

MANCHESTER CRICKET

A Local Tradition Since 1888

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 2025

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BRIEFLY

Essex Fire Dept. Receives Grant for Safety Equipment

Fire Chief Christian Hassel is pleased to announce that the Essex Fire Department has been awarded by the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security and the Department of Fire Services (DFS), the sum of \$12,460.00 in State Fiscal Year 2025 funding for the Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant Program. These funds will be utilized to purchase structural firefighting personal protective equipment, including full sets of structural turnout gear and helmets.

Last Call! Brunch at the Legion Jan. 26

Kettle Cove Catering and Amaral Bailey Legion Post 113 are planning a brunch Sunday, Jan. 26, from 9 a.m. - 12 noon. \$15/person adults and \$5 for children age 10 and under will get you a brunch buffet that includes french toast, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, fruit cup, juice and coffee. And, since it's at the Legion, the bar will also be open (think Mimosas, Bloody Marys and Irish Coffee). If this is successful, "Brunch at the Legion" will become a regular happening.

"Welcome Home Essex!"

Housing affordability and development trends in Essex will be on the docket at a webinar at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 30 called "Welcome Home Essex!" The webinar is hosted by the Essex Affordable Housing Trust and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council to address the town's ongoing effort to create a Housing Production Plan. Info at essexma.org.

Chebacco "Snowy Social" in Manchester Feb. 2

The Chebacco Lake & Watershed Association's "Snowy Social" is scheduled for Sunday, February 2 from 3 to 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion Hall, 14 Church St. in Manchester. Celebrate 40 years of watershed advocacy. Kids welcome, with pizza provided and a cash bar. Open to all!

Last Call! MBTS Museum Kids Art Program Jan 25

This Saturday, Jan. 25, it's a children's art workshop at the Manchester by the Sea Museum inspired by the portraits by artist Charles Hopkinson. Later, participants can make their own self-portrait! Children, ages 5-12, are invited for this free and fun event from 10 a.m. to noon. Made possible by a Hooper Fund grant. Go to the museum's website to register. Walk ins are also welcome.



OH SO CHILLY!
The quiet beauty of a bitter cold morning shows off the Essex River against the back of the Causeway. This week, the town begins a series of public meetings with a planning consultant about the future of the Causeway given threats of flooding, and what it all means for the businesses that have made their livelihoods in downtown Essex for centuries. (Photo: Erika Brown)

Mass. Owes Feds \$2.1 Billion To Resolve Unemployment Mistake

Biz Groups Fear Crushing Blow In Wake Of "Monumental Error"

By Chris Lisinski

Massachusetts must pay the federal government \$2.1 billion over the next decade after the Baker administration mistakenly used federal pandemic funds to cover unemployment benefits, officials said Monday.

Gov. Maura Healey, who succeeded Baker in 2023, and her deputies unveiled details of a settlement they reached with the outgoing Biden administration Friday in which the Bay State will repay most but not all of the amount it owed due to the error committed years ago.

The settlement saddles the state with a major new cost at a time when budget-writers are grappling with a series of other headaches and the unemployment insurance system already faces problems.

Healey announced in the summer of 2023 that her team discovered the Baker administration improperly used about \$2.5 billion in federal pandemic relief funds to cover jobless benefits that should have been paid by the state.

With fees and interest, the



Gov. Maura Healey speaks with reporters at Newton City Hall on Nov. 25, 2024. Photo: Chris Lisinski

total liability surpassed \$3 billion, according to Healey's office, who said talks with the U.S. Department of Labor reduced the amount owed to \$2.1 billion over the next 10 years.

The parties reached a deal at the end of last week, before Republican President Donald Trump took office.

"We were dismayed to uncover early on in our term that the previous administration misspent billions of dollars in federal relief funds and that our state was facing what could have been a more than \$3 billion tab to pay it back," Healey said in a statement on Monday. "For the past year and

a half, we have engaged in extensive negotiations with the U.S. Department of Labor to minimize the impact on Massachusetts residents, businesses and our economy. Today, we have reduced our potential liability by over \$1 billion and negotiated a decade long payment window to mitigate the impact."

She added: "It is incredibly frustrating that the prior administration allowed this to happen, but we are going to use this as a moment to come together with the business and labor community to make meaningful reforms to the Unemployment Insurance

system," she added. Payments will begin Dec. 1, 2025 and continue each year for the next decade, the Healey administration said.

The agreement calls for principal payments to come from the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund, which is funded by a tax on employers and is also used to pay benefits. Interest payments will come instead from the state's General Fund.

Healey's office said businesses will not face higher rates on their unemployment insurance payments through at least the end of 2026. After that, rates will depend on system reforms, Healey's team said.

Healey pledged to pursue changes to lighten the burden on employers, who already face higher costs to cover a surge of claims during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The governor instructed Labor Secretary Lauren Jones and Administration and Finance Secretary Matthew Gorzkowicz to "conduct a comprehensive review of the solvency of UI and assess potential reforms," her office said. Officials will seek input from business and labor leaders, and present ideas to Healey.

... (Continued on page 3)

Weekly Weather Chart

Saturday 25 Jan		33°	19°
Sunday 26 Jan		40°	26°
Monday 27 Jan		37°	20°
Tuesday 28 Jan		37°	32°
Wednesday 29 Jan		37°	30°
Thursday 30 Jan		38°	27°
Friday 31 Jan		33°	26°

Weather data pulled Wednesday and is subject to change.



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 BOS Monday, January 27 6 p.m.
	Essex BOH Monday, January 27, 7 p.m.
	MERSD Essex SBC Meeting Tuesday, January 28 6 - 8 p.m.

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It's All Local for Jim Brown, 2025 Chamber President

The full force focus of the state's 5th largest Chamber of Commerce in 2025 will be the local economies of Cape Ann. The campaign, "Powered by LOCAL," was announced at the 103rd Annual Greater Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce Gala by the newly installed president, Manchester's Jim Brown.

Jim was officially named to the top board position to great fanfare on Friday at the Chamber event at the Beauport Hotel in Gloucester.

"The idea of serving in the top position at the Chamber is surreal," said Brown. "I can't tell you how proud it makes me. And humbled too."

"Powered by LOCAL," he said, is designed to strengthen the local economy and high-

light the businesses that make Greater Cape Ann a special place to live, work, and visit.

For many, the message is the right one, coming at the right time for Cape Ann. Downtown business districts across the region have been challenged by a variety of issues, from escalating real estate prices to the dearth of online shopping to environmental disruptions. Preserving the "charming" community feel of downtowns depends on locals supporting local businesses, said Brown.

Jim Brown, a realtor at Coldwell Banker's Manchester office, grew up in Manchester as one of 25 first cousins in a large, engaged local family that, together, ran the local grocery store.

... (Continued on page 2)

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/TheManchester-Cricket).

Renee Moniz

Irene Moniz, known as Renee, passed away in her sleep on New Years Eve 2024 in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida at the age of 98. She was predeceased by her husband of 72 years, George Moniz Sr., who passed in 2017. Born in Fall River, MA to Valerie and Pietr Dopart, Renee was the last living of 13 siblings, 6 boys and 7 girls. She was the beloved cook at Brookwood School in Manchester for decades. Renee and George were among

the first employees at the school, starting in 1956. After retiring in 1989, the couple lived on Old Essex Road in Manchester. As a widow, Renee started spending more time in Florida especially in the winter. In 2021 Renee moved to the Brookdale Retirement community in Palm Beach Gardens, FL to be near one of her sons.

Renee loved spending time at the family lake cottage in New Hampshire in the summer and winter, playing cribbage with the Manchester Cribbage Club, traveling



with the Golden Agers Club, teaching kids cribbage at the Manchester Library, taking cruises in the Caribbean and Australia, and walking on Singing Beach. She loved to garden and after retirement tended to flowers and vegetables at their house on Old Essex Road and then at The Plains.

Renee is survived by her two sons, George Moniz Jr of Costa Mesa CA and Mike Moniz and his partner Sam Underwood of Jupiter FL.

Renee was predeceased by her daughter-in-law Sharon (Silva) Moniz of Costa Mesa, CA and her granddaughter Jennifer (Moniz) Smith of Cody, WY.

Renee leaves three grandchildren, Charlie Moniz of Marblehead, MA and his wife Dina Moniz, Emily Moniz of Boston, MA and her partner Joseph Strafaci, and Henry Moniz of Poland, ME and his fiancé Amber Saucier. Renee had 3 great grandchildren, Sam Moniz, Lila Moniz and Sidney Moniz, all of Marblehead.

Renee's smile, humor and love, along with her homemade Polish pierogi and gulomkis, chicken pot pie and cabbage pie will be missed by all her family and all those who had the privilege to know and love her.

A private family service will be held this summer.

The Manchester Cricket

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Erika M. Brown
Publisher & Editorial Director

Paul Clark
Assistant Editor

Susan Zampell
Business Development Director

Christy King
Digital Director

Susan Anthony
Subscriptions & Office Mgr.

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Business & Editorial Offices

P.O. Box 359
Manchester, MA 01944

11R Beach Street
Manchester, MA 01944

www.thecricket.com

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MANCHESTER POLICE NOTES

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

1:16 a.m. Brookwood Rd., fire alarm, fire false. 6:45 a.m. Bridge St., selective enforcement, other. 5:28 p.m. Desmond Ave., agency assist, other. 8:57 p.m. Butler Ave., suspicious activity, other.

MONDAY, JANUARY 13

6:37 a.m. Lincoln St., motor vehicle stop, verbal warning. 7:00 a.m. Pine St., suspicious activity, spoken to. 2:34 p.m. Tuck's Point Rd., directed patrol, secured/checked. 6:10 p.m. Summer St., disturbance, transported.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14

4:03 a.m. School St., motor vehicle stop, verbal warning. 11:23 a.m. Summer St., motor vehicle crash, vehicle towed. 5:40 p.m. Pine St., motor vehicle stop, citation issued. 11:10 p.m. Beach St., directed patrol, secured/



checked.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15

1:37 a.m. Summer St., motor vehicle stop, verbal warning. 11:27 a.m. Route 128SB, motor vehicle crash, written warning. 8:02 p.m. School

St., motor vehicle stop, citation issued.

