



HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Wishing you a happy, healthy and prosperous 2025!

MANCHESTER CRICKET

A Local Tradition Since 1888

VOL. 137, NO. 32

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The story is in their faces. Pre-Holiday excitement was evident as the combined elementary schools performed a Winter Concert for an SRO (a.k.a., "standing room only") crowd of grandparents, parents, siblings and friends. The audience was treated to Daisy Nell and Captain Stan singing with the Essex Second Graders. This was followed by a Fifth Grade concert band, three different choruses and rock bands from Essex Elementary School and Manchester Memorial School. Photo: Paul Clark



Historic Flooding

Saturday's rainstorm brought historic flooding to areas from Boston to Cape Ann. Manchester and Essex were particularly hard hit, with images that brought the topic of coastal resilience and rising sea levels to the forefront. From the Essex Causeway to Masconomo Park and the inner harbor, water was everywhere. A drone shot taken by the Manchester Police Dept. Officer Ryan Machain shows Manchester's inner harbor taking over the entire public parking lot behind Town Hall and leaving the American Legion Hall an island. Photos above: Paul Clark, Bob Lockwood, and Town of Essex

2024: The Year That Was

Each year at this time, we republish snippets of the year's events that have made their way onto the pages of the newspaper. The "Year in Review," printed in two consecutive editions, provides a momentary slowing to reflect on 2024 before answering the call of 2025.

And what a year it has been. Significant steps taken this past year promise giant changes in the years ahead. Manchester's denial last year of a 40B housing comprehensive permit in the town's Limited Commercial District (LCD) was appealed, and



A Local Tradition since 1888.

that trial played out starting in March. That same month, another application was made for a biotech campus, also in the LCD, that, if approved, would be the largest construction project in the town's history. Then, in Manchester, there was the state-mandated consideration of liberalized multifamily zoning around the commuter rail station. In Essex, his-

toric zoning was carefully crafted all year by the Planning Board in an effort to finally close the loop on that town's history of "anything, anywhere" zoning. And, finally, for the Manchester Essex Regional School District, it was a fight to pass a budget without risking the strife and cuts that have plagued so many other districts in the Commonwealth.

Despite a year of tough exchanges and debates, it's comforting and even satisfying to revisit our community's life. Team sports and games and rites and rituals of school life. The passing

of important people in local life. The progress of our volunteer boards and the Town Meetings and elections that posed important questions to voters in Manchester and Essex. Profiles of the businesses and organizations that serve us. And the celebrations and milestones of people who live here.

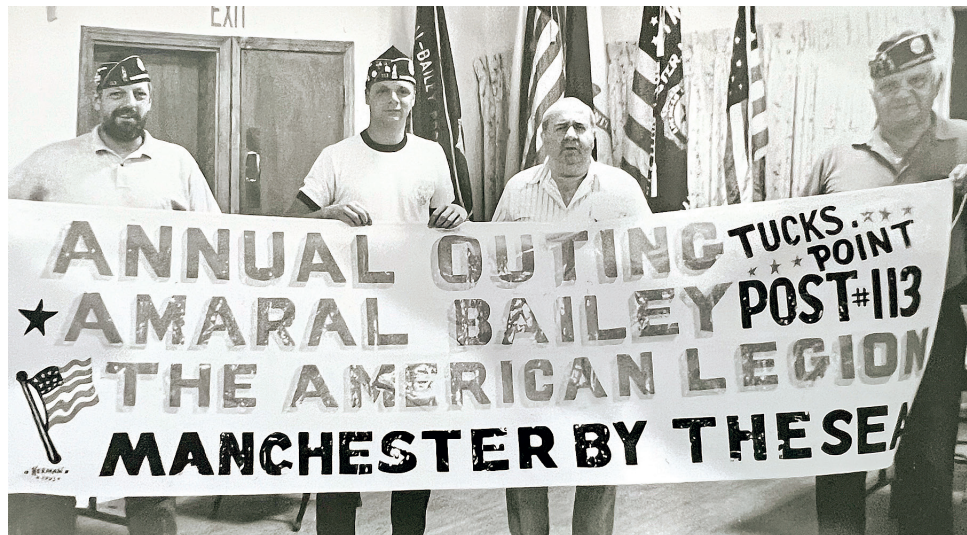
We hope you enjoy looking back at the year as much as we have.

May your holiday be spent happily and safely with family, friends, and neighbors.

Part II, next week!

JANUARY

Manchester's Bill Bell Honored for Veterans Service



When he started volunteering at the Veterans Home of Chelsea exactly 30 years ago in January 1994, Manchester's Bill Bell didn't expect he'd ever be part of a high-profile ribbon cutting of a \$200 million state of the art veterans' senior long-term care facility with the Commonwealth's gold set. But there he was last month,

shaking the hands of Massachusetts Governor Maura T. Healey, US Secretary of Veterans Affairs Denis McDonough, US Senator Elizabeth Warren, and US Veterans Services Secretary Jon Santiago who had all showed up to cut the ribbon on a new, state of the art facility for veterans. But serving the veterans in Chelsea is something Bill

Bell knew all too well, going back way before the impressive new facility was even on a concept on the drawing board.

"It's by far the biggest thing I've been invited to in my life," Bell said, adding that it was truly special for the Boston veteran community to have Sec. McDonough up from Washington, DC, to mark the day.

Sadly, it has come to our attention ...

Longtime Manchester resident George Matthews has died. Among his many accomplishments, Matthews



was co-founder with Mikhail Gorbachev of the Gorbachev Foundation

of North America, which is dedicated to "the triumph of humanism and justice" in the world.

