



Last Day of School is Thursday, June 13!
Have a fantastic summer vacation, and enjoy friends and family!

MANCHESTER CRICKET

A Local Tradition Since 1888

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BRIEFLY

MBTS Welcome Committee Crawl

If you are the head of a club, commission, association, or any type of organization and would like to participate in the first-ever Manchester-by-the-Sea Community Crawl event on Saturday, July 13, please contact Leslie Beatty (txbooks@sbcglobal.net); she can send you an invitation with more details. The Welcome Committee is eager to have everyone represented.

Charlie Card Event

On Wednesday, July 10 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., the Manchester Council on Aging will offer an initial Senior CharlieCard information session at Town Hall, Room 5. A Senior CharlieCard allows seniors to have a discounted rate on the MBTA (commuter rail and Boston T). This is for seniors 65+. Headshots will be taken and there is paperwork to fill out. Further info at (978)526-7500.

Tuck's Thank You for Joanne Seaman

Next week, on Thursday, June 13th, from 5-7 p.m. at Tuck's Point in Manchester there will be a celebration to thank Joanne Seaman, Manchester Memorial School nurse before she retires in two weeks after 26 years of service. Mrs. Seaman has touched so many students, families, and parents over her career, and will be missed by all! The public is welcome to come and say hi or share a happy memory (or two!) Bring a picnic, enjoy cookies and lemonade, and reminisce. A story about Seaman's retirement is on Page 5. For info on the Tuck's Point event, email Vicki Donnellan at vickidonnellan@comcast.net.

RWB Pancake Breakfast: Volunteers needed!

The Manchester Essex Rotary Club is starting early this year with its call for volunteers for the Red, White & Blue Pancake Breakfast the Saturday, June 29 at Tuck's Point. This is a cherished annual tradition that goes back 34 years! The community breakfast, with pancakes (with blueberries, strawberries and whipped cream, delivering the "R/W/B" in the name), bacon and eggs at Manchester's idyllic public park. All proceeds go to charity. Contact planeman2003@msn.com to sign up.

Art in the Barn Coming Up in Essex

The annual Art in the Barn art sale and exhibit at the Cox Reservation in Essex is set to kick off this year on Saturday, June 14, with food, music, and artwork by 130 local artists. Now in its third decade, this popular event has long been recognized as one of the North Shore's premier art exhibitions and sales, featuring a juried selection of works by 130



If you thought all the buzz about great white sharks was limited to Cape Cod, you'd be mistaken. This week, Jim Behnke tells us there are plenty of white sharks in the waters along the North Shore, documenting a number of examples from striped fishermen and the scientific community. Check it out, Page 8.
Photo courtesy of Pamela King



Say hello to the Class of 2024 Manchester Essex Regional High School graduates! See all the photos by Paul Clark on Page 3.

Emergency Preparedness

By Gregory T. Federspiel

A primary function of government is to provide for the safety and welfare of citizens. Manchester voters are generous in the support provided to our public safety operations, typically approving both operating and capital budget requests from our Police, Fire and Harbor Departments. The community is well served by the dedicated staff we have in all three areas.

Efforts are on-going to be prepared for not only the daily health and safety needs that arise but also large, impactful events that may occur. Large weather events are happening more frequently and with greater severity as our climate changes. And while we will typically see more rain, there may be more dry spells as well increasing the risk of wildfires.

A new initiative spurred by the recent forest fires in Gloucester and Rockport has led to better planning in the event of wildfires.

Through grant funds that the City of Gloucester was able to secure, the four communities of Cape Ann have completed a new wildfire management and prevention plan. Fire staff from all four communities participated in the creation of the plan with the guidance of a consulting firm well versed in wildfire management. A new website which contains the plan along with other useful information has been created. <https://cape-ann-community-wildfire-protection-plan-gloucesterma.hub.arcgis.com/>

The plan identifies a series of action steps that the communities can take to be able to respond more quickly and efficiently to a forest fire. For example, making sure access points are maintained into wooded terrain is important. Steps individual homeowners can take are also presented in the plan. While we do not think about New England as being prone to large wildfires, a changing climate is making it more likely we could see these disasters here.

The plan identifies a series of action steps that the communities can take to be able to respond more quickly and efficiently to a forest fire.

Recently NOAA issued their forecast for this year's hurricane season. Due in part to the record high temperatures of ocean waters, an unusually active season is predicted. Is this the year a hurricane reaches our shores? Hopefully not but it behooves us all to be prepared just in case. The destructive power of a hurricane is hard to image unless actually witnessed. We know from the experience of others and what has happened here in the past that a significant storm will create

major challenges and hardships.

To help be better prepared, public safety staff from area communities gathered on June 5th for a "table top" exercise simulating a Category 3 storm hitting the region. Predicted impacts were drawn from a sophisticated model that the Harvard Graduate School of Design completed recently for Cape Ann. The exercise showed the actions that should be taken leading up to the storm, during the storm and afterwards.

Helping our local public safety staff with the exercise were staff from MEMA and the National Weather Service. Fire Chief McNeilly and Police Chief Fitzgerald have excellent working relationships with these experts. Chief Fitzgerald attended a training course at the National Hurricane Center in Miami. As the simulation unfolded, new situations were presented which demanded a response from staff. The team exercise is designed to see where

we are well prepared and to also identify areas that need additional attention and more pre-planning. An after-action report will highlight these and provide recommendations for how the communities can be better positioned to respond to the extreme demands an event of this nature will cause.

Not only must we be prepared at the community and regional level, but individuals must also be prepared. Both MEMA and FEMA have excellent guidelines for emergency preparedness that all households should follow. We will be promoting these resources in the weeks ahead. Also know that shelters both locally and regionally are ready to serve if needed. Of course, for a hurricane, the best action is to batten down everything and evacuate days before the storm is expected to hit.

Let us hope we never have to utilize the skills and action steps needed to deal with a large-scale emergency but know that preparations are in place if necessary.

Pride Month Kicks off with Flag Raising on Town Common



June kicked off the nation's celebration of Pride Month, and on Cape Ann, the month will be celebrated for the first time cohesively, organized by the Greater Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce and the Cape Ann Pride Coalition.

Last week, across the area, it was "Cape Ann Pride Weekend," with the weather more than cooperating to support crowds at more than a dozen events from a Family Pride Picnic at the Cape Ann Museum's Green Campus, a tea on the pier at Maritime Gloucester,

family bowling, and more.

But the weekend also featured events around Pride that have become traditions after several years on the community calendar. This included municipal flag raisings in Manchester, Essex, and Gloucester. On Friday, Gloucester will raise the Pride Flag at Gloucester City Hall and that same day Essex honored its LGBTQIA+ seniors by raising the Pride Flag at the Essex Senior Center and Council on Aging on Pickering Street.

On Saturday morning (above) Manchester raised its flag in front of Town Hall,

a tradition begun two years ago under the leadership of Hope Watt-Bucci, president of North Short Pride, the organization that sponsors the community event. She led the ceremony, along with Select Board member Cathy Billota and SB Chair Ann Harrison. MA Sen. Bruce Tarr (pictured) attended the ceremony. Two "protestors" held signs that objected to the Pride flag's message to children. But families were plentiful at the event, and all were supportive of the day, its message, and the meaning behind the ceremony.

Weekly Weather Chart

Saturday 8 June		70°	58°
Sunday 9 June		68°	57°
Monday 10 June		69°	54°
Tuesday 11 June		67°	59°
Wednesday 12 June		63°	59°
Thursday 13 June		67°	61°
Friday 14 June		67°	61°

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.

MBTS Welcoming Committee
Monday, June 10
6 p.m. Virtual Meeting

Essex BOS
Monday, June 10, 6 p.m.

Essex Board of Health
Thursday, June 13, 7 p.m.

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Thank You, Gretchen Wood!



Wednesday, May 29th was Gretchen Wood's last meeting as a member of the Manchester ADA Committee, a group she's served steadily since August, 1994! Her fellow committee members gave her a warm send off with cake and refreshments. Here, from left, Lisa Bonneville, Gretchen Wood, Laurie Werle, Beth Heisey and Caitlin Eppes.

Courtesy photo

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WHAT WAS HAPPENING

90 YEARS AGO – 1934
Memorial Sunday was a beautiful day, in delightful contrast to the wet, cold, drizzly days that have prevailed so much during the spring there being a clear, invigorating air stirred by a strong breeze from the northwest.

It looks quite businesslike on the waterfront this week, Samuel Knight & Sons having a large barge unloading coal at their wharf and Supt. Kimball a sloop unloading granite at the town wharf.

75 YEARS AGO – 1949
Beginning Monday, June 6th, angle parking on Beach Street will no longer be permitted, it has been announced by Police Chief Leonard A. Andrews. Chief Andrews explains that this area has caused considerable trouble due to the heavy congestion of traffic.

Officer John P. Connors is once again out on the Police department's motorcycle, it having been put up for the winter months. Officer Connors did a fine job at keeping the parade route clear on Memorial Day.

60 YEARS AGO – 1964
The Board of Selectman Tuesday night unanimously voted to block off the Means Shopping Center parking area on Sundays and holidays through July 4, and restrict the area on Saturdays to B & M commuters and customers, with an attendant policing the place.