8:23 p.m. Atwater Ave., motor vehicle stop, written warning.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

2:05 a.m. The Plains Rd.,

directed patrol, secured/checked. 2:37 p.m. Pine St., motor vehicle stop, verbal warning. 8:56 p.m. School St., motor vehicle stop, written warning. 9:29 p.m. Rose-dale Ave., motor vehicle stop, verbal warning.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17

8:15 a.m. Route 128SB, motor vehicle crash, assisted as needed. 6:26 p.m. Pine St., motor vehicle stop, citation issued. 7:07 p.m. Pine St., motor vehicle stop, written warning. 9:03 p.m. School St., selective enforcement, secured/checked.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18

1:54 a.m. School St., directed patrol, secured/checked. 7:00 a.m. School St., selective enforcement, secured/checked. 9:21 a.m. Route 128NB, motor vehicle crash, gone on arrival. 11:11 a.m.

...(Continued from page 1)

He is highly active in downtown and civic life, having twice served as master of the Manchester Masonic Lodge. He also serves as property manager of his extended family's downtown real estate, which includes much of the storefront area and, in this role, he serves on the Manchester Downtown Improvement Committee. As a result, Jim really understands the immense value of a vibrant, healthy downtown community.

This energy comes as the Chamber is in the midst of change. Two years ago, Ken

Riehl had stepped down as the organization's CEO after 10 years during which he led a remarkable expansion of the association that included record-breaking surges in membership and a merger with the Ipswich Chamber of Commerce. Steve Buckley, Riehl's replacement, is himself stepping down in February after leading a two-year transition period. Buckley's replacement will be announced in February.

Friday's celebration was attended by leaders representing Cape Ann's full spec-

trum of organizations—from large regional companies and small organizations in business, tourism, the arts and entertainment—as well as civic leaders, including Gloucester Mayor Greg Ver-ga.

"I am very impressed with the wide cross section of leaders, local business-people, and members of the community," said Brown. "Although the Chamber represents many different organizations and disciplines, we all share one thing in common, as evident by your presence tonight, you all

care deeply about our community."

Jim is the sixth Manchester president in the Chamber's 103-year history, after Patricia Slade, Bill Scott, Ed Scott, Edward McCollum, Jr., and Fitz Lufkin.

Also, Nick Psalidas, co-owner of the Cape Ann Markets in Gloucester, served as the Chamber president in 1981. Psalidas was the brother of Jim's grandfather, Peter Brown. So in many ways, "keeping it local" is something that truly runs in Jim's life and family. And that's a very good thing.

Manchester Club Annual Meeting



2025 Manchester Club Officers and Executive Board Members (missing, Jim O'Neil.) Photo: Paul Clark

As The Manchester Club enters its 120th year, the club held its 119th annual meeting this past Thursday. A large gathering of members and guests were treated to a delicious Baked Haddock dinner served by John Doc Her-rick, Todd Crane and a great kitchen crew. After dinner was served Manchester Club President, Kevin Delaney called the January meeting to order, leading all present in the salute to the flag. He then requested Club Secretary McCoy's annual 2024 report. McCoy gave a review of the year, reporting that the club had a great year both socially and financially. The Secretary's report was accepted as read. McCoy then presented the 2025 slate of officers to the members present. Officers presented as follows; The club's 120th President Kevin Delaney, Vice President Dave Mar-letta, Treasurer Dave Slade and Secretary Craige McCoy, all eboard members will remain for the year 2025. With a motion from the floor, the slate was accepted as read,

and voted on. The next yearly report was the club's Treasurer Dave Slade. Dave gave a yearly report and mentioned the monies made from the Hatcher Raffle and the Lysiak Golf Outing and the great job that Joe Will-werth and his committee did. Dave also mentioned the several scholarships that the club had awarded in 2024, also, a few questions came from the floor, his report was accepted as read. The Clubs 120th President had a few remarks, before closing mentioning the Manchester Club's 120th Gala to be held at the Cruiseport Gloucester with the band Garfish playing. Final plans are being made by VP Marletta and eboard member Jim O'Neil, it is to be a gala affair, more info will follow on the clubs web site It was announced that the February club's meeting will feature chicken parm and an evening speaker (TBA) more to follow on the web, he then thanked all for attending the 2024 monthly meeting and closed the club's 119th annual meeting.

Thank you and will see you all next month.

Craige McCoy
Manchester Club Secretary

PUBLIC NOTICE



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

SELECT BOARD

Public Hearing Notice

The Select Board will hold a hybrid public hearing on Monday, February 3, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in Town Hall meeting room #5 and by zoom. Zoom information will be available on the Town website, prior to the meeting.

- Request from National Grid to install approx. 32 ft of PVC conduit from handhole 99-22 to customer owned handhole 99-22 & all appurtenances at 9 Bennett St.

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

January 17, 2025 MC
January 24, 2025 MC

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PUBLIC NOTICE



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PLANNING BOARD

Public Hearing Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Planning Board of the Town of Manchester-By-The-Sea will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, February 10, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. for an application submitted by AGEM 7 CENTRAL, LLC for a Special Permit pursuant to Section 4.2 Table Of Use, A.5 of the Zoning By-Law to allow the renovation of an existing building to accommodate 3 residential units in addition to the existing restaurant use at 7 Central Street. Location: This is a hybrid meeting. The Public is welcome to join the Board in Room 5, Town Hall or on Zoom. Zoom meeting information will be posted in the February 10, 2024 Planning Board public meeting agenda.

Sarah Hammond-Creighton,
Chair, Planning Board

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

January 17, 2025 MC
January 24, 2025 MC

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 – 2nd and 3rd floor townhouse apartment. 1BR. large deck. parking . Easy walk to town and beach. No smoking. No pets. \$1,650/mo. Call 617-510-8396 for more information. 1/31

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 1/24

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Community Choice Electric Aggregation Program



By Gregory T. Federspiel

Efforts continue to secure a competitive rate from an electrical supplier that residents will be able to utilize should they choose. Voters gave the green light to move forward with the state law that allows a municipality to seek competitive rates for its residents. We are still a few months out from implementing the program, but an important milestone has been reached in presenting for public comment the draft plan for the program.

Manchester's draft "Community Choice Power Supply Aggregation Plan" closely follows the requirements of the state law and the regulations that the Department of Public Utilities developed. The plan can be accessed through the Town's website (under the Selectmen's tab or search for the Aggregation Plan.) A hardcopy is also available at the Town Clerk's Office or Library. The 30-day comment period runs through 5 p.m. on Friday, February 28. This comment period is made available to the public prior to submitting the plan for approval to the Department of Public Utilities. Comments can be sent to the Select Board's Office at Town Hall.

A community electric aggregation program deals only with the supplier of electrical energy. Everything else, from maintaining the electric lines to billing, to repairs, remains in the hands of our electric company, National Grid. The single bill

you will receive from National Grid will note the supplier on your bill. By aggregating the electricity needs of all residents in Town, an aggregation plan typically secures a more stable and competitive price for all electricity users.

The program also can offer higher renewable energy supply options as well including sourcing electricity from 100% renewable generation. Participation is voluntary. A resident can decline the supplier provided through the Plan and choose an alternative supply option (either through National Grid or some other supplier) by declining to enroll or stopping enrollment at any time with no penalty.

The Town has teamed up with Colonial Power Group (CPG) to administer the program. CPG has assisted over 100 Massachusetts communities with their aggregation programs, handling all aspects from DPU compliance to community outreach about the program and managing the enrollment process. Most importantly, CPG will seek competitive bids from electricity suppliers and help the Select Board decide which offer will be the most advantageous for Manchester residents.

Unlike when an individual seeks a supplier on their own, a community aggregation plan secures a fixed price usually for 1 to 3 years through a competitive bidding process. While anyone can unenroll at any time, the supplier cannot alter their price for the duration of

the contract. Having a fixed price offers stability that National Grid cannot offer. National Grid sets its prices twice a year with winter prices typically higher than summer prices. An aggregation plan seeks a more competitive price over the duration of the contract though with volatile energy prices there is no guarantee that the aggregation plan will always be less expensive than the default rate through National Grid.

The draft plan details how the aggregation plan is to operate. Again, this is highly dictated by state law and DPU regulations. The plan lays out the process. Once the plan is formally approved by the state, our consultant will solicit quotes from various suppliers for various electricity generation sources. These quotes will be reviewed by the Select Board and a selection will be made. With supplier and specific rates in hand materials will be prepared and sent to all households. Residents will have the aggregation rates to compare with the current National Grid rates and will need to decide whether to opt out of the aggregation option. The timing of various approvals, decisions and what the energy market is doing will determine when the program will be available but it should be within the next six months.

As the roll out of the program draws nearer additional information will be available and information sessions planned.



Manchester was represented in full force Friday night at the Greater Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce's 103rd annual gala at the Beauport Hotel in Gloucester. Jim Brown, a realtor with Coldwell Banker Real Estate, enjoyed all the support of his Manchester office colleagues who showed up to see him installed as the 2025 president of the Chamber. From left, Karen Snider, Betsy Bullock, Carroll Brown, Jim Brown, Marianne Round, and Joan MacDonald. Later, Manchester-by-the-Sea Museum Director Matthew Swindell connects with Jim Brown and Jennifer DeSimone during the pre-dinner social hour.

Photos: Jurek Schreiner

...(Continued from page 1)

Even before accounting for \$2.1 billion in additional payments, the Healey administration projected the UI Trust Fund will be hundreds of millions of dollars in the red by the end of 2028.

"The Massachusetts UI system is arguably the most abused, costly and anti-employer system in the country," said Retailers Association of Massachusetts President Jon Hurst. "Negotiating the \$2.5B liability down to \$2.1B is important, but this high cost cannot be simply added to the very high cost of doing business in the Commonwealth. The bad news is that this liability is very costly. The good news is that there is also now an opportunity to reform what has been for decades an im-

pediment to new investment and job growth in Massachusetts."

The retailers group said the state should draw from its \$9 billion rainy day reserves "to pay for this state government error." The retailers said UI taxes paid by businesses are already spiraling upwards.

