

MANCHESTER CRICKET

A Local Tradition Since 1888

VOL. 138, NO. 50

FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2026

PRICE: \$1.25

BRIEFLY

Crib Addicts Week 3

Reporting in on Week 3 of cribbage league play at the Legion, Heather MacDonald reported that David Slade remains in first place after beating her in three games, including a skunk in their final game. There were three other skunks in other matches tonight keeping the Crib Addicts skunk hat happily circulating around the room. So, after David Slade, the ranking was followed by John Bubrowski, Tina Latassa, Sam Favaloro, Jim Chabot, Cheryl Favaloro, Ted Cakounes, Michela Hirnak, Clem Courcy, Denny Gove, Bill Bell, Tim Logue, Jeanne Stanton, Ben Conway, Heather MacDonald, and Paul Clark. Come on down and join Tuesday night cribbage play at the Legion, Tuesdays at 6 p.m.

Meet the Candidates for Essex BOS

2026 may be a quieter year for local elections, with only one contested race in all the elections for board seats in Manchester and Essex. But the one race that is contested—for Essex Board of Selectman—is a biggie, in which the current chair of the Essex BOS, Alva Ingaharro, is being challenged by Dexter Lee-Viator, a member of the Woodman family. Following The Cricket's tradition, this week features our "Meet the Candidates," page that gives both Ingaharro and Lee-Viator an opportunity to introduce themselves and, in their own words, share why they're running and what issues they consider central to the town's future. Essex's annual town election is scheduled for Monday, May 11. Read it, **Page 9**.

Last Call! Derby Time

Last call for one of the town's most anticipated spring events. The Manchester-Essex Rotary Club's 21st Annual Kentucky Derby Party and Auction is set for this Saturday, May 2 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at First Parish Hall on Chapel Lane. The evening features a live broadcast of the Derby, plus raffles, race-day games, and a lively auction led by State Sen. Bruce Tarr, with items ranging from sports tickets and golf outings to vacation stays and boat cruises. The ever-popular hat contest is back, with prizes for best dressed. If you're able to contact a Rotary Club member ahead of Saturday, you may be able to score a ticket at the \$50 "early bird" rate. Otherwise, tickets remain reasonable at \$60 if purchased at the door.

Go Back in Time, Via Phone, in New Free MBTS Museum Program

The Manchester-by-the-Sea Museum will launch its new "Historic Town Tour" on Saturday, May 16, offering two guided walks at 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. through downtown Manchester. Each 60- to 90-minute tour begins at the Abigail Hooper Trask House, 10 Union St., and concludes at the train station. The project builds on the Museum's former digital-only tour, now expanded with a self-guided component featuring historical plaques linked to online content at nine sites across town. This is a free program, part of an ongoing effort to highlight and expand access to Manchester's historic landscape. RSVP at mbtstmuseum.org, and plan to arrive five minutes early.

Hit the Street for Little Feet May 8

This popular 5K and kiddo fundraiser run hosted by the Manchester Memorial School PTO is scheduled for Friday, May 8. Get your tickets. Info in this week's Scott Energy Bulletin, **Page 4**.

Yes to Senior Center Plans, New Zoning and Overrides at MBTS ATM

By Max Olson

In what was a jam-packed, two-day session of the Annual Town Meeting, Manchester voters tackled a variety of issues from this year's 29-article ATM Warrant. This was a tall, yet manageable order for new town moderator, Eli Boling, who led voters through what proved to be challenging and, at times, controversial issues. Below is a brief highlight of the major articles and their results.

\$250,000 Design for New Senior Center (Article 6)

A measure seeking funding to complete "bid ready" architectural drawings for Manchester's new Senior Center was approved after robust debate. This is the first major step in the actual process that will see the renovation of the former Masonic Hall behind Town Hall, purchased just last month after a two-year negotiation. The Planning Board's Christopher Olney remarked that "Manchester is one of the dozen or so towns in Massachusetts that does not have a senior center. Over a third of Manchester is over the age of 65, and as a senior myself, it's something we should rectify."

Beyond housing a variety of programming needs of seniors, the space will also be available for community events and meetings, and add four new municipal offices. "This new Senior Center will see broad com-



More than 400 Manchester residents attended this year's Annual Town Meeting, and that number dropped significantly the next evening for Day Two of business. (Photos Paul Clark, Erika Brown)



Changes to downtown zoning intended to shore up commercial and village life spurred comment.

munity benefit," says Town Administrator Tony Barletta.

This expansion in use and cost was tagged by some residents. Wendy Dixon of

Summer Street moved to add guardrails to the design project, keeping it to a budget of no more than the project's original \$3 to \$4 million

cost. Barletta assured voters that hearings and planning with the architect will track with the project's final budget and will factor in its



Over two nights, voters considered big capital expenditures as well as significant zoning changes in the 29-article Warrant.

funding sources that will combine private donations, state funding, possible federal grants, and not just taxpayer money.

Voters overwhelmingly approved the article without amendments, allowing for the next steps of the project to begin with the contracted architect.

Prop 2 1/2 Overrides, including PFAS Filtration Improvements (Article 11 & 12)

Among the larger asks for Proposition 2 1/2 tax overrides came in a \$16.5 million upgrade of the Lincoln Street public water treatment facility.

...(Continued on page 3)

A Reader's Guide to The Essex Annual Town Meeting

By Max Olson

On May 4th, Essex residents will gather at the Essex Elementary School on 12 Story Street for the Annual Town Meeting. Below is a shorthand guide of some of the major articles that will be presented and voted on during Town Meeting.

Article 5 - Operational and Capital Costs of Essex Tech

The Town will vote to raise and appropriate money from its available funds to pay its part in the costs of Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School District, for the fiscal year starting in July of 2026.

Articles 6 and 7 - Transfer of Funds to Manchester Essex Regional School District and Approval of Maintenance Budget

Similarly, the town will

vote to transfer \$185,727 to supplement the Manchester Essex Regional School District's assessment for fiscal year 2027. Should the amount change however, the proposal would then go to a vote at the next town election, with an assessment of impact on personal and real estate taxes. Article 7 poses the vote to approve the Gross Operating and Maintenance Budget for the School District.

Articles 8 and 9 - Town Employee and Officials Wage and Salary

The next two articles will make changes to the Wage and Salary scale and salary and compensation of Elected Officials of the Town. These changes are in accordance with the recommendations of the Personnel Board Report, which can be found on the Town's website.

Articles 10 to 13 - Sewer/

Water Enterprise Fund

The next articles to be addressed in the meeting concern the appropriation and transfer and or borrowing of funds to continue the Sewer and Water Enterprise Funds for the remainder of the year. Likewise, the Town will vote to extend this funding into fiscal year 2027.

Articles 14 to 16 - Amendments to the Town By-Laws

The following three articles all make changes to preexisting town by-laws. Article 14 amends Section 6-10.2.1 to add language concerning the Planning Board's ability to designate and recommend individuals for appointments to associate positions on the board, with a majority vote being needed to add them.

Article 15 changes the timing of Mooring Permit validity to last until December 31st of the year of its issuance.

Article 16 makes changes to the by-laws concerning the River Use Fees, adding 4 new sections to include the issuing, penalties and exceptions around River Use stickers for vessels.

Articles 17 to 23: Public Works Projects

The remaining articles of note all concern various public works projects.

Article 17 will vote to appropriate funding to replace a town backhoe for a mini excavator for use on town highways, cemeteries and the Water Department.

...(Continued on page 6)

Weekly Weather Chart			
Saturday 2 May		58°	39°
Sunday 3 May		57°	41°
Monday 4 May		54°	40°
Tuesday 5 May		60°	39°
Wednesday 6 May		54°	47°
Thursday 7 May		55°	51°
Friday 8 May		53°	50°

Weather data pulled Wednesday and is subject to change.



Gavel to Gavel
This Week's Town Meetings

Manchester Town Hall is open to the public. Public hours are 9 a.m.- 4:45 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and 9 a.m.- 6:15 p.m. on Thursday. Essex Town Hall hours are Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.

MERSD SC Meeting (Early Start)
Essex Elementary School
Monday, May 4
5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Essex ATM
Monday, May 4
6:45 p.m.

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An osprey settles into its nest along the Essex shoreline, captured live on Essex Greenbelt's OspreyCam at 1:42 p.m. on Tuesday. The seasonal camera offers a live, close-up look at one of Cape Ann's most familiar signs of spring as the birds return to nest and raise their young. Check in on the OspreyCam yourself at ecga.org/conservation/osprey/osprey-cam.

Courtesy

Obituaries

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

Konrad Aleksander Makowski



Konrad Aleksander Makowski, of Boston, MA, passed away suddenly while overseas on February 23, 2026, in Glyfada, Greece at age 65. Konrad was born July 22, 1960, and grew up in Manchester-by-the-Sea. He is an alumnus of Shore Country Day School, Brooks

School in Andover and Manchester High School. He received his BS degree in Electrical Engineering from UMass Lowell. After graduating, he worked at Bechtel Corporation on Boston's Big Dig. He later joined his father's company and was very proud to be part of the leading energy development firm, J. Makowski Associates, until its acquisition. Konrad stayed involved with many independent infrastructure and energy projects and invested in innovative technologies for several decades to follow. He also supported the arts and various community initiatives in Boston since the early 1990's and was a founder of K&T Lionheart Gallery on Newbury Street

(1992-2002). This was an early project space providing a launching pad to hundreds of emerging artists, many of whom have become renowned. Konrad's congenial manner, seeing the best in others were enormously beneficial qualities in his work with creative and talented people. His welcoming demeanor made his latest project space, Flowering Rock (2015-present), a destination on 1st Fridays, the monthly happenings in SoWa, known as The Art & Design District of Boston. Many of his endeavors involved family enterprises and partnerships with his wife. His family was the most important and valued part of his life. He was a devoted and loving son, brother, husband, father, stepfather and grandpa Koko. Konrad was known for his kind, loving, generous nature with an abundance of charisma. He was so personable and enjoyed the company of others, that he always made a lasting impression on anyone

who met him. He loved the ocean, especially his beloved Singing Beach, and having his boat in the Boston Harbor. He was an avid scuba diver, loved skiing in Maine, as well as the occasional shoot in Scotland. He was a formidable presence at any game table, whether backgammon, chess or cards, and as a mathematician with luck, he played with skill and strategy to win. He is survived by his wife Natasha, son Alek, stepson Zac, daughter-in-law Bridget, grandchildren Fiona and Peter, parents Jacek and Ursula, sisters Hala and Yolande, brother Thomas, sisters-in-law Mary and Alexandra, nephews John and Michael, and niece Sofia. He will always be in our hearts. A memorial service for Konrad will be held at St. John's Episcopal Church in Beverly Farms on Sunday, May 24th at 1pm. The family will be hosting a reception immediately following the memorial service at their home on 3 Walker Road.

The Manchester Cricket

Founded in 1888.
Published every Friday.