Essex Zoning Bylaw Review Project Update

Board of Selectman Chair Ruth Pereen and the Town Administrator Brendhan Zubricki participated in two update meetings concerning the Town of Essex zoning review bylaw project along with members of the Planning Board and personnel from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council. The focus of the first meeting was continued refinement of the proposed Special Permit bylaw provisions (for Annual Town Meeting in May) and specific parking requirements for each type of use in the Town. The Planning Board is working to balance items that should be codified in the bylaw versus items that are more fluid to be managed by the Board's regulations.

A public hearing is scheduled to get input from the public with respect to how different types of future zoning districts might incorporate limited other uses (for example, a residential district that allows for a neighborhood store, etc.). The forum will also review data collected from residents concerning where in town certain uses should be concentrated.



Weekly Weather Chart

Saturday 28 Dec		38°	23°
Sunday 29 Dec		38°	32°
Monday 30 Dec		43°	36°
Tuesday 31 Dec		44°	40°
Wednesday 1 Jan		43°	41°
Thursday 2 Jan		44°	41°
Friday 3 Jan		43°	41°

Weather data pulled Wednesday and is subject to change.

Year In Review

editions Dec. 27 & Jan. 3



All the bits and pieces that made 2024 a special one for our community. Feel free to reach out at news@thecricket.com with questions, updates or just to say "hello."

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Obituaries

Following a long-standing tradition, The Cricket publishes obituaries for our readers. Deadline, Tuesdays, 9 a.m. If an obituary cannot be published in time for a service, we will post the notice to our website and Facebook page (facebook.com/TheManchesterCricket).

Lyle R. Coons



The family of Lyle R. Coons is saddened to announce his unexpected passing on December 15, 2024, at his home in Manchester-By-The-Sea. Lyle was many things to many people; a husband, a father, a brother, grandfather, a friend, a chef, a painter... the list goes on far longer than this space allows—and longer still than he would prefer.

Of all the roles he played in peoples' lives, the one he will be most remembered for is that of a caretaker. From cooking meals for fundraisers at the legion, to coaching his children's soccer games, to bouncing around town tending to any number of odd jobs and favors, he excelled at making others feel taken care of. As his children grew and built lives of their own, he found great joy in travel with Diane and his good friends Kit and Kathy Weld. He also easily settled into his role as a grandfather, taking his family out on the water that played such an important role in his life.

He is survived by his wife Diane, his sons Ryan and Tyler, his grandchildren Sebastian and Nora, his mother Diane Demille, as well as his sister Stephanie and brothers Fritz, Loren, Damon, and Derek. He will be dearly missed, not just within the walls of his home, but by all who had the good fortune to know him. A service will be announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in his name to either the Boy Scouts Troop 3 in Manchester, or to The Hooper Fund. Arrangements by the Greely Funeral Home, 212 Washington Street, Gloucester. For online condolences, please visit www.greelyfuneralhome.com.

Noreen Lyons

Noreen (Connors) Lyons of Beverly Farms passed away on December 12, 2024 at the age of 90 following a



brief illness. Noreen was born in Newburyport, MA on May 17, 1934, daughter of the late Daniel E. and Stacia (Marciszka) Connors. The oldest of four children, she attended The French School in Newburyport where the Sisters nurtured her Catholic faith and values. She graduated from Newburyport High School and studied economics at Northeastern University. It was there that she met her future husband James (Jim) Lyons. After graduation from Northeastern she was employed as a statistician with The New England Telephone & Telegraph Co. in Boston.

Noreen and Jim were married in 1959 and in 1968 settled in Beverly Farms to raise their family. Noreen was the quintessential devoted mother, actively involved in all aspects of her children's lives, volunteering at their elementary school, cooking homemade meals every night, and supporting them in all their endeavors. An outgoing person, Noreen would occasionally take over delivery of newspapers on her son's paper route as an excuse to catch up with neighbors.

She was active in the St. Margaret parish and a member of the local garden club. Noreen spent countless hours in her gardens, growing unique plants, mastering their Latin botanical names and sharing their beauty with all. From spiders to squirrels she was a lover of all creatures, whether her cats or wildlife in her backyard. Along with nature, she loved art, the North Shore's Great Marsh, the Southwest, fried clams and lobster. She took great pleasure in her close circle of friends and enjoyed countless hours socializing with them at West Beach, shopping, or enjoying a museum excursion. Noreen was an exceptionally loving and kind person, and will forever be cherished in our hearts. Noreen is survived by daughter Amy King and her hus-

band Sean of Newburyport, MA; daughter Susan Lyons of Seabrook Island, SC; and son Mark Lyons and his wife Margaret of Traverse City, MI; two grandchildren Peter King and Anders Lyons; and siblings Marilyn Harris and John Connors. In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her husband Jim and brother Daniel (Buzza) Connors, Jr.

Anita D. Buchanan



Anita D. Buchanan, (née Maistrellis), 82, passed away November 28 at the Kaplan Hospice House in Danvers, surrounded by love and holding her daughter's hand. Daughter of the late George and Rena Maistrellis, Anita was raised in Beverly Farms and graduated from Beverly High School. She earned a bachelor's degree in English with a focus on American literature from Boston University. A talented ballet dancer in her youth, Anita's grace and discipline were evident throughout her life.

Anita began her career teaching English in the Quincy Public Schools and working with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' migrant education program during summers. Her passion for teaching, eloquence, and natural ability to connect with others propelled her into the high-tech industry. Initially recruited to train sales teams, Anita built a successful career spanning more than three decades in media relations, marketing, and investor relations. She held leadership roles at both start-ups and multinational corporations, where she spearheaded global sales initiatives, directed multimillion-dollar advertising and PR campaigns, and served as a corporate liaison to investors. Anita founded two public relations firms and remained active professionally until her retirement in her seventies. Thereafter, she served her community on the board of her condominium association in West Palm Beach, Florida.

