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We Strolled Into the Holidays  
By Jean Perry  
Sunday, December 8, was the day of the annual Marion Holiday Stroll.  
The holiday stroll is a Tri-Town event that sets itself apart from the rest in a category all its own. It surpasses the other town events by its very nature; the holiday stroll is not just a town event, the holiday stroll is a true village event.  
As a community journalist, I have attended the holiday stroll every year for five years and look forward to each one. As children we enjoyed years of delighting in the magic of Christmas; as adults, some of us are lucky if we can harken back to that Christmas magic vicariously through our children. At some point in life, though, we all find ourselves in the midst of a holiday season swirling around us with absolutely no desire to participate, devoid

On the Cover: Here Comes Santa Claus! – Santa made his big entrance to the Marion Holiday Stroll on Sunday, December 8, from across Sippican Harbor on his ‘water sleigh’ to the crowd that awaited him at the Town Wharf. The holiday stroll is the perfect way to get into the holiday spirit and capture a bit of that Christmas magic. Photo by Jean Perry

Holiday Editions and Deadlines
December 26 Edition
Our office will be closing at 3pm on December 23 and will be closed all day on December 24. The deadline for news and classifieds is Monday, December 23 at 3pm. If you would like to contact us you can do so at office@wanderer.com for advertising or news@wanderer.com for news items.

January 3 Edition
Our January 2nd edition will be available in Digital Form only – be sure to check us out at www.wanderer.com or on The Wanderer iPad and iPhone app!

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This year, why shop anywhere else but in your very own community? And, if you are a business owner in the Tri-Town and surrounding area consider advertising with The Wanderer and make your business stand out this holiday season!

In This Issue

Birthdays.......................................................62
Classified Advertisements..........................60
Crossword & Horoscope...............................56
Happenings........................................48, 50, & 52
Legal Advertising........................................58
Local Tide Listings.......................................70
Mattapoisett Selectmen’s Meeting.............19
Movies & Entertainment............................46
Obituaries....................................................42
ORCTV Schedule..........................................44
Police Log...................................................54
Real Estate Transactions............................67
Regional Lunch Menus.................................54
Sports..........................................................38

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Life is like that for grown-ups – busy during non-holidays and then double busy when one has to fit in the extra tasks of gift shopping, gift wrapping, tree trimming, light hanging, feast preparing, and party attending. For a community journalist in the Tri-Town, a weekend like this past one has us boomeranging from Rochester to Mattapoisett to Marion and then back to Mattapoisett all in one day, chasing down Santa as he has breakfast then pizza with kids in different towns, all on top of the routine meetings and goings-on that we must attend and report on. By the time Sunday afternoon came and it was time to get back to Marion for the holiday stroll, my gas tank was on ‘E’ and so was my energy.

The holiday stroll is a pretty easy event to cover, however; there are opportunities for great photos in every direction and after five holiday strolls I know just where to position myself and which direction to point my camera. I was careful to park my car outside of the zone of the stroll so I could quickly slip away when my work was done, and as my teenage son and I closed our car doors and cut across the street, I said to him, “OK, let’s get this over with.”

Straight to the Town Wharf we walked, politely excusing ourselves through the crowd to the very top
of the gangway for unobstructed photos of Santa’s boat as he traversed Sippican Harbor. I ate a Tabor Academy sugar cookie while I waited. I was cold. I looked to the kids sitting and standing on the roof of a nearby shed for a signal that Santa could be spotted and my work could begin.

“There he is!” “Where?” “Oh yeah! I see him!” “Here he comes, yay!”

The children smiled and jumped and clapped and with a slight jolt of adrenaline, I squinted my eyes in the direction where the kids were pointing and focused my zoom lens on the horizon, like I do every year. And the second that fuzzy white boat with the red dot came into focus, I was overcome, like I am every year, with the sudden magic of Christmas.

For a moment I am a kid again, and I feel that expanse of emotion and imagination that I would on Christmas Eve. The anticipation of Santa’s arrival increases as the boat appears to grow in size closing in on the wharf where we all stand waving back at Santa as he waves to us. His “ho-ho-ho” carries across the water and

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his exclamations of “Merry Christmas!” resonate with the child in me that loved Santa Claus – a familiar and unconditional love-giving omnipresence in my life – and his ‘Merry Christmases’ felt warm and reassuring like a promise that Christmas would indeed be merry and that it was time let some of its joy in.

I was still that little girl when Santa made eye contact with me from the boat, star-struck like the rest of the kids on dry land. Meanwhile, I am watching most of it unfold through my camera lens that followed Santa’s every step up the gangway and into the arms of an exalting crowd. Now I’m an adult again, busy at work trailing Santa like the paparazzi and pressed to make my way through the people to get ahead of the horse and carriage before it departs up to Front Street carrying Santa and a carriage full of lucky kids.

As I do every year, I take my place atop the stone wall that lines Island Wharf Road to get a great above-the-crowd perspective of the carriage’s approach with Santa waving at the people as he passes. As he closes in on my position, he looks over at me on my perch and gives me a wave.

“You’ve been a very busy girl!” Santa says to me. And for another split second, I’m back to being 5-year-old Jeannie again. She feels proud and special to be singled out by Santa. “Ho-ho-ho! Merry Christmas!” The horses take the turn and Santa passes on into Marion Center with an entire village following behind him.
It’s an extraordinary sight to see the village streets so full of people. Village businesses open their doors and hand out free snacks, hot cocoa, and candy canes... There is popcorn and hot dogs and holiday music... Neighbors in colorful hats and scarves greet one another and shake each other’s mitten hands in front of decorated holiday doorways and it all seems like one big living Christmas card.

The Marion Holiday Stroll is an essential component to Christmas for many of us, and it certainly feels less like work and more like a Christmas catharsis for this community journalist.

The spirit of the holidays was alive and well in Marion on Sunday as I walked back to the car. Holding my son’s hand in one hand and 5-year-old Jeannie’s in the other, we strolled on into Christmas.

The Bay Club’s ‘Luncheon Ladies’ Pay it Forward

By Marilou Newell

While she takes no credit for pulling together a committed group of women who enjoy breaking bread together as well as bringing joy to others, Wendy Russo is without a doubt a natural organizer.

Russo has been the prime mover behind the Bay Club lunch group, a group of women, friends, and neighbors who meet each Friday for lunch at the club. It is an informal group brought together by their desire to

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December 12, 2019  The Wanderer

7
enjoy each other’s company while also planning activities that benefit others. And although the group doesn’t really have a name, per se, its efforts have helped many organizations.

Most recently, they have partnered with the Veterans Association of Bristol County, located on Pine Street in Fall River.

Russo explained that several members of the lunch group go to the VABC once a month to engage the veterans in social activities, such as the game Left-Right-and-Center, while also visiting with veterans who drop in for a cup of coffee.

“Many of the veterans are lonely,” Russo quietly acknowledged. The group brings along door prizes comprised of items the vets might need such as razors, clothing, and gift cards to various retail stores. They also provide boxes of hot coffee and a special homemade banana bread baked by one of the volunteers from the Samaritans, another group Russo has helped over the years.

At the lunch group’s December 6 gathering, each of the more than 30 women brought $25 gift cards, enough for every veteran they serve to have two gift cards each.

An important aspect of the group’s outreach to the veterans is the dissemination of information.

“We share information with them about services and how to obtain them; things they might not be aware of,” Russo explained. She believes that veterans oftentimes have a hard time asking for help, so the group’s monthly outreach is an avenue for the veterans to receive important information along with a cup of friendship.

But as much as the group gives, Russo believes they also receive. Of the veterans, she said, “They become friends we look forward to seeing.”

Russo is not a novice when it comes to volunteering; she spent 26 years on the phones as a Samaritan. She is currently on the board of directors.

Russo was careful in sharing experiences she’s had in her capacity being on the frontlines with the Samaritans, but she also doesn’t shy away from the rougher edge of life where people are in abject emotional turmoil. It could be
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that her calm gentle demeanor was at times all the caller needed to hear.

As for the ladies of the lunch group, they too have aided untold numbers. They have taken such projects as providing sanitary products to young girls through a partnership with the YMCA in New Bedford, and putting together care baskets for babies of addicted mothers – babies who oftentimes are not going home. As women and mothers themselves, the lunch group understands the needs of both teenage girls and tiny babies.

Russo beamed as she explained her recent acceptance as a “cuddler” at a local hospital, a program of volunteers who embrace and rock newborns.

In addition to many things, Russo is an organizer in possession of a wide network of contacts. When a food pantry noted its need for a new commercial refrigerator, Russo’s network came through.

“We were able to provide them with the unit and the installation,” she said with a big smile.

Though the lunch group is indeed an informal gathering of women, they are most assuredly like-minded. When asked to point out who among them stands out as most helpful in the various projects, all pointed to Russo.

With another smile, Russo said in response to her fellow luncheon ladies: “They all support the projects we take on.”

Holiday Spirit Spills Into Rochester
By Andrea Ray

The heavy rain and wind couldn’t stop Santa from visiting Rochester on December 9.

While the town’s annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony is traditionally held on the town green, the less-than-ideal weather moved many of the activities indoors to the nearby Fellowship Hall of the First Congregational Church.

The church’s bells chimed “Little Drummer Boy” while revelers dodged the rain, heading to the hall for performances from the Rochester Memorial School chorus and band.

Parents, students, and siblings packed the Fellowship Hall to the rafters, but the Rochester Memorial
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School band and chorus had no trouble performing in the tight space of the hall. Band director Christine Williamson led her students through “The Star-Spangled Banner,” and then moved into Christmas fare, including “Jingle Bells” and “O Christmas Tree.” They were followed by the RMS chorus, who performed their own carols.

The heavy rain, which nearly washed out some roads near the town center, prevented Santa Claus from making his customary entrance in a fire truck. Instead, Santa took cover inside the front door of the Town Hall where he greeted all visitors with cheery words and a candy cane.

“Welcome!” he called out to one member of the school chorus. “That was wonderful singing, I heard it! What do you think of the tree? It’s beautiful, isn’t it?”

Wary of the weather, organizers cut short the tree lighting ceremony as well. Normally, a fifth-grade student is recognized for his or her holiday poster and invited to flip the switch that will illuminate the town’s Christmas tree. This year, organizers turned the lights on without ceremony, illuminating the tree as revelers sprinted through the rain and huddled under umbrellas to meet Saint Nick.

After the children (and their grown-ups) said hello to Santa, the visitors moved to the Town Hall’s meeting room. There, the members of the Board of Selectmen, as well as Town Administrator Suzanne Szyndlar, waited with cookies, eggnog, and apple cider. Armed with holiday treats, the families took in the artwork created by Rochester Memorial’s fifth-grade
students before spilling back into the rainy almost-winter night.

Santa Run was Fun in the Sun
By Marilou Newell

What do we usually expect from Mother Nature in the month of December in New England? Cold, wet weather. But that was not the case on December 7, when Santa-suited runners of all ages and all capabilities took to the village streets of Mattapoisett. The temps were chilly hovering in the low 30s, but the windless brilliantly clear blue skies and warming sunshine made it feel good to be outside.

This holiday-themed event is the brainchild of well-known marathon runner Geoff Smith. Smith had held the event for about a decade in New Bedford where as many as a thousand runners participated. But he said that dwindling numbers and rising costs associated with putting on an event that includes street closings made that venue untenable.

“It’s a difficult transition – but such a beautiful location,” Smith said looking around at the harborside scene. He said that he is confident the annual run will attract more participants over time. He also said that a donation to the American Legion Hall located in the community would be made to help offset building renovations.

The new location for the Santa Run was at the
Mattapoisett Town Wharf. The route began and ended there, with a loop east to Ned’s Point and back through the village streets.

As for the runners, with holiday songs blasting, the collection of ‘Santas’ was in a jolly mood. Donning Santa suits – included in the fee to join in the fun – men, women, children, and two miniature horses waited for the signal from Smith. At 12:30 pm, the shorter children’s run, with little ones as young as five years old, sped off with Smith like a piped-piper leading the way. Overall first place winner was seven-and-a-half-year-old Grayson Eames of Marion with a time of 27:14.