Erika M. Brown
Publisher & Editorial Director

Paul Clark
Assistant Editor

Susan Zampell
Business Development Director

Christy King
Digital Director

Susan Anthony
Subscriptions & Office Mgr.

Business & Editorial Offices

P.O. Box 359
Manchester, MA 01944

11R Beach Street
Manchester, MA 01944

www.thecricket.com

Phone | 978.526.7171
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Manchester, MA 01944

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Subscriptions

\$52 / year (print / digital)
\$26 / year (digital only)

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PUBLICATION NUMBER
USPS 327-420

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

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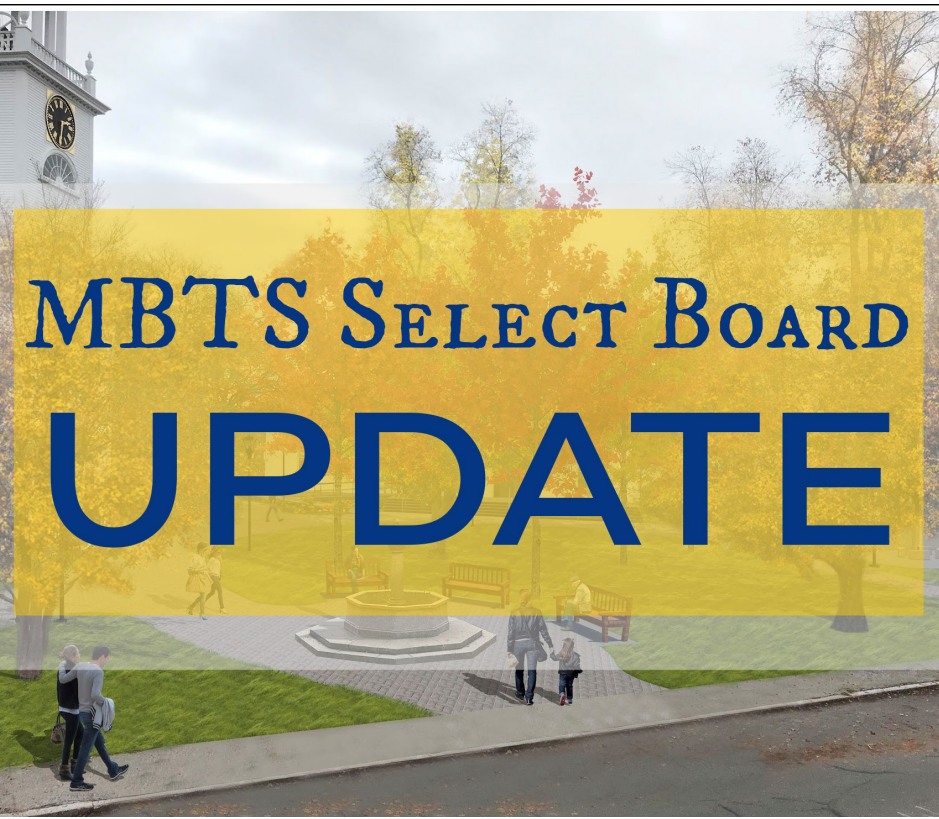
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BOARD UPDATES

Tax Impact Calculator: Try the new Tax Impact Calculator in preparation for the Annual Town Meeting. Residents can enter their property value and get a personal tax impact estimate. Visit taxcalculator.manchester.ma.us/.

Harbor Bridge Work: Train Bridge work that was planned to begin on April 13 has been postponed to May. Exact date TBA.

ing is underway. Flushing takes place Monday through Wednesday from 7 p.m. to midnight. Flush any brown or cloudy water with a cold tap.

Singing Beach Tags: The Singing Beach tag early bird sale began on April 1 and runs through April 30. Cost of each tag is \$25 and will increase to \$35 after April. Tags can be purchased at mbtsrec.com or in the Parks

and Recreation office.

Diaper Drive: The Board of Health is sponsoring a Diaper Drive during the month of April for local families in need. Donate diapers and wipes sizes newborn to 6. Drop off at Town Hall, Library, and Crosby's by Friday.

New Job Posting: The Town is seeking applicants for a Principal Assessor GIS Coordinator. Please visit the Town website for a description on how to apply.

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

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MANCHESTER ESSEX EDUCATION FUND ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MANCHESTER ESSEX EDUCATION FUND SHALL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY MAY 6, 2026 AT 3:00 P.M. IN THE THIRD FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE TRUST AND FINANCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT OF THE CAPE ANN SAVINGS BANK, 109 MAIN STREET, GLOUCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS.

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...(Continued from page 1) —

Federal mandates to mitigate PFAS levels, also known as “forever chemicals,” in every municipal water system won’t hit Manchester for another three years, but Finance Committee Chair Sarah Mellish said residents shouldn’t wait to make their drinking water safe.

Victoria Road’s Jonathan Keefe said voters should not support a project tied to such a high tax impact: “We have more time, because this isn’t a 16 million dollar vote, this is a 28 million dollar commitment, and I’m not sure we want to commit ourselves to that,” he said, referring to the rest of the project, which has not yet been budgeted but will upgrade Manchester’s Gravelly Pond treatment plant, which is responsible for about 30 percent of Manchester’s water supply. He said it would be cheaper if the town purchased \$2,000 reverse osmosis system for every home, and waited until the federal mandate hits in 2029.

Voters disagreed, and passed the measure easily (228 to 39).

Another notable large capital project came in Article 12, asking voters to approve \$5 million to rehabilitate the Central Street culvert. This project seemed to be funded two years ago when Manchester received a federal FEMA “BRIC” grant to repair the failing culvert that houses a regional secondary electrical trunk line that feeds Cape Ann. Last year, that grant was canceled even though the spending had been approved by a vote of the US Congress. Since then, the town has been able to apply for a state grant in partnership with Cape Ann’s other three communities. Barletta told voters on Monday that Article 12 was a back up to that state funding back up plan. Voters agreed, passing Article 12 208 to 8.

Rotunda Repairs

While the town ultimately voted for \$2 million in funding to repair and raise the Tuck’s Point Rotunda (Article 14), discussion went to the project itself.

Sylvia Vriesendorp of Proctor Street asked voters to reconsider the project in its entirety, lobbying voters to abandon the idea of raising the Rotunda and, instead, bring it up on land. “The Rotunda is an iconic part of our town, but it can still be appreciated while on land, and it would keep future generations from being the costs of its upkeep if we kept it at sea.”

Voters disagreed, approving the measure 140 to 11.

A New Slate of Zoning

After Night One of Manchester’s ATM, a smaller number of voters returned to Manchester Memorial School Tuesday to address a slate of articles on the Warrant from the Planning Board—Articles 20 thru 24—seeking to shape much of the town’s existing



zoning bylaw. First up was the Downtown Zoning, which sought to create two new downtown zones, the Town Center District and the Harbor’s Edge District. Planning Board Chair Sarah Creighton said the new districts—characterized by multi-use buildings with first floor commercial by right—were necessary to retain a vibrant downtown life that residents want.

Steve Carhart of Bridge Street, who also serves as the chair of the Downtown Improvement Committee, said the zoning would be a good first step, but it’s not the whole solution. “This is not

a case of ‘If we build it they will come,’” he said, adding that his committee is working with the Greater Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce to market Manchester as an attractive community for retailers and other commercial businesses.

The measure passed. A favorite of the night came in Article 21, a big step to liberalize the zoning bylaw with the creation of a Senior District overlay. As with their support for design costs of the new Senior Center, voters rallied to approve zoning that allows production of senior housing in smaller



unit clusters. In introducing the article, Olney said, “Seniors make great neighbors. We don’t make too much noise, we don’t drive our cars much. To ensure we can stay in the town that we love as we grow old and inevitably need to downsize. It would be unfair to push seniors to live somewhere else.”

Article 21 passed 153 to 2. Articles 22 thru 24—seeking adjustments to the town’s accessory dwelling unit bylaw to bring it in line with the state’s Attorney General mandate, adding a bylaw regulating small inns, and adding regulations for curb



cuts to the Planning Board’s purview—all received robust voter support.

Finishing up business, voters addressed a series of Citizen’s Petitions. They denied a change in zoning for a cluster of properties at the corner of Pleasant Street Ex-

tension and School Street; they narrowly voted down an effort to form a committee to study “ranked choice voting” in local elections; and they overwhelmingly approved a resolution connected to a statewide campaign to support the US Constitution.

WHAT WAS HAPPENING



90 YEARS AGO – 1936

Fire Chief Manuel S. Miguel is the proud possessor of a car which will be known as the Chief’s car and is the gift of Mr. Ulray Conway, a summer resident at Coolidge Point. The car is a Packard convertible sedan.

At the meeting of the Board of Selectman Tuesday evening, a pool table license was issued to Peter J. Demarkis, Seaside Lunch, and a bowling and pool license to Charles Chadwick of Ted’s Bowling Alleys.

75 YEARS AGO – 1951

A recent Presidential order has decentralized the draft boards throughout the county, including Local No. 10 of Salem, of which Manchester was a part. The new order includes Manchester, Gloucester, Rockport and Essex, in Local No. 72 with headquarters in Gloucester.

Three Manchester boys left Sunday for New London, Conn., where they will participate in a two-weeks’ training cruise, they being members of the U.S. Naval Reserve program. William MacEachern of Pine Street, Ralph Harris of North Street and Robert Olson of Pine

Street are the Naval Reservists.

60 YEARS AGO – 1966

Over 350 people attended the annual spring concert held at the Memorial School in memory of Miss Catherine Neary. The generous donations will be used to obtain more books for the Catherine E. Neary library in the Memorial School. The goal of 3,000 books by summer has been surpassed.

The 1966 M.A.A. Girls’ softball season got off to its swingin’ start ever with the registration of 73 players last Saturday. 39 of these girls are veterans and 34 are rookies.

45 YEARS AGO – 1981

At a recent meeting of the Corporators of the Cape Ann Savings Bank, William H. Hatcher, President of Green Thumb Associates, Inc., was elected a Corporator.

The boys and girls’ tennis team kept their records intact by taking Ipswich High School with very little trouble. This is victory number six for these fine teams.

30 YEARS AGO – 1996

Hundreds of family mem-

bers, friends and co-workers and business associates paid their final respects last week to one of Manchester’s truly outstanding native sons, Daniel F. Slade.

The Cuckoo’s Child, a first novel by Manchester Writer Suzanne Freeman has been earning praise from reviewers. Freeman, who will sign copies of the novel at Zak’s on Saturday, May 11 from 1-3 p.m. says she’s delighted with how well the book has been received.

15 YEARS AGO – 2011

The work that is now going on at the Tuck’s Point Rotunda is the Phase 1 demolition of the pier guardrails out to the Rotunda. This phase took two years of Community Preservation Committee grants to accumulate the funds to complete the work.

