



Open Burning Season Begins Jan. 15

In Manchester, Open Burning Season through May 1. Permit (\$10) from the Fire Dept. required.

MANCHESTER CRICKET

A Local Tradition Since 1888

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BRIEFLY

Police Dept. Launches Website

The Manchester Police Dept. has launched a redesigned website. The site has a modern and user-friendly design that allows users to access firearms licensing, RAVE Alert notifications, records requests and other helpful links. Check it out.

Brunch at the Legion Post 113

Mark your calendars! Kettle Cove Catering and Amaral Bailey Legion Post 113 are planning a brunch Sunday, January 26, from 9 a.m. - 12 noon. Look for details on menu and cost in the coming weeks.

Cape Ann Plein Air Opens Artist Applications

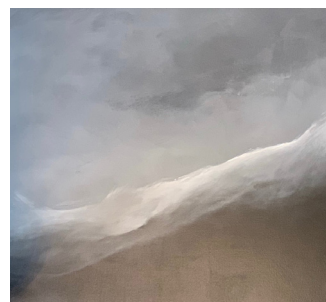
Cape Ann Plein Air (CAPA) last week opened its application window for this year's slate of competing artists. Now in its 9th year, CAPA has grown to be one of the country's largest "plein air" art festival competitions, awarding over \$20,000 in prizes. Applications due by April 2.

SeniorCare Events, Love From Patriots

SeniorCare has three upcoming events in the coming weeks. A "Healthy Living for the Brain and Body" breakfast will be held at the Rose Baker Senior Center in Gloucester on Thursday, Jan. 16. Then, at The James in Essex on Thursday, Jan. 3 caregivers, with or without their care recipients, are invited to join an informal lunch. Finally, back by popular demand, "Painting Ceramics at Clay Dreaming" will be held in Essex on Monday, Feb. 3. Also, this week SeniorCare volunteer Vito LaMura was awarded for his service by The Patriots owner Robert Kraft at a special pre-game ceremony in Foxborough. Story, Page 6.

Last Call! Art Show Reception

An art exhibition featuring works by Manchester artist Sarah Rodier will open with a reception from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, January 11 in the Louisa Conrad Room at the Beverly Farms Library. Rodier's paintings have been called "ethereal" and have been featured around Cape Ann.



Taking the Plunge!

It's become an annual tradition for many, coming down to Singing Beach in Manchester on New Year's Day to take the plunge. Thankfully, this year, plunge day came the week before record-breaking chills. This crew of local boys have cherished this rite of passage for years. From left, Nick Brown, Charlie Verdin, Sammy Bothwell, Eoin Doyle, Charlie Rousmaniere, Cian Brennock, Ali Erdogan, and Jack Lawler.

Photo: Colleen Brown

2025 MBTS Opener: MCC Building Update, Central Street Crosswalk, Open FinCom Seat

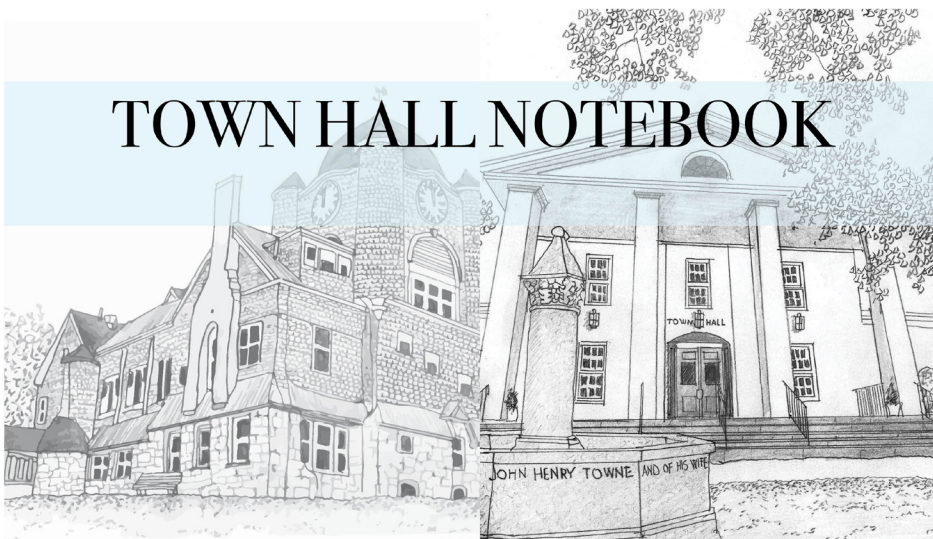
By Erika Brown

Welcome to 2025. The Manchester Select Board and other boards have opened the year with a full slate of items spanning public safety issues with a downtown crosswalk, a possible new future for the Manchester Community Center building, and a vacated seat on the Finance Committee to be filled before the spring elections. Let's get started.

Cones Stay Put on Central Street

Over the holidays, local drivers entering Manchester on Central Street may have noticed bright orange public safety cones that have been placed on either side of the pedestrian crosswalk in front of Seaside One that were installed after a child was hit in December by a vehicle, driving below the speed limit and heading east into town. Thankfully, the child was medically cleared after review, but all involved were understandably shaken by the incident.

On Monday, Police Chief Todd Fitzgerald formally asked the Select Board to eliminate two parking spots on either side of the crosswalk. He said visibility of pedestrians entering the crosswalk has long vexed drivers and pedestrians, and suggested that if a vehicle going under the speed limit



couldn't see a child then it's a big problem that needs a permanent fix.

Downtown parking has been debated for years. Downtown businesses say any reduction in parking reduced their revenues. The new move to eliminate parking within 20 feet of the crosswalk. (State guidelines mandate at least 10 feet on either side of a crosswalk). Manchester has always had two crosswalks at the Central Street/School Street area, but one was moved in a redesign several years ago because Manchester's sidewalks at the former crosswalk were narrow and couldn't be made ADA complaint for wheelchairs, a state mandate.

There's a lot of input to consider, so the Select Board

voted to keep the temporary cones in place until they make a permanent decision. The Bike & Pedestrian Committee has sent a letter on the subject to consider. Then, Select Board member Cathy Bilotta said she walks the area daily for leisure and knows the danger well, adding that her "fix" is to j-walk at a safer stretch of Central Street. Brian Sollosy of the SB said the issue is important, but business interests need to be kept in mind. Jeff Delaney of the SB asked if the crosswalk could simply be moved back to where it had been, nearer to School Street.

"I'd hate to see those spots go away, but we have had an incident," said Delaney.

Hope for a Town "Community Center"

There may be news on the Manchester Community Center (MCC) front, at least as it relates to the building at Harbor's Point. Last year was one of all-out drama, when a simmering dispute

came to a head in court between the cherished 45-year-old local nonprofit and its landlord, Harbor's Point Condominium. (The MCC was created in the 1970s when the building, but not the land underneath, was donated to the organization as a youth center, creating a landlord-tenant relationship with Harbor's Point and the MCC).

Before going to court, the MCC asked the town to step in and take over the building and its lease with Harbor's Point. That idea succeeded, and a draft agreement was struck where the town would assume the lease, allowing the MCC to use the building for its events and the town would get much needed space for things like a temporary Harbormaster office, space for Council on Aging or Dept. of Parks & Recreation events, and public bathrooms.

...(Continued on page 2)

Weekly Weather Chart

Saturday 11 Jan		31°	22°
Sunday 12 Jan		34°	25°
Monday 13 Jan		36°	22°
Tuesday 14 Jan		37°	25°
Wednesday 15 Jan		35°	30°
Thursday 16 Jan		32°	26°
Friday 17 Jan		34°	26°

Weather data pulled Wednesday and is subject to change.

STATE HOUSE NEWS

SJC Upholds MBTA Zoning Law, But Strikes Regs

By Chris Lisinski, State House News

The state's highest court on Wednesday upheld the controversial MBTA Communities Act as a constitutional law that the attorney general has the power to enforce with legal action, but also ruled that existing guidelines are "unenforceable" because the Healey administration failed to roll them out properly.

In a decision with massive implications for the state's effort to build more housing, the Supreme Judicial Court ruled that the zoning reform law does not run afoul of the state Constitution and that Attorney General Andrea Campbell is allowed to sue cities and towns that fail to comply. However, a third



The John Adams Courthouse is shown from Pemberton Square in Boston. Photo: State House News

prong to the court's decision found that the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities did not follow the Administrative Procedure Act when promulgating guidelines governing implementation of the law by failing to file required notices and impact statements.

The APA requires state agencies engaged in rulemaking to file notice of a proposed

regulation with the secretary of state's office and a small business impact statement. HLC "admitted that it failed to take either of these necessary steps," the SJC wrote.

"Because HLC failed to comply with the APA, HLC's guidelines are legally ineffective and must be re-promulgated in accordance with [state law], before they may be enforced," SJC Chief Jus-

tice Kimberly Budd wrote in the decision.

The MBTA Communities Act requires cities and towns with or adjacent to MBTA service to zone for multifamily housing by right in at least one district. Many communities have already complied with the new mandates, but some including Milton have resisted, with opponents arguing the changes would shift neighborhood character.

Communities have been closely watching the SJC proceedings, expecting the decision about Milton's compliance and the state's response would impact their own re-zoning efforts.

Next week: What does the SJC decision mean for Manchester and the rest of Cape Ann?



Gavel to Gavel

This Week's Town Meetings

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.

Essex Board of Health
Monday, January 13, 7 p.m.

Essex FinCom
Thursday, January 16 7 p.m.

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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).

Ky Bradley Hamilton



April 16, 1988 - November 7, 2024

With deep sadness, we announce the passing of Ky Bradley Hamilton, who left us on November 7, 2024. Born on April 16, 1988, in Burlington, Vermont, Ky grew up in Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts. She leaves behind her devoted parents, Deb Bradley and Steve Hamilton, and her loving siblings, Katra Hamilton, Abe Rogers, and Autie Hamilton.

Ky was a beautiful soul whose curiosity, compassion, and dreams of what could be touched the lives of everyone who knew her. With an unquenchable thirst for knowledge and a passion for many causes, she inspired all who were close to her to broaden their views and live with greater awareness and intention.

Growing up in Manchester-by-the-Sea, Ky developed a love for sailing. A natural entrepreneur, she founded a drop-shipping business of Tibetan art while still in high school. Her entrepreneurial spirit continued with The Art of Dharma and The Lotus, two mindfulness platforms that brought together authors and practitioners worldwide to share in yoga, meditation, and intentional living. Most recently, Ky channeled her creativity into developing a mobile app to digitally simplify social event coordination, reflecting her passion for connecting peo-

ple. Ky was a technophile. It was impossible to ask her a question about technological advances that she couldn't answer. A highlight of her years at Hofstra University was training in Cupertino, California, to become the Apple representative on campus, a role that perfectly matched her love for technology and innovation. Her career in interactive media and product design spanned companies as diverse as Mozilla, Invitae, Good Start Genetics, Macuity, TJX, Paint Nite, and Fight for the Future. Whether solving complex problems or explaining the latest tech trends, Ky's enthusiasm for keeping friends and family informed will be greatly missed.

Ky's adventurous nature flourished in Escalante, Utah, when she volunteered with AmeriCorps. She fell in love with the beauty of the canyons and western mountains. Eventually moving to Colorado, she embraced the outdoor lifestyle with her beloved dogs, Ani and Nana. From hiking in the Rockies to snowboarding, cross-country skiing, catch and release fly fishing, skeet shooting, and tubing in local rivers, Ky lived her life immersed in nature's beauty. Her love of nature was evident in the many amazing photos she shared.

Ky will be remembered for her strength and courage in facing the ongoing adversity she experienced. Her love and generosity of spirit, encouraging those around her to live authentically, will be greatly missed. Her light will continue to shine in the hearts of family and friends as they strive to live each day with the awareness and intention that Ky embodied.

