

Presidents Day: Monday, February 17

"Change will not come if we wait ... We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek." **~ Barack Obama**



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BRIEFLY

Author to Speak at Manchester Woman's Club Meeting on Feb. 18

The Manchester Woman's Club's fourth meeting of 2024-2025 will begin at noon, Tuesday, February 18 at the First Parish Chapel Hall. Lunch begins at noon followed by a program, *Tips on Writing* a Book: You Can Do This Too, presented by Claire S. Cabot, author. Cabot is the author of several books including a mystery series featuring Adelaide Stubbs, a successful international jet-setting handwriting analyst and Cooking Through History: A Comprehensive Manual on How to Give a Theme *Party*. The club is open to all the women of Manchester and greater Cape Ann area, for this meeting and all others. Remember, do not arrive before 11:45 a.m. to the lunch, as parking is at a premium. Better yet, feel free to carpool or call the Manchester COA to schedule a ride in the town van. The Manchester Woman's Club is a 117-year-old organization. In 1910, the club founded the Visiting Nurses Association (a.k.a., "VNA"). Locals may know the club because these women "keep the lights burning "on the annual Town Common Friendship Tree during the holiday season and they award two annual scholarships to local high school seniors. Info for joining and to RSVP for next week's lunch, email manchesterwomansclub@ gmail.com.

Last Call! "Timeline Cape Ann" Showing at Gloucester Meetinghouse

ME Track Teams Take Advantage of "Last Chance"



Gus Hall on his way to a personal best in the Mile at the Reggie Lewis Center!

By Jason Brisbois

he winter season seems to fly by pretty quickly, so the MSTCA Last Chance Meet is a welcome opportunity for athletes on indoor track teams across Massachusetts to qualify and compete in postseason meets. A handful of runners from the Manchester Essex boys and girls track teams took full advantage of

the opportunity to either get a shot at postseason glory or record their best time of the 2024-25 season.

"The Last Chance Meet is intended to offer a last chance for an athlete to meet the state divisional qualifier, but also to run at the Reggie in competitive races to prepare for state divisionals, to lock in a season's best, or get experience to run at larger competitions next year,"

explains Manchester Essex indoor track coach Brian Davis. "The meet and team did not disappoint."

Cia Donohoe and Melina Binieris have been key performers for the Hornets all season, and they saved their best for last by qualifying for the state meet in the Last Chance.

"Donohoe ran 3:22.77 -- a personal record -- taking off a remarkable 6.33

seconds to run a state divisional qualifier," says Davis. "Binieris did the same, running 5:50.64 in the mile, taking off 13 seconds in her first time running at the Reggie, a PR and state divisional qualifier."

Cummins im-Tvler proved his PR in the 600M by 2.5 seconds by running a 1:35.35, while Gus Hall (mile), Adare Foster, Caroline Eliassen and Claire

Yukins all recorded PRs in the 300M.

"Adelaide Hall, Eleanor Hall, and Ann Sergi all hit close to their PRs and got competitive experience in preparation for state divisionals next week," explains

Cia Donohoe and Melina Binieris have been kev performers. They saved their best for last by qualifying for the state meet.

Davis. "Nicky Clements hit a season best 17'1" in the long jump. Lydia Garth competed well for the first time at the Reggie, gaining experience for the stage next year. Dylan Johnson was within .5s of his PR, gaining experience for a breakout next year."

Yukins, Binieris, Eliassen and Donohoe combined for their debut together in the 4x200 relay during the Last Chance, while the boys 4x200 relay team provided a worthy effort in an attempt to overcome an obstruction during the third leg of the race.

"While an obstruction by another team's runner in the third leg was an obstacle, the boys came together to support each other in a gutsy performance that is an example for our team going forward," says Davis.

The MIAA Div. 5 State Meet on February 16 is the next big date on the calendar for the Hornets.

TA Search Picking Up Steam will likely take place by early April. At open public meet-

process concludes with an

Saturday

Kory Curcuru's "Timeline Cape Ann" historical short-form documentary series for 1623 Studios will be the focus of a public program at the Gloucester Meetinghouse. "Timeline: Cape Ann" focuses on the history, culture and heritage of Cape Ann, and has included subjects like Manchester's "first boss-lady," Abigail Hooper Trask. 7:30pm in the Gloucester Unitarian Universalist Church, located at the corner of Church and Middle Streets (GPS 50 Middle Street). Parking is available on the green. General admission is \$20 and \$5 for students (all ages). Children under 12 are free. More details on Page 8.

First Blood Drive of 2025 at American Legion Hall on March 11

The Amaral Bailey American Legion Hall in Manchester will host its first blood drive of 2025 on Thursday, March 11 from 12 noon to 5 p.m. Donating blood is a simple act of generosity that saves lives in emergencies and medical treatments, but donation rates have consistently been declining. The American Red Cross urges donors to step up. Schedule an appointment at RedCross-Blood.org.

by Gregory T. Federspiel

Tith my retirement scheduled for this coming summer, the efforts to hire a new Town Administrator are accelerating. The Select Board has the responsibility for hiring the TA and they hope to reach a final decision by May. This will allow a few months for a transition period.

Last fall the Select Board hired Community Paradigm Associates to head up the recruiting efforts. Paradigm is the leading recruiter of municipal leaders in the state. Firm principals Bernie Lynch and John Petrin served as municipal managers for decades and know the dynamics involved and the people who might be interested in Manchester. After interviewing board members and key staff, they created a community profile that has been used in the recruiting process. The position has been advertised for over a month with letters of interest and resumes due back to Paradigm this Friday, February 14th.

To assist in the vetting process, a TA Preliminary Screening Committee has been appointed. This eightmember group of residents



will work with the recruiter in recommending two or three finalists to the Select Board. Members of the screening committee are Sarah Creighton, Chair of the Planning Board, Sarah Mellish, Chair of the Finance Committee, Chris Reed, Chair of the School Committee, Eli Boling and Muffin Driscall, former Select Board members, Rob Beatty and David Crehan, at-large members, and Town Moderator Alan Wilson.

The committee will be meeting over the next few weeks to discuss the qualities of the ideal candidate and to prepare for the initial round of interviews. The committee will review all resumes received and will select 6-8 candidates to interview. These interviews will

take place in early March. The recruiter will assist in the vetting process and facilitate the committee's work.

State law allows initial screening interviews to be in executive session, closed to the public. Doing so encourages more applications as qualified candidates who are serving in another community may be reluctant to have their application be public at the preliminary stage. The screening committee will recommend 2-3 finalists who will be interviewed during a public meeting of the Select Board.

The finalists will undergo additional background checks by the recruiting firm in preparation for final interviews with the Select Board. These interviews

ings, residents can observe the interviews but typically only Select Board members are asking the questions and discussing the qualifications of each finalist. Finalists may also spend time with town department leaders who can share their impressions with the Board.

The Select Board will then review all the information gathered, ask the recruiter to do some follow-ups as needed and deliberate on which candidate will be best for Manchester. A top

agreement on a contract (typically for three years) and a formal start date, which could be 2-3 months out depending on how much time the new Town Administrator needs to wrap up with their current employer.

Have thoughts on the qualifications needed for the next Town Administrator? Feel free to send them to the Select Board's Office here at Town Hall and they will be shared with the Screening Committee and Select Board.

Weekly Weather Chart

Saturday 15 Feb	**	33°	17°
Sunday 16 Feb		38°	24°
Monday 17 Feb	**	25°	1°
Tuesday 18 Feb	**	23°	-5°
Wednesday 19 Feb		29°	18°
Thursday 20 Feb	*	32°	28°
Friday 21 Feb	<u>الم</u>	32°	27°

Weather data pulled Wednesday and is subject to change.



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A Familiar "Man About Town," Inspired by Local History

Matthew Swindell, associate director at the Manchester-by-the-Sea Museum, cuts a familiar figure around town. A young man with lively blue eyes, always in a suit and tie, and, if out of doors, a hat (straw from May 15 to September 15 and the rest of the year, felt), he is hard to miss. He may or may not have a walking stick. Even the way he carries himself seems to be of another era. Dapper. Elegant. And most definitely intriguing. Cricket Features Editor Kris McGinn learns what makes Matthew tick in her story, Page 5.



The MBTS Fire Department conducted cold water training in the harbor. They had their engine, ladder and ambulance at the park and a handful of firefighters on the ice and swimming in the harbor on a cold sunny Saturday in February. Photo: Gene Wynne

MANCHESTER POLICE NOTES

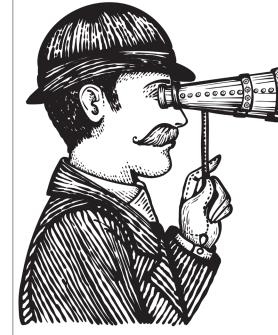
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2 11:49 a.m. Route 128SB, motor vehicle stop, verbal warning. 4:19 p.m. Pine St., selective enforcement, assisted as needed. 5:06 p.m. Bridge St., animal complaint, gone on arrival. 9:31 p.m. Pine St., motor vehicle stop, verbal warning.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3

12:35 a.m. White Beach, directed patrol. secured/checked. 1:22 p.m. School St., selective enforcement, secured/ checked. 5:25 p.m. Pleasant St., traffic hazard, assisted as needed. 7:40 p.m. Newport Park Rd., fire alarm, fire confirmed.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

9:04 a.m. Friend St., house lockout, assisted as needed. 11:50 a.m. School St., motor vehicle stop, verbal warning. 5:09 p.m. Pine St., selective enforcement, secured/ checked. 8:37 p.m. Powder



House Lane, fire alarm, fire false.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

7:45 a.m. Lincoln St., park-

ing complaint, assisted as needed. 5:32 p.m. Summer St., motor vehicle stop, verbal warning. 6:24 p.m. Summer St., fire alarm, fire false. 11:24 p.m. Blossom Lane,

alarm, secured/checked.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6 9:58 a.m. North St., parking complaint, citation issued. 10:19 a.m. Norwood Ave., parking complaint, citation issued. 3:06 p.m. Central St., motor vehicle crash, citation issued. 4:54 p.m. Summer St., suspicious activity, spoken to.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

1:47 a.m. Woodholm Rd., fire alarm, fire false. 12:36 p.m. Bridge St., traffic hazard, secured/checked. 7:19 p.m. Beach St., citizen assist, arrest. 11:13 p.m. Lincoln St., alarm, secured/ checked.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8 1:28 a.m. Beach St., directed patrol, secured/checked. 4:27 p.m. Pine St., parking complaint, citation issued. 5:01 p.m. Route 128SB, motor vehicle stop, written warning. 9:28 p.m. Central St., parking complaint, citation issued.

ning their Spring Training schedule on February 5th. Collections began the weekend of February 8th and 9th. They will end on April 13th.