Speaking to some of the children before the race was like trying to herd cats, but a few shared their thoughts. Ben Ulshoeffer was there to run in the kid’s race and support his dad, Mike. The first-grader from Mattapoisett was happy to be running the race, he said. Later in a follow-up with Mom, she commented that he’d been running “since before he was born.”

Many of the younger children were participating in a race for the first time, as noted by Ana Pereira, 5, of Marion, and Hannah Blake, 5, of New Bedford. Nine-year-old Leah Blake came in first place in her category. All the children were excited about doing it again next year.

A number of the adults were participating as teams, such as the teachers that formed ‘Team RMS’, Rochester Memorial School. The group of women said
they took physical fitness very seriously. “We are health-minded,” they chimed. Shaundra Griffin bested the team with a time of 35:18, followed by Susan Audette at 35:20, Julie Cabral at 35:51, and Tracey Forns at 45:31.

Ali Leary, 17, was running with her aunt, Karen Mayer. Mayer said they have been running the race for about five years and enjoyed being in Mattapoisett this year. Leary’s time was 34:44 and Mayer’s was 36:22.

A truly inspiring group of friends who support one another as members of a weight loss group were a mix of those who had done the race before, and those who were first-timers: Krystina Weston of New Bedford with a time of 58:22, Cara Rego of New Bedford in at 36:16, Janice Hughes of Westport in at 58:25, and from Swansea was Allison Vulerant and her husband, Brian, with respective times of 33:03 and 58:56.

Husband and wife team Peg and Gene Schultz, newcomers to the area and living in Fairhaven, were first-time runners. Peg crossed the finish line at 39:34, and Gene at 51:00.

The Shovel Town Growlers from Easton were represented by runners John Buterbaugh, 25:37, John Poirier, 24:44, and Peter Godek, 24:41.

Cedar Rock Farms’ tiny horses named Pez and Rolo added to the festive feeling of the day by bringing up the rear of the race with the clopping of their tiny hooves.

Mattapoisett Launches Affordable Housing Study
By Marilou Newell
On December 4 the Mattapoisett Council on Aging Board of Directors met with Grant King, director of Comprehensive Planning at the Southeast Regional
Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD) to learn of SRPEDD’s plan to prepare a study on affordable housing in the town.

King explained that the town had applied for and received a grant to fund the study and that the results would eventually become part of the town’s Master Plan.

The current Master Plan is some 10 years old and will soon begin a review and updating process by the Planning Board.

A Master Plan, King said, includes a housing plan.

King had previously discussed the Housing Production Plan at a meeting with the Planning Board in October. At that time, he had touched on the necessity to engage with what he called “housing champions,” community leaders who could drive a housing plan forward. To the COA, he said, “I’m here to listen to you, to find out what your experience is of living in Mattapoisett.”

The primary barriers to affordable housing, King pointed out, are high real estate values and the oftentimes capped incomes of an aging population. Regarding the demographics, King presented data that shows the aging of Mattapoisett and the shrinking of household sizes. The data found that 42.2 percent of residents are 65 years of age or older, up from 29.8 percent in 2000, and 22 percent of all households are single-person homes with half of that figure being 65 and older. Households with children 18 and younger came in at 24.9 percent of the whole, down from 32 percent from 2000.

The top hurdle to buying a home in Mattapoisett, King said, is cost. He stated that about 20 percent of the housing stock is seasonal, and that there is very little in the way of multi-family units. King also commented that the majority of housing in town were single-family homes, 54.7 percent of which were built prior to 1969. With housing that old, he said renovations would be costly and nearly impossible to qualify as affordable.

The data noted that an affordable price tag for a single-family unit stood at $252,300 while Mattapoisett’s median house price was $423,500 – a gap of $171,200. The board members were asked to consider how current zoning bylaws might also create barriers for seniors and those with restricted incomes to make modifications to their homes that could create multi-family units out of existing structures.

With the study, King said he hoped to develop “common-sense solutions, like allowing apartments.” He pointed out the number of large homes in the community that could possibly one day be renovated into apartment buildings.

There was a cautionary mood when the subject of state-regulated housing was discussed. King explained that communities that currently do not meet the state guidelines for such housing stock may find themselves with 40B housing developments beyond their local
control. “Licensed developers, licensed by the state, can ignore local zoning,” he said.

The state mandate for affordable housing is a minimum of 10 percent of all housing stock in a town. Currently, Mattapoisett stands at around 2 percent.

There was a free flow of thoughts and ideas with Jackie Coucci, director of the Mattapoisett COA, sharing some of the issues she sees; issues facing seniors and their ability to stay in their own homes. She said that rising taxes was a problem for those on fixed incomes and the need to make modifications to homes that would accommodate the use of mobility devices.

“People can’t stay where they want to stay,” said Coucci. “Taxes push people out, income is stagnant, the
ability to stay in their homes is threatened.” She said that she sees a lot of families where seniors are not only supporting themselves but also adult children and even grandchildren. “There is a lot of unmet need.”

Coucci offered the concept of home-sharing, but said that current bylaws most likely would not allow such an idea to become reality.

King said he plans to meet with elected officials, police, and fire department heads, the Community Preservation Committee, Housing Authority, and others as the plan continues to evolve. He hoped for what he called an “organic groundswell” of community members who could make an affordable housing plan a reality.

Mattapoisett resident Liz DiCarlo wondered if there was any town-owned property that might be viable for 40B housing. Planning Board Administrator Mary Crain who was also present said that was not currently being considered.

DiCarlo commented on the need of attracting younger people, saying, “We need younger folks in our town.”

King had also noted that 40B housing, according to state guidelines, had to have easy access to transportation or major roadways.

“You can’t stick it in the middle of the woods,” said King.

In a follow-up with Selectman Paul Silva, he said there is no argument that the town needed more housing, but that location was a problem, given the massive watershed the town sits atop and the associated wetlands. He said that the most suitable location would be one serviced by public water and sewer connections with easy access to transportation.

King welcomed any additional feedback the COA and its members might have to share moving forward.

The final Housing Production Plan will be months in the making.

To reach King directly, the community is encouraged to contact him at gking@srpedd.org, or by calling 508-824-1367.
Tax Rates up as Property Values Stagnate
Mattapoisett Board of Selectmen
By Jean Perry
Mattapoisett property taxes will increase by 2.1 percent this year, rising from $13.21 in fiscal year 2019 to $13.49 this 2020 fiscal year. Add in the Community Preservation Act tax of an additional 1 percent, and the assessed average value home will see a 2.4-percent overall increase, or an annual tax bill of $6,627.93.

As other Tri-Town towns have lowered their tax rates as a result of rising property values, Mattapoisett has seen only a minute increase in property value of just 0.38 percent.

Mattapoisett Principal Assessor Kathleen Costello told the Board of Selectmen on December 9 that the median home value assessment this year increased by just $1,854 to $491,322.

“There wasn’t a lot of big changes from last year to this year as far as values go,” said Costello. Next year, though, she said, “I think we’re going to start seeing our values climbing the way they used to be.”

But the slump, said Costello, is mainly due to a 5.24-percent decrease in the value of personal property with the loss of some small businesses and, the biggest hit: the nearly four-year vacancy of a large industrial building on Industrial Drive.

“We’re starting to see some of the ramifications of that,” said Costello.
The town will continue with a single-rate tax, meaning commercial and residential property will be taxed at the same rate per $1,000 in value.

“We still don’t have the percentages of commercial (to make a split-rate tax viable),” Costello said. “It’s not going to save our residences and [a split-rate tax is] really going to hurt our small businesses.”

After a static fiscal year 2020, Costello said FY2021 will likely be worse with no new solar farms going online this fiscal year to inject growth into next the fiscal year, “Which is a big slug for us,” said Costello.

New constructions and additions are trending down, said Costello, and “Everything’s down with the new growth aspect. I’m very concerned about the number for next year.”

Town Administrator Michael Gagne concurred, stating that he would be adjusting the revenue projections for FY21 down as a result.

The two selectmen, however, maintained their optimism. While Selectman Paul Silva commented that he does not think the issue is necessarily an economic concern, Selectman Jordan Collyer recalled prior years of significant growth and said, “When everybody else was having bad years, we’ve had good years.” He also looked back at 2005 – a “sucky year,” as he put it, saying, “But we managed that.”

Gagne commented that there are other towns in the region with similar flat growth.

On the bright side, there are at least two additional solar farms in the pipeline, however, they have not yet finished the permitting process. Any revenue uptick from those solar farms will not be seen until fiscal year 2022.

The Mattapoisett Board of Selectmen is holding a meeting after press time on December 11 at 6:30 pm at the Mattapoisett Town Hall.

**Town Sets Tight Deadline for TA Search**

Mattapoisett Town Administrator Search Committee

By Jean Perry

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finalists for the town administrator position by its January 21 meeting with the hope that the Board will choose its new town administrator before January’s end.

After an unsuccessful search on its own, the search committee hired municipal employee recruiter Bernie Lynch and worked with him to refine the search and assist in finding the best candidates out there. Now the town has bumped its salary range up to $135,000 rather than $125,000 and has reconsidered what the ideal candidate should have to offer.

“We’re ready to advertise,” Lynch told the committee on December 6. “But what we need to talk about is the schedule more than anything else.”

Lynch said he would post the ad that morning on the websites for the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), and has extended the search to all the neighboring New England states.

According to Lynch, he has already spoken to a number of people who have expressed an interest in the position and may apply.

Two other towns – Pembroke and Hopedale – are looking for a town administrator at the same time as Mattapoisett, Lynch said, and the committee asked some questions about the competition’s salary range and population.

Mattapoisett’s ad will run for four weeks, although this time of year is a challenge for municipalities seeking to fill a position as important as a town administrator. The holidays, Lynch said, will “put a squeeze” on the committee, but Lynch was optimistic that it could stick to a tight schedule to get the new town administrator into his or her office as soon as possible.

Lynch set January 3 as the deadline to apply, and set January 13 as an interview day for the first round of finalists.

He expects to receive roughly 30 resumes in all, and Lynch will categorize them into three tiers: top, bottom, and middle. Six or seven will make that preliminary cut, he said.

The goal of hiring a new town administrator by the end of January, Lynch told the committee, “It’s conceivable – it’s a stretch – but to meet the [Board of Selectmen’s] goal we could potentially come to them on [January 21] with finalists.”

That date is still tentative at this time, depending on the availability of the selectmen to hold a meeting.

“So that’s where we stand,” Lynch said. “We’ve got the key dates and the go-ahead.” However, he acknowledged, “With the holidays, we may not get people applying because they may not be focused on looking for a job right now.”

He was optimistic, however, that should any promising candidates apply, he would keep them well-informed throughout the process in order to keep them interested.

The next meeting of the Mattapoisett Town
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Massive Solar Farms in Rochester Pipeline

Rochester Planning Board
By Jean Perry

One of the largest-scale* solar farms in Massachusetts is coming to Rochester in 2020, resulting in the clearing of 60 acres of forest for the 10-megawatt mega solar farm proposed by SunRaise Investments.

This solar farm proposal is only one of five solar farm projects the solar developer has slated for Rochester that will encompass hundreds of acres of contiguous lots spanning land along Braley Hill Road from Tabor Lane to Featherbed Lane and all the way across to Snipatuit Road abutting Trailside Estates, said Town Planner Steve Starrett during the Rochester Planning Board meeting on December 10.

Starrett said he and Planning Board Chairman Arnie Johnson held a technical review meeting with SunRaise Investments for the first project, the 10-megawatt solar farm, with a public informational meeting with the board to follow in early 2020.

This first SunRaise Investments solar farm will be built on 100 acres, 60 of which will be clear-cut. During a follow-up with Johnson after the meeting, Johnson said the parcels on which SunRaise plans to construct the five solar farms are all wooded.