A gathering of family and friends to celebrate Ky's life will be held at Tupper Man-

ner, Endicott College, 295 Hale Street, Beverly, MA, on Saturday, February 1, at 11 a.m. A light lunch will be served. If planning to attend, please text your name and the number attending to (667) 286-3664 by January 15th.

In lieu of flowers, contributions to honor Ky's memory may be made to <https://kybhamiltonfoundation.bet-terworld.org/>.



Timothy Wogan

Timothy Wogan, born November 10, 1947 in Beverly, MA and formerly of this town, passed away peacefully in hospice care on December 10 at the age of 77 surrounded by love. Tim was the son of the late Richard, Thomas Wogan and Helen Beaton Wogan, both of Manchester.

Tim lived his first 14 years in Manchester. The family moved to Gloucester where Tim played tackle on the Gloucester high school football team, the Fisherman. He also ran track. A proud graduate of Gloucester High School's Class of 1965, Tim continued his education at Arizona Western College, where he was co-captain of their football team. After Arizona western, he transferred to the university of Massachusetts Amherst earning his degree in 1971.

Tim's athletic prowess continued after his college years. He was an avid bicyclist both road and off-road. He enjoyed indoor rowing and competed in several rowing competitions.

His professional life was as diverse as it was adventuresome. He was a partner with his father at the Wogan Lawn Service, and he captained the lobster boat, The Booljigg.

He later enjoyed a very

successful career as a salesman for Mettler Toledo.

Tim called New Hampshire home for many years. Upon retirement, he returned to the New England coast he loved so well and eventually moved back to Manchester. He was a traveler, an ocean enthusiast, and lover of life. He enjoyed "spinning the beach" and was legendary for his body surfing at Good Harbor Beach in Gloucester.

He possessed a vibrant spirit and love for the sea.

Tim leaves behind a legacy of love and devotion to his family.

He is survived by his two daughters Courtney and her husband, Justin Van Etten of Holderness, New Hampshire, along with their children, Guilla and Wogan; and Hilary and her husband Bryan Ness of Riverside, California along with their children Mylie and Joshua.

He is survived by his sister Suzanne and her husband Lewis Lattanzi of Manchester along with their daughters Kara Eagan of Gloucester and Nicole Dickerson of Manchester, as well as his great-grand nieces, Sophia, Ava, and Mia. And he is survived by his brother Denis of Easthampton, MA.

Tim's ex-wife and dear friend, Jiggs (Anstis Wogan), lovingly cared for him through his final days.

Tim's friendships were a cornerstone of his life, bringing him endless joy and many unforgettable adventures. He shared countless wonderful times with his close friends and leaves behind many friends, including Dave Tomeo, Rich Brittingham, Mike Scarpone, and Rob Orlando. He was predeceased by his longtime friends Paul Riley and Bob Rooney. Tim will be remembered for his warmth, humor and deep connection to family and friends. He lived life fully and inspired those around him to do the same.

A celebration of his life will be held at a later date where family and friends can gather to honor his memory. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to a charity of your choice in his memory.

MANCHESTER POLICE NOTES

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

1:45 a.m. Tuck's Point Rd., suspicious activity, spoken to. 11:48 a.m. Beach St., utility request, other. 1:44 p.m. The Plains St., motor vehicle lockout, assisted as needed. 6:32 p.m. Summer St., alarm, no action taken.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30

1:23 a.m. Ocean St., directed patrol, secured/checked. 9:02 a.m. Raymond St., alarm, secured/checked. 1:04 p.m. Central St., citizen assist, spoken to. 3:23 p.m. Beach St., suspicious activity, assisted as needed.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31

7:43 a.m. Church St., alarm, secured/checked. 2:16 p.m. Summer St., animal complaint, gone on arrival. 10:53 p.m. Route 128SB, agency assist, assisted as needed. 11:30 p.m. Bridge St., erratic operator, gone on



arrival.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1

3:22 a.m. Beach St., traffic hazard, notification made. 12:36 p.m. Forest St., utility request, notification made. 3:01 p.m. Old Neck Rd., utility

request, notification made. 3:25 p.m. Boardman Ave., alarm, assisted as needed.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2

7:06 a.m. Summer St., community policing, no action taken. 9:12 a.m. Atwater

Ave., parking complaint, secured/checked. 10:22 a.m. Lincoln St., motor vehicle stop, citation issued. 9:09 p.m. Raymond St., motor vehicle stop, written warning.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3

10:05 a.m. Route 128SB, motor vehicle stop, verbal warning. 12:43 p.m. Lincoln St., erratic operator, gone on arrival. 5:58 p.m. Summer St., selective enforcement, other. 10:23 p.m. Southern Ave., motor vehicle stop, citation issued.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4

4:35 a.m. School St., directed patrol, secured/checked. 12:56 p.m. Moses Hill Rd., motor vehicle stop, written warning. 4:16 p.m. Pine St., motor vehicle stop, written warning. 7:47 p.m. Bennett St., traffic hazard, secured/checked.

...(Continued from page 1)

Voters approved the scheme at the 2023 Fall Town Meeting, but it was dead on arrival when the MCC, weeks later, sued Harbor's Point asserting that it actually owned the land beneath the building structure that it owned. Eight months later, after a bench trial at Salem Superior Court and a failed appeal, the case was over. The MCC lost and was found liable for more than \$150,000 in back rent and expenses, essentially bankrupting the organization. It was a sad affair, all around.

On Monday, **Town Administrator Greg Feder-Spiel** informed the Select Board that the handshake deal struck with Harbor's Point in 2023 has been revived. Lease details are yet to be formalized, but the spirit of conversations so far with Harbor's Point would create a lease for the building at under \$2,000 per month. The same uses would be on the table (Harbormaster office, etc.) and other details will follow, such as build out costs, etc.

In the meantime, voters

have approved a new senior center at the Masonic Hall behind Town Hall, but that project is years away since renovation costs (which will run in the millions) have not yet been raised. The MCC building can offer a solution as a temporary senior center, said **Select Chair Ann Harrison**.

Selectman Sollosy said before the MCC fallout, Harbor's Point had offered to build out ADA-complaint public restrooms. "I'll see if that's still on the table," he said.

FinCom Heads into FY26 Planning a Man Down

On Wednesday, the **Manchester Finance Committee** met and looked to the

year ahead, addressing the town's FY26 budget and potential areas of concentration. The committee set the schedule to review the department-by-department budgets, which entail heads of municipal budgets (think Library, Dept. of Public Works, Police, Fire and Harbormaster, etc.) presenting their proposed budgets in detail in meetings from now through March.

The FinCom is starting this process one man down, so to speak. **Michael Pratt** stepped off the committee late last year, leaving an opening from now until his term ends in May. **Alan Wilson**, Manchester's Town Moderator, is responsible for filling the seat and anyone

interested in the volunteer position should reach out to Wilson. (Details on **Page 3**).

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2019 Winner For Best Website, Best Photo
Feature Series, Best Front Page

CLASSIFIEDS

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

FOR RENT
MANCHESTER – Winter Rental. \$4,500/month (includes heat, electric and cable). Available Oct 1st . Two-level townhome. 4 bed/1.5 baths. Tastefully decorated & furnished. Chef's kitchen that connects to living room, creating a great space for cooking, hosting, and entertaining. Call 617.212.3251 1/15

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BARTLETT TREE EXPERTS
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Deadlines Set for ATM and Local Elections



By Gregory T. Federspiel

The first of the year marks the start in earnest of preparations for the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) and the Annual Local Elections. Per the Town General Bylaw, the ATM is now the fourth Monday in April, which is April 28th this year. Town Elections are on the third Tuesday in May, which is May 20th this year.

The ATM is when most of the decisions on the upcoming budget are made. With our open Town Meeting form of governance, all registered voters serve as our legislative body and vote on all budgetary proposals. Residents must approve both operating and capital budgets before any expenditure can be made. Town and School District preliminary budgets for Fiscal Year '26, which begins July 1, 2025, were presented by staff in December. During January and February these budgets will be reviewed by the Finance Committee during their weekly meetings as well as by the Select Board and School Committee during their regular meetings. Residents are encouraged to participate as all meetings are open to the public (meeting times and agendas can be found on the Town and School District websites.)

Other articles to be taken up at the ATM typically include any bylaw changes

proposed by the Select Board or Planning Board as well as any citizen petition articles. Petition articles for the ATM are due at the Town Clerk's Office 60 days prior to the meeting which is February 27th this year. A minimum of 10 registered voters must sign any citizen petition article for it to come before the voters.

The Town's Annual Elections are May 20th. There are 13 positions on the ballot this year. The current incumbent is eligible to seek re-election if he or she chooses in all cases. Nomination papers are available now at the Town Clerk's Office. Nominations require the signature of a minimum of 29 registered voters and are due April 1st. The positions up for election this year are:

- 3 Constables (responsible for posting Town Meeting and Election warrants amongst other duties)
- 1 member of the Housing Authority (overseeing the state's housing complexes in town)
- 1 member of the Library Trustees
- A new Moderator (Alan Wilson is not seeking re-election after 30 years!)
- 3 Planning Board positions
- 2 School Committee positions
- 2 Select Board positions

Information on the pro-

cess for running for an elected position is available through the Town Clerk's Office. Town Clerk Christine Dixon is happy to talk to any resident who is interested in seeking to fill any of the 13 positions that will be on this year's ballot. Details on the role and responsibilities for each position can be gleaned from numerous resources including the Town's Annual Report, documents on the Massachusetts Municipal Association's and State's websites and speaking with other town staff or current and previous holders of the position.

The successful operation of the Town and School District relies both on elected officials (28 in total) and on hundreds of volunteers. One of the advantages of living in small town is the easy access a residents have to community decision making. Each voter has the ability to make a difference through a variety of ways - attending meetings and participating in discussions (made even easier these days with virtual attendance as an option), talking to your neighbor who may well serve on a board or committee, volunteering to serve on the numerous boards or committees, or running for an elected position. If the latter interests you, you will want to pick up the required nomination papers from the Town Clerk's Office.



BOARD UPDATES

Planning Board Meeting: The Planning Board will meet on Monday, January 13 at 6:30 p.m. Meeting details can be found on the Town website.

National Grid Outage: A planned power outage will occur on January 14 from 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. on Eagle Head Road and Old Neck Road. If weather conditions are below 20, the work will be postponed until January 15.

Finance Committee Vacancy: Due to a resignation, the Finance Committee is seeking a new member to join the board. If interested in serving, please contact Town Moderator, Alan Wilson at awilson@spyrockhill.net

Run for Local Office: Nomi-

nation papers are now available at the Town Clerk's office for the Annual Town Election to be held on May 20. Select Board, Planning Board, Town Moderator, School Committee, Library Trustee, and Housing Authority positions will be voted on. Candidates must return papers with 29 valid signatures by April 1.

Open Burning Season: Open Burning Season is from January 15 to May 1 each year. To obtain a permit please visit the Fire Department website at mbtsfire.com/permits/. Permits are \$10.

Town Administrator Search Committee: The Select Board is seeking volunteers to be part of a preliminary screening committee for the next Town Administrator. Specifically, two former Select Board members and two citizens at large.

Interested residents should submit letters of interest to [Debbie Powers at powersd@manchester.ma.us](mailto:Debbie.Powers@manchester.ma.us) by January 15.

Curbside Tree Collection: Black Earth will collect Christmas Trees during the week of January 13. Remove all decoration and leave on curb until collected.

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

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

WHAT WAS HAPPENING

90 YEARS AGO – 1935
Another tragedy of the sea was narrowly averted at an early hour Monday morning when a large freighter, which was headed directly for the rocks at Gales Point hidden by the dense fog that completely obscured all vision, was halted by a timely warning from shore when it was a matter of feet and a few seconds before the ship would have crashed on the rocks.

Despite adverse weather conditions, work has proceeded steadily under the ERA program, the principal project, cleaning Central Pond having progressed well toward the outlet though hampered greatly by the accumulation of ice, which had to be broken up and floated away.