The Knights are looking for new, clean socks, which

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The Manchester Cricket

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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 <u>classifieds@</u> <u>cricketpress.com</u> or call us at 978-526-7171 and we'll take your payment over the phone. Cost: 65 cents/word the first week and 55 cents/word thereafter. Minimum charge \$12. Deadline for Classifieds Mondays, 5 p.m.

FOR RENT

MANCHESTER - Winter Rental. \$4,500/month (includes heat, electric and cable). Available Oct 1st . Two-level townhome. 4 bed/1.5 baths. Tastefully decorated & furnished. Chef's kitchen that connects to living room, creating a great space for cooking, hosting, and entertaining. Call 617.212.3251 1/24

SERVICES

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es. Contact Bill mbtshandyman@ gmail.com or (978) 618-0999. TF PROPERTY WATCH/SECURITY -Rest assured! Private Detective/ Property Watch Services for home or business from a local North Shore-owned business. Away at an event, vacationing, or for the season (snowbirds)? Coverage on daily, weekly, or an on-call basis for storm damage, or mechanical/ utility failure / remodeling or construction progress and contact you with live pictures. Veteran owned and Licensed (MA License LP0931H) and bonded/insured. Reasonable rates. Call or text (978)884-9929. 7/1





Sox in Socks. Socks for Those Who Need Socks!

Sarah Rodier

(978) 808-2596

Socks are one of the most ing items that are provided important and useful cloth- to homeless people.

Clean socks promote good hygiene and health and provide warmth during the cold winter months. They are the item most sought by residents of homeless shelters.

Masconomo Council 1232 Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a Socks Drive to coincide with the Red Sox begin-

will be donated to local area homeless shelters. Donations will be accepted until Palm Sunday weekend, April 12th and 13th. There will be bins marked for the socks drive in the rear of both Sacred Heart church, Manchester-by-the- Sea and St John the Baptist church, Essex, Visitation Parish. As winter weather bears down on us, please consider donating a few (or more!) pairs of new socks to help the home-We appreciate your less. support!

Last year 1,200 pairs of socks were donated. Council 1232 hopes to exceed that number in 2025.

We need socks. Athletic socks. Argyll socks. Solid socks. Striped socks. Any kind of socks are accepted.



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Paul Cohen, Chair of the Board, MIIA; Elizabeth Berner, MIIA Worksite Wellness Mind-Body Specialist; Gregory Federspiel, Town Administrator, Manchester-by-the-Sea; Adam Chapdelaine, President, MIIA. Photo: Krista Guenin/Krista Photography

Manchester-by-the-Sea Recognized for **Responsible Municipal Insurance Policy**

he Massachusetts In-Insurance terlocal Association (MIIA), Manchester by-the-Sea's insurance provider, presented the town with a FY2024 Health and Wellness Award for Excellence in Diversity of Programming. The award recognized the town's outstanding commitment to workplace wellness through strong leadership support, creativity, innovation, and the efforts of an active wellness committee.

It was presented at Connect 351 during MIIA's Annual Business Meeting last month in Boston. The meeting was a high-profile affair with notable keynote speakers that included Mass. Gov. Maura Healey, Sen. Elizabeth Warren, US Rep. Ed Markey, and Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll.

MIIA's wellness team recognized Jennifer Yaskell, tax collector, and Cheryl Marshall, director of Parks and Recreation, for their leadership in developing customized workplace wellness programming in partnership with MIIA. Yaskell, Marshall, and the town's wellness committee implemented programs driven by employee and manager input - leading to high participation rates across all town departments.

"Staff really benefit and enjoy the array of programming MIIA offers its member communities, commented Town Administrator Greg Federspiel. "We allow staff to attend the informative wellness programs during the workday given the boost to morale and wellness they provide."

Manchester-by-the-Sea regularly participates in MI-IA's Well Aware workshops, which provide practical guidance for town employees and their families to live healthier, more vibrant lives. The workshops focus on areas such as fitness, sleep, injury prevention, and mindfulness

Stanley Corcoran, Executive Vice President of MIIA, commended Manchesterby-the-Sea for setting an example by prioritizing employee health and wellness. "Supporting employee wellness directly impacts productivity, morale, workplace engagement, and overall quality of life," he said. "Manchester-by-the-Sea's commitment to fostering a culture of wellness benefits their workforce and also serves as an inspiring model for other communities striving to support their teams and build a healthier workplace."

The MIIA is the non-profit insurance arm of the Massachusetts Municipal Association insuring more than 400 cities, towns, and other public entities in the state.



BOARD UPDATES

Town Hall Closed: Town Hall will be closed on Monday, February 17 in observance of Presidents Day. All trash, recycling, and compost collection will be delayed by one day.

Select Board Meeting: The Select Board will meet on Tuesday, February 18 at 6:30 p.m. Meeting details can be found on the Town website.

Water Meter Capital Fee: A new Capital Fee will be added to the February water bills to pay for the Water Meter Replacement Project that is set to begin this spring. To learn more about this project please visit manchester. ma.us/826/Water-Meter-Replacement.

Excise Tax Bills: Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes have been issued and are due into the Collector's Office by 3/10/25. Anyone who has questions or is missing a bill may call 978-526-2030 for assistance.

Winter Weather Guide: How does the Town respond to winter storms? Read the Winter Weather Guide at manchester.ma.us/223/Public-Works.

Summer **Employment:** Check out the Town website to see a listing of seasonal jobs with the Police, DPW, and Parks and Recreation and learn how to apply.

Energy Aggregation Plan: A draft of the Town's Energy Aggregation Plan is open for public review and comment through February 28, 2025.

Learn more at manchester. ma.us/832/Energy-Aggregation-Project.

Comfort Dog Sponsorship: Calling all businesses to join a monthly corporate sponsorship program to benefit Daisy the Comfort Dog. Cost is \$300 for the month. Contact marlettat@manchester. ma.us to learn more.

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



90 YEARS AGO - 1935 Led by Rollie Lees at cen-

ter Whit Kimball's Story High quintet rolled over West Newbury at the tune of 27-22 before a fairly large crowd at Horticultural Hall last Tuesday night. Selectman Thomas A. Lee reports that the matter of acquiring a portion of the land belonging to the Leland Estate for additional space at the Playground has been brought to a successful conclusion.

Once again, the people of Manchester have displayed

their willingness to help peo-

high school serving all four towns.

60 YEARS AGO- 1965

Mike Holovak, coach of the Boston Patriots, has been booked as the feature speaker at the Manchester Booster's Club Sports Night Supper, which will be held on Thursday evening, March 25.

Occasional ice floats were all that remained of the harbor ice Sunday, February 7, when the Frostbiters set sail. Seven boats competed in the opening races of the Spring Series. Spring like weather prevailed, with the tempera25-17 victory over Al's. One point now separates the two.

30 YEARS AGO - 1995

The 350th Committee is proud and excited to announce that the focal point of our fabulous 350th Finale Weekend on September 2nd and 3rd will be the re-enactment of Governor Winthrop's landing over 350 years ago on the good ship Arbella.

The anticipated snow storm that hit our coastal town did little damage here but did leave 9 3/4 inches of snow according to weather watcher David Towle.

Nomination Papers Sarah Dunn Davis

Papers Taken Out for Town Offices (as of 2/10/2025)

Leslie Beatty Planning Board (3 avail-

- Seats on the Ballot
- Constable (3) 3-year term • Housing Authority (2) 5 &
- Library Trustee (1) 3-year

3-year term

term

75 YEARS AGO - 1950

Constable (3 available) Joseph Paul Aiello Kevin J. Leach Housing Authority (2 available) **Elaine Claire Persons** Library Trustee (1 available)

able) Gordon A. Brewster Select Board (2 available) Catherine Marie Bilotta Brian Sollosy School Committee (2 available) Nadia Wetzler

- Moderator (1) 1-year term • Planning Board (3) 3-year term
- School Committee (2) 3-year term
 - Select Board (2) 3-year term

ple. This was exemplified in the recent Polio drive which netted \$1150 just over the \$1,000 goal set by the committee.

Manchester's Regional School District Planning Board has completed its work and has recommended, in a preliminary report to the selectman that the Town join with Hamilton, Topsfield and Wenham to form a regional district to construct and operate a new centrally located

ture in the 40's and light, shifting easterly winds.

45 YEARS AGO - 1980

Marine PFC Tod E. Biggar, son of Raymond E. and Janice P. Biggar of 3 Rosedale Ave., has completed recruit training at the Marine Corps. Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C.

The sixth-place Brown's Grocerymen edged a lot closer to their nearest rivals, the Keglers from Al's Café, with a

15 YEARS AGO - 2010 Thirteen students from the Manchester-Essex Regional Schools were selected to participate in the Northeast Massachusetts District Junior

On Monday, February 8, an adult harp seal was observed basking on the ice of Manchester's inner harbor. It is not unusual for these seals to pull themselves out onto the ice to rest in the sun.

Music Festival.