The Manchester Youth Association will resume its dances this Saturday, June 6th at the Memorial School from 7:30-11 p.m. Due to the crowded conditions experienced at the last few dances, only the first 150 people will be allowed in.

45 YEARS AGO – 1979
Miss Ellen Flatley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Joseph Flatley of Arbella St., was named as Town Counsel Tuesday evening by the Board of Selectman. Miss Flatley is a partner in the law firm Flatley and Flatley with her brother Francis.

Last week, the Fifth Grade held a Plant Sale to raise money for the Chewonki trip. Over \$370 was made. Without the help of the Seaside Garden Club, there probably would not have been a plant sale.

30 YEARS AGO – 1994
An enthusiastic audience of family and friends were present in the Memorial School auditorium last Wednesday evening and thoroughly enjoyed An Evening of Jazz V. Playing to the audience's delight were the Memorial School Jazz Band,

the Junior High Jazz Band and the Senior High Jazz Band.

Amid all the hullabaloo over the unending planning for the Town's 350th Birthday Party and Vinnie's seemingly unending buildup to the Lions' Annual Red, White and Blue Breakfast on July 2, 1994 the Manchester Lions Club has quietly turned 40. On May 9, 1954, our club was chartered by 24 men with a vision of service to mankind.

15 YEARS AGO – 2009
The wet and raw weather on Wednesday May 27th prevented 90 + golfers from playing the 12th Annual Manchester Community Center Classic. Mark your calendar for the new date Monday, September 28th at the Essex County Club.

The wrecking ball is coming, so grab your honey and come out for one Last Dance on June 27th at the soon to be leveled Manchester Essex Jr. Sr. High School.

MANCHESTER POLICE NOTES

SUNDAY, MAY 26
1:50 a.m. School St., suspicious activity, secured/checked. 4:28 p.m. Central St., motor vehicle crash, assisted as needed. 7:40 p.m. Pine St., motor vehicle stop, arrest. 8:26 p.m. School St., motor vehicle stop, written warning.

MONDAY, MAY 27
2:09 a.m. School St., noise complaint, secured/checked. 12:33 p.m. Route 128NB, disabled motor vehicle, assisted as needed. 5:34 p.m. Beach St., suspicious activity, spoken to. 8:05 p.m. School St., motor vehicle crash, transported.

TUESDAY, MAY 28
11:32 a.m. Union St., welfare check, secured/checked. 2:28 p.m. Highland Ave., parking complaint, assisted as needed. 6:11 p.m. Pine St., motor vehicle stop, verbal warning. 8:14 p.m. Central St., citizen assist, other.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29
10:58 a.m. Lobster Cove, animal complaint, assisted as needed. 12:37 p.m. Atwater Ave., motor vehicle crash, transported. 5:21 p.m. Beaver Dam Rd., directed patrol, secured/checked. 7:32 p.m. School St., selective enforcement, other.

THURSDAY, MAY 30
1:40 a.m. School St., selective enforcement, secured/checked. 4:20 p.m. Beach St., selective enforcement, other. 5:04 p.m. Bridge St., selective enforcement, other. 6:38 p.m. Pine St., motor vehicle stop, citation issued.

FRIDAY, MAY 31
2:27 a.m. Route 128SB, motor vehicle stop, verbal warning. 12:06 p.m. Summer St., suspicious activity, gone on arrival. 5:15 p.m. Route 128NB, motor vehicle stop, written warning. 9:27 p.m. School St., motor vehicle stop, verbal warning.

SATURDAY, JUNE 1
1:46 a.m. Beach St., directed patrol, secured/checked. 12:46 p.m. Lincoln St., property damage/vandalism, other. 3:37 p.m. Friend St., motor vehicle crash, gone on arrival. 4:51 p.m. Summer St., alarm, cleared, false alarm.

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Tides & Sun Chart For The Week Ahead

DATE	HIGH				LOW				☀️	
	AM	FT	PM	FT	AM	FT	PM	FT	RISE	SET
7 Fri	12:17	11.0	1:00	9.1	7:06	-0.4	7:05	0.9	5:03	8:20
8 Sat	1:06	10.8	1:49	9.0	7:54	-0.3	7:53	1.0	5:03	8:21
9 Sun	1:53	10.5	2:37	8.9	8:40	0.0	8:40	1.2	5:03	8:21
10 Mon	2:40	10.1	3:24	8.7	9:23	0.3	9:26	1.5	5:03	8:22
11 Tue	3:27	9.7	4:10	8.6	10:06	0.7	10:12	1.6	5:03	8:22
12 Wed	4:14	9.3	4:55	8.5	10:48	1.0	10:59	1.8	5:03	8:23
13 Thu	5:02	9.0	5:41	8.5	11:32	1.3	11:48	1.9	5:03	8:23

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Class of 2024 Shines: Graduation Ceremony



The weather was dicey going into Friday's ME Regional High School Commencement Ceremony, but just in time, it cleared intime for the march of seniors to get their diplomas. (Photos: Paul



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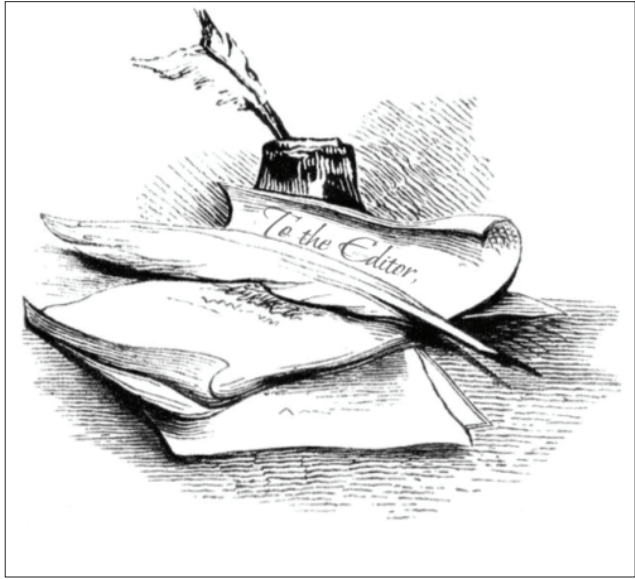
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The Cricket publishes every letter it receives. Letters should be original, no more than 400-600 words and written in a general spirit of discourse, signed and include an email/phone and a valid address in case we have questions. We may edit letters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

Response to “Pride Flag at Veterans Memorial? No Thank You” letter:

Dear Miss Kahan,

Thank you, your fiancé (when’s the big day?!), and the several local veterans for expressing your concerns over the flying of a Pride flag during the month of June at our town memorial. I also thank you for making it clear that you are not, “against the Pride flag or its symbolism.”

Proclaiming your public support of the Pride community by letting it be known that you stand for the symbolism of the Pride flag is honorable. Advocacy like this for the Pride community is welcomed by so many Manchester residents, myself included, and it holds considerable meaning to those who work tirelessly for the freedoms and liberties for the Pride community, and for all.

It is brave, open-minded citizens like yourself, your fiancé, and your veteran comrades; whose public support of displaying the Pride flag

in “appropriate public areas within our town;” that puts this issue top of mind for all and brings us one step closer to having a society that can cast aside our differences and replace them with the inclusive ideologies we all seek for ourselves, and especially for our children.

I am happy to join you and your team in solidarity with the local Pride community to determine any and all “appropriate public areas within our town” to fly the Pride flag. Let’s make this even more impactful; let’s dedicate our efforts to the likes of Lt. Gen. Friedrich von Steuben, Fannie Mae Clackum, and Pete Buttigieg, who are a few notables among the thousands and thousands of Pride community members who have served our country and protected our freedoms and liberties.

Just let me know where to be and when to be there and we’ll hang Pride flags proudly together! Heck, we can even fly Pride flags at our own homes! The possibilities are endless!

Thanks again Kim!

Tod Johnson
Manchester

The LGBTQ+ Pride Progress Flag: A Historic Symbol of Community

The choice of the rainbow in the form of a flag can be found historically in many facets of international history.

For example, the Rainbow flag is referenced in the Bible when God used the rainbow as a sign to Noah that there would never again be a worldwide flood, also known as the Rainbow covenant [Genesis 9 13].

The rainbow flag of Cusco was used in Peru starting in 1973. The flag symbolizes the Inca community of Cusco and reflects the community and traditions of the Incan people [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Cusco].

The PACE flag (Italian for Peace) is a rainbow flag in Italy that was first used in a peace march in 1961. The flag continues to be used today internationally as a symbol of the peace movement. It was also used again in Italy in the peace movement that protested the war in Iraq [https://paceebene.org].

And there are many other historical references to rainbow flags used to represent communities, nations and values. The original flag of the LGBTQ+ community, aka the “Gay Pride” flag has been a symbol for the gay community since its inception in 1978 when it was designed by San Francisco artist Gilbert Baker in 1978 at the request of Harvey Milk, the first Gay politician of San Francisco, who was later murdered for being Gay. The colors of the Gay flag are represented as follows; Red: Life, Orange: Healing, Yellow: Sunlight, Green: Nature, Blue: Harmony/Peace, Purple/Violet: Spirit. In 2017, a brown and black stripe was added to symbolize people of color in the LGBTQ+ community. In 2018, the “Progress Pride”

that we currently use today was designed by Daniel Quasar. This new flag includes the black and brown stripes of our BIPOC community and also the blue, white and pink colors of our trans community [Boggs, Jada, June 13, 2023] and Foreman, Matt (September 20, 2022)].