When asked about her life, however, Anita rarely mentioned her career. Instead she told everyone that she was "the luckiest person in

the world" and that she loved her life. She was married for 57 wonderful years to the love of her life, Thomas M. Buchanan. Together, they shared homes in Brookline, Peabody, Manchester-by-the-Sea, West Palm Beach, and, finally, Danvers, Massachusetts.

Anita is survived by her loving family, including her son, Jason Buchanan, and his partner, Lindsay Merrill, of Merrimac, MA, and their son, Owen; her daughter, Bailey Buchanan, of Manchester-by-the-Sea, and her cherished grandsons, Konrad, Tristan, and Jagger Nowak. She also leaves her brother, William Maistrellis; her nieces, Raina McManus (and her husband, Michael, and their children, Hera and husband Matty, and Tycho and wife Julissa), and Elisa Maistrellis; nephews Benjamin Murray and Nate Murray (and his wife, Kerri, and their children); and her nephews, Andrew, Christopher, and Patrick; and her nieces, Anne, Jessica, Jane, Rebecca, Jill, Heather, Jennifer and Ashley. Anita was predeceased by her beloved sister, Gail Murray.

Anita devoted her life to the well-being of her family and friends. She had "oceans of love" for her grandsons, who adored her in return. While Anita made friends wherever she lived, her treasured friendship with her childhood friend, Elaine, was lifelong. An avid NFL fan, she impressed many with her encyclopedic knowledge of the game. She loved the ocean, vacationing in St. Martin, cheering on the Boston Celtics, and immersing herself in cinema and literature. She found strength in Hemingway, solace in Wordsworth, and inspiration in Shakespeare, particularly Sonnet 116. Her own stories, often concluding with the refrain, "We had fun. We laughed a lot," reflected her unwavering optimism and joyful spirit. Anita approached life and people with generosity and grace, guided by her belief in the innate goodness of others. Anita loved and was loved "beyond measure."

A visiting hour will be held at 10 a.m., followed by a funeral service at 11 a.m., on Saturday, December 28, 2024, at Campbell Funeral Home, 525 Cabot Street, Beverly. In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory may be made to Kaplan Family Hospice House.

For more information, directions, or to leave condolences, please visit www.campbellfuneral.com.

MBTA Zoning Task Force Sharpens Its Focus, Expands Communication

The Manchester-By-The-Sea MBTA Zoning Task Force reduced the number of the areas under current consideration for multi-family zoning options at its January meeting. Five of the 11 areas of town that the Task Force previously identified were dropped for now, but one new area was added, and another was placed in the possible category.

The state implemented a new zoning regulation that requires each community with MBTA rail or subway service to create a "by right" zoning, allowing for an average of 15 units an acre for a certain number of acres, with at least 40 percent of those acres inside a half mile radius of the MBTA station. The remaining 60 percent of the acres can be anywhere in town.

Essex was subject to the MBTA Zoning mandate as an "MBTA Adjacent" community, however it was able to successfully use state grant money for consultants at the Massachusetts Area Planning Council (MAPC) to appeal to the state for a lowered standard. The state approved the appeal by creating a new category, "MBTA Rural Adjacent," with a significantly lower housing production mandate. This essentially brought Essex into compliance. Manchester's required number of acres is 39, meaning 15.6 acres must be within a half mile of the station. The remaining 23.4 acres may be anywhere in the town. The zoning rules would allow 585



units to be built over the 39 acres, but it only needs an average of 15 units per acre.

The MBTA Task Force will hold many more hearings and events before a final plan

is presented to voters at the end of the year.

The Manchester Cricket

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

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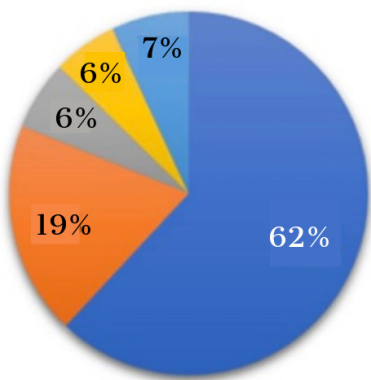
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District FY25 Proposed Budget Hearing Offer Different Visions of the Future

More than 100 individuals gathered at a school committee public hearing at Essex Elementary School and online to discuss the ME Regional School District's proposed FY25 budget...

MERSD KEY BUDGET DRIVERS



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

- Personnel / Salaries
Health Insurance & Benefits
Out of District Tuition & Transportation
Operations & Facilities
Other Expenditures

Despite the heated discussions among Finance Committees, Select Boards, teachers, students, and residents, the evening remained relatively subdued.

Comments echoed familiar refrains, with some advocating for maintaining service levels and others opposing budget increases...

of school district funding. But the process promises some dramatic twists as spring approaches.

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FEBRUARY

Creature Comforts and Essex Pet & Bird Supply



It's a quintessential story of a long-running local retail shop that's become part of our local fabric. Susan Lufkin and Shelly Nicastro always wanted to own a business helping animals.

own business came in 2008 when the local pet store, started in 1978, came up for sale. The rest is history, as they say.

Lufkin and Nicastro attribute the longevity of their shop to the fact that 99.9 percent of the folks that walk through the door are animal lovers, like them.



The Manchester Essex Swimming and Diving teams are small but mighty

The Girls' team is led by the following captains: Junior Libby McKinnon and sophomores Megan Graeter and Sydney Hemme.

The Girls have lost to Triton, Ipswich and Lynnfield. Their closest meet was against Ipswich where they won 7 out of the 11 events but lost by just 14 points.

made Sectional and State cuts in 5 individual events, the 200 IM, 200 Free, 500 Free, 100 Butterfly and 100 Backstroke.

Boston Globe Names Fall Sports All Stars

Football: Quinn Brady, Cian Brennock, Zach Hurd and Stephen Martin.

Field Hockey: Athlete of the Year Abigail Kent

Field Hockey Coach of the Year: Courtney Brown

Field Hockey Honorable Mention: Caelie Patrick

Field Hockey All Stars: Ella Chafe, Abigail Kent and Caelie Patrick.