75 YEARS AGO – 1950
Coach Joe Hyland suffered the biggest defeat of his basketball coaching career on Friday night when his boys were white washed by the Ipswich High quintet, 72-25.

siderable progress in the first legal steps toward presenting a plan for the establishment of a regional high school.

60 YEARS AGO – 1965
Mrs. Carl D'Epiro of Manchester was one of the volunteer trainers at the Girl Scout Hawthorne Council School for scouting held Monday and Tuesday of this week at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Beverly.

Herbert A. Kenny of Summer Street, Editor for the Arts and Book Editor of the Boston Globe, is a member of the 15-member Council on the Arts appointed earlier this year by Governor Peabody.

45 YEARS AGO-1980
Kerry J. Crane, son of Mr. and Mrs. Senter H. Crane of Summer Street, was recently promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, United States Air Force. Lt. Col. Crane is currently assigned to the faculty of Air University's Air Command and Staff College.

Following a layoff of two weeks to allow the boys to enjoy the holiday eves, the men's Monday evening bowling league got back on track

this week. The Crickets, currently in second place, crushed the Table Four team 34-8.

30 YEARS AGO – 1995
The Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts of Manchester would like to thank all who participated in last Sunday's Christmas Tree Bonfire. The festivities were enjoyed by an enthusiastic crowd who came to help celebrate the first event in our 350th anniversary year.

The Friends Association, the supporting arm of the C.O.A., are giving the town elders of Manchester-by-the-Sea a shiny up-to-the-minute new transport van presently being readied for the road.

15 YEARS AGO – 2010
The Manchester Community Center is pleased to offer a babysitting course. Designed for 11- to 15-year-olds, the course will be held on Saturday, January 23 from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. The Manchester-Essex Rotary Club will welcome area resident Saskia Roell, the best-selling author of, *A Suitcase Full of Faith*, as the first guest speaker of 2010 at their next meeting.

Due to the resignation of Michael Pratt, there is a vacancy on the Finance Committee that I need to fill. I thank Mike for his almost eight years of service on the Committee.

The Town's General By-law provides for a Finance Committee of seven members, of whom the moderator appoints three. The By-law also provides that the Committee shall furnish town meeting with recommendations on all articles in the warrant involving appropriations or other financial matters. Beginning on January 8 and continuing at least through March, the Committee will meet weekly.

I invite anyone interested in this appointment to complete the MBTS Volunteer Form on the Town website: on the "How Do I" page under "Sign Up For," click on "MBTS Volunteer Form." I ask that residents also send a letter explaining their interest and qualifications, addressed to me at 5 Spy Rock Hill or awilson@spyrockhill.net. This appointment will be for the unexpired portion of Mike's term, ending on June 30, 2026.

This is an important time of year for the Finance Committee as we prepare for the Annual Town Meeting. The Committee's role in this process is critical, so I hope to fill the vacancy as soon as possible.

Alan Wilson
Town Moderator

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Opinion

When Reason Prevails



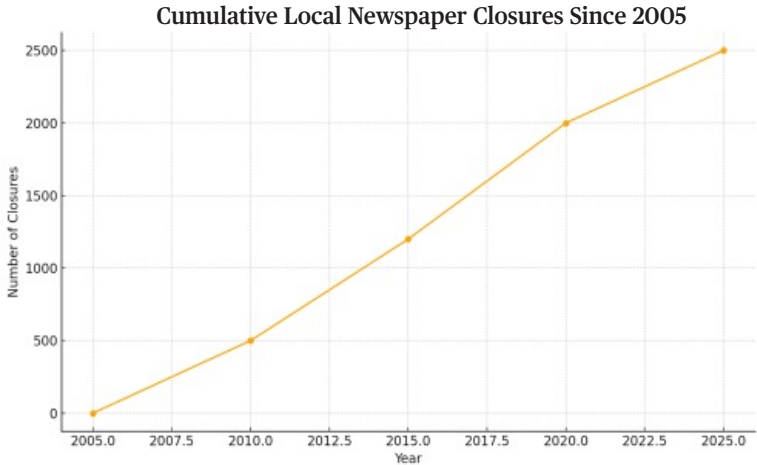
"My superpower is I'm impervious to reason."

By Chuck Wisner

In an era where democracy seems increasingly fragile, a centuries-old tradition quietly proved its worth in Manchester-by-the-Sea. Our most recent Special Town Meeting—a direct citizen democracy format dating back to colonial New England—demonstrated how informed citizens can still govern themselves effectively.

I'll admit, I've had moments when I was impatient and dismissed these meetings as tedious exercises in local bureaucracy. But watching our community tackle complex state-mandated zoning changes revealed something remarkable: when given the right conditions, democracy doesn't just survive—it thrives. The high school gymnasium that evening told its own story—with record attendance spilling into an adjacent auditorium, drawn there to vote on the controversial issue of whether to comply with state-mandated multifamily zoning.

This scene could have devolved into chaos. The stakes were high, and positions deeply held. As someone who helped develop the design guidelines for the proposed zoning changes, I arrived prepared for confrontation. Instead, something unexpected emerged. The majority of residents came armed with opinions, but also with curiosity to understand and ask questions about the state-required zoning, density calculations, approval processes, and affordable housing requirements. While national headlines chronicle democratic institu-



Medill School of Journalism, Local News Initiative. (2022). *The State of Local News 2022*. Northwestern University. Author: Penny Muse Abernathy

tions under stress, our meeting that evening offered a counternarrative. This wasn't democracy as spectacle—it was democracy as serious work. In the end, civic engagement and facts won the day.

Living in an Age of Distrust

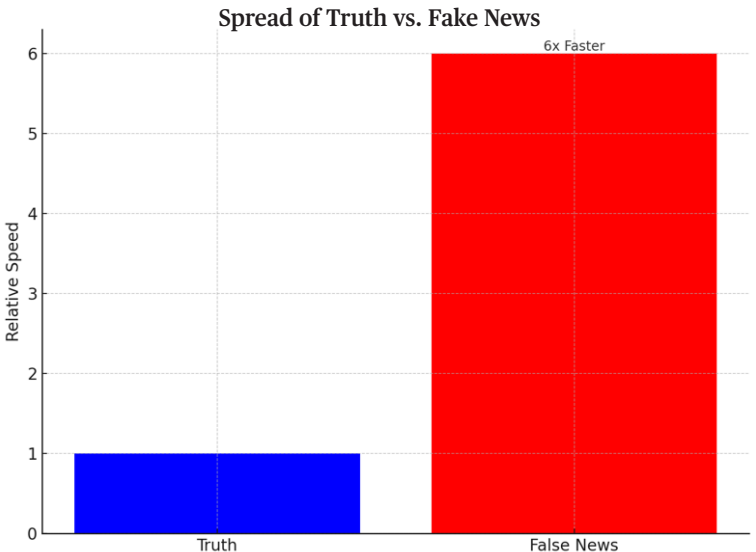
Yet this achievement in local democracy occurred against a troubling national backdrop. While our town meeting demonstrated the power of structured debate, deftly handled by our town moderator, our broader democratic institutions face mounting pressures. The contrast is striking. As our community worked through complex zoning details using Robert's Rules of Order and verifiable facts, elsewhere we've seen the questioning of election integrity and expert knowledge as 'elitist' thinking. The same week

our town celebrated a victory for fact-based decision-making, national headlines chronicled fresh challenges to democratic norms that the Founders considered sacred.

Increasingly, social media algorithms accelerate the spread of misinformation—a recent MIT study found false news travels six times faster than truth online. Trust in national institutions continues to erode, and partisan rhetoric often drowns out reasoned discourse.

This rapid spread of falsehoods undermines the informed decision-making essential to a healthy democracy. It feeds mistrust, fuels polarization, and leaves citizens less equipped to engage in meaningful discourse.

Compounding this is the erosion of local journalism, a cornerstone of democratic accountability. (Shout



Vosoughi, S., Roy, D., & Aral, S. (2018). *The spread of true and false news online*. *Science*, 359(6380), 1146-1151. DOI: 10.1126/science.aap9559

out to our local paper, The Cricket, for keeping a local source alive!) Since 2005, more than 2,500 local newspapers have shuttered, as documented by the University of North Carolina's Hussman School of Journalism and Media ("The Expanding News Desert", 2020). More recent data from Northwestern University's Medill School shows that over 360 newspapers closed between late 2019 and May 2022, accelerating the trend.

These closures create "news deserts," where communities lack credible local reporting, leaving a vacuum often filled by partisan sources, further straining trust in institutions. When communities lose their local news outlets, they also lose the detailed, reliable reporting that keeps citizens informed and leaders accountable.

The increasing danger of the spread of false information and a decline in reliable local and nonpartisan news requires robust regulation and renewed commitments to factual reporting from news sources—big undertakings.

So, what else can we do?

This is a good time to do the work of changing our conversations at the local, state and federal levels.

Starting From Mutuality, and Facts

While national conversations remain divided, Sweden offers an instructive model for moving forward. In the 1990s, I studied a courageous and transformative program in Sweden, The Natural Step (TNS). The founder, Dr. Karl-Henrik Robert established a science-based framework to promote sustainable development and environmental stewardship. Rather than getting mired in partisan debates, TNS adopted a novel approach that first identified what the various factions could agree on before tackling specific solutions. This successful program was adopted and promoted to all of Sweden by King Carl Gustaf XVI.

Major corporations demonstrated the power of this consensus-based approach. IKEA used TNS principles to transform its supply chain and product design, reducing waste while increasing profits. Electrolux redesigned its entire product line based on shared environmental

principles, leading to innovative, energy-efficient appliances. Even McDonalds in Sweden adopted the framework, dramatically reducing its environmental impact while maintaining profitability.

Our democracy needs a parallel reset. Just as The Natural Step succeeded by focusing on basic agreements about sustainability, we could begin by agreeing on a few basic principles: evidence-based decision-making, respect for expertise in complex systems, and the vital role of reliable journalism.

But as the data and charts illustrate, the challenges to this ideal are formidable. Our town's experience reminds us of what democracy can achieve when citizens engage in reasoned dialogue. Whether in a small town or across the nation, society and civilized cultures depend on systems that, while not perfect, work because they are designed to self-correct and improve over time. Consider these examples:

- The scientific method self-corrects through peer review and reproducibility, allowing new discoveries to refine or replace outdated theories.
- Democracy self-corrects via the independence of the three branches of government, elections, and judicial reviews, enabling societies to address ineffective governance and unjust laws.
- Economic markets self-regulate through supply and demand, encouraging innovation and price adjustments when imbalances occur.

Our town meeting taught us something vital and personal: Democracy has been thriving for 250 years, and throughout history, it works best based on reason, expertise, science, and reliable information. We can do our part by approaching our responsibilities with curiosity rather than certainty and when we're willing to learn, listen, and be humble enough to change our minds instead of just defending what we think we already know.

Chuck Wisner is a consultant, speaker, and author of *"The Art Of Conscious Conversations: Transforming How We Talk, Listen and Interact."* He lives in Manchester.



Our Class Action Lawsuit Against the State's MBTA "Mandate" Law (3A)

To the Editor,

On October 5th, 2022, a group of concerned citizens did not believe the State had the right to impose the MBTA "Mandate" Law (3A) on Rockport and filed a lawsuit opposing it. The lawsuit (Docket No. 2277CV00947) argued that it was unconstitutional since it is in conflict with Home Rule (1965, the State Home Rule Amendment, Article 89) and the Unconstitutional Conditions Doctrine along with other questionable procedural changes.

Without soliciting support from others, citizen groups

from other towns eventually heard about the lawsuit and concurred with the objections in the Rockport lawsuit. As a result, nine (9) separate citizen groups from nine (9) different towns joined the Rockport suit with their individual Motions to Intervene on 5/24/2024. The nine (9) groups are from Rowley, Malden, Wayland, Marblehead, Danvers, Gloucester, Millbury, Wakefield and Winthrop. This was the First Wave of municipalities motioning to certify the Rockport lawsuit as a class action lawsuit.