“From the air, it’s going to transform the landscape,” said Johnson.

The solar arrays will not be visible from any public way.

Johnson said the owner of the land is Lisa Holden, and the properties “are part of the old Rounseville properties.”

“It’s a big endeavor,” said Johnson. “It’s significant.”

Rochester has seen a steady stream of solar energy field projects since 2015, but a new influx of solar development interest in Rochester is underway, said Johnson, and there is a reason for it.

“We were told that National Grid is full,” said Johnson. He explained as best he could that the areas of the state serviced by energy provider National Grid are seeing a drop-off in solar developments because National Grid has reached its capacity. “And the grid can’t take any more power,” he said.

Rochester and the surrounding areas are serviced by Eversource, which has only reached a fraction of its capacity, said Johnson.

“A vacuum was created,” Johnson explained. “Solar is coming into Rochester – we’re kind of like the

Administrator Search Committee is an executive session to review resumes scheduled for January 6 at 2:00 pm at the Mattapoisett Town Hall.

The committee scheduled January 13 at 9:00 am to hold interviews at the Town Hall.

*One of the largest-scale solar farms in Massachusetts is coming to Rochester in 2020, resulting in the clearing of 60 acres of forest for the 10-megawatt mega solar farm proposed by SunRaise Investments.
last frontier.”

So far in Rochester, the solar farms that have been developed have been isolated in different areas of town. These five SunRaise Investments solar farms will be combined and concentrated in one section of town, something Johnson feels uneasy about.

“My fear is: this is all new technology in this whole area, and despite our efforts to bond and hold bonds for decommissioning and restoration – are we creating a legacy for the next 20 to 25 years? Are we leaving a bad legacy here in town?”

Although the Planning Board has no choice but to approve a solar farm plan that is in compliance with the town’s solar bylaw, Johnson still worries that the
“safeguards the bylaw does have in place might not be enough.

“When it comes time to decommission them, just what do you do to get rid of this stuff?” said Johnson. “Despite our best efforts with decommissioning bonds, what are we leaving behind?”

Furthermore, the concentration of the five large-scale solar farms in one area is something new to Rochester, so the impact it will have on wildlife habitat is unknown, said Johnson.

“At what point do you change the habitat?” he asked. “A concentration of hundreds of acres, eventually all together – all connected – what’s that going to do to the habitat?”

Johnson offered one glimmer of hope, though: when the solar farms are decommissioned after 20 years, the fields can reforest themselves.

“These sites will recreate themselves when the materials are taken off,” Johnson said. “It’s not like they’re asphalting all these areas.

“On one hand, [these woods] were all open land at one point,” continued Johnson. “The trees were cut for lumber for sawmills a hundred years ago or so, so it was open farmland at one point. But it still doesn’t make it any easier…”

Johnson said Rochester should expect these five SunRaise Investments solar projects to come before the board in sets of two at a time throughout 2020.

“That’ll be our whole year. They’re just gonna be coming in – boom, boom, boom…”

Also during the meeting, the board continued the public hearing for a Special Permit for a large-scale solar farm proposed by developer Pedro Rodriguez for Solar MA Project Management for land designated as 0 Walnut Plain Road/0 Old Middleboro Road.

On behalf of Rodriguez, Austin Turner addressed the board about a Conservation Commission matter that has complicated the solar developer’s application with the Planning Board.

The Conservation Commission has expressed that it would not approve the expansion of the access road into a nearby wetland, although the board maintains that a 16-foot wide road is required for public safety and emergency response access to the site.

The road is currently 14.5-15 feet in width, said Turner.

Turner suggested that perhaps the board might consider allowing for a 16-foot road with only a couple areas at 15 feet.

“I don’t see a really big deal with that,” said Planning Board member Gary Florindo. The road is straight in the selected locations, he said. “You can see a far enough distance to avoid bottlenecking.”

Planning Board member John DeMaggio wasn’t so sure, however, given that earlier in the evening the board had required another developer to stick to the 16-foot width.
“We’ll have to take that one to a conference with ConCom,” said Johnson, “because I’m with John.”
Johnson also wants to consult with the fire and police chiefs as well.
The board will invite the Conservation Commission to its January 14 meeting.
The hearing was continued until January 14.
In other matters, the board touched base again with REpurpose Properties, Inc., developers seeking a Special Permit for an age-restricted over-55 residential development beside Plumb Corner Mall on Rounseville Road.

John Churchill gave an update on the plans for “The Village at Plumb Corner,” which included the addition of a lighting plan and fill plan specifying 1,700 yards of fill needed.

The peer-review engineer submitted 14 requests that Churchill addressed, focusing mainly on the removal of some dead and diseased trees on Rounseville Road, the flagging of those trees, marking building, road, and detention basin locations ahead of the board’s site visit.

Johnson told Churchill to update the list of waiver requests to include a traffic study waiver and to have all locations properly staked out for the site visit, which was scheduled for the morning of Sunday, December 15.

Before the REpurpose Properties Special Permit hearing was reopened, the board accepted the Approval Not Required application filed by Patricia Bray, Trustees,
Developers Dust Off 30-Year-Old Plans
Mattapoisett Conservation Commission
By Marilou Newell

Thirty years ago, friends and business partners Steve Napolitano and Ralph Cotellesso purchased lots along Brandt Island Road. After developing one of the three lots with a single-family home now listed as 126 Brandt Island Road, Napolitano said soon after “the economy tanked.”

Time passed and the partners tried again in the early 1990s to develop the remaining two lots. However, the Board of Health did not approve septic plans and an issue of a stream running between the lots presented other problems, Napolitano explained. The pair withdrew plans and the years passed.

On December 9, they were once again rolling out concepts on how they wished to develop the two lots when the Mattapoisett Conservation Commission met.

Napolitano said that modern-day septic technology would most likely make it possible to secure building and BOH permits for the lots. He said they needed to secure permission from the commission to cross jurisdictional wetlands in order to perc test the uplands portions of the lots. He also said that recently the properties had been delineated.

Commission Chairman Mike King said that the property owners had the right to cross their land to access uplands and suggested that they file a Request for Determination of Applicability to do so. He said that such activity could be conditioned and that this was the best time of the year to perform such testing.

The informal meeting concluded with Cotellesso, saying they wanted to do everything by the book and thanked the commission for its assistance.

Earlier in the meeting, James and Joanella Cannell, 3 Water Street, received a Negative determination (no Notice of Intent [NOI] required) on their RDA filing for the conversion of a porch space into 8-by-12 feet of living space. Also receiving a Negative determination was Alan Meyers and Barbara Attianese, 26 Silvershell Avenue, to replace an existing sunroom and two deck spaces with a new deck structure.

An NOI filed by Samuel and Diane Kinney, 107 County Road, was heard by representative and engineer Doug Schneider. Schneider said his clients planned to construct a new garage after removing existing carports and other outbuildings. The project would also require the extension and improvement of an existing driveway. He said that the entire lot is within the riverfront area of Pine Island Brook. After assuring the commissioners that the project met the performance standards for construction in the riverfront location, the project was approved and conditioned.

Continued until February 10 was an NOI filed by the Mattapoisett Land Trust and Georgia Glick, Noyes Avenue and Dyar Road, for the removal of invasive species, and an RDA filed by Jesse Davidson, 22 Pine Island Road, for changes to an existing plan of record. Also continued was a request for a Certificate of Compliance filed by Alexandar Makkas, 16 Island View Avenue.

The next meeting of the Mattapoisett Conservation Commission is scheduled for December 23
## Pasta Dishes

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## Party Sandwiches

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## Salads

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<td>Salad</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garlic Bread</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Sippican Says Farewell to ‘Queen of Kindergarten’
Marion School Committee
By Andrea Ray

Sippican School staff, administrators, and School Committee members honored the retiring “Queen of Kindergarten” during the meeting of the Marion School Committee on December 4.

Karen Santos has been a kindergarten paraprofessional at Sippican School for 25 years. She will be stepping down at the end of December.

To commemorate her years at Sippican School, School Committee Chairman Michelle Smith dedicated a copy of the book Extra Yarn, by Mac Barnett, to Santos.

Several School Committee members and Sippican School teachers honored Santos for her hard work and kindness, noting that Santos has always encouraged her students to be kind and make good choices. She also, they reported, is a “wonderful spirit,” helping others in need, keeping watch over her coworkers, and making sure they are well fed.

Sippican School Principal Marla Sirois dedicated her own choice of book to Santos: Pass it On, by Sophy Henn. Sirois then told the story of how the Queen of Kindergarten received her distinctive moniker.

“The new student asked who Mrs. Santos was,” Sirois reported, “and without hesitation, another student told him, ‘She’s the queen of kindergarten!’”

“We’re holding you to your promise to come visit us,” Sirois said to an emotional Santos, who laughed.

“I’ll be back here and there as a substitute,” she promised.

“Thank you so much for all of the time you’ve spent with our young ones,” Old Rochester Regional School District Superintendent Doug White told Santos. “Whenever I needed a pick-me-up, I knew exactly which hall to go down. Because of you, there are many, many Sippican students doing well today.”

Santos tearfully thanked the staff at Sippican for their support.

“I really don’t know what to say, which is unusual,” said Santos. “I love this job. I could probably keep doing it for another five or six years, but my family is changing. My kids are having kids. And guess what, Nana’s going to help. But I don’t want to say goodbye.”

During the meeting, Sirois also announced an upcoming ‘Toys for Tots’ drive. The drive will begin in the next week or two, once official letters come home with Sippican School students, she said.

“There will probably be boxes to collect toys in the front entryway area,” she explained. “We want that area to be a place where the community shows kindness.”

The school’s “kindness crew” does a Toys for Tots drive every summer, and the school will hold an all-
school meeting soon for the drive soon.

The next meeting of the Marion School Committee will be held on January 15 at 6:30 pm at Sippican School.

**Committee Chair Criticizes MCAS Score Response**

*Rochester School Committee*

*By Jean Perry*

Rochester School Committee Chairman Sharon Hartley wasn’t as optimistic about the 2019 MCAS scores as Rochester Memorial School Principal Derek Medeiros was during his MCAS presentation on December 5,
leading to a debate over what indicates progress and what indicates stagnation.

Medeiros highlighted his “points of pride” with the school’s performance in the MCAS higher than the state’s average; however, without reaching the targets this year that were set based on performance last year, progress appears to regress, although overall, students performed almost the same as they did last year “at a very high level,” said Medeiros.

“When you get to that ceiling, you have years of fluctuation,” Medeiros explained. “The ceiling gets more difficult to get to, but that’s a good problem to have.”

The ceiling to which Medeiros referred has to do with student growth and progress. Last year during the first year of the state’s new online ‘MCAS 2.0,’ RMS as a whole scored a 506 in ELA, reaching its target in specific areas that put RMS into the “meeting expectations” proficiency category. This year, RMS scored a 505 in ELA, “Which is a very high score, which is great,” said Medeiros – a point less than last year, however.

“We didn’t get as many points as last year because we didn’t exceed last year’s score,” continued Medeiros.

The overall performance of students looks like it took a significant dip, as Medeiros put it, but that is because the students progressed to such heights last year, making it more difficult to outperform themselves this year to reach new target points.

Superintendent Doug White explained, “We
basically stayed at the same level; therefore, you don’t get those quality points and move yourself up... The accountability number doesn’t go up if you don’t meet the target.” For example, he said, if RMS scored a 508 in ELA – higher than last year – but the target score was 510, then the measure of progress would appear to dip compared to the level to which it rose the prior years.

“Our students didn’t go backward, they stayed the same,” said White. “This [tells us] what we need to do next to push them further.”

In the growth category for ELA, RMS scored a 75 compared to last year’s 80 – “a very impressive number,” said Medeiros, just above the state’s average.

In Math, RMS as a whole scored a 502, just above the state average of 499. In science, RMS again stayed above the state average with the identical scores of 502 and 499, respectively.

The school’s lowest-performing students gained significant strides, scoring 75 percent in achievement and 75 percent in growth, higher than last year.

