mako Sica"
38. Razor sharpener
40. *Old Faithful ___, lodging spot in Yellowstone
41. Poolside hut
44. Roof overhang
46. Rotten Tomatoes contributor
48. Latin American plain
49. Getting an A
50. Finger-produced sound
51. Muffin Man's Drury ___
52. "Goodness gracious!"
53. Ocean motion
54. Word of agreement
55. *Bald Eagle's home in Acadia or Olympic National Parks
56. One of the Gershwins

Religious Notes

Cornerstone Church

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

Visitation Parish - Mass Sched-

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 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 - a lovely place to start your week, join us for a moving message, beautiful music and community in the center of town -

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 Patriots' Day

NO Friends of the COA Senior Drop in 10 a.m.-12 noon.

Church Office closed

Wednesday Choir rehearsal 7:30

p.m.

Thursday 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 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)

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Kathleen Murphy | 603.498.6817



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Offered at \$689,500
Jill Michaud | 978.766.8064



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Under Contract
Kevin Fruh | 978.500.7409



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PAIN IN PETS



By Lawrence Lamb, DVM

PETS AND PEOPLE

Nobody wants to see their dog suffering and in pain.

However, sometimes it can be very difficult to know for sure whether your dog is in pain. Sometimes it's a noticeable limp, large cut, or observed trauma, such as being struck by a car. But other times your dog's signs of pain can be far more subtle.

It's at these times that people often need guidance on what to look for to know if their dog is in pain.

Signs That Could Indicate Pain in Dogs:

Some dogs can be quite stoic and do a good job of hiding their pain. But that's not what we want for our dogs and there are many signs you can look for that might indicate your dog is experiencing pain.

Five Dog Pain Tips:

- Although sometimes pain can be obvious, many times it's subtle.
- Dogs in pain are more likely to bite so be careful!
- Behavior, breathing, heart rate, and even appearance can all change when your dog is experiencing pain.
- If your dog is in pain, call your vet.
- Never give a dog medication unless instructed to do so by your veterinarian.

As with many other aspects of caring for your dog, these signs will be more obvious to you (even when they are subtle) if you have a good idea of your dog's "normal." This includes his normal attitude, energy level, gait, appetite, thirst, sleep patterns, and other physical and behavioral patterns. After all, if you don't know what's "normal" it's much more difficult to recognize what's not.

As with many other aspects of caring for your dog, these signs will be more obvious to you (even when they are subtle) if you have a good idea of your dog's "normal."

Biting:

Dogs in pain are more likely to bite. This is true even with their owners and other people they know. This is particularly true when a person touches or moves the painful area.

Important note: When evaluating your dog for potential pain, please take great care to not get yourself (or anyone helping you) bitten. Even if your dog would never normally bite anyone, the mere fact that you're evaluating your dog for pain indicates that this may not be a normal time. This brings me nicely to the first sign I'd like to discuss...

Breathing Changes:

Dogs experiencing pain may have a faster and more shallow breathing pattern than normal. They may also pant. You may even notice a change in the movement of the abdominal muscles and/or those of the chest. Both sets of muscles are involved in the breathing process.

Heart and Pulse Changes:

Dogs in pain will often have an increased heart/pulse rate. The rate often noticeably speeds up when the painful area is touched or moved. Take a pet first aid course, or ask your veterinarian or one of the clinic technicians to show you how to check and measure your

dog's heart and/or pulse rate.

Posture Changes:

Dogs who are in pain may assume a very rigid, "sawhorse-type" stance, while others may assume the "prayer position" with their front legs on the ground, their butt up in the air, and a stretch throughout their abdomen. It looks like a "play bow," but it is anything but playful. Some dogs in pain will lie around more, while others will be more "antsy" and have difficulty laying down and getting comfortable. It all depends on the type, location, and severity of the pain. These postural changes can be even more subtle, taking the shape of an arched or sunken back, or even a dropped or tucked tail in a dog who normally has a perky tail.

Eye Changes:

The eyes can be great indicators of pain in dogs. They change both for eye pain itself and for pain elsewhere in the body. Often pain elsewhere in the body will result in larger (dilated) pupils, while pain in the eye(s) can result in either larger or smaller (constricted) pupils - depending on the underlying injury or disease process, and whether one or both eyes are affected. Pained dogs will also frequently squint. If their eyes are in pain, the affected eye(s) may also appear bloodshot.

Food and Water Changes:

Dogs in pain often eat and drink less than normal. When they do eat and drink, if the cause of their pain is their teeth or some other part of the mouth, they may drop food and/or water from their mouth.

Energy Level Changes:

Most dogs in pain will have a general decrease in their activity level. This often shows as a dog who sleeps more. It may also manifest as a dog who simply runs and/or jumps less than normal.

Mobility Changes

Dogs in pain often move around less. However, depending on what hurts, they may still move around the same amount, but do so differently (i.e. with a limp, or more slowly when going up or down the stairs, etc.)

Bathroom Changes:

Dogs who have back pain, for any reason, may have difficulty with the posture needed to defecate. So, they may struggle to go to the bathroom. Sometimes dogs with back pain can even become constipated in the process - though pain itself can also lead to slowed motility of the intestines, and thus lead directly to constipation, too.

Body Contour Changes

Swellings, be they on your dog's legs, body, or face, could be an indication of a painful condition, such as infection, inflammation, cancer, or others.