Tides & Sun Chart For The Week Ahead

р	АТЕ		HI	GH			L	*			
		AM	FT	РМ	FT	AM	FT	РМ	FT	RISE	SET
14	Fri	12:28	9.0	12:40	10.0	6:35	0.4	7:08	0.1	6:39	5:15
15	Sat	1:04	9.1	1:17	9.8	7:14	0.4	7:41	0.2	6:37	5:16
16	Sun	1:38	9.1	1:52	9.4	7:53	0.5	8:16	0.5	6:36	5:17
17	Mon	2:11	9.1	2:29	9.0	8:34	0.7	8:52	0.8	6:34	5:19
18	Tue	2:46	9.0	3:08	8.6	9:16	0.9	9:31	1.1	6:33	5:20
19	Wed	3:24	8.9	3:51	8.1	10:01	1.2	10:13	1.5	6:31	5:21
20	Thu	4:06	8.8	4:39	7.6	10:51	1.5	11:01	1.8	6:30	5:23



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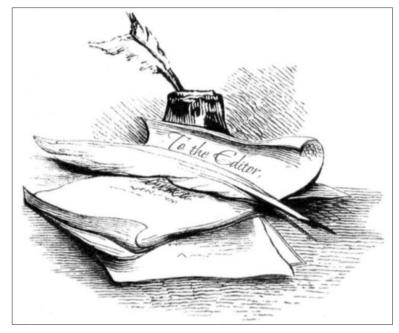
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much of the world tuned into a lackluster Super Bowl, 27 scouts with 18 hand-made cars were having a blast at the annual Cub Scout Pinewood Derby. This is truly one of Manchester's best annual youth events. Congratulations to Jackson Burbage (1st place), Sebastian Crispen (2nd place), and Wyatt Wason (3rd place). Cub Scouts meet on Thursday nights, and it's open to K - 4th Grade girls and boys. The next sign-up opportunity is the Cub's fitness program, 5 - 6 p.m.Thursday, Feb. 27 MAC! (Photos: Ted Snyder)

On Sunday, while



The Cricket publishes every letter it receives. However, letters should be original (no reprints), no more than 400 words and written in a general spirit of discourse, signed and include an email/phone and a valid address in case we have questions. Letters may be edited for clarity and accuracy. We have a "one letter, one person, one topic" policy, so please do not send multiple letters on a single issue. We do not publish press releases, anonymous letters, those judged to be libelous or an invasion of privacy. Longer pieces (up to 1,000 words) may be submitted for consideration as an Op-Ed Commentary. Please send submissions to letters@cricketpress.com.

MERSD's Core Responsibility is Our Children

To the Editor,

We find ourselves at the crossroads that Superintendent Beaudoin has long warned was coming. No more delaying. No more short-term fixes. Fund our schools or fall behind.

Last year, I praised the district's fiscal responsibility, especially versus comparable school systems. That sentiment still exists, but my focus this year is on solutions. What do we expect, what do we demand, from the School Committee and town leadership?

For the School Committee, as Ms. Koch-Sundquist has pointed out, the MASC Code of Ethics defines your primary responsibility as the children. While we acknowledge the fiscal pressures of member towns, they are not your priority. The Code does not list the town boards, the voters, or even the parents. Just the children.

Unfortunately, we seem to have lost our way and have allowed these outside fiscal factors to become the primary focus. With that in mind, we call for two things from this School Committee:

- · Approval of a 9% or greater budget increase, which best reflects prioritizing children, and
- · A renewed emphasis in everything you do towards that priority. When I go to a School Committee meeting, I want the starting point of every discussion to be the children. I want the baseline of every budget to be the one that is best for the children. Start there every

leadership that the town is in fiscal crisis, that we are one on call fire department away from receivership. They use a language of fear, but it is largely a crisis of their own making. Essex leadership has made a choice to minimize tax increases over maintaining town functions. This includes schools but can equally be applied across the whole of the town operating budget. There are a number of factors that drive this policy, and there are communities in our towns that need protecting, but let's be clear...it is a choice.

We have often heard from Essex

How did keeping tax increases capped at Prop 21/2 limits become standard policy? Inflation through the late 70s was 7 - 13% per year. In 1980, it was 13.5%. As a result, property taxes were increasing at 5 - 10% per year. In this environment, they created a threshold, not a cap, over which towns could not raise taxes without direct citizen approval. At no point was 2.5% meant to reflect how costs actually increase. At no point was it a fiscal target. It was just a cut-off point after which the budget decision no longer rested solely with elected officials.

In Essex, we've turned that number into an unbreakable line. It's costing us.

From FY21, when the budget corrected down after COVID, to FY25, the Essex operating budget has lagged inflation by 2.56%. In real dollars, that means that if the budget had simply kept up with inflation, it would be about \$573,000 higher than it is today. It's no wonder that we have shortfalls.

Essex leadership talks about the

When pressed for real ideas, even as recently as the January 29th joint FINCOM meeting with Manchester, they struggle to define a clear and executable course of action.

I will give you the only solution that will actually work, and that is to pass an override not just for the schools at 9%, but for the town operating budget as whole. I realize no one wants to raise taxes, but we are at that point. Reset and recover. Bring the budget in line with the real cost of goods and services. Address our problems-then move past them. Further, I suggest that any tax increase include paying for programs that help support endangered communities such as tax deferrals for the elderly. I would pay more to help them, because I have priorities that go beyond children.

For this to work, it requires the full buy in of town leadership. It requires them to get behind it 100% and actively campaign for it, not just stand on the side and complain, which is what happened the last time. Pass an override. That is your responsibility. Lead. Or step aside. If you won't, we will find someone who will.

Brian Gressler Essex

Prioritizing Students, Indeed

There are large classes at Memorial because there are a bunch of school choice kids in them-not Manchester residents. The district used to take non-resident students at the elementary level before they decided not to a few years ago.

How many more non-resident students will we add before we notice resident students are paying the price?

Memorial also has a high number of high-need special education kids, which may skew the number of students in your child's class slightly higher. These kids, however, leave the classroom for much of the day for specialized instruction. Another driver: Essex had to move its special education programs to Manchester because the Essex Elementary building is not compliant with handicapped accessibility standards.

Not to worry though: once we get our new building, we will happily take all those kids back.

Superintendent Pam Beaudoin has asked Memorial parents who want smaller sections to bring their students to Essex, reiterated in the January 7th school committee meeting, which is recorded. Have you contacted Pam about this option?

Memorial used to provide math enrichment to its students called "Math Explorers" but recently had to drop this program. Essex never had "Math Explorers."

Upset that the music teacher at

program needed an overhaul. The district is looking to update and improve that program, likely returning it in about two years.

You may feel a loss when the district is actually trying to provide equitable experiences between elementary schools. You see what it is like without these specialized programs, to which you are accustomed, and you feel these changes represent a "decline" in your school.

This is how the Essex families have felt for years, having never had access to them.

So now you understand.

Provide an equitable education across the district, then I will consider an override.

Antonella Muniz Essex

Our Laws & Incompetent State Government

I thought I was paying attention but I guess I totally missed it. When did our laws change from reflecting most citizens' moral conscience about right and wrong to laws that favored a few with special interests? When did our laws that established popular rational guidelines to help establish a civilized environment for all, change to laws that most believe are unfair, unwarranted, unwanted, unneeded, not justifiable, and detrimental to our quality of life? I always believed, perhaps in error, that laws were meant to protect people and the fruits of their labor from thieves, con artists and unruly mobs. Is the State an unruly mob? Perhaps naively, I believed laws were meant to benefit the majority while protecting the minority. They were meant to be ultimately good and fair for the people and they were not meant to punish them or be in opposition to their wishes.

Based on my public and private education, what I have read, and my own moral compass, I believe the MBTA Mandate/3a "Law" is an Unfunded Mandate and is not wanted by most. Housing affordability is not even incorporated into this law. It falls into a law favoring the special interest of a few and not the people as a whole. The State argues that this law is needed to address a housing shortage, but they have not substantiated that claim. Although probably most believe we have an affordability crisis, the affordability crisis has been exacerbated by the State's inept, heavy-handed and bumbling attempts to make rentals and homes more affordable. In reality, Massachusetts is an expensive State to live in primarily due to its burdening taxes, wasteful spending and poor management all of which ultimately drives up the costs for homeowners and landlords. In addition, their Section 8 Policies have actually driven up the general costs of rentals. Based on this, Massachusetts affordability problems are government created and not easily corrected by the entity that incompetently generated them in the first

place, namely our government. Although now the State is claiming that all these additional units, they are dictatorially demanding will drive down the costs of rentals and homes, history does not support that claim. I am not claiming that I have an immediate cure-all for our affordability crisis but I am positive that our incompetent State Government doesn't either.

Just a short time ago our State had approximately a \$1 billion surplus and now we have a shortfall of approximately \$1.5 billion that they admit to and that doesn't even count the \$2.1 billion owed the Federal Government for past unemployment benefits mistakes. If this doesn't clearly point out the incompetence of our State Government and especially Governor Healy's reign, I am at a loss. They obviously can't run the State Government properly! Do you really want to turn over your own town's future well-being to the likes of our current sovereign monarch Healy? Before you even consider that horror-filled decision, why not wait until the SIC decides if this "law" is valid against Home Rule or if this an unfunded mandate being decided by our State Auditor or if the State is even now following the APA as required and as pointed out by the SJC or has the State actually justified any Emergency Actions as required to make any legal time requirement deadlines for our towns? These are questions needing answers before an informed citizen should have to vote on the 3A issue or even comply with demanded paperwork. Should you or your town stand up to the State is an individual's decision and not an easy one. Nearly 250 years ago, Massachusetts Patriots, the Sons of Liberty, stood up to a different sovereign monarch! Is this time any different? I just have to wonder what would the State do if most towns simply did nothing until those critical questions were answered. Maybe we will find out!

John T. Kolackovsky

Rockport

Kindness Still Exists

I recently had my shoulder replaced. I tried to shovel, but I wasn't too successful. I worried, because I was having some friends for the Super Bowl and, of course, we aren't what we used to be. Very wobbly.

Later on, I heard someone shoveling outside. I thought it was my usual person, but he wasn't available. I opened my door and was totally surprised, it was my neighbor, Christina Barrett.

That's what I call kindness and thoughtful.

Thank you for helping, Christina. Bravo, Christina.

time, and then adjust.