Boys Soccer: All Star Sammy Bothwell.

Girls Soccer: All Star Madi Cook.

Boys Cross Country: All Star Finn O'Hara.

Girls Cross Country: All Star Sabine Cooper

Manchester Residents Voice Concerns Over Proposed Private Well Regulations

Residents sounded off their opinions during a public hearing Thursday that addressed a proposed Board of Health regulation that would update rules for installing and maintaining private wells in Manchester.

on areas where the BOH tightened restrictions beyond the state's guidelines, specifically an added provision that private well owners would be, "required to comply with the same conservation efforts as homes and properties on public water supplies, especially with regard to drought restrictions.

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

This didn't go over well with some residents. One University Lane resident called it a "manifest injustice." Another resident of Spy Rock Hill went further, citing an October 2023 letter from Scott Horsley, co-author of the 1990 water study of Manchester, who wrote in a professional opinion that wells outside the DEP's well-head protection zones have no impact on public water supplies.



Essex Shipbuilding Museum Model Ship Workshop Connects to a Craft Past

To open up the world of traditional shipbuilding, the Essex Historical Society and Shipbuilding Museum hosted a workshop, "Heritage and Hulls: From A Carved Model to the Lofting Floor."

age Fellow and Master Shipwright Harold Burnham, along with EHSSM Executive Director KD Montgomery, the workshop promises a truly satisfying experience for maritime enthusiasts and aspiring shipwrights.

phazise that no experience is necessary. Participants will carve their own model of the ship "Sylvina W. Beal," learning to lift lines off the model and translate them into full-scale designs - skills that echo centuries of maritime tradition.

School Committee Delivers Trimmed FY25 Budget. Is it Enough?

After better-than-expected savings on health insurance trimmed \$280,000 from its working budget, the MERSD School Committee at its last meeting approved a \$30.13 million FY25 budget, a 2.99% (\$874,133) increase from last year.

of Selectmen and Finance Committees at both towns to decide whether they will support the budget with town meeting voters.

bility and the programming and the budget." The question remains whether this compressed budget is enough for Essex, which bears a significantly bigger proportion of the increase this year than Manchester based on the cost-sharing formula in the regionalization agreement.

Nomination Papers Available for Local Municipal Seats

Nomination papers are now available for elected board seats. In Essex, two seats on the Board of Assessors are open (a one-year seat and a three-year seat); a seat on the Board of Selectmen;

one Board of Health seat is open; a seat for a three-year term on the Manchester Essex Regional School Committee; one three-year seat on the Board of Health; two Library Trustee seats (one two-year seat and a three

year seat); a five-year seat on the Housing Authority; and two seats on the Planning board (both five years). In Manchester, elections will be held for the following seats: Town Moderator, Select Board, School Committee, Planning Board (two seats) and Library Trustee.

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Many folks showed up this past weekend for the 2024 Magic Years Cooperative Nursery School Polar Plunge at Singing Beach. The event raised \$9,000 (wow!) for the school. And the day was relatively temperate, so Mother Nature gave the group a bit of a pass this year. Great job for a great cause! (Photo: Erika Brown)



Big Wins Keep Coming for ME Girls Hoop

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

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

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

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

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ME Hornet Eddie Chareas lays one up against the opponent team, Newburyport, at Monday night's game at home. Both teams were undefeated until last night's game. Chareas scored 13 points and the Hornets pulled off the win 54-42, putting them at 15-0 for the season. (Photo: Paul Clark)

ME Boys Basketball Reaches 15-0 With Win Over Newburyport

Not only was Monday's 54-42 win at home over Newburyport a big win in a season seemingly filled with them, it may have been one of the biggest wins in the history of the Manches-

ter Essex boys' basketball program. "It was a big win against a very good Newburyport team," says Hornets coach Tim St. Laurent. "Both teams were undefeated in the Cape

Ann League coming into last night. He adds: "I've never had this many text messages on my phone after a win." After winning this particular clash of undefeated titans, it is impossible to ignore the

season that the Hornets are having in 2023-24. Manchester Essex is 15-0 overall after beating a much larger school inside its own division on February 5, and is also undefeated in the CAL so far.


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As Deadlines Approach, MBTA Task Force Moves Forward

Time was foremost on the minds of the Manchester-by-the-Sea MBTA Zoning Task Force members at its meeting on February 8. New Town Planner Marc Resnick set up a long-range schedule for the Task Force, starting with joint meetings with the Planning Board in April, and sending the Task Force's completed proposal to the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities by May 18.

That is about a month earlier than was proposed at the Task Force's last meeting.

The EOHLC has 90 calendar days to approve or reject the plan. This schedule would allow the plan to go to public hearings with the Planning Board and Select Board in September and October and go to a special Town Meeting in November.

MBTS Fire Dept. Launches "Community Connect"

Manchester Fire Chief James "Jake" McNeilly announced "Community Connect," an online community service where residents and business owners can register details on their property to help emergency personnel act quicker and more effectively in a response event. The registry enables people to account for things like property access details, hazards, physical limitations of residents, pets, etc. The system also provides realtime updates, so it's "an invaluable resource when we are responding to a particular address," said McNeilly.



Hornets Runners Track Progress in Postseason

Dismiss the athletes on Manchester Essex boys and girls indoor track teams at your peril. On paper, it might be easy to do so: Between them, the Hornets were able to pick up one

team victory during the 2023-24 regular season, with the girls breaking through against Hamilton-Wenham on January 23. And the roster size for both teams is small when com-

pared to other teams in the Cape Ann League, making those team victories tough to come by in a sport where numbers are a crucial element for piling up wins.

Hornets Indoor Track winners Meg Hurd (third in high jump in the CAL Open) and Nate Gardner (first in 55 high hurdles in CAL Open).