Come join us on Saturday, May 7th, for a morning of fun and help make Manchester more beautiful. The Manchester Community Center’s town cleanup will have many returning groups, such as girl scouts and boy scouts, local organizations and neighborhood groups, and this year we want you to be part of it.

Tides & Sun Chart For The Week Ahead

DATE		HIGH				LOW				RISE SET	
		AM	FT	PM	FT	AM	FT	PM	FT		
1	Fri			12:16	9.1	6:15	0.4	6:21	1.2	5:37	7:43
2	Sat	12:23	9.9	12:56	9.0	6:55	0.4	6:59	1.3	5:35	7:44
3	Sun	12:57	9.9	1:34	8.8	7:33	0.4	7:37	1.5	5:34	7:45
4	Mon	1:31	9.8	2:12	8.6	8:13	0.5	8:16	1.6	5:33	7:46
5	Tue	2:07	9.7	2:50	8.4	8:53	0.7	8:58	1.7	5:32	7:47
6	Wed	2:45	9.5	3:30	8.3	9:35	0.9	9:41	1.8	5:30	7:48
7	Thu	3:27	9.3	4:11	8.2	10:18	1.1	10:27	1.9	5:29	7:49

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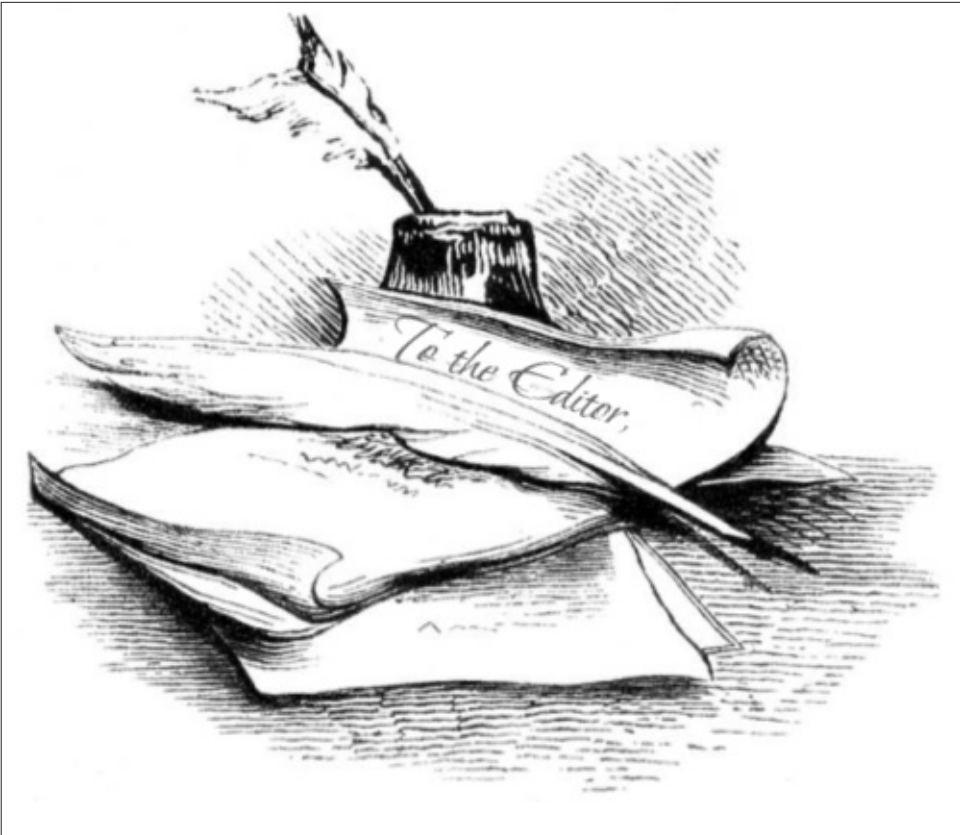
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We're Open 9:30am-5:00pm
Other shop hours may vary.

Mother's Day is May 10th!



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.**

Support John Harden for Planning Board

To the Editor and Manchester Voters,

I am writing today to express my interest in serving on the Manchester Planning Board. I am a professional architect with over 20 years of experience in a wide variety of project types, many of which involved approvals before regulatory boards. As a result, I am very familiar with the issues that are important to small New England towns. Most importantly, I understand what it means to do work in the same area in which you live, and how the things that you design and are ultimately approved effect the people and places around you.

As I consider the opportunity to join the Planning Board, there are several ways in which I believe I can contribute to the improvement of town.

First of all, I believe that the history of town is critical to understanding the future of Manchester. Towns are always evolving and changing. If you do not understand the mechanisms that led to the development of our town's character and charm, it is hard to make decisions about how to guide its future. I have made it a priority to study our town and have gained great insight into how it became the place that we know. I will share that knowledge and put it to work on the Planning Board.

I also believe that while we need to protect those aspects of our town that we love, we also need to be optimistic

about our future and believe that we can make it even better. Our job is not to keep everything the same. It is to better support those things that we value in our town. We do not live in a perfect place. We lack housing opportunities for our older and younger demographics. We lack vibrancy in our downtown. But we do live in a beautiful place with incredible assets and so many opportunities to make Manchester even better.

Lastly, I believe that the role of the Planning Board in the community is to engage in an open conversation about who we are and what type of town we want to be. We are so lucky to live here.

We all value this place, the people, and our relationships. The physical environment is part of what connects all of us together. That is why the actions of the Planning Board are open to the public. We invite you in to give your voice to the process. We are there to listen and to understand, rather than pass judgement because of our opinion. I hope to be able to use my knowledge of the town, together with my experience as an architect, and my ability to engage in meaningful conversations to be a helpful and productive member of the Planning Board.

John Harden, AIA
Manchester

In Support of a Petition to Address Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers

As a long-time resident of “downtown Manchester,” I am ready to help organize a petition to ban gas-powered

leaf blowers from the “downtown,” or within the entire town. The noise and the pollution levels of one or more of these power tools are unhealthy, makes working from home impossible on some days, and forces residents to stay inside and/or shut doors and windows when the weather is warm and sunny!!!

An initial proposal might be to limit the use of gas-powered leaf blowers in the densest portions of the town... many of those areas that have already lost the protection of local zoning, given our current compliance with the MBTA “Build More Housing” law.

The initial “gas-blower ban” map might be bounded by Pine Street in the west, Summer Street in the east, Pleasant Street in the north and Central Street in the south. If the majority of residents on additional streets or roads would like to extend the coverage of the town's gas-blower ban, they can request that their street or road be added to the above suggested map. Alternatively, as has happened in the six cities and town listed below... the gas-powered leaf blower regulations can extend town wide.

The first steps of such a ban might ban gas-powered blowers from December - September, allowing those who want to use gas blowers for fall leaf removal to have that privilege during October and November. A second step, being used by some towns, is to then ban all gas-powered blowers throughout the town year-round.

The following Massachusetts towns and cities have

already passed some type of ban on gas-powered leaf-blowers throughout their towns and cities, most with stiff fines after a warning at the first violation: Marblehead, Concord, Lexington, Arlington, Brookline, and Newton. Other towns and cities, including Cambridge and Lincoln also have some type of active bans, while numerous other cities and towns across the state are now organizing to pass such bans.

Please contact me at susan.we@comcast.net if you are interested in meeting with the Select Board on this issue, or in participating in drafting a citizens’ petition to ban gas-powered leaf blowers within parts of or all of Manchester.

Susan Wadia-Ells
Manchester

Hurray to Friends of Manchester Trees, Jody Morse and Marlene Dolan

Anyone who has recently walked by the Manchester-by-the-Sea Post Office will no doubt have noticed the beautification of the area in front of the building, accomplished by A&H Landscaping, under the supervision of Marlene Dolan, production manager, and Jody Morse, president of the Friends of Manchester Trees.

For the longest time, this area was an eyesore that I walked by several times a day with our dog, Oliver. What a pleasure to see this area transformed into a show case in the heart of our town.

Peter G. Eschauzier
Manchester

This Season Offers a Particular Danger from Idling Engines

The American Lung Association's just released annual “state of the air” report for Massachusetts gives Essex County air quality the worst grade for “fine particle” pollution – the state's only “F.”

While the authors note that increasing spikes in particle pollution in Massachusetts are “almost entirely because of wildfires,” the overall picture for other measured pollutants like ozone isn't rosy.

All of this is a reminder that, aside from climate change, there are still many health and environmental hazards associated with burning fossil fuels and thus many reasons for moving to renewable energy and finding other ways to reduce carbon pollution.

Thus, my annual spring-time plea: please, people, don't sit in your cars with the engines running, especially on beautiful spring, summer and fall days. None of us, particularly children and older people, want to be or should be breathing these unnecessary pollutants.

Another reminder: there is a Massachusetts law that limits unnecessary engine idling to five minutes. This link gets you to an information sheet about the law (<https://www.mass.gov/doc/massdep-faq-the-massachusetts-anti-idling-law/download>). It says nothing about enforcement and penalties, but perhaps we can hope that health and police officials will inform motorists about killing their engines through public information and gentle reminders on our streets.

Mike Dyer
Essex

Woman's Club: gratitude for “April Showers” Success

On behalf of the Manchester Woman's Club, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the members of the Manchester Woman's Club and the Manchester-by-the-Sea community for your incredible support of our recent April Shower of Prizes fundraiser.

Whether you donated prizes, participated in the festivities, or helped spread the word, your generosity ensures that we can continue our vital work within this beautiful town. It is the collective spirit of our neighbors and the dedication of our members that make these events not only successful but truly meaningful.

Since our founding in 1908, the Manchester Woman's Club has remained steadfast in its commitment to this community. As we look toward the future, we are more inspired than ever to uphold our mission: to enrich the lives of our members and to serve the community through local projects, scholarships, and charitable giving.

Thank you for your continuing support and for being a part of our long-standing history of service. We look forward to many more years of growing and giving together.

With sincere appreciation,

Valerie McAskill & Holly Gavin, Co-chairs Ways & Means
Joanne Donnelly, President
The Manchester Woman's Club

Thanks to All Donors

Masconomo Council 1232 Knights of Columbus Manchester-by-the-Sea thanks all residents of Manchester-by-the-Sea, Essex and Cape Ann who donated new, 1675 pairs of socks to its Annual Socks Drive to benefit the homeless and those who sleep rough. Most donors generously donated multiple pairs.

Those socks will be donated to local area homeless shelters and social service organizations including: The Open Door, St Vincent de

Paul-St Holy Family Parish, Grace Center, Wellspring House-all of Gloucester, Beverly Bootstraps and St Francis House, Boston.

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

Clean socks promote good hygiene and health, provide warmth during the cold winter months, and radiate the love of community goodwill. They are the item most sought by the homeless in our midst.

Last year more than 1,200 pairs of socks were donated. Council 1232 exceeded that number in 2026 by more than 40 per cent.

