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Tale of a Chipmunk for Christmas
By George B. Emmons

The eastern chipmunk, or *Tamias striatus*, is classified as a striped ground squirrel that gladly shares its habitat with human beings. It comes out daily from a tunnel to an earthly burrow to show its friendly face about mid-morning and then again mid-afternoon.

Its appearance seems to entertain us with a cute scurrying scampering performance that lives up to its reputation as a cartoon character, particularly for children.

The name ‘chipmunk’ is thought to originate from the Ottawa Native Americans who called it “chit–a–munk” for its pose with puffed out cheeks filled with a mouthful of nuts. It could also have derived from the very vocal chipmunk’s chattering, “chip-chip!”

In the year 1830, James Audubon painted it in a cheeky pouch-filled smiling appearance, as I have also illustrated.

On the Cover: Oh, Christmas Tree! The weekend stormy weather led to the cancelation of Mattapoisett’s annual Holiday in the Park event, which had been scheduled for Saturday. The town managed to flip the light switch to ‘on’ the night of December 15, illuminating the rainy and wind-blown tree that just so happened to glisten even more after a cool late-fall rain. Photo by Jean Perry

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Its habit of spunky scampering through a deciduous forest has a truly miraculous and beneficial purpose of replenishing its own habitat. It often jumps upon a fallen log or tree trunk as a raised pathway and elevated highway for precautionary visibility of its surroundings. If conditions are right, chipmunks usually pick up on their feet single-celled agents of sporophytes, such as moss, mushrooms, bacteria, and algae, and disperse them as start-up mosses wherever they land. And when a Chipmunk climbs around in a spiral up a tree, it leaves in its path a planted corkscrew pattern from top to bottom.

Chipmunks are polygamous, as one male will mate with multiple females during the two breeding seasons a year, spring and then fall. Each litter has from two to five young, and those born in spring, like rabbits, reproduce the following autumn.

The newborn only weighs about three grams and is blind without any fur. A lifespan can range from three to 10 years, and their numbers don’t appear to be threatened; however, populations in forests appear to suffer from fragmentation of their natural range, and so suffer from habitat modification.

In 1958, Alvin and the Chipmunks became entertainment celebrities with a performance group of
three animated anthropomorphic personalities, starring Alvin as a mischievous but humorous troublemaker. Written by David Seville, it soon became a best-selling record, and then later a nationally distributed cartoon movie production for children. It soon ranked with other Christmas songs such as Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, and the Twelve Days of Christmas. The Chipmunk’s harmonics began with the following rhyming Christmas Eve lyrics of a worried child:

“Christmas, Christmas time is near – Time for toys and time for cheer…”

Eight stanzas ended with the hope of this child that Alvin’s mischief does not cause Christmas to be late: “We can hardly stand the wait – Please, Christmas, don’t be late…”

The chipmunk, now more easily seen in the leafless trees and contrasted against the white snow on falling stone walls, shares the limelight with the other Christmas critters, such as reindeer, house mice, and, of course, partridges in pear trees.
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Holiday House Tour Lush and Sparkling
By Marilou Newell
The December 14 Sippican Woman’s Club Holiday House Tour is an annual tradition built on the organization’s goal of giving scholarships to qualifying high school graduates. It is no small task. From deploying a small army of docents – club members who assist participating homeowners in guiding visitors through their open houses – to the decorating of the club’s headquarters at the Handy Tavern, and the myriad of other details, the SWC annual event is a well-oiled machine with esprit de corps. After all, one of the criteria for becoming a club member is working the annual event.

With everyone in place, and despite dire weather predictions, it was a splendid day for both club members and the public who enjoyed touring antique homes in the community. Longtime club member Pam Norweb said the event had never been canceled due to weather.

“Not even the year there was no electricity and a snowstorm!” said Norweb.

The Handy Tavern was the stepping off point for the tour where club member M. J. Wheeler managed the registration table. Wheeler said that last year the club gave $13,000 in scholarships to about 25 graduates from schools that serve the town of Marion. She noted that once a student has been granted a scholarship, they could re-apply in subsequent years.

In a corner of the tavern stood one of several
Pasta Dishes
Baked Lasagna .............................................29.00 ........48.00
Vegetable Lasagna .......................................29.00 ........48.00
Baked Ziti Casserole ...................................25.00 ........45.00
Chicken, Broccoli & Ziti ............................25.00 ........45.00

Main Dishes
Chicken Cacciatore .....................................32.00 ........60.00
Chicken Parmesan ...................................... 32.00 ........60.00
Eggplant Parmesan .....................................17.00 ........32.00
Chicken & Eggplant Parmesan Combo ..28.00 ........48.00

Party Sandwiches
Chicken or Ham Salad Sandwiches (48).............35.00
Tuna Salad Sandwiches (48) .............................35.00

Italian Meatballs Per Dozen in Red Sauce ..........11.00
Mild Italian Sausages Per Dozen in Red Sauce ......18.00
Garlic Bread Per Dozen ......................................15.00

Salads
Party Size
Pesto Pasta Salad 32.00

Antipasto
Family Size 22.00
Party Size 32.00

Party Size Platters To Enjoy While Celebrating The Holidays!
lush seasonal displays: a Christmas tree decorated with the portraits and biographies of the 2019 recipients. The clever use of pictures and ribbons demonstrated not only the talents of the club members, but their desire to make young people their focus. Hanging behind the tree, framing its resplendence, were graduation gowns.

Four private homes were featured this year along with other venues such as the Sippican Historical Society, the Beverly Yacht Club, and the Marion Art Center. Also partnering in the day-long event were the Marion Congregational Church and St. Gabriel’s Episcopal Church.

House touring can be a tiring activity. Respite could be found in the warm confines of the Marion Congregational Church community center where a sumptuous luncheon menu included warm chicken salad, hot cocoa, and coffee, followed by cheesecakes drizzled with blueberry sauce. Those who were looking for a unique homemade gift could buy cookies placed in decorative gift boxes.

Church member and one of the Cookie-Walk organizers, Susan Barkhouse, said that church members made all the cookies and that there were over 25 varieties to choose from.

Barbara Singleton’s Point Road home is a family compound, which she and her family have updated just enough to make it convenient for modern-day living. The property includes a second structure, one that is used by visiting grandchildren and has been designed to blend seamlessly into the existing landscape and the original homestead built in 1912. Displayed on a table in this building were uniquely crafted oyster shell trees whose smooth inner surfaces sparkled.

Singleton pointed out the ornaments on a Christmas tree located in the heart of the main home, a large open plan kitchen and living space that looks out on marshes. The ornaments are all original handcrafted miniature works of art depicting children’s characters such as Cinderella, Nutcrackers, or historical figures such as George Washington.

Nearby on Cross Road, Mary Jane McCoy, homeowner and artist, not only opened her exquisitely
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decorated home, but also her second-floor art studio. Works of art were available for purchase.

Back in the village, people could also shop at the MAC where a pop-up holiday shop included finely crafted jewelry, accessories, and of course, wall art.

Two village homes were open to the tour located on Pleasant and South Street.

Bonnie and Paul Tavares’ 1791 antique Cape is also the location of one of the first schoolhouses in town. A first-floor room holds pride of place as the schoolroom. It is nearly untouched by time, – it does not have electricity. On the second floor, a very short bench was originally used in the schoolroom.

Nancy Hunter Denney’s South Street home shone brilliantly with glass ornaments punctuated on the first floor with floral arrangements she artfully created. Denney used fresh cranberries in the vases to hold the floral elements in place. Money raised from the sale of the arrangements was earmarked for the scholarship fund, she said. On the second floor, one of the bedrooms featured a Christmas tree decorated from floor to ceiling with ornaments from the White House. One of Denney’s daughters works in the Senate.

Later in the afternoon as the touring wound down, folks could warm up and get a bite to replenish their holiday spirits at the Sugar Plum Tea held in the Parish Hall of St. Gabriel’s Church part of the ticket price.

To learn more about the Sippican Woman’s Club, visit sippicanwomansclub.org.

Time Capsule
Rochester Historical Society
As the Rochester Historical Society was preparing for its anniversary celebration, we discovered in the meeting minutes from 1986, that a time capsule had been created for the town’s 300th anniversary of incorporation. The 1990 minutes stated that the capsule was placed in the basement of the Rochester Town Hall by the 1990 Historical Society Board of Directors. There was no mention of where it had been for those four years. There was no mention of what was included in the time capsule, and it is not to be opened until 2086.
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Lindsey’s Restaurant
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Sagamore Inn
TA Restaurant
Piezoni’s
Lolly’s Cafe
Cape Cod Railroad
Buttonwood Park Zoo
Ben & Jerry’s
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Courtyard
Panini Grill
Seaport Inn Grill
BOAT HOUSE
Edaville Theme Park
Narrows Crossing
Newport Creamery
Tavern on the Wharf
Bobby Byrne’s
Whaling City Diner
Ben & Jerry’s
Lucia Ristorante
Dartmouth’s Own
Cy’s Creative Kitchen
Cozy Kitchen
Danny’s Seafood
Localz
Gateway Tavern
Ma Raffa’s
IHOP
cove Surf & Turf
LePage’s Grille
Cancun
Belfry Inn
Rocco’s
Bobby Byrne’s
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Kabob & Curry
Mystic Cafe
RI Philharmonic
Newport Playhouse
La Gondola Providence

Restaurants Subject to change

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Scuttlebutts (407 Main Street)

DARTMOUTH
Big Value (718 Dartmouth Street)
Dartmouth Mall (At Good News)
Cardoza’s Wine & Spirits (Faunce Corner Rd)
Mellisa’s Pet Depot (Near IHOP)

NEW BEDFORD
Newsbreak (NB/Fairhaven Bridge)
Buttonwood Park Zoo (Gift Shop)
Barry’s Fine Wine Spirits ($73 Mill St)
Jay Liquors Fieldstone Marketplace (500 Kings Hwy)

MARION
Fieldstone Farm Market
(806 Mill Street, Route 6)

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www.wanderer.com December 19, 2019 The Wanderer 11
When checking with Andrew Daniel, the town’s Facilities Manager, we found there certainly was a time capsule in the basement of the Town Hall, surrounded by cement blocks, and was now secured behind a protective water barrier but with no explanation of what was behind the blocks. The Historical Society had a sign made explaining the reason for the time capsule and its location.

The Historical Society thanks Andrew Daniel for helping locate the capsule and for affixing the plaque. Hopefully, the individuals opening the capsule in 2086 will enjoy seeing or reading whatever was put in the capsule. If anyone has any first-hand knowledge of this time capsule, please let the Historical Society know: 508-295-8908.

SRPEDD Seeks Consensus on Future of Route 6
By Jean Perry

In this next phase of its regional Route 6 study, the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD) is looking for a consensus among local Route 6 travelers on what changes, if any, they envision for the South Coast corridor. But still, after an online survey that allowed locals to express their major concerns, attendees at a December 12 SRPEDD community forum at Center School argued that the four options SRPEDD introduced hardly address those major concerns, and learned that even if a consensus could be made, the state might not agree to fund the preferred option.

Jed Cornock, principal comprehensive planner for SRPEDD, laid out four alternatives to the current state
of Route 6, which aimed at accommodating pedestrians and bicyclists while addressing problematic intersections that, years from now, would likely worsen without intervention. Two alternatives reduce the highway from four lanes to two, and two maintain the four-lane roadway while attempting to include at least one lane for walking and biking.

Alternative 1 keeps the four lanes and adds 6-foot sidewalks to both sides. There is no increase in shoulder width (currently 6 inches), no drainage modifications, and no improvements for bicycle travel.