Moving forward with this data, Medeiros said he plans to continue the school’s current reading program and continue with the expansion of Chromebook use in each grade. The continued daily use of computers is also important, he said, since the test is given online and computer proficiency is critical. The school’s use of “flex-time” to target struggling students was a success as well, he said, and will continue.

School Committee Chairman Sharon Hartley, however, was not inspired by the results or Medeiros’ response to them.

“What I didn’t see in this report was any sign of analysis (of the data)... By now there should have been some analysis,” said Hartley. “What are you doing with the assessments?” She asked Medeiros, “Have we done that analysis...? What changes are we going to make? I would expect to see that in this report.”

Hartley turned to Medeiros’ list of action items and noted the times where certain actions from last year were to be “continued” into the next year.

“We know that if we continue doing the same thing, we get the same results,” said Hartley. “That means to me that we’re doing...”

“I’m sorry to interrupt you,” said Medeiros, “but I don’t see how any of this means that we don’t do that analysis.”

Hartley pointed to where the action items stated: “Continue, continue, continue to do the things we’re doing... There should be some [new] things here,” she said. “Do things a little differently, and therefore we’re going to... improve things.”

Medeiros said continuing to use Chromebooks is an obvious “continue,” and the reading plan the school created two years ago was effective in giving the school that boost last year, and so should be “continued.”

Medeiros reminded Hartley that last year was
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Hartley re-joined the discussion, saying, “I’m a lifelong educator, so – education is more complicated now than it has been, but it also is richer in many ways… In my heart and my mind, I want the school to be the very best it can be.

“Let’s talk about these things… and let’s get better,” said Hartley. “This is actually an area of expertise for me, I can help…”

Nelson said if people were to compare RMS’s scores with those of Sippican School and Mattapoisett, she pointed out that the other towns might be outperforming RMS because they have full-time enrichment where RMS does not. “So that’s just something to think about, too, when you’re comparing them.”

Hartley expressed concerns about the science portion of the MCAS where the school only received one out of four points in one area.

“That was an alarm going off that… something is not working,” said Hartley. “Your report,” she told Medeiros, “it didn’t express to me the pieces that I was concerned about.” This included not creating a slide to show progress for students with disabilities.

Medeiros reiterated that the MCAS does not capture all the growth in students’ learning.

“I chose to keep my report positive,” Medeiros said. “If you don’t know that I am a principal that constantly looks at how students perform with their teachers – hence, the professional learning community model that [Assistant Principal Charlie West] and I implemented – I’m here to tell you we’re constantly looking at that; constantly looking at ways to improve.”

RMS may have flat-lined from a performance standpoint, continued Medeiros, “But it was still a very high performing year for us, and it was last year, and we continue to look to improve every year.”

The next meeting of the Rochester School Committee is scheduled for January 9 at 6:30 pm at Rochester Memorial School.
ORR Boys Basketball Moves On Without Key Pieces
High School Sports Update
By Nick Friar

Every other year, it looks like Steve Carvalho has somewhat of a challenge ahead of him during the basketball season. Not because he’s running low on talent; that hasn’t been a problem for Old Rochester Regional boys basketball for some time. But Carvalho still has to figure out who will take over the majority of minutes from game to game, again, almost every two years.

This season, the Bulldogs have to replace Cole McIntyre, Noah McIntyre, Sam Hartley-Matteson, and Matt Brogioli.

To start, ORR has Nick Johnson back. Now the Bulldogs’ senior captain, Johnson averaged just over 14 points per game last season and was named a South Coast Conference All-Star. Naturally, he’ll become the focal point for ORR’s offense – as well as the top assignment for opposing defenses.

“There’s going to be a lot on him,” the ORR head coach said. “He’s also got a target on his back.”

From there, the Bulldogs have a slew of athletic players: Jon Borsari, Thomas Durocher, Luke Burke, and Ryon Thomas. There’s also Jonah DePine and Elijah Miranda among others.

Having a healthy amount of versatile, switchable athletes is exactly what’s most important to Carvalho, though the Bulldogs are dealing with some injuries at this time. Being able to switch on defense and crash the board allows him to preach his brand of basketball, which has been immensely successful over the years.

“Everything starts with rebounding for me. It triggers our break. One and done. Offensive rebounds are demoralizing,” the ORR head coach said. “But, defensively, I still think I have some interchangeable parts. We can throw different packages at teams, whether it’s a full-court press or three-quarters.”

Now, Carvalho may think this group is a good fit for the way he coaches, but that doesn’t mean he believes the Bulldogs will coast. On a yearly basis, the South Coast Conference is a challenge – then there’s the matter of the MIAA state tournament, which is another animal.

“We got our hands full,” he said. “We’ve got some goals we want to continue to achieve to continue to do what we’re doing. We want to get healthy and we’ll put a competitive team on the court.”

All that being said, expecting the Bulldogs to be competitive is almost a given at this stage. Year after year, Carvalho seems to add at least one or two more athletic players; this year, he has multiple. Part of it might be luck, but he’s also putting in the work to help local basketball players understand what will be expected of them when they get to high school, setting a foundation for both his program and the individuals as competitors.

“I think, at the end of the day, I try to promote
with the youth leagues and try to get philosophical stuff out there,” Carvalho said. “The No. 1 thing is the mental aspect, especially in today’s game.

“What do you do when you don’t have the basketball? You have to present that message,” said Carvalho. “I think I’ve been fortunate with players.”

**Sippican Historical Society**

In 1998, the Sippican Historical Society commissioned an architectural survey of Marion’s historic homes and buildings. The survey was funded half by the Sippican Historical Society and half by the Massachusetts Historical Commission. Due to the limits of funding, not all of the historic buildings were surveyed, but over 100 were cataloged and photographed. The results of the survey are in digital form on the Massachusetts Historical Commission’s website and in four binders in the Sippican Historical Society’s office (and at the Marion Town Clerk’s office).

Marion (Old Rochester) is one of the oldest towns in the United States, and the Sippican Historical Society maintains an extensive collection of documentation on its historic buildings. The Sippican Historical Society will feature one building a week so that the residents of Marion can understand more about its unique historical architecture.

This installment features 16 Spring Street. The yellow brick Sippican School at 16 Spring Street was built
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in 1930. This grammar school blends Colonial Revival and Art Deco styles in a mostly horizontal building. It was built on land formerly owned by Tabor Academy following a “Tabor swap” of land with the town.

FHS Class of 1960 Graduates

The reunion committee for the Fairhaven High School graduation class of 1960 is searching for contact information for the following classmates: Cynthia (Fleming) Bradley, Ann Bumpus, Carolyn (Shumway) Marshall, Joyce (Avila) Osborn, James Arruda, Barbara (Ellis) Lear, Kathie (Langlois) Rounds, Janet (Martin) Benjamin, Gerard Dumoulin, Mary Ann (Bartlett) Kovalchik, Joyce (Holmstrom) Picard, Margaret (Justley) Bartholomy, Louise (Valladao) Selkowe, and David Reid.

The reunion will be held in June of 2020. Any information helping us to connect to these classmates would be greatly appreciated. Please call Diane at 508-993-7378. If there is no answer, please leave a message.

Mattapoisett COA

Dental Care – Cleaning and dental referrals are available to residents 60 and over who do not have dental insurance or with limited financial means on Monday, December 16, by appointment. Register for this event by calling: 774-766-7238. This event is being offered by Holly Petruzzo, a registered dental hygienist.

Toe Nail Care – Trim, shape, electric file, cleaning, etc. will be performed by Lisa Nuno, certified, licensed Podologist on Monday, December 30, by appointment, and on the last Monday of each month. Mattapoisett COA, 17 Barstow St., Mattapoisett. Register: 508-758-4110.

Widowed Persons (and Significant Others) Support Group – Get support, education, guidance in this session led by Nancy Arnold, Bereavement Counselor from Southcoast VNA. These sessions take place every first Thursday of each month. The next session will be held on Thursday, January 2 from 9:30 to 11:00 am.

Hearing Aid Services – Come to the COA for a free hearing test and consultation; and free hearing aid cleaning and check. This service is provided by Certified Hearing Aid Specialist, Lauren Warburton, every first Monday of each month. Come to the COA on Monday, January 6, by appointment between 2:00 and 3:00 pm.

Manicures (for Men and Women) – Free manicures will be offered by cosmetology students from Old Colony Vocational High School on Thursday, January 16, 2020,
EDAVILLE EXPRESS
AN INTERACTIVE TRAIN RIDE

Reservations Required.
starting at 9:45 am (by appointment). Light refreshments will be provided.

Medicare and Mass Health: Know Your Legal Rights
– This informational session will be offered by the South Coast Counties Legal Services Attorney. After the short session, one-on-one legal consultations (20 minutes) may be scheduled. This event is scheduled for Tuesday, December 17 at 10:00 am.

CPR/AED Training – This training session is for parents, grandparents, babysitters, neighbors, and anyone serving the public (note: this is not for health/emergency response professionals). The instructor for this class will be Beth Oleson, and the cost is $35 for the class, and $10 for the optional certification card. This class will take place on Saturday, February 8, 2020, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Pottery and Clay Building – Learn more about clay hand building, ceramic tile painting, slab building, and glazing. Create your own unique piece, which will be kiln-fired and later returned to you as a finished product. This class is led by Barbara Greenspan, artist and registered art therapist. All materials and instruction are included in the fee. The special price for December is $5 per class. Please note that any products made in December will not be fired in the kiln until after January. This class takes place on Thursday, December 19 from 9:30 to 11:00 am.

Norman Rockwell Remembered – Experience a selection of beloved Rockwell images from his familiar to his lesser-known, serious social statements. Hear stories behind his inspirations. Art historian Jill Sanford leads this experience of engaging, educational art observation. This free event will take place on Tuesday, January 7, 2020, from 12:30 to 1:30 pm.

Still Life Drawing Classes – All skill levels welcome. Master pencil drawing fundamentals, learn easy shading,
develop drawing skills in this class, which is taught by professional educator and artist, Bernie Klim. The cost is $5 per session for adults 60 and older; $10 per session for everyone under 60. You will need 2B graphite sticks, charcoal pencils, sketchbook/paper (materials will be available for purchase on-site, prior to class). These classes take place on Tuesdays from 6:00 to 9:00 pm.

All COA events take place at the Mattapoisett Council on Aging, unless otherwise stated. The COA is located at 17 Barstow St., Mattapoisett. For more information, or to register for any of these events, call 508-758-4110.

Helping Hands and Hooves
Christmas Day Swim
Please join us for a fun family tradition that helps those in need. Helping Hands and Hooves will host the 16th annual Christmas Day Swim at 11:00 am at the Mattapoisett Town Beach.

Each swimmer is asked to give a donation of $15 (payable on the day of the swim) and the first 75 swimmers will receive a festive long sleeve t-shirt. 100 percent of the proceeds will go to Helping Hands and Hooves – a non-profit (based in Mattapoisett) that is dedicated to providing therapeutic horseback riding lessons for adults with disabilities.