Masconomo Council 1232 Knights of Columbus Cultural Council Grant Awards

Led by municipally appointed volunteers, the Manchester-by-the-Sea Cultural Council awards grants every year to support programs that include everything from field trips to STEM initiatives to visual arts events to lectures and musical programs. These grants are funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Grant applications for FY26 have been awarded to a variety of organizations, including The Manchester Public Library, Manchester Museum, The Delvena Theatre Company, Kestrel Educational Adventures, The Manchester Memorial PTO, First Parish Church and more.

Your Cultural Council volunteers, Miranda Gaudet, Chair, Martha Chapman, Linda Crosby, Debbie Pine, Kate Reed, and Marion Powers, all Manchester residents, are excited to begin a new year promoting and supporting arts and culture in our town, and we are asking for your help! We are drafting a community survey, hoping to obtain input and guidance from people with an interest in Manchester's cultural life - town residents as well as people who work in town. This survey will help us to set our priorities, for this grant cycle and in the future.

The mission of the Massachusetts Cultural Council is to promote excellence, access, education and diversity in the arts, humanities and interpretive sciences in order to improve the quality of life for all Massachusetts residents and contribute to the economic vitality of towns and communities.

Please point your browser on the link below to access our survey and take a few minutes to fill it out - your input is important! <https://forms.gle/189KaqFjwKWEuyzN9>

Thank you,

Miranda Gaudet, Martha Chapman, Linda Crosby, Debbie Pine, Kate Reed, and Marion Powers

Act the way you'd like to be and soon you'll be the way you act.
~ Leonard Cohen -

ScottEnergy Community Bulletin Board

Hit the Street for LITTLE FEET!

Support Manchester Memorial School by supporting this fun community event!

Manchester Memorial Elementary School

FRIDAY, May 8

5 p.m.—Free Kids Races

6 p.m.—5k for All Ages



Advance registration highly encouraged.

DETAILS AND REGISTRATION

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MANCHESTER POLICE NOTES



MONDAY, APRIL 20
6:15 a.m. Beach St., directed patrol, secured/checked.
12:48 p.m. Masconomo St., alarm, secured/checked. **5:47 p.m.** Pine St., disturbance, criminal application.
11:27 p.m. Masconomo St., alarm, secured/checked.

TUESDAY, APRIL 21
12:51 a.m. Union St., selective enforcement, secured/checked. **6:20 a.m.** Route 128SB, motor vehicle stop, verbal warning. **2:44 p.m.** Norwood Ave., welfare check, spoken to. **11:56 p.m.** Beach St., disturbance, assisted as needed.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22
8:49 a.m. Summer St., motor vehicle stop, verbal warning. **12:30 p.m.** Route 128NB, disabled motor vehicle, public assist. **12:54 p.m.** Route 128SB, motor vehicle stop, written warning. **4:13 p.m.**

THURSDAY, APRIL 23
7:57 a.m. Coolidge Point, animal complaint, notification made. **3:23 p.m.** Bridge St., motor vehicle stop, citation issued. **5:18 p.m.** Pine St., motor vehicle stop, verbal warning. **8:42 p.m.** Summer St., noise complaint, spoken to.

FRIDAY, APRIL 24
11:02 a.m. Arbella St., motor vehicle stop, written warning. **2:19 p.m.** Bridge St., motor vehicle stop, verbal warning. **5:28 p.m.** Route 128NB, motor vehicle crash, assisted as needed. **6:44 p.m.** Beach St., property damage, assisted as needed.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25
9:16 a.m. Pine St., selective enforcement, secured/checked. **11:44 a.m.** School St., motor vehicle stop, written warning. **6:41 p.m.** School St., motor vehicle stop, no action taken. **11:55 p.m.** Beach St., directed patrol, secured/checked.

SUNDAY, APRIL 26
6:20 a.m. School St., directed patrol, secured/checked. **2:52 p.m.** School St., suspicious activity, gone on arrival. **5:51 p.m.** Summer St., motor vehicle stop, written warning. **9:37 p.m.** School St., motor vehicle stop, citation issued.

**STEPHEN MINISTRY**

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A pair of graceful egrets fishing at Tuck's Point. Rumor has it that an egret and her baby have been spotted in Manchester Harbor. Keep your eyes peeled.
Photo Paul Clark

Shop Thoughts: What to Read Next: Mother’s Day Edition

By Hannah Harlow

After celebrating Independent Bookstore Day this past weekend, my heart is full from the sheer volume of book lovers who passed through our store. After also attending events at the Newburyport Literary Festival, my to-be-read pile has also grown much taller. With all of that going on, Mother’s Day, fast approaching on May 10th, has snuck up on me. Wondering what to get a book-loving mom this year?

Fortunately, this spring is teeming with a bumper crop of new books.

The novel of the moment is “Yesteryear” by Caro Claire Burke, just published on April 7. Don’t get turned off by the hype: I think this is worth a read. Whether you hate-follow trad wives on Instagram or you are googling “trad wife” before reading any further, Burke imbues her page-turning novel with social commentary about influencer culture, wealth disparity, gender roles, faith, and the political divide that affects us all. Everyone is talking about this book for good reason.

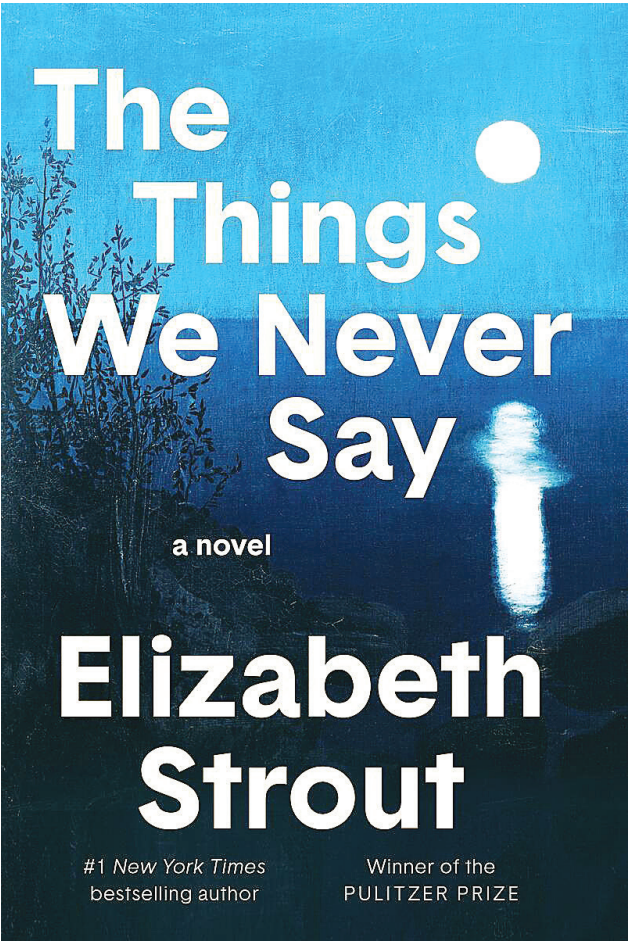
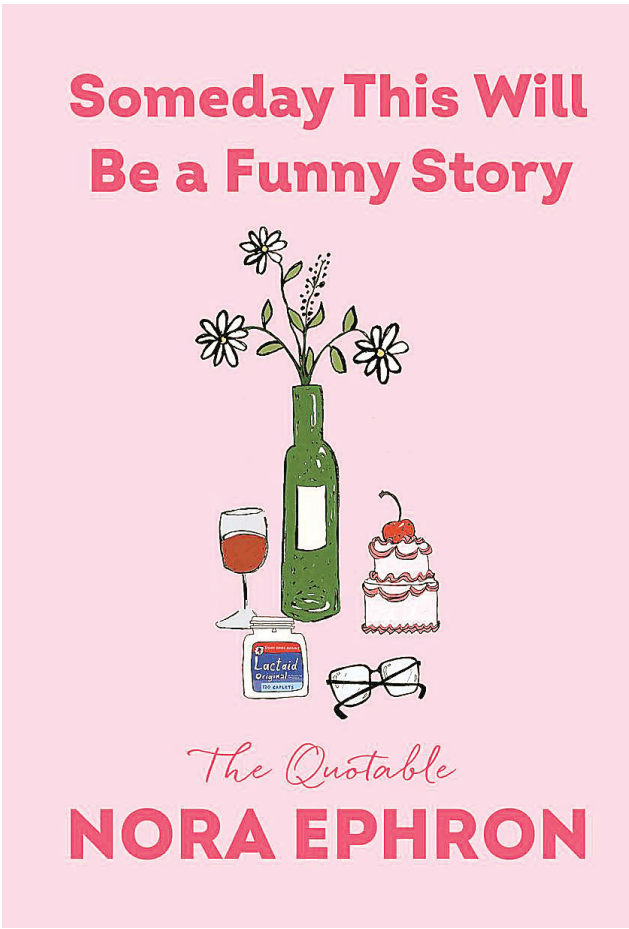
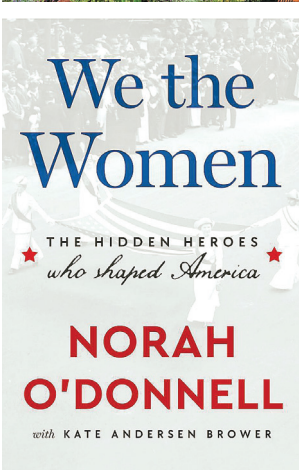
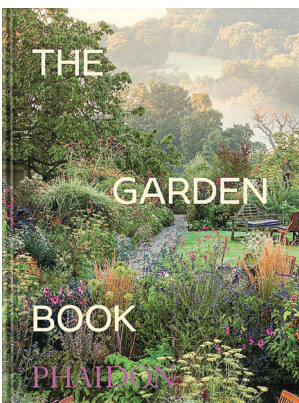
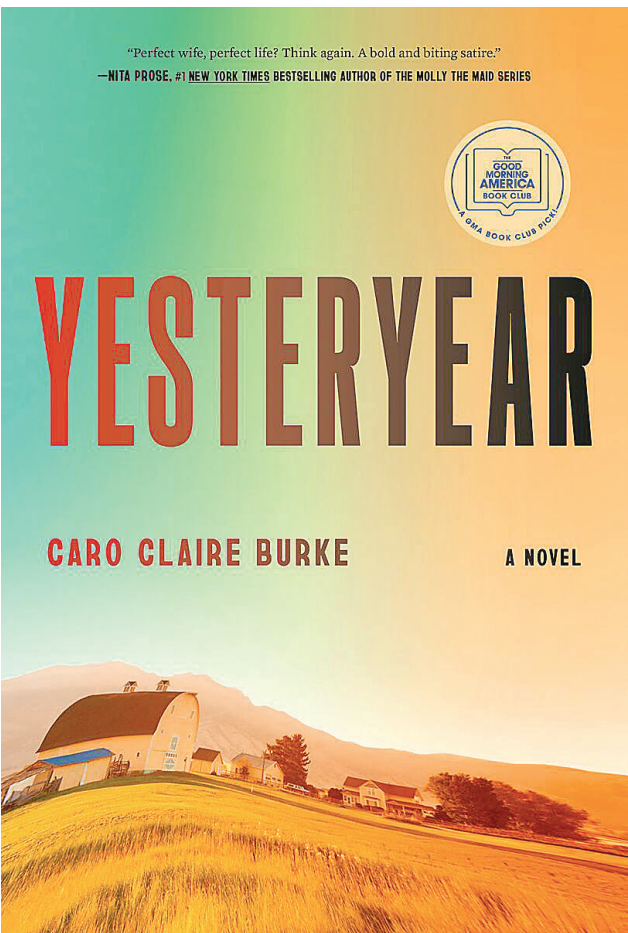
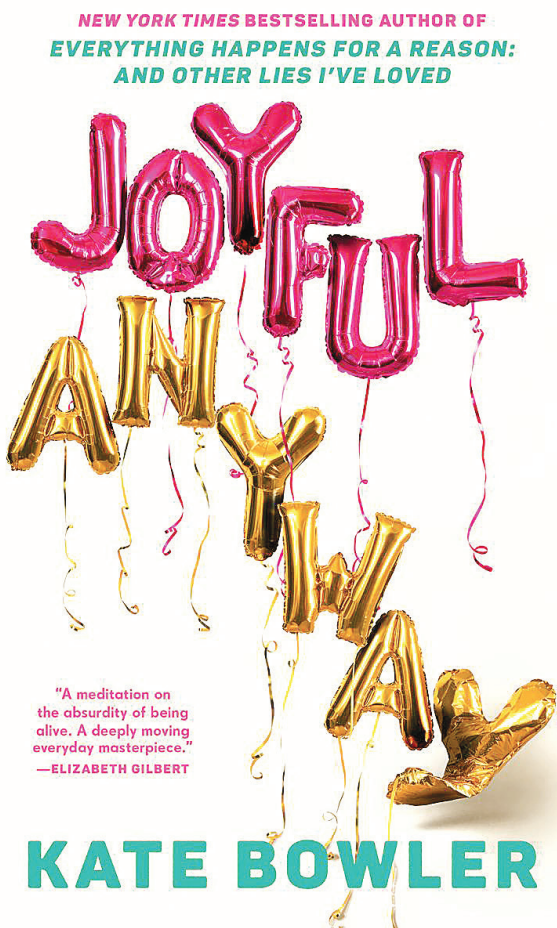
Elizabeth Strout’s new novel “The Things We Never Say” is getting fabulous early reviews in advance of publication on May 5. For many years and many books now, Strout has been writing novels set in the same world, with overlapping characters that include Olive Kitteridge and Lucy Barton and Bob Burgess and others. In “The Things We Never Say,” Strout introduces us to a fresh setting with fresh characters. Artie Dam is a seasoned and beloved eleventh grade history teacher when a secret rocks him to his core and he searches for connection with the people around him.