Alternative 2 keeps the four lanes and the narrow 6-inch shoulder, but creates a 10-foot wide side shared-use path instead of the 6-foot sidewalks of Alternative 1;
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Dec. 25-Jan. 1
Reopening
January 2nd

however, this project would require the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) to acquire land from properties along the road to accommodate the 64-foot right of way, which would add additional costs to the project.

Alternative 3 drops the road down to two 11-foot travel lanes (lanes are currently 10.5 feet wide) and adds a 5-foot shoulder. Each side would have a 5-foot bike lane and separate 5-foot sidewalk with a 1.5-foot buffer between them, all without needing to acquire land to expand the right of way. The downside, however, is the reduction in opportunities for passing slower cars, utility poles would likely need relocating, and drainage modifications would be needed.

Alternative 4 drops the road down to two 11-foot travel lanes, increases the shoulder to 5 feet, and adds a 1.5-foot buffer between the shoulder and a 10-foot shared-use ‘sidewalk’. Like the third alternative, vehicle passing would be affected, and utility pole relocation and drainage work would up the price tag.

Some residents were curious about a two-lane alternative and wondered what they would be “giving up” with two lanes instead of four. Would travel time increase? How about safety?

“It’s difficult to estimate your trip time from one end to the other,” said Cornock, although Route 6 currently operates under capacity, he said, meaning that there remains some wiggle room to accommodate the same number of cars with only two travel lanes.

Mattapoisett resident Jodi Bauer, who lives on the Mattapoisett strip of Route 6 known as County Road, reminded the group of how unsafe Route 6 became when it was reduced to two travel lanes in the 1980s.

“There were some horrible car crashes on that period of time,” said Bauer. “And to think, people forget that it was called ‘Suicide Alley’ and it was called Route 6 ‘the killer.’”

Bauer read from a newspaper article from June 1983 when the highway was reduced to two travel lanes that quoted Highway Surveyor Barry Denham as saying, “I’m happy about it,” which elicited a few chuckles as Denham sat there that evening.
“We’ve been there, we’ve done that,” Bauer said. “It didn’t succeed then, and I just personally don’t think that going down to a two-lane would be to our benefit.”

Fairhaven Selectman Bob Espindola asked Cornock, if additional rights of way are necessary, are either of those options even realistic?

“If it’s not realistic, I don’t think that’s something that we should even consider,” said Espindola.

Cornock said he hears opinions from both sides – those in favor of two lanes with sidepaths and those in favor of keeping the four lanes – that keeps all the options still on the table.

“This is how we hear about what that consensus is,” said Cornock. “We can make recommendations, but it’s all about the people who live here and travel here.”

One resident wondered why there wasn’t an alternative that simply widens the four lanes, adds sidewalks, but excludes a bike lane.

“You’re squeezed and you feel very uncomfortable,” he said, suggesting an “Alternative 1.5.”

Cornock said Alternative 1 is clearly the least costly, and residents could push to “do little, or the least amount, or change it entirely.” But if residents in towns from Fairhaven to Wareham can’t agree on a vision, then Cornock said he would have to make that remark in his final study report to the state.

“What we’re trying to do is bring forward a united or cohesive plan for MassDOT,” said Cornock. “If
Espindola said the cost of the project and its practicality are what would personally influence his decision.

“Some of these options really aren’t practical,” Espindola said, pointing out that the expanded alternatives with sidewalks and bike paths have never come to fruition in other parts of the state. So, if he chooses an alternative that is ultimately never going to happen, said Espindola, “Then I just wasted a vote.”

Ultimately, is this activity all just a waste of time, some asked.

“It’s a planning study,” said Cornock. “It doesn’t mean that it essentially is going to happen.” And if there is no subsequent consensus, he said, “The community then basically has to pick up the ball… The study itself is more about what you want to see the future of Route 6 look like.”
“Is this two-lane configuration just bonkers?” one resident asked. “If it is, then that’s what we really need to hear.”

Cornock told the group that the four alternatives he presented them came as a result of prior community outreach activities.

“All opinions matter,” Cornock confirmed. The online survey showed that 14 percent of participants are happy with the current state of Route 6.

Cornock encouraged residents from Fairhaven to Wareham to attend a second SRPEDD Route 6 Corridor Study public forum on January 6 at 6:00 pm at Sippican School.
Recreational Cannabis Proposal Presented

Marion Board of Selectmen

By Andrea Ray

A West Coast cannabis dispensary company is considering opening a recreational adult-use marijuana dispensary in Marion, the town’s Board of Selectmen heard on December 17.

Marion Town Administrator Jay McGrail made it clear before the appointment that the meeting with Lighthouse Dispensary was simply informational and an exchange of ideas rather than anything solid.

To put forward a formal application, he noted, interested parties would need to file an application with the Marion Planning Board.

Ericca Kennedy of the Cannabis Control Commission’s Economic Empowerment Program is seeking to install an adult-use recreational marijuana dispensary at the site of the former Christie’s on Route 6. The lot would maintain its current curb cuts and have entrances on Wells Street and Spring Street, as well as Route 6, and would offer valet parking on a 50-car parking lot. To manage the parking overflow in the busy location, Kennedy assured the selectmen that a full-time parking coordinator would be hired.

Kennedy is seeking to partner with Lighthouse Dispensary in the project. Lighthouse currently operates two dispensaries in Coachella and Palm Springs, California, and is looking to expand into additional states. Alongside Kennedy was Brad Davis, Lighthouse Dispensary’s chief operating officer.

The current Lighthouse Dispensary locations showcase art from the local community, Davis said, something that Kennedy wants to continue in a possible Marion location.

“I want this store to have an immediate and meaningful impact,” Kennedy said. “We would dedicate 100 hours per year to positive impact, including educational workshops and addiction services, including veterans, the elderly, and the disabled.”

Kennedy also noted that the store would maintain a boutique feel, and would respect Marion’s established aesthetic by using soft tones.
Davis noted that Lighthouse uses a different approach to customer service than many other dispensaries.

“We focus on education by informing our consumers so they can make the most appropriate buying decisions, and also by training and creating professional consultants,” said Davis. “When we have a customer leave a store, they should be educated on their product, excited about their purchase, and comfortable enough to enjoy their experience.”

Davis also pointed out that Lighthouse only sources the highest quality national and local cannabis. Highly selective in its quality process, the company will only accept product that exceeds Cannabis Control Commission regulations, as well as any additional local regulations.

Kennedy estimated that the dispensary would fill a minimum of 20 employment positions at a minimum of $18 per hour, as well as being clean, safe, and inclusive for all.

McGrail planned to put Lighthouse on a future Board of Selectmen agenda for discussion amongst the board, while Kennedy noted that she intends to follow up with the Planning Board, as well.

The next meeting of the Marion Board of Selectmen will be on January 7 at 7:00 pm at the Marion Town House.
Grant Will Conserve 109 Acres of Rochester

Rochester Board of Selectmen

By Jean Perry

The Rochester Board of Selectmen on December 16 voted to accept a LAND (Land Acquisitions for Natural Diversity) grant for $345,769 for the purchase of a conservation restriction on 109 acres of wetlands and open space.

The 109 acres is located in the northeastern part of town off Walnut Plain Road and Old Middleboro Road and is owned by Decas Cranberry.

The conservation of this particular land is especially important, said Rochester Conservation Agent Laurell Farinon. The state has mapped the land as “highly desirable” for conservation, given the presence of the Eastern box turtle and other threatened species that make this part of Rochester their habitat. According to Farinon, the state favors conservation acquisitions like this one when it considers its grant applications.

The state’s LAND grant program helps municipalities acquire land for conservation and passive recreational use by reimbursing them up to $400,000 for land acquisition or for conservation restrictions.

“This particular project rang all the bells and whistles with the state,” said Farinon.

The Buzzards Bay Coalition assisted in negotiations with Decas Cranberry and will hold the fee in the property while the Town of Rochester will hold the conservation restriction.

The land will be made available for the use of public passive recreation with the creation of a trailhead and parking area.

The Board of Selectmen voted to authorize Town Administrator Suzanne Szyndlar to sign the LAND grant paperwork in order for the town to receive the funds.

The next step will be a formal acceptance of the grant money at the Annual Town Meeting.

The conservation restriction will be purchased by funds the town will front ahead of receiving the grant, and ultimately will be acquired at no cost to the town.

In other business, the selectmen set the date for the next Annual Town Meeting for May 18, 2020, at 7:00
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pm at Rochester Memorial School.

The warrant is now open for citizens’ petitions and article submissions and will close at 1:00 pm on Friday, February 21.

Also during the meeting, Rochester Water Commissioner Fred Underhill gave the board an update on the water main project that will provide water from Middleboro to the Annie Maxim House on North Avenue.

“Finally, it looks as though it may come to fruition,” Underhill said.

According to Underhill, the project will be put out to bid in January. He was concerned about an extra $10,000 charge the Annie Maxim House will face due to its agreement to install a bigger 12-inch pipe down North Avenue as opposed to a nearby field along the Middleboro border—a request from the Town of Rochester. Underhill said the $10,000 charge was ordered by the Middleboro Water Department to install a vault in the road with a metering system in order to accommodate any future expansion in water to Rochester.

During her town administrator’s report, Szyndlar announced that the town has leased two new Chevrolet Volts, two fully-electric cars to replace the Kia Souls that only provided 90 miles per charge as opposed to the Volts that provide 260 miles per charge. At the end of the lease, the town will own the vehicles.

In other matters, the Facilities Department has received an $8,480 grant to purchase maintenance software to track and schedule town maintenance projects. The software will be installed at the Highway Department office.

“It will help improve the operations and just keep track of everything,” Szyndlar said.

The Fire Department received a $5,551 grant to purchase firefighter gear.

The next meeting of the Rochester Board of Selectmen is scheduled for January 6 at 6:00 pm at the Rochester Town Hall.

Town Considers Restrictions on Road Races
Mattapoisett Board of Selectmen
By Marilou Newell

Mattapoisett has become a favored location for road races, according to the Mattapoisett Board of Selectmen. There is the now well-established and very popular Fourth of July race, the Lions Club Triathlon, as well as a Mother’s Day Tiara 5k, Veterans Day race, and the most recent Santa Run. Add to that the festivals, car shows, and an assortment of other events, the village streets of Mattapoisett see a lot of action.

“As we close out the event season we need to look at the number of events taking place in the center of town,” said Selectman Jordan Collyer.

Faced with neighborhood concerns over parking, pedestrian and motor vehicle congestion, and post-event clean-up, along with expenses they say are shouldered...
by taxpayers for police and fire services, the selectmen believed it was time to take a hard look at how the town permits such activities.

“In the summer, people are trying to get to their boats, the beach or just around town,” Collyer said. “When is enough, enough? We need a written policy.”

Selectman Paul Silva echoed those sentiments: “I felt it was time to bring the concerns of the neighborhood forward,” Silva told Collyer. “You are right on.”

Silva said that if he lived in the village he’d be upset by the number of events – events that make getting around the village streets difficult.

“We need feedback from the community,” Silva suggested.

The selectmen discussed ways to solicit community input to help them craft guidelines for the future. And while they believed the number of events should be reviewed, they also believed that charity events were worthwhile; however, the cost to taxpayers was also a factor.

“Whatever we do,” Silva said, “there’s money involved.” As for charity runs, Silva said he wants to make sure non-profit events would get the lion’s share of any monies generated. “Are they getting a good percentage?”

Collyer said he didn’t want policy to be exclusionary.

“I struggle with this,” said Collyer.