In a recent letter to The Cricket, a Manchester resident expressed her “concerns” about the Pride flag being flown “on our Town Memorial” [The Manchester Cricket, Friday, May 31, 2024, pg. 4].

The definition of the word memorial is defined as, “A memorial is a service or statue dedicated to someone who died.” The resident continues to note the location of the Pride Progress Flag at the “Town Memorial” six times in the letter. As has been clarified by our Town Manager at the meeting of the Select Board every year responding to the application made to fly the Pride Progress Flag at its location during the month of June, the flagpole is a Town-owned flagpole, and the structure surrounding the flagpole is an Honor Roll of those from Manchester who entered into military service, and not a memorial.

In summation, the author of the letter also asks in the letter for a solution to relocate the Pride Progress flag “that respects both the wishes and legacy of our veterans.”

As a United States Army Veteran and Past Commander of the American Legion Post 119 in Manchester, whose name is inscribed on that Honor Roll along with other LGBTQ+ persons who have served our country from this town, I would have to disagree with the author’s request.

As history has shown us, the Rainbow Flag has historically symbolized Community, Pride, Peace, Tradition and Harmony. So, I ask that we continue the tradition of the flying of the Pride Progress flag for the month of June at the place of honor in front of the building that represents

our town’s government to symbolize those same historic values of Community, Pride, Peace, Tradition and Harmony and let members of the LGBTQ+ community know that Manchester By-the-Sea is a welcoming town for all.

Thank you,

Hope Watt-Bucci
Manchester

Here’s to one of MERSD’s Most Cherished Assets: Joanne Seaman

At the end of this school year on June 13th, Manchester Essex Regional School District will lose one of our most valuable assets. The dedicated nurse at the Memorial School, Joanne Seaman, will retire. I have had the fortune of knowing Joanne since September 2000 when I brought our first born to kindergarten. As a new mom at Memorial with 3 kids under 5, she was always warm, comforting, and supportive. She made that transition so much smoother for me. Since that day, I spent over 10 years as a parent in the school, had the pleasure of working with her for five years, and am also lucky to call her my friend and neighbor.

Many people in the town have been touched by Joanne. She has cared for our children and treated them like her own. Her calls to parents usually began with, “Everything is fine,” and her special crackers cure most ailments. Although my saltines at home never managed to do the same. Over the past 28 years, Joanne has devoted her time to the lives of hundreds of children and parents. She is the first person in the building and one of the last to leave every day. Her dedication has been unrivaled, and she leaves enormous shoes to fill.

I think it would be great for her to hear from children and parents of the past and present students. Please consider writing a card, sharing a

story, or sending in a photo. This is an emotional time for Joanne, and we need to show her the love she has shown our own kids all these years! Please send her well wishes to Manchester Memorial School, Attn: Luci DiTullio, 43 Lincoln Street, Manchester 01944 or via email to ditullioli@mersd.net.

Thank you,

Abby Levendusky
Manchester

Manchester: Thank You for 26 Years

Dear past and present Manchester Memorial School families, I cannot believe that in just a few days this school year will end, and I will be walking out the door for the last time as your school nurse. I have been blessed to have a job that I love. So many memories, so many children, so many families that I will forever treasure.

When I reflect on my years here, we have been through so much. We have had our share of the good, the bad and the ugly, but through it all we stood tall and united for the children. I have a bulletin board up now in my office “Our Strength is our Diversity,” we support each other, we are a team, we embrace challenges, we celebrate differences, we learn from each other, we respect each other, we share, and we listen. So true, this is what makes MMES so special.

I have had the honor of being sister, aunt, mother, and grandmother to so many. You are family, and you will forever hold a place in my heart. I will never forget, and I hope when you think of me, a smile will come upon your face. I wish you all health and happiness.

Thank you for all your support and cooperation throughout the years.

I am forever blessed and grateful.

Hugs,

Joanne Seaman, R.N.
School Nurse
Memorial School

LIBRARY NEWS



Director Cynthia Gemmell and keynote author Kelly Weinersmith (left-right) after Kelly’s fabulous presentation about her book “A City on Mars: Can we Settle Space, Should we Settle Space, and Have we Really Thought this Through?”

LGBTQ+ Inclusion 101 (Virtual)

Wednesday, June 12 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Knowledge can empower individuals to make cultural change. This program encourages individuals at all levels of understanding to learn about what it means to be LGBTQ+ and how to be stronger allies so our entire community feels welcome to be their authentic selves. Ali Kane (she/they), of ALK Consulting, is a queer nonprofit leader and lifelong learner committed to creating an inclusive, equitable, and accessible world for individuals with diverse identities and experiences.

Tai Chi: The Longevity Tree

Starting Wednesdays in June from 9:45-10:45 a.m. at Masconomo Park. Susan Halpern will be teaching Tai Chi in the park on Wednesdays, throughout the summer. Longevity Tree is part of the internal arts known in China as Qi gong. Qi gong means to cultivate energy with discipline. The Longevity Tree is a form that addresses the balance of mind, body, and spirit, by combining movement, deep breathing, and alertness. Please complete the Safety Release Registration Form and familiarize yourself with the form if you will be joining.

Art Across Asia: Expressions of Gender in Asian Art (Virtual)

Sunday, June 9 from 2:30-4 p.m. Gender fluid and non-binary depictions have existed for thousands of years in Asian art. Explore works which support this belief in non-duality.

Digital Advice Appointments on Monday and Drop in on Friday

Register for a dedicated session Mondays at 12 or 2:30 p.m. or drop in on most Fridays between 3-4 p.m. We have guidance for easy to moderate tech issues. Please bring your device, charger and any passwords associated with your device or project. This is a program to offer one on one instruction on how to better utilize your technology, we cannot do a tech project for you and cer-

tain issues will be outside of our digital expertise.

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.

Book Donations

Help support the annual book sale on the library lawn during the Festival by the Sea on August 3. Please donate books you no longer want but are in good enough shape that you would buy them. Our collection location is MERHS, not the library. Drop off on Saturday, June 15 from 9 a.m.-12 noon.

MBTS Library Renovation: Ask the Director

Tuesdays beginning from 11 a.m.-12 noon. The MBTS Library is in the process of applying 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:

Summer Storytime Wednesday’s from 10:30-11:15 a.m. Ages 0-3, this program runs through September.

Celebrate You Storytime and Craft

Saturday, June 8 from 2:30-3:30 p.m., ages 5-8. Do you feel like a princess, a robot, or a baseball champ? Wear whatever outfit or costume that reflects the real you inside and join Miss Audrey for a storytime and craft. Register online.

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“Suffrage Song: The Haunted History of Gender, Race and Voting Rights in the U.S. (Virtual)”
Monday, June 10 from 7-8 p.m. Join us for what is going to be a fascinating conversation with author Caitlin Cass on her book, “Suffrage Song: The Haunted History of Gender, Race and Voting Rights in the U.S.” Part graphic novel, part map of the suffrage movement, this book tells the story of the fight for the right to vote by women from the very beginning.

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Joanne Seaman—School Nurse, Champion Hugger—Retires After 26 Years



Joanne Seaman, RN, Memorial School's nurse for the last 26 years, is a "champion hugger."

Photo Erika Brown

By Desada Sadiku

Walking inside the corridors of the Manchester Memorial Elementary School, wearing a lilac shirt, white pants, and a nurse's badge, Joanne Seaman, RN, heads to her office, feeling nostalgic. After 26 years with the school district, Seaman retires at the end of this month.

"I am blessed, as not many go to work every day and love their job. Even on my hardest days, I love my job," she said. "How can you say goodbye to the people that you love?"

The 69-year-old has been a nurse for 49 years ("and I'm only 50 years old ... it's a miracle!" she jokes), with most of those years serving kids in a school environment.

Early on, Seaman worked for Governor's Academy and at the Triton School District, working with special needs students. There, she worked with Jack Billings, who would become the principal of Manchester Memorial. When Memorial was seeking its very first exclusive elementary school nurse in the late 1990s and advertised the position in the local newspaper, she jumped. It was before school regionalization with Essex, and long before the school district built a new, \$56 million Memorial School building. Seaman took the job, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Today, Joanne says she felt nervous on her first day. She didn't know anyone, and wasn't sure what to expect.

But as days went on, Joanne said she felt like she found the missing piece of her "puzzle." The students, teachers, and parents started to feel like a family.



Tender care. Back in 2010, Joanne checks a young student in her former nurse's office at the former elementary school building. Courtesy image

"From the moment that I started here, it felt like home," she continued to say. "To the point where I moved here."

"Superhero Nurse"

Those who know Joanne Seaman will tell you her most important tools are her welcoming arms. Joanne Seaman is known, far and wide, as a champion hugger. In fact, no matter where she is—her spacious nurse's office, or at the front office, or in the cafeteria visiting the after-school program—she is like honey and students are like bees. They flock to her to get hugs. And she gives them. Constantly.