For nonfiction readers, “We the Women: The Hidden Heroes Who Shaped America” by Norah O’Donnell contains more than thirty portraits of women who changed history, from 1776 to today. O’Donnell, an Emmy Award-winning journalist, writes about abolitionists and soldiers, yes, but also about doctors, poets, inventors, athletes – women who helped shape our country into what it is today.

“Joyful Anyway” by Kate Bowler is for anyone struggling to manage the barrage of bad news coming through our feeds each day. Bowler makes the case for joy: *You can’t always be happy, but you can be joyful, anyway.* And she does so with wisdom (she earned a master’s of religion from Yale Divinity School and a PhD at Duke University) and wit and humor and vulnerability.

If you’ve got a mom who regularly rewatches “When Harry Met Sally” or “Sleepless in Seattle,” pick up “Someday This Will Be a Funny Story,” a collection of nearly one hundred Nora Ephron quotes, representative of her most memorable published work. It’s perfect for dipping in and out for inspiration, comic relief, or a shoulder to cry on.

Phaidon Press publishes gorgeous books on art, cooking, gardening, and design and more recently they’ve been putting out compact versions of some of their larg-



Mother’s Day, fast approaching on May 10th, has snuck up on me. Wondering what to get a book-loving mom this year?

ature editions make them more accessible both for portability and to your wallet.

No matter what the moms in your life might be into, there’s a book for that. If the options seem overwhelming, your local bookseller is happy to help you find the perfect fit.

Hannah Harlow is owner of The Book Shop, an independent bookstore in Beverly Farms. Harlow writes biweekly recommendations for us. See more of what she recommends reading at thecricket.com.

er format works. We have in the store “Great Women Artists,” a survey of five centuries of female creativity, and

“The Garden Book,” a reference work of the world’s finest garden-makers, planters, and horticulturists. The min-

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LIBRARYNEWS

This week at the Manchester by the Sea Public Library, there's a free concert at Crowell Chapel by the women's vocal ensemble Sorellanza, new reading with the Hearthside Book Club, Dungeons and Dragons for teens, a literary crawl celebrating the American Revolution, and much more.

Library to Host Sorellanza Concert at Crowell Chapel

On Friday, May 1 at 7 p.m., the Manchester Public Library will host a free concert by the women's vocal ensemble Sorellanza at Crowell Chapel. The performance, part of the group's spring concert series titled "Ain't No Mountain High Enough," will feature a mix of choral works centered on themes of resilience, connection and community.

Sorellanza, directed by Patti Pike, is known for its diverse repertoire and focus on collaborative performance. The ensemble's programs often draw on a range of musical traditions to highlight shared human experiences.

The event is presented in partnership with the Manchester Parks and Recreation Department.

Registration is encouraged but not required. The concert will be held at Crowell Chapel to accommodate attendance. Parking will be available on both sides of Rosedale Avenue during the event.



The women's vocal ensemble Sorellanza will perform free of charge this Friday at Crowell Chapel. Courtesy image

Hearthside Book Group

| Tuesday, May 5 from 4-5 p.m. We will discuss "Helen Keller: A Life" by Dorothy Herrmann. Herrmann chronicles Helen's doomed love affair, her struggles to earn a living, her triumphs at Radcliffe College, and her work as an advocate for the disabled. Helen Keller has been venerated as a saint or damned as a fraud, but Herrmann shows her to have been a beautiful, intelligent, high-strung, and passionate woman whose life was transformed not only by her disabilities but also by the remarkable people on whose help and friendship she re-

lied.

Poetry Reading | Thursday, April 30 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. The library invites you to a night dedicated to the celebration of both the written word and the winners of the Library's 3rd Annual Poetry Contest. Come hear members of our community perform original works chosen by the library, and enjoy a light reception while you listen.

2026 Revolutionary Library Crawl | April 21-May 9. Visit ten libraries throughout Northeastern MA from April 21 through May 9 as

we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. Visit an information desk at any of the participating libraries to pick up a crawl passport, complete an activity, and earn a passport stamp. Enjoy unique activities, history and swag at each stop on your crawl. 5 stamps or more on your passport qualify you for an entry into a prize raffle. Turn your passport in at any participating library by May 9 to be entered into the raffle. Prize baskets are available per age group: children, teens and adults.

Intro to Tai Chi | Thursdays from 9-10 a.m. Join

Manchester local Susan Halpern as she guides the group through the Bafa Wubu step by step. Bafa Wubu is based on the "core commonalities of the five schools of Tai Chi" and functions as a "simple health practice".

Mindful Meditation | Wednesdays from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. First Parish Church Meeting Room. Please register if this is your first time coming to this program.

Fiber Arts Circle | Wednesdays from 2-3 p.m. Fiber Arts include but are not limited to knitting, crocheting, embroidery, weaving and felting.

Monday Writing Group | Mondays from 2-3 p.m. Are you writing your next novel or poetry chapbook? Do you need inspiration to start your next project? Start your week off with a burst of creativity. Maddy Willwerth runs our weekly writer's group for all styles that are heavy on prompts and community.

Shut Up and Write (Virtual) | Thursdays, from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Join a community of writers and artists who just want to write. Come any time, and write in the company of other writers.

Digital Advice Appointments | Mondays from 12-12:30 p.m. Register for a dedicated session. 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.

Digital Advice Drop In | Fridays from 3-4 p.m. Drop in with your questions or tech concerns.

Shut Up and Write (Virtual) Thursdays from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 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:

Youth Dungeons and Dragons | Saturday, May 2 from 12-3 p.m. The library is offering a monthly one-shot Dungeons and Dragons adventure for ages 10-14. We will meet on the 1st Saturday of every month. Come and join the Adventure.

TAB for Juniors and Seniors | Meets the third Tuesday of every month from 6-7 p.m.

MPL Children's Events:

Pajama Storytime | Thursday, May 7 from 6-7 p.m. Ages 4 and up. Join Miss Audrey where we'll read some cozy books and do a fun craft.

Spring Storytime | Wednesdays from 10:30-11:15 a.m. For children ages 0-3 with their caregivers.

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

Sailing Team Competes in Manchester and Portland, Maine



Hornet sailing team in a close competition at a mark rounding. Courtesy Photo

By Tony Leggett

On Saturday, the Hornet sailing team competed in the fourth annual North Shore Invitational Regatta against fifteen entries from Pingree, Landmark, Beverly, Salem and Manchester. The breeze, oscillating through 90 degrees, required an agile race committee to reset the course many times, so that the sailors could finish

seven races on a windward-leeward course. In first place with a margin of four points going into the last leg of the last race, our number one sailor, Nicholas Bock and his crew suffered a difficult leeward mark rounding, resulting in a poor finish which pushed them back to third place in the overall standings. First and second place were won by Pingree and Landmark's top sailors, which

was settled on a tiebreaker. Manchester's Grey Brooks and Asa Bardsley finished in fifth place and James Donohoe and Thaddeus Bardsley in seventh.

On Sunday we travelled to Portland Maine for a Qualifying event for the O'Day Trophy, the New England Championship for fleet racing. The day started with a very light breeze from the northeast, which required

Nine schools competed, three of which would pass onto the finals. Starts were very tight, and critically important for getting out into good position.

an hour-long delay before the southeasterly began to build. However, the first race had to be abandoned when a huge cruise ship left its dock and crossed the racecourse, sending the competitors scrambling!

Nine schools competed, three of which would pass on to the finals. Starts were very tight, and critically important for getting out into good position. It was essential to

find areas of slightly stronger wind speeds and favorable changes in wind direction to get to the first mark ahead of the competition. Boat handling, especially fast tacks and smooth mark roundings, were critical. Our standout boat, with Grey Brooks and Annabel Lee, managed a creditable fourth place in B-Division. Nicholas Bock and Thaddeus Bardsley raced in A-Division.

...(Continued from page 1)

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Article 18 votes to fund a work order and asset tracking software.

Article 19 seeks to fund and install security cameras at the Town Water Tower.

Article 20 sets out to fund water-main replacement work.