Christopher Carozzi, state director of the National Federation of Independent Business Massachusetts chapter, said the "only solution" is for Beacon Hill to embrace major changes to reform a "broken" UI system.

"It is incomprehensible that the state made a monumental error, and it's Massachusetts small employers that are required to today foot the \$2.1 billion bill," he

said. "Add this to the \$2.7 billion they are currently paying back as a result of state-mandated COVID shutdowns that were beyond their control, and it paints a very clear picture as to why Massachusetts' businesses correctly feel like they are being crushed by one of the worst unemployment insurance taxes in the nation."

Healey's office rolled out details of the \$2.1 billion settlement agreement alongside statements from Associated Industries of Massachusetts President Brooke Thomson and Mass. Taxpayers Foundation President Doug Howgate, both of whom called for urgency in pursuing UI reforms.

-State House News Service



BOARD UPDATES

Title 5 Subcommittee: The Board of Health has formed a subcommittee to review the local addenda to Title 5. The addenda was last reviewed in 2008. The goal of the subcommittee will be to identify important updates needed and make a recommendation to the Board of Health. Public is welcome to participate. The Board of Health is asking for comments to be submitted in advance of the meetings to lufkine@manchester.ma.us.

Annual Town Census: The Annual Town Census has been mailed to residents. Once received, please promptly return to the Town Clerk's Office in person or via the mail.

Design Review Committee: The Town is seeking two building design professionals

to sit on the Design Review Committee, an advisory committee to the Planning Board. The committee will review projects submitted under the new Community Housing Overlay Districts that were approved at the Special Town Meeting and provide an opinion to the Planning Board. Please submit a letter of interest to Town Planner Marc Resnick at resnickm@manchester.ma.us by February 3.

Run for Local Office: Nomination 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.

Rain Barrel Sale: DPW

is offering rain barrels at a discount to residents once again. The deadline to order is March 23 and pick up is on April 5 at the DPW yard on Pleasant St. Visit manchester.ma.us/223/Public-Works.

Town Communications: Stay up to date on weather alerts, emergencies, and important news from Town Hall by subscribing to important notifications at manchester.ma.us/761/Stay-Informed.

Trash, recycling, and compost collection: Regular Schedule. Please place curbside by 7 a.m. on day of collection. Transfer Station is open on Wednesdays from 7:30 a.m.- 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
An alarm of fire from box 31 on Beach Street at 9:40 p.m. Monday called the department to fight the worst fire that the department has had to deal with for some time. The fire started in the block owned by Arthur S. Dow, in the store occupied by James Culbert, as a shoe repairing and general leather supply shop.

After a week of most varied and trying weather conditions varying from a real January thaw to temperatures approaching the zero mark, a real blizzard came down out of the Northeast Wednesday afternoon increasing in intensity during the evening and continuing throughout the night.

75 YEARS AGO - 1950
After five weeks of intensive study, the Regional School Planning Board comprising committees from Hamilton, Manchester, Topsfield and Wenhams, has submitted to the State Department of Education a tentative agreement to cover construction operation of a centrally situated regional high school for the pupils of the four communities. Two Manchester juveniles were in the Juvenile Court, Salem Thursday morning, charged with breaking and entering. They were apprehended Sunday on the Mrs.

Gardiner Lane estate by the caretaker, Alexander MacDonald of Summer Street. They readily admitted their intent when questioned by Police Chief Leonard A. Andrews.

60 YEARS AGO - 1965
Dr. Bob Howard was awarded the top trophy for the fall session of the Manchester Frostbiters Association last Saturday night at the winter sailors' banquet held at the Haskell House, West Gloucester. The regular monthly meeting of the North Shore Horticultural Society, will be held at Legion Hall on Tuesday, January 26. The speaker of the evening will be Mr. Phillip Noble who will take as his subject "Gardens of Great Britain" illustrated with colored slides.

45 YEARS AGO - 1980
The seventh burglary in a week occurred late Tuesday afternoon at the home of Frank deLisle on Skytop Drive. The thieves gained entrance to the house by forcing the sliding glass door. The house was totally ransacked, and a coin collection and two pocket watches were taken. Mrs. Gloria Landy's vertical 1/2 class is working on a unit on space. We have been working on a class rocket

and mission control panel. We talked about the different stages of rockets.

30 YEARS AGO - 1995
The Board of Selectman authorized the police department last Thursday evening at its regularly scheduled meeting to begin the process of implementing an auxiliary police unit. Despite the recent rainy weather, the lines of waiting children continue to be long in front of the newly installed swing set behind the Memorial School. Its bright red uprights can easily be seen from the Brook Street parking lot and there is always a group of children lingering on the swing after school is over.

15 YEARS AGO - 2010
This year with the opening of the new high school and with new and improved recycling methods the Manchester Essex Green Team is pleased to report to the general public that the Manchester Essex Middle High School is recycling at least two times the amount of refuse that we throw in the trash. As of Friday, January 15, the Varsity Boys' Basketball Team has won six games in a row and is currently in first place in the small division of the Cape Ann League.

Tides & Sun Chart For The Week Ahead

DATE	HIGH				LOW				☀️		
	AM	FT	PM	FT	AM	FT	PM	FT	RISE	SET	
24	Fri	6:42	8.5	7:29	7.1	12:35	2.0	1:26	1.8	7:02	4:47
25	Sat	7:40	8.7	8:31	7.2	1:30	2.0	2:26	1.5	7:01	4:49
26	Sun	8:37	9.0	9:27	7.5	2:27	1.9	3:23	1.1	7:00	4:50
27	Mon	9:30	9.4	10:17	7.9	3:22	1.6	4:15	0.6	7:00	4:51
28	Tue	10:19	9.8	11:01	8.4	4:15	1.2	5:03	0.1	6:59	4:53
29	Wed	11:04	10.2	11:42	8.9	5:06	0.7	5:48	-0.4	6:58	4:54
30	Thu	11:48	10.6			5:54	0.3	6:32	-0.8	6:57	4:55

What I like to drink most is wine that belongs to others.
 ~ Diogenes ~

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Calling for MBTS 4th of July Volunteers

To the Editor,

To all of you who love our Annual 4th of July Parade, we can sure use some help! Believe it or not, the planning of the parade (and fireworks) is done mostly by a group of volunteers. If you have some time to give, we can sure use your help. It does not take a whole lot of your time - we meet once a month for about an hour. We would love to have you and your ideas so we can continue with our fabulous floats, marching bands, cars, fire engines, and all that makes for a great parade.

For more information, you can contact Cheryl Marshall, Director of Parks and Recreation, at 978-526-2019, or marshallc@manchester.ma.us.

Thanks for considering!

Donna Brewster

Settlement for Massachusetts' \$2.1 Billion Unemployment Insurance Error Will Hurt Small Businesses

As the Massachusetts director of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), the nation's leading small business advocacy association including more than 5,000 members in the state, I'd like to offer some thoughts in response to the announced federal settlement determination for Massachusetts' \$2.1 billion unemployment insurance error.

It is incomprehensible that the state made a monumental error, and it's Massachusetts small employers that are required to today foot the \$2.1 billion bill. Add this to the \$2.7 billion they are currently paying back as a result of state-mandated

COVID shutdowns that were beyond their control, and it paints a very clear picture as to why Massachusetts' businesses correctly feel like they are being crushed by one of the worst unemployment insurance taxes in the nation.

With Massachusetts having the most generous benefits in the country and lax eligibility standards, the only solution is for lawmakers to finally act to reform this broken system. And reforms cannot simply mean more unemployment insurance tax hikes on job creators again, but rather lawmakers making meaningful changes to an incredibly flawed unemployment insurance system already projected to be insolvent by 2028.

Thank you.

Christopher Carozzi
NFIB Massachusetts State Director

LIBRARY NEWS



About 30 grade schoolers and tweens participated in the Spa Day event. After indulging in everything from nail decorating and skin care masks, to concocting their own bath bombs, much of the self-care crowd also stuck around for a screening of "Tangled".
Courtesy Photo

This week at we have virtual authors, Tiny Art Show reception, Dungeons and Dragons for adults and much more.

Author Hours (Virtual)

Friday, January 24 from 7-8 p.m. Author Vicki Delany will discuss her new cozy mystery novel, "The Incident of the Book in the Nighttime: A Sherlock Holmes Bookshop Mystery".

Monday, January 27 from 7-8 p.m. Author Fiona Davis will discuss her new historical fiction novel, "The Stolen

Queen".

Tuesday, January 28 from 7-8 p.m. International author Samantha Sotto Yambao will discuss her new fantasy novel, "Water Moon".

Wednesday, January 29 from 7-8 p.m. Bestselling author Thomas Perry will discuss his new thriller, "Pro Bono".

Thursday, January 30 from 7-8 p.m. Bestselling author Erika Swyler will discuss her new dystopian novel, "We Lived on the Horizon", in conversation with author

Adrienne Celt.

Friday, January 31 from 7-8 p.m. Bestselling author Grady Hendrix will discuss his new horror novel, "Witchcraft for Wayward Girls".

Mystery Book Group

Friday, January 31 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. This January we are reading "Poison" by John Lescroart.

Diversity Matters

Thursday, January 30 from 6-7 p.m. January's Diversity Matters pick is "Another Word for Love" by Carvell Wallace. "A lyrical meditation on healing -- told through the lenses of justice, sex, love, family, and death, by journalist and podcaster Carvell Wallace".

Beekkeeping 101

Saturday, February 1 from 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. join Man-

chester residents Mike and Martha Chapman for a brief discussion of bees and beekeeping based on Mike and Martha's personal experiences over the years.

Six Pillars of Brain Health with AARP (Virtual)

Monday, January 27 from 2-3 p.m. It's never too late to take charge of your brain health. You will learn about the six pillars of a brain-healthy lifestyle, discover brain boosting activities, and be inspired by others.

AI Unveiled: Exploring the Promise, Perils, and Potential of AI

Tuesday, January 28 from 6-7 p.m. Imagine a world where computers can think, learn, and even create. Welcome to the world of Artificial Intelligence (AI). In this presentation, we'll take a

journey through the exciting world of AI, exploring its history, its amazing applications, and even the potential risks.