Silva noted that the cooler seasons are not so much of an issue, but he returned his attention to the people living in the village neighborhood, saying, “People pay good taxes to live here.”

They discussed how efforts to keep for-profit events out of Shipyard Park had worked, and that the ice cream trailer located in Shipyard Park – a permitted for-profit venue – contractually has to request permission via a Request for Proposal every three years.

The selectmen agreed to do their due diligence, consolidate their thoughts, and, as Collyer said with a chuckle, “Go on a fact-finding safari.”

Boards of Selectmen Administrative Assistant Melody Pacheco said that recently a group of Old Rochester Regional High School students had approached her office with a request to consider a Memorial Day run. The students were invited to attend the selectmen’s meeting to discuss their ideas, but on this night the students were not present. Collyer said he would not be so concerned over high school students putting on an event to support their activities. He asked Pacheco to pull together a list of all activities taking place in public spaces, saying, “We’ve got to get this on the table.”

The selectmen proposed having event organizers and residents meet in a workshop environment to help flesh out policy.

The next meeting of the Mattapoisett Board of Selectmen is scheduled for January 7 at 6:30 pm in the
Marion residents will have additional time to submit comments on Tabor Academy’s request to add lights to a playing field, Marion Zoning Board of Appeals members ruled on December 12.

Administrators at Tabor have been trying to add light poles to the playing field, located along Spring Street, for several years. The current application seeks to add four 90-foot light poles to the playing field located between Front and Spring Streets. During the hearing, Tabor Headmaster John Quirk stated his intentions to work very closely with the Town of Marion, as board members and community members further scrutinized the lighting plans.

Quirk clarified that he expected no more than 16 to 18 events on the lighted fields per year.

“I expect no more than six to eight games in the fall and spring seasons,” he explained.

Nearby residents could also expect the field to be used for two weeks of lit practice, as well as two “community events” per season. Quirk defined community events as use of the field by Old Rochester Regional High School sports teams, as has happened in the past, as well as possible third-party events like festivals.

“It’s important to note that we actually expect fewer events,” he added, “but six to eight games per season is the absolute maximum we would have, as well as possibly two community events per season.”

The lights of the fields will never be on past 9:30 pm, barring any “unpredictable events,” such as a medical emergency or an exceptionally late game start, Quirk added.

“In all honesty, night games are rare,” said Quirk. “I’ve coached in our league for 20 years and in that time my team played four night games. But athletic participation is required by our curriculum, and a lot of the lower-level teams lack time for practice when the
nights get shorter. Those two weeks of practice under the lights would be beneficial for them.”

“Would you be willing to share the technology with the emergency departments?” asked ZBA Chairman Marc LeBlanc. “I mean, they wouldn’t be cutting your lights at 9:35 pm, but, say if someone needed to be airlifted to the hospital in an emergency; the responders could just flip the switch themselves.”

Quirk confirmed that Tabor shares all such technology that they have with the town, and that he would be happy to add the lights to the list.

“How does the town know that you’re sticking to these limits you’ve set?” asked ZBA member Margie Baldwin. “Will you be alerting anyone in advance?”
According to Quirk, Tabor circulates a schedule for anyone who would like to review it. He added that neighbors are often notified if there’s a change in schedule.

One of the biggest concerns brought up by the ZBA, as well as nearby residents, was the issue of parking, and the tight quarters of Ryder Lane, which neighbors the field. Quirk clarified that Tabor would forbid parking on the street or on Ryder Lane, and would work with the town to curb parking at Island Wharf.

“We would restrict and direct parking to the Spring Street lot, the parking spots near Wickenden Chapel, and the lot at the ice rink,” Quirk said.

When asked if he needed anything further from the ZBA, Quirk asked for patience and feedback.

“We’ve tried hard to think about everything, but I’m sure that there’s something we haven’t anticipated,” said Quirk. “If there’s an issue, I want to hear about it, I want to address it, I want to fix it very quickly. I really want the feedback.”

Tabor administrators have filed with the Zoning Board of Appeals for either a special permit to allow the lighting poles on the field, or an exemption under the Dover Amendment, which exempts educational institutions from certain zoning restrictions, to do the same thing.

Approving the special permit request would require a supermajority of four ‘yes’ votes from the ZBA members; members would need satisfactory evidence that the lights are “a legitimate public need.”

If the special permit is denied by the ZBA, members can then debate allowing an exemption under the Dover Amendment. For an exception under the amendment, at least three ZBA members would need to agree that there is an “educational need” for the lights.

Marion Town Counsel Jon Witten advised ZBA members to consider the special permit first, and only turn to the Dover Amendment if the special permit cannot be approved.

“It’s much cleaner for the town in the long run,” Witten explained. “Approving something under the Dover Amendment sort of opens the door for more requests... Not that Tabor would do that, but it just gets messier after the approval is given in the first place.”

Although the ZBA closed the public hearing, they sought a way to ask for additional comments if necessary. ZBA members amended the closure to allow for additional comments from the public and from different Town departments. Written comments will be accepted until January 9, 2020. Currently, board members expect to announce a decision on Tabor’s application on January 16, 2020.

With the hearing closed, ZBA members have 90 days to deliberate before issuing their final approval on Tabor’s request.

The next meeting of the Marion ZBA will be held...
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Merry Christmas

&

Happy New Year
Chairman Looks to Youth as Master Planning Begins
Mattapoisett Planning Board
By Marilou Newell

Two decades ago, a group of volunteers took on the massive task of crafting a Master Plan for the Town of Mattapoisett. Now, as the Mattapoisett Planning Board begins the process of facilitating the writing of a new Master Plan, the need for fresh ideas and new eyes was discussed.

During the December 16 meeting of the Planning Board, members discussed the first steps toward creating a document that should guide the town as it moves deeper into the 21st century – any Master Plan written now will have the potential expiration date of 2040.

Grant King, director of Comprehensive Planning at the Southeast Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD) has been engaged by the Town to study one particular component of the new Master Plan: affordable housing. King’s recommendation for a Housing Committee suggested that members of existing committees such as the Community Preservation Committee, Conservation Commission, Planning Board, and others, should be part of that new affordable housing research community. But Planning Board chairman Tom Tucker felt otherwise when it came to a Master Plan committee.

“It should be people in the neighborhoods,” said Tucker. “I think we know the town better than SRPEDD.”

The nine elements of the 2000 Master Plan, generally used as the format for all such municipal plans were: Future Growth and Development Statement, Land Use Goals and Policies, Housing Goals and Policy Statement, Economic Development and Employment, Historic and Cultural Assets, Open Space and Recreation, Public Services and Facilities, and Implementation.

Tucker also noted that the 2000 document found that barriers to growth were primarily a result of not having access to municipal sewer.

Another concern is the public water supply. The 2000 Master Plan reads in part:

“The foremost issue facing the Town is the potential threat to our water supply, both in availability and quality, due to possible overbuilding with overflow of excess nutrients. Based on estimates and usage statistics, fewer than 10,000 additional homes can be built in the four Towns (Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, Rochester, and Marion) that depend upon the Mattapoisett River Aquifer for water.”

The Planning Board debated the merits of asking volunteers from the 2000 Master Plan Committee to be on the 2020 committee, but Tucker held fast to his belief that “younger” members of the committee should also be considered, saying, “They are the future...”

And while the board recognized the importance of an historical reference in terms of former committee members, they also suggested high school-aged students might provide a fresh viewpoint.

There was an eight-member committee in 2000. Tucker said the committee should reflect the entire community and all neighborhoods and asked Planning Board Administrator Mary Crain to put out a press release asking for volunteers.

The board hopes to receive enough volunteers to begin the process of writing a new Master Plan by the beginning of March 2020. To do so they would need the committee to be in place by the end of January 2020, Tucker said. Anyone interested was asked to contact Crain at 508-758-4100 or by email planning@mattapoisett.net.

To view the 2000 Master Plan, visit www.mattapoisett.net/planning-board.

In other business, the board met with members of the new Fire Station Building Committee. Committee Chairman Mike Hickey discussed traffic studies, working with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation for traffic signals on Route 6, and other fine points of the Planning Board’s written decision.

Roland Cote, tree warden, also came before the Planning Board and received authorization to remove trees located along 62 North Street, contingent upon the homeowner agreeing to plant new trees.

Cote said he would send letters to other property owners.
owners who had agreed to replant trees after the town removed trees, but have failed to do. He said there is also a program in partnership with the town’s Tree Committee whereby the town will plant trees along scenic byways on private property if the location is deemed acceptable to the town. The program includes the town’s care of these newly planted trees for a three-year period to ensure their survival.

The next meeting of the Mattapoisett Planning Board is scheduled for January 6 at 7:00 pm in the Town Hall conference room.

**ConCom Opens Hearing for 40R Housing**

*Rochester Conservation Commission*

*By Jean Perry*

Engineer Phil Cordeiro and developer Ken Steen on December 17 gave the Rochester Conservation Commission its first introduction to the 208-unit 40R residential and commercial development slated for 22 Cranberry Highway.

On behalf of Steen Realty & Development Corp., Cordeiro presented the Notice of Intent that includes work proposed entirely within the 100-foot wetlands buffer zone.

“Clearly, we have a long road ahead of us in the Town of Rochester with the different steps,” said Cordeiro.

He briefly led the commission through the
corners of the site and the areas of the wetlands border that has been flagged and accepted, and focused on where the proposed infrastructure encroaches the 100-foot buffer.

There are about 86,000 square feet of wetlands on the site, said Cordeiro, and roughly 132,000 square feet of buffer zone area. Cordeiro said he would eventually be asking for the opportunity to grade within approximately 59,000 square feet of that buffer zone.

No vertical structures, though, are planned for placement within the buffer zone.

Commission member Kevin Thompson wondered why one enclosed dumpster area could not be moved farther away from the buffer zone to avoid toxic spills contaminating the wetlands, and Conservation Agent later echoed Thompson’s suggestion.

Cordeiro acknowledged that the Town’s bylaw recognizes buffer zones as equally important as the wetlands resource areas, but asserted that the proposed work would not adversely degrade the wetland system.

Furthermore, Cordeiro said, the project must file with the Environmental Protection Agency due to the size of its stormwater discharge system and therefore, further oversight will take place on top of the commission’s oversight.

Chairman Michael Conway asked Cordeiro when the project would be through with the Planning Board permitting process. Cordeiro explained that he and Steen have already held several technical review meetings with
the Planning Board chairman and town planner, and the board has already authorized peer-review to begin at the site. However, there is no date yet for a formal appearance before the Planning Board, which he said is due to coordination challenges between the state and the town.

“So,” said Cordeiro answering Conway’s question, “the short answer is I don’t know. We don’t have a finish line yet; our target is to be in front of [the Planning Board] at their February 13 meeting.” Cordeiro said he thinks the application will be formally submitted to the Planning Board before the end of 2019, saying, “But at this point, it’s just administrative.”

The commission voted to hire a peer-review consultant, set the fee at $4,500, scheduled a site visit for
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“early Christmas present” to the Planning Board on December 16, when he notified board members that Marion had been awarded a $27,750 grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

“We’ve been awarded a Hazard Mitigation grant from FEMA,” Hilario said, noting that he had applied for the grant in 2018 and only just received word of the award. “It’s extremely important. It’s recommended that towns create or update a Hazard Mitigation Plan every five years or so. Marion’s is 15 to 20 years old.”

A Hazard Mitigation Plan is a town-wide risk assessment that identifies buildings and resources at risk of storm or disaster damage and puts forward a plan to mitigate those risks.