Similarly, Article 21 will fund efforts to redesign, replace and engineer the municipal sewer system.

Article 22 will appropriate funding for a road leading from Apple Street to the Town's Department of Public Works Facility.

Further details on these articles can be found in the warrant for the Town Meeting on the town's website.



ESSEX

ECHO.

Town Administrator's Report

The following update on Essex municipal business is from Essex Town Administrator Brendhan Zubricki, who shared this report with Essex Board of Selectmen in its public meeting. The update covers activity from April 11 to April 24

COMPUTER SYSTEMS
ClearGov Budgeting Software Targeted Training

Now that the Town has produced its first digital Town Meeting Booklet on the platform known as ClearGov, the Town Administrator (TA) was able to meet remotely with a ClearGov system trainer to review a variety of questions pertaining to properly locking down the budget package for FY27 and preparing the system for the development of the FY28 budget. Given that the TA developed the system to utilize a great deal of automated calculations for inclusion in the various budget booklet pages, each of these needs to be properly duplicated in the FY28 budget preparation step, in order to avoid having to re-code those calculations. The trainer was very helpful with respect to finalizing FY27 within the software and commented that the company intends to offer bulk duplication of all automated features in the near future. So, once that becomes available, we will run the necessary process. In the meantime, we will start working on other aspects of the FY28 package.

Follow-up Training
Concerning Fuel Depot Software Use

Now that the new municipal fuel depot has been in use for a few weeks, it was necessary for the DPW Highway Foreman and the TA to be involved with a remote training session with the fuel depot software vendor to fine-tune the software and our understanding of the system. We had developed a number of specific questions concerning the system and we were able to get the answers we needed via a screen sharing session during which the trainer showed us various software features and settings.

Replacement of KVM Switch, Town Clerk

The switch that controls access between the Town Clerk's two computer systems (Town network and State voting network) failed during the week of April 20, 2026. Both systems can still be access separately, but not with the convenience of touching one button to use the same screen. We have ordered and will replace the switch.

PROCUREMENT/ONGOING PROJECTS

Kickoff of Phase One of Engineering Study of the Three



Town-owned Bridges As the Board may recall, the Town received \$60,000 in a State Legislative Earmark toward an engineering study of the three, town-owned bridges. The first phase of work is designed to spend that exact amount by June 30, 2026 and the Acting Superintendent of Public Works participated in a kickoff meeting with our engineering consultant on April 13, 2026. The hydraulic field work group began reviewing conditions at each bridge on April 13, 2026. The wetland delineation work was completed during the week of April 20, 2026 and the structural evaluation of each bridge will occur during the week of April 27, 2026. Senator Tarr is advocating for another \$60,000 to undertake the next phase of work next winter or spring. So far, it is our understanding that this new earmark is well on its way to approval. If the second earmark is successful, then no funding will be sought at the Fall Town Meeting for the continuation of work. Otherwise, the Fall Town Meeting may need to consider local funding to continue the study.

Sale of Old Fire Tanker Truck

As the Board is aware, the old fire tanker truck was put on an on-line auction by the Fire Department as a means for disposal, to make room for the new fire tanker truck that is almost ready for delivery.

Bids were due on April 22, 2026 and the \$25,000 reserve was not met. The tanker will be re-listed with a lower reserve.

FACILITIES

Repair to Men's Room Urinal at Memorial Park Restroom Facility

The Town Property Custodian recently reported that the urinal in the men's room at the Memorial Park Restroom Facility was sometimes running continuously after flushing and was not draining properly. We contacted our plumbing contractor and the matter has been remedied.

FISCAL/BUDGET

Public Forum Concerning Repayment of Secondary Sewer Treatment Debt

At the last meeting, the Board confirmed that a good date for the subject public forum will be Wednesday, May 13, 2026. The Board of Public Works is also available that evening and the meeting is proposed to begin at 6:00 p.m. in the third-floor auditorium in Town Hall.

The Finance Committee was invited to attend and the Committee has asked that the May 13 session just feature discussion by public officials, as opposed to inviting public input.

The Board of Public Works is not in favor of delaying the public input forum. The Finance Committee also voted to recommend the use of the entire Sewer Construction Betterment Interest Surplus Fund as an offset to the amount that the City of Gloucester will be charging the Town as the Town's share of the secondary treatment project. The meeting will be covered by 1623 Studios in order to allow for wider participation. We have developed a draft agenda for the Board's review and discussion.

TOWN MEETING, BY-LAWS, AND REGULATIONS

Planning Board Public Hearing Concerning Zoning Bylaw Proposals

The Planning Board held the subject public hearing on April 15, 2026 to allow the public to provide input on the two zoning bylaw proposals that are on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. The TA was in attendance along with Selectman Cameron. The first article seeks to clarify the process to be used to appoint associate members to the Planning Board.

The second article was placed on the warrant by citizens' petition and pertains to the possible repeal of the Open Space Residential Development (OSRD) Bylaw.

The Planning Board Chairman introduced and explained each of the articles but no one from the public spoke about either one.

Continued Planning Board Hearing Concern-

ing "the Preserve at Essex"

The Planning Board continued the public hearing concerning "the Preserve at Essex" Open Space Residential Development (OSRD) subdivision proposal on April 15, 2026. The TA was in attendance, along with Selectman Cameron. This portion of the hearing featured a discussion concerning comments that had been received on the proposal from the Planning Board's peer reviewer, Weston & Sampson Engineers. The applicant's engineer was also present and responded to some of the comments, electing to listen to others for a response later.

The Planning Board continued the hearing again, until May 6, 2026, via a review window extension assented to by the applicant, to allow the peer reviewer to complete its review of the project.

Most of the Town's subdivision standards have been met by the applicant and each of the requested waivers have adequate reasoning and mitigation, according to the peer reviewer. Design changes will likely need to focus on meeting State storm-water guidance, demonstrating of constructability of certain features, and minor traffic safety improvements. The Planning Board hopes to wrap up the hearing on May 6, 2026 and, by means of an additional review window extension, issue its written decision on May 20, 2026.

Proposal to Decrease the Maximum Number of Commercial Shellfish Permits

At the last meeting, the Board reviewed a proposal from the Shellfish Constable to decrease the maximum number of commercial shellfish permits in a given year from 94 (limit set in 2010) to perhaps 60. The Board had specific questions for the Constable and desired some additional data, which we have provided.

The number of licenses that have been obtained over the past ten years has generally decreased, with the peak number of licenses during this period having been 70.

LIBRARY NEWS



Children enjoyed a visit from Betsy Ross in celebration of "America250".
Courtesy photo

This week at the library we have Community Rummikub, Local History Lecture, Annual Pie Fest and more.

Library Closed

The library will be closed Saturday, May 23 and Monday, May 25 in observance of Memorial Day.

Local History Lecture

Thursday, May 7 at 7 p.m. Join Rob Fitzgibbon and learn about the mysterious history of "Old Baldy" the ancient stone bust of a head found in Essex in 1811. No registration.

Chocolate Chip Day

Friday, May 15 from 3-5 p.m. Kids of all ages, sample a variety of chips and enjoy other themed activities. No registration.

Junk Journaling Workshop

Wednesday, May 27 at 6:30 p.m. Register and join library director Carla Christensen to dive into the world of collage and scrapbooking. All supplies provided.

Library Garden and Patio

The library parking lot is closed as we begin the renovation of the ramp, parking lot and garden/patio project. Please utilize the Town Hall lot, street parking or the municipal parking behind the building. Entrance to the library will be through the front of Town Hall or via the elevator. Brick orders are open again. Visit <https://donate.brickmarkers.com/tohp> or stop by the library for a form.

Watercolor Workshop

Tuesday, May 12 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Join guest artist Brooke Lambert to enjoy a beginner level introduction to the art of watercolor. Space is limited, registration required.

Annual Pie Fest Fundraiser

Wednesday, May 6 from 12-4 p.m., at the Public Safety Building. Donate a pie or stop by and buy a slice to support future library programming.

Community Rummikub

Saturday, May 2 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. No experience necessary. Enjoy meeting others from the community over this popular game.

Weekly Story Hour

Wednesdays
Ages 0-2 at 9 a.m.
Ages 3-5 at 10 a.m. Drop in welcome.

Regional Social Worker

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

Essex Locals

115 Years Ago - 1911

The Falls Brook is alive with alewives. A very successful season has this far been realized, 35 barrels were taken the first day and hauled to Gloucester where they have been sold.

90 Years Ago - 1936

Mrs. W.W. Lufkin and her daughters Constance, Elizabeth and Edith, who spent the winter in Boston, have returned to their Winthrop Street home for the summer.

ESSEX SENIOR LIVING | MAY 1

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

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.

Elizabeth's Exercise Hour: Wednesdays, 10 a.m.: \$5 Donation suggested.

Technology Assistance, Wednesdays 1-3 p.m.: Do you have questions about your computer, tablet, phone, or other technologi-

cal challenges? Our Tech genius can help!

Ga.m.es at the Senior Cen-

ter: Wednesdays 1-3 p.m.: ALL AGES WELCOME, come play BOARD ga.m.es or Scrabble, Boggle, Cribbage, Backgammon, join us or bring a friend and come play ANYTIME!

Chair Yoga, Thursdays 10 a.m.: \$5 Donation suggested.

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.

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Spring Into Summer with Strawberry Soup



Rosalie's Strawberry Soup is a fast way to get into the summer mood. It's perfect for May weekend meals.

Photo: Erika Brown

Sweet memories inspire chef Rosalie Harrington to lean into summer foods, even if the season's not quite here.

By Rosalie Harrington

As the weather finally begins to warm up here on Cape Ann, it is time to transition away from heavy, comforting winter meals and look toward light, refreshing tastes that celebrate the arrival of early spring berries. When you want a dish that is colorful, cool, and effortless, a chilled fruit soup is the perfect transition into the new season.

Yes, it's time for berry soup
This time of year—especially with Saturday's Kentucky Derby approaching—brings to mind a memory involving my granddaughters, Emma and Maddie.
A little more than a few years ago, my son Georgie



asked if my husband Todd and I could take care of the girls for the weekend while he and his wife, Mary, went away to attend the Kentucky Derby. It was exciting for them, and we gladly accepted, as we love spending time with the girls, and I encouraged them to invite some friends over for a party.
During their visit, I made a chilled strawberry soup. It is a wonderfully elegant dish that also happens to be a massive hit with kids.
Because the berries are initially simmered in red wine,

some parents might pause, but there is no need to worry about the alcohol, as it burns completely off while the soup simmers. It is a foolproof, stress-free treat that feels incredibly sophisticated but takes very little effort. And because I keep potted herbs inside on my kitchen windowsill all winter for their beauty, fragrance, and for cooking, it was easy to clip off some mint leaves to garnish our soup. Many herbs, especially mint and basil, go beautifully with the flavor of berries, especially strawber-

ries. Maddie and Emma are both grown up now, and they each remember that day and how they enjoyed the making of chilled strawberry soup together with their friends.
My mother's treat
Now, some people serve chilled fruit soup for dessert, and others, like me, enjoy serving it as an appetizer, especially in April or May, as a prelude to the hot summer bumper months of June, July and August that we're all excited to get to. It's also a nice surprise, offering

FOOD



My granddaughters, Maddie and Emma, are both grown adults now, but each remembers making chilled strawberry soup together as children with their friends for their own Kentucky Derby party.

are dependably available in Whole Foods or Marketbasket. Making a chilled soup for a light meal at home, as a first course at a dinner party, or even as a bright and fun dessert, is one of the easiest paths to getting right into the mood and feeling of summer.