When this champion hugger started at Memorial, the

nurse's office barely had room enough for a nurse's table and sometimes, Joanne would have to use space in the adjoining bathroom, sitting on the toilet to dress and care for the child. And the technology at the time was a pencil and paper.

But she didn't mind. She enjoyed looking after the young students. "I considered them my family," she said.

From her sparse clinical "office" Seaman addressed everything. There were serious incidents like a broken leg, or mental health and family challenges. There were less serious incidents like homesickness. But they were all greeted with care and professionalism.

"I saw every child as my own and I knew who to call, in case anybody got hurt. I mean, I am a parent as well, I too would want to be called for any details regarding my child's wellbeing," she added.

Today, she has a spacious office, with all the necessities and technologies. Generational gifts from pupils and parents surround her. There are pictures with the kids, drawings from the little artists, and signs and coffee mugs with phrases of love and appreciation. All for her. A favorite sits above on an overhead cabinet, and reads, "I'm a nurse, what's your superpower?"

Making a difference

"Joanne Seaman is not just

a person or a name—she is a feeling," said Heather DePriest, Manchester Parks & Recreation Program Director who has worked with Mrs. Seaman for more than two decades. "Joanne can fix all of us and she has for many years. Memorial School will move on, and she will be replaced but her time at Memorial will be treasured deep in all of our hearts."

This is typical of anyone who knows or has worked with Joanne Seaman. After nearly 30 years, Joanne sees parents today in their 30s who were once her students that, today, entrust her with their kids.

Joanne finds it beautiful that in this small community, she has been able to put a

smile on people's faces and make their day.

"Not too many jobs affect people's lives. The greatest gift that you can give to somebody is to touch their life. It's a feeling that you never forget," the "super nurse" expressed while getting emotional.

As a superhero nurse, Joanne's impact has gone far beyond tending to a knee scratch or a simple headache.

"Joanne was our three girls' second parent, both in and out of Memorial School, for many years," said Cynthia Franklin, whose daughters were at Memorial School in the mid-2000s. "She even inspired our oldest daughter, Mara, to become a nurse!"

For Lindsay Banks, a current parent of a student cared for Mrs. Seaman, the sentiment is identical to Franklin's.

"Joanne's love and care for the kids has been a foundational part of our family's experience at Memorial School," she said. "The children and families know that they can count on her unconditional love and support through some of the most stressful times -- when kids are sick or need medical attention. (not to mention during COVID!) She did so many things in and out of the nurse's office to support our kids and our school community."

Time to rest

When it came to planning her retirement, Seaman left nothing to chance. Recalling the decision last year, Joanne said it was her daughter who convinced her to slow down, and enjoy her four grandchildren and family time.

"My daughter told me "Mom, you're 70 now and we need you", she remarked.

By October 2023, Joanne started working on her resignation letter. The moment the letter was finished, she stood in front of Memorial School Principal John Willis and realized just how hard it would be to say goodbye. She didn't realize just how hard it would be for her Memorial School family to say goodbye to her.

"When you think of all of the beautiful things that make Cape Ann special, one that has stood out for the past 26 years in Manchester-by-the-Sea is Joanne Seaman," said Willis. "Joanne is an incredible human being who exemplifies care, compassion, selflessness, and love. Generations of students, families, and staff members have been fortunate to have been cared for by her over the years. We are all fortunate to have her in our professional and personal lives!"

Joanne Seaman may be retiring from her role at MERSD, but she won't be gone. After all, she and her husband, Al, have lived in Manchester since 2013. Her "family" of former students, parents and colleagues will surely see her—downtown at Crosby's or somewhere else—and be able to enjoy that all-too-familiar hug from their



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ME Lax Teams Earn Sweet 16 Double Header With Nipmuc



Hornet Mechi O'Neil wins one of her 9 draw controls against Lunenburg during Monday's first round in the MIAA Tournament. ME came away with the win 16-4. Photo Paul Clark



ME Hornet Stephen Martin fights through the Bourne defense as the team battled their way to a 17-6 winning score against Bourne in the first round of the Div. 4 MIAA Tournament. Photo Paul Clark

By Jason Brisbois

Heading into the first round of the Div. 4 tournament, it didn't take a great amount of analysis to surmise that the Manchester Essex lacrosse teams were heavy favorites in both of their contests: The MERHS girls lacrosse team finished the regular season with a 12-4 record and earned the sixth overall seed in the tourney and was slated to begin post-season play against 27-seed Lunenburg, while the boys team finished 14-4 to earn the eight seed in their tournament bracket with a first-round game against 25th-ranked Bourne.

In short, these are games that both Hornet squads were expected to win, but neither team seemed to be taking anything for granted after the boys' team beat Bourne by a 17-6 score and the girls team beat Lunenburg 16-4 on June 3.

"We knew that it was supposed to be a game that we could win, but those games always make me a little nervous as a coach," explains girls lacrosse coach Nan Gorton. "Anything can happen in sport, and especially in girls' lacrosse. We wanted to come out strong and command the field, practicing exactly how we would be coming out in all the games that would hopefully follow. And we were able to do that. We played very strong team lacrosse."

The notion of, "anything can happen" was surely on the minds of those playing for the boys' lacrosse team during the first three quarters of their win over Bourne, just before the Hornets exploded on offense in the final stanza.

"The game was much closer for three quarters, [with us] only leading, 9-5, after three quarters," explains boys lacrosse coach Jon Siderewicz. "But the fourth was a dominant one by our offense primarily, scoring eight

goals in the final 12 minutes."

Six starters scored at least four points each, including Hudson Wood, Mac Edgerton, Henry Thurlow, Stephen Martin and Quinn Brady, while Charlie Thurlow had a goal and an assist while drawing penalties from the opposition, helping to give the boys' lacrosse team an extra advantage.

For the girls' team, Sylvie McCavanagh led the girls in scoring with an impressive five goals and four assists, while Lucy O'Flynn (three goals), Mechi O'Neil (9 draw controls), Abby Kent (6 draw controls) and Charlotte Crocker all scored twice, while Ella Chafe and Laila Mears scored one goal apiece. Brigid Carovillano made five saves in goal.

"Everyone on the team got a good amount of playing time," says Gorton. "We saw some great anticipation from our defense, causing multiple turnovers all over the field. Our draw control was unstoppable thanks to Mechi O'Neil, Abby Kenyattas, Charlotte Crocker and Shields Edgerton. That will certainly be key as we move further along in the tournament."

Moving forward, both teams were scheduled to play another playoff double-header at home on June 5, with the boys facing nine-seed Nipmuc Regional at 4:30 p.m., and in an odd coincidence the girls will follow with a 6:30 p.m. start time against 11th-ranked Nipmuc Regional.

"We don't know much about them other than they can also put up big numbers on the offensive side of the field," Siderewicz says of the Nipmuc boys team. "We'll have our hands full."

The girls have some familiarity with Nipmuc after facing them during tournament play in 2023.

"We played them last year in the tournament as well," says Gorton. "They are a young team, if I remember, and we should be ready for a good fight."

ME Tennis Teams Cruise Into Elite 8, Sweet 16

By Jason Brisbois

Looking at the records, final power rankings and the playoff seedings, the initial foray for the Manchester Essex girls' and boys' tennis teams into the MIAA Div. 4 Tournament didn't look too daunting heading in, and both Hornets teams took care of business early on.

The second-seeded ME girls team beat 31-seed Joseph Case, 5-0, on June 1 in the Round of 32, and then advanced to the Elite Eight with

a 5-0 win over Quabbin a day later in the Sweet 16.

"Joseph Case was only able to bring three players, so the doubles match were defaults," explains Manchester Essex girls tennis coach Barrett Alston. "The three singles matches were Grayson Crocker, Nina Zalosh, and Sienna Crocker and they only lost one game total. No drama to speak of."

There wasn't much more drama in the Sweet 16 against Quabbin, with the doubles pairings of Grace Scarbrough / Sarah Cort and Emily Par-



Hornets meet their rivals at Endicott tennis courts, the Joseph Case Cardinals for round 1 of the MIAA Div. 4 Tournament. (Courtesy Photo)



Handshakes before the MIAA Div. 4 Tournament with Springfield International Charter School. The Hornets moved from the Sweet 16 to the Elite 8 with the 5-0 win against the Bulldogs. Courtesy Photo

kins / Mackay Brooks winning with ease and Crocker (first singles), Zalosh (second singles) and Crocker (third singles) also winning convincingly in the singles slots.

Quabbin was a bit of an unknown for the Hornets heading into the match, despite having faced the team early on in the postseason in 2023.

"We played them last year in round of 32, when they were the 31 seed, beat them pretty convincingly," says Alston. "They have a much better record this year and are the 15 seed, so expecting a much stiffer challenge this time around. Always inter-

esting to play a team not from North Shore, there's not really any game tape out there on tennis, so tough to know exactly what the opposing team's strengths and weaknesses are."

For their next tournament challenge, the girls tennis team was set to play the winner of Monomoy-Lennox Memorial on June 4.

"Onto the last eight," says Alston. The boys were hoping to get there, and if their first match of the postseason was any indication, the odds were in their favor to do so. In keeping with a theme early on in the tourney for

both ME tennis teams there wasn't much drama on the boys' side in their Round of 32 matchup with Springfield International Charter School on June 2, with the Hornets prevailing by a 5-0 score.