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

Solution to puzzles on page 10

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

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

PET OF THE WEEK



Meet Kyota

Kyota spent time in a foster home, where it was reported that "he is an incredible dog. Besides being house trained, he has excellent recall and is a total love. I know his description says he's very talkative, but I didn't find that to be the case. He quietly whined when he had to go out. However, when he's excited or anxious, like seeing other dogs, that husky howl

came out." Kyota is a great co-pilot for car rides to the park or the beach, hanging his head out of the window to catch the breeze. Kyota is part of our Extended Stay Club, reducing his adoption fee to \$225 to help him find a home. He is also available for Foster-to-Adopt. You can find the application at <https://capeannanimalaid.org/adopt.html>

Sailing Team Report for the Week of April 1

By Tony Leggett

We encountered very strong wind conditions last week and had some spirited practices out on the water off Manchester Harbor. Thank goodness for dry suits.

On Saturday we travelled down to Dorchester Bay for an eight-team Team Racing round robin, hosted by Milton. In "team racing" two teams, sailing three boats each, face off on a five-leg course, and compete by trying to push the competition back while helping their team-mates get ahead.

When you add up the points per place for each team, the winner has the fewest points. If you finish with a first, second and third, you score 6 points (1 + 2 + 3) while your opponents will have 15 points (4 + 5 + 6). Any combination of finishes with 10 points or less creates a win. While the Racing Rules of Sailing are complex, being written to prevent collisions between boats which are often inches apart, the racing rules for team racing are even more abstruse, and change constantly as the boats maneuver. The sport requires skilled boat handling and deep knowledge of the racing rules.

We knew this was going to



Photos: Tony Leggett

be a tough day for us, given that all the teams, except for the Hornets, are in the A Division of the Mass Bay League. Furthermore, we are a young and very light team, with only three upperclassmen, plus five freshmen.

Having a heavy crew helps dramatically with boat speed when the wind blows hard. Conditions were "boisterous", with strong winds, rain, and hail. At one point a squall passed over the race-course, causing a few capsize, but many of the sailors simply headed off on a reach (the fastest point of sail for

these boats) pumped their sails and got up on a plane, screeching off to leeward with the wind behind them and big grins on their faces.

Under difficult conditions, Milton and BC High's very capable race management ran 62 races, as every team raced every other team twice. Milton won the regatta, with an undefeated record. They sailed impeccably.

We managed to pull off a win in one race, which was, surprisingly, against the school that finished the regatta in second place. The racing was usually very close, with leads changing

hands constantly, and a few more races could have easily gone our way. But in the end, the relative lack of experience against this tough competition resulted in some disappointing results.

Nevertheless, given the intense competition on Saturday, we have high expectations of performing significantly better in the weeks ahead, as we go up against our usual B-Division opponents. We face Dover-Sherborn on Wednesday, and Salem on Thursday.

Tony Leggett is the coach of the ME Hornets Sailing Team

...(Continued from page 10)

Quaker Meeting

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

People in our community hail from the traditional tribal lands of the Pawtucket and

Massachusetts now called Manchester, Gloucester, Beverly, Ipswich, Rockport, Salem, Lynn and Marblehead. Whether you have 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: northshore-quaker@gmail.com. First Day School, our Children's Program, consists of forest walks near the Glen Urquhart School led by Jessica Kagle from the Kestrel Foundation. Blessings To You



ME Hornet, Nick Brown, is on the mound at an early season practice under the watchful eye of Coach BJ Weed. (Courtesy Photo)



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



WENHAM
\$1,489,000 | Deb Evans
 Spacious 4 bedroom Colonial on cul-de-sac in Parson's Hill neighborhood. Formal living and dining rooms, kitchen opens to family room, finished walk-out lower level. 2 offices, deck, 2 car garage, private yard.



SWAMPSCOTT
\$1,299,000 | Susan Bridge
 Meticulously renovated luxury contemporary 3-bedroom, 4-bath home has open flexible layout. Aster Cucine cabinets in custom kitchen, heated floors, sauna. Heated 2-car garage. 1 mile to beach.



GLOUCESTER
\$1,299,000 | Deb Evans
 Live maintenance-free! Stunning, stylish like-new 2-bedroom, 3.5-bath townhome in Village at Magnolia Shores with custom kitchen, 1st floor primary suite, office, finished lower level, deck.



IPSWICH
\$1,195,000 | Alle Cutler
 Thoughtfully re-designed 4+ bedroom home with 3.5 baths, hardwood floors, flexible living/family room areas and eat-in kitchen. Expansive deck overlooking open yard, extra space in basement and 2-car garage.



NEWBURY
\$995,000 | Susan Collins
 Build your own riverfront property on banks of Parker River. 110 feet direct frontage. 3-acre cleared/surveyed lot. Area for private dock. Perk test done. Minutes to Plum Island, marina, train.



GLOUCESTER
\$619,000 | Lillian LoGrasso
 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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Gaby DeBenedictis | Realtor



4 Lane St Annisquam | \$3,475,000
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Lynda Surdam | Realtor | 978-764-7474



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 Beautifully expanded and renovated 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home with easy access to 128, close to schools and town.
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 Charming ranch-style home is nestled in the Woodvale neighborhood of Danvers. The home boasts a fireplace, central air conditioning, screened-in rear patio, and a large, fenced, back yard. Don't miss the opportunity to make this delightful ranch-style property your dream home.
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