“It also opens up three grant opportunities,” Hilario mentioned. “With a Hazard Mitigation Plan, we can apply for pre-disaster mitigation for stormwater surges and culvert repair. We can also apply for floodwater mitigations.

“If a resident was having substantial flooding issues, we could apply on their behalf,” he continued. “We would also be eligible for funding in the event that Marion was hit by a presidentially-declared ‘federal disaster.’”

None of the funding, Hilario noted, is available without a current Hazard Mitigation Plan in place.

The last declared federal disaster in Massachusetts occurred between March 2-3, 2018. Plymouth County, among other counties, was pummeled by severe winter storms and flooding. A total of $12.7 million dollars in FEMA aid was made available to the affected counties.

“The award was excellent. We’ll be able to hire a good consultant to create a good Hazard Mitigation Plan,” Hilario told board members. “I think the Department of Public Works could also really benefit from this for areas of flooding or culverts that need repairing and maintaining.”

Planning Board member Eileen Marum praised Hilario for his efforts.

“You’ve got everything. I thank you for all your efforts and time in this; this is so important for Marion.”

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Thank you, this is excellent,” she said.

Also during the meeting, Marion resident Sherman Briggs came to the open comment section of the meeting armed with concerns; he suggested that Planning Board members reconsider its current affordable housing bylaw.

Briggs pointed out that affordable housing units are taxed at a lower rate than market-rate units. The state mandates that 10 percent of all housing in any Massachusetts town be affordable housing. As new market-rate units spring up in Marion, the town will need to construct more affordable housing in order to keep the 10 percent requirement.

Briggs pointed out that Marion, with little land left to develop, will in the future be unable to collect a large portion of market-rate taxes if further affordable housing construction is required.

Planning Board member Andrew Daniel said he could see Briggs’ point.

“Once we get to 10 percent, why are we putting more regulation on something we didn’t have to?” he asked. “If we have a project that could have more market-rate houses, but we’re required to include affordable housing, we’re hurting ourselves by not adding in units taxed at a higher value.”

Planning Board Chairman Will Saltonstall considered Briggs’ comments, saying, “If [Briggs’ proposed condominium complex on Spring Street] goes ahead and pushes us over 10 percent affordable housing in town,” he mused, “should the bylaw then be revisited and looked at differently?”

“I would love the flexibility,” said Daniel. “I feel like we might be over-regulating ourselves and therefore hurting positive growth in town.”

“We shouldn’t lose any more of the little land we have to 40B tax rates,” said Briggs. “We should be bringing in new growth and higher taxes on the little land we have.”

“We’ve reached the state target and that’s a good thing,” Hilario said. “We’re one of the first to do it, and now we have the opportunity to revisit what direction we want to go next.”

Ultimately, Planning Board members decided to pursue a joint meeting with the Marion Affordable Housing Trust in order to discuss Briggs’ concerns in further detail.

The next Planning Board meeting will be on January 6 at 5:00 pm at the Marion Town House. The meeting will be held early to accommodate the Route 6 Planning Meeting that will be held by SRPEDD on the same night.

ConCom Reviews Island Home Proposal
Marion Conservation Commission
By Andrea Ray

It’s a waiting game for several Marion residents,
as members of the Marion Conservation Commission chose to continue their appointments until January of 2020.

Dale and Laura Briggs, 23 Dexter Road, filed a Notice of Intent with the commission to demolish an existing ground-level cottage and replace it with a one-story, two-bedroom house. Engineer David Davignon noted that the biggest difficulty with the lot is that it sits on an island in the middle of the Weweantic River.

A boardwalk to the mainland was completed in summer 2019, Dale Briggs noted. The boardwalk is constructed to hold the weight of small construction vehicles. In fact, Briggs added, “It could hold a fire truck if it was wide enough.”

According to the Briggses, the boardwalk was the linchpin to further developing the property. The new house will be on stilts, and Davignon added that, according to the plans, there will be a two-story climb just to get to the first floor. The site has water and sewer line access already, as well as access to electricity.

“This site is challenging, but less challenging than if you didn’t already have utilities,” said Conservation Commission member Shaun Walsh. “I’d like to continue this just to review any questions we might have and fully understand your answers. It’s always tricky,” he said, “and we want to give this more consideration.”

The hearing was continued until January 8. Davignon also represented Henry and Judith
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DeJesus, who filed a Notice of Intent to construct a detached garage at 25 Holly Road. Construction of the planned garage will alter 476 square feet of wetlands. To offset the damage, Davignon proposed replicating 500 square feet of wetlands on the same lot.

“I really want to see this lot re-tagged,” said Conservation Commission Chairman Jeff Doubrava. “The area you’re trying to replicate wetlands on looks exactly the same to us.”

“To clarify,” added Walsh, “we need to re-evaluate the land you want to turn into wetlands, because to us that land already looks like wetlands.”

“The company that tagged it originally is very reputable,” Davignon said, which board members did not dispute. “Plus, with the weather this year, everything looks like wetlands. But if that’s what you want, we’ll have it retagged.”

The commission voted to continue the hearing until the next meeting in order to visit the retagged property.

The next meeting of the Marion Conservation Commission will be held on January 8 at 7:00 pm at the Marion Town House.

BOH Condemns Home After Police Raid

Marion Board of Health

By Jean Perry

The Marion Board of Health held an emergency meeting on December 12 to vote to condemn a Front Street house where police on Monday found animals suffering from neglect and unsanitary conditions in and around the home.

In a memorandum written by Marion Health Director Karen Walega and read into the record, Walega said she was asked to accompany Marion Police and Marion Building Commissioner Scott Shippey on a site visit on December 11 after police obtained a search warrant to enter 464 Front Street.

Walega said she observed at least one dead animal on the property, trash throughout the house, animal feces in beds and on the floors, rodent droppings in the basement, a pervasive odor throughout the house, inadequate egress in rooms, and the house was infested with insects.

Walega also submitted some photos she took with her phone to the Board of Health, photos offered to The Wanderer, which we declined to publish.

“Based upon the above-noted observations and as the Health Agent... I concluded and remain of the opinion that the dwelling unit at 464 Front Street... is unfit for human habitation, is unsafe, and is a threat to the health and safety of the occupants...” said Walega. “It is further my opinion that the level of risk posed by the condition of said dwelling unit requires me to order the condemnation of said dwelling unit, effective immediately...”

The property owner will be allowed to enter the
property between certain specified hours for the purpose of remedying the public health threats Walega described.

“These pictures are very self-explanatory,” said Board of Health member Dot Brown, before motioning to condemn the house.

The Town reserves the authority to demolish the home if after one year the property owner has not brought the home into compliance with the minimum standards of the Sanitary Code of Marion.

Police have charged property owner Lauren Fisher with two counts of animal cruelty, and was also charged with interfering with a police officer and resisting arrest.

During her arraignment at Wareham District Court of December 13, Fisher pleaded not guilty and was freed on bail and told she is not allowed to possess any animals at this time.

The search warrant resulted from an investigation that began with a December 9 report that multiple animals were being neglected and dead animals had recently been removed from the property, according to a press release the town issued on December 11.

Dozens of animals were found inside the house and on the property, including several miniature horses, potbelly pigs, ducks, rabbits, turkeys, chickens, dogs, cats, and exotic birds.

According to police, at least five people were living in the home on December 11 when police arrived,
including children who have since been relocated and placed with relatives.

The children were not present during the time of the investigation of the property.

In 2000, Fisher was charged with 48 counts of animal cruelty after police raided her home and took custody of over 80 animals and six children.

Her next court date is scheduled for January 24, 2020.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Marion Board of Health will be January 7 at 3:00 pm at the Marion Town House.

‘Joint’ Finalizes Superintendent Search Criteria

Joint meeting of Superintendency Union #55 and the Old Rochester Regional School Committee

By Jean Perry

Members of the ‘Joint’ school committees met on December 12 to finalize the criteria and qualifications for the school districts’ next superintendent by reviewing the results of an online survey with Jim Hardy, field director of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC).

Hardy delved into the results of an online survey that yielded 450 responses from school staff, students, town officials, residents, and an “other” subgroup, which revealed a consistent repetition of the characteristics respondents would prefer in a new superintendent.

“Financial management” topped the list for the question asking respondents what they believe are the five most significant current and future issues the new superintendent will face, except for the “other” group, which identified financial management as its second priority after “educational leadership skills.”

In descending order, respondents picked communication with parents/community, curriculum development and instruction, educational leadership skills, and facilities management/building construction as the other four top-five significant issues the next superintendent will face.

Respondents again chose financial management as their pick for the important issue the new superintendent will face, followed by staff diversity, building an administrative team, strong communication skills, and engaging students and families.

“You’ll see the same thing over and over again,” said Hardy. “There’s a theme that every single group identified… as key criteria as you move through the survey.”

Hardy also held focus group sessions with staff that identified knowledge of the budget-building development process as a priority, along with the ability to effectively and credibly describe the details of a budget in a public forum.

“It’s not an indication that’s not currently being done now,” said Hardy. “It’s just simply [something] we want to see going forward…”

Experience within a regional school district would be an asset; however, not a disqualifier.

“That would be something that would move someone from this pile to that pile,” said Hardy.

Classroom teaching experience is another preference for the focus group, as well as administrative experience, preferably as a superintendent or assistant superintendent, or at least some experience in a central office environment.

A superintendent that is an excellent communicator is a must, with the ability to engage the community and participate in community and school events. Furthermore, focus group participants want to see a superintendent engage in “more interaction with the towns,” and not just those in town government.

“One person made a comment that the only time you hear from schools is when they need money,” said Hardy.

Hardy read a statement the focus group submitted, saying it summed up their thoughts perfectly:

“The superintendent needs to be a visionary leader who will motivate the teachers and staff, provide a direction for the school… [and] develop a relationship with the leaders of all three towns. The superintendent should be able to tackle the specific needs of a regional school system and all phases of budgeting, student learning, and educational practices.”
Hardy told the school committee members, “So, that’s kind of like the target if you could draft a superintendent that’s what you would be looking for… based off of this feedback.”

A 15-member search committee will be formed consisting of staff, school committee members, town officials, and parents to review resumes, hold preliminary interviews, and propose no fewer than three but no more than five finalists for the joint school committees to interview in public.

The superintendent job was posted the following day on December 13.

The next regularly scheduled joint meeting of Superintendent Union #55 and the Old Rochester Regional School Committee is scheduled for March 5 at 6:30 pm in the junior high school media room.

**Tabor Girls Hockey Off to Strong Start**

*High School Sports Update*  
**By Nick Friar**

Tabor Academy girls ice hockey has hit the ground (or the ice, for that matter), running. The Seawolves are four games into the 2019-20 season and they’ve already logged 24 goals. Their opponents have been far less fortunate. They’ve only scored two goals against Tabor.

The Seawolves’ biggest win came against Groton School on Saturday when they won 8-1. And Tabor saw eight different players get the puck past Groton School’s goaltender: Ashley Clark, JuliaShaunessy, Clare O’Leary, Sami Barletta, Sami Quackenbush, Kiley Smith, Natalie Nemes, and Skylar Irving.

Additionally, Clark and Irving each had one assist. Abby Newhook, Kayla McGaffigan, Paige Long, Mavee Kelleher, and Ava McGaffigan also logged assists.

Christine Steege and Rebecca Mullahy have each churned out a pair of strong performances in net for the Seawolves. Steege posted a shutdown in the season opener, and then surrendered one goal in the 5-1 win over Rivers School. Mullahy, a freshman, shutout Lawrence Academy in her first varsity appearance, then allowed just the one goal in the win over Groton School.