If you would like to learn more about Helping Hands and Hooves, visit www.helpinghandsandhooves.
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Marion Art Center
Last weekend to see Emmalina Scrooge – There is just one more weekend to see Steph DeFerie’s Emmalina Scrooge at the MAC, directed by Jennifer Palmer. The last three performances are scheduled on December 13, 14, and 15. Friday and Saturday shows will begin at 7:30 pm, while the Sunday matinee will begin at 2:00 pm. The kids are the stars in this heartwarming, contemporary take on Charles Dickens’ classic holiday favorite. The cast features Lily Ambrosi, Genevieve Arone, Jade Beauregard, Jack Boesen, Leah Bonia, Lee Bonia, Lily Bonia, Holden Campbell, Alane Carbone, Edie Dupre, Molly Dupre, Jackson Gillman, Suzie Kokkins, (Elena Murphy on Dec. 7 only), Thomas O’Shaughnessy, Zoe Pateakos, Angela Pedulli, and Christian Pedulli. The crew includes Andrea Cantin, Steve McManus, and Frank Mitchell. Tickets are still available and are $18 for MAC members, $20 for nonmembers, and just $12 for children 12 and under. Purchase tickets online at marionartcenter.org/events/emmalina-scrooge

Holiday Shopping at the MAC - Don’t miss your chance to find unique gifts and one-of-a-kind artworks at the Marion Art Center. The MAC’s Holiday Shop will be open on Friday, December 13 and Saturday, December 14.
The New Flesh

By Rob Gonsalves

www.robsmovievault.com


If you’re going to remake a David Cronenberg film, you’d better not try to ape his ideas, because Cronenberg’s ideas are inextricable from his filmmaking. They are the source of the horror: in much of his work, a disease is a misunderstood monster, just doing what it has to do to survive. Jen and Sylvia Soska, who like Cronenberg are Canadian, have now remade Cronenberg’s 1977 cult favorite Rabid, and they have filled it with their own notions about surgery and transhumanism and fashion. The Soska sisters don’t try to be Cronenberg, but they sure pay tribute to his films throughout their own. Their Rabid, a project that was offered to them and possibly would have been made with or without them, expresses more than anything their deep and abiding love for Cronenberg’s work. As Cronenberg is one of my movie gods, I’m on board with that.

The new Rabid takes off from a premise similar to the original. A woman, Rose (Laura Vandervoort), is badly disfigured in a motorcycle accident. Her case is taken up by a surgeon (Ted Atherton) who applies experimental skin grafts. Rose’s looks are restored; the procedure even smooths out scar tissue from a previous, less extreme accident. But Rose is also left with a craving for blood, and when she feeds off of a victim, that person in turn is infected with the blood delirium. It all boils down to the doctor trying to cheat death (aren’t they always?) by developing this grotesque parasite that perpetuates itself violently. But in the Cronenberg aesthetic, the horror is that this new thing — this new flesh — brought to life is not in itself evil. It just evolves incidentally into a threat to humans. In the Soska playbook, it’s simply one of many things that twist mind and flesh, generally to the detriment of women.

The script, by the Soskas and John Serge, puts Rose to work for a fey, decadent fashion designer. The Soskas seem to liken the fashion world to the moviemaking world: in both, art and transgression are possible — a post-infection Rose produces some tormented gothy dress sketches that her boss flips over — but so are body dysmorphia, drug abuse, and a self-destructive quest for perfection. The Soskas’ interests and emphasis deviate from Cronenberg’s own, but the end result honors his work. There are any number of Easter eggs for Cronenberg fans, such as a wink to the famous “college of cardinals” scene in Dead Ringers, and others I will leave you to discover. Eventually the action leaves the realm of Cronenberg and incorporates elements of, if I’m not mistaken, Re-Animator and John Carpenter’s The Thing. Like many young filmmakers, the Soskas like to pile everything they’ve been obsessing about into the latest film because there’s no guarantee they’ll be granted the keys to another.

Ultimately, Rabid has a warmer center than the original — Cronenberg had to make do with adult-film actress Marilyn Chambers as Rose (he’d wanted Sissy Spacek), and about the most you could say about Chambers was that she was surprisingly competent. Laura Vandervoort brings a lot more vulnerability and pain and spiky anger to Rose, and when the action around Rose gets outlandish, Vandervoort grounds it all in credible female angst. When Rose feeds on a loutish, abusive man, it’s partly you-go-girl revenge, but it’s also pragmatic: a dude this stupid and single-minded makes the perfect prey. Vandervoort doesn’t play it like Zoë Tamerlis in Ms. 45; Rose is driven by her need for blood, and this idiot makes himself known to her.

There was a certain way-before-its-time non-binary/intersex thread in Cronenberg’s Rabid — his Rose was left with what read as male and female sex organs in her armpit (!), with which she fed on blood. We see a bit of that in the new film, but since it deals far more organically with a female point of view, the threat is mainly and viscerally phallic. The Soskas’ 2012 body-horror original American Mary showed they had more on their minds than gril-power snarls and splatter, and Rabid confirms it. It ends on an image comparable to the bleak nihilism with which Cronenberg sealed his film, only with a distinct nightmarish Gilead tinge to it. As in Alien: Resurrection, perhaps the most Cronenbergian (and most underrated) of the Alien films, a woman isn’t even going to be allowed the peace of death if her existence will benefit men.
14, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm each day. All artworks in the current exhibition, Small Works on the Wall, are available for immediate collection (and gift-giving) upon purchase. Shop also for unique jewelry, host gifts, handmade clothing, accessories, and more! The exhibition ends on Wednesday, December 18. The Marion Art Center’s last open day of the year will be Thursday, December 19, from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. The MAC will reopen to the public on Tuesday, January 7, 2020, at 10:00 am.

Mattapoisett Free Public Library Programs
Upcoming Events for Children and Families at the Mattapoisett Free Public Library:
Crafts and Cocoa – On Saturday, December 14 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm, join us for crafts and cocoa before Mattapoisett’s Annual Winter Stroll and tree lighting. This event is open to all ages and no registration necessary.
STEAM – On Thursday, December 19 at 3:15 pm, our monthly STEAM session will be about toys.
The Marion Holiday Stroll brought Christmas to the village on Sunday, December 8. Santa arrived via ‘water sleigh’ and then boarded his horse-drawn carriage with a bunch of lucky kids to take the first stroll through the village. Photos by Jean Perry
Learn about the science behind some of our most beloved toys, then make your own toy car and top. This event includes a snack and is recommended for ages six and up. Registration is required.

Snow Kingdom Party – On Saturday, December 21 at 10:30 am, the Snow Sisters, Elsa and Anna will be visiting the library during our “Snow Kingdom Party”. The princesses will share stories and songs followed by picture opportunities. Children are welcome to wear costumes if they wish. Snacks and crafts are included. All ages are welcome; registration is required.

Winter Jokes Treasure Hunt – Finally, during the winter break from December 22 to January 4, drop by the library to complete our “Winter Jokes Treasure Hunt”. All participants receive a free book.

We also have “Read to Breton”, our library dog on every other Tuesday afternoon at 3:30 pm; Chess Lessons with Coach Jim on Wednesday nights from 5:00 to 7:00 pm and Sunday afternoons from 1:00 to 3:00 pm; and our monthly Kids Yoga Class on Wednesday, December 20 at 1:30 pm. All of these programs require registration, so please contact the library to sign up.

All programs are free and open to the public. If special accommodations are needed, please contact the library at 508-758-4171 for assistance. For more information on upcoming children’s programs, please visit our website at www.mattapoisettlibrary.org/childrens.
Salty the Seahorse got his Santa hat on Friday, December 6, courtesy of the Mattapoisett Land Trust and with the help of Brownell Systems, Inc. Salty in his hat is a sure sign that the holiday season has begun in Mattapoisett. Photos by Jean Perry.
BBC Guided Mindfulness Walk

Enjoy the peace and beauty of nature with Jessica Webb, and the Buzzards Bay Coalition during a mindfulness walk at Goldavitz Bog (Parlowtown Rd., Marion) on Saturday, December 14 at 1:00 pm. Through guided mindfulness meditation, participants will experience the outdoors with their senses wide open.

Goldavitz Bog is a retired cranberry bog that is transitioning to a more natural habitat, rich with wetlands, ponds, and fields. Tucked away at the end of a quiet unpaved road, these 75 town-owned acres next to Aucoot Woods are a fantastic spot for all ages to explore.

All fitness levels are welcome on this free, one-hour walk. The walk will be conducted at a deliberately slow and mindful pace in social silence without digital devices. Please wear appropriate footwear for a walk through nature.

Pre-registration is required. To RSVP, visit www.savebuzzardsbay.org/events/mindfulness-walk-goldavitz-bog-dec-14-2019/ or contact the Buzzards Bay Coalition at (508) 999-6363 ext. 219 or bayadventures@
Saturday, December 7, was the Santa Run 5k through the village of Mattapoisett. Usually held in New Bedford, race organizer Geoff Smith moved the race to Mattapoisett, flooding the village streets with hundreds of Santas – and a few Christmas miniature horses, as well. Photos by Jean Perry

It was a rainy Rochester holiday tree lighting, but the show went on nonetheless. Santa skipped his usual fire truck arrival this year for the sake of staying dry and warm, while neighboring Friendship Hall welcomed the crowd indoors to enjoy the RMS band and chorus. Photos by Andrea Ray
This event is part of Discover Buzzards Bay, an initiative to help people across the Buzzards Bay region find unique and exciting ways to explore the outdoors, get some exercise and connect with nature. Local residents can use Discover Buzzards Bay to get outside and discover woods, wetlands, and waterways from Fall River to Falmouth. To learn more, visit savebuzzardsbay.org.

St. Gabriel’s Episcopal Church
St. Gabriel’s Episcopal Church extends an invitation to come to our Family Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 15 at 10:00 am. Our pageant is intergenerational, calling on children, grandmas, grandpas, parents and all St. Gabriel’s family who wish to participate. Please join us as we celebrate the hope, peace, joy, and love of this Advent season. All are welcome! St. Gabriel’s Episcopal Church is located at 124 Front Street Marion, MA. For more information about the Church, call 508-748-1507.

On Saturday, December 21 at 3:00 pm, St. Gabriel’s Episcopal Church and First Congregational Church of Marion will offer a special time of worship to offer comfort, healing, and hope. Sometimes called “Blue Christmas” or “Longest Night,” the service is often held close to Christmas when the winter solstice makes the days shorter and darker than any other time in the year. People who may not be having a very merry Christmas and friends who support them are invited to come and sit with one another in a liturgy that speaks of the love of God for those struggling during this season. Please join us in the Chapel at St. Gabriel’s Episcopal Church, 124 Front Street, Marion. All are welcome.

Route 6 Corridor Study Meeting Date Change.
The Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD) is wrapping up a study of Route 6 which spans from Route 240 in Fairhaven east to High Street in Wareham. The study area covers approximately 13 miles, six signalized intersections and includes a substantial number of residences, businesses, and institutional uses.

SRPEDD is holding two public meetings to present and discuss the future traffic analysis and potential roadway improvement alternatives for the Route 6 Corridor and to gather feedback. Anyone with experience traveling this corridor, and particularly the residents and business owners in the area, are invited to either of these public meetings to share information and experiences, ask questions and to express their opinions on their vision of Route 6. Both meetings will have the same content. Simply attend the one that fits your schedule better!

Please be advised that the date of the Marion Future Conditions Public Meeting has been changed. It will now be held on January 6, 2020, instead of December 18, 2019.

The final meeting dates and times are as follows:
Thursday, December 12 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Center Elementary School. The school is located at 17 Barstow Street in Mattapoisett.
Monday, January 6, 2020, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Sippican Elementary School. The school is located at 16 Spring Street in Marion.