Dungeons and Dragons for Adults (Virtual)

Monday, January 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

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 loca-

tion 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 noon 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 third 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.

MPL Children's Events:

2025 All Ages MBTS Tin Art Show Reception

Saturday, January 25 from 1:30-3 p.m. Come and enjoy the community art show which will be on display until January 31.

Little Learners Playgroup

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

ScottEnergy Community Bulletin Board

Chebacco Lake & Watershed Association's
Snowy Social

**Sunday, February 2
3 to 6:30 p.m.**

American Legion Hall
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Kids Welcome!
Open to all (members & nonmembers).
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Out & About: Rockport Music: Black History Month, Valentine's Day



Crys Matthews, a.k.a., the "Next Woody Guthrie," will be performing February 22.

There's a lot going on in the next month at the Shalin Liu Performance Center in Rockport, including programming for Black History Month and Valentine's Day, among others.

First up, Crys Matthews, one of the brightest stars in this new generation of social justice music-making, returns to Rockport on February 22 with a Black History Month program blending Americana, jazz

and blues.

"I believe in hope. As a social justice songwriter, it is my duty to keep breathing that hope and encouragement into the people who listen to my music," said Matthews, who has been hailed as "the next Woody Guthrie."

Then, veteran musicians and storytelling troubadours Reggie Harris and Alastair Mook will join together in musical conversation



To celebrate Valentine's Day, *The Proposal* starring Sandra Bullock and Ryan Reynolds and shot in Rockport and Manchester, will be playing at the Shalin Liu Performance Center.

Courtesy photos

on February 25 with "Race and Song" to explore complex issues of race, class, gender and history, framing their lived experiences through music for a program that's as entertaining as it is educational. The 30-year friends, who bring their program to dozens of schools every year, intend this to be an opportunity for adults to deepen their understanding of antiracism and get more comfortable talking about difficult subjects.

Other February events include

marquee concerts, diverse educational programming and film. In terms of music, artists hitting the main stage include iconic finger-style guitarist Mike Dawes on February 7, five-time Grammy-winning jazz vocalist Dianne Reeves on February 16, and the Musicians from Marlboro with a program of Schumann, Kurtág and Brahms on February 23. The third floor lounge will house two shows as part of the Upstairs on Main local performer series, including

returning favorite Rum Runners String Band on February 1 and a Valentine's Day-themed "songwriter's circle" courtesy of Alexandra Grace, Corey Wrinn, Matt Rich and Charlie Weld.

Professional violinist, health and career coach, and speaker Kiyoshi Hayashi will begin the month's slate of educational programming on February 8 with a talk about "Designing a Happy, Healthy & Fulfilling Career as a Musician" as part of the Beyond the Music talk series. Then, young musicians will take the stage alongside a professional ensemble the following week during the Cape Ann Jazz Workshop showcase led by saxophonist Alexa Tarantino on February 12.

Please note that Rockport Music's Cape Ann Youth Chorus inaugural winter concert, which was originally scheduled for the evening of February 8, has been canceled.

On-screen entertainment begins on February 2 with Perugino: Eternal Renaissance, an exploration into one of the most revered artists of the 15th Century on the 500th anniversary of his death. Then, love will be in the air on Valentine's Night with a showing of *The Proposal*, followed by drinks and live jazz on the third floor. Finally, Florence & the Uffizi Gallery will take guests on a journey into the Italian Renaissance through the most beautiful, representative works of art from the period on February 22.

All programming is held at Rockport Music's Shalin Liu Performance Center at 37 Main Street, Rockport.



Manchester-by-the-Sea Museum

The Manchester-by-the-Sea Museum is halfway through its winter children's art & history workshops. This upcoming Saturday, January 25, participants will look at portraits in our collection of artist Charles Hopkinson, to inspire their own self-portrait. All children, ages 5-12, are invited to join in this free and fun event held at the museum, 10 Union St. downtown MBTS, 10 a.m. - 12 noon. This event is made possible by a Hooper Fund grant. Go to the museum's website to register. Walk ins are also welcome.

Courtesy Photo



Musicians Unleashed On Broadway! Front, from left, Byron Winn, Gordon Baird, Priscilla Walter, Carolyn Howard. Back, from left, Wendy Betts, Brittany Betts. Missing from photo is guest artist Lydia Betts and bass player Justin McLean.

Photo: Henry Betts)

Cape Ann Symphony Musicians Unleashed Concert Series

Celebrating Broadway Through the Years

Cape Ann Symphony's Musicians Unleashed Concert Series goes ON BROADWAY for their upcoming concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, February 9, at the St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1123 Washing-

ton St. in Gloucester.

On Broadway! features a group of singers from the Cape Ann Symphony Chorus, local musicians and special guests led by CAS Chorus Director Brittany Betts. The multi-talented Betts will lead the company as well as contributing Vocals, Trumpet, Flugelhorn, and Percussion for the concert. The

On Broadway! Company includes CAS Chorus members: Gordon Baird; Vocals and Percussion; Carolyn Howard; Vocals; Byron Winn; Vocals and Cello; CAS Chorus Accompanist Priscilla Walter; Piano; Justin McLean, Bass; plus Special Guest Soloist: Lydia Betts, Piano; and Former CAS Chorus Director Wendy Betts, Vocals and Pi-

ano. The program includes songs from Hamilton, Something Rotten, The Sound of Music, Camelot, Songs for a New World, Into the Woods, Dear Evan Hansen, a George Gershwin Medley and two audience Sing-Along Medleys of hit Broadway classic and contemporary songs.

Brittany Betts is excited to bring the music of Broadway

to the Musicians Unleashed Series, "You won't want to miss this Cape Ann Symphony -- Musicians Unleashed chamber concert of vocal and instrumental Broadway tunes performed by members of the Cape Ann Symphony Chorus (Brittany Betts, Carolyn Howard, Gordon Baird and Byron Winn) along with chorus accompanist, Priscilla Walter,

and special guests Wendy Betts (vocals and piano) and Lydia Betts (piano). We've got something for everyone: 4 Vocal Solos, 2 Duets and 1 Group Numbers; 1 Piano Solo; One Set of 4 Gershwin Piano Duets; 2 Sing-Along Medleys... and maybe even a game or two! Songs are spanning the decades -- from the 1930's to the 2010's. Grab your ticket early. Don't wait. It's not a large space and we want to make sure you get to see it. And, hey, why not come dressed as a Broadway character to add to the fun?"

Tickets are \$40 for adults. Info at (978) 281-0543

First Win & Other Firsts for MERHS Track Teams

By Jason Brisbois

The Manchester Essex girls' indoor track team was able to celebrate its first win of the season, while the boys team got a taste of what it's like to go against the top competition in their conference.

The Hornet girls needed every member of the team to pull off a 57-43 win over Amesbury on January 14, and a number of Hornets were able to add to the team's list of those qualifying for the state meet, including in the 1000M (Melina Binieris, 3:28.16), 4x200 (Tess Taylor, Binieris, Cia Donohoe, Abbey Kent, 1:53.45) and 2 Mile (Eleanor Hall 13:10.59). In addition to those impressive achievements, Manchester Essex athletes also recorded five personal records in the meet. Kent and Taylor recorded PRs while finishing first and second in the 55M, and also contributed to their team's scoring in the 600M.

"For a young team, it is absolutely a confidence booster, and confirmation that their hard work throughout the season and grit in the face of difficult and close competition paid off," explains Manchester Essex indoor track coach Brian Davis. "This win promises good things for this year and the next. We are already seeing the results of hard work, dedication and confidence in several state divisional meet qualifications."

Also of note were the performances of Anna Sergi and Sabine Cooper in the mile (second and third, respectively), Donohoe in the high jump (first) and 600M (second), and Caroline Eliassen was second in the long jump, third in the 300M and was part of the winning 4x400 relay.

"It was a complete team win with contributions from each level and event from our 7th graders through seniors," says Davis. "It was an extremely close meet where the relays were key to the win and the team stepped up, embraced the pressure, and delivered the win".

The boys weren't quite as fortunate as the girls when facing Amesbury on the same date, falling to a stacked Red Hawks team by a 79-20 score.

"Solid performances against a stacked Amesbury team that looks to be the CAL Baker Champion," says Davis. "Henry Stevens ran a season best to get second in the mile and 2 mile, his second dirty double. Gus Hall got second in the 1000M, with a season best time only .01 seconds off state qualifying. Stalwart Nick Clements took second in the LJ and was on the winning 4x200 team."

Other top performers for the Hornet boys were Leo Woolfenden (PR in the shot), Sam Heanue, Noah Cohen and Alex Rizzico, who all



Hornets 7th Grade Distance triple-threat Anna Sergi, Eleanor and Adelaide Hall race against Lynnfield.

Courtesy Photos



Hornets Luke Donohoe, Alec Rizzico, Nick Clements and Noah Cohen line up for the 4x200 relay against Amesbury.

placed third, respectively, in the shot, 55M and 300M. Charlie Thurow and Adare Foster debuted in the 4x200 for the first time as well.

Despite the loss, Davis was encouraged by how his team competed against difficult competition and continues to develop.

"The boys' team has shown similar hard work throughout the season and they remain hungry to keep working and improving," explains the coach. "The distance team has continued to improve with the leadership of Henry Stevens and Gus Hall. They are on the verge of state di-

visional qualification in multiple events. The throwers, jumpers, sprinters, and mid-distance teams are all progressing, with many personal bests, and poised for success in the season's final meets. You really couldn't ask for more commitment from this very young squad."

Middle school athletes comprise a fair portion of the roster makeup of both ME track teams, a relatively uncommon occurrence in high school sports that usually requires an MIAA-sanctioned waiver to help boost numbers. The Hornet girls and boys have done an impres-

sive job of overcoming a wide gap in age and experience up and down the lineup this winter, and it has resulted in the younger team members developing rapidly and earning six state qualifiers and personal bests across the board to this point.

"The best aspect of a team that incorporates 7th-through-12th graders is that it provides the opportunity for mentorship for the younger students and a sense of purpose and legacy for the upper-class students," says Davis. "They work together to accomplish common goals in events, in team competitions,

and in relays. The bonds of friendship they form add true value to the experience and growth of everyone on the entire team. A special mention to seniors Sabine Cooper, Sam Heanue, Henry Stevens, Nick Clements, Luke Donohoe, and Whitney Turner for their efforts to build this strong team culture."