Former Seawolves girls hockey standout Kelly Browne has helped lead Boston College women’s hockey to an 11-6-2 record. She is leading the team in points (24) and assists (16). She is also fourth in goals scored (eight).

Browne has logged a point in 13 of Boston College’s 19 games. Her season-high of four came in Boston College’s win over New Hampshire. That was also when she logged her season-high four goals.

Fellow Tabor alum turned Boston College Eagle Chris Herren Jr. has appeared in nine games for the university’s men’s basketball team in his sophomore season. The most minutes he’s logged in a single game (24) came against Saint Louis. He also logged a season-high eight points on 3 of 7 shooting (2-for-3 from three).
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He also had three rebounds and two steals.

**Old Rochester Regional High School**

Old Rochester Regional has become the host school for its joint hockey program with Bourne, Mashpee, and Wareham. Bourne had previously served as the host school.

The Bulldogs lost 3-0 to Barnstable in their season opener.

ORR goalie Meg Nolan was under fire throughout the night. She finished with 50 saves in the loss, posting a .943 save percentage.

ORR then bounced back against Martha’s Vineyard, winning 5-0. Kellan Gaeke scored her first-ever varsity goal. Carly Drew led the Bulldogs with three
points in the win. **Megan Nolan** was between the pipes and earned the shutout.

ORR girls and boys track each opened the season with a win over Seekonk. **Jen Williams** (high jump), **Maria Psichopaidas** (300), **Meg McCullough** (55 hurdles), and **Emma Carroll** (600) won individual events for the Bulldogs on the girls side. **Stephen Arne** (55 dash), **David Reynolds** (shot put), **Jayven Pine** (300), and **Tucker Guard** (55 hurdles) finished first in individuals events on the boys side.

**Old Colony**

Old Colony’s co-op boys ice hockey program with Apponequet and Bishop Connolly features 10 Cougars on this year’s roster. Chief among them are senior forwards **Ethan Harrop** and **Zack Lovendale**. The team also gets **Jacob Gauthier** back this year. The junior forward missed all of his sophomore season due to injury.

In their season opener, Apponequet/Bishop Connolly/Old Colony lost 4-0 to Bishop Stang.

**News Submission Policy**

The Wanderer gladly accepts any and all news and press release items from local nonprofit organizations for publication on a weekly basis. The deadline for submission of news items is Monday at noon for publication in that week’s edition. Due to the increasing number of submissions, however, publication of press material is never guaranteed. The Wanderer will make every effort to publish timely news items and announcements as the subject warrants and as often as spacing allows. All press material must be submitted by email to news@wanderer.com, and must be either in a text or Word file. We are not able to retype, correct, or hunt down information to repair incomplete press releases,
Rochester Boy Scouts from Troop 31, Andrew Wronski and Austin O’Malley, took part in Wreaths Across America on December 14 at the National Cemetery in Bourne. Each year, thousands of wreaths are placed across military and veterans cemeteries to honor our America’s fallen for the holidays. Rochester Troop 31 Scouts helped with this national effort to place 18,000 wreaths this year. The adorning of these graves pays tribute to the sacrifice the men and women of the armed forces pay to preserve our freedoms. For more information about this program, visit wreathsacrossamerica.org. Photo by Dan Gagne

Rochester Lions Club members joined forces again on December 15 with Scout Troop 31 and other community volunteers at the Council on Aging to help make the COA’s Christmas Holiday Dinner program successful. Scouts packed 68 Christmas dinner bags of turkey, fresh vegetables, and all the fixings for delivery. The Rochester Lions Club works hard all year to raise the funds to provide these holiday meals at Thanksgiving and Christmas to area seniors and families in need. This year, the 68 families will be the recipients of this Christmas program. If you or someone you know would like more information in how to become a recipient of this community support program, contact the Rochester Lions Club directly. Photos by Ilana Mackin
No payroll fee for bookkeeping clients!

- Bookkeeping
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Linda J. Brezinski
Notary Public
Linda@BKCbooks.com

508-758-7998 - Office 774-406-1765 – Cell
34 Barstow Street, Mattapoisett

Photographs of area events and newsmakers are also accepted and encouraged. The Wanderer accepts well-lit and clearly-defined photographs for publication provided that they include a brief summary of the event or subject. We cannot return photographs. Like news items, the deadline for photos is Monday at noon, and the publication of photographs is also subject to spacing constraints and cannot be guaranteed.

All submitted copy is subject to alterations and/or condensation as space allows at the editor’s discretion. All submissions become the property of The Wanderer and are assumed to be submitted for the purpose of publication. Submissions cannot be returned; therefore, please make sure to retain copies.

Ideas for features, breaking news tips, and other suggestions for the news department are welcome. Please call the News Editor with news tips and ideas at 508-758-9055. If it is after hours, please leave a message or email news@wanderer.com.

Christmas Eve at
Mattapoisett Congregational Church
27 Church Street, Mattapoisett, MA 02739

Rejoice this Holy Night in our festive Sanctuary.
Two beautiful services featuring carols, scripture and very special music.

5:00 pm Family Service
with kids in mind!

10:00 pm Candlelight Service
of Lessons and Carols
Music by Jay & Abby Michaels
The Harper & The Minstrel

www.wanderer.com

December 19, 2019
The Sippican Woman’s Club annual Holiday House Tour featured Handy Tavern’s scholarship tree. The ornaments featured portraits and short biographies of the 2019 recipients. More than 20 graduates received scholarships. Nancy Hunter Denney (above right) opened her Marion home during the annual Holiday House Tour. Denney composed all the seasonal decorations and floral arrangements herself with the assistance of her friend Jorie Borden. Photos by Marilou Newell.
Letters to the Editor
The views expressed in the “Letters to the Editor” column are not necessarily those of The Wanderer, its staff or advertisers. The Wanderer will gladly accept any and all correspondence relating to timely and pertinent issues in the great Marion, Mattapoisett and Rochester area, provided they include the author’s name, address and phone number for verification. We cannot publish anonymous, unsigned or unconfirmed submissions. The Wanderer reserves the right to edit, condense and otherwise alter submissions for purposes of clarity and/or spacing considerations. The Wanderer may choose to not run letters that thank businesses, and The Wanderer has the right to edit letters to omit business names. The Wanderer also reserves the right to deny publication of any submitted correspondence.

To the Editor,
Residents, business owners and public officials should learn about and comment on the SRPEDD Route 6 study (Fairhaven to Wareham) currently in the public hearing phase. On Dec 11, 2019, SRPEDD presented four alternative strategies for developing this important, historic and scenic road so it meets the region’s needs decades into the future. Another hearing will happen Monday - January 6, 2020 6:00PM - 8:00PM Sippican Elementary School 16 Spring Street Marion, MA 02738.
OBITUARIES

Herminia B. “Minnie” (Baptiste) Medeiros, 95 of Dartmouth died December 7, 2019 peacefully at her daughter’s home.

She was the wife of the late Victor M. Medeiros.

She was the daughter of the late Joseph and Isabel (Vieira) Baptiste, she lived in New Bedford and Dartmouth most of her life.

Mrs. Medeiros was formerly employed by Berkshire Hathaway for 45 years until her retirement.

She enjoyed spending time with family and friends, talking on the phone, gardening and sewing.

Survivors include her 3 daughters, Betsy Lebeau of Naples, FL, Judith Nunes of New Bedford and Sandra Baptiste and her partner Bruce Mathieson of Mattapoisett; 5 grandchildren, Dianne Bowers, Suzanne Soares, Richard Nunes, Karen Nunes and Lauren Stevens and her husband Matthew; 6 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

She was the sister of the late Joseph Baptiste, Louis Baptiste, Mary Carvalho and Isabel Serpa.

Her Memorial Mass was celebrated on Monday, December 16th at St. Anthony’s Church, Mattapoisett. Her family received guests at church prior to her Mass. Arrangements were with the Saunders-Dwyer Mattapoisett Home for Funerals, 50 County Rd., Route 6, Mattapoisett. For online guestbook, please visit www.saundersdwyer.com.

Faith Alden Paulsen lived her entire life in Mattapoisett and Marion. Large portions of her life were spent at St. Gabriel’s Episcopal Church where she sang in the choir for over 30 years and served on the altar guild. Her passions were sailing, tending to her golden retrievers, working in her gardens and those at the church, and traveling to adventurous destinations.

Faith was a member of the Beaver Yacht Club where she was the first female Commodore. Other memberships included The Kittansett Club, Sippican Tennis Club, Sippican Choral Society and she helped coordinate and sail in the Marion to Bermuda Race.

She is the daughter of the late Andrew and Gladys Alden and a direct descendent of Pilgrims John and Priscilla Alden. She grew up in Aucoot Cove, Mattapoisett with her four sisters and many cousins.

Faith died Sunday morning, December 1, from complications of Alzheimer’s disease.

She was preceded in death by husbands Robert Thompson and Charles Paulsen as well as two older sisters. Two additional sisters, six children and eleven grandchildren plus many cousins, nephews and nieces have enjoyed Faith throughout her lifetime. Faith often gathered with friends and visitors at her home on Sippican Harbor. She loved to entertain and was generous with her time, talents and means.

A memorial service is planned for 11:00 am Saturday, March 7, 2020 at St. Gabriel’s Episcopal Church, 124 Front Street, Marion.

Suggestions for memorial donations include Alzheimer’s Association of MA/NH, 309 Waverley Oaks Rd, Waltham, MA 02452; Community Nurse Home Care, 62 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719; St. Gabriel’s Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 545, Marion, MA 02738, or your favorite charity.

Arrangements by Chapman, Cole & Gleason Funeral Home, Wareham. To leave a message of condolence, please visit: www.ccgfuneralhome.com

Janice I. (Bigos) Estes, 78, of Mattapoisett died December 15, 2019 peacefully at home after a long illness.

She was the wife of Lee Edward Estes.

Born and raised in Fall River, daughter of the late Walter and Stella (Mendrick) Bigos, she lived in Mattapoisett most of her life.

She was the proprietor of Estes Real Estate and was the secretary for the Planning Board for the Town of Mattapoisett for many years.

Mrs. Estes was a devoted Nana who loved spending time with her family. She enjoyed bowling, ice skating, painting, sculpting, sailing, sewing, the ocean and the company of her dogs. She also enjoyed her trips to Foxwoods. Survivors include her husband; 2 sons, Lee Eric Estes and his wife Jennifer and Mark Estes and his wife Evelyn, all of Mattapoisett; a daughter, Alesha (Estes) Braithwaite and her husband Scott of Guilford, CT; 6 grandchildren, Lee Ethan Estes, Dustan McGlinn, Gwendolyn Braithwaite and Natalia Braithwaite; her nephew, Daniel Bigos.

She was the sister of the late Walter Bigos, Jr. and Richard Bigos.