Please note that all meeting locations are accessible to persons with disabilities. The Center School and Sippican School are served by the GATRA Wareham-New Bedford Connection.
**Tri-town Police Logs**

**MARION**
- Log highlights Dec 1-Dec 7
  - Jenney Ln – EMS/medical
  - South St – Animal complaint
  - Zora Rd – Larceny/past
  - Hartley Ln – EMS/medical
  - Route 25N – MV collision
  - Route 195 West – MV collision
  - Cove St – EMS/medical
  - Parlowtown Rd – Annoying calls
  - Wareham Rd – MV collision
  - Thomas Ln – Animal complaint
  - Wareham Rd – MV collision
  - Wareham Rd – Officer wanted
  - Mill St – Paper service
  - Spring St – General offense
  - Wareham Rd – Health/welfare
  - Wareham Rd – MV collision
  - Mill St – Fraud
  - Wareham Rd – Paper service
  - Wareham Rd – Disturbance/arrest
  - Mill St – MV collision
  - Delano Rd – Animal complaint
  - Wareham Rd – MV collision
  - Cove St – EMS/medical
  - Delano Rd – Parking enforcement
  - County Rd – MV collision
  - Route 195 East – MV collision
  - Acuoot Ave – Health/welfare
  - Pawcuckett Way – Found property
  - Spring St - Lockout

**MATTAPoisett**
- Log highlights Dec 1-Dec 7
  - County Rd – Assist other agency
  - Lebaron Way – Health/welfare
  - Park St –911 abandoned
  - County Rd - Notification
  - 1195 West – Ambulance request
  - Water St – MV crash
  - Park St – Health/welfare
  - Upland Way – Medical/assist
  - County Rd – Larceny/forgery/fraud
  - Ned's Point Rd – 911 call
  - Acushnet Rd – MV crash
  - Winter Hill Rd – 911 call
  - Acushnet Rd – MV crash
  - County Rd – MV lockout
  - Alderberry Ln – Peace officer
  - Crystal Spring Rd – 911 abandoned
  - Fairhaven Rd – MV crash
  - Oliver’s Ln – Officer wanted
  - Water St – Assist citizen
  - North St – Animal control
  - Marion Rd – Ambulance request
  - Fairhaven Rd – Health/welfare
  - County Rd – Harassment order
  - Marion Rd – Assist other agency
  - 1195 East – MV crash
  - County Rd – 911 call
  - Park St – Health/welfare
  - Marion Rd – MV lockout
  - Oliver’s Ln – MV violations

**ROCHESTER**
- Log highlights Dec 1-Dec 7
  - Cranberry Hwy – 911 call
  - Dexter Ln – Assist citizen
  - Forster Rd – Suspicious MV
  - Mattapoisett Rd – MV accident
  - Rouseville Rd – MV accident
  - High St – Medical emergency
  - Snipatuit Rd - Investigation
  - New Bedford Rd – Erratic operation
  - Rouseville Rd – Suspicious MV
  - New Bedford Rd – MV accident
  - Braley Hill Rd – Well being check
  - Clapp Rd – MV accident
  - Braley Hill Rd – Assist other agency
  - North Ave – Message delivery
  - Hathaway Pond Cir – Animal control
  - Neck Rd – Suspicious MV
  - Stuart Rd – Suspicious activity
  - Springwood Dr – Suspicious activity
  - Marys Pond Rd – MV accident
  - Mattapoisett Rd – MV theft
  - North Ave – Assist other agency
  - Negus Way – Medical emergency
  - Cranberry Hwy – Structure fire
  - Dexter Ln – Well being check
  - New Bedford Rd – Medical
  - Ryder Rd – Animal control
  - New Bedford Rd – Suspicious MV
  - Snipatuit Rd – Medical emergency
  - Neck Rd – Animal control

For a full PDF of the three towns’ police logs from the past week, including arrest reports, visit www.Wanderer.com.

**Regional Lunch Menus**

**Coastline Elderly Nutrition**
- Program
  - Monday, Dec 16: American chop suey, broccoli, honey wheat roll, mixed fruit
  - Tuesday, Dec 17: Pot roast, garlic mashed potatoes, garlic green beans, whole wheat bread, fresh apple
  - Wednesday, Dec 18: Cherry glazed chicken, rice Florentine, oatmeal bread, peas
  - Thursday, Dec 19: French meat pie, mashed potatoes, Scandinavian blend, multigrain bread, cherry crisp, diet: pound cake
  - Friday, Dec 20: “Catch of the Day”, lemon dill sauce, roasted potatoes, Roman blend, potato bread, peaches

**Center School**
- Monday, Dec 16: Build a burger: cheese, lettuce, tomato, spudster potatoes, baked beans 2nd choice: Cracker stacker fun lunch
  - Tuesday, Dec 17: Taco Nachos: choice of chicken or beef, shredded lettuce, tomato, salsa, cheese sauce, fiesta rice, black bean & corn salsa 2nd choice: Cracker stacker fun lunch
  - Wednesday, Dec 18: French toast sticks, sausage, has browns, tomato wedge, mixed berries & cream 2nd choice: Cracker stacker fun lunch
  - Thursday, Dec 19: Spaghetti & meatballs, garlic bread stick, green beans 2nd choice: Cracker stacker fun lunch

**Old Hammondtown**
- Monday, Dec 16: Build a burger: cheese, lettuce, tomato, spudster potatoes, baked beans 2nd choice: Cracker stacker fun lunch

**Old Rochester Regional Junior & Senior High**
- Monday, Dec 16: Build a burger: cheese, lettuce, tomato, spudster potatoes, baked beans 2nd choice: Cracker stacker fun lunch

**Rochester Memorial**
- Monday, Dec 16: Build a burger: cheese, lettuce, tomato, spudster potatoes, baked beans 2nd choice: Cracker stacker fun lunch
- Tuesday, Dec 17: Taco Nachos: choice of chicken or beef, shredded lettuce, tomato, salsa, cheese sauce, fiesta rice, black bean & corn salsa 2nd choice: Cracker stacker fun lunch

**Sippican School**
- Monday, Dec 16: Build a burger: cheese, lettuce, tomato, spudster potatoes, baked beans 2nd choice: Cracker stacker fun lunch

**Rochester**
- Monday, Dec 16: Build a burger: cheese, lettuce, tomato, spudster potatoes, baked beans 2nd choice: Cracker stacker fun lunch
- Tuesday, Dec 17: Taco Nachos: choice of chicken or beef, shredded lettuce, tomato, salsa, cheese sauce, fiesta rice, black bean & corn salsa 2nd choice: Cracker stacker fun lunch

**Old Colony Regional**
- Monday, Dec 16: Cherry blossom chicken bowl & dinner roll
- Tuesday, Dec 17: Chicken & cheese pizza quasalida & fries
- Wednesday, Dec 18: Pizza bagel & salad
- Thursday, Dec 19: Linguica sandwich & fries
- Friday, Dec 20: Assorted pizza

**Tri-town Police Logs**
- Marion
- Mattapoisett
- Rochester

**Regional Lunch Menus**
- Coastline Elderly Nutrition
- Center School
- Old Hammondtown
- Old Rochester Regional Junior & Senior High
- Rochester Memorial
- Sippican School
- Old Colony Regional

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- Center School
- Old Hammondtown
- Old Rochester Regional Junior & Senior High
- Rochester Memorial
- Sippican School
- Old Colony Regional

For a full PDF of the three towns’ police logs from the past week, including arrest reports, visit www.Wanderer.com.
‘Lessons and Carols’ Service
The Unitarian Memorial Church Choir, under the leadership of music director and organist Dwight Thomas, will present a service of “Lessons and Carols” on December 15 at 4:30 pm.

The program hosted by the Unitarian Universalist Society of Fairhaven will include seasonal anthems, congregational carol singing, and inspiring readings in the beautifully decorated sanctuary of the 1904 English Gothic-style church. It’s a wonderful opportunity to take some time away from hectic holiday preparations and enjoy the sounds of harmonious voices and the church’s magnificent pipe organ. A freewill offering will be accepted.

The church at 102 Green Street in Fairhaven is handicapped accessible from a small parking lot accessed via a driveway on Center Street.

For more information, call 508-992-7081 or visit www.uufairhaven.org

A Christmas Carol
The members of the Recreation Department and Council on Aging will celebrate the holiday season by sharing in the dramatic reading of A Christmas Carol on Tuesday, December 17 at 12:30 pm at the Benjamin D. Cushing Community Center, 465 Mill Street, Marion.

Stephen Collins of Unlaunch’d Voices will perform a dramatic reading of the beloved holiday favorite by Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol. Following the event, an array of cookies and cocoa will be served for your enjoyment.

Registration for the event is kindly requested. To register or for more information please contact Karen Gregory at the Council on Aging at 508-748-3570.

Open Table
The next Open Table will be on Friday, December 13 in Reynard Hall at the Mattapoisett Congregational Church. Rick LeBlanc will be there to play holiday music that everyone can sing along with. Doors open at 4:30 pm and supper is served at 5:00 pm. There is no charge for the meal, although donations are gratefully accepted. This is a community event and everyone is welcome.

Project Wheel House
The marine imagery that surrounds Project Wheel House aptly captures its mission: a nonprofit dedicated to leading those who are suffering to safer shores. For those women who utilize the services of The Women’s Center, there are few storms more perilous than surviving domestic abuse. This is why Project Wheel House has been bringing yoga and meditation to The Women’s Center for over two years.

The relationship between the Women’s Center and Project Wheel House makes a lot of sense; both nonprofits are dedicated to helping those who are...
SALOME’S STARS

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) That change in holiday travel plans might be more vexing than you’d expected. But try to take it in stride. Also, it couldn’t hurt to use that Aries charm to coax out some helpful cooperation.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Your Bovine determination helps you deal with an unforeseen complication. And, as usual, you prove that when it comes to a challenge, you have what it takes to take it on.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Although a romantic theme dominates much of the week, all those warm and fuzzy feelings don’t interfere with the more pragmatic matters you need to take care of.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Best not to ignore those doubts about an upcoming decision. Instead, recheck the facts you were given to make sure nothing important was left out. A weekend surprise awaits you.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) No time for a catnap -- yet. You might still have to straighten out one or two factors so that you can finally assure yourself of the truth about a troubling workplace situation. Stay with it.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) News from an old friend could lead to an unexpected (but nonetheless welcome) reunion with someone who had once been very special in your life. Be open to the possibilities.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) It might be time for a family council. The sooner those problems are resolved, the sooner you can move ahead with your holiday preparations. Don’t let the opportunity pass you by.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Take some time out to give more attention to a personal relationship that seems to be suffering from a sense of emotional neglect. Provide that much-needed reassurance.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Someone you believe has hurt you in the past might now need your help. Reaching out could be difficult. But the generous Goat will be able to do the right thing, as always.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Prioritizing is an important part of your pre-holiday scheduling. Try to give time both to your workday responsibilities and those personal matters you might have neglected.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) With the vestiges of your anger about that painful incident fading, you can now focus all your energy on the more positive aspects of your life, including that personal situation.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a way of bringing your own strong sense of reassurance to others and encouraging them to hope.
struggling to find a path to empowerment, dignity, and self-worth. Project Wheel House has come to work with a variety of institutions over the years, ranging from LGBTQ youth to prison inmates, but the Women’s Center was the first organization that Project Wheel House partnered with, and it has been a relationship that has grown and flourished ever since.

Earlier this year, The Women’s Center presented a Community Award to Project Wheel House at their Annual Meeting. Accepting the award on behalf of founder Jessica Webb, board secretary Nancy Webb noted that, “Project Wheel House is indebted to the Women’s Center for allowing us to reach out with our mission to provide proven mind and body programs, in an effort to reduce the harmful effects of stress, anxiety, and trauma in our community.”

To learn more about how Project Wheel House’s mission and programs, visit their website at ProjectWheelHouse.org.

Lessons & Carols at Tabor Academy
On December 15 at 7:30 pm, Tabor Academy will once again host their annual traditional Lessons and Carols Service. This traditional holiday concert of Christmas choral music, enjoyed by the Tabor community and the public for decades, will take place in Wickenden
TOWN OF MATTAPOISETT
BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Notice is hereby given that the Mattapoisett Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on the following Applications. New format of meetings; start time is 6:00 pm.

Case #1441 Application of: NICHOLAS CHRISTY, 21 Meadowbrook Lane, Mattapoisett, MA 02739. RE: 20 Howard Beach. The applicant is seeking a Special Permit under 3.1.2.2 and 3.1.2.3 as provided by Section 7.2.2 of the Zoning By-Laws to request permission to construct a single family home in conformance with FEMA. The property is further described as, Plot 14, Lots 22,24 and 25 on the Assessors Map. The hearing will be held at the Town Hall Conference Room on Thursday, December 19, 2019.