On 8/2/2024, the Second Wave in support of the Class Action Lawsuit was submitted. There were nine (9) in this second wave and they were from Needham, Sud-

bury, Marshfield, Acton, Newton, Duxbury, Maynard, Plymouth, and Hanson.

On 12/3/2024, the Third Wave in support of the Class Action Lawsuit was submitted. There were seven (7) in this third wave and they were from Marlborough, Wenham, Dracut, Westford, Wayland, Halifax, and Hamilton.

Currently, we are putting together the Fourth Wave. Once we thoroughly review the submitted paperwork, we will be submitting at least seven (7), if not more, additional municipalities. The Fourth Wave will consist of at least Manchester, Chelmsford, Belmont, North Reading, Lexington, Reading, and Ashby if not more.

In total we will have citizen organizations representing at least 32 municipalities joining in the Class Action Lawsuit with the Rockport's Suit against the state's MBTA "mandate" Law (3A). If this growing movement were made more public from the very beginning, there would probably be quite a few additional towns joining in by now.

As it is becoming obvious, many more towns and their citizens are opposing this overreach and seizure of municipalities zoning rights by the Governor, Attorney General and the state. The opposition to the state is

growing despite the states' threats of withholding grants and other grants not specified in the law. The opposition to the state is still growing despite the state even offering unsolicited grants as bribes for compliance. This is probably a risky tactic by the state since it is financially broke and I would suspect that some towns are actually now seriously looking at the yearly increased costs resulting from accepting the law versus the offered one-time limited grants being offered. Serious economic studies should be considered before any municipality votes on this mandate. In fact, several towns have requested audits from the state's Auditor to determine if this mandate is an unfunded mandate. Many are waiting for feedback from the state Auditor. In any case, please look into this possibly permanent town altering mandate and decide if it is right or wrong for your town.

The future wellbeing of your town is really up to you and your fellow citizens. Please don't leave that decision up to those who might not have the best interest of your town as a priority or to those not willing to stand up for those they represent.

John T. Kolackovsky
Rockport

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.**

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Catching the Wave

It’s “Seafood 2.0” at Gloucester’s newest restaurant



Drift and Wave Kitchen co-owners Kurt and Rick Hosman with chef Thiago Paixão (center), who brings a global perspective, fusing Japanese and Brazilian dishes to create a truly unique eating experience. Photo: Kris McGinn

By Kris McGinn

Wave Kitchen is excellent. It just is. What makes it so is surely the extraordinary culinary skill of Executive Chef Thiago Paixão. But in addition to the exceptional food, the experience you have when you visit Wave Kitchen in Gloucester is the product of the talented husband and husband team of Kurt and Rick Hosman. The couple together have an astounding breadth and depth of hospitality experience that has culminated in the inevitability of a place of their own. And while restaurants and bars seem to open and close monthly here on Cape Ann, these two are surviving – and thriving.

The road leading to Drift, and now Wave Kitchen, began where it ends—in Gloucester. While Kurt grew up in Manchester (class of ’86!), his mother was born and raised in Gloucester by a father who was a lobsterman and a mother who worked cutting fish at Gorton’s. It is this connection to the history and spirit of Gloucester’s seaport that inspired Kurt’s vision for Wave Kitchen.

Rick grew up in Atlanta but in 1997 moved to the east coast. Both men enjoyed successful careers in hospitality a part of which was Kurt’s key involvement in the opening of the Beauport Hotel in the summer of 2016. Once the hotel arrived both Kurt and Rick felt Gloucester changing. They found that people were beginning to see Gloucester as more than just a blue-collar fishing town.

When the fishing industry began to weaken in Gloucester, it was devastating, and the town struggled to redefine itself. Now seemed like a chance for a new chapter in the story of Gloucester, one that gave folks a place to go to enjoy spending their free time while appreciating this amazing historic seaport. And so, it is with this belief that the couple took their combined talents, life’s savings, and, as they say “two gay men with some style” – and dove into Drift.

They opened in 2018. And for the past seven years, Drift has been a vibrant addition to the Gloucester scene. They are known for having killer drinks and great live music. Weekend evenings are packed, loud, and lively. The bar has flourished. During Covid, an opportunity to expand the space presented itself. The couple banked on Covid not lasting forever and took yet another leap of faith. They built out the new space and added a small kitchen

as bars were now required by law to also serve food post-Covid. And while this worked and Drift continued to thrive and enjoy its established reputation as a great place for artisanal cocktails and local music, the food was limited.

Enter Thiago Paixão. Kurt and Rick decided they wanted more than typical bar food. Instead, they wanted to open a restaurant that again, reflected the essence of Gloucester, naturally this would include fresh seafood – but next generation.

And it began with Thiago. Born and raised in the mountainous city of Resplendor on the eastern coast of Brazil, Thiago’s love of food and family led to a passion for cooking. He is entirely self-taught, pulling on what he learned in his family’s beloved kitchen, cooking with tropical flavors,

vibrant colors, open-fire cooking, and warm and exciting South American spices. The deep culinary traditions of his region inform many of his most special dishes. While working under various excellent chefs here on the North Shore, Thiago was given the opportunity to work with renowned sushi chef Sang Hyun Lee of Sushi Sang Lee.

It was this new addition to his culinary repertoire that led to what has become Thiago’s unique style of cooking, using fresh seafood in an exciting new way.

Highlights from the current menu include entrees such as “Passion Fruit Glazed Salmon,” which has bright and bold tropical flavors with gorgeous salmon over a heavenly patty of crispy rice, and “The Taste of Brazil,” with Picanha beef with a vibrant

and herby chimichurri sauce that comes with truffle potato wedges that will make your toes curl.

My fellow diners and I also tried two sushi rolls and there was a lively debate as to which was more extraordinary. I was blown away by the “Pacific Breeze” with spicy tuna, shrimp tempura, cucumber, topped with tuna, avocado and sliced mango with a pineapple-chili sauce and scallions, while Erika



Two hallmark dishes. “The Taste of Brazil,” (below) with Picanha beef and herby chimichurri sauce and truffle potato wedges. And the “Pacific Breeze,” (above) sushi with spicy tuna, shrimp tempura, cucumber, topped with tuna, avocado, sliced mango and a pineapple-chili sauce and scallions. (Photo: Ethan Prospere)

Brown voted for the “Pineapple Delight,” which is totally unlike any sushi roll I have ever had—tempura shrimp, mango, carrots, cucumber, and avocado wrapped in soy paper and topped with pineapple salsa, sweet chili, microgreens, scallions, and toasted coconut. Yes, they taste as good as they sound.

It is refreshing to see locals who cherish the spirit and history of Gloucester translate it into something that inspires, delights, and cel-

brates the future of Gloucester while honoring its past. Thank you to Kurt and Rick for having the heart, vision – and courage to take the leap.

Wave Kitchen at Drift – 3 Main St. Gloucester, MA 01930 – (978) 879-4201 driftgloucester.com. Reservations encouraged. The Cricket features great things to do around Cape Ann and does not accept gifts of any type for coverage. Contact us with ideas at news@thecricket.com.



“Stacey Boulevard” cocktail and the “Passion Fruit Glazed Salmon.” Photos Kris McGinn, Ethan Prospere



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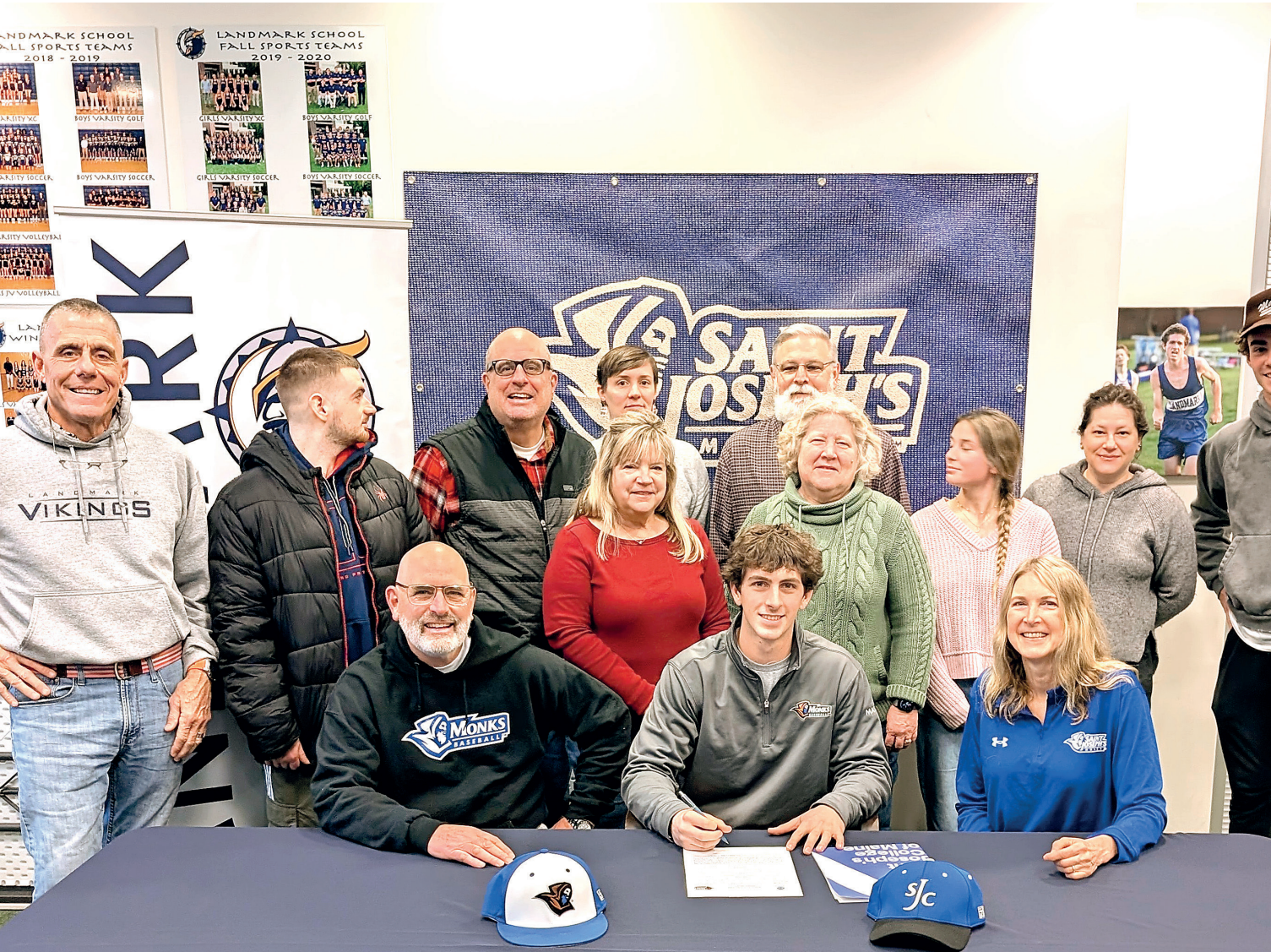
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Theo Masella Signs to Play Ball at St. Joseph’s College of Maine Varsity Baseball

Theo Masella, a senior at the Landmark School, has committed to St. Joseph’s College of Maine to play baseball, commencing spring 2026. In baseball, Masella is All-EIL, All NEPSAC Division B and was a three-year starter at shortstop on the NEB 17U team. Theo officially signed on to the varsity baseball roster at St. Joseph College of Maine. He chose SJC not only for its good baseball program and proximity to home, but he loves that the undergraduate population size of 1,000 is community-focused and affords professor-student interactions -- things he enjoys most about Landmark High in Beverly. He has been awarded SJC’s highest Academic Merit Scholarship (four years at 50% tuition) for his academic excellence, leadership and character during his LHS career. At St. Joe’s he plans on studying biology/pre-med. Congratulations!



New Year’s Day an indoor turf field was introduced to the Mac by the Sea’s selection of activities. Here an over-48 group of soccer players christened the turf. The field will be used by several different groups across the various training offerings.