So, who is responsible for all those other things? After all, as a community, I'm not suggesting that we ignore them. The answer is our town leaders, yet they are failing.

crisis but fails to deliver solutions. At public meetings, the current chair of the Finance Committee has jokingly offered to "pray," or, "hope that no families with children move into town". I'm not kidding. These things were actually said out loud.

Memorial is not a full-time position? Making that change would require another teacher to leave-I thought we did not want to cut. By the way, Essex didn't have a rock band until two years after Memorial did.

The elementary world language

Betsy Kross Manchester

P.S.-Check out this website. Kindness 101.com. Especially if you're a teacher.



Inclusive and Diverse

Book Recommendations

Thursday, February 20

from 7:30-8 p.m. Join book-

stagrammer, Leelynn Brady monthly for 30 minutes of

pure book recommenda-

tions, any genre as well as

YA and Middle Grade books,

as long as they are by diverse

authors or have inclusive sto-

Tuesday, February 25 from

6-7 p.m. Imagine a world

where computers can think,

learn, and even create. Wel-

come to the age of Artificial Intelligence (AI). We will see

how AI is making our lives

easier, smarter, and some-

Thursday, February 27

from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Febru-

ary's Diversity Matters book

times even a little bit scary.

Diversity Matters

David Yoon.

(Virtual)

rylines.

AI Unveiled

This week at the library you can take tech apart, enjoy Community Game Night, join authors virtually, and much more.

Library Closed

Monday, February 17 in observance of the Presidents' Day holiday.

Author Hours (Virtual)

Tuesday, February 18 from 7-8 p.m. Author Christina Clancy will discuss her new novel, "The Snowbirds", with bestselling author Lynda Cohen Loigman.

Wednesday, February 19 from 7-8 p.m. Bestselling author Joseph Finder will discuss his new thriller, "The Oligarch's Daughter" in conversation with author Lisa Gardner.

Friday, February 21 from 7-8 p.m. join bestselling author Victoria Christopher Murray as she discusses her new historical fiction novel, "Harlem Rhapsody".

Monday, February 24 from 7-8 p.m. author Edward Ashton will discuss his new sci-fi



novel, "The Fourth Consort", sage" by Ta-Nehisi Coates. in conversation with author

Dungeons and Dragons for Adults (Virtual)

Monday, February 24 from 7-9 p.m. Whatever your level of experience, come join us for a one-shot adventure. MBTS's Head of Adult and Reference Services, Maddy will be your Game Master. Please register.

Knit Together

Tuesdays from 2-3 p.m. New to knitting? Start a simple project with needles and yarn provided by the library. Hoping to make some gifts for the holidays? Begin a new project or finish one you've already started. Enjoy tea, cookies and company.

Tai Chi: The Longevity Tree Tai Chi Location Changes

Every Wednesday from 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Manchester local Susan Halpern will continue her weekly Tai Chi class for ages 18 and older. The class will be moving locations as the weather changes and only those who have completed the Safety Release Registration Form on the library's website, will get weekly location emails.

Longevity Tree is part of the internal arts known in China as Qi gong. Qi gong means to cultivate energy with discipline. The Longevity Tree is a form that addresses the balance of mind, body and spirit, by combining movement, deep breathing, and alertness.

Digital Advice Appointments on Monday and **Drop-in on Friday**



Ianuary's Crowell Concert Series the Ize Trio enthralled us with their Middle Eastern inspired jazz. Courtesy Photo

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.

Register for a dedicated

Mindfulness Meditation at the First Parish Church **Meeting Room**

Every Tuesday from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Beginners and experienced meditators are welcome. There will be guided meditation, some silence, and discussion. Please register if this is your first time coming to this program. We need either an email or a phone number in case we need to cancel or change venues.

Mindfulness Meditation at the First Parish Church

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

Shut Up and Write (Virtual)

Every Thursday from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Join a community of writers and artists on Zoom who just want to write. Come any time. No need to share, no need to critique or be critiqued.

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.

...(Continued on page 6)

Man About Town





others), is a favorite of Swindell's and he often looks to them for inspiration for his own wardrobe.

By Kris McGinn

here is something about Matthew Swindell that suggests he has just walked off the set of a period film, so perfect is each detail of his person. Surely many of you have noticed him about town. A young man with lively blue eyes, always in a suit and tie, and, if out of doors, a hat (straw from May 15 to September 15 and the rest of the year, felt). He may or may not have a walking stick. Even the way he carries himself seems to be of another era. Dapper. Elegant. And most definitely intriguing.

Matthew Swindell is the 25-year-old associate director of the Manchester-bythe-Sea Museum (formerly the Manchester Historical Museum), a job for which he is entirely suited-and not just his clothing. Since his arrival at the museum over three years ago, he has risen from intern to associate director. And rightly so. In his time there –starting as part of a team helmed by two former directors Beth Welin and Bob Booth before stepping into his current role-the museum has thrived. Matthew has a professionalism and ease well beyond his years. And whether it be organizing the archives, doing research, giving a tour of the museum or history lecture, it is clear that this is something he was absolutely meant to do. Matthew's interest in history began as a child. Born in Salem and raised in Beverly, his father was a photographer and his mother a clarinetist who moved into the library sciences. He remembers in elementary school being fascinated by the kings and queens of England. When he discovered a library book on the US presidents, he memorized them, asking his mother to quiz him or listen to him recite them all in order during family ski trips. In high school he developed a great interest in local history and began interning at the Beverly Historical Society sorting through their post card collection, experiencing first-hand accounts of history. He was invited back for the summer and while working on his undergraduate degree in history at Salem State University, continued interning, eventually becoming the research manager. After receiving his BA in 2021, he began a master's degree program in history, which he completed



the employee kitchen where I am momentarily confused by the sight of a bag of Cape Cod potato chips and a Stanley water bottle. Right. 2025. Forgot.

"The history rubs off on me," Matthew slyly says. When we speak of his style of dressing, he explains that he is "an admirer of classic menswear." It is his passion and over the past few years he has assembled a very impressive wardrobe. He comments that this cultural individualism is entirely by choice, and he finds great joy in the elegance, which he aspires to keep alive. His interest in classic menswear became something he embraced fully coming out of Covid. As the world was dressing down, he chose to dress up. Over the past years he has curated an enviable collection of all manner of pieces, head to toe. When I ask about his down time and if one would ever come upon him in, say, a hoodie and jeans, he laughs. No, no. But he does own chinos and some tweed caps

I work to further the cause of history to serve and celebrate the community

project. He also dabbles in photography. While at the museum he shared his stereoviews and postcards, a popular pastime of the 19th Century Victorian era where two images taken, or seen, at the same time are overlapped to create a sort of threedimensional image; they are truly wonderful. "These days I am more often preoccupied with something to do with history, whether at work or leisure, I am often looking either online or in-person for new (to me!) information or clothes. I enjoy local parties and events especially when they have my kind of music, meeting with friends old and new, spending time with my sister, and seeing cultural sites. I like bicycling locally, as it is a fine way to see the landscape of our beautiful area and get some exercise as an alternative to the car. I also like a good stroll, whether around the neighborhood, down the avenue, in the woods, or by the sea."

He also loves music, "I am very fond of traditional pop and jazz. Though I regret to say that I am not a musician myself, I'm always listening to music from the 1920s and '30s-either recorded or live. Some favorite artists (who are, unfortunately, no longer living!) are Annette Hanshaw, Aileen Stanley, Lee Morse, Ruth Etting, Gene Austin, Rudy Vallée, Louis Armstrong, Red Nichols - to name a few!" He also enjoys illustrations from the 1910s and '20s with a favorite being the work of J. C. Leyendecker, with his Arrow collar ads (and others) being a favorite. And as luck would have it, on the day I visited Matthew was wearing just such a collar; it was truly striking. As is Matthew. We are lucky to have him, with his love of history, and excellent style, to help us appreciate and celebrate Manchester's story. So stop by the museum, attend a lecture, or just say hello when you see him, about town.

in 2024, writing his master's thesis on a regional and local topic, "Street Railway Embrace and Resistance on the Massachusetts North Shore." It was then that he applied for an internship at the Manchester Historical Museum. He worked under then Director Welin, diving into the Trask family documents, letters, and records reading about their lives and developing an appreciation for the fascinating history of Manchester. From there he became the archives assistant, then archivist, and in October of 2023, Matthew, then only 24, was promoted to his current position.

"I work to further the cause of history to serve and celebrate the community while preserving and promoting history here in Manchester-by-the-Sea," he explains. Since beginning, Matthew has worked with the Board of Trustees to reimagine the space, cultivate

staff and volunteers, as well as curate an excellent lecture series (I highly recommend these!) He explains, "Looking forward, I will build positively on our traditions, grow the museum on a human level, and engage more of the local and visiting public in our mission to serve and celebrate Manchester-by-the-Sea ... If we can cultivate a place of kindness and respect where we share knowledge passionately, make newcomers feel at home, and strengthen the bonds we share, then we will be on the path to success."

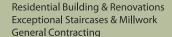
The day I visited Matthew at the museum, it was quiet and he gave me an impromptu tour. Impeccably dressed, as always, he spoke of the space with such enthusiasm and joy and it was clear: Matthew's favorite part of the museum is sharing it with others. He considers the opportunity to work in the Abigail Hooper Trask house a privilege and



Manchester-by-the-Sea Museum Associate Director Mathew Swindell in the museum's archives. Photos: Kris McGinn

to care for, research, and share the artifacts there, an honor.

Moving through the museum, I couldn't help but marvel at how organic it all seems. Between the historic home, the artifacts, and Matthew, looking as though he had just stepped out of a 1930s men's clothing ad, the modern world just sort of melts away and you find yourself in a place of an unspecified past. Abigail Hooper Trask is there, next comes Charles Hopkinson, then Anna Coleman Ladd, and all the while Matthew, dapper as can be, it all just feels kind of surreal. The illusion only breaks when we cut through



Residential Building & Renovations

while preserving and promoting history here in Manchester-bythe-Sea.

for more casual outings! Of course. But otherwise, he is always properly dressed, including a tie which he notes he enjoys wearing as it adds "a bit of flair." But he is emphatic that no one should ever feel forced to wear anything. This is a choice he enthusiastically makes to "labor in style!"