Her Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, December 21st at 10 am at St. Anthony’s Church, Mattapoisett. Burial will follow in St. Anthony’s Cemetery followed by a reception for those who wish to attend in the basement of St. Anthony’s Church. Visiting hours are omitted. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital by mail to 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN, 38105. Arrangements are with the Saunders-Dwyer Mattapoisett Home for Funerals, 50 County Rd., Route 6, Mattapoisett. For online guestbook, please visit www.saundersdwyer.com.
Marguerite “Peggy” Kent Repass gently passed from this life on December 7, 2019 at her home in Vero Beach, Florida. Born in Newton, Ma. Peggy was the daughter of Robert Willard Kent and Dorothy Elkins Kent. Peggy attended Newton High School and the University of Rhode Island where she was captain of the rifle team. Active throughout her life, Peggy regularly practiced yoga, Tai Chi and Qui Gong, enjoyed tennis, biking, sailing, and golf. She hit a hole-in-one in her ninetieth year. She was a member of The Kittansett Club, The 200 Club, Beverly Yacht Club, and the Moorings. Peggy volunteered as a Librarian in Norwell, and later in Marion, Ma. Peggy took many courses in watercolor, printmaking, collage, book binding, calligraphy, gardening, genealogy, and Japanese flower arranging, among others. She loved complex solitaire games and puzzles. Peggy loved to read and was a founding member of the Marion, Ma. book club. “Reading, she said, inspires the imagination.” At 95, she embarked on a project for the Elizabeth Tabor Library in Marion Ma. to make the access to the entrance easier for young and old alike. Her vision was to create a community gathering place with a reading circle garden, and to enable ADA access while keeping the integrity of this historic building. She was awarded Marion Woman of The Year in 2018 to acknowledge her quiet philanthropy. Her legacy of protecting the earth and its’ oceans is reflected in the naming of the Marguerite Kent Repass Ocean Conservation Center at Duke University. Her no nonsense, practical approach to life has earned her life-long friendships and the deep respect of her adoring family. She was predeceased by her loving husband of seventy-one years, George Herbert Repass and her daughter Wendy Suozzo. She is survived by her son Randy Repass, and daughter-in-law Sally-Christine, son George “Jay” Repass, and daughter-in-law Trish, son-in-law James Suozzo, Grandchildren, Elizabeth, Randy Jr., and Kent-Harris Repass, Christopher, and Matthew Suozzo, Great-Grandchildren Gardner, George and Quinn Holmes, and Mukunda, Puspasara and Balaram Repass, and her caregiver Vilma Bryan. A remembrance gathering will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Elizabeth Tabor Library garden fund Marion, MA.

If you have a notice you would like to have included in the Obituaries section, please contact our office at: 508 758-9055, or by email at office@wanderer.com.

SRPEDD is looking for consensus in strategy based on numbers of lanes. None of the alternatives presented, however, appear to address concerns raised by residents in summer 2019.

Any alternative, as presented, is completely inadequate if implemented as a uniform strategy for all road segments in all Towns. This is because land use characteristics are different along the length of the road. Any strategy should be first and foremost context sensitive.

Residents should fill out comment cards and ask for a fifth, context sensitive strategy that demonstrates locations at regular intervals for crossing the road and walking alongside it while balancing vehicle

If we don’t have it, we’ll get it for you!

1799 Acushnet Ave, New Bedford
Hours: Tues- Fri 10- 5 Sat 10- 3
774-202-0056 • Donations Accepted

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Rian Johnson’s amiably masterful *Knives Out* has been a surprise sleeper hit in the past few weeks, and I think I know why: It takes a lot of tensions and absurdities of today and turns them into a comforting evening’s entertainment. The genre is murder-mystery, and the tone is somewhere between wicked and tongue-in-cheek, but the message is an odd partner to all that: “Kindness will win.” Beyond that, I owe you the courtesy of saying practically nothing about the plot, other than that wealthy mystery-novel writer Harlan Thrombey (Christopher Plummer) dies under suspicious circumstances and there are many people who could be responsible.

Except there aren’t, because we see fairly early on how Harlan died — except for the parts we don’t learn about till later. Harlan’s family comes to his mansion for his 85th birthday, and all of them are terrible. His grim-faced daughter (Jamie Lee Curtis) and her sleazy husband (Don Johnson); their black-sheep son (Chris Evans); Harlan’s saturnine son (Michael Shannon) and his racist wife (Riki Lindhome); Harlan’s GOOP-like daughter-in-law (Toni Collette) and her performative-liberal daughter (Katherine Langford). Harlan’s only friend is his personal nurse, Marta (Ana de Armas). When Harlan turns up dead, someone calls in the famous detective Benoit Blanc (Daniel Craig), and we’re off.

Johnson writes and directs with speed and clarity; this thing ticks along beautifully. The dialogue, especially that which has little to do with the mystery and everything to do with establishing character, is sharp but juicy enough to push this into the arena of comedy. The character work is as crucial as the mystery plot, because *Knives Out* doesn’t, as you’d think, center on the grandly hypothesizing Benoit Blanc (though oh what fun Daniel Craig has with the accent, the intonations, the expansive wave of a cigar). It focuses on Marta, who has very real motives, rooted in current pain, to do what she does. Benoit finds her so trustworthy — for she literally cannot tell a lie, or else she’ll vomit — he enlists her as his Watson.

I guess I’m a Rian Johnson fan — I’ve seen four out of his five movies (*Brick, Looper, Star Wars: The Last Jedi*, and this) and enjoyed them. They are truly ornaments to their respective genres, but they also share a certain regard for decency in surroundings that don’t always reward it. Johnson has, with *Knives Out*, made a liberal fable disguised as a murder mystery, a fable where the characters run the spectrum between Nazi and SJW, between skeptic and mystic, and like most of us are flawed and complicated. The nice thing about Marta, the movie’s one true hero, is that she’s drawn so skillfully as a selfless person of the type that’s usually incidental to someone else’s story. Harlan’s family, selfish jerks all, envision themselves as the center of their story — don’t we all, though? And Harlan himself, he gets to go out in the most triumphant way a man like him can. But he is the object of the story; Marta is the subject. Ana de Armas’ soft features and Margaret Keane eyes can’t hurt her credibility as an angel among demons. Marta is humble, smart, reflexively compassionate; we gravitate to her. Even the great Benoit Blanc seems a little full of himself. Given how much the movie pits itself against Trumpism, explicitly in dialogue or subtextually, its success has been heartening (after its third weekend in theaters it was still in the top three). *Knives Out* speaks for kindness, intelligence, generosity, truth, and sharing the wealth. The way it’s been marketed is a little tricky, though — for one thing, it de-emphasizes Marta, and makes this look like the sort of white-people murder-mystery dinner that might put off the same viewers who would really dig where it actually ends up. On the other hand, it’s going to lure in a bunch of well-to-do white folks, attracted by the delectable promise of a genteel genre piece, only to spit full in their faces. Or vomit, as the case may be.
user concerns, especially left hand turns and narrow shoulders. If this fifth strategy includes design exceptions to the standard guidelines, that’s how it needs to be.

Please attend the January 6 meeting and / or contact SRPEDD (Email comment cards are available here: www.srpedd.org/Route-6-Corridor-Study#HowtoParticipate. The address for all letters is c/o Jed Cornock, Project Manager, SRPEDD 88 Broadway Taunton, MA 02780 jcornock@srpedd.org.

Please tell transportation planners at SRPEDD to offer a fifth, descriptive, context-sensitive strategy that obviously addresses resident concerns.

Sincerely,
Bonne DeSousa, Mattapoisett

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 273 Converse Road. On the corner of Allen Street and Converse Road, the rambling house at 273 Converse Road presides over the sweeping curve formed by Converse Road’s intersection with Pleasant Street. Built in 1820 for a branch of the Blankinship family, this Cape Cod home stands on high ground that was called Christian Hill during the 19th century. Blankinship is said to have paid a local carpenter $75 to build the initial portion of this house. By 1855, J.B. Blankinship, a farmer, owned this house and in 1879, Allen and Hadley are listed as this house’s owners. By 1903, Mrs. L.W.R. Allen is listed as the owner.
ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Make your holiday preparations one step at a time in order to avoid being overwhelmed and leaving things undone. That confusing family situation continues to work itself out.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Ease this year’s holiday money pressures by letting your thrifty side guide you as you look for those perfect gifts that typically reflect your good taste and love of beauty.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You’ll have a good handle on potential holiday problems if you delegate tasks to family members, friends or co-workers -- most of whom will be more than happy to help out.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Right now you are especially vulnerable to holiday scams that seek to take advantage of your generosity. Best advice: Check them out before you send out your checks.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) The upcoming holiday season gives the Big Cat much to purr about. Relationships grow stronger, and new opportunities loom on the horizon, just waiting to be pounced on.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A changing situation brings conflicting advice about how to go forward with your holiday plans. Your best bet: Make the decision you feel most comfortable with.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Holiday plans get back on track after some confusion about the direction you expected to take. A potentially troublesome money matter needs your immediate attention.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Your holiday preparations are on track. But you need to confront a personal situation while you can still keep it from overwhelming everything else.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Tight financial matters ease a bit during this holiday season. But the sagacious Sagittarian is well-advised to keep a tight hold on the reins while shopping for gifts.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Don’t put off making decisions about this year’s holiday celebrations, despite the negative comments you’ve been getting from several quarters. Do it NOW!

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) The holidays will bring new friends and new opportunities. Meanwhile, be careful to use your energy wisely as you go about making holiday preparations.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) There’s good news coming from a most unlikely source. And it could turn out to be one of the best holiday gifts you have had in years. Remember to stay positive.

BORN THIS WEEK: You are respected for your honesty and loyalty. You make friends slowly -- but with rare exceptions, they’re in your life forever.

© 2019 King Features Synd., Inc.
Coastline Elderly Nutrition Program
The upcoming week’s menu is as follows:
Monday, December 23: Sausage with pepper and onions, pasta alfredo, mini sub roll, and applesauce.
Tuesday, December 24: Curry chicken, lentil pilaf, winter squash, whole wheat roll, and a fresh orange.
Wednesday, December 25: Christmas – no meal
Thursday, December 26: Mac n’ cheese, scalloped tomatoes, Italian green beans, fruit loaf, and pineapple.
Friday, December 27: Cheeseburger, ketchup, mustard, potato wedges, cabbage and carrots, whole wheat hamburger roll, and mixed fruit.

Elks Student of the Month
The Elks of Wareham/New Bedford Lodge No. 1548 sponsors the Elks Student of the Month and Student of the Year Awards for students enrolled in local area high schools. The criteria used in nominating a student includes a student who excels in scholarship, citizenship, performing arts, fine arts, hobbies, athletics, church, school and community service, industry and farming.

We congratulate Senior

Next Week’s Specials
✓ Halo Clementines $4.99 pkg.
✓ Golden Pineapples $2.99 ea.
✓ Eastern Shore Potatoes 5 lb. bag $1.99 ea.
✓ Organic Rainbow Mini Carrots 12 oz. bag $2.50 pkg.

Prices valid 12/21–12/29/2019
More specials in-store

Fresh, Store-baked Pies, Cakes, Cookies and more

Let us help you with your holiday party planning. Custom Gift Baskets, Party Platters, Fruit & Cheese Trays, and more!
The owners of OLD WOOD ROAD and HARBOR ACRES LANE will close these private roads to public traffic on December 20, 2019. Leona C. Mansfield William E. Mansfield 12/12, 12/19

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TOWN OF MATTAPoissett
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 MATTAPoissett”. Applicant is seeking approval from the Planning Board for removal of Condition #11 of the Special Permit referring to approval from the Planning Board for removal of roads to public traffic on December 20, 2019. HARBOR ACRES LANE will close these private roads to public traffic on December 20, 2019.

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LEGAL NOTICES

TOWN OF MATTAPoissett
ROAD CLOSURES
PUBLIC NOTICE

The undersigned is submitting an Environmental Notification Form (ENF) to the Secretary of Environmental Affairs on or before December 16, 2019 and it will be listed in the Environmental Monitor on or before December 23, 2019.

This will initiate review of the above project pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (“MEPA”. M.G.L. c. 30, s.s. 61, 62, 62H). Copies of the ENF may be obtained from: Allen & Major Associates, Inc. 10 Main Street, Lakeville, MA 02347 Tel: 508-923-1010

Copies of the ENF are also being sent to the Conservation Commission and Planning Board of Rochester where they may be inspected.