Courtesy photos

MARCH

Cell Signaling Hearing to Begin March 11



The public hearing on the Cell Signaling plan for a new research-and-development laboratory to employ over 500 people will begin on March 11, according to a tentative plan set forth by Planning

Board chairman Ron Mastrogiacomo at the February 12 meeting.

Cell Signaling is seeking a special permit to build the laboratory over two phases off Atwater Avenue in the area of the old gravel

quarry. The first phase will include one of two laboratory buildings, which will be connected by a lobby. The first phase will also include a parking garage, which will be expanded during the second phase.



Manchester Museum Holds Inaugural Talk

Local mycologist Gary Gilbert will speak on the history of the 1661 cemetery, its inhabitants, and the relationships be-

tween the woodlands there and their fungi in this old pastureland turned burial ground. His lecture, "Mushrooms of the 1661 Cemetery: From Death, to Life," will be held Thursday, February 29 in the First Parish Community Hall, at 7 p.m.



A protest organized by the Manchester Essex Conservation Trust outside Manchester's American Legion Hall Monday met members of the Mass. Dept. of Housing Appeals Committee who opened a hearing to rule on whether Strategic Land Ventures' was wrongly denied a permit in 2022 to build a 40B affordable housing project in the Limited Commercial District. Later, inside, Geoffrey Engler of SLV (below, right) sits behind his legal team. Photos: Kirk



Engler Defends SLV Project at Hearing

Developer Geoffrey Engler and Town Counsel George Pucci sparred during the first day of hearings over the Strategic Land Ventures' proposed 136-unit condominium plan for Shingle Hill off School Street, writes Jeff Pope. The state's Housing Appeals Committee, chaired by Shelagh Ellman-Pearl, conducted the first of at least four days of hearings into the proposed plan at the Amara Bailey American Legion Post 113 on Monday. The additional days of the hearing—which

could end as soon as Thursday, March 7 but may last up to two weeks—were to be conducted online by video link. Engler had sought a comprehensive permit from the town's Zoning Board of Appeals, through the state's 40B regulations, in January 2022. The ZBA rejected the plan in August 2022, sending the project to the state's Housing Appeals Committee. Now 18 months later, the state committee is conducting hearings to determine if it should overturn the ZBA's decision.



ME Hornet Chris Glass goes to the net in the Hornets Round of 32 match against Frontier Regional at home. ME took the W 75-48, leading most of the way.

Photo: Paul Clark

Adjustments Lead to Sweet Results for ME Boys Basketball

The Manchester Essex basketball team—a squad that has lost all of one game this season—was down by two at the end of the first quarter in their tourna-

ment game against Frontier Regional.

Other teams may have panicked in the situation, wondering about how to respond down early to a

foe they had never faced in team history. The 2023-24 version of the Hornets are not just any other team, however, and they did pretty much what they have done

all season long: adjust and respond.

“Throughout the entire season, we have a saying: ‘Don’t worry about the first quarter,’” explains Manches-

ter Essex coach Tim St. Laurent. “We can tighten the screws after that.”

After the win, the Hornets went on in the playoffs, winning against Tyngsborough

77-36. Sadly, however, the team lost by just one point against Millbury in their pursuit for a spot in the MIAA Tourney’s Final Four. What a season!



CAL Players of the Year

ME Hornet, Lily Oliver was named the Player of the Year for the CAL Baker Division. In addition, Manchester Essex head coach Lauren DuBois took home the Coach of the Year award for the Baker Division. Joining Oliver on the All-League team was fellow Hornets’ sophomore Harper Brooks. Senior Phileine de Wit was named a CAL second team all-star for Manchester as well.

Cade Furse was named the Cape Ann League Baker Division Player of the Year for the second consecutive season. Joining him on the All-Conference squad was Hornets’ senior Eddie Chareas.

Preston Potter and Milo Zeltzer were each named CAL second team all-stars for Manchester Essex as well. In addition, Rockport head coach Phil Whitley and Manchester Essex head coach Tim St. Laurent were named Co-Coaches of the Year for the Baker Division.

Cape Ann League Players of the Year for 2024 Lily Oliver (top) and Cade Furse (below, left). Photos: Paul Clark



On Tuesday, approximately 40 people attended a public Q&A forum hosted by the Manchester Harbor Management Plan Task Force, which is working with consultants from UMASS Boston on an overall plan for the harbor and its waterfront. Here, UMASS’ Shannon Hogan hosted one of the information tables at the ME Regional High School cafeteria.

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Chuck Dam (below, at left), director of Manchester's Dept. of Public Works and Ben Patten, MBTS Water Treatment Plant manager (far right) show Congressman Seth Moulton (center) the ins and outs of municipal water Monday during a visit by the lawmaker. Later (above), the US congressman posed with the larger DPW team.

Moulton Delivers \$959,752 for PFAS to Manchester

Manchester will receive \$959,752 in federal funds to support planning and design for future PFAS purification of the town's municipal water.

The funds came as part of a larger, \$13.2 million package benefiting 15 Essex County communities, including Rockport and Gloucester and on Monday, US Congressman Seth Moulton visited Manchester's Gravelly Pond Water Treatment Plant as part of a tour of all North Shore sites that will receive funding. Other sites on Cape Ann included Pathways for Children in Gloucester and Rockport's Department of Public Works.

During his visit, Moulton also visited two sites in Essex—the Essex Water Treatment Plant and a waterfront site at Riversbend—to follow up on promised funding (not included in the \$13.2 million package) for the water treatment plant's upgrades and much-needed dredging.



SINGING BEACH

Saturday 7:45 a.m.