"We won each of the matches 6-0, 6-0, which is pretty impressive," explains ME boys tennis coach Rob Bilsbury. "We came to play and we were very focused, and this was a younger team."

Jack Cummins, Charlie Virden and Jan Vyttopil won at first, second and third singles, respectively, while Finn Birkeland and Jack Lawler won at first doubles and

Sander Breuker and Charlie Langendorf were victorious at second doubles.

It wasn't just the game experience that the Hornets had in their favor going into this one - Manchester Essex finished the regular season with a 14-4 record and earned the three-seed in the Div. 4 tournament, while Springfield International won five matches all season and got in as the 30-seed.

Manchester Essex was set to face a familiar foe in fellow Cape Ann League entry Ipswich (14-seed, 8-8 regular season) in the Sweet 16 on June 4.



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<p>GENERAL INFORMATION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 week program beginning June 24th and ending August 9th. • Ages: 6-13 Children must have completed Kindergarten & up to entering 8th grade. • 100 participants per week- sign up early! • Weekly sign-ups are on a first-come, first-serve basis. • Open to residents of and/or students that attend MERSD 	<p>REGISTRATION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online registration is available at mbtsec.com beginning on March 4th. • A detailed calendar of events and field trips will be available for reference when registering! • Register in advance at www.mbtsec.com. On-site registration will be limited & cash will not be accepted at the program.
<p>PRICING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Price per Week: \$99 per child with field trips included • Extended Day pricing: \$75 per week (M-Th) 	<p>DAILY SCHEDULE:</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Monday-Thursday: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM</p> <p style="margin: 0;">*Drop off & pick up at Manchester Memorial Elementary School</p>

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ESSEX ECHO.

Seth Moulton Visits Open Door, Essex Water Treatment Plant and Essex River Sites

By Erika Brown

Last week, U.S. Congressman Seth Moulton made key visits to Cape Ann, including meeting with leaders of several regional hunger-relief nonprofits to discuss the state of local food insecurity and tour The Open Door Food and Nutrition Center.

Later in the day, Moulton also met with Essex leaders and visited the town's wastewater treatment plant and the Essex riverfront to examine recent flooding and the need for dredging.

This is Moulton's second visit to the North Shore in as many months. In March, the congressman visited Manchester, Beverly, and Salem following \$13.2 million in FY24 federal funding benefiting local projects and organizations. Among those benefiting from that funding are the Town of Manchester (\$959,752 for PFAS mitigation of its municipal water system), Pathways for Children in Gloucester (\$1,330,000 in operating funds), and the Town of Rockport (\$959,752 for sewer system and wastewater treatment plant upgrades).

Starting the day in Gloucester, Moulton met with executives from organizations that benefited from his efforts in securing federal fiscal 2022 Community Project Funding to address food insecurity.

"No one in our community should ever go hungry, yet one in three adults across Massachusetts are struggling to put food on the table," said Congressman Moulton. "As I work at the federal level to reduce food



prices and protect critical resources like SNAP benefits, I'm extremely grateful for organizations like The Open Door and North Shore hunger-relief nonprofits that work tirelessly to provide healthy food to local people."

Joining the congressman's visit were executive leaders from The Open Door, The Salem Pantry, Citizens Inn, Our Neighbors Table, Beverly Bootstraps, and Acord Food Pantry. Also in attendance were Mass Law Reform Institute Senior Policy Analyst Pat Baker, Massachusetts Senator Bruce Tarr, Gloucester Mayor Greg Verga, and Dru Tarr from Massachusetts Rep. Ann Margaret Ferrante's office.

"North Shore hunger leaders met with Congressman Moulton and his team to highlight the perfect storm of issues driving food insecurity

rates in the district and across the Commonwealth," said Julie LaFontaine, President and CEO of The Open Door. "At The Open Door, we have seen a 30% increase in visits to our food pantries, mobile markets, and meal programs over the past year. There is a strong collaborative will among the group to stabilize households in our communities, and we are grateful to have our Congressman at the table to help find solutions."

Last year, The Open Door helped stabilize the lives and health of 9,836 people from 4,952 households through the distribution of 1.98 million pounds of food during approximately 77,000 visits, marking a 30% increase in requests for food assistance from 2022.

"We're hoping Congressman Moulton can bring the issue of food insecurity in

Massachusetts to the Biden Administration to provide more resources and address the rising need here in the Commonwealth due to the cost of housing, the cost of groceries, and the aging population of low-income individuals who are food insecure and have significant medical bills," said Pat Baker, Mass Law Reform Institute Senior Policy Advocate.

Following his visit to The Open Door, Moulton toured the Essex Wastewater Treatment Plant at Centennial Grove to learn about needed upgrades and challenges with PFAS "forever chemical" mitigation in light of new federal standards. He then met with town officials at the Essex Marina to better understand Essex's significant challenges from flooding of the Essex River and the urgent need for comprehensive dredging.

Art in the Barn in Essex Set for June 14, 15 Greenbelt's annual art exhibit and sale is its biggest fundraiser

The annual Art in the Barn art sale and exhibit at the Cox Reservation in Essex is set to kick off this year on Saturday, June 14, with food, music, and artwork by 130 local artists.

Greenbelt describes the event as the "intersection of creativity and conservation." It's certainly a much-anticipated community event. Now in its third decade, this popular event has long been recognized as one of the North Shore's premier art exhibitions and sales, featuring a juried selection of works by 130 regional artists.

Thousands of artworks will be on display, including paintings, photographs, sculpture, ceramics, wood-working, and more. Participating artists contribute 50 percent or more of their proceeds to Greenbelt's conservation work.

This event takes place on



(Photo: David Alden-St. Pierre)

Allyn Cox Reservation in Essex, a stunning 31-acre property with open fields and trails on the edge of the Great Marsh and the Essex River. A beautiful destination for a day trip to view art, explore a captivating landscape, and support Greenbelt.

Art in the Barn Hours
Friday, June 14, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. exhibition and sale; 5 - 8:30 p.m. exhibition, sale, and opening reception with live music by Labor in Vain, True North Ales on tap, and food from Mi Corazón Taquería.

Saturday, June 15, from 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. exhibition and sale with pastries and coffee from May-flour bakery.

Parking and admission for this event are free. For more information, please visit: ecga.org/artinthebarn.

Manchester Woman's Club Scholarships



Courtesy Photos

The Manchester Woman's Club has awarded scholarships to two outstanding graduates of MERHS. Amelia Costa received the Alice Forbes Perkins Hooper Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to students pursuing a career

in nursing, medicine, or allied health field. Amelia will enter the Providence College's School of Nursing and Health Services with a Spanish minor for Health Professions. The Nathan B. Sargent Scholarship was awarded to Avabella Mitrano who will at-

tend the University of Notre Dame. Avabella is the founder of "Golden Bonds: Connecting Generations." This outreach program's mission is to break the cycle of loneliness among the elderly community. Congratulations to these outstanding graduates!

LIBRARY NEWS

T.O.H.P. Burnha
Public Library



Children were invited to register for a Mystery Take & Make Craft which they picked up at the library then opened at home to reveal a craft waiting to be made.

Library Closed

The Library will be closed on Wednesday, June 19 in observance of Juneteenth.

Library of Things

Stop by to borrow lawn games, a power washer, hot spots, DVD/CD player and more.

Animals of the World

Wednesday, June 26 at 10 a.m. Ages 5 and older. Registration required.

Travel the World Storytime & Craft

Tuesday, June 18 at 3 p.m. Ages 5 and older. Registration required.

Root Beer Float

Thursday, June 13 from 1-3 p.m. on the library lawn for all ages. Children entering grades 1-6 may register for the Summer Reading Challenge.

Community Book Group

Monday, June 24 at 10 a.m. Come by for a discussion of "Summer Stage" by Meg Moore.

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.

ESSEX POLICE NOTES

MONDAY, MAY 27

1:12 a.m. Island Rd., directed patrol, secured/checked.
1:41 a.m. Route 128NB, directed patrol, secured/checked.
2:38 a.m. Main St., directed patrol, secured/checked.
6:37 a.m. Scotts Way, directed patrol, secured/checked.

TUESDAY, MAY 28

No report.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29

8:14 a.m. Martin St., fire alarm, fire false.
10:31 a.m. John Wise Ave., citizen assist, assisted as needed.
2:45 p.m. Spring St., directed patrol, secured/checked.
9:25 p.m. Southern Ave., selective enforcement, secured/checked.

THURSDAY, MAY 30

12:31 a.m. Centennial Grove Rd., directed patrol, secured/checked. 1:55 a.m. John Wise Ave., directed patrol, secured/checked. 2:09 a.m. Story St., directed patrol, secured/checked. 6:18 a.m. Pickering St., directed patrol, secured/checked.

FRIDAY, MAY 31

No report.

SATURDAY, JUNE 1

No report.

SUNDAY, JUNE 2

No report.

Essex Locals

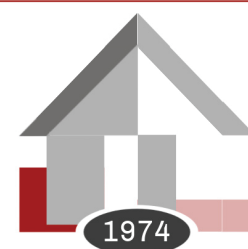
115 Years Ago - 1909

The perfect weather of Monday brought a large number of visitors to this town, and at the cemetery, which was never in better order.