(Photo: Paul Clark)

Vito LaMura Honored by New England Pats as SeniorCare Volunteer, Received \$10K Donation for Local NonProfit

SeniorCare got a big bump in notoriety and a donation this week when Vito LaMura, the long-time and much-loved SeniorCare volunteer was recognized for years of volunteer service to the organization as a “Patriots Difference Maker” in a special pregame ceremony during the Patriots regular season finale versus the Buf-

falo Bills on Sunday, Jan. 5 at Gillette Stadium. Sunday’s event was part of the team’s Celebrate Volunteerism initiative to highlight and share examples of dedicated volunteers throughout the state and build awareness of the need for volunteering. LaMura was selected as a 2024 Patriots Difference Maker of the Week for his com-

mitment to SeniorCare Inc. As part of this recognition, the Kraft family, the New England Patriots Foundation and Gillette will be making a \$10,000 donation to support the nonprofit. He got word of the recognition in November, but this week he was invited to receive the honor and news of the donation in person, at a game, in Foxboro. “On a personal level, I am thrilled to receive the 2024 Patriots Difference Maker of the Week Award,” said Vito. “An invitation to a Patriots game from the Kraft family at Gillette Stadium is a long-time fan’s wish come true. Most important, however, is my delight and deep appreciation of the Kraft family, focusing a regional spotlight on the power of volunteerism. Thank you so very much! I am only one of many, many, many volunteers who know that without service to others, our communities suffer and we are unfulfilled.” A volunteer of 25 years, Vito volunteers his time,



New England Patriots Chairman and CEO Robert Kraft posed for a group photo Sunday with the 2024 Patriots Difference Makers of the Week, including Senior Care’s Vito LaMura. (Photo: David Silverman/New England Patriots).



ing regular meals and social interaction through Meals on Wheels provides them with peace of mind. “Celebrating the dedication of volunteers across New England reminds us of the unique spirit and resilience that define this region,” said Robert Kraft, Chairman and CEO of the New England Patriots. He added that SeniorCare could not support these invaluable programs without wonderful volunteers like Vito. LaMura is an incredibly dedicated, caring human being, willing to help wherever and whenever. He has spent time volunteering for many organizations over the years. Vito continues to live in the service of others, which exemplifies the true spirit of volunteerism.



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ESSEX ECHO.

Town Administrator's Report

Board of Selectmen's Meeting of January 6, 2025
Report covers from December 14, 2024, 2024 to January 3, 2025

Review of Cybersecurity Assessment Report
As the Board may recall, the Town is participating in a comprehensive cybersecurity assessment offered by the North Shore IT Collaborative (through its consultant) to each participating community. The assessment has involved an IT audit, internal penetration and vulnerability testing, and phishing/social engineering testing for network users. The consultant that is conducting the assessment completed its work with respect to Essex recently and the Town Administrator (TA) discussed the results of the assessment with personnel from the Danvers IT Department on December 18, 2024. Overall, only minor questions arose concerning specific devices that are part of the Town's network and these have already been addressed. The TA will steadily accomplish other recommended work, such as refining and creating new written policies around network security, as time permits in the coming months.

Installation and Configuration of Replacement Network Video Recorder
As the Board may recall, although new security cameras have been installed at the Centennial Grove, the replacement of the existing network video recorder (NVR) at the public safety facility had been delayed due to staffing issues beyond our vendor's control. The replacement NVR will record the feeds from the new cameras at the Grove and will take over the feeds from all cameras that are in and around the public safety facility. The system should be fully operational by the end of the week of January 6, 2025.

Essex Police Association Collective Bargaining
Chairman Pereen, Finance Committee Chair Harris, and the TA met with the Chief of Police and members of the Essex Police Association on December 17, 2024 to continue collective bargaining with respect to a successor collective bargaining agreement (CBA). The next bargaining session has been set for January 14, 2025. The present CBA expires on June 30, 2025.

Safety Committee Meeting Summary
The TA participated in a meeting of the Safety Committee on December 19, 2024 as a member of the Committee. Chairman Pereen was also in attendance. The meeting featured a discussion regarding the Town's



safety training goals and accomplishments so far this fiscal year.

Additional Town Administrator Goal for Calendar Year 2025
At the last meeting, the Board approved seven goals for me to work toward in calendar year 2025 and asked me to prepare an eighth goal concerning documenting the wide array of responsibilities that my job entails. The TA recommends the following: Develop a comprehensive and living reference summary that documents procedures, duties, and institutional knowledge associated with my position as Town Administrator. The document will cover a wide array of topics including personnel, IT, procurement, grants, town meeting cycles, infrastructure, facilities management, utilities, solid waste, licenses, leases, budgeting, financial policies, regional services, scenic roads, public ways, schools, permitting/licensing, dredging, union relations, standing plans of the Town, boards/committees, and other topics.

Third Rider Training Program for New EMTs
The Essex Fire Department has several new EMT trainees who will benefit from additional, real-world experience. The City of Gloucester Fire Department routinely accepts new EMTs from other departments as "third riders" in order to give these new EMTs exposure to medical calls in a busy environment. We have discussed the possibility of enrolling trainees in this program with our insurer and have confirmed that the Town's insurance policy will cover the trainees during work in Gloucester. The Gloucester Fire Department requires that participants sign certain waiver forms.

Closing for the Sale of the Former Allen Properties
The TA is expecting the closing for the sale of the former Allen properties to 49 Jefferson LLC on January 8, 2025 in the amount of \$235,000. The properties will at that point be no longer owned by the Town after only several

months of ownership via the tax title process and the new owner has plans to clean up and redevelop the site. The Town will also receive a reimbursement of legal fees from the buyer and pro-forma taxes in accordance with Massachusetts law. The auctioneer will receive \$23,500 as a premium over and above the purchase price being paid to the Town.

Municipal Fuel Depot Design Update
At the last meeting, the TA shared with the Board that we were waiting for an engineer from Webb Engineering to provide the Town with a proposal for the design of a new municipal fuel depot at the DPW facility. Presently, the TA is expecting that engineer to visit our site sometime in January, prior to submission of his proposal. We have also received a proposal from Wilcox & Barton that is within the Town's budget. The TA will compare the two scopes of work prior to making a recommendation to the Board.

Senior Center Elevator Annual Inspection and Testing
The State Elevator Inspector visited the Essex Senior Center on December 24, 2024 to conduct the annual inspection and testing of the elevator in the building. The TA had lined up our elevator contractor, our generator contractor, and our fire alarm contractor as required and the TA was present for the testing. The elevator passed inspection. However, running the elevator while the building is running on generator power has the generator right at the limit of its operating capacity. Next year, the State is going to put in place a new testing requirement that the elevator be tested with weights in it, at its full load capacity. A test like that will almost certainly not work when the Senior Center is running on generator. The State Inspector and our elevator contractor have suggested that we look into a "battery lowering device". This type of device ensures that the elevator returns to the first floor if power is ever absent and the

elevator will not have to run on generator to pass the annual test with the device installed. We are working on getting a cost proposal from our elevator contractor for the installation of the device. Town Hall/Library and Senior Center Sprinkler System Testing

Our fire sprinkler contractor conducted the subject testing on December 27, 2024. Both systems regularly undergo testing of their backflow preventer valves but have not been tested for operation recently. Both systems passed the testing without issue and we will conduct testing annually going forward.

Approval of Fiscal Year 2026 Operating and Capital Budget Requests
The board discussed its draft FY26 operating and capital budget requests at the last meeting and we have revised the budget documents in accordance with the Board's guidance.

North Shore Coastal Coalition Meeting Summary
The TA attended the subject meeting hosted by Senator Bruce Tarr along with Selectman Phippen on December 17, 2024. The Coalition seeks to coordinate coastal issues among north shore communities. The meeting featured a discussion regarding the ongoing dredging project in Essex, the renovation of the UMass marine station in Gloucester, the Gloucester Coal Tar Settlement, the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management's upcoming stream crossing improvement grant application, and other topics.

Quarterly Meeting with Greater Cape Ann Chamber Officers
Mr. Zubricki attended the subject meeting on December 18, 2024 along with Chairman Pereen, Finance Committee Chair Harris, the Executive Director of the Greater Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce, and the co-chairs of the Essex Division. The meeting featured an update concerning progress made with respect to studying the Essex causeway future flooding issue. In an

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

Monthly Events

In addition to our recurring weekly and monthly events, we host numerous exciting events every month, all of which are highlighted in our monthly newsletter and calendar, as well as on the Essex COA Webpage.

LIBRARY NEWS



Grades 3-5 enjoyed an afternoon of festive fun making Holiday Slime to enjoy all season long. Photo: Paul Clark

Community Rummikub
Saturday, February 1 from 10 a.m.-12 noon. Join other players the first Saturday of the month to enjoy this popular game.

Felting Workshop
Tuesday, January 21 at 6 p.m. for adults and teens, 13+. Learn the art of needle felting and make your own winter bird to take home. Please register, space is limited.

Dungeons & Dragons Club
Starting Wednesday January 15 from 5:30-7 p.m. for grades 6, 7 & 8, this will run for six weeks. Space is limited so please register.

Mini Golf at the Library
Saturday, January 11 from 2-5 p.m. for all ages. Register for a time slot now.

Community Book Group
Monday, January 27 at 10 a.m. for a discussion of "The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid" by Bill Bryson.

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.

STEAM & Stories
Mondays at 9 a.m. for ages 2-6 years with their adult, join Ms. Christine to listen to stories, then explore science, technology, engineering, art and math.

Weekly Story Hour
Begins again Wednesday, January 22. Ages 0-2 at 9 a.m. Ages 3-5 at 10 a.m.

ESSEX POLICE NOTES

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29
No report.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30
10:59 a.m. Spring St., directed patrol, secured/checked.
2:27 p.m. John Wise Ave., animal complaint, gone on arrival.
3:04 p.m. Desoto Rd., fire investigation, fire false.
5:02 p.m. Moses Lane, missing person, assisted as needed.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31
1:02 a.m. Main St., selective enforcement, no action taken.
7:03 a.m. Southern Ave., utility request, notification made.
10:16 a.m. Story Acres Rd., male unconscious, transported to hospital. 7:37 p.m. Grove St., animal complaint, assisted as needed.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1
9:21 a.m. Island Rd., directed patrol, secured/checked.
1:34 p.m. Eastern Ave., male sick, transported to hospital.
6:01 p.m. Story St., male fall, transported to hospital.
9:05 p.m. Main St., fire alarm, fire false.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2
1:43 a.m. Shepard Memorial Dr., parking complaint, notification made. 3:58 a.m. Wood Drive, male with back pain, transported to hospital. 6:34 a.m. Main St., traffic hazard, secured/checked. 7:12 a.m. Story St., directed patrol, no action taken.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3
No report.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4
No report.

Essex Locals | January 10

115 Years Ago - 1910
There were 33 deaths in this town during the year 1909. The oldest was Francis Mears, 87 years 5 months, and the youngest was Kenneth M. Singer, 1 month 8 days.

90 Years Ago - 1935
A turkey supper was served Wednesday evening preceding the meeting of the Grange at Town Hall which was an installation of officers, the work being done by Harvey Turner of the State Grange.

ESSEX SENIOR LIVING | JAN 10

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

Recurring Events

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

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

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

Fitness Fun with Gil: Wednesdays, 10 a.m.: Start your day then with

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

Technology Assistance, Wednesdays 1-3 p.m.: Do you have questions about your computer, tablet, phone, or other technological challenges? Our Tech genius can help!

Ga.m.es with Gil at the Senior Center: Wednesdays 1-3 p.m.: ALL AGES WELCOME, come play BOARD ga.m.es or Scrabble, Boggle,

Cribbage, Backgammon, join us or bring a friend and come play ANYTIME!