After the odd moment of imagining him in jeans and a hoodie, I can't help but wonder what Matthew does in his free time. He shares that he spends quite a bit of time volunteering at the Salem State Archives for the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies and at the Wellspring House in Gloucester with their Freeman family history

Visit the Manchester-by-the-Sea Museum, 10 Union St, Manchester-by-the-Sea or at *mbtsmuseum.org* (not .com).



PAYNE BOUCHIER FINE BUILDERS 617.445.4323 paynebouchier.com

ME Girls Hoop Aims to Finish Strong and Qualify for Tourney



By Jason Brisbois

ith all the snowy weather we've had recently, the term, "tough sledding," seems appropriate when describing the Hornets' season so far.

The Cape Ann League (CAL) is a challenging gauntlet for the Manchester Essex girls' basketball team, which is not out of the ordinary.

The Hornets just finished up a swing of games against the larger, deeper teams in the CAL, and now look to close out the season with Baker Division rivals and out-ofconference games against traditionally strong basketball programs.

"We have Georgetown and Amesbury in league matches and Danvers and Winthrop on non-leagues to finish the regular season," explains Manchester Essex coach Lauren Dubois. "All will be tough battles and we need to play well to keep our season going."

The Hornets are looking to gather some momentum in this homestretch and finish the season strong, aiming to reach .500. At the start of the week, Manchester Essex was 6-10 overall and 5-7 in the CAL, with the team's tough schedule helping to keep them in a hunt for a tournament berth: The Hornets were ranked 21st in the MIAA Division 4 Power Rankings, with the top 32 ranked teams qualifying for a playoff spot at the end of the season.

"It's definitely the level of competition," Dubois says of her team's ability to stay in contention despite a sub.500 record. "We play some great teams in the CAL but we also picked up some very difficult non-league opponents this season as well in Masconomet, Burlington and Danvers."

A win over Ipswich on February 10 gave the Hornets a boost, and the team has gotten a boost from some key players throughout the course of the 2024-25 season.

Lily Oliver (9 points/5 rebounds per game), Tess Carpenter (2.4 steals per game) and Anna Gardner have gotten it done on both ends of the court, while Penelope Riggs and Ella Arntsen have provided a strong presence down low.

"Lily Oliver and Tess Carpenter have been fueling our offense and are very tenacious defenders," says Dubois, adding, "Penelope Riggs and Ella Arntsen have been battling in the post. Anna Gardner has also stepped up on both ends of the court. "

Other players have stepped up to the challenge this season over the last few weeks of the season as well.

"Honestly a lot of different people step up each night," explains Dubois. "We have been getting some good offensive contributions from Emerald Jakes and Kacey O'Connell and some solid defense from Tori Moulton, Isabelle Donnellan Valade and Charlotte Donnellan Valade."

The Hornets have definitely shown a good deal of improvement since the first few games of the winter, and the hope is that the team can find more consistent footing in the remaining regular season games, which include home games against Georgetown (Feb. 11) and Danvers (Feb. 14, 6:30 p.m.), and away games against Amesbury (Feb. 13, 6 p.m.) and the season finale versus Winthrop on President's Day (Feb. 18, 1 p.m.).

"We have definitely improved over the course of the season on both ends of the court," explains Dubois. "Our defense is bringing more intensity and helping us create offense. On offense we are getting more people involved and everyone is looking to create opportunities. We still need to stay consistent for the full 32 minutes, but we are improving there too."





Alpine Ski

ast week was Race 7 for the Boys. The Girls had Race 7 and Makeup Race 4.

Boys raced Hamilton Wenham and won 69 to 66. It was a very demanding SL course and the gates were very close. We had 7 boys in the top 15 with Quinn McLain 1st place and Vaughn Creeden right behind in 2nd place. Boys next race was against Masconomet and we lost 87 to 48. We had 5 in the top 15. Quinn Mclain came in 2nd and Vaughn Creeden 4th place.

Mannal 15th. Against Hamilton Wenham, the Hornets lost 104 to 31. M/E had 5 in the top 15. Gracelyn O'Neill was 3rd and the rest of the team placed 10, 12, 14 and 15th.

Girls Race 4 makeup on

Posing with their parents on Senior Night were Captains Celia Mannal and Caroline Willwerth.

(Photo: Courtesy MBTS AD Cameron Molinare)

Quinn McLain finished 12th in the league individual results. Vaughn Creeden finished 20th and Hennix Ogren finished 39th. With Ouinn's 12th place finish, he has qualified to compete in the MIAA Alpine Ski Championship.

Girls Race 7 was against Masconomet. We lost 141 to 21. M/E had 3 in the top15: Gracelyn O'Neill 3rd, Caroline Willwerth 5th and Celia

February 5 was against Haverhill. Score was Haverhill 79 and M/E 51. Five Girls made the top 15. Gracelyn O'Neill was #1. The next race for the Girls was North Andover 92 and M/E 43. Gracelyn O'Neill was again in first place. All girls finished in the top 15. The girls team worked very hard, but their size made it difficult for them to score points and win races.

Gracelyn O'Neill finished 12th in the final individual rankings with 85.50 points and has qualified for the MIAA Alpine Ski Championships.

Senior night celebration was after the makeup race on February 5. Congratulations to Senior Captains, Celia Mannal and Caroline Willwerth.

> The 5th Grade Student Ambassadors at MMES kicked off The Great Kindness Challenge Monday at our school-wide meeting! It was so great to see these leaders set a great example for our younger students! Our first grade and kindergarten students kicked the festivities up a notch with their 100th day, crowns and vests! Happy 100th day!"



WINDOWS ROOFING DECKS CARPENTRY

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

~ Diogenes-



Town Administrator's Report

Board of Selectmen's Meeting of February 10. This week's report covers from January 25 to February 7.

Participation in Council on Aging Program

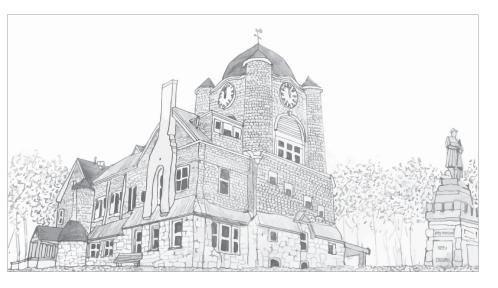
The Essex Council on Aging periodically brings Town officials and personnel from other departments in at the Senior Center to offer updates on Town initiatives and programs to Essex seniors. The Town Administrator (TA) visited the Senior Center on February 4, 2025 and provided a group of assembled seniors with information on topics that he was asked about, in addition to expanding discussion to related topics where appropriate.

Revision to IP Provisioning of Regional Dispatch Remote Devices

The TA participated in a meeting involving the IT Officer for the North Shore Regional 911 Center and IT personnel from the Town of Danvers on February 3, 2025. North Shore 911 is making some changes to the IP addressing scheme of certain devices that the Center manages remotely and the changes will require detailed planning to ensure that proper routing and communication are maintained. The project will proceed in two phases. First, about eight devices will be directly wired through a dedicated switch back to the Center's firewall in the fire and police station (work began on February 7, 2025). The second phase is more complex and, instead of physical segregation, it will involve electronic segregation of device information on the Town's network.

Essex Police Association Collective Bargaining

Chairman Pereen, Finance Committee Chair Harris, and the TA met with the Chief of Police and members of the Essex Police Association on February 4, 2025 to continue collective bargaining



February 18, 2025. The present CBA expires on June 30, 2025.

Recommendation: Board discussion in executive session pursuant to the posted agenda.

Municipal Fuel Depot Design Update

At the last meeting, the Board selected Web Engineering to develop plans for a possible future municipal fuel depot at the DPW yard. The TA worked out a contract with the firm and Chairman Pereen executed it. The firm is beginning the design process and the various Town departments that will utilize the fuel depot (if constructed) are meeting at the site to agree on the best placement of the depot (our engineer will also be on site). Web Engineering will put together drawings that provide the overall dimensions of the depot and the details of the tanks and equipment to be used. Once the Town selects a site, the firm will assist with getting the package onto a site plan.

Kickoff Meeting for Public Water Supply Well Improvement Project

As the Board may recall, after three attempts at bidding out the subject project, Weston & Sampson provided the low bid that was within the project budget. The public water supply well improvement project is being funded with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding that the Town already has on hand, plus a supplemental appropriation of Town funding that was approved at the last Fall Town Meeting. Our engineering consultant hosted a project kickoff meeting on February 5, 2025 and the TA attended along with representatives of the contractor and the Chief Operator. Chairman Pereen has signed the Notice to Proceed and the project is expected to be completed by no later than November 2, 2025.

mittee starting to bring back some of the features that existed in Paglia Park prior to the bridge replacement project. The DPW could move the several stone benches and informational placards that were in place prior to the project into new locations at the park. Presently, the Chair of the Economic Development Committee is working to pull together a Committee meeting to review plans for Paglia Park and other downtown streetscape maintenance work and improvements.

Testing of Senior Center Elevator, on Generator, Under Full Load

At the last meeting, the Board discussed the possibility of needing to install a battery lowering device on the Senior Center elevator since the elevator will likely not function when on generator if loaded to its weight capacity. The issue stems from a new State Elevator Regulations testing condition that goes into effect this calendar year. The TA discussed the matter with the Superintendent of Public Works and he is considering the best way to add weight to the elevator car. It is possible that 50-pound bags of ice melt that the DPW has on hand may be used but other also being considered.

Replacement of Fixture in

LIBRARY NEWS LIBRARY NEWS



Children celebrated The Year of the Snake at story hour and enjoyed stories about Lunar New Year. (Courtesy Photo)

Library Closed

Monday, February 17 the library will be closed in observance of President's Day.

Community Rummikub

Saturday, March 1 at 10 a.m. Join other players and enjoy this popular game.

Pet Loss Grief Support

Monday, March 3 from 7-8 p.m. This is ideal for anyone who has experienced or is anticipating the loss of a beloved pet.