90 Years Ago - 1934

The Town Team went on its annual visit to Deer Island on Memorial Day and defeated the colony's baseball team by the score of 14-2. This trip is a feature of the Town Team's schedule every year, and is always enjoyed by the players.

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The White Sharks of the North Shore

By Jim Behnke

Andy Kelly, an experienced striper and tuna fisherman who lives on Plum Island shared the following story with me:

It was a warm, windless evening in August. A perfect night for striper fishing. Moonlight danced on the water as our boat rocked gently just off the southern end of Plum Island. It was one of those magical nights when bioluminescence—a light-producing chemical reaction emanating from plankton—sparkled in the water from the slightest turbulence. As we cast our lures and retrieved them, they looked like small comets racing toward the boat. And when a striper hit, the bioluminescence seemed to explode like fireworks. Little did we know the fireworks were just beginning.

I hooked a large striper, probably over 20 pounds, and pulled it up near the side of the boat. As we got ready to net the fish, we saw what looked like a large ball of fire moving swiftly under the water headed straight for the boat. The shark swooped in and ate the striper whole, and then disappeared in an instant.

Andy estimates the white shark was 10 to 12-foot long. If you're thinking this is just one of those tall tales fishermen tell, you'd be wrong. Experiences like Andy's have occurred many times in recent years in the waters from Marblehead to the mouth of the Merrimack River.

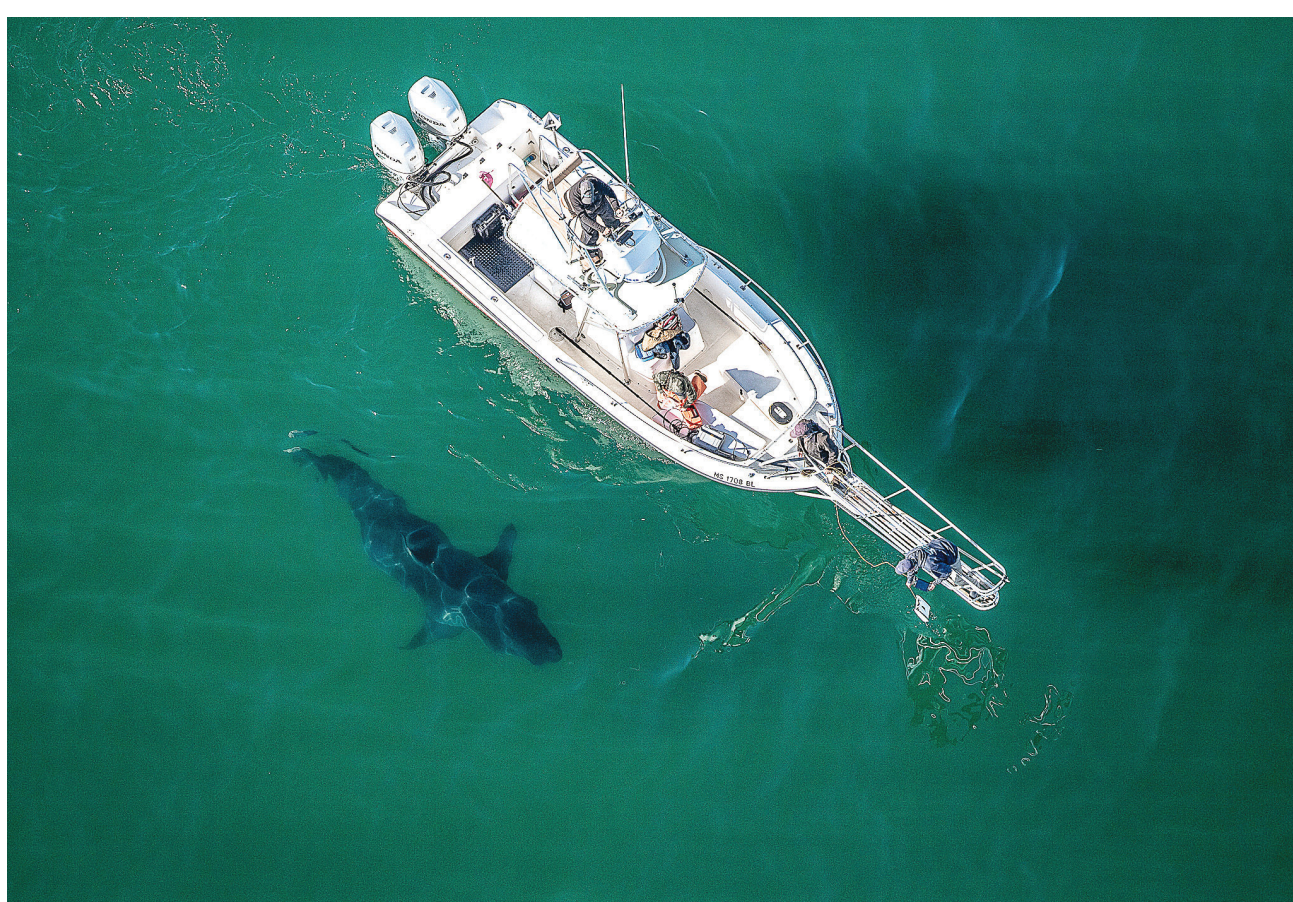
Dave Rimmer, a charter captain in North Shore waters for over 20 years, also had an encounter near the southern end of Plum Island. "A white shark swam between my boat and shore in six to eight feet of water. It was a foggy morning, so the whole scene was a bit surreal." He estimates the shark was 15 to 17-foot long.

Peter Murray, a retired schoolteacher, and charter captain out of Newburyport for over 30 years, has seen more white sharks in the last five or six years than in the previous 30 years combined. Last summer, he and his son

Paul and a client were fishing with live mackerel, also near the southern end of Plum Island, right across from Crane Beach. The client hooked a striper, and when they got the fish near the side of the boat, "my son reached over to unhook it when an eight-foot great white emerged from underneath the boat and grabbed the fish. There was nothing left but the head." The biggest white shark Peter has seen was about 15-foot long, cruising in deep water off the tip of Halibut Point.

The increasing frequency of encounters like these is not surprising. Unless you've been living under a rock, you're probably aware of what's been going on at Cape Cod. Over the last 20 years, Cape Cod has become one of the largest, if not the largest, white shark gathering places in the world. According to a population study reported last summer in Scientific American "researchers estimate that about 800 individual white sharks visited the sampling area from 2015 to 2018." That sampling area was a 43-mile stretch of coastline from Monomoy in the south to Race Point in the north." Race Point is approximately 85 miles from Gloucester as the crow flies.

So, why are these sharks becoming such regular visitors? You can draw a straight line from the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, which made it illegal to harass, capture, or kill any marine mammals from polar bears to manatees to whales. Gray seals, a favorite prey of white sharks, had been native to New England waters for thousands of years before they were systematically exterminated through "nuisance killings," bounty hunting, and as the by-catch of commercial fishing enterprises. By 1960, there were virtually no gray seals in Massachusetts waters. Fast forward to now, and there are an estimated 30 to 50,000 gray seals on the Cape, with four pupping colonies on the

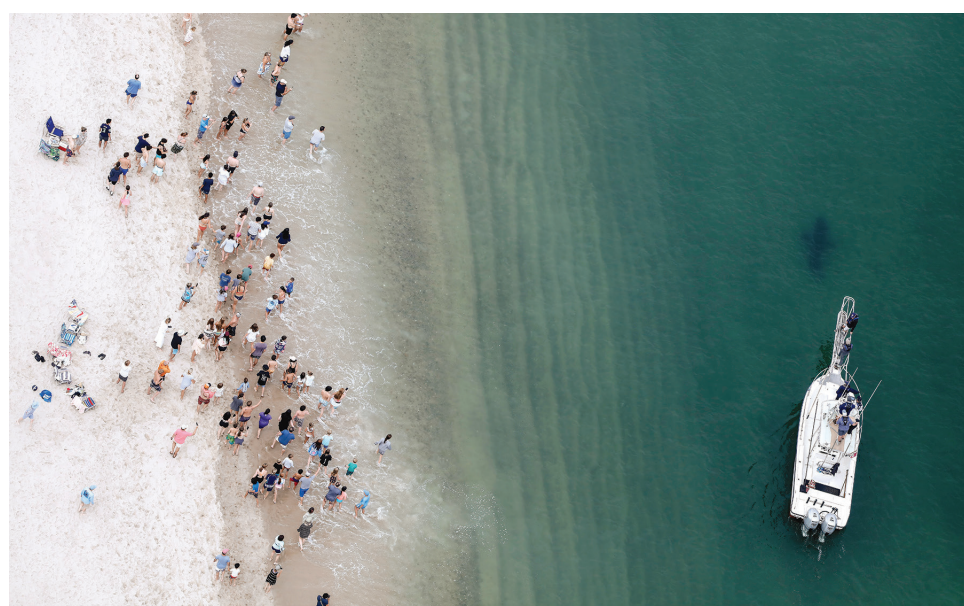


The 24-foot AWSC research vessel, Aleutian Dream, pulls alongside a 17-foot female shark near Chatham in 2020 while shark expert Greg Skomal launches an underwater drone with cameras from the pulpit. Photo: Wayne Davis/Ocean Aerials

Cape and Islands.