Walking Club: FREE, Pass Required* Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays, 9:30-11:30 a.m.: Passes available for the Gordon College Bennett Center indoor walking track! *Contact Hamilton-Wenham Recreation at 978-468-2178 to register. Transportation is available from CATA (978-283-7916).

Grab and Go Meals, Mondays & Thursdays, 12 noon

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Greenbelt’s 8th Annual Film and Lecture Series Explores Nature at Night

Events Happening Across Essex County from January to March, Kicking Off on January 15

Essex County Greenbelt’s 8th Annual Film and Lecture Series, this year focused on “Nature at Night,” will take place from January to March at multiple venues across Essex County. The series features a diverse lineup of five engaging events, including storytelling, lectures, a film screening, and hands-on activities. All programs are free and open to the public, though pre-registration is required.

While winter in New England is often seen as a time to retreat indoors, marked by shorter days and longer nights, it also offers a unique opportunity to explore the natural world in a new light. This year’s Film and Lecture Series invites attendees to reframe the winter darkness – not as something to fear, but as a time to embrace the quiet beauty of nature and reflect on its mysteries.

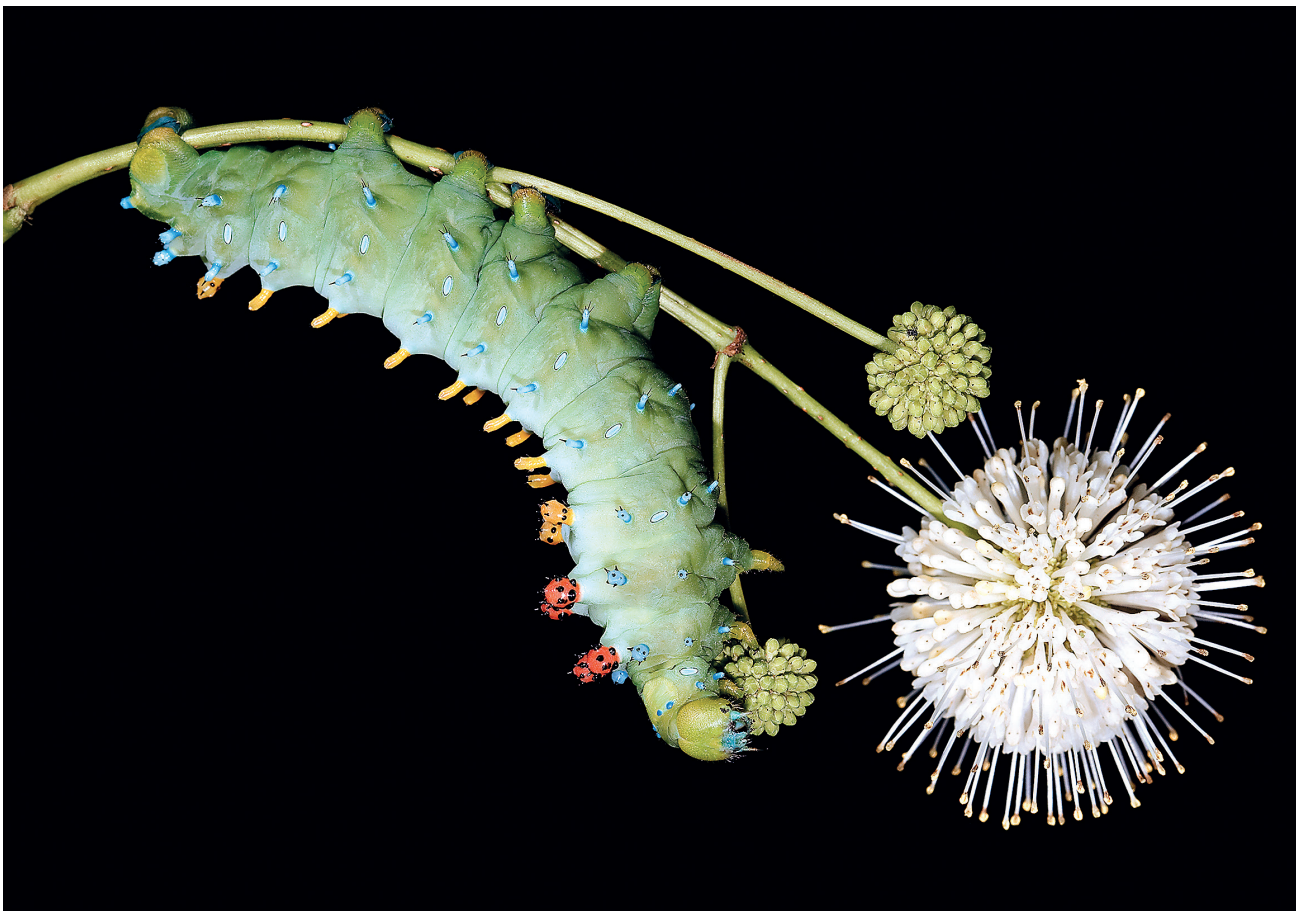
Through a variety of presentations, the series offers a special opportunity to connect with others, discover the wonders of the natural world, and experience a sense of community and warmth during the coldest months of the year. Guests are encouraged to arrive early to enjoy refreshments and mingle with fellow nature enthusiasts, creating a welcoming atmosphere for a season filled with connection and discovery.

Information at ecga.org/events.

FULL SCHEDULE

Abenaki Stories of the Night, January 15, 6:30-8 p.m.
A virtual event on Zoom with storyteller Anne Jennison

Cozy up with a warm drink on



The caterpillar of the nocturnal cecropia moth, North America’s largest native moth. Courtesy image

a dark night for these traditional Abenaki stories about nighttime. Anne Jennison is a New Hampshire-based traditional Native American storyteller, historian, educator, and craftsperson with both European and Abenaki heritage. Event is for all ages.

In Echo All About, January 30, 6:30 - 8 p.m. Film screening followed by discussion with Jane M. Winchell, curator, Peabody Essex Museum

A screening of the documentary In Echo All About, directed by filmmaker Nicholas

Mullins, which is focused on the battle against White Nose Syndrome in bats across North America and the dedicated scientists working to protect the species. The screening will be followed by a discussion with Jane M. Winchell, Curator of Natural History and the Sarah Fraser Robbins Director of the Art & Nature Center at the Peabody Essex Museum.

Location: HC Media Studio 101, Haverhill

The Dark Side of Light Pollution, February 5, 5:30 - 7 p.m.

Lecture by J. Kelly Beatty, renowned light pollution expert

Light pollution has become a widespread issue, diminishing our ability to see star-filled night skies and disrupting nocturnal ecosystems. Research also shows that excessive artificial light can interfere with melatonin production, negatively impacting human health. However, this trend can be reversed by adopting smarter lighting practices that reduce energy waste, protect wildlife, and promote healthier environments for both humans and animals. These topics and

more will be discussed by J. Kelly Beatty, an award-winning writer and speaker with more than 30 years of experience in light pollution advocacy.

Location: Lynn Museum & Arts Center, Lynn

Nocturnal Animals of New England, February 18, 6-7:30 p.m. Lecture by Dan Gardoqui, Maine wilderness guide, tracker, and nature educator

Nocturnal animals of New England are a diverse group of creatures that thrive in

the region's darkened hours. These animals, including owls, bats, coyotes, and foxes, are specially adapted to navigate and hunt in the night. Many rely on heightened senses such as acute hearing or echolocation to detect prey and avoid predators. Maine wilderness guide Dan Gardoqui will explore this secretive world during this lecture.

Location: Salisbury Library, Salisbury, MA

Nighttime Caterpillars & Moths, March 27, 6-7:30 p.m. Lecture & hands-on activities with The Caterpillar Lab

Did you know some caterpillars glow under black light? Join experts from The Caterpillar Lab for a captivating event where they’ll reveal the hidden world of these glowing creatures and other fascinating insects. Get an up-close look at their remarkable behaviors and biology and interact with live specimens while learning about the important role they play in our ecosystems.

Location: The Space at Zach Field Drums and Music, Amesbury

About Greenbelt: Greenbelt works with individuals, families, and communities to protect Essex County’s natural landscapes and ecosystems, safeguarding its unique biodiversity and scenic beauty. By acquiring, stewarding, and advocating for the protection of open spaces, farmlands, forests, and coastal habitats, Greenbelt plays a pivotal role in preserving vital green spaces for current and future generations to enjoy. To date, Greenbelt has completed more than 700 projects and protected more than 21,000 acres of local land.

LIBRARY NEWS



This week at the library make Cozy Luminaries for adults, Author Hour, Graphic Novel Club, Library Spa Day and much more.

Author Hour (Virtual)
Friday, January 10 from 7-8 p.m. Author and retired librarian, Victoria Gilbert will discuss her new cozy mystery novel, “Schooled in Murder.”
Monday, January 13 from 7-8 p.m., bestselling author Tracey Lange will discuss her new novel, “What Happened to the McCrays?”
Tuesday, January 14 from 7-8 p.m., author Clay McLeod Chapman will discuss his latest social horror novel, “Wake Up and Open Your Eyes.”
Wednesday, January 15 from 7-8 p.m., two-time Pulitzer Prize finalist and National Book Award finalist Adam Haslett will discuss his latest novel, “Mothers and Sons.”
Thursday, January 16 from 7-8 p.m., bestselling author Kate Fagan will discuss her new novel, “The Three Lives of Cate Kay”.

Make Tiny Art Events
January 2025

Art kits are all gone but you can still create a 3”x 3” work for the tiny art show. Drop off your tiny creations by Friday, January 10. MBTS Tiny Art Show Reception Saturday, January 25 from 1:30-3 p.m.

Cozy Luminaries
Saturday, January 11 from 2-3:30 p.m. for adults. Create hygge at home with these winter candle holders. Please register.

Dungeons and Dragons for Adults (Virtual)
Monday, January 13 and 27 from 7-9 p.m. Whatever your level of experience come join us for a one-shot adventure. Hamilton Wenham’s Reference and Technology Librarian, Lindley and Adult Services Librarian, Maddy will be your Game Masters for these two-hour sessions.

Caring for Native American Collections (Virtual)
Tuesday, January 14 from 3-4 p.m. Join us for a virtual conversation about a museum’s role and responsibilities in stewarding Native American cultural material.

Cookbook Club: Stanley Tucci
Thursday, January 16 from 6-7 p.m. January’s pick is any cookbook or biography by Stanley Tucci. Please register so we know how much cutlery to have on hand.

Knit Together
Tuesdays from 2-3 p.m. New to knitting? Start a simple project with needles and yarn provided by the library. Hoping to make some gifts for the holidays? Begin a new project or finish one

you’ve already started. Enjoy tea, cookies and company.

Tai Chi: The Longevity Tree Tai Chi Location Changes
Every Wednesday from 9:45-10:45 a.m. Manchester local Susan Halpern will continue her weekly Tai Chi class for ages 18 and older. The class will be moving locations as the weather changes and only those who have completed the Safety Release Registration Form on the library’s website, will get weekly location emails. 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.

Digital Advice Appointments on Monday and Drop-In on Friday
Register for a dedicated session Mondays at 12 or 12:30 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 certain 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. 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.

Mindfulness Meditation at the First Parish Church
Tuesdays from 5-6 p.m. Evening meditation happens weekly at 5 p.m. except for the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

Shut Up and Write (Virtual)
Every Thursday from 10 a.m.-12 noon. 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.

For Teens:
Join the Teen Advisory Board (TAB)
High school students who join the group will be involved in adding items to the library’s collection, promoting special events, planning the annual Haunted Library and more. You will get community service hours for school and pizza. Contact Tom Russo, the YA librarian.

TAB
Tuesday, January 14 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Earn community service hours while having fun planning events for your friends and the community.

MPL Children’s Events:

Graphic Novel Club
Wednesday, January 22 from 4-4:45 p.m. Snack and activity will be provided. This month’s pick is “Summer Vamp” by Violet Chan Karim. For grades 4-7.