The Recipe: Chilled Strawberry Soup

- This is a fantastic way to use up abundant berries, especially if you have a few that are slightly bruised or overly soft.*
- Wash, clean, and cut up a quart of fresh strawberries.
 - Place the berries in a heavy pot, cover them with red wine, and sprinkle a cup of sugar over them. (If you happen to have an open bottle of sparkling wine or rosé that you want to finish up, that works beautifully here too).
 - Bring the soup to a simmer. Watch the pot carefully, as it will make a terrible mess if it boils over!
 - If you like, sprinkle a little cinnamon—about a heaping tablespoon—into the simmering soup.
 - After about fifteen minutes, the berries will be cooked and ready to burst.
 - Allow the soup to cool slightly, then puree it in a food processor or blender.
 - Stir in your dairy of choice. You can use two cups of heavy cream, a pint of Half and Half, or yogurt mixed with sour cream—it all works wonderfully.
 - Chill the soup thoroughly in the refrigerator.
 - To serve, ladle into bowls or fun glasses and garnish with three tablespoons of freshly chopped mint.

A resident of Beverly Farms, Rosalie Harrington is a chef with a storied career. As the founder of Rosalie's in Marblehead, she was one of the country's first chef-owners and helped one of the first cooking shows on the Food Network. She also served as the head of catering at Tufts University and has taught cooking classes for more than 20 years.

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Vote 2026: Essex Board Of Selectman

Candidates introduce themselves ahead of May 11 town election



Following a long tradition, The Cricket offers a platform to all candidates of any contested seat in a local election to introduce themselves, in their own words, together with their opponent or opponents to our readers. This year, we are featuring introductions in a race between incumbent Alva Ingaharro and Dexter Lee-Viator, who is challenging Ingaharro for a seat on the town’s highest board, the three-member Essex Board of Selectmen. The Essex Town Election will be held at the Essex Public Safety Building on John Wise Avenue. Both candidates have written introductions below, in which they share why they’re running and what issues they consider central to the town’s future.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Monday, May 11.

Meet Alva Ingaharro



Hello! My name is Alva Ingaharro I am running for re-election for the Essex Board of Selectmen on May 11, 2026.

To be frank: I’m not a politician, and I’m not going to tell you what you want to hear. What I can promise is that I will continue to ask hard questions, dig into the details, and do the due diligence that every issue deserves. Essex residents deserve thoughtful, transparent decision making, not prepackaged talking points or personal agendas.

My commitment is simple: to approach every matter—large or small—with fairness, curiosity, and a focus on what is best for all of Essex.

It has been a privilege to serve the Town of Essex as a member of the Board of Selectmen for the past three years. During this time, I have dedicated myself to understanding the intricate workings of our town government. I’ve attended meetings of the Finance Committee, Conservation Commission, Board of Public Works, and Council on Aging to gain a deeper understanding of how each board operates and how their work supports our community.

While the responsibilities can be demanding, the work has been deeply meaningful, and I hope to continue serving you for another term. I take seriously the role of being part of the town’s executive leadership, and I approach every decision without personal political agenda—any agenda at all. Every issue that comes before me is one I examine carefully, weighing both the positive and negative impacts it may have on the town. Whether the matter involves our schools, our businesses, or our residents, each deserves the same level of dedication, fairness, and thoughtful consideration.

As we look ahead, Essex faces important challenges that require steady leadership and practical planning. I believe we must continue pursuing responsible, community focused solutions—preserving what makes Essex strong while creating opportunities for seniors, families with or without children, and local businesses.

My many years as a Product Manager in the software industry have shaped me into an effective listener, collaborator, and problem solver. Progress often requires balancing different perspectives, making thoughtful compromises, and recognizing that not every point can be won—but working together to achieve the best outcome for our community is always possible.

I have been an Essex resident since 2003, I bring 17 years of community leadership and municipal service, grounded in fiscal responsibility and a commitment to the residents and businesses of our town.

Community & Municipal Experience

- Essex Board of Selectmen (3 years)
 - Affordable Housing Trust member
 - AFSCME contract negotiations
 - MERSD Collaboration Group
- Essex Tech School Committee (2 years)
 - Sub policy committee
- Manchester Essex Regional School Committee (9 years)
 - Co chair, finance subcommittee, contract negotiations
- Essex Lions Club (3 years)
 - Secretary

I remain committed to serving Essex with transparency, fairness, and a focus on what strengthens our community.

Meet Dexter Lee-Viator

I’m a fifth generation Essex resident, and I’m running for selectman because I care deeply about this town, preserving what makes Essex special, and strengthening it against administrative and budgetary challenges.

The work that I do every day is built on collaborating to solve administrative hurdles and getting creative with limited resources. As Manager of Community Investment at The Greater Boston Food Bank, I oversee more than 60 direct food distribution programs. These specific programs partnered with community health centers, public schools, councils on aging, and affordable housing communities to distribute nearly two million pounds of food to families in Eastern Massachusetts last year.

I decided to run for selectman after speaking with neighbors about what could be improved in Essex: (1) clearer and more digestible communication about the town meeting warrant and what is happening in town government; (2) data-informed ways to diversify the tax burden away from residents; and (3) sustainable approaches to address town government structure and what the Massachusetts Municipal Association calls the “perfect storm” of budgetary pressures.

Small towns in Massachusetts are up against historic challenges. State aid is declining, and the costs associated with virtually every town service are rising exponentially. The knee-jerk reaction to cut expenditures without nuance could put us in a downward spiral of declining quality of life.



It is our responsibility to start working on big-picture strategies. We should initiate a study with the state’s Financial Management Resource Bureau, a zero-cost, informed way to find efficiencies for residents to vote on. We should be looking at ways to boost our local receipts like we did with the meal tax, and we should be finding ways to appropriately support community-scale businesses that generate revenue for the town.

Above all, we should be giving voters clear choices and information. We have

a Town Meeting on May 4 and have heard little context from current town leadership about what is on the warrant. We have no official town Facebook page for accessible, basic information and updates. Neighboring towns do this well.

If you are an Essex voter who cares about improving any of these issues, I ask you to vote for me. Respect, trust, communication, and collaboration are essential in town leadership. My candidacy has been one built around connecting with neighbors, family,

Essex is a place rich with community, innovation, and natural environment. Let’s bring our unique spirit back to town leadership

and friends about how they experience Essex, and my service will be built on the same accessibility. I hope to be able to sit down for coffee, chat on the phone, or email with as many of you as possible before the election. I can be reached at dexter-foressex@gmail.com.

Essex is a place rich with community, innovation, and natural environment. Let’s bring our unique spirit back to town leadership. Instead of letting the challenges get us down, we must come together to work on solutions. As a member of the next generation, I look to make sure that Essex is prepared for the future. I humbly and respectfully ask for your vote on Monday, May 11.

Thank you.

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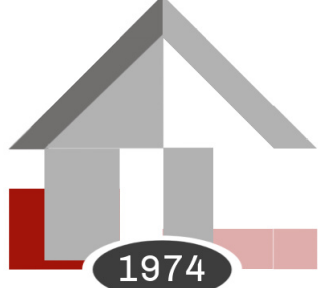


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STATE HOUSE NEWS

House Adds \$8 Million in Public Safety Funds, Rejects GOP Bail Fee Change



By Colin A. Young

Representatives unanimously added more than \$8 million in public safety spending as they began the second day of debate on a fiscal year 2027 budget plan, and rejected a Republican bid to change the process by which bail fees are paid.

The vote was 154-0 to approve the third amalgamated amendment proposed to the Ways and Means Committee's \$63.3 billion budget plan, but only after Barnstable Republican Rep. Steven Xiarhos insisted on debate of his amendment to remove the requirement that the Trial Court pay bail commissioners' fees when they respond outside of regular working hours.

He said bail commissioners charge an \$80 fee for their services when someone is arrested and accused of a crime when courts are not open, like over a weekend. Xiarhos, a former deputy police chief in Yarmouth, said the arrested person used to be responsible for paying that fee but "the burden has been transferred from the individual who has committed a crime to the taxpayers of this commonwealth."

"Why should the people who follow the law be responsible for covering the costs of those who break it?" Xiarhos asked the House Chamber. He added, "We are shifting responsibility away from the individual and onto the public. At a time when families across Massachusetts are already struggling with rising energy costs, housing costs, everyday expenses, we are spending millions of taxpayer dollars to cover these fees, millions of dollars that could have been spent elsewhere on mental

Why should the people who follow the law be responsible for covering the costs of those who break it? ... We are shifting responsibility away from the individual and onto the public.

health, on veteran support, public safety initiatives or easing the burden of our taxpayers."

Rep. Ken Sweezey said Xiarhos's amendment would save the state \$7 million.

Rep. Joe McKenna of Sutton supported Xiarhos's amendment and connected the issue to the recent death of Marleigh Rose Guevara, a 10-year-old girl from his district who was killed when she was struck by a car while playing.

"The woman who struck her had been arrested one week prior, passed out behind the wheel of her vehicle with crack and heroin in the vehicle, and was released on cashless bail," he said. "A 10-year-old girl, a sister, a fourth grader -- taken."

Rep. Michael Day, the House chairman of the Judiciary Committee, urged representatives to vote against the Xiarhos amendment and said its only effect would be to "prevent the commonwealth from paying our clerks directly for the work that they do after hours or during hours. That's it."

"Here in Massachusetts, we do not believe in locking people up because they don't have funds. So in 2024, under the leadership of this House, we said the Trial Court should account for the work that employees do, as do all other departments in the commonwealth. It's accounted for in the Trial Court's budget," he said. Day continued, "Let's be clear: Prosecutors have the tools necessary to hold people

pre-trial. Our clerks have the authority to hold people pre-trial if that individual poses a risk to society ... We properly pay our clerks wages from the Trial Court line item. Transparency, accountability, justice and common sense."

Xiarhos's amendment failed 26-123. The only Democrat to support the measure was Fall River Rep. Alan Silvia, a former police officer.

Headlining the dollar additions in the larger amendment package was \$1.7 million to pay training and instruction costs for public safety agencies in Boston and in municipalities across the state, and \$1.2 million to cover payroll costs for State Police directed patrols. That allotment makes specific allocations for patrols at Revere Beach/Lynn Fells, Wollaston Beach/Quincy Shore Drive, Castle Island/South Boston, and other locations.