The undersigned is submitting an Environmental Notice Form (ENF) to the Secretary of Environmental Affairs on or before December 23, 2019. This will initiate review of the above project pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (“MEPA”. M.G.L. c. 30, s.s. 61, 62, 62H). Copies of the ENF may be obtained from: Allen & Major Associates, Inc. 10 Main Street, Lakeville, MA 02347 Tel: 508-923-1010

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LEGAL NOTICES

PROPOSENt: Steen Realty & Development Corp.

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Tri-town Police Logs

MARION
Log highlights Dec 8-Dec 14
- Derby Ln – Officer wanted
- Wareham Rd – Health/welfare
- Cove St – EMS/medical
- Wareham Rd – MV collision
- Olde Knoll Rd – EMS/medical
- Wareham Rd – MV collision
- Allen’s Point Rd – MV collision
- Route 195 – MV collision
- Spring St – MV collision
- Aucoot Ave - Lockout
- Island Ct – Suspicious activity
- Lewis St – MV collision
- Parkway Ln – Message delivery
- Front St – Follow up invest/arrest
- Cottage St – EMS/medical
- Wareham Rd – Officer wanted
- Delano Rd – Health/welfare
- Front St – Follow up investigation
- Lady Slipper Ln – EMS/medical
- Washburn Ln – Officer wanted
- Cottage St – Officer wanted
- Spring St - Transport
- Wareham Rd – Lost property
- Comease Rd – Larceny/past
- Wareham Rd - Disturbance
- Wareham Rd – Officer wanted
- Front St – Larceny/past
- Wareham Rd – Shoplifting/arrest
- Spring St - Transport

MATTAPoissett
Log highlights Dec 8-Dec 14
- County Rd - Assault
- Baptist St - Arrest
- Hillers Cove Ln – 911 call
- Crystal Spring Rd – 911 abandoned
- Long Plain Rd – Animal control
- Reservation Rd – Assist citizen
- Marion Rd – Ambulance request
- County Rd – Assist citizen
- 1195 West – MV crash
- Mattapoisett Neck Rd – MV crash
- Eldorado Dr – Restraining order
- Fairhaven Rd – Health/welfare
- Winter Hill Rd – Health/welfare
- Industrial Dr – Suspicious MV
- North St – Suspicious persons
- Knollwood Dr – Suspicious persons
- Park Pl – Peace officer
- Water St – Animal control
- County Rd – MV crash
- Crystal Spring Rd – 911 abandoned
- Shaw St – Parking violation
- County Rd – MV crash
- North St – MV crash
- Fairhaven Rd – Assist citizen
- County Rd – Health/welfare
- County Rd - Threats
- Angelica Ave – Restraining order
- Aucoot Rd – Animal control
- Crystal Spring Rd – 911 call

ROCHESTER
Log highlights Dec 8-Dec 14
- Rouseville Rd – Suspicious MV
- North Ave – MV accident
- New Bedford Rd – 911 hang-up
- Springwood Dr – Well being check
- North Ave – MV accident
- North Ave – Assist citizen
- New Bedford Rd – Animal control
- Negus Way – Suspicious MV
- Cushman Rd – Animal control
- Marys Pond Rd – MV accident
- Marys Pond Rd – MV accident
- Route 58 – MV accident
- Vaughn Hill Rd – Assist citizen
- Braley Hill Rd – Suspicious MV
- Bisbee Dr – Medical emergency
- Vaughn Hill Rd – Road hazard
- Dexter Ln – Suspicious MV
- Braley Hill Rd – Suspicious MV
- Walnut Plain Rd – MV accident
- County Rd – Suspicious activity
- Marys Pond Rd – Suspicious activity
- Cushman Rd – Road hazard
- Marys Pond Rd – Medical
- Marys Pond Rd – Erratic operation
- Bassett St – 911 call
- Vaughn Hill Rd – MV accident
- Old Schoolhouse Rd – Noise complaint
- Gerrish Rd – Assist citizen
- Old Schoolhouse Rd – Noise complaint

For a full PDF of the three towns’ police logs from the past week, including arrest reports, visit www.Wanderer.com.
Brandon Wilbur of Marion for being selected as Student of the Month for November by the Old Rochester Regional High School Faculty and Staff.

Academic Achievements
Kylie Miller Patrick of Marion and Sean Michael Sanford of Mattapoisett were among the approximately 320 students who received bachelor’s degrees from the University of Massachusetts Amherst this September 2019.

Mattapoisett Public Library
Back again by popular demand: On Sunday,
December 29, from 2:00 to 3:00 pm, the Mattapoisett Free Public Library will host a cooking demonstration by local chef and Johnson and Wales graduate Colby Rottler. Learn how to prepare four comforting and hearty dishes – just the thing for a cold winter day: mac and cheese, meatloaf, and apple crisp. Have a sample of each and bring home the recipes!

Registration is preferred but not required. Please register by calling 508-758-4171, emailing rsmith@sailsinc.org, or stopping by the library and provide the number of people attending along with contact phone and email. The library is located at 7 Barstow Street and is handicapped accessible.

New England Patriots Team Physician to Speak at the Mattapoisett Library. How about those Patriots? The public is invited to hear Dr. Bert Zarins speak about the New England Patriots on Saturday, December 28 at 2:00 pm as part of the Purrington Lecture Series sponsored by the Mattapoisett Library Trust.

Mattapoisett resident Dr. Bert Zarins was Head Team Physician for the New England Patriots for 25 years. He will provide behind the scenes details of events, and give us an inside look at the Patriots through the ups and downs of the team. Dr. Zarins will start with the history of the Patriots, recount the improbable run to the Super Bowl in 1986, describe the inner workings of a professional football team throughout the year, and show humorous incidents at Super Bowls and other games (and
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<th>CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS</th>
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<th>HAPPY BIRTHDAY!</th>
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<td><strong>Roby's Propane</strong>&lt;br&gt;Medium Duty Fleet Mechanic Needed&lt;br&gt;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: <a href="mailto:customerservice@robysgas.com">customerservice@robysgas.com</a></td>
<td><strong>Ventura Agricultural Support</strong>&lt;br&gt;Tractor &amp; Dumptruck&lt;br&gt;Tree work, brush removal, shavings/hay delivery&lt;br&gt;Decades of horse experience&lt;br&gt;Frank - cell 508-207-5591 home 774-849-5841</td>
<td>Don’t forget to wish these people a Happy Birthday!</td>
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<td><strong>WANTED DEAD or ALIVE!</strong>&lt;br&gt;Big or small tractors &amp; farm equipment&lt;br&gt;Louie: 508-951-1374</td>
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<td><strong>What A Find!</strong>&lt;br&gt;Wanted: Pianist to join percussionist to play Holiday standards and create new.&lt;br&gt;Genre: light jazz  774-328-5985</td>
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<td><strong>Seeking Wedding Guest Lodging</strong>&lt;br&gt;August 27th - August 31st, 2020 774-377-5018</td>
<td><strong>Consignment Furniture</strong>&lt;br&gt;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</td>
<td>Luz Jackivicz  December 19</td>
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<td>**Short term rental * Crescent Beach * Through May 31st * $1275 / month + utilities * Upscale furnished home - maximum 2 people / * 508-958-8386</td>
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<td>Sara Achorn  December 19</td>
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<td>**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&lt;br&gt;Spring Cleaners&lt;br&gt;Home * Office * Rentals&lt;br&gt;Spring cleaning all year round!&lt;br&gt;Call Samantha 508-245-9806</td>
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<td><strong>St. Expedite, from the bottom of my heart, * thank you! * VLG</strong></td>
<td>Brenda Rogers  December 19</td>
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<td><strong>Three/four bedroom house for rent in quiet Marion neighborhood.</strong>&lt;br&gt;Two car garage, basement, fenced yard $2,650/month&lt;br&gt;603-785-3130</td>
<td>Erin Burke  December 20</td>
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<td>Kaitlin Kelley  December 20</td>
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<td><strong>Ultimate Peace of Mind</strong>&lt;br&gt;Standby generators installed by experienced bonded electrician. Don't get caught off guard. Appointments available for installation. Call 508-922-6131&lt;br&gt;References &amp; photos available</td>
<td>Nancy Duff  December 20</td>
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<td><strong>YOUR HANDYMAN</strong>&lt;br&gt;Selling, moving, clean ups, dump runs, demolition, expert tree removal, limbs &amp; more.&lt;br&gt;Insured 508-676-3545</td>
<td>Billy Osborne  December 21</td>
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<td>Michael Robinson  December 25</td>
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bring out all six Super Bowl rings). Bring your camera as well as your questions.

Dr. Zarins is the Augustus Thorndike Clinical Professor of Orthopedic Surgery at Harvard Medical School and the Emeritus Chief of Sports Medicine at the Massachusetts General Hospital. In addition to working with the Patriots, Dr. Zarins was the Head Physician for the Boston Bruins hockey team for 32 years and the New England Revolution soccer team for 14 years. Dr. Zarins was also Head Physician for the United States Olympic Team at the Winter Olympic Games in Sarajevo in 1986.

Seating is limited for this free event. Please call the library at 508-758-4171 to make a reservation. The library is located at 7 Barstow Street in Mattapoisett and is accessible. Parking is also available near Shipyard Park, one block from the library.

Peter Hodges Memorial Scholarship
The Mattapoisett Lions Club, a member of Lions International the world’s largest service club organization consisting of 45,000 clubs and more than 1.3 million members worldwide, is pleased to announce the availability of two (2) $2,500 scholarships to be awarded this year to a graduating high school senior or homeschooled student residing in Mattapoisett, Marion or Rochester.

The funds for the Peter Hodges Memorial Scholarship are raised through fundraisers held by the Mattapoisett Lions Club throughout the year, including Harbor Days, an annual Arts and Craft Festival held in Shipyard Park, Mattapoisett every third weekend in July.

The Lion’s Club motto is “We Serve”. One of the largest charitable causes of Lion’s International includes raising funds for eye research in an effort to end preventable blindness throughout the world, eradicating measles worldwide in partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and here at home, providing services for those in need in our communities.

To qualify for this scholarship, a graduating student or homeschooled student shall be accepted to, and intend to attend, their first year of a recognized institution of higher education, must be a resident of the
MAKE YOUR DOG A BETTER PET
at Plymouth County Canine Club's next 8 week beginner session starting Friday, January 3, 2020 at 7PM with Trainer Ed Dupont at Rochester Grange. Classes are limited, so call for information and to reserve space. 508-763-8471. This course will prepare you for Canine Good Citizen (CGC) and Therapy Dog (TDI) titles.
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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

Moderate  ♦♦ Challenging  ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

© 2019 King Features Syndicate, Inc.
Friends of the Mattapoisett Council on Aging

The Friends of the Mattapoisett Council on Aging held their annual Christmas Luncheon at the Mattapoisett Knights of Columbus Hall. Many thanks, from those who attended, to MAC’s for the meat pie luncheon that was served. The guests raved about the food. Members of the Mattapoisett Fire Department gave a talk and slideshow on fire safety and fielded many questions from the luncheon guests. Thanks to Fire Chief Andy Murray and his team - Justin and Cindy. The Fire department was presented with two large baskets of toys, collected from our members and seniors to distribute to children in Mattapoisett. During the luncheon, Rick LeBlanc entertained with wonderful holiday music.