Author Event

Tuesday, March 4 at 7 p.m. Join the author and "Chronicle" reporter as he discusses his latest book, "Travels Through the Heart & Soul of New England".

Coffee Cupping

Saturday, March 8 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Learn all about the world of coffee and sample several blends with coffee aficionado Rob Fitzgibbon. Registration required.

Community Book Group

Monday, February 24 at 10 a.m. Join us for a discussion of "As Long as the Lemon Trees Grow" by Zoulfa Katouh.

An Evening of Hygge

Thursday, February 20 at 7 p.m. Be treated to a cozy atmosphere while learning about the origin and philosophy of Hygge. Registration required.

Meet the Author

Tuesday, February 18 at 3 p.m. for ages 5 and older. Meet "Woofmore" author Lisa Haskins Houran.

Regional Social Worker

Wednesdays, 9 a.m.-12 noon in the first-floor meeting room. Free, private, and confidential, learn about resources, gain strategies and skill to assist in stress reduction and management. No appointment necessary.

STEAM & Stories

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

Weekly Storyhour

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

with respect to a successor collective bargaining agreement (CBA). The next bargaining session has been set for March 7, 2025. The present CBA expires on June 30, 2025.

AFSCME Collective Bargaining

Selectman Ingaharro, Finance Committee Chair Harris, and the TA met with members of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees on January 29, 2025. Another meeting was scheduled for February 6, 2025 for initial collective bargaining with respect to a successor collective bargaining agreement (CBA) but the meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. The next bargaining session has been set for

Planning for Return of Features to Paglia Park

The TA has discussed with the Chair of the Essex Economic Development Com-

Second Floor Conference Room

One of the bulbs in a recessed light fixture in the Town Hall second floor conference room burned out. An attempt was made by others to remove the bulb but the fixture was damaged in the process. The TA contacted our electrical contractor and the damaged components of the fixture were repaired/replaced, along with the bulb.

Board of Public Works Budget Meeting Summary

Chairman Pereen and the TA met with Finance Committee Chair Jodi Harris and Board of Public Works Chair Nick Ellis on February 6, 2025 to discuss issues facing the Board of Public Works (BPW) that will ultimately affect its budget such as future staff- unless the health insurance can be reduced. The apportionment would be even higher if the District hadn't proposed using \$500,000 in reserves. The increase in the apportionment funding to the two towns would have been 9.5% with the Essex apportionment at 10.53% (\$1,041,594).

ing, outsourcing, operation-

al needs, and capital needs. These needs require addi-

tional planning and study

and it will be essential for

the BPW to plan for succes-

sion within the department

and future services contracts

with an eye toward the many

capabilities that will be re-

Mr. Zubricki attended the

Manchester Essex Regional

School District final bud-

get proposal public hearing

along with the Selectmen and the Essex Finance Com-

mittee on Feb. 4. The District

presented a proposal for a

4.93% overall increase in ap-

portionment funding from

the two towns for fiscal year

2026, which translates to a

5.68% (\$561,395) increase in

the Essex apportionment.

However, the School Com-

mittee had that same after-

noon received word that its

halth insurance renewal for

FY26 would carry a 26.9% in-

crease, and the budget being

discussed was built assum-

surance premium translates

to \$699,000 in additional

cost and the District's bud-

get now stands at an overall

increase in apportionment

funding to the two towns of

7.59% with the Essex appor-

tionment at 8.61% (\$851,294)

The additional health in-

ing a 10% increase.

School District Budget

Hearing and Meeting

quired.

Summaries

Chairman Pereen and the TA met with Town of Manchester and MERSD personnel and officials on Feb. 7 to continue to discuss how the FY26 District budget has increased substantially and what obstacles must be overcome in order to approach the level of funding increase that the District has proposed. Generally, it is necessary for the Board to consider if a Proposition 21/2 override should be sought.

ESSEX SENIOR LIVING | FEB 14

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

Recurring Events

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

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

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

Fitness Fun with Gil: Wednesdays, 10 a.m.: Start your day then with Gil and focus on strength, stamina, and stretching... energize



yourself and leave feeling good! \$5 Donation suggested.

Technology Assistance, Wednesdays 1-3 p.m.: Do you have questions about your computer, tablet, phone, or other technological challenges? Our Tech genius can help! **Ga.m.es with Gil at the Senior Center: Wednesdays 1-3 p.m.:** ALL AGES WEL-COME, come play BOARD ga.m.es or Scrabble, Boggle, Cribbage, Backgammon, join us or bring a friend and come play ANYTIME!

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

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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.

ESSEX POLICE NOTES

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

7:17 a.m. Pickering St., directed patrol, secured/checked.
12:09 p.m. Main St., parking complaint, secured/checked.
12:50 p.m. Main St., disturbance, criminal application.
9:22 p.m. Martin St., directed patrol, secured/checked.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3

8:49 a.m. Main St., fire alarm, fire false.

9:16 a.m. Lebaron Rd., male with chest pain, transported to hospital. **6:27** p.m. Southern Ave., motor vehicle crash, citation issued. **9:26** p.m. Centennial Grove Rd., directed patrol, secured/checked.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

6:40 a.m. John Wise Ave., directed patrol, secured/checked. 12:14 p.m. Spring St., directed patrol, secured/checked. 7:05 p.m. Western Ave., selective enforcement, secured/ checked. 10:51 p.m. Spring St., directed patrol, assisted as needed.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

8:50 a.m. Essex Reach Rd., fraud/scam, assisted as needed. 12:33 p.m. Western Ave., female with abdominal pain, transported to hospital. 4:15 p.m. Story St., fire alarm, fire false. 9:28 p.m. Martin St., directed patrol, secured/checked.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6

1:26 a.m. Chebacco Terrace, property check, secured/ checked. 10:53 a.m. Eastern Ave., disabled motor vehicle, vehicle towed. 5:25 p.m. Chebacco Terrace, fire alarm, fire false. 6:28 p.m. Lufkin Point Rd., animal complaint, assisted as needed.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

1:14 a.m. Shepard Memorial Dr., parking complaint, parking enforcement. 8:02 a.m. Western Ave., community policing, secured/checked. 2:19 p.m. Choate St., animal complaint, assisted as needed. 4:09 p.m. John Wise Ave., motor vehicle crash, report to follow.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

7:01 p.m. Conomo Point Rd., directed patrol, secured/ checked. 9:03 a.m. John Wise Ave., suspicious activity, spoken to. 6:48 p.m. Martin St., fire alarm, fire false.

 $9{:}52\ \text{p.m.}$ Main St., selective enforcement, secured/checked.



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Miranda Russell Returns to Gloucester Stage with "Carousel of Time"

Three-day performance of Joni Mitchell's Music begins March 28



Artist Miranda Russell, who returns to the Gloucester Stage for a musical performance celebrating Joni Mitchell, in March. (Courtesy image)

F or three successive years, singer Miranda Russell has performed tribute musical programs at the Gloucester Stage Co. celebrating George and Ira Gershwin, Paul Simon, and Carole King. Next month, she returns with an anticipated show, "Carousel of Time," a program celebrating the music of Joni Mitchell.

The three-day show will run Friday, March 28 through March 30, with all performances at the GSC Theater on East Main Street in Gloucester.

Russell is considered to be a moving vocalist and nuance performer, and her concerts center on interpretations of the music of the great songwriters of our day.

She has acted and sung on stages from Cambridge to Brussels. Early shows include: soloist and chorus dancer in Boston's Christmas Revels with Jean Ritchie (at Sanders Theater), The Serpent at Emerson Stage; David Mamet's The Frog Prince, at Theatre in the Open and Legend of the Christmas Rose by Wendy Lement, at the Firehouse Center, both in Newburyport.

But it's her return to the New England area that built her reputation on Cape Ann, marked by three consecutive seasons at Gloucester Stage Company. At GSC she delighted audiences in Still Crazy: A Tribute to the Music of Paul Simon, Tapestry: A Celebration of the Music of Carole King, and Fascinating Rhythm, George and Ira Gershwin.

Today's live shows all steal a little from every facet of the living and learning that a performer undergoes during the process of becoming just that: a performer. Miranda's obvious love of the stage is infectious when she is on it and never fails to leave the audience asking for more.

Performing from March 28th to the 30th, all performances are at Gloucester Stage's Theater 267 East Main Street, Gloucester. Show-times are 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday. Tickets may be purchased online or by calling (978) 281-4433.



"How'd that happen so fast?" It was five years ago that siblings Hannah Harlow and Sam Pfeifle purchased the Book Shop of Beverly Farms, which has been in operation since 1968. And on Saturday, they celebrated with a fun birthday party for friends and family, celebrating the milestone with cake, lots of great food, and bubbly. Sam and Hannah report that running the cherished local shop has been "rewarding, fun, exciting, sometimes humbling, and gratifying experience." (Photo: Erika

Brown)

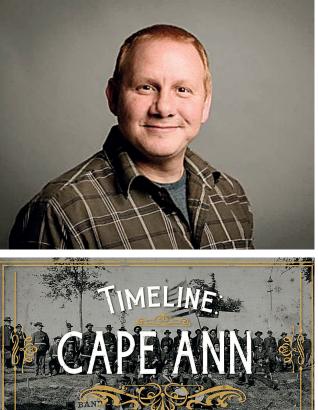
File this under,

Out & About On Cape Ann "Timeline Cape Ann" Featured at Gloucester Meetinghouse

7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 15

Kory Curcuru is a Gloucester-based, prolific content creator, both in his role as a 1623 Studios' producer and as the founder of the popular "Bridge Cape Ann" Facebook group and YouTube channel. And it's his "Timeline Cape Ann" historical short-form documentary series for 1623 Studios that will be the focus of Saturday's program at the Gloucester Meetinghouse.

"Timeline: Cape Ann" focuses on the history, culture and heritage of Cape Ann. It tells the story of Cape Ann's unique history in jewellike form, from the "first boss-lady," Abigail Trask of Manchester-by-the-Sea to Rockport's long celebrated but little understood "Paper House," that is, in reality, a much more complicated tale than just a 19th Century house created almost entirely of newspapers. In 2023, Curcuru and 1623 Studios won a New England Newspaper Association award with the Manchester Cricket for excellence for three of Curcuru's Timeline films that he produced as a feature series for our readers.