The consolidated amendment also designates \$330,000 for a one-year pilot program of an automated crime victim and witness notification and survey platform for all 11 district attorneys, assistant district attorneys and advocates. It also included \$100,000 for a municipal grant program to be administered by the State Fire Marshal for firefighter cancer screenings, including advanced blood testing and imaging.

The mega-amendment was bulked up with dozens of local earmarks for individual police and fire departments. In the half hour of

review after the consolidated amendment became available, reps and staffers were busy in the House Chamber scouring the text to see what they were able to secure for their district.

Those local earmarks included \$150,000 for gear and facility upgrades for the Stoneham Police Department; \$25,000 for the Norton Police Department to buy "conducted energy weapons;" \$25,000 for the Swansea Police Department to get a digital training simulator; \$25,000 for Mattapoiet to replace automated external defibrillators; \$30,000 for the Southborough Police Department to acquire drones; \$75,000 for Freetown to buy a rescue boat, \$50,000 for Revere Fire Department fleet maintenance; and \$100,000 for the Braintree Police Department's family services unit.

But Consolidated Amendment C also removed a handful of provisions that the House had added Monday night when it approved Consolidated Amendment B.

The net reduction of \$50,000 came from the removal of funding for the East Brookfield senior center (\$5,000, originally sponsored by Rep. Donald Berthiaume); money for Millis senior center bathroom renovations (\$15,000, sponsored by Rep. Marcus Vaughn); funding for Hanover and Hanover councils on aging food programming (\$10,000 each, sponsored by Rep. David DeCoste); and money for transportation at the Wareham council on aging (\$10,000, sponsored by Rep. John Gaskey).

All four Republicans had voted against the Monday night consolidated amendment that had originally ap-

Solution to puzzles on page 10

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Pet of the Week: Looking For Catwoman



Meet Batman! This one-year-old sweetheart may start off a little shy, but underneath that tough exterior is a gentle soul waiting to feel safe & loved. He takes his time getting to know new people, but

once he does, you'll see his soft, affectionate side start to shine. He would thrive in a calm, patient home where he can build confidence at his own pace. If he sounds like the kitty for you, apply today!

Minogue dominates as Republicans narrow gubernatorial field

Kennealy fails to secure his spot on Sept. primary ballot

By Katie Castellani, Ella Adams

Republican delegates qualified two out of three possible gubernatorial candidates for the September primary ballot: Mike Minogue and Brian Shortsleeve. Minogue earned the convention's endorsement by a landslide.

Minogue received 70.38% of the delegates' votes and Shortsleeve earned 15.5% -- narrowly surpassing the 15% threshold needed for his candidacy to survive.

Mike Kennealy, secretary of housing and economic development under former Gov. Charlie Baker, received 14.11% of the delegates' votes, spelling an end to his bid for the party's nomination. A small number of delegates chose not to cast a vote for a gubernatorial candidate.



MassGOP-endorsed gubernatorial candidate Mike Minogue waves at the crowd at the DCU Center in Worcester on April 25, 2026.

Photo: Ella Adams, State House News

Minogue, former CEO of Danvers-based biotech firm Abiomed, opened his convention speech by asking the audience questions, including if delegates were ready for the voter-approved legislative audit and to "get criminal illegal immigrants off our streets."

The DCU Center audience erupted in cheers.

Minogue leaned on his faith, saying he believes "all things are possible with God." He touted his work leading Abiomed, a compa-

ny he said was on the path to bankruptcy when he took over. As governor, Minogue said he would do something similar for Massachusetts, helping the state address its affordability woes as well as what he called waning economic competitiveness and an "illegal immigration crisis."

"So, how do we get on the right path? We elect a leader with integrity and common sense and compassion," he said. "We elect a new kind of governor with a blueprint to

accountability, affordability, opportunity and keeps communities safe."

Minogue promised to take several actions as governor, including, auditing the Legislature and budget; cutting taxes and spending by getting rid of "waste and fraud"; cutting energy utility fees; investing in energy sources like natural gas and nuclear, which he said were safe, clean and more affordable; canceling and repeal the state's net zero emissions mandates; and growing jobs by retaining and recruiting entrepreneurs and businesses.

"I'm the only candidate and CEO that has actually built a company and sweated the details, so I will cut red tape. I know how it works," he said.

Shortsleeve and Kennealy made similar promises to delegates during their speeches.

A former MBTA chief administrator and acting general manager, Shortsleeve leaned on his time as a Marine and small business own-

er while introducing himself to the convention.

"We need a new governor with the determination of a Marine, the mindset of a businessman, the perspective of an outsider and the urgency of a father who knows the clock is ticking until the time when my kids and yours decide whether to stay or whether to go. I will be that governor," he said.

Shortsleeve also backed a legislative audit -- similar to the one Auditor Diana DiZoglio is attempting -- saying he would audit every agency and program in state government if elected. He added that part of his work at the T involved agency audits, including one he said uncovered millions in fraud.

Shortsleeve also advocated for cutting the income tax rate, saying he would support a proposed ballot initiative to cut it from 5% to 4%.

To read the complete State House News story, go to thecricket.com.

Town of Manchester-by-Sea
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
Town Hall, 10 Central Street,
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Manchester Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing regarding the application of GC Uhring Custom Builders Inc, on behalf of Ira and Susan Evans for a Special Permit under Section 7.2 of the Zoning By-Law for the reconstruction and expansion of an existing non-conforming porch into an enclosed room to aid in entering and exiting the existing home. The property is located at 22 Rockwood Heights, Assessor's Map No. 32, Lot No. 116 in District A filed with Town Clerk on April 16, 2026. The application will be reviewed at a hybrid meeting on Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at 7:00p.m. in Room 5 at Town Hall located at 10 Central St, and on Zoom. Zoom information will be posted on the MBTS website.

Sarah Mellish, Chair, Zoning Board of Appeals

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

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BEVERLY

\$1,795,000 | Andrea Osbon
Rare opportunity to own an original Pickman Estate property in Beverly Cove with deeded Brackenbury Beach access. Six bedrooms, first-floor primary suite, water views, garage, gardens, tennis court, and ADU potential.



IPSWICH

\$995,000 | Josephine Mehm Baker
Enjoy water views of Ipswich Bay. Spacious, versatile 3-bed, 1-bath home has wood stove in open kitchen-living-dining room. Bedroom and sitting room upstairs. 2-car parking. New septic system.



DANVERS

\$809,990 | Melissa Lane & Craig Franklin
Luxury townhome with Crane River views and stunning sunsets. Open concept living with vaulted ceilings, fireplace, chef's kitchen. Primary suite, loft, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, garage, parking, storage.



ESSEX

\$798,000 | Ann & Rick Gloucester Group
Brand-new coastal retreat! 1 of 4 units with marsh views & heated garage. 1BR, 1.5BA, McCormick custom kitchen, black walnut island, induction cooktop. Primary suite, full bath. Near Essex dining & boating.



BEVERLY

\$750,000 | Michelle Theriault
Spacious coastal townhome with harbor views and private decks. Open floor plan with bright living area. Primary suite with balcony. Parking, near downtown, beaches and commuter rail.



HAMILTON

\$739,000 | Deb Evans & Elaine Horrocks
Bring your ideas to life. Charming c.1950, 3-bedroom, 2-bath Cape ready for its next chapter. Sun-filled rooms, 1st floor bedroom and full bath. Front porch, patio, private yard. Top-rated schools.



MALDEN

\$324,000 | Kristin Kelly
Comfort, convenience, style Thoughtfully renovated, pet-friendly rear-facing 1-bed condo. LVP flooring, custom blinds, granite kitchen, 1-car parking. Near T station, bus stop. Heat/hot water in condo fee.

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**224 Echo Cove Road
Hamilton | \$799,000**
Set on the waterfront of Chebacco Lake - with unobstructed eastern views, this 2,200+ SF Cape sits on a quiet dead-end street and offers incredible potential. With lake-view living spaces, a sunroom, and flexible floor plan, this is a rare chance to restore and personalize a true waterfront retreat.
David Brown | (617) 594-0901



**12 Andrews Street
Gloucester | \$1,650,000**
Treasure at Lane's Cove - a rare Lanesville retreat with water views and direct access to the sheltered Cove and Ipswich Bay. This modern 5-bedroom, 5-bath home features a chef's kitchen, sunset views, a private-entry BNB, and a mahogany deck, moments from Plum Cove Beach and village amenities.
Mary Matthews | (978) 317-1079



**602 Summer Street
Manchester | \$3,250,000**
Privacy abounds - in this breathtaking hilltop contemporary set on 16+ acres with sweeping ocean views, rolling lawns, and sun-filled living spaces opening to a wraparound deck. The 4-bedroom, 3-bath home features a primary suite with private ocean-view balcony, a unique stone-tower office, and easy access to beaches, trails, and Route 128.
Lynda Surdam | (978) 764-7474



**413 Wethersfield St
Rowley | \$899,900**
Charming, thoughtfully updated Cape - on a picturesque lot in desirable Rowley, blending classic New England character with modern comfort and a bright, sun-filled interior. Features include an updated kitchen, recent exterior improvements, a newer heating system (2023), and a flexible above-garage bonus room ideal for a home office or guest space.
Michele Mineo | (978) 471-9178



**26 Canterbury Hill Road
Topsfield | \$849,000**
Classic hip-roof Colonial - on a private .93-acre wooded lot in a sought-after neighborhood, featuring hardwood floors, two fireplaces, and a flexible floor plan with a finished walkout lower level. Recent updates include a new four-bedroom septic and electrical panel (4/2026), plus a newer furnace (2025), with four bedrooms upstairs and an attached two-car garage.
Jeanmarie Cannon | (978) 771-3618



**16 Highland St
Gloucester | \$1,095,000**
Ideally located in the East Gloucester Square Historic District - this charming shingle-style cottage offers gardens, a covered front porch for sunset gatherings, and timeless architectural details throughout. Featuring three bedrooms plus a third-floor family room with harbor views, the home is moments from marinas, Rocky Neck, Good Harbor Beach, and downtown Gloucester.
Scott Smith | (617) 750-2793



**31 Eastern Ave
Essex | \$689,000**
Versatile two-family property - on .38 acres with ample off-street parking, set directly across from scenic Essex Marsh and just moments to the causeway's dining and antique shops. Ideal for an owner-occupant or investor, featuring a freestanding garage with flexible overhead space and potential for single-family use or rental income.
Marianne Round | (978) 902-5452



**38-38R High St
Rockport | \$1,155,000**
A rare Rockport opportunity - two homes on one in-town lot featuring a charming colonial and a separate multi-unit cottage, with parking for four and a level landscaped yard. Just steps to Front and Back Beaches, Bearskin Neck, galleries, dining, and Shalin Liu—ideal for investment, income, or multi-generational living.
Mary Matthews | (978) 317-1079

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