We would like to thank Michael Gagne, our Town Administrator, Melody, and Chris, for allowing us to sell items at Town Hall to support our events. All monies raised go to providing events and items for our seniors. The Board of the Friends of the COA is made up of devoted members who strive to enhance the lives of seniors with items to improve the COA area, as well as scheduled activities and events. They achieve this through their fundraisers and the sale of a miscellaneous selection of gift items. Younger members are always welcome to join us and gain more insight regarding the importance of what the Friends provide to the senior community.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All, from the Friends.
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**CLASSIFIED INFORMATION**

**Classified Policy:** All Classified Advertisements must be prepaid and can be placed at our office or on line at www.wanderer.com.

**Classified Deadline:** Tuesday at 10:00 am for Thursday's paper.

**Classified Rates:**
Classified Advertisements are $5.00 for 3 lines or less per week. Each additional line is $1.00 per week. There are an average of six words per line.

**Classified Guidelines:**
* As a general rule, there are approximately six words per line in a standard Classified Ad.
* Blank lines cannot be used in Classified Advertisements.
* There is only upper case and lower case lettering.
* No graphics may be used in Classified Advertisements.
* Classified Ads cannot be placed on hold.
* Classified Ads cannot be taken over the phone.

**Mailing Classified Ads:** Ads can be mailed with payment to P.O. Box 102, Mattapoisett, MA 02739

**Placing Classified Ads On-line:** Ads can be placed on line at: www.wanderer.com

**Dropping Off Classified Advertisements:** Ads can be dropped by our office at 55 County Road in Mattapoisett, Monday, Thurs, Fri -9am to 3pm; Tuesday 9am to noon

**Payment Policy:** All sales final, we do not offer credits or refunds.

**Legal Advertisements:**
* Legal Ads are $1.00 per line, at a minimum of $20. per ad.
Fairway, directed by Stephanie LeBlanc. Auditions will be held Sunday, January 5 from 3:00 to 5:00 pm and Tuesday, January 7 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the Marion Art Center, located at 80 Pleasant Street Marion, MA at the corner of Main and Pleasant Streets. Performances are scheduled on March 13-15 and March 19-22, 2020.

A tribute from playwright Ken Ludwig (Be My Baby) to the great English farces of the 1930s and 1940s, The Fox on the Fairway takes audiences on a hilarious romp, which pulls the rug out from underneath the stuffy denizens of a private country club. Filled with mistaken identities, slamming doors, and over-the-top romantic shenanigans, it’s a furiously paced comedy that recalls the Marx Brothers’ classics. A charmingly madcap adventure about love, life, and man’s eternal love affair with – golf.

Director Stephanie LeBlanc will be casting three males and three females. Auditions will consist of a cold reading from the script. The ages listed are the ages of the characters provided in the text, but not necessarily the required age of the actors. The director welcomes anyone over the age of 18 to audition. The rehearsal schedule will be determined once the show is cast. Characters include: Henry Bingham – Country Club director, forties; Pamela Peabody – member at the Country Club, late thirties; Justin Hicks – Bingham’s assistant, mid-twenties; Louise Heindbedder – waitress at the Country Club, early twenties; Dickie Bell – director of the rival Country Club, mid-forties; Murial Bingham – Bingham’s wife and antique shop owner, forties.

For character descriptions or more information, please call the Marion Art Center at 508-748-1266 or contact Stephanie LeBlanc at spaq24@gmail.com. About the director: Stephanie LeBlanc (Paquette) is a local actor, director, and author. Stephanie works closely with The Collective and Your Theatre and has collaborated with Culture?Park and the Glass Horse Project. The Fox on the Fairway will be her first production with the Marion Art Center.

Winter 2020 - Adult and Children’s Programs - The Marion Art Center announces an update to the class Continuing and Advanced Watercolor Painting with Instructor Jay Ryan. The session beginning on January 10 will feature eight, three-hour classes (instead of two hours) on Fridays in the MAC Studio, from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. This course is a perfect “next step” for those who would like to explore watercolor painting beyond a basic understanding of color and brush strokes. The cost for the eight-week session: $280 for MAC members, $320 for nonmembers.

Beginning Drawing – Registration is now open for several classes in 2020, including the newly added five-week Beginning Drawing course. Instructor Catherine Carter will lead the class on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, February 4 through March 3. In this course, students will learn the basics of realistic drawing using pencil and paper, while developing observational and mark-making skills through traditional exercises. The cost is $135 for MAC members, $155 for nonmembers.

Children’s Art Lab – Don’t miss out on Children’s Art Lab at the MAC, beginning January 15. Art Lab programs include: Art + Music on Wednesday mornings beginning January 15, from 10:00 to 11:00 am in the MAC Studio, for children aged four and under, accompanied by an adult. Cost is $125 for MAC members, $145 for nonmembers, and there is a one-day drop-in option for $20; Art in the Afternoon: Art is Magic on Friday afternoons beginning January 24 from 3:00 to 4:00 pm, for children in grades 2-5. Cost is $160 for MAC members and $180 for nonmembers, with no drop-in option; Mini-Camp at the MAC: Teeny, Tiny Worlds on Monday, January 20 from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm, (one day only) for ages 5-10. The cost is $50 for MAC members and $60 for nonmembers.

MAC Dance Academy begins Monday, February 24 and runs through early May. Classes are available for children aged 2 ½ to 8 years. The cost is $160 for MAC members and $185 for nonmembers. Dance classes will run on Monday afternoons for ten sessions, with a final performance in the MAC Theater scheduled on Tuesday, May 5.

Register for adult and children’s programs online at marionartcenter.org/classes

Rochester Council on Aging
The full monthly newsletter and calendar are available at the Council on Aging’s website: www.rochesteraging.org
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lifetime residency call me 508-317-1861

A Powerful Prayer to the Holy Spirit
Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, who light all roads so I can attain my goals, you who give me the divine gifts to forgive and forget evil against me, in this short prayer to thank you for all things and confide once again that I never want to be separated from you, even in spite of all material illusions. I wish to be with you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy towards me and mine. Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days. The favor requested will be granted. This prayer must be published immediately after the favor is granted. Don't mention the favor. Only your initials shall appear at the bottom. E.A.L.

A PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN
O Most Beautiful Flower of Mt. Carmel, Fruitful Vine, Splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother. O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. O Mary conceived without sin pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 times). O Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (3 times). Amen. Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days and then you must publish; it will be granted to you. L.D.

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Thank you everyone for entrusting us with your homes! It has been a pleasure serving this community for the past 2 years and we look forward to the years to come!
From our family to yours;
Have a wonderful holiday and New Year!
Best Wishes,
Nathan, Joe and Manny

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

The Wanderer
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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**Cancelations** – The Rochester Senior Center is implementing a new way to let people know when activities and transportation services are canceled due to inclement weather. If you are a registered participant at the Senior Center, you will receive an automated message in the morning to let you know that activities and transportation services are canceled for the day due to the weather. The automated call will go to the phone number associated with your account. Please contact the Senior Center if you would like to update your telephone contact information. Cancelations are also listed on the Facebook page. The Rochester Senior Center will make every effort to let you know when cancelations occur.

**Birthday Fun** – The Quarterly Birthday Party at the Rochester Senior Center will be held on Monday, December 23 at 12:00 pm. This complimentary luncheon is for all Rochester residents who were born in the months of October, November or December. Guests of birthday seniors are welcome to attend and are requested to make a donation of $5. Advanced reservations are needed for this event.

**New Years’ Celebration** – Ring in 2020 with friends at the Rochester Senior Center on Tuesday, December 31 at 12:00 pm. There will be Chinese take-out and festive musical entertainment provided by Billy Couto and Friends. A donation of $5 is requested and advanced reservations are needed.

**Rides** – The Rochester COA provides free transportation for Rochester residents. Please call for a ride with one of our friendly drivers at least 24 hours in advance so we can schedule a driver.

Please contact the Senior Center at 508-763-8723 for more information or to make reservations for rides and/or events.
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 12, 2019 edition the Aardvark was on page 36!

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

PUZZLE ANSWERS

SCRAMBLERS solution

1. Search; 2. Invest; 3. Tangle; 4. Chore

Today's Word: VACATION
Wine Shop & Beer Cooler Specials

- 1.5 Liter, California Wines, Assorted Varietals
  Beringer Main & Vine .................. $10.99
- 3 Liter Box Wines, Assorted Varietals
  Corbett Canyon ........................ $11.99
- 750 ml, California Wines, Chardonnay
  Kendall Jackson ...................... $13.99
- 750 ml, Oregon Wines, Pinot Noir
  Whole Cluster ....................... $20.99

All Beer is Plus Deposit

- 12 oz. Bottles
  12 Pack
  Samuel Adams ....................... $15.99

- 12 oz. Cans
  12 Pack
  White Claw ......................... $17.00

We have over 73 varieties (and more coming) of wines that are only 3/$15 or 5 for $5.00.
Mix & Match wines from California, France, Italy, Argentina, Chile, & Australia!

Come in & check out the selections!

Superior Quality Produce

- 6 oz. Pkg.
  Blueberries ........................ $2.99
- Carlson’s - Half Gallon
  Apple Cider ......................... $2.99
- Ripe
  Pineapples .......................... $2.99 lb.
- Fresh
  Asparagus ............................ $2.99 lb.
- Pint
  Grape Tomatoes ..................... $1.99
- Organic 12 oz. Pkg. Peeled
  Mini Rainbow Carrots ............. $2.49

Quality Meats, Deli & Prepared Foods

- Friends’ Premium Black Angus
  Ground Chuck ....................... $4.99 lb.
- Allen’s Boneless & Skinless
  Chicken Breast ..................... $5.99 lb.
- Boar’s Head Deluxe Ham ........... $7.99 lb.
- Boar’s Head Mild
  Provolone Cheese .................. $5.99 lb.
- Boar’s Head
  8 oz. Pkg. Selected
  Panino ............................... $5.99

Shady Brook Farms
- 16 oz. Pkg. 93% Lean
  Ground Turkey ..................... $4.49

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL GREAT SAVINGS THIS WEEK!
It’s Easy to Shop at Friends’ Marketplace at Plumb Corner
Be sure to check out our selection of prepared foods to make mealtimes easy & delicious!
Follow us on Facebook & Instagram @ friends_at_plumb_corner

Happy Holidays from our family to yours!

HOLIDAY HOURS
Christmas Eve: Open until 5pm
Christmas Day: Closed

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SALE EFFECTIVE: Friday, December 20 – Thursday, December 26, 2019

Holiday Savings!

Friends’ Premium Black Angus “1833” Spoon Roast
6.99 lb.

Friends’ In-Store Roasted Roast Beef
9.99 lb.

Cabot 6-8 oz. Selected Bars or Cuts Cheese 2/$6

Hood 48 oz. Selected Frozen Yogurt or Ice Cream 2/$7

Founder’s Brewing Co. 12 oz. Cans Selected 15 Pack
Plus Dep.
$18.99

750 ml New Zealand Wine Sauvignon Blanc
Oyster Bay $11.99

Grocery & Bakery

4 lb. Domino Granulated Sugar
9.99

15-20 oz. Selected Delights Betty Crocker Cake Mix
2/$3

12 oz. Selected Heinz Gravy
1.89

6.5-8 oz. Selected Cape Cod Potato Chips
2/$6

10.1-13.5 oz. Selected Nabisco Oreo Cookies
3.19

5-8 oz. Selected Lay’s Potato Chips
2/$5

The Father’s Table
16 oz. Pkg. Sampler Cheesecake
5.99

Fresh Store Baked 22 oz. 8 inch Pecan Pie
7.99

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL GREAT SAVINGS THIS WEEK!