Complete applications and plans as filed are available for inspection in the Office of the Town Clerk during normal office hours. Sincerely, Susan Akin, Chairperson Mary Anne Brogan, Norman Lyonnais, Kenneth Pacheco, Colby Rottler 12/5, 12/12

TOWN OF ROCHESTER
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING #1146

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing on the petition of TOM KENNEDY for property located on 177 Marion Road, identified on Assessor’s Map 8, Lot 19B, who is seeking a Variance under Chapter 20.40, Section E.2. (7), (Formerly Section VIII.C.2. (6)), to construct an accessory structure (garage) located in the front yard area. The public hearing will be held on December 19, 2019 at 7:30 pm in the Conference Room of the Rochester Town Hall at 1 Constitution Way.

David Arancio, Chairman 12/5, 12/12

TOWN OF MATTAPOISETT
ANTASSAWAMOCK CLUB, INC
PUBLIC NOTICE

Antassawamock Club, Inc. will close its private roads to public traffic on Wednesday, December 18, 2019. Board of Directors Antassawamock Club, Inc. Anne Bedser, Secretary 12/5, 12/12

TOWN OF MATTAPOISETT
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Mattapoisett Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Monday, December 23, 2019 at 6:30 pm in the Mattapoisett Town Hall on the Notice of Intent submitted by DENNIS MAHONEY & SONS, INC. for property located on Wolf Island Road, as shown on Assessor’s Map 25, Lot 3 in Mattapoisett, MA. The applicant is proposing to clear existing wooded areas within the buffer zone to bordering vegetated wetlands in order to expand the existing agricultural use on the project site. Applicant is also requesting to confirm existing wetland flagging on the project site. 12/12

TOWN OF MATTAPOISETT
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Mattapoisett Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Monday, December 23, 2019 at 6:30 pm in the Mattapoisett Town Hall on a Notice of Intent submitted by JAMES & SHARLENE CRAIG.

The Applicants propose to selective tree and brush cutting for the purposes of planning the location of a single family dwelling. The proposed work will be performed within the 100 ft. Buffer Zone of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland and within Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage, Flood Zone VE (El. 16) and VE (El. 18).

The property is located on Aucocot Road which is further identified as a portion of Lot #156 on Mattapoisett Assessors Map #3. 12/12

TOWN OF MATTAPOISETT
PLANNING BOARD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Mattapoisett Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Monday, January 6, 2020 at 7:00 pm in the Conference Room at the Mattapoisett Town Hall located at 16 Main Street, Mattapoisett-MA, for the application “THE VILLAGE AT MATTAPOISETT”. Applicant is seeking approval from the Planning Board for removal of Condition #11 of the Special Permit referring to...
Chapel, 86 Spring Street, Marion, MA. The event is free and open to the public. The event will be live-streamed on the Tabor Academy Facebook page as well.

The Festival of Lesson and Carols is a time-honored tradition of nine lessons and musical pieces that celebrate Christmas. Traditionally performed on Christmas Eve, this service was made popular by the King’s College in Cambridge, UK, with the long-standing tradition of beginning the program with the selection “Once in Royal David’s City.” Like many holiday celebrations, Lessons and Carols has many elements that pay homage to traditions of the past, such as the opening and other beloved carols.

Conductor Dr. Tianxu Zhou said, “I am continually impressed with the maturity and musicality of our singers and instrumentalists exhibit during the many hours of rehearsal that you will undoubtedly hear throughout their performance. I hope you will decide to join us for this long-standing tradition at Tabor.”

A Reason to be Freezin’
Tabor Academy has once again signed up to plunge into the cold waters of Sippican Harbor on December 15 in order to raise funds for Special Olympics MA. The plunge will take place at 11:15 am at Silvershell Beach in Marion and the students invite everyone to jump in with them!

The students are attempting to raise $4,000 for Special Olympics in this effort to help support the athletes they have enjoyed playing with over the last four years of

Relax and Enjoy the Holidays by Entertaining your guests with fine food prepared by us. Check out our catering & party-platter menu at www.onthegotakeout.com

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ON THE GO PRIME RIB-a Certified Angus Beef Rib tastefully seasoned and marinated, in house and pan ready for the oven $14.99 lb
FRESH BONELESS TURKEY BREAST $55.99
(please note turkey is NOT cooked, they are oven ready)
BOAR’S HEAD SWEET SLICED BONELESS HAM(s) $7.99 lb
Don’t forget The Boar’s Head Glaze also available
(spiral hams glazed & oven ready also available by request)
CERTIFIED ANGUS BEEF TENDERLOIN(s) $19.99 lb
ROASTED STUFFED PORK LOIN (feeds approx 15ppl)
fresh pork loin stuffed with our own savory stuffing and gravy
..........................................................Full $80/Half $50
FRESH HORS D’OEUVRES (prepared fresh to order)
scallop wrapped in bacon • stuffed mushroom caps • shrimp cocktail homemade meatballs in sauce • fresh cheese & cracker platter fresh vegetable & dip platter • marinated beef tips • baked stuffed shrimp
ASSORTED CUSTOMIZED WRAP or DELI PLATTERS & more!

Entertain your guests with our assorted fine desserts including fresh baked pies - blueberry, pecan, pumpkin, apple, chocolate creme
Assorted miniature cheesecakes

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off the mark  by Mark Parisi

Just Like Cats & Dogs  by Dave T. Phipps

YOU SHOULD BE THANKING ME. ONE PAIR OF SHOES WAS $100 BUT THREE PAIR WERE $175. I SAVED YOU MONEY!

MAKE IT LOOK LIKE AN ACCIDENT.

Mom, I love the dress you sent Abby! It’s perfect for exaggerating chubby cheeks and chunky thighs!

Amber Waves  by Dave T. Phipps

OH, COME ON! IF YOU’RE GONNA MAKE IT COLD, HOW ABOUT SOME SNOW?

MOTHER NATURE HAS A DOWNRIGHT MORBID SENSE OF HUMOR.
their involvement with Special Olympics MA. From their morning of School Day Games to their Sunday morning Young Athletes Program and Basketball Tournament during the winter months, the students at Tabor have embraced this cause. They welcome you to join them in the fun of supporting Special Olympics.

Registration opens at Silvershell Beach in Marion at 10:00 am and then we will take the chilly leap together into the harbor at 11:15 am. Marion’s first responders are on hand for safety, and there is a warming tent with snacks. Bring a towel and a change of clothes and join the fun… or just come for the spectacle!

Grab your thrill-seeking friends and family, create a plunge team, and start fundraising! Those who fundraise $100 or more will receive a limited-edition Tabor Academy Polar Plunge long-sleeve shirt. To contribute or to sign up in advance, please visit the webpage here: https://bit.ly/2KzLclH

**The Great Decisions Program**

Again for 2020, the Mattapoisett Woman’s Club offers one of the world’s largest discussion groups of both civic and foreign policy-related topics, “The Great Decisions Program”. As a participant, you become part of a community effort to discuss and critically establish policy-making decisions for global issues.

Topics Include: Climate Change and the Global Order, India and Pakistan, Red Sea Security, Modern
We’ve hired an egg donor.

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Cleans all types of siding and shingle.
Also specializing in siding & shingle replacements. Free estimates - Insured.
Michael Clancy 508-758-4392
PROFESSIONAL OFFICE SPACES FOR RENT
Marion, Old Landing Condominiums.
Shared waiting room and bathroom.
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Professional Organizer/Home Caretaker
Let's get organized for the Holidays!
Turn clutter and chaos into efficient space: from organizing a closet to entire home, garage or attic. Moving, selling, or have a loved one in need of organizing? We package, label and make good will run...!
Snowbirds?? We take care of things while you're away.
Services are endless
Free Consultation
A+ ratings from clients
Over 25 Years experience
Call or text Jean @ 508-254-4839

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Residential & Commercial
508-273-5990

Reliable Person needed to use our snowthrower to clear our driveway, and ramp of snow, and clear our front steps. Marion. Please contact 508-748-2344.

Three/four bedroom house for rent in quiet Marion neighborhood.
Two car garage, basement, fenced yard
$2,650/month
603-785-3130

Roby's Propane
Medium Duty Fleet Mechanic Needed
We are looking for a medium duty Fleet Mechanic (gas and diesel), to join our team. Attention to detail, and good communication skills are a must. The primary duties to include performing diagnostic tests on transmission, braking, or lighting system components. 3 to 5 years experience. Email resume to: customerservice@robysgas.com

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Seeking Wedding Guest Lodging
August 27th - August 31st, 2020
774-377-5018

Short term rental * Crescent Beach * Through May 31st * $1275 / month + utilities * Upscale furnished home - maximum 2 people / * 508-958-8386

Snow, Snow, Snow...
Plowed!!!
Call 774-454-5445

Snowblower For Sale
508-758-4919
Leave a message

Space Available December 1 - for office, retail, or storage on Route 6 in Mattapoisett. 1,400 sq. ft. plus dry basement and parking. Call 508 758-3020

Spring Cleaners
Home * Office * Rentals
Call or text Jean @ 508-254-4839

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Get your list done
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Ventura Agricultural Support
Tractor & Dumptruck
Tree work, brush removal, shavings/hay delivery
Decades of horse experience
Frank - cell 508-207-5591 home 774-849-5210

WANTED DEAD or ALIVE!
Big or small tractors & farm equipment
Louie: 508-951-1374

WANTED junk cars & trucks for salvage & parts. Paying cash. Free pickup
508-763-4185 DM Auto

Wanted: Pianist to join percussionist to play Holiday standards and create new.
Genre: light jazz 774-328-5985

What A Find!
Consignment Furniture
We are looking for furnishings to add to our inventory. Always in need of quality, clean furniture from a smoke and pet free home. Call us for details. 508-997-0166

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Don’t forget to wish these people a Happy Birthday!

Charles Rogers December 12
Derek J. Medeiros December 12
Jessica Collyer December 12
Louie Aiello December 12
Alaina May Franco December 13
Grace Hebert December 13
Jeffrey Despres December 13
Ronnie Morrell December 13
Scott Greany December 13
Stephen J. Burke December 13
Tammie Dianne Moreno December 13
Beth Redman December 14
Jeanette Webb December 14
Meadow Perry December 14
Daneen Eilertsen December 16
Brandon Garde December 17
Donna Walther December 17
Kimberley Goguen December 17
Molly Janicki December 17
Thomas DeCosta December 17
Judy Anthony December 18
Kenly Hiller December 18
Palmer W. Clingman December 18
Peter MacLean December 18

If you would like The Wanderer to announce a birthday for yourself, a friend or family member, please submit your information online to us at www.wanderer.com. To submit information by regular mail, please send the person’s name (month and day) along with your name and phone number so we can confirm the information to Birthdays, c/o The Wanderer, P.O. Box 102, Mattapoisett, MA 02739. You may submit birthday announcements anytime during the year and they will be published/posted during the appropriate week.
Slavery and Human Trafficking, U.S. Relations with the Northern Triangle, China’s Road into Latin America, The Philippines, and the U.S. and Artificial Intelligence and Data.

This series starts with its first session on Wednesday, January 15 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm and runs for the next eight consecutive weeks on Wednesdays. We only cancel if Town Hall closes (it is not dependent on school closings).

Cost to participate is $37 for individual and $45 for two people sharing one text. The fee includes book, classroom DVD, teachers’ electronic edition, and expenses for materials and refreshments.

To register, please send check, with printed name, address, and telephone number plus email address to: Mattapoisett Woman’s Club P.O. 1444 Mattapoisett Ma 02739. Indicate on check memo “Great Decisions”. Maximum capacity is 25 people. Deadline for registration is December 31.

The books will be available and distributed after the first week of January at the Library by Ellen P Flynn or Barb and Richard Van Inwegen. The event will be at the same location, Accessible Community Room Mattapoisett Free Public Library, 5 Barstow Street Mattapoisett, 02739

Cushing Cemetery
Running out of ideas for Christmas? Need stocking stuffers? Get a piece off Mattapoisett history from Cushing Cemetery. A section of fence that you can use anywhere for whatever reason and will last a lifetime. Contact Dana Tripp at 508-728-1403 for details. Call Dana to inquire about delivery.