We're calling this one, "Failure to Launch." Police were called down to Singing Beach early Saturday after a beached whale of a car—a Jeep in this case—was seen stranded deep in the sands just offshore. Clearly the operator of the vehicle was confused. The vehicle proved tough to haul in, however, requiring a two-truck tow solution. Here, two men from Tally's Towing hooked the smaller truck to a bigger one up at the circle and, in the end, it was that configuration that did the trick. No word on the vehicle driver, a resident of Gloucester.

Photo: Erika Brown



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Judge Clips Community Center's Arguments Against Harbor's Point Ahead of April 3 Jury Trial



Last Friday, in a pre-trial ruling, a Salem District Court judge gave the Manchester Community Center a clear message: you may go to trial on April 3 against Harbor's Point Condominium Association, but not with arguments that are irrelevant or unsubstantiated.

The MCC is fighting an eviction notice served in November 2023 by Harbor's Point Condominium Association after the lease for the land that its 2,141-sqft building sits on was terminated.

The MCC building was donated in 1976 by an automotive dealership owner from Essex, Augustus "Gus" Means as a youth center. It sits on land owned by HPCA that abuts the train station. Means excluded the land from his gift, and for decades the MCC signed a series of land leases, even as the Har-

bor's Point board took to waiving the rent each year as a gift to the MCC.

In 2017, things changed when Harbor's Point asked the MCC to pay \$200/month in rent. The MCC balked, but eventually relented and in the years that followed, acrimony between them grew.

The MCC believed the annual rotation of family-friendly community programs it hosts, like the Manchester Mothers Club's Wobblin' Gobbler or the Jingle Bell Walk at Masconomo Park, should give them a pass on rent. The HPCA, for its part, was critical that the MCC building always seemed empty and unused, especially by senior citizens who have been seeking a proper Senior Center for programs and services. By early 2023, the HPCA moved to a month-to-month lease. The relation-

ship remained fraught.

By last fall, the MCC asked the town to intervene and take over the land lease, which would enable the MCC to continue its programming while the town could use the space for a temporary COA senior center and other services. A 10-year agreement was struck in concept between the town and the HPCA, and it was successfully endorsed by a vote at Manchester's November 13 Special Town Meeting. All seemed good: a "win-win-win."

But just weeks later, the MCC walked away from the potential deal, formally notifying the HPCA that it would trigger its right under the lease to move the building entirely from the site within 90 days. The HPCA responded with a formal eviction. The MCC filed its defenses against the eviction and said it wanted to go to trial. It also countersued for \$1.2 million.

With no compromise in sight, both parties readied themselves for trial.

APRIL



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

(Photo: Paul Clark)



Sadly, it has come to our attention that Ron Mastrogia-como has died. Ron had quietly served Manchester for decades. He was the current sitting Chair of the Manchester Planning Board, a board he'd served on for 15+ years. He was also a member of the Conservation Preservation Committee and served on the Water Resources Protection Task Force. Ron was a familiar and friendly face at monthly Manchester Club meetings, American Legion Dinners, and Manchester Historical Museum lectures. He was a good man with a good heart. A local memorial is planned for later in the spring.



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~ Kahlil Gibran ~

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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 moon pies and Sun Chips for snacks!

Courtesy photos



DeSimone Makes it Into the Quarter Century Club



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.

Jen DeSimone beams at the 2020 Boston Marathon.

Salem Judge Rules Against MCC in Lease Dispute, Criticizes Charity's Management

Months after a scathing pre-trial hearing, a Salem District Court judge swiftly addressed the future of the Manchester Community Center (MCC), ruling that the organization had violated its commercial lease by overstaying its welcome. Judge Richard Mori 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 Mori mandated that Harbor's Point be paid \$55,000 in back rent and \$144,000 in legal fees, as out-

lined in the lease signed in 2021 between Harbor's Point and the MCC.

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. The MCC appealed the de-

cision, but lost quickly due to technicalities. Harbor's Point ended up collecting all but \$20,000 of the non-profit's assets, and many of the cherished Manchester Mother's Club family events hosted by the MCC have since been picked up by the Town of Manchester Parks & Recreation Dept. Meanwhile, Harbor's Point allowed local groups like the Manchester Golden Agers to continue using the MCC building for weekly exercise classes through the end of the calendar year. Other than that, nothing is known about the future, if there is one, of the Manchester Community Center.



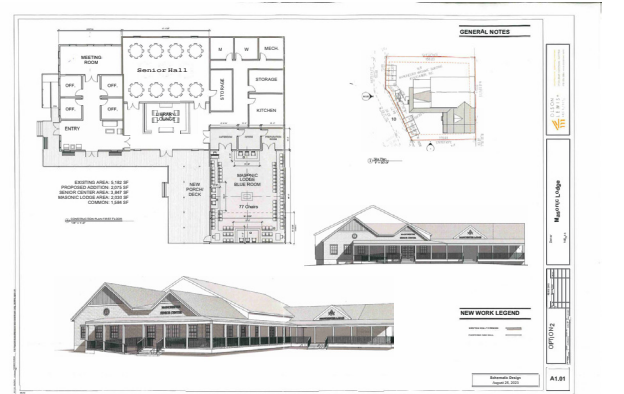
Manchester Town Meeting: New Senior Center, Town Launch, EES Study

Voters at Manchester's Annual Town Meeting Wednesday overwhelmingly approved groundwork for two big long-awaited projects: a senior center at the Masonic building behind Town Hall and formal planning for a new Essex Elementary School building. They also approved significant upgrades to Manchester's water and sewer operations, including the move to home "smart meters" and funding for PFAS mitigation while also approving a town plan to take over a fee-based private harbor boat launch service for mooring holders.

These items were among the 21 warrant articles taken up in just over three hours by 317 voters at Manchester Memorial Elementary School.

All articles were approved—none unanimously but nearly all easily—and these included funding the town's largest annual financial obligations. Manchester's annual FY25 municipal operating budget (\$16.818 million) was approved, as was the town's \$16.339 million share (up

1.84% from last year) of the \$31.1 million FY25 operating budget for the Manchester Essex Regional School District.