The boys and girls' teams were both set to head to the MSTCA Relays Meet on Jan. 19, and finish out the month against CAL rival Hamilton-Wenham on Jan. 28.

SIDEBAR: Hornet Track Teams Compete in MSTCA Northeast Invitational.

Gus Hall, Adelaide Hall, Eleanor Hall, and Ann Sergi each recorded PRs in the mile, and both Hall sisters qualified for the state meet during the MSTCA Northeast Invitational on Jan. 14. Other top performances came from Taylor (200M), Cia Donohoe (triple jump, 400, mixed relay), Luke Donohoe (55M and mixed relay), Eliassen (LJ, 400M, mixed relay), Clarie Yukins (55M hurdles and 600M), Kailyn Bennet (1000M), Foster (600M), Massi Colarusso (200M and mixed relay), Richie Grant (55M), Heanue (shot put) and Leo Woolfenden (shot put).



Beekeeping School Classes Open February 12

Registration for the annual Bee School closes on January 28.

The Essex County Beekeepers' Association (ECBA) Bee School is a nine-week course for beginner beekeepers and those interested in honeybees. Classes are held weekly in Topsfield from 7 - 9 p.m. on Tuesday evenings from February 12 to April 15.

Bee School is an introductory level course designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to successfully keep honeybees and produce honey and beeswax. No previous knowledge or experience is required. The instructors are all longtime local beekeepers.

Bee School Vice Chair, Charlie Donnelly Moran reports, "One of the most highly anticipated lessons is a demonstration of installing live bees in a hive. Students are always amazed at how easily beekeepers can move thousands of bees and one queen into a new hive."

The Essex County Beekeepers' Association, ECBA, is a non-profit educational organization founded in 1923 by local beekeepers in Essex County, Mas-



Photo: Arthur Brognoli

sachusetts interested in sharing their experiences.

Students come from throughout Essex and Middlesex Counties and southern New Hampshire. Bee School students can choose either in-person or virtual classes. In-person attendance is limited to 65 students and takes place at the Beekeeping Building at the Topsfield Fairground on Route 1. The parallel online Zoom classes offer students the convenience of asking questions during the live event and the

ability to rewatch the class during the following week.

Tuition is \$85 per adult, and \$50 for youth 12-18 years old who must have an accompanying adult registration. Tuition includes an ECBA membership for 2025.

More information including class syllabus and Frequently Asked Questions is available at

EssexCountyBeekeepers.org. The deadline to register online for this year's Bee School is January 28.

ESSEX ECHO.



At the Beauport Hotel on Friday, familiar Essex faces showed up for the 103rd Annual Greater Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce Gala. Above, Michael French, who for decades served the Essex Police Dept., attended with wife Michele, manager of Bank Gloucester on Martin Street. Michele French was named Essex Small Businessperson of the Year in 2019. Then, it's Ruth Pino of Re/Max Advantage Real Estate with Susan Coviello, who served as the 2020 president of the Chamber. Coviello was just the second Essex president in the Chamber's history, after Patricia Woodman Roy D'Alelio. (Photos: Jurek Schreiner)

ESSEX SENIOR LIVING | JAN 24

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.me.s with Gil at the Senior Center: Wednesdays 1-3 p.m.: ALL AGES WELCOME, come play BOARD ga.me.s 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 Col-

lege 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 (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.

Masconomo Council 1232 Knights of Columbus Earn Star Council Status

Knights of Columbus Masconomo Council 1232 of has been awarded the distinction of Star Council, the international organization's top honor for local councils.

Visitation Parish, which is comprised of Sacred Heart Church in Manchester and St. John the Baptist Church in Essex.

The Star Council award recognizes overall achievement and excellence in the areas of church and community service programs and a vital, thriving membership, joined to a strong Knights of Columbus insurance benefits program. Masconomo Council was cited for sponsoring effective Catholic faith formation programs and volunteering its members' time through service-oriented activities benefiting families locally, nationally and internationally, particularly those suffering persecution in the Middle East.

This Star Council honor was bestowed upon the Cape Ann council by the Supreme Council of the international Knights of Columbus based in New Haven, Connecticut. Masconomo Council 1232 shares its elite status with only 5 per cent of the 280 local Knights of Columbus councils in Massachusetts. They were each honored for their comprehensive pro-



Grand Knight Steve Kuhn of Gloucester shown accepting the Knights of Columbus Star Council Award awarded to Masconomo Council 1232 Knights of Columbus, from Former District Deputy Fred Johnson, of Manchester-by-the-Sea.

Courtesy Photo

gram planning, participation and charitable giving.

Council 1232 Grand Knight Steven Kuhn thanked Knights' leadership "for making this the fifth time in five years that the council has been so honored by the Su-

preme Council, the Knights of Columbus governing body. That action reflected its evaluation of a Masconomo Council 1232 thriving to support its Church, its parish, as well as its Cape Ann communities and our

country at large."

Grand Knight Kuhn noted, "For more than 117 years the Manchester-Essex brother Knights of Masconomo Council 1232 have exemplified the highest ideals of charity, fraternity, unity and patriotism. Its current membership is the acknowledged key to the Star Council honor. Equally important are the contributions of this group's past leaders who inspired a perpetual, solid commitment to service. That cadre of leaders includes recent Past Grand Knights Jeff Mastendino, Tom Finn, Arthur Sheehan, Richard Sullivan, Roger DiNapoli, Bill Busta and Phil Monahan. We are in their debt."

In the current fraternal year 2024-2025, Masconomo Council 1232 is engaged in a variety of activities including soliciting funds for and distributing scholarship awards for local students receiving the Father Jack Gentleman Memorial Scholarships. It has organized coat drives; sock drives and food drives to benefit those in need on Cape Ann. In October it extended hands for the iconic Tootsie Roll can drive benefiting special needs individuals. It has aligned its membership to fundraise and advocate for Christians at risk in the Mid-

...(Continued on page 8)

LIBRARY NEWS



Courtesy Photo

Drop-in Craft

Saturday, February 1, families stop by with your littles for a drop in craft and a snack.

Extended Library Hours

Starting Saturday, February 1, Saturday hours will be extended one hour and patrons can stop by from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Community Rummikub

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

Dungeons & Dragons Club

Wednesday's from 5:30-7 p.m. for grades 6, 7 & 8, this will run for 6 weeks. Space is limited so please register.

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 p.m. 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 Storyhour

Wednesdays for Ages 0-2 at 9 a.m. Ages 3-5 at 10 a.m.

ESSEX POLICE NOTES

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

6:38 a.m. Centennial Grove Rd., directed patrol, secured/checked. 7:41 a.m. Southern Ave., agency assist, assisted as needed. 6:15 p.m. Spring St., directed patrol, secured/checked. 8:30 p.m. Scotts Way, selective enforcement, no action taken.

MONDAY, JANUARY 13

1:14 a.m. Shepard Memorial Dr., parking complaint, notification made. 7:35 a.m. John Wise Ave., traffic hazard, notification made. 2:28 p.m. John Wise Ave., suspicious activity, assisted as needed. 9:17 p.m. Lufkin St., male, arrest.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14

8:22 a.m. John Wise Ave., citizen assist, assisted as needed. 11:42 a.m. Lufkin St., citizen assist, other. 2:30 p.m. John Wise Ave., directed patrol, secured/checked. 8:33 p.m. Route 128NB, directed patrol, secured/checked.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15

1:28 a.m. Martin St., parking complaint, parking enforcement. 8:23 a.m. John Wise Ave., animal complaint, assisted as needed. 2:37 p.m. Conomo Point Rd., directed patrol, secured/checked. 8:21 p.m. Main St., parking complaint, secured/checked.



THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

6:56 a.m. Apple St., selective enforcement, no action taken. 12:17 p.m. Eastern Ave., motor vehicle crash, report to follow. 2:49 p.m. Western Ave., community policing, assisted as needed. 10:46 p.m. Eastern Ave., selective enforcement, secured/checked.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17

6:29 a.m. Spring St., directed patrol, secured/checked. 8:39 a.m. Eastern Ave., erratic operator, secured/checked. 1:34 p.m. John Wise Ave., animal complaint, notification made. 9:40 p.m. Chebacco Terrace, directed patrol, secured/checked.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18

5:50 a.m. Southern Ave., selective enforcement, secured/checked. 9:45 a.m. Main St., selective enforcement, secured/checked. 6:57 p.m. Conomo Point Rd., directed patrol, secured/checked. 9:13 p.m. Main St., directed patrol, secured/checked.

Essex Locals | January 24

115 Years Ago - 1910

Andrew Kerr & Co., are about adding another branch to their clam business in putting up baked beans. They are installing the machinery and baker this week.

90 Years Ago - 1935

Miss Alice Clark has been suffering from the gripe at her home on Cogswell Court the past week.



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At Home Now

Getting Out What You Put into Your Home Reno



By Jennifer Coles

I have a return-client who bought a little granny-house as an investment, and she's entrusting me to give it an "update." She's not sure if she'll sell it or rent it, but she's hoping its value will increase with the renovation, and then she'll decide what to do. I've worked with her on a number of projects, and she's very hands-off. But that almost puts more pressure on me to figure out the perfect amount of money to put into this property.

It's a topic that comes up frequently when discussing a renovation. This money that I'm putting in, will I get it back when I sell? Sometimes it doesn't matter—you want something custom that is suited to your unique needs, and you think you will never sell anyway. But in general, I don't think it's a bad way to look at a project, because life is filled with surprises. And your home is an investment.

My client's granny house? Happily, it's in a great location; close to the water and also close to town. It even has a little water view from the upstairs window. It's

in the village, so lots of nice family-homes surround it, but it's not in an estate neighborhood which would really skew its value upward. And also, she was lucky to get it in this market, but it's not like she got it for a steal.