Library Ornament Sale
Are you reminiscing about beautiful summer days on the water? Or, are you looking for a locally-inspired, locally-sourced gift? Look no further than the Elizabeth Taber Library! They are offering beautiful sailboat ornaments which are hand-blown. Each ornament measures 3” x 3.5”, is numbered and comes in a gift box. Stop by the library soon to purchase one for only $30. Supplies are limited.
Marshall 15’ Sandpiper Catboat
Awesome family Christmas present ready to wrap on a trailer in a local barn. Near perfect condition. New $25K+ Asking $12,000 fully equipped.
386-852-0088

MASON offers Quality Work at Reasonable Prices
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www.eatondrapery.com

Mercedes Benz (1999) E320 wagon
white w/grey; high miles but well maintained w/ recent repairs. Best offer - 508-264-7693

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Cell 508-287-4824

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Cell 508-287-4824

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www.wanderer.com

Weekly SUDOKU by Linda Thistle

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<table>
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row, column and each small 3x3 box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging ◆◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

© 1919 King Features Synd., Inc.

“Scramblers” by Emily Steward,
“Sudoku” by Linda Thistle

Novelty
FILTER ________
Pod
BATTLE ________
Just
GIRTH ________
Wild
FLARE ________

TODAY’S WORD ________

“The Wanderer” December 12, 2019
www.wanderer.com

64
Sippican Woman’s Club’s Holiday House Tour

The Sippican Woman’s Club Holiday House Tour, themed “A Simple Holiday” in Marion will be held on Saturday, December 14, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. This is a yearly event, held for over 30 years, and the proceeds of which go to scholarships for Marion students pursuing a bachelor’s degree. The Tour begins in Handy’s Tavern, 152 Front Street, which has been delightfully decorated and will be serving wassail. If you haven’t already purchased tickets, they can be bought at the Tavern. Tour maps and program are exchanged for the tickets. Every participant will get a wrist band that will be their admission to the houses and Tea.

To purchase tickets in advance ($20 in advance, $25 day of tour), they are available at the Marion General Store, Serendipity in Marion, or Isabelle’s at the Ropewalk in Mattapoisett. Tickets may also be bought on-line, by going to the website, www.sippicanwomansclub.org, select Holiday House Tour Tickets, add the number of tickets you are purchasing and proceed to the cart, then proceed to checkout. If your credit card/debit card is not in your name, please provide your name in the “order notes” on the right side of the billing detail page. Keep your receipt for payment verification when you pick up the tour program at the Tavern. You can also mail in a check payable to SWC and send to: SWC–HHT tickets, P.O. Box 121, Marion, MA 02738.

It’s a very busy day in Marion during the Holiday House Tour. The main event, of course, is viewing the beautiful homes in Marion, decorated by professional florists and homeowners. At 2:00 pm, everyone will be ready to sit down at the traditional Holiday Tea, held at St. Gabriel’s Fellowship Hall, South Street, held from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. There in the warm holiday ambiance, you will find elegantly served tea, coffee, finger sandwiches, and sweets.

There is a special, surprise venue this year, the Beverly Yacht Club will be open from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. Here’s an opportunity to view the scenic waterfront from Marion’s world-renowned private sailing club. Decorated and welcoming, enjoy a beverage from the cash bar or a complimentary cup of tea or coffee. BYC members will share info about the 1806 clubhouse as well as its many racing programs.

There are other events about town, not to be forgotten. The Marion Garden Group will have their Holiday Boutique at the Marion Music Hall on Front Street from 9:00 to 11:00 am. Arrive early as they sell out quickly. The Marion Art Center, 80 Pleasant Street, will be decorated for holidays and featuring “Small Works on the Wall”, originals by 20 artists for immediate purchase. Their holiday shop offers a curated boutique of beautiful handmade items. Be sure to admire the many renovations, too. The Elizabeth Taber Library, 8 Spring Street, has a stunning new courtyard and entrance to be admired. Bring the children to enjoy a seasonal craft project. The
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE
by Stephan Pastis

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Dear Cable News People,

Thank you for your insightful coverage of that big hurricane.

What I found especially informative was the part where your reporter stood in the wind.

I did not know that when you stand in the wind, it blows on you.

I’m hoping they recognize sarcasm. So that’s why his hair moves.
2019 ornaments, available to purchase were crafted by McDermott Glass Studio. As in many previous years, the First Congregational Church will hold a luncheon from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm in the Community Center. It will include their famous hot chicken salad, cranberry compote, etc. ($10). There is also the Cookie Walk, where homemade cookies boxed for the season ($10/dozen) are sold.

It is a great, special day that last year provided $13,000 for scholarships.

View the “King of Meteor Showers”
Join the Buzzards Bay Coalition to look out for the Geminid meteor shower, sometimes called the “king” of meteor showers, at The Bogs (138 Acushnet Rd., Mattapoisett) on Friday, December 13 from 8:00 to 10:00 pm. Far away from the city lights, the 500-acre Mattapoisett River Reserve offers visitors a dark, expansive sky to view this exciting astronomical event.

To RSVP for this free event, visit www.savebuzzardsbay.org/events/geminid-meteor-shower-viewing-dec-13-2019/ or contact the Buzzards Bay Coalition at (508) 999-6363 ext. 219.

This event is dependent on weather and cloud cover. Please check the event page and Facebook the morning of the program for any cancellations.

Dress warmly in multiple layers and bring a flashlight and a chair. Some warm beverages and snacks will be provided. Please remember that public properties are typically open from dawn until dusk – we’ve gotten special permission to host this event at night.

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<th>Buyer(s)</th>
<th>Seller(s)</th>
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<td>John C Rogers Jr RET Rogers, John C</td>
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The Wanderer is an independently owned and published weekly newspaper that is distributed to the public free of charge throughout Mattapoisett, Marion, Rochester and the surrounding communities.

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Telephone: 508-758-9055

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News: news@wanderer.com

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(News) Monday at noon
(All Others) Tuesday at 10am

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Mon., Thur. & Fri. 9am-3pm
Tues. 9am - 12 noon

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Jean Perry, News Editor
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ISSN 1559-1212

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS
For Mattapoisett
Volunteers Urgently Needed
508-758-4110

SHERMAN’S LAGOON
by J.P. Toomey

DAD, I'M SCARED.
WE'RE COMPLETELY
LOST OUT HERE.

IT'S OKAY,
HERMAN.

WE'LL FIND OUR WAY HOME.
WE'VE GOT OUR GPS
GADGET... AND BESIDES...

IF I KNOW MY FRIENDS,
THEY'RE WORRIED
SICK AND FRANTICALLY
LOOKING FOR US.

ARE YOU GOING
to HELP OR NOT?

I'LL YELL OUT
his name from
HERE DURING
COMMERCIALS.

FISH

The Wanderer
December 12, 2019
www.wanderer.com
This walk is part of Discover Buzzards Bay, a resource to find unique and exciting ways to explore the outdoors, get some exercise and connect with nature. Use Discover Buzzards Bay to get outside and discover woods, wetlands, and waterways from Fall River to Falmouth. To learn more, visit savebuzzardsbay.org/discover.

Emergency Preparedness
The Massachusetts Office on Disability, in partnership with the Mattapoisett Board of Health, is hosting an informational gathering for Mattapoisett residents who may need assistance in the event of severe winter weather or other emergency situations. Family members, caregivers, and First Responders are also welcome and encouraged to attend. Information and resources to help ensure personal safety and well-being will be provided. Pre-registered attendees will receive an “Emergency Go Pack” containing items that may be needed during an emergency. First Responders will receive Tips for First Responders, 5th edition. Light refreshments will be available.

The event, free of charge, will be held on Thursday, December 12 from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm at the Mattapoisett Council on Aging (COA), 17 Barstow Street, Mattapoisett, MA 02739. Please register to attend by calling the COA at 508-758-4110.

Emergency preparedness meetings and events help strengthen community resilience and ensure the best outcome for all. We hope you will join us.

Annual Tinkhamtown Chapel Christmas Carol Sing
The Tinkhamtown Chapel on Acushnet Road in Mattapoisett will hold its annual Christmas Carol Sing on Saturday, December 21 at 5:00 pm. Join your friends and neighbors in singing the old favorites in a 19th-century chapel, lit by kerosene lamps. Children are encouraged to volunteer to perform a song or recitation, either as a solo or with members of the family, and to join in the children’s chorus. For more information, email peggsmom@gmail.com, or call 508-758-9559.
I Found the Aardvark!
Each week, hidden somewhere in the pages of The Wanderer is a tiny drawing of an aardvark. The little guy you are looking for looks exactly like the one pictured above (but don’t put down this page as your answer, there’s another one hidden somewhere in this issue).

Once you find the aardvark you can submit your answer online and if you are right you will get Aardvark Points! You can then use these points to get cool Aardvark Prizes!

To enter visit:  www.wanderer.com and Click on I Found the Aardvark

In the December 5, 2019 edition the Aardvark was on page 17!

SCRAMBLERS

solution
1. Trifle; 2. Tablet;
3. Right; 4. Feral

Today’s Word
LITTLE

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

Sudoku Answer

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Seedless Red Grapes .................................. $2.49/lb.
Fresh Asparagus ........................................... $2.99/lb.
Pint Grape Tomatoes .................................... $1.99
12 oz. Pkg. Peeled, Organic Mini Rainbow Carrots ... $2.49

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Triple M Half Ham or Half Spiral Ham ............... $3.49/lb.
Boar’s Head Low Salt Turkey Breast ................ $8.99/lb.
Friend’s In Store Baked Ham ........................... $6.99/lb.
Boar’s Head 8 oz. Pkg. Pre-Cut Havarti Cheese $4.99
Chairsman’s Reserve Prime Fresh, Bone-In Pork Chops $3.79/lb.

Grocery & Bakery

1.75-16 oz. Selected Nabisco Crackers ............... $2.99
15.25 oz. Selected Classic Duncan Hines Cake Mix $1.79
12-15.5 oz. Selected Kellogg’s Krispies Cereal .... 2/$7
12-15 oz. Selected Prince Pasta ......................... $1.29
19 oz. Selected Progresso Beans ....................... 4/$5
10-12 oz. Selected Nestle Toll House Morsels ...... 2/$7
10.1-13.25 oz. Selected Nabisco Oreo Cookies .... $3.29
6.5-8 oz. Selected Cape Cod Potato Chips .......... 2/$6

The Father’s Table 16 oz. Pkg. Sampler Cheesecake $5.99
Fresh Store Baked 22 oz. 8 Inch Pecan Pie .......... $5.99

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL GREAT SAVINGS THIS WEEK!
SALE EFFECTIVE: Friday, December 13 – Thursday, December 19, 2019

CHRISTMAS SAVINGS!

Friends’
Premium
Black Angus 1855
Spoon Roast
$6.99
lb

Land O Lakes
Deli Sliced
American Cheese
$4.99
lb

Cracker Barrel
7-8 oz. Selected
Cheese Bars
2/$6

Celeste
5-5.9 oz. Selected
Pizza For One
2/$3

Harpooon
12 oz. Bottles Selected
12 Pack
$15.99
Plus Dep.

750 ml
California Extra Dry or Brut
Andre
Champagne
$8.99

Wine Shop & Beer Cooler Specials

750 ml California Wine Merlot Bogle
$8.99

1.5 Liter, California Wines, Assorted Varietals
Woodbridge
$12.99

1.5 Liter, French Wines, Rosé
La Vielle Ferme
$14.99

750 ml, Italian Wines, Prosecco
Riondo
$14.99

750 ml, Italian Wines, Red
Gabbiano Dark Knight
$7.99

All Beer is Plus Deposit

12 oz. Bottles
18 Pack
Miller Light
$17.99

12 oz. Cans, 12 Pack
All Varieties
White Claw
$17.99

We have over 75 varieties (and more coming) of wines that are only 3/$15 or 5/$22. Mix & Match wines from California, France, Italy, Argentina, Chile, & Australia!

Come in & check out the selections!

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL GREAT SAVINGS THIS WEEK!