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Puzzle

THEME: SCIENCE FICTION

ACROSS

- 1. Le Corbusier's art
- 5. *The Matrix* protagonist
- 8. Captures
- 12. Funkiness in the air
- 13. Vegetative state
- 14. Capital of Vietnam
- 15. Fairy tale villain
- 16. Beware of these in March
- 17. Spiker and Sponge of "James and the Giant Peach"
- 18. *Bioengineered humanoid in "Blade Runner"
- 20. The Beehive State
- 21. Burn with coffee, e.g.
- 22. Tire meas.
- 23. Sea nymph
- 26. Salad dressing option
- 30. *Pierre Boule's Cornelius
- 31. Hoity-toity
- 34. Back arrow key
- 35. Covered with sphagnum
- 37. Tiny Tim's guitar
- 38. Allegro __, in music
- 39. Sign of escape
- 40. Apprehension
- 42. Emergency responder, acr.
- 43. Neuron junction
- 45. Sleeping sickness vector
- 47. *Katniss Everdeen's sister
- 48. Hammerin' Hank
- 50. Tennis "innings"
- 52. *2010 film starring Di-Caprio
- 56. Meat of coconut
- 57. Desperate
- 58. Karl of politics
- 59. *1979 film starring Sigourney Weaver
- 60. Fail to mention
- 61. Bo Peep's females
- 62. *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep" author
- 63. Was ahead
- 64. *Spock's are pointy

CROSSWORD														
1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11		
12					13				14					
15					16				17					
18					19				20					
				21					22					
23	24	25						26			27	28	29	
30					31	32	33				34			
35			36			37				38				
39					40				41			42		
43					44				45	46				
					47				48	49				
	50	51						52				53	54	55
56								57				58		
59								60				61		
62								63				64		

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DOWN

- 1. Point of entry
- 2. Side of a ruler, e.g.
- 3. S or C follower, in business
- 4. Two-word threat
- 5. Relating to node
- 6. Make corrections
- 7. Kiln for hops
- 8. *Captain Nemo's submarine
- 9. Tolstoy's Karenina
- 10. This and that
- 11. Bro's sibling
- 13. Droning insect

- 14. Niger and Nigeria language
- 19. In an unfriendly manner
- 22. Parent org.
- 23. "He named __"
- 24. Strong adhesive
- 25. Pine juice
- 26. Original thought
- 27. Garment enlarger
- 28. *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" author
- 29. Neil Diamond's "Beautiful __"
- 32. *Frank Herbert's famous novel

- 33. "I Like __" 1950s campaign slogan
- 36. *Where no man has gone before" TV series
- 38. "The Tortoise and the Hare" author
- 40. "It's no __!"
- 41. Beale of Memphis, e.g.
- 44. South Korean port
- 46. Main dish
- 48. Japanese cartoon art
- 49. Like thick smoke
- 50. Solo, pl.
- 51. Long narrative poem
- 52. Worshiped one

Sudoku

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

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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

- 53. Minnesota's southern neighbor
- 54. Last word on radio
- 55. Famed loch
- 56. Rogue or rascal

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ROCKPORT
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\$3,950,000 | Michael Beaton | 978-884-9910



MANCHESTER
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\$2,250,000 | Philio Cushing | 978-884-9904



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HAMILTON
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\$750,000 | Cheryl Clayton | 978-810-1416



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\$697,000 | Alli Allmendinger | 978-325-2702



DANVERS
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Crib Addicts : The Final "Soiree!"

Well, Heather MacDonald reports there were several upsets Tuesday in the Crib Addicts cribbage league in its finale week at the Legion. Ted Cakounes took home the winner's trophy with a

score of 23 points and 86 plus points. This season's winner was decided by the plus/minus points. There was a three-way tie, so whomever had highest "plus point score" was the winner. Ted eked out a win over Harry Parsons,

86 plus points vs. 52 plus points. David Slade, who held onto the lead for seven weeks, ran out of luck, finishing in 5th place.

(Courtesy image)

Solution to puzzles on page 10

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

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



Postseason Primer for MERHS Spring Sports

As the school year ends, writes Manchester Cricket sportswriter Jason Brisbois, several Manchester Essex Regional High School's spring sports teams await their fates in the MIAA Div. 4 Tournament. Here's a quick look at their postseason prospects:

Girls Lacrosse

Record: 12-4, ranked 6th. Status: Guaranteed a spot, likely a high seed with potential home games.

Outlook: A seasoned team, largely unchanged from last year's Elite Eight run, brings focus and intensity to the tournament.

Boys Lacrosse

Record: 13-4, ranked 9th. Status: Securely in, top-10 ranking positions them for success.

Outlook: Despite key grad-

uations, the team is strong and poised to make another Elite Eight appearance. Girls Tennis

Record: 14-3, ranked 2nd. Status: A contender for the championship.

Outlook: After two regular-season wins over rival Hamilton-Wenham, the team is confident and well-positioned to improve on last year's runner-up finish.

Boys Tennis

Record: 13-4, ranked 3rd. Status: A lock for the tournament.

Outlook: Building on last year's Final Four finish, the team is strong, experienced, and aiming to go even further.

Keep an eye on these Hornets teams as they aim to make waves in the post-season!



PUBLIC NOTICE



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

The Manchester-By-The-Sea Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing on the Application by Mary McCarthy & Antonio Montaresi for a Request for Determination of Applicability for the proposed construction of an addition to an existing garage/guest house 18-20 Butler Avenue (Map 1, Lot 43) in Manchester-By-The-Sea. The proposed activities will occur between the 50-ft and 100-ft wetland buffer.

This request will be heard at a VIRTUAL meeting on Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. and will be reviewed under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (MGL Chapter 131, Section 40) and/or the Manchester General Wetlands Bylaw.