Library Spa Day
Wednesday, January 15 from 12-1:30 p.m. It’s early release day so head over to the library for some self-care. The library’s Teen Advisory Board hosts this 90-minute session of fun and fabulosity geared toward grade schoolers and tweens. Pull up a beanbag chair and join us for a special movies screening immediately after.

Little Learners Playgroup
Thursdays from 10-11 a.m. Join this weekly playgroup presented by Early Childhood Partners CFCE. Please register.

Fall and Winter Storytime
Wednesday’s from 10:30-11:15 a.m. Ages 0-3

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From right, Becky Beckman, Grateful Friends, president, Board of Directors; Jon Gray, president, J Barrett & Company; Bob Nelson, co-owner, J Barrett & Company.
Courtesy photo

J Barrett & Company Donation to Grateful Friends

J Barrett & Company is pleased to announce that the company has made a \$12,000 donation to Grateful Friends in Beverly.

Agents throughout the firm's six offices initially raised \$6,000 but as in past years, J Barrett & Company matched the agents' fundraising efforts dollar-for-dollar.

"Grateful Friends makes a significant impact on the lives of adults who are experiencing the effects of dealing with cancer on a daily basis as they progress from diagnosis to remission," says Jon Gray,

president, J Barrett & Company. "Each one of us has been touched by cancer in some way, so we are very proud to be able to support such an amazing organization that helps our neighbors."

Adds Gray, "We appreciate the enthusiastic response our business has received over the past 17 years from clients throughout the North Shore. This is an opportunity for us—the agents and the company—to give back and to show our support for the entire community." "We focus on day-to-day issues that

affect cancer patients, many of which are financial such as paying electric bills," says Becky Beckman, president of the Board of Directors at Grateful Friends. "This donation will go a long way in helping us keep the lights on or gas in the car for many families, especially for those unable to work during their cancer treatments."

"Many cancer organizations are geared to children, but our goal is to address the practical needs adult cancer patients often face," adds Beckman. "For example,

health insurance takes care of medical expenses but for those living paycheck-to-paycheck, the usual household bills can be devastating."

"Support from local organizations like J Barrett & Company also helps us raise awareness about Grateful Friends among recipients and future donors," says Beckman.

"We appreciate the enthusiastic response our business has received over the past 17 years from clients throughout the North Shore," says Gray. "This is an oppor-

tunity for us—the agents and the company—to give back and to show our support for the entire community."

J Barrett & Company is a long-time contributor to area organizations such as The Open Door and Family Promise.

Grateful Friends

Founded in 2014, Grateful Friends' provides support to adults in Essex and Middlesex Counties living with or being treated for cancer. The nonprofit group has several programs including financial assistance to help pay bills and one that acknowledges caregivers for their assistance.

Grateful Friends was recognized as the 2022 "Non-profit of the Year" by the Greater Beverly Chamber

of Commerce. "The initial decision to support Grateful Friends came directly from our agents," says Gray. "They recognized the significant accomplishments of the organization and wanted to help."

For more information on how to donate or volunteer, contact Grateful Friends at 978.717.5116 or by e-mail at info@gratefulfriends.com.

J Barrett & Company

Established in January 2007, J Barrett is a service-oriented company that has quickly become the premier privately-owned real estate firm on the North Shore. The company serves the North Shore and Cape Ann areas from offices in Beverly, Gloucester, Hamilton, Ipswich, Manchester, and Marblehead.

Two Knights Honored by Masconomo Council 1232



Masconomo Council 1232 Family of the Year 2024 - Fred and Paula Newton family of Magnolia, shown left to right: Fred Newton, daughter Kendall, son Jack, Paula Newton and son Matthew.
Courtesy Photo



John Cusolito, Knight of the Year, 2024, Masconomo Council 1232 Knights of Columbus.
Courtesy Photo

The membership of Masconomo Council 1232 Knights of Columbus Manchester-by-the Sea annually votes to honor two brother knights for their service to the Council, their fidelity to the organization's foremost founding principle of charity, and the support of their faith community.

Their choices for Knight of the Year 2024 and Council Family of the Year 2024 were announced at the Christmas - New Year's Celebration mark-

ing the Council's 110th year in service on Cape Ann. At the conclusion of the event, Grand Knight Steven Kuhn revealed that Deputy Grand Knight John Cusolito of Hamilton was voted Knight of the Year and the recipient of Masconomo Council 2023 Family of the Year is headed by Fred Newton and his wife Paula of Magnolia.

Kuhn cited John Cusolito's tireless service as chairman of the council's fundraising committee responsible for

the Father Jack Gentleman Memorial Scholarship Fund, the Annual Fall Fundraiser Raffle, the iconic Tootsie Roll drive and the Annual Fall Fun Fest.

Kuhn said, "There are givers and takers in life. John is a giver. He is an individual who gives unselfishly to St Paul's, Hamilton as a lector and religious education director for the parish's confirmation program. He is a trusted counselor to an order of religious consecrated to

evangelization. He is a long-time referee for youth sports in Essex County. He is a community volunteer for Meals on Wheels. His contributions are integral to the vitality of Masconomo Council 1232. John gives unselfishly of his time, talent and treasure to his Church and community.

Most importantly, John Cusolito is a dedicated husband and father."

Accepting the award, John Cusolito said, "Everything I do for and with the knights of the Masconomo Council is a pleasure because its activities are focused on charity and brotherhood whether raising funds for scholarships, refugee relief in the Middle East, and food pantries that supply food, and clothing, or serving at community suppers. The Knights of Columbus is an ideal fraternal service organization. In addition to lifting up its faith community, it extends its helping hand to Cape Ann residents in countless ways."

Grand Knight Kuhn pointed out that Fred Newton not only serves as the Council's membership chair, he also serves as the organizer of the very popular mid-winter Free Throw Competition sponsored by the Knights

John Cusolito was named 2024 Knight of the Year by the Masconomo Council 1232 KOC in Manchester

in Manchester-by-the-Sea. "Whether on the basketball court, on the Tootsie Roll drive, or helping to build a shed in aid of refugees fleeing persecution, Fred is there to lend a hand with the support of his family."

"The Free Throw Competition and Annual Free Fall Fun Fest both benefited from the enthusiastic support of Fred, his wife Paula and their sons Jack and Matt and daughter Kendall. Their help ensured the events success. They are The Family of the Year."

Winter is a season of recovery and preparation.

~ Paul Theroux ~

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Puzzle

THEME: SYNONYMS

ACROSS

1. Half of half-and-half
6. *Gratuity
9. Remain unsettled
13. Pita, alt. sp.
14. Uncle Sam wants whom?
15. Played violin, e.g.
16. "Encore!"
17. Young canine
18. Amber warning
19. *Entice
21. *Agreement
23. "___ Te Ching"
24. Goose egg
25. Antonym of keep
28. *Affection
30. Open wine, e.g.
35. Frosts a cake
37. Leave in a bucket
39. *Parlor
40. Coating of aurum
41. Like many bathroom floors?
43. Border pass
44. Full of emotion (2 words)
46. Opposite of talker?
47. Tel ___, Israel
48. Auto ___ website
50. *Module
52. Compass point between NE and E
53. *Insane
55. Old-fashioned before
57. *Prevent
60. *Ditch
63. Peninsula of 38th parallel fame
64. Single-___ plastics
66. Donkey + horse, pl.
68. All told (2 words)
69. '80s band "___ At Work"
70. Bay window
71. Chapter 11 issue
72. Mouse turf
73. Email option

DOWN

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2. Capital of Latvia

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3. Bibliographical abbr.
4. Not upright
5. Instructions handbook
6. Use an Underwood
7. Promissory note letters
8. Cocoon dwellers
9. Horse and mallet sport
10. *Pitcher
11. One ridiculed for studiousness
12. Banned insecticide, acr.
15. Kevin ___ and Sir Francis ___
20. Resting spot for a chicken
22. French vineyard
24. *Avid
25. *Correct
26. *Slipperier
27. 4th letter of Greek alphabet
29. *Nothingness
31. Spanish sparkling wine
32. Martini garnish
33. Violinist's pine resin
34. *Rogue

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

36. Wall support
38. It often precedes "eye"
42. Laundry room appliance
45. Correspondence friend
49. Feel remorse
51. Seismic shake
54. Card game move
56. Accustom
57. *Sharpen
58. A in UAE
59. Cheesy patty
60. Be inclined
61. Paper holder
62. Dog command
63. Baby goat
65. Pirate's turf
67. "Rocky" creator

Religious Notes

First Universalist Church of Essex
59 Main St, Essex, MA
Sunday services 10 a.m. and coffee hour after service Visit our website for more events & info: <https://www.uuessex.org/>

Cornerstone Church
We gather for worship each

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

Visitation Parish - Mass Schedule
Sacred Heart Church - Saturday Vigil Mass - Virtual Mass - on our YouTube as well as www.mecatholic.org
Sunday Mass-8:30 a.m.
St. John the Baptist Church - Saturday Vigil Mass-5 p.m. Sunday Mass-10 a.m.
Please go to our website: www.mecatholic.org for Sacramental Information as well

as Parish Registration if you are new to town or looking to join a Catholic Church.

The Assumption of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church
8 Lafayette Road, Ipswich Mass.
Church services, with Father Christopher Kolentsas, are held each Sunday.
Sunday's Divine Liturgy, with Father Christopher, starts at

9:30 a.m. followed by a weekly sermon. All are welcome to attend.

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Sunday Worship, 10 a.m. led by Rev. Katherine Schofield
Music led by Dr. Herman

Weiss and the First Parish Choir.
Monday, Friends of the COA Senior Drop in, 10 a.m.-12 noon
6:30 p.m. Trustees
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)

CP

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ROCKPORT
Nestled along the picturesque coast, this seaside Queen Ann victorian antique offers a rare opportunity to restore a piece of history.
\$2,990,000 | Jane Meterparel | 781-237-3341

NEWBURYPORT (COMMERCIAL)
Condo unit has 3 individual offices, a utility-break room, common area and a half bath. Located in the heart of downtown Newburyport,
\$300,000 | Siga Snipas | 978-407-6970

ROCKPORT
Oceanfront! Overlooking Twin Lights, this 9 bedroom, 9 bath property offers all the room you will need for extended family, friends or guests.
\$3,950,000 | Michael Beaton | 978-884-9910

MANCHESTER
Discover timeless elegance in this stunning Colonial home. The separate guest house is ideal for extended family or rental income.
\$2,250,000 | Philio Cushing | 978-884-9904

HAVERHILL
Nestled in a tranquil, wooded setting, this private end-unit townhouse offers an exceptional retreat. Provides both peace and privacy.
\$399,999 | Heidi Roy | 978-270-7336

GLOUCESTER
Revive, Renew, or Re-define! Welcome to your winter project! This rare 4-bedroom home offers over 2200 sf of space and a large sunny yard.
\$579,000 | Kristal Pooler | 978-764-4506

GLOUCESTER
Multifamily- Your chance to live minutes away from Gloucester's local beaches, bustling downtown, schools, and much more!
\$659,000 | Bruce Figurido | 978-869-3151

MANCHESTER (COMMERCIAL)
A rare offering of an office building-16,200 sf with more than 19 parking spaces, located just 2/10 of a mile from the town center.
\$2,197,000 | Karen Bernier | 978-807-5580

ESSEX
Free Standing condo/single family, No HOA Fee, low RE taxes. 3-bedroom, 1.5-bathroom Colonial, situated in the heart of South Essex
\$549,000 | Debra Lovelace | 978-5879-7356

GEORGETOWN
This beautifully renovated & expanded American 4-Square home offers a versatile layout with modern updates throughout.
\$699,000 | Andrea Lacroix | 508-561-1161

SALEM
Beautiful duplex condo, perfectly located in downtown Salem within minutes of all the shops, restaurants and unique cultural venues.
\$697,000 | Alli Allmendinger | 978-325-2702

DANVERS
Fully renovated 4-bed Cape in ideal Danvers location! This beautifully updated Cape-style home is just minutes from downtown Danvers.
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The Bleak Mid-Winter



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

Our early winter celebrations have come and gone. We've opened our homes and extended hospitality from simple to lavish. Hopefully, as we celebrated, we affirmed our connections with those we cherish. I hope your festivities were fun, life-affirming, and satisfying.