I was glad I was asked to attend the open house before she made her offer. I've bought and sold a fair number of houses, so I guess I have developed a methodology. I go to the open house and do what lots of other house-savvy people do. I look at the windows and the roof and the beams and the electric panel and get a general sense of what the plumbing looks like. But the other thing I do is to quietly linger. Yes, sort of like a stalker, but what I'm really doing is listening.

I like to hear what that couple over there likes and doesn't like about it. And what does that contractor have on his mind? Is that tall father ducking his head when he comes down the stairs? Is it the funky bedrooms that really turn people off? Did someone else notice that rotted beam in the basement? Because, for my client, the issues that

With renovations like these, all you can do is keep your eye on the prize. If your goal is to eventually get out what you put in, you have to find your house's sweet spot. They all have them.

other potential buyers bump into? Those are the issues that I need to fix to protect her investment.

Where did I start? Unfortunately, in the most boring (and potentially most expensive) place in the house—the basement. Oh, the unfinished basement! Seemingly a simple enough place. Maybe you store some stuff in it, maybe there's a workshop, how bad can it be? But it is the literal foundation of your home, and any issues you find, really need to be addressed.

In my case, there were two rotted beams, water damage in the basement laundry room, and a host of other updating that needed to be done. Beware the empty oil tanks, old heating systems, and antiquated electric panels. It's all lurking down there. And it's the most boring money you will ever spend. Lucky for me, the

roof checked out ok.

So here I am. I've just spent a significant part of my budget and the house still looks like one of the three little pigs built it. What to take on next? Well, kitchens and bathrooms are always low-hanging fruit when it comes to money that you put in that you may get also get back. So, I've got those rooms planned out. But they are modest, clean, functional designs. Sure, I've added a few fancy details that were easy to incorporate because we are re-framing anyway. But I'm not breaking the bank in there. The house has humble bones.

I also took down a few spans of wall in the living room which makes the whole place feel bigger. And I eliminated some 1970's paneling and the popcorn ceilings. I'll paint and replace light fixtures and refinish the floors. But, again, that's all expected

in most renovations.

The most controversial place where I wanted to spend was on the upstairs. The upstairs has only two bedrooms, and they've got slanted walls and wonky closets. The ceilings are low, and at the open house I watched as the tall men ducked going under the doorjamb and then ducked again when they were going down the stairs. Also, it only has an odd little half bath up there, no tub or shower. The whole second floor; it's just not all that livable. I could see that the open house people thought the downstairs had potential, but then they'd go upstairs and kind of shake their heads as they left.

So, my solution was to suggest an addition. Which seems kind of radical when you're renovating a home on a budget. But there is a nice sunroom downstairs, and building out a dormer over it creates enough room for a third (modest) bedroom and also a full bath. Plus, it eliminates a bunch of the slanted walls and the weird half bath. It's not going to be a giant, glamorous space. But that new bedroom will have normal ceilings

and double closets. It will be downright livable. And once that's in the picture, we can look at those other two bedrooms as a kid's room, or an office, or a guest room. I will have to fix the short door jamb issue, but the other quirkiness just adds to the charm.

It all ends up being more money than we thought of course, but most renovations are. And I do think I've solved some pivotal problems that will ultimately protect her investment. Plus, it won't be a three little pig house anymore. She'll have a solid three bedroom in a nice neighborhood. But ultimately, who knows? I mean, real estate is a fickle beast.

I think with renovations like these, all you can do is keep your eye on the prize. If your goal is to eventually get out what you put in, you have to find your house's sweet spot. They all have them. And as long as you let that be your beacon, you can't go too far astray.

Jennifer Coles is a local interior designer. www.colescoloranddesign.com [instagram: coles_color_and_design](https://www.instagram.com/coles_color_and_design)

...(Continued from page 7)

dle East and elsewhere in the world.

Garden sheds were built by Knights in Manchester-by the Sea to support Christians in need of humane aid in refugee camps in Syria and Iraq. Cape Ann's Open Door Food Pantry lauded Council 1232 for its ongoing food drive to benefit neighbors who need a helping

hand. And first and foremost, members of Masconomo Council 1232 assist local parishes in Manchester-by-the-Sea and Essex as Eucharistic ministers, lectors, ushers, and hospital visitors. They also support faith formation programs and nurturing vocations and seminarians' training.

To be eligible to qualify for the Star Council Award, a council must qualify for the national Father McGivney, Founder's, and Columbian awards. "That is a very high bar to meet," said Grand Knight Steve Kuhn.

Kuhn noted, "Our members include veterans, heads of families,

students, retirees, businessmen and professionals from every walk of life. They are proud to be part of an organization dedicated to service and charity. They are proud to follow the lead of its founder Father Michael McGivney, a young priest committed to service for those in need, a young priest committed to holiness. Five years ago, that young

priest was beatified - the penultimate step toward sainthood in the Roman Catholic church. Few men belong to organizations founded by those who are on the road to be sainthood. We are proud to have that distinction."

More information about Masconomo Council 1232 Knights of Columbus is available on the group's web-



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An exhibit of Manchester artist Sarah Rodier's paintings are currently on show at the Beverly Farms Public Library. Here, from left, is Becca Marsden, Mia Rodier, Juni VanDyke, and Sarah Rodier at a well-attended reception. Paintings are on exhibit through the end of the month. Photo: Erika Brown

In the Driver's Seat The i5 M60 xDrive ... Worth the Drive

By Steve Schutz

BMW's venerable 5-Series sedan has long been a paragon of luxury, performance, and innovation. Now in its eighth generation, it is still all that, but the automotive world has seemingly passed it by as SUVs and crossovers have taken over.

Nevertheless, allow me to pour some sugar on the 5-Series, because in the 1970s and '80s when BMW was nothing like the luxury juggernaut we know today, when the 5-er grabbed our attention and held it until, umm, maybe 10 years ago when the X5 SUV shoved it aside like Facebook did to MySpace.

It's not the same world anymore, but with the introduction of the all-electric (BEV) i5 sedan, BMW moves the not-yet-irrelevant 5-Series into the modern era.

Is that a good thing? We'll see, but for now I'll just say it's different.

Also different, and I would say smart, was BMW CEO Oliver Zipse's decision about five years ago to develop new vehicles with configurable powertrains, such that they could be manufactured with BEV, hybrid, or internal combustion (ICE) propulsion systems, depending on customer demand.

As BEV demand declines and hybrid/ICE orders climb, that decision is looking pretty prescient.

Design-wise, the BEV i5 M60 xDrive I tested exudes a nice blend of tradition and futurism. Its silhouette re-



Five years ago, I thought that Audi had the best screens and infotainment user interfaces. Now it's BMW, with Porsche in second place.

fects classic 5-Series models of old, but it's been updated with a sleek profile and modern proportions. The front end features a large version of BMW's iconic kidney grille, which has been reimagined with no openings and a smoked glass kind of cover that adds subtle illumination at night that hints at its electric powertrain. The rear end is tapered with thin horizontal taillights that work to minimize visual mass.

Inside, the i5 M60 xDrive is all about luxury meeting

technology. When the dude who delivers press cars gave me the keys, he said, "this car is like from the future." And he's right. Ambient lighting, which you can pick yourself, further adjusts according to driving modes, and the latest iteration of BMW's iDrive user interface is showcased through a majestic, curved display that integrates infotainment and driver information seamlessly (and futuristically). And I was happy to find that the new tech I experienced in the i5 is not

just visually stunning but also approachable and intuitive.

Five years ago, I thought that Audi had the best screens and infotainment user interfaces. Now it's BMW, with Porsche in second place.

The i5 M60 xDrive features a dual-motor BEV system delivering 593HP and 586 lb-ft of torque, which can propel the sedan from 0 to 60MPH in an impressive 3.7 seconds. And equipped with an 84.3 kWh battery pack, the i5 M60 xDrive offers an EPA-estimated range of approximately 240 miles.

Which brings me to my usual words of caution about BEVs: Before buying any all-electric vehicle, think about how you'll use it. If you have a home charger, commuting

and running errands in a BEV are a cinch—no more going to the gas station!—but long trips will be challenging.

Automotive News and the Wall Street Journal have reported that the charging infrastructure isn't what it should be to support long trips in a BEV, and outages or lines at existing charging stations are a continuing challenge. On the road, the i5 M60 xDrive exhibits good steering, balanced handling, and a comfortable ride quality that is undeniably pleasant but not really like previous 5-Series models. While I appreciate the i5's massive power and acceleration, the always-on-the-balls-of-my-foot agility that I associate with older 5-Series sedans is

missing, which is a shame. I blame the i5's porky 5225-lb curb weight.

Rear-wheel steering (RWS) enhances maneuverability, particularly in urban settings such as parking garages. I used to turn my nose up at RWS, but now I appreciate its pluses.

The i5 M60 xDrive comes with adaptive suspension, which adjusts in real-time to varying road conditions. It was invisible to me during my time with the car, and I'm not sure if that's good or bad.

Positioned as a flagship within the electric 5-Series lineup, the i5 M60 xDrive is priced at \$84,100, and of course that number will increase with optional features and additional customization.

It's worth noting that Porsche and Mercedes BEV models have experienced more depreciation than their internal combustion counterparts so consider leasing.

The BMW i5 M60 xDrive signifies a pivotal moment in the evolution of the beloved 5-Series sedan. It provides full electrification plus a lot, but not all, of the driving pleasure synonymous with the 5-er. And it's not an SUV. However, range anxiety and depreciation are realities, as they are with all BEVs, so think about how you'll use it before you buy.

Stephen Schutz has covered the automotive world for more than 30 years as a syndicated writer and podcast host. Read his column monthly in *The Cricket*.

2024 Record-Breaking Year With \$83 Million in Real Estate Sales for J Barrett & Company's Fabyan & Filias Team



J Barrett & Company this week announced that the Fabyan & Filias Team—vice Presidents & Realtors® Holly Fabyan and Paula Filias—is ranked Number 1 in sales at J Barrett & Company and Number 3 in Essex County for 2024.*

Based in the firm's Manchester office, Holly and Paula have worked together for five years, achieving over \$83 million in sales in 2024.

"We are thrilled with what we accomplished for our clients last year!" says Holly. "Their trust and confidence in the Fabyan & Filias Team mean everything to us."