MNPA website: <http://masspublicnotices.org/>

December 27, 2024 MC

PUBLIC NOTICE



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

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MNPA website: <http://masspublicnotices.org/>

December 27, 2024 MC

PUBLIC NOTICE



TOWN OF MANCHESTER-BY-THE-SEA DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS

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

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Town of Manchester by the Sea (MBTS), acting through the Department of Public Works, is soliciting qualifications from Engineering Firms for comprehensive engineering design services for a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) upgrades project. The qualifications-based selection (QBS) of consultant professional services may include, but are not limited to, engineering professional services for concept designs including planning level cost estimates, design development including cost estimates, final design documents to be bid under MGL Chapter 149, public bid support services, construction administration and construction oversight services, and any other related services or processes contemplated in MGL chapter 7c. Detailed specifications are available online at the Town of MBTS's website <https://www.manchester.ma.us/629/Bids-Quotes-and-Proposals>. Proposals will be received at the Department of Public Works - Room 6, Town Hall, 10 Central Street, Manchester by the Sea, MA 01944 until Tuesday January 14, 2025 at 11:00 am as specified in the RFQ. Proposals shall be to the attention of Nathan Desrosiers, PE Owner's Project Manager (OPM). All inquiries regarding this bid should be directed to Nathan Desrosiers, PE Town Engineer & OPM by email: desrosiersn@manchester.ma.us.

Posted to MNPA website: [http://masspublicnotices.org.](http://masspublicnotices.org/)

December 27, 2024 MC

PUBLIC NOTICE



TOWN OF MANCHESTER-BY-THE-SEA DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS

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

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Town of Manchester by the Sea (MBTS), acting through the Department of Public Works, is soliciting qualifications from Architectural and/or Engineering Firms for the redevelopment of the Masonic Lodge to include Town Offices and function space. The qualifications-based selection of consultant professional services may include, but are not limited to, architectural and engineering professional services for concept designs including planning level cost estimates, design development including cost estimates, final design documents to be bid under MGL Chapter 149, public bid support services, construction administration and construction oversight services, and any other related services or processes contemplated in MGL chapter 7c. Detailed specifications are available online at the Town of MBTS's website <https://www.manchester.ma.us/629/Bids-Quotes-and-Proposals>. Proposals will be received at the Department of Public Works - Room 6, Town Hall, 10 Central Street, Manchester by the Sea, MA 01944 until Thursday January 23rd, 2025 at 11:00 am as specified in the RFQ. Proposals shall be for the attention of Nathan Desrosiers, PE Owner's Project Manager (OPM). All inquiries regarding this bid should be directed to Nathan Desrosiers, PE Town Engineer & OPM by email: desrosiersn@manchester.ma.us.

Posted to MNPA website: [http://masspublicnotices.org.](http://masspublicnotices.org/)

December 27, 2024 MC

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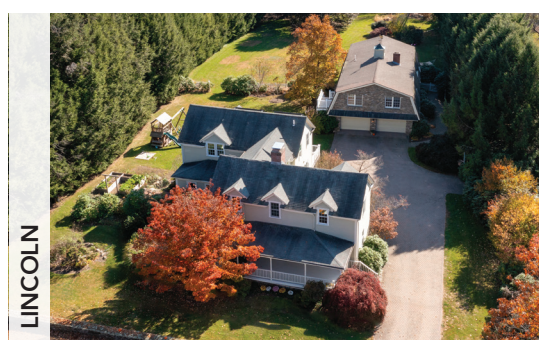
MANCHESTER

\$7,700,000 | Gretchen Berg
 Gracious shingle-style 4 bed home with views of harbor and islands, easy flowing floor plan and attention to detail. Enjoy entertaining inside and out. Lower level, 3-car garage. Featured in Northshore Magazine.



GLOUCESTER

\$2,499,000 | Donna Aloisi
 Eastern Point! Fully renovated turnkey home has open floor plan, new custom kitchen, new sunroom, new patio, fenced yard, and outdoor shower. Septic (4 years), roof (7 years). Beach access.



LINCOLN

\$2,295,000 | Sheri Trocchi
 One-of-a-kind estate! Remodeled 3-4 bedroom home & renovated barn with elevator in 1-bed apt. Offers radiant heated flooring, lower level guest suite. In-ground pool. Near MBTA, commuter routes.



ROCKPORT

\$1,495,000 | Fabyan & Filias Team
 Excellent condo conversion or investment! Unique commercial-residential 6-unit property (4 com, 2 res) on Bearskin Neck. \$100,000+ annual income. Direct harbor-front with stellar ocean views.



NEWBURY

\$1,399,999 | Josephine Mehm Baker
 Modern white farmhouse with primary suite, fireplaced living room with slider to farmers' porch, gourmet kitchen, finished lower level and 2-car garage with storage. Near downtown Newburyport.



HAMILTON

\$800,000 | Dorothy Goudie
 Ready for new owners! 3+ bedroom home has eat-in granite kitchen, home office, sitting room, and 2nd floor bonus room plus 2024 windows, 2022 roof, deck, private yard. Abuts conservation land.



BOXFORD

LAND

\$569,000 | John Adams
 Last available lot! Large building lot over a shared drive. There are no builder tie-ins, so create your dream home in this peaceful and quiet wooded area. Survey and septic design available.



ROCKPORT

\$395,000 | Ann Olivo & Rick Marshall
 Ideal getaway at 5 Corners. Studio with beautiful quartz kitchen and new appliances, new tiled full bathroom and good-sized living room. Basement storage, back deck. Parking and yard space.



HAVERTHILL

\$379,900 | Nancy Peterson
 Liberty Hill townhome. 2-bedroom, 1.5-bath end-unit has new replacement windows, hardwood floors, private balcony, laundry facilities. Open kitchen-dining area, spacious living room. 1-car garage.

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