We don't have nearly as many gray seals in North Shore waters, but they've become quite common here. Bill Hoffman, of the Massachusetts Department of Marine Fisheries (DMF) has been leading a striped bass catch-and-release mortality study for several years in Salem Sound. "I've been fishing for stripers for 26 years from the Merrimack south to Boston Harbor. There are more seals now than I've ever seen, especially right in front of Manchester Harbor and east of Baker Island. That used to be a great spot for stripers, but now you can't even fish there. Too many seals." The seals are quite adept at grabbing fish off a fisher's line, but more than that, they scare stripers to other locations.

Renowned shark expert, Greg Skomal, who has studied sharks in New England waters since the early 80s,



This photo, taken in 2022, shows the close proximity of beachgoers at Nauset Beach on Cape Cod to the Aleutian Dream with Greg Skomal on the pulpit ready to tag a shark just a few feet ahead of the boat. Photo: Wayne Davis/Ocean Aerials

says, "As these sharks migrate north up the Eastern Seaboard, they generally stick to the continental shelf. They don't come close to shore until they reach Cape Cod. They're hardwired to prey on seals." Skomal believes they detect scent trails leading them to the shallow waters off the Outer Cape. Some summer at the Cape while the majority move "further north and spread out over a much larger geographic area to the Gulf of Maine and all the way to the Gulf of Saint Lawrence." Skomal refers to the North Shore as a "transient area."

The DMF, in partnership with the Atlantic White Shark Conservancy (AWSC), has been studying white shark population dynamics and behavior for over 10 years. As part of their research, they've affixed acoustic tags to over 300 individual sharks at Cape Cod. Those tags are detected by different arrays of receivers up and down the East Coast and well into Canada. A receiver

at the mouth of Marblehead Harbor detected four individuals in the summer of 2022 with a total of 20 detections. Those four sharks ranged between 8 and 12-foot-long. Over 80 sharks tagged at Cape Cod showed up on Canadian receivers that same summer.

"The vast majority of sharks are untagged," says John Chisholm of the New England Aquarium, who monitors and confirms all white shark sightings for AWSC's "Sharktivity" app. So, the number of tagged sharks is just a small percentage of the overall population in our coastal waters.

Sharktivity is a "citizen science" initiative. All shark sightings are reported by ordinary folks and then confirmed before posting by John Chisholm. The app also reports dead or injured seals with bite wounds showing the unique dentition of white sharks. Two such seals washed up on North Shore beaches last summer, one at West Beach and the other at

Long Beach in Gloucester. The dead humpback whale that washed up at Swampscott recently also had shark bites. (You can download the Sharktivity app at Apple or Google app stores.)

Although there are public safety issues and other concerns, the comeback of gray seals and white sharks to New England waters is a conservation success story. We are seeing in real time the re-establishment of the trophic food web with once-abundant apex predators (the sharks) and mesopredators (the seals) returning to change the balance of the near coastal ecosystem, much as the reintroduction of wolves has changed the Yellowstone ecosystem, in many ways for the better. After all, it's their natural habitat, not ours.

Jim Behnke is a Manchester-based nature writer whose stories have appeared in *On the Water, Outside*, and *Scientific American*. He has been a contributor to *The Cricket* since

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Male gray seals have a distinctive horse-like face. The seals started returning to Massachusetts waters from Canada in the late 1990s. An adult male can reach 10 feet in length and weigh over 800 pounds. Photo: Diane Palomba/Salty Air Photography

“Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike” Brings the Comedy in “Dramedy”

By Erika Brown

Imagine three siblings, all in their late 50s, bickering and clawing like petulant 15-year-olds. Then throw in a clairvoyant housekeeper, a naïve young beauty, and a vacant gesticulating boy toy, and you get ... Anton Chekhov?

Well, maybe ...

This is Christopher Durang’s “Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike,” playing now through June 23 at the Gloucester Stage Co. Theater. The contemporary comedy is Durang’s nod to the 19th Century Russian playwright Anton Chekhov and his revered play, “Uncle Vanya.”

The play, though, requires no knowledge of Chekhov to enjoy it.

And enjoy it you will.

It’s modern, it’s quirky, and it’s at times both hilarious and deeply poignant as it follows three adult siblings in Pennsylvania who reunite in their childhood home and—in madcap fashion—and are somehow able to work through many of life’s biggest challenges.

The comedy is directed by Gloucester Stage Co. artistic director Rebecca Bradshaw as part of the Gloucester Stage Co.’s 45th season.

There’s Vanya and Sonia (played by Diego Arciniegas and Adrienne Krstansky), eccentric brother and sister who are stuck with each other at home after putting their lives on hold to care for their elderly parents. They bicker and buzz and hilariously engage their amazing and zany housecleaner, Cassandra (played by Eryn O’Sullivan), who breathlessly toggles between serving as soothsayer



Wendy Waring (left) as Masha, Diego Arciniegas as Vanya and Adrienne Krstansky as Sonia.

Photos: Jason Grow



Eryn O’Sullivan as the hilarious Cassandra.

and screwball. If the play focused on just these three

characters, it would be comedy gold. But, as they say,

there’s more ...

The drama in this “dram-

edy” is triggered when Vanya and Sonia’s sister, Masha (played by Rockport native Wendy Waring), returns to Pennsylvania after a big Hollywood acting career. Masha is accompanied by her boy toy, Spike (Jaime José Hernández), and is set on a mission involving her siblings. In the middle of all this is a beautiful, naïve neighbor, Nina (played by Valyn Lyric Turner), who—literally without trying—brings out the worst insecurities in the aging actress, Masha.

Vanya and Sonia’s life is tranquil and quirky, yes, but it’s melancholic. Masha’s life is filled with hilarious high maintenance melodrama, but it, too, is melancholic.

This play is a smart play loved by theater lovers. In her opening remarks on Sunday, Bradshaw shared

that the Tony-award winning Christopher Durang died only last month, giving this particular production added significance beyond Gloucester Stage Co.’s milestone season. And, alas, Durang’s dialogue is so smart, and quick, and entertaining. But these actors’ performances take Durang’s writing to new levels. Each actor in this cast brings a truly unique style to each character. Krstansky, as Sonia, made the audience nearly spit with laughter one minute because of her jealousy and insecurity. Later, she nearly made them cry. The same was true for the rest of the cast. “I knew we wanted to launch this season with a big comedy. I’ve always loved Chekhov and Durang, so this mashup seemed kismet,” shared Bradshaw. “Deep down, this play asks us to slow down, lift our heads up from our screens, and see each other - a message we need more than ever.”

That’s all true. “Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike” is accessible and entertaining. It’s also witty and often absurd. As with all great comedy, it’s humor that nudges the audience to contemplate the complexities of life. In the end, the story is a testament to the enduring power of family and our capacity for hope.

Go, and see it.

Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike
 Gloucester Stage Company
 267 East Main St., Gloucester.
 May 31 to June 23
 Wednesdays & Thursdays at 7:30pm
 Fridays & Saturdays at 8pm
 Matinees Saturdays & Sundays at 3pm

On The Waterline

By Bion Pike

Manchester Harbormaster

Greetings boaters. We’re already well into the boating season, now that June is here. There’s a lot going on to report from the Harbormaster’s office in Manchester right now. Let’s get to it.

Tropical Forecast 2024

Boaters! The time has come to keep an eye to the sky. June 1st marked the beginning of the 2024 Atlantic Hurricane season. All forecasts are for a real humdinger, record-setting hurricane season. While it is early, and the water is on the cool side for tropical storms you need to start planning now.

Plan for what? Where will you take your boat if the harbor must be evacuated? Does your insurance cover a haul for a tropical storm? If so what triggers the free haul? Do you have an agreement with a boat yard to haul your boat? Is your boat trailerable and is it ready in case you need it? Do you have a safe place to park it? When

should you take action to haul your boat? If you don’t know the answers to these questions you need to get answers now.

In our region storms are typically moving very quickly often leaving less than 48 hours to prepare.

Your boat won’t be the only thing you need to deal with in the event of a storm, take care of the boat plan now. The municipal harbor storm plan will be included in this email with the Waterline and in the event of an actual storm it will be included in any email storm communication.

Get your plan done today and have fun tomorrow!

Safe Boating Day Next Week

Manchester Yacht Club
 Come to the Manchester Yacht Club for you free safety inspection by the USCG Auxiliary!

Also on tap:

- Flare Demonstration
 - Fire Extinguishers
 - Lifeboat inflation
- An in-person Environ-

mental Police-, USCG- and NASBLA-certified safe boating course will be offered at the Manchester Yacht Club this month. The course will be held Saturday, June 8 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. and Saturday, June 15 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. You must attend both dates. Safe boating certificates will be issued to all students with a passing grade. Minimum class size is 10 and maximum is 60.

There are two options to complete a boating safety education course.

The Massachusetts Environmental Police offer an online Safe Boater course in addition to the traditional classroom-based education course.

Anyone going out in a boat as a passenger as well as paddle sport enthusiasts are encouraged to take this course. Safe boating isn’t just for sailors and power boaters!