Paula adds, "I'm proud of our achievement, but most importantly, I'm delighted to have helped our clients reach their milestones—whether selling a treasured home or finding the perfect new one."

"Holly and Paula are among our most experienced, knowledgeable and successful agents," says Jon Gray, president of J Barrett & Company. "They are consistent top producers, offering solid advice and unwavering support during every transaction. It's no surprise they're also ranked 37th in all of Massachusetts. **"

Their success is driven by meticulous attention to detail, personalized service and efficient communication—qualities that keep transactions smooth and stress-free. Holly and Paula often spend years working with sellers to prepare for an eventual sale, crafting custom strategies to meet individual client needs.

Another hallmark of their work is their "value-added" service. Leveraging an extensive network of clients from

the North Shore, Greater Boston and beyond, they excel at both finding and selling homes that are sold privately. In 2024 alone, 18% of their transactions were exclusively off-market.

Holly has been a trusted guide for buyers and sellers on the North Shore for 33 years. Well-known for her dedication and stellar reputation, she tirelessly champions her clients' interests to deliver exceptional results.

Paula, a CPA with over 30 years of expertise in residential investment properties, home construction and renovation, is highly respected for her analytical precision and client advocacy. She ensures every client understands the complexities of the home buying or selling process.

In 2025, the team is set

to expand with the addition of Lucy Pear, a North Shore native. Lucy brings over 20 years of extensive professional experience in

sales and operations within the luxury hospitality sector including real estate. She served for several years as Director of Operations for a Boston real estate firm prior to relocating to the North Shore and joining J Barrett & Company.

This dynamic trio expertly guides clients through any real estate challenge, delivering a powerful combination of guidance, advocacy and expertise.

J Barrett & Company
Established in January 2007, J Barrett & Company 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.

* MLSPIN 1/1/2024-12/31/2024



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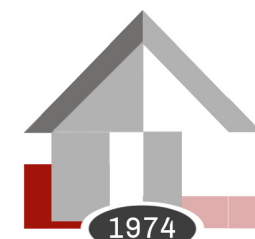
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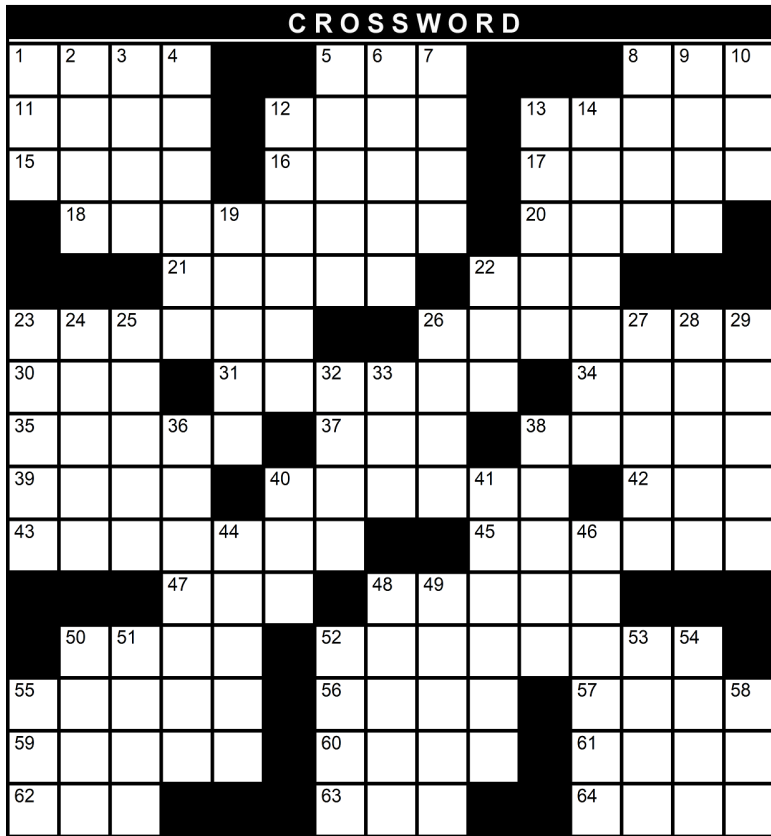
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Puzzle

THEME: SUPER BOWL

ACROSS

- 1. Bungle
- 5. Cause of a trip?
- 8. Dao, alt. sp.
- 11. Between marquess and viscount
- 12. Super garb?
- 13. Inlet in Norway
- 15. Cogito ___ sum
- 16. Long story
- 17. Deprived of a limb
- 18. *Half-time headliner
- 20. Ice, dark or middle ___
- 21. *Cindy Crawford wore “ ___ Dukes” in a Super Bowl ad
- 22. Flightless bird
- 23. *Last year’s Super Bowl winners
- 26. A cheap, run-down motel
- 30. “ ___ the fields we go”
- 31. Merry
- 34. Actor’s part
- 35. Expensive
- 37. Not him
- 38. Cell phone bill item
- 39. Civil Rights icon
- 40. *David Tyree’s ___ Catch
- 42. Letters of distress
- 43. What rule follower does
- 45. Get cozy
- 47. Greed, biblically-speaking
- 48. Grieve for the dead
- 50. Time period
- 52. *Team with most Super Bowl appearances
- 55. 3600 seconds, pl.
- 56. Casino chip
- 57. Salmon’s output
- 59. En ___, all together
- 60. Like Piper of Hamelin
- 61. Uber alternative
- 62. ___ Robinson
- 63. Acronym, abbr.
- 64. “Come Sail Away” band



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DOWN

- 1. Service charge
- 2. Songbird
- 3. Craving
- 4. Marilyn Monroe, e.g.
- 5. ___ lazuli
- 6. Hot
- 7. 52 cards
- 8. Hefty volume
- 9. Greek god of war
- 10. I, e.g.
- 12. Cherry red
- 13. Post vitriol
- 14. *Team with no Super Bowl appearances
- 19. Looney Tunes duck
- 22. Architectural add-on
- 23. Meat of coconut
- 24. Roman king of Judea
- 25. Like certain whiskey

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

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

Solutions on Page 11

- 26. Grow crop
- 27. Brag
- 28. Algorithmic language
- 29. Ganders’ companions
- 32. Tom Jones’s “ ___ a Lady”
- 33. Rolodex abbr.
- 36. * ___ Superdome
- 38. Wombs
- 40. Lady lobster
- 41. Hardened
- 44. Follows wash
- 46. Pig sounds
- 48. Bouncing off the walls
- 49. Weasel’s aquatic cousin
- 50. Fly like an eagle
- 51. Boot-wearing kitty
- 52. Mama Bear’s husband
- 53. To perfection (3 words)
- 54. *Justin Timberlake’s “ ___ Back,” sung in Super Bowl show
- 55. Expression of doubt
- 58. *Steelers’ number of Super Bowl trophies

Religious Notes

First Universalist Church of Essex

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

Cornerstone Church

We gather for worship each

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.

First Parish Church

First Parish Church Manchester-by-the-Sea - a lovely place to start your week, join us for a moving message, beautiful music and community in the center of town - January 26 Worship, 10 a.m. led by Rev. Katherine Schofield and Dr. Herman Weiss with the First Parish Choir. Church School begins in the Church at 10 a.m.

Monday, Friends of the COA Senior Drop-in, 10 a.m.-12 noon. Book Group 6 p.m. offsite, discussing The Winter Soldier Tuesday, Bible Study, Via Zoom 4 p.m. join in with computer, smart device or dial in on a phone - email of fice.fpchurch@gmail.com or call 978-526-7661 for the link Wednesday, Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.

...(Continued on page 11)

Churchill PROPERTIES

CHURCHILL PROPERTIES

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230 North St, Unit 2, Danvers | 127 Eastern Ave, Gloucester | 1 Merrimac St, Suite 6, Newburyport



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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**



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



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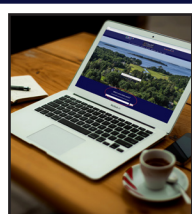


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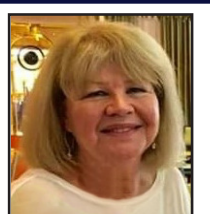
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What's Your Purpose?



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

April would be a good time for the New Year: new life, crocuses, snowdrops, more light, and hope. We could eat better, sleep more, exercise more, complain less, and help out more.

Alas, I am not in charge of seasons or pivotal holidays. We turn the calendar from one frozen day to the next, which doesn't seem very new or fresh to me. As they say in kindergarten, "Lots to do; let's get busy."

The people I most admire have one thing in common: purpose.

Social behaviorists study retirees to gather a number of data points and conclusively find that those who feel a strong sense of purpose and spend time and energy toward a goal that is not always "themselves" live longer and healthier, have more satisfying interpersonal relationships, and have a higher quality of life.

Our energy can be focused when our purpose, mission, job, or role is well known. We establish goals and often keep on keeping on. When the goals are unmet, we re-evaluate and consider a shift of strategy. However, we can feel adrift when our purpose, mission, job, or role is unclear or changes substantially.

Maybe your purpose has taken a 180 degree change. Maybe you're in flux. It might be time to reevaluate and see how things shake out.

The work-a-day life, raising children, managing excessively crowded schedules, and dealing with family illness or crises leave hardly any extra minutes in the day to consider anything other than what is right in front of you - and sometimes on fire. Life rearranges our priorities (often without our permission), and we are left to respond. The tasks set before us are usually circumstantial, not necessarily elected or chosen.

Purpose changes. When a loved one has a serious or life-limiting illness, we re-prioritize accordingly. If a child struggles with mental or physical illness, our purpose becomes finding treatment options, experts, and, in the words of Fred Rogers, helpers. Sometimes, our heads are the last to know that the purpose has shifted. We are called into the "now" but can still linger in the parking lot of the past long after the event is over. What we know is comforting, even if we don't like it. It's predictable, even if it's negative.

If we considered our purpose, what insights, clarity, or inspiration might it offer?

Maybe we peel the onion a bit and see what's there. What is the most important thing I will do today? Where do I have the most opportunity to make an impact? What do I care most about? What's mine to own and do? What will not happen if I do not act? What would I miss most if I lost it from my life?