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Each depositor is insured by the FDIC to at least \$250,000. All deposits above the FDIC insurance amount are insured by the Depositors Insurance Fund (DIF).





Curcuru will be at the event

to introduce the film and field

questions from attendees.

The film showing will be held

on Saturday, February 15th

at 7:30pm in the Glouces-

ter Unitarian Universalist



Church, located at the corner

of Church and Middle Streets

(GPS 50 Middle Street). Park-

ing is available on the green.

and \$5 for students (all ages).

Children under 12 are free.

General admission is \$20







Art from Rocky Neck Art Colony member artists from 2024.

Courtesy image

"A Celebration of Creativity" with this Month's Annual Members

The Rocky Neck Art Colony (RNAC), one of the Cape Ann's historic art colonies, will open the 2025 public exhibition season with its popular annual members art show.

This dynamic exhibition brings together an exciting and diverse collection of recent works from 92 RNAC artists, offering a stunning reflection of talent, vision, and artistic passion. With pieces spanning painting, sculpture, photography, mixed media, and more, visitors will experience a rich and varied exploration of contemporary creativity–from bold abstracts to evocative realism.

An opening reception is planned from 4-6 p.m. on Sunday, February 23 where attendees can meet the artists and enjoy refreshments, drinks, and a welcoming creative atmosphere.

For details on additional public programs and special events accompanying this exhibition, visitwww. rockyneckartcolony.org for updates.

Gloucester's Rocky Neck Cultural District is a harborfront walkable area on the scenic peninsula of Rocky Neck, and it is home to RNAC, the oldest continuously-operating art colony in the United States. It's no wonder. Known for its unique and penetrating light, artists have long been drawn to Rocky Neck. Notable visual artists who have worked here include Winslow Homer, Edward Hopper, Milton Avery, and Nell Blaine.

The Cultural Center at Rocky Neck, the site of the Annual Members Show and the association's small hub for exhibitions and events, offers its exhibits free to the public. The RNAC also operates the Salted Cod Arthouse up the street as a collaborative gallery and Wine Bar to "foster artistic connections."

Where: The Cultural Center at Rocky Neck, 6 Wonson Street, Gloucester When: Friday, February 21 -April 6 Dates: Sunday, February 23, 4-6 p.m. Hours: Friday-Sunday, 12 noon - 5 p.m.

Info at www.rockyneckartcolony.org and 978-515-7004.



In The Driver's Seat The QX80 Refresh: Just in Time

By Steve Schutz

he Infiniti QX80 was freshened up in 2024 in an effort to strengthen Infiniti's presence in the luxury full-size SUV segment. Good thing, because the previous QX80 needed significant improvements to challenge the class-leading Cadillac Escalade, Mercedes-Benz GLS, and BMW X7.

Just one glance shows that Infiniti was serious with its latest update of their flagship model. Gone are the round and bulbous proportions of the old QX80, replaced with angular design elements, thin headlights, and an imposing grille. From the side, strong lines and crisp creases lend it a more muscular look, while the floating roofline and fullwidth rear LED lights add modern touches.

The outgoing QX80 also

suffered from a cabin that felt a generation (or two) behind its rivals. That's no longer the case as Infiniti has completely reimagined the interior with large high-tech horizontal screens, nice leather accents, and open-pore wood.

Two 14.3-inch curved displays dominate the dashboard: the one in front of the driver is for the digital instrument cluster, while the central one is for infotainment. Meanwhile, an additional 9-inch touchscreen sits below the middle screen and handles climate controls. It's a clean, high-tech layout, and it brings the 2025 QX80 closer to its competitors.

The seats are comfortable but not groundbreaking. Plush, beautifully stitched leather is a welcome touch, and the massage functions for both the driver and front passenger are nice. The second row is spacious but doesn't quite match the size of the Escalade's.

Naturally, given its size, the 2025 QX80 comes with a third row of seats. As usual, the "way back" is best for children, although they're ok for adults if it's a short trip.

Infiniti has partnered with Klipsch Audio to develop a 24-speaker premium sound system for the QX80, which is excellent. Lexus' Mark Levinson system is the gold standard in this class, and Infiniti's set up is close to that in audio quality.

Perhaps the biggest change in the new QX80 is its powertrain. Gone is the 5.6-liter naturally aspirated V8, replaced by a 3.5-liter twin-turbocharged V6 producing 450 horsepower and 516 lb.-ft of torque. That's a significant increase in power, and the potent engine is aided by a new 9-speed automatic transmission that replaces the old 7-speed unit.

Despite all of that turbocharged V6 progress, please allow me a moment of sadness for the loss of the old V8 soundtrack. Sigh.

Fuel economy for the AWD QX80 is 15MPG City and 19MPG Highway. Not good, but it's better than the old V8, and hashtag welcome to the luxury full-size SUV fuel economy neighborhood.

By the way, switching from V8 to V6 engines has become the norm with luxury full-size SUVs. The latest Lexus LX is now V6 only, and most BMW X7 and Mercedes GLS models sold come with turbo V6s. Will the popular GMC Yukon Denali and Cadillac Escalade ever surrender to the emissions and fuel economy gods

and make the switch to turbo V6s? I'd say yes, but probably not for 5-10 years.

Acceleration for the new turbo V6 QX80 is excellent, with a 0-60 mph time of around 5.5 seconds.

The exhaust note is nicely subdued, and towing capacity remains 8,500lbs, meaning the QX80 is one of the most capable haulers in the segment. That matters to buyers who must tow a boat to the lake or horses to a show.

With a curb weight of around 6,000 lbs., the QX80 was never going to feel nimble, but Infiniti has taken steps to improve its driving dynamics. An (optional) air suspension delivers a smoother ride, particularly over rough pavement, and even in "normal" suspension mode the QX80 drives fine. As I've noted previously in reviews of larger SUVs, even those from upscale brands, these are people/gear/stuff haulers and trailer pullers so don't expect sports car driving dynamics.

Infiniti's ProPilot Assist 2.1 active driver assistance system adds hands-free highway driving abilities, putting it on par with Cadillac's Super Cruise and Ford/Lincoln's BlueCruise. The system works very well on the interstate, though it requires occasional driver intervention (that's ok, it makes long drives much better than they would be without it). In other situations, I don't have complete trust yet.

Pricing for the 2025 QX80 ranges from \$85,000-ish for

Gone are the round and bulbous proportions, replaced with angular design, slender headlights, and an imposing grille.

a base model to just over \$112,000 fully loaded. Compared with all of the other competitors mentioned above, the Infiniti will probably be cheaper (and more discounted), which will increase its appeal. The 2025 Infiniti OX80 has

been upgraded in its design, interior, and powertrain, which will make it more competitive in the luxury full-size SUV market. Infiniti has historically struggled to compete in this arena, but the myriad of improvements Infiniti made for 2025 make it worthy of a look for any potential buyer in this market segment.

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.



Certificate of Achievement presentation to Free Throw Championship Winners: (Shown in no particular order): Sean Aloi, Tristan Verden, Declan McKeen, Jordan Rembert, David Hogan, Tristan Arnold, River Martin, Joan Martin, Adele Huss, Rhea Cullaj and Ingrid Brain. Courtesy Photo

Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship Warms a Wintry Day

he third annual January event, the Free Throw Championship, hosted by Masconomo Council 1232 Knights of Columbus, warmed a frigid winter morning. More than 150 competitors, parents, spectators and

volunteers poured into the gym of Memorial Elementary School, Manchester-by-the-Sea, on Sunday January 26, 2025 to watch shooters show off their free throw skills.

Age group Free Throw Championship winners may choose to move on to the regional competi- • 11 years: Adele Huss (Essex) tion in March, whose location is yet to be announced.

Winners: Girls

• 9 years: Ingrid Brain (Essex)

• 10 years: Rhea Cullaj (Beverly)

chester)

• 11 years: Jordan Rembert (Essex)

• 12 years: Declan McKeen (Essex)

• 13 years: Tristan Verdan (Essex)

• 14 years: Sean Aloi (Manchester)

- 12 years: Joan Martin (Essex)
- 13 years: River Martin (Essex)

Winners: Boys

- 9 years: Travis Arnold (Essex)
- 10 years: David Hogan (Man-

...(Continued from page 4)_

You will get community service hours for school and pizza. Contact Tom Russo, the YA librarian.

Old Tech Take Apart

Wednesday, February 19 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. for grades 4-8. Curious about what's inside an old computer? Come find out, please register.

MPL Children's Events:

Sensory Play with Make Your Own Snow

Saturday, February 22 from 2-2:45 p.m. for ages 4 and up. Play in the snow without getting cold. We'll

make snow using two common household ingredients and then play.

Graphic Novel Club

Wednesday, February 26 from 4-4:45 p.m. for grades 4-7. Snacks and an activity will be provided. This month's pick is "Pizza Face" by Rex Ogle.

Meet Nile, the inflatable Humpback Whale

Thursday, February 20 at 10:30, 11, 11:30 a.m. and 12 noon. This 43-foot life-sized inflatable humpback whale is swimming to Manchesterby-the-Sea for a fun, edu-

cational experience during February break. Discover the remarkable similarities between whales and humans, and have the handson-experience of touching real whale artifacts. Registration is required.

Little Learners Playgroup

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

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



* * *

What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness.

~ John Steinbeck-

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First Universalist Church of Essex

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

Cornerstone Church

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

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: 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

Father Christopher, starts at 9:30 a.m. followed by a weekly sermon. All are welcome to attend.

First Parish Church

Gibson

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

of town -

Sotheby's

INTERNATIONAL REALTY

ry 16 Worship, 10 a.m. led by Rev. Katherine Schofield "Telling Our Story" and Dr. Herman Weiss with the First Parish Choir. Church school children depart from worship around 10:15 a.m. for their own time of learning, crafting, sharing and playing. Activity for the week in our Chapel Lane building -

...(Continued on page 11)

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A Language Without Words



By Lawrence Lamb, DVM

hroughout my professional career, from New York to Vermont to Manchester, I've had the good fortune to visit different parts of the world where animals play an integral part of daily life, much like the role our companion pets do with us.