Deputy Harbormaster

Interviews are wrapping for the new harbor position of Deputy Harbormaster. Thanks to Police and Fire

Chiefs as well the Harbor Advisory Committee Chair and Human Resources Director for conducting inter-views with the candidates.

This will be a year-round full-time position. During the boating season the primary focus of this role will be on water services, infrastructure and vessel maintenance. Working with staff for day-to-day operation of the Reed Park transient dock, pump-out boat and launch service will also be part of their area of responsibility.

Off season will be ongoing training for Massachusetts Harbormaster certification to include police academy requirements and learning about the admin side of the job. I hope to introduce your new deputy very soon!

Launch Operations

Launch Service will run mid-May thru October. The launch will pick you up at any town facility or if you are a Crocker Boat Yard customer, Manchester Marine customer or Manchester Boat Club member, you may be picked up at those locations.

Service will be available seven days a week from 8 a.m. to sunset. Longer service on Holidays

and for special harbor events. Currently only boaters who have paid the annual fee of \$575 may access the launch.

We hope to offer other options for payment and tours of the harbor very soon.

You may reach the launch on channel VHF-68 or call 978-290-9249

Temporary Mooring Use

The time has come for all mooring holders using a mooring that does not belong to them to move. Please move your vessel to your own mooring. Vessels are launching and the pre-season is over. Two weeks is the maximum allowed per harbor regulations.

Feel free to reach out with any questions.

Safety Requirements & Police Officers

The Manchester Police Department will be a visible presence on the water this summer, if summer ever arrives. Safety inspections and boardings are already occurring.

All vessels must be appropriately geared up and registered if motorized. All state and federal laws apply and will be enforced. The goal here is to promote safety

by enforcing the laws put in place to protect you. When things go wrong on a boat the situation can go from bad to worse in the blink of an eye.

If you have any questions about requirements, you can find the information in the brochure rack outside the Harbor office. You can also go to the Environmental Police Safe Boating website for more information.

I am grateful to have the officers on the water. The Police Department is the appropriate agency to help with the large number of boaters that visit Manchester and to ensure that people are taking all the steps required to be a boat owner in Massachusetts.

A change for the good of the harbor and its boaters.

Dock Etiquette

If you borrow a bailer, please return it. Scraping barnacles off the dinghy? Clean the dock afterward. Got an outboard? Leave it down so it doesn’t damage the neighbor’s topsides. Rained? Please bail your dinghy and then return that borrowed bailer.

The docks are a shared resource and a little effort from all of us goes a long way. Make it a resolution for this

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Puzzle

THEME: SPACE

ACROSS

1. House pest
6. Emergency responder, acr.
9. Meme dance moves
13. Below, prefix
14. Swimmer's distance
15. Not urban
16. Take a base
17. Grazing spot
18. Stressful or unnerving
19. *Clint Eastwood's "Space ___"
21. *First U.S. space station
23. Salty dog's domain
24. Fail to mention
25. Spermatozoa counterpart
28. Ukrainian person, e.g.
30. State of submission
35. Network of nerves
37. Muscle or strength
39. ___ Mara, Africa
40. Shapeless form
41. Cliffside dwelling
43. *Saturn's environs, sing.
44. Poetic feet
46. Darn a sock, e.g.
47. Per person
48. Rendezvous
50. Mine entrance
52. After-tax amount
53. Litter's littlest
55. French vineyard
57. *Sun's outer layer, not beer brand
60. *Second S in ISS
64. Ancient Celtic priest
65. Sun kiss
67. *Mea ___," or "my fault"
68. **"From the Earth to the Moon" author
69. In the past
70. Judge
71. Education station
72. Order's partner
73. Food between meals

DOWN

1. Reduced Instruction Set Computer
2. "I'm ___ you!"
3. Not many (2 words)

CROSSWORD													
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4. Dungeness and snow, e.g.
5. *Circles of light around sun and moon
6. 90-degree pipes, e.g.
7. * ___ Jamison, the first African-American woman in space
8. Tetanus symptom
9. Two-fold
10. Diva's solo
11. Prickle on a wire
12. Sylvester Stallone's nickname
15. Johnny Cash's "Get ___"
20. Churchill/Roosevelt/Stalin meeting site
22. Model-builder's purchase
24. Gorge oneself
25. *Planet's path
26. Type of consonant
27. Skeleton, archaic
29. Attention-getting interjection

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	7	9					1	8	

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

Solutions on Page 11

31. Like pink steak
32. Of the Orient
33. Jousting pole
34. * ___-year
36. Opposite of flows
38. *Solar ___, sun's emission
42. Authoritative proclamation
45. Walked with long steps
49. *Solar System center
51. Parcels
54. Birth-related
56. One-eighty
57. Manitoba native
58. Couple's pronoun
59. Dorothy Hamill's turf
60. Jon of "Game of Thrones"
61. Pelvic parts
62. Petroleum-exporting grp.
63. Police informer
64. VHS successor
66. Palindromic title

Religious Notes

Cornerstone Church

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

serve!

Visitation Parish - Mass Schedule

The Visitation Parish Mass Schedule:

Sacred Heart Church - Saturday Vigil Mass - Virtual Mass - on our YouTube as well as www.mecatholic.org
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.
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topher Kolentas, are held each Sunday.

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Schofield, Psalm 100, Ephesians 5:18-20, Sermon Title: Thankful Song. Music led by Dr. Herman Weiss, and the First Parish Choir.

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

Trustees Meeting-6:30 p.m.

Tuesday Online 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

...(Continued on page 11)

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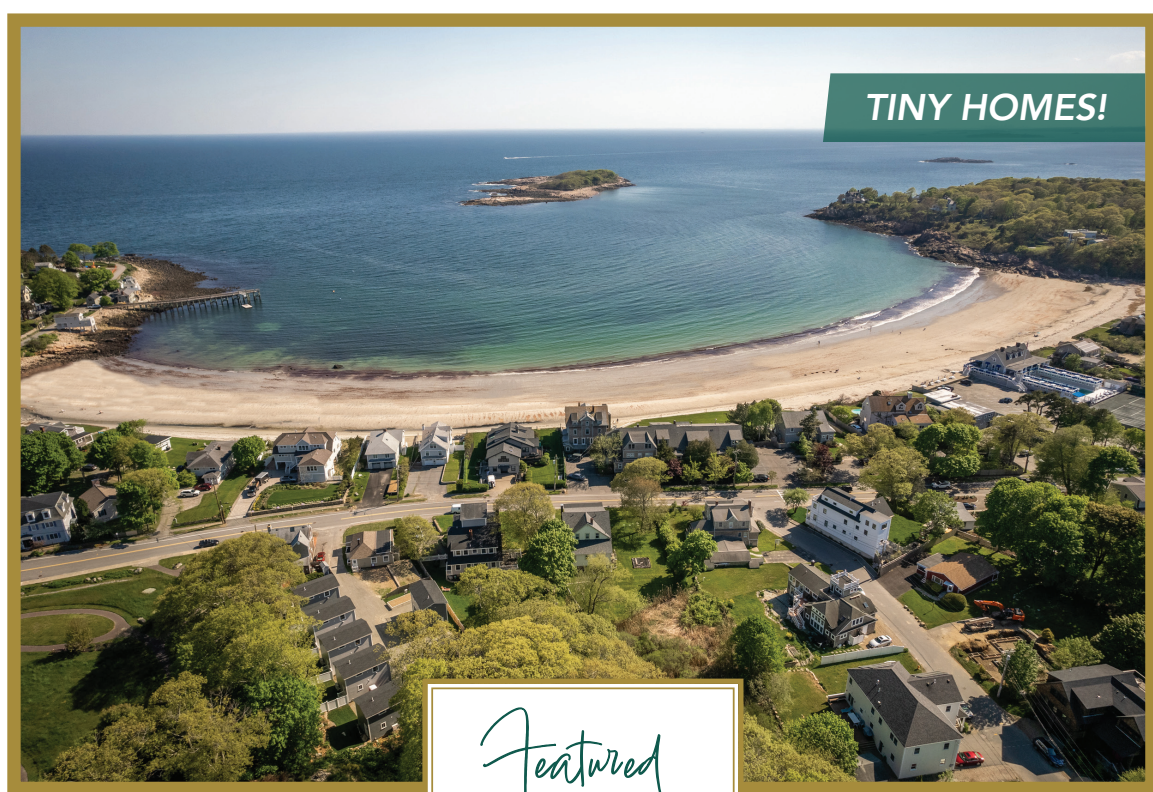
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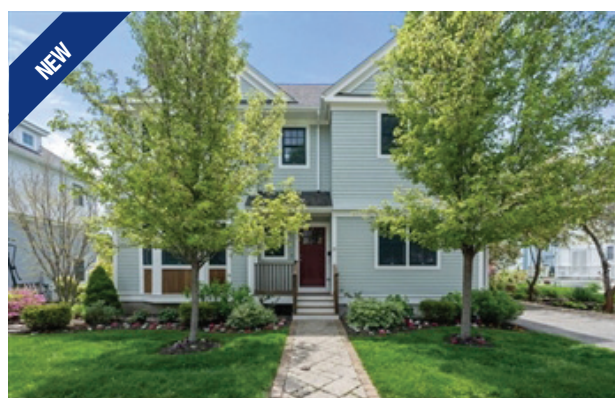


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