If your sense of purpose is intact, share it. Bring it up with your friends. They may not say so at first, but from my recent experience, this is an internal and pressing question as our world spins in ways that feel increasingly out of sync. If the phrase "What's my purpose?" is on your mind right now, that's a good sign.

In my four decades of nursing, the majority of which have been dedicated to caring for individuals with serious or life-limiting illnesses and their families, these questions often arise. Conversations like these with those whose purpose has shifted due to their limitations offer incredible insights. When the clock is ticking, many don't want to waste a single second.

One woman, in particular, stands out to me. At 65, she was a retired corporate at-

torney with a Type A personality and then some. When we met, she was mostly confined to her bed. She told me that her new purpose was to have her three-year-old twin grandsons sit and play on her bed every afternoon.

That's my purpose now. I've given away nearly all of my duties to have time and energy for that. This is my job now. My purpose. My new highest priority.

So here we are: New Year, new national leaders, new world disasters, and maybe a new purpose. Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter had a purpose. It undoubtedly extended their lives and gave them meaning and satisfaction that we admire and envy.

Maybe your purpose has taken a 180. Maybe you are in flux. It might be time to re-evaluate and see how things shake out. No one knows your purpose but you. If you don't, give it some thought. 2025 might be a big, bright New Year, after all.

Joanne MacInnis, RN, is the founder and president of Aberdeen Home Care, Inc., of Danvers, a concierge private duty home care agency in business since 2001. With 35 years of nursing practice, management and administration experience focused on home care and hospice, Joanne and her team specialize in advising and supporting families addressing the elders in their lives retain dignity and quality of life.

Solution to puzzles on page 10

F	L	U	B		L	S	D			T	A	O				
E	A	R	L		C	A	P	E		F	J	O	R	D		
E	R	G	O		E	P	I	C		L	A	M	E	D		
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6	3	8	1	7	9	4	2	5
9	4	1	2	6	5	7	8	3
5	7	2	3	8	4	9	1	6
2	9	5	7	1	3	6	4	8
8	1	3	4	9	6	5	7	2
7	6	4	8	5	2	1	3	9
1	8	6	9	2	7	3	5	4
3	5	7	6	4	8	2	9	1
4	2	9	5	3	1	8	6	7

PET OF THE WEEK: UPSY DAISY



Met Daisy! This absolute doll of a cat is ready for her forever home. Loving affection in short bursts to begin, she is a bit shy and needs a calm approach. Daisy is looking for a child-free and low-traffic home where she can feel safe and secure. Sound like she could be the right fit for you? Fill out an application, capeanimalaid.org/catapp, and let's get a meeting scheduled. Visit www.apeanimalaid.org for more information about Daisy and all the other animals waiting for homes at the Christopher Cutler Rich Animal Shelter, 4 Paws Lane in Gloucester

PUBLIC NOTICE



TOWN OF MANCHESTER
Town Hall
10 Central Street
Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA, 01944
DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS
Invitation for Bids
The Manchester-by-the-Sea Department of Public Works (MBTS or Town) invites sealed proposals in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30B from qualified contractors for: Advanced Meter Infrastructure (AMI) FY 25 Meter Replacement. Information and Proposing Documents for the Project can be downloaded from the following designated website: <https://www.wright-pierce.com/projects/>. Proposals will be received at the Manchester-by-the-Sea Department of Public Works, 10 Central Street, Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts, 01944 with the name and address of the proposer and the words "Advanced Meter Infrastructure (AMI) FY 25 Meter Replacement", on the envelope, until February 19th, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. at which time all proposals received shall be opened in room 6 of the DPW office. No proposal received after the date and time established herein for the opening of the proposals will be considered.
Posted to MNPA website: <http://masspublicnotices.org>
January 24, 2025 MC

SENIOR HIGHLIGHTS | JANUARY 24

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.

It's January's Lunch of the Month!

It's a Chinese Luncheon Buffet for senior citizens scheduled for Tuesday, Janu-

ary 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. Menu includes Beef Teriyaki, Chicken Fingers, Egg Roll, Crab Rangoon, Beef & Broccoli, Chicken Chow Mein, Pork Fried Rice, Vegetable Lo Mein, Fortune Cookies, beverage and des-

sert. (Oh my!). Cost of this luncheon is \$12 per person and open to the first 40 who sign up. Reservations and prepayment are necessary by January 23. Transportation will be available. Please call the COA office for more information or to register.

Champions Pub Time
On Wednesday, Febru-

ary 5, the COA van is off to lunch at Champions Pub in Peabody. Champions is known for its steak tips, but they have many delicious options including BBQ, burgers, chicken and more. The van will start picking up seniors around 11 a.m. Return is expected by 1:30 p.m. For info or to reserve your seat on the van, please call the COA office.

...(Continued from page 10)

Thursday, Deacon Meeting 6 p.m.

St. John's Church Worship

Every Sunday we hold services at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Childcare is available during the 10 a.m. service. Holy Eucharist at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Quaker Meeting

Quakers of the North Shore worship every Sunday from 10-11 a.m. at the Glen Urquhart School: 74 Hart Street, Beverly Farms, Mass. It is an unprogrammed Quaker

Meeting. There is no Pastor (or leader) save the spirit of God in and among us. Our worship is primarily silent. When a worshiper is moved, it may include a brief, spoken ministry offered in a 'spirit of worship.' Friends gather quietly, awaiting the experience of God's presence.

People in our community hail from the traditional tribal lands of the Pawtucket and Massachusetts now called Manchester, Gloucester, Beverly, Ipswich, Rockport, Salem, Lynn and

Marblehead. Whether you have worshipped in other Quaker (Friends) Meetings or not, we welcome you to join us. If you are new to Quakers, someone will be happy to talk with you and answer any questions you may have. Send an email to: northshorequaker@gmail.com. First Day School, our Children's Program, consists of forest walks near the Glen Urquhart School led by Jessica Kagle from the Kestrel Foundation. Blessings To You.

Winter is a season of recovery and preparation.
~ Paul Theroux~

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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.



GLOUCESTER

\$2,249,000 | Donna Aloisi
Eastern Point! Fully renovated turnkey home has open floor plan, new custom kitchen, new sunroom, new patio, fenced yard, and outdoor shower. Septic (4 years), roof (7 years). Beach access.



MARBLEHEAD

\$1,999,000 | The Lopes Group
"Twelve Lanterns" - Mediterranean villa overlooking the ocean has soaring tower, vaulted ceilings, main level primary suite, updated kitchen, separate heated studio. Generator, deeded beach path.



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.



BEVERLY

\$1,399,000 | Joel Margolis
Stately 5-bedroom, 2 full & 2 half bath Colonial on corner cul-de-sac lot offers Anderson windows, hardwood floors, screened porch, finished lower level with au pair-guest suite. 2-car garage.



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.



WENHAM

\$1,295,000 | Lynne Saporito
Excellent design and construction highlight this spacious 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath Townhouse at The Boulders, 55+ community. Open concept, 1st floor primary, unfinished basement, 2-car garage.



HAVERTHILL

\$599,000 | Norman Banville
West Parish. Meticulous 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath townhome. Inviting open concept, gas fireplace in vaulted ceiling living room, stainless-granite kitchen. Finished lower level, deck. Private deck.



BEVERLY

\$475,000 | Kristin Kelly
Well-loved/maintained 3-bedroom, 1,300+ sf Ryal Side Colonial. Family owned for 70+ years has eat-in kitchen, mudroom, deck, full basement, garage. Ready to embrace the future with décor changes.

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LUXURY REALTY

J Barrett & Company, LLC supports the principles of both the Fair Housing and the Equal Opportunity Acts.

Find us on [f](https://www.facebook.com/JBarrettRealtyNorthShore):JBarrettRealtyNorthShore

COLDWELL BANKER MANCHESTER-BY-THE-SEA



43 Cliff Rd. Unit B Gloucester | \$1,299,000
Good Harbor Beach luxury condo end unit, 2 primary suites with option for guest quarters/office with full bath on lower level.

Lynda Hemeon & Brianna Hemeon Realtor | 978-884-5710



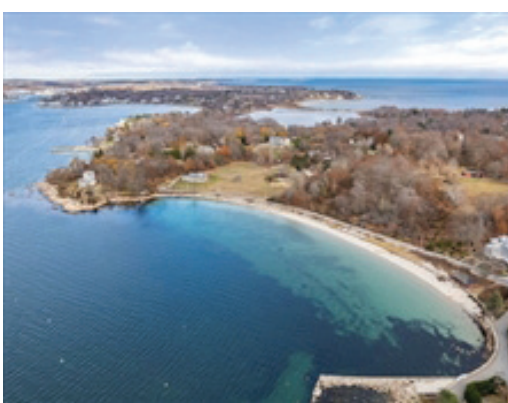
3 Lexington Ave Magnolia | \$950,000
Attention Contractors, Developers and savvy Investors! This is a great opportunity to obtain this 3 multifamily mixed used project in the heart of beautiful Magnolia in Gloucester.

Gaby DeBenedictis | Realtor 978-879-9773



9 Sawmill Circle (rental) Manchester | \$7650 a Month
Rare opportunity to find a beautiful sunny home with high end finishes and hardwood floors throughout! Two primary suites, one on the First floor. Five bedrooms, flexible office, guest space and attached garage. Please schedule a tour now to plan your next move.

Krista Julian | Realtor | 617-312-5413



5 Elm Avenue Gloucester | \$1,800,000
Outstanding land opportunity on coveted Eastern Point. This prime parcel is beautifully positioned on Elm Avenue and has views of Gloucester Harbor, Dog Bar Breakwater and the distant Boston skyline. There is an approved 5-bedroom septic system in hand, with water and electricity at the street. A short stroll will take you to multiple beaches, private clubs and conservation land with endless trails to explore. Downtown Gloucester is moments away with fine dining, galleries, boutiques and cultural attractions that make the city the hub of the North Shore.

Scott Smith | Realtor | 617-750-2793

17 YEARS IN REAL ESTATE MEANS SOMETHING

MARY MATTHEWS 978-317-1079

Coming from a family of real estate agents, entrepreneurs and business owners, I grew up understanding the **true** meaning of Serving; the final goal is always a shared goal.

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