In certain cultures, animals can be cherished in different ways. In the following true story, my experience with a nomadic family taught me about a culture that revered their animals for the shelter they provide, the sustenance they furnish and the status they bestow.

A few years into the practice of veterinary medicine I undertook a journey from North to South Africa in a VW Campervan with two other couples, transversing the Sa-



of two other vehicles in our "caravan" set up camp in what appeared to be a barren area of sparse vegetation. Within 45 minutes, three voung girls appeared, each representing different sects of tribal people. Dressed in various attire, some wore magnificent jewelry handcrafted for them. We began to sense how little we understood about the mysterious cultures in this part of the world. These young girls stood shyly on the perimeter of our camp area and simply observed us from a distance. One in our group had brought hospital scrub tops and gave them to the girls as gifts. Overjoyed, they departed, to be joined shortly by tribal elders who appeared from the brush surrounding us. One of these men was dressed in a loincloth covered by a woven tunic and had a hair style that included bangs and hair to his shoulders. It was as if we were experiencing man as he may have appeared in prehistoric times. The other adult male wore blue robes and white headwear that covered his face. He was a Taureg, the fierce fighters of

the Sahara known as "Blue Arabs" because of the indigo color of his dress.

In return for our gift to his daughter, the man in the tunic brought a vessel made from cattle skin filled with milk and offered us a drink. As a military public health officer in the Air Force, the idea of drinking unpasteurized milk was somewhat repulsive, however, rejecting this offer of goodwill was unimaginable. The purpose of my journey was to experience life to the fullest, and I must admit that after having children of my own, I probably would not have accepted his sign language invitation to follow him into the bush. My traveling companions expressed anxiety and disapproval at my decision to follow him into the bush, however, for me this was a risk worth taking. I trailed behind him as he swiftly blazed a trail over dunes and into brush. I lost sight of my encampment, and it was as if I was in a dream, following a long-lost ancestor rather than a complete stranger. Eventually,

I had come to learn about the relationship between man and animal, and to my great benefit I had learned about the potential for relationships between all men. This was the nomad's gift.

we reached his homestead. In a clearing stood several large tents made from the hides of his treasury of animals. He apparently had several wives and was wealthy based on the number of cattle he maintained.

He invited me, again through sign language, to eat with his family of wives and children and to spend the night. I could only imagine what a night with this nomadic family would bring. One of my greatest regrets was not accepting that invitation. As my mind returned to the companion who shared my VW Van with me, concern for the anxiety my overnight absence would create forced me to accept the fact that staying would be unfair to her and the other members of my party of adventurers.

Dusk had arrived and the stars were beginning to appear. Looking into the eyes of my nomadic friend, I pointed to the night sky and to my eyes, signaling my inability to find my way back to my camp. He understood and communicated his desire to guide me back to his wives. At this time, they became agitated that he would go back into the bush at night. Perhaps there was a danger that I did not know about. However, guide me back he did. A perfect stranger was risking his wellbeing for me.

I had come to learn about the relationship between man and animal, and to my great benefit I had learned about the potential for relationships between all men. This was the nomad's gift.

Postscript: I was later to learn that this was the be-

Solution t	o puzzles	s on page 10
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Monday, Friends of the COA Senior Drop in, 10 a.m.- 12 noon, coffee, conversation and games

Tuesday, Meditation Group, by the library, 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Bible Study, Via Zoom 4 p.m. join in with computer, smart device or dial in on a phone Thursday, Strong Women COA

Friday, Figure Drawing 12 noon.

Baptisms, weddings and rentals available.

978-526-7661 x1 or office,fpchurch@gmail.com

St. John's Church Worship

now called Manchester, Gloucester, Beverly, Ipswich, Rockport, Salem, Lynn and Marblehead. Whether you have worshiped in other Quaker (Friends) Meetings or not, we welcome you to join us. If you are new to Quakers, someone will be happy to talk with you and answer any questions you may have. Send an email to: 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.

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hara Desert and the jungles of Central Africa. The goal of this journey was to observe undomesticated animals in their natural environment and to learn more about the relationship that man shares with different kinds of animals, both domesticated and undomesticated.

On the southern fringes of the Sahara Desert there is a geographic area called the Savanna. This is a place where the first signs of vegetation exist and is the area where nomadic peoples move to-and-fro with their cattle. In an area that appears to be barren, there exists the largest density of various tribes.

At the end of an exhausting day of driving over corrugated sand trails, the group ginning of one of the worst draughts in the recorded history of the sub-Sahara. In several years' time, most nomadic peoples lost their animals and perished and those who survived had to seek shelter and aid in more urban populated areas south of the Sahara.



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

can find the application at https://capeannanimalaid. org/dogapp

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 Paw- January 31, 2025 MC

PUBLIC NOTICE



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

SELECT BOARD

Notice of Public Hearing

The Select Board will hold a hybrid public hearing on Tuesday, February 18, 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 to transfer the annual wine/beer, off-premises package store beverage license at 8 Beach Street, Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA held by Sea Breeze Variety, Inc. to Sea Breeze Convenience, LLC.

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

tucket and Massachusetts February 7, 2025 MC

PET OF THE WEEK: PINKY TUSCADERO

onzie loved Pinky Tuscadero. Pinky can be a little persnickety when first meeting him and doesn't like being touched much until he has time to get to know you. Pinky has done very well in a foster home and has really started to relax and open up. This is big for this little guy, given the condition he was in when he first came to us. Pinky was found wandering the streets and never claimed, so he was not the most trusting of people in the beginning. Also, when he first got to us his skin was bright pink, irritated and he had a ton of hair loss -- we believe a mix of his poor health and lack of positive interactions with people led to his handling sensitivities -- with positive reinforcement and the right medications he has come a long way but there is still room for improvement. Luckily this guy is a major foodie so snacks are definitely the key to earn his trust. He is pee-pad trained and does really well indoors, so anyone looking for a lowkey dog who doesn't need to go out much would find their perfect match here! Despite



his rotund figure he is quite playful! He loves his toys stuffies that crinkle and squeak, balls he can chase after -- you can tell he really loves a specific toy when he makes little piglike snorts which he'll also make for vou (when he decides you're pals) when you walk in the door. Pinky certainly knows how to make you feel loved in his own funny way! There is no way not to love him when

you see him sleeping belly up in his big fluffy bed, which he often likes to do. He just needs someone to give him a chance and let him have a bit of time to get to know you, and also someone who understands small dogs who can be a little particular, or dare we say, cranky at times. Pinky is looking for an adult only home so that he can continue to become accustomed to handling and build a bond with his person at his own pace. He is considered a special needs adoption due to his thyroid issues that he is on medication for as well as his handling sensitivities. Despite all his quirks, Pinky can be a really great dog for the right type of person and we're sure his perfect match will come along. Do you have persnickety little dog experience and are willing to give this guy the patience and love he deserves? Submit an application to learn more about him!

Pinky is now part of the extended stay club! Since he's been here for longer, his adoption fee has been reduced so that hopefully he can find a home sooner! You







\$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.



\$1,650,000 | Ida Doane

Former B & B near restaurants and shops with 7 bedrooms, front & back porches, large kitchen, living room and dining room. Additional carriage house with 2 studio units. Views of marsh and river.



\$549,900 | Dan Meegan

Beautifully restored classic mid-19th century home in Salem's desirable Wharf neighborhood! Classic antique with 2 bedrooms, modern upgrades and high-efficiency systems. Parking for 1 car.

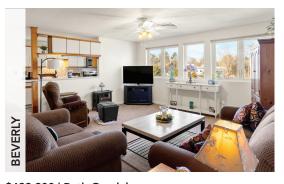


\$2,699,999 | The Lopes Group Beautifully crafted new construction 5-bedroom, 4.5-bath home on 1.24 acres with 9.5" wide flooring, 9-foot ceilings, tray ceilings, chef's kitchen, office. Luxury primary suite. 4-car garage.



\$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.



\$429,900 | Beth Gandelman Immaculate 2-bed, 2-bath, top-floor end unit in elevator building. Anderson windows, new stainless kitchen appliances and in-unit laundry. Lots of closets, basement storage. 2021 HVAC. 1-car parking.



\$1,999,000 | 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.



\$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.



\$346,000 | Terri Sheppard

Great location. See Zoning options - land may/may not be developable. Proposed septic plan completed 11/24 needs to be reviewed. Needs re-delineation. Some wetlands. Buyers do due diligence.

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COLDWELL BANKER REALTY MANCHESTER-BY-THE-SEA



COLDWELL BANKER REALTY



23 Bridge St Manchester | \$745,000

This is a second/third floor 2-3 bedroom 2 bathroom unit in a 3 unit building. 1 block from the inner harbor. Close to downtown and Tucks Point.

Joan McDonald | Realtor | 978-979-3190



YOU LIVE



150 Prospect St #1 Gloucester | \$595,000 Sophisticated first floor, single level, 1 bd/1ba condo in Gloucester's East End. Comfortable flooor plan, bright and airy, large Living roon with fireplace, 1 car garage. Shown by appointment only. Underagreement in 3 Days



6 A Orchard St Gloucester | \$1,750,000 Single -Family townhouse in serene East Gloucester.

Michelle Mineo | Realtor | 978-471-9178

Scott Smith | Realtor | 617-750-2793



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



8 Burnham Lane Manchester | \$1,250,000

Beautifully updated village home, 4 Bedrooms, 2.5 baths, professionally landscaped yard, large fully insulated shed with potential as home office.

Marianne Round | Realtor | (978) 902-5452



45 Peachey Circle #45 Middleton |\$700,000

This stunning tonwhouse in the 55+ community of Cobblestone Park excludes the charm of a single family residence with itssoring high ceilngs, gleaming hardwood flooors and aundance of natural light.

Underagreement in 2 Days

Deborah Purcell | Realtor | 508 -932-3070

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