Whatever you celebrate, I'll guess that the decorations are packed up, the house is back to normal, and we are settling into the season of long nights. So, in the privacy of the dark and quiet, let's open our hearts wide and reflect.

Is there a gift packaged up and hidden in the pitch black at 4 p.m.?

The darkness is painful for some and can be a huge challenge. Many of us do as well in the seasons where we can walk, weed, or water until 9 p.m. Unfortunately, as we approach February, the weather is not hospitable for spending much time outside or staying out late (and, of course, by late, I mean 7 p.m.). If this hasn't happened to you yet, and you think I am a fossil... just wait. The whole idea that "this isn't going to happen to me. I just won't let it" is the April

On Cape Ann, the winters are when we “reclaim” our precious seashore. We have our sacred places back, in private, for a while. Are we taking advantage of that? Walk or “spin” the beach. Get tea or coffee and watch the surf.

Fools Prank of youth.

Time.

We have the rare opportunity to slow down and even STOP. What is waiting for us in the quiet as the weather drives us indoors into our comfies? Is it a book, a series, a letter, a phone call, an email, or a connection? Is it reconciliation after many years of brokenness? Is it figuring out a strategy or plan with a loved one?

Is it spending some time, intentionally, doing an inside job? An inside job is the opposite of the holiday chaos we're familiar with (shopping, wrapping, cooking, cleaning, and entertaining). Instead, it's quiet, contemplative, and intentional.

Maybe it's not even heavy-duty intentional work. Perhaps it's just being still and noticing what's around. On Cape Ann, the winters are when we “reclaim” our precious seashore. There are still visitors who bring dogs to frolic on the doggie days, but overall, the throngs of the summer crowds are

gone. We have our sacred places back, in private, for a while. Are we taking advantage of that? Walk or “spin” the beach. Get tea or coffee and watch the surf.

All kinds of things are possible as this season of opportunity knocks on our door.

You can customize your expectations—from deciding to see the beauty in the trees without leaves. Look at the structure, the miracle of how the tree stays alive, despite the frozen tundra.

I always “hated” the look of the “dead and desolate” tree limbs, but many years ago, I forced myself to find the beauty. It's there; I found it. I don't see it as beautiful daily, but I can find it.

Use the gift that the short days and long nights give us: newfound gratitude for those rare days of blue sky, and a renewed appreciation for our lovely warm drinks, hot cocoa, mulled cider, and wassail of your creation.

It's not the “bad” season. It's hard. A season of dif-

ficulty. A season of retreat. A season of contemplation. Rumination. Consideration. Emancipation.

If you are way ahead of me, you may not need language at all. You are just “present,” connected, and experiencing life around you. You commune with your environment and have developed the ability to feel oneness with the waves, birds, cold air, wind, and snow.

You might foster this connection in the elements or behind a window next to the fire.

This may resonate with you, and your escape plan is ready. Or perhaps the notion of going inward doesn't appeal to you. You have nothing to do, nothing unresolved, nothing to figure out. Congratulations. You are a rare bird.

Admittedly, slowing down is hard for me. But honestly, this subject matter is written as much for me as it is for you. So, now that the holiday frenzy is over, take many deep breaths and reset. What needs tossing? What needs to come inside from the cold?

When it's ten below zero wind chill, it's good to have an inside job available. It might just be an unexpected blessing amid the bleak mid-winter.

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PET OF THE WEEK



Yowzer Meowzer

Meet Meowzer, a charming and friendly 1-year-old fellow. He has had a urinary blockage in the past, making him a bit more prone to future blockages. He's been healthy since being in Cape Ann Animal Aid's care with a special diet. He loves to be snuggled and is a dream at vet visits. Meowzer is looking to be your one-and-only cat in the home since he

doesn't seem to be a big fan of them here at the shelter. As part of the extended stay club, Meowzer's adoption fee has been reduced so that hopefully he can find a home sooner! Visit www.capeann-animalaid.org for more information about Meowzer and all the other animals waiting for homes here at the Christopher Cutler Rich Animal Shelter, 4 Paws Lane in Gloucester.

Senior Highlights | January 10

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

COA to Walmart

On Friday, January 10, the COA van will be going to Walmart in Danvers. The van will start picking up seniors around 10 a.m.

Mangia, Meatballs & Murder

The COA is pleased to present The Delvena Theatre Compa-

ny's production of Mangia, Meatballs, & Murder! at the Chapel, on Wednesday, January 15, at 1 p.m. Who dunnit? An exciting, live, comedic, interactive murder mystery performance set in Luigi's Ristorante featuring Lynne Mouton, Joseph Zamparelli and Fran Baron in multiple roles. Come put your "super sleuth" on - having much fun along the way. Token prizes will be awarded. Coffee and Italian pastries will be served. Mangia, Meatballs, & Murder! is supported in part by a grant from the Manchester Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cul-

tural Council, a state agency.

Sharpen Up Your Cookie Decorating Skills

On Wednesday, January 22, the COA will host "Cookie Decorating with Kristan," the owner of From Scratch Custom Made Cookies. The event will take place at the Congregational Chapel at 12 noon. You will learn different cookie decorating techniques and practice piping and filling. You can follow the pictures given or create your own. At the end of the class, you will go home with four decorated cookies. \$5

per person. The van will start picking up seniors at 11:45 a.m. For further information or to sign up by January 16, please call the COA office. Limited to 20 participants.

It's January's Lunch of the Month!

It's a Chinese Luncheon Buffet for senior citizens scheduled for Tuesday, January 28 at the Congregational Chapel at 12 noon. Ring in the Chinese New Year and the Year of the Snake with delicious Chinese food catered by Gourmet Garden.

PUBLIC NOTICE



TOWN OF MANCHESTER

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

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Manchester Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing regarding an application for Special Permit under Section 12.5.2 of the Zoning By Laws, filed by Joe Cunningham for 23 Old Neck Rd (map13, lot 32). The project involves the razing of an existing non-conforming dwelling and construction of new conforming dwelling and garage. The Public Hearing will be discussed at a hybrid meeting on Wednesday, January 22, 2025 at 7:00pm in Room 5 at Town Hall located at 10 Central St, and on Zoom. Zoom information will be posted on the MBTS website.

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

January 3, 2025 MC
January 10, 2025 MC

PUBLIC NOTICE



TOWN OF MANCHESTER

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

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Manchester Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing regarding an application for Special Permit under Section 5.3 of the Zoning By Laws, filed by Lynn Marshall for 7 Highwood Road (map 29, lot 32). The project proposes a covered walkway between an existing garage and an existing house, creating a single structure subject to the main structure setbacks. The Public Hearing will be discussed at a hybrid meeting on Wednesday, January 22, 2025 at 7:00pm in Room 5 at Town Hall located at 10 Central St, and on Zoom. Zoom information will be posted on the MBTS website.

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

January 3, 2025 MC
January 10, 2025 MC

PUBLIC NOTICE



TOWN OF MANCHESTER

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

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Public Hearing Notice

The Manchester-By-The-Sea Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing on the Application by Richard Bedell for a Notice of Intent for the proposed construction of a single car garage, site improvements, and proposed mitigation plan at 48 Central Street (Map 44, Lot 19 in) Manchester-By-The-Sea. The proposed activities will occur within the buffer zones to Coastal Bank and Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage.

This request will be heard at a VIRTUAL meeting on Tuesday, January 14, 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.

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

January 10, 2025 MC

PUBLIC NOTICE



TOWN OF MANCHESTER

Town Hall
10 Central Street
Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA, 0194

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Public Hearing Notice

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 14, 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.

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

January 10, 2025 MC



The North Shore's Premier Real Estate Agency



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.



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.



IPSWICH

\$2,150,000 | Alle Cutler & Ed Dick
Develop 17+ acre parcel, zoned limited industrial, with over 975 ft of frontage on Route 1. Previous plans approved by town, land has been cleared and some drainage areas have been excavated.



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.



MANCHESTER

\$1,395,000 | Emily McPherson
Newly renovated 3-bedroom, 4-bath home in beautiful 1-acre setting has flexible main floor plan with fireplaced living room, pantry in beautiful kitchen, 1st floor main suite, office, finished basement.



PEABODY

\$880,000 | Christine Grammas
Investment opportunity. 2-Family and single-family on 1 lot. Each has 2 bedrooms and 1 bath. 2-car garage, 6-car parking, yard. Near Peabody/Danvers line, Routes 128 & 114. Live in one, rent two.



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.



PEPPERELL

\$749,900 | Dan McInerney
Equestrian property. 2 buildable home sites & approved septic plans. 16-stall barn, 2-stall quarantine barn, 3 stalls in indoor riding hall, outdoor sand ring. Viewing room. Lots sold together.



SHARON

\$299,900 | Kelly Vanikiotis
Sharon Green. 1-bedroom, 1st floor unit has open floor plan, updated bath, and tons of closet space. All utilities except cable, internet, phone in HOA fee. Near Massapoag trail, highways, train.

1 BEACH STREET • MANCHESTER-BY-THE-SEA, MA 01944 | 978.526.8555 | JBARRETTREALTY.COM

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COLDWELL BANKER MANCHESTER-BY-THE-SEA



17 Sawmill Circle (rental) Manchester | \$7150 a Month
Luxury rental available in Manchester. High end finishes including granite counters hardwood floors and attached garage.
Krsita Julian | Realtor 617-312-5413



1 Proctor St Manchester | \$5,400,000
Modern layout with three floors of living space. 4 Bedroom, 3 1/2 baths, Year lease Available now \$7150 month.
Krsita Julian | Realtor | 617-312-5413



5 Proctor Street Manchester | \$15,200,000
Elegant turnkey waterfront home on over four acres of beautiful grounds with incredible inner harbor views, dock, pool and tennis court.
Krsita Julian | Realtor | 617-312-5413



3 Lexington Ave Magnolia | \$950,000
Attention Contractors, Developers and savvy Investors! This is a great opportunity to obtain this 3 multifamily mixed used project in the heart of beautiful Magnolia in Gloucester.
Gaby DeBenedictis | Realtor 978-879-9773



22 Clifton St Salem | \$739,000
22 Clifton Ave, Salem, (which is the desirable forest river area). It's a lovely 3-BR/2 BA colonial, right next to the ocean, (although no water views). The property has a gorgeous kitchen, 2 really nice full bathrooms, a first-floor home office and a working wood fireplace. There is a 2-car detached garage with plenty of off-street parking and a spacious front yard. Recently refinished hardwood floors throughout and freshly painted throughout.
Evonne Blanchard | Realtor

Thank you and Happy 2025!

In 2024, Coldwell Banker proved once again that excellence is in our DNA. From record-breaking achievements to game-changing innovations, our agents and teams set the bar higher at every turn. Together, we didn't just succeed—we shined brighter than ever before. As we close this remarkable chapter, we're filled with gratitude for our agents and excitement for the boundless opportunities ahead. Here's to thriving, achieving, and leading the way in 2025.



Lynda Surdam | Realtor | 978-764-7474

4 Lane Road Annisquam | \$2,250,000
Iconic Annisquam waterfront property located at the head of Lobster Cove. Proudly sited on over an acre of land with rolling lawns, bountiful seaside gardens and private tidal float and dock. The property enjoys stunning views of the mesmerizing changing tides in Lobster Cove. The property consists of a 9 room, 3 bedroom, 3.5 main house and handsome barn conversion guest house with great room, kitchen, bathroom and bedroom. Both structures offer stone terraces and stellar water views from every window. The property has been lovingly maintained, updated and is in excellent move-in condition.

40 BEACH STREET, MANCHESTER-BY-THE-SEA, MA 01944
TELEPHONE 978-526-7572

COLDWELLBANKERHOMES.COM