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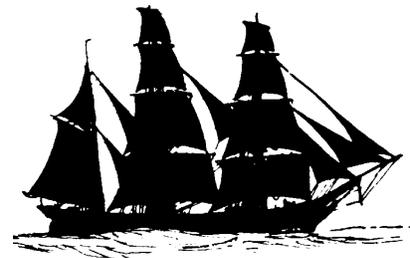
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Marion's New DPW Building Opens

By Sam Bishop

On Friday, February 13, the Marion Department of Public Works held the grand opening for their new facility at 60 Benson Brook Road, adjacent to the town's Transfer Station and across Route 6 from the older DPW facility.

The DPW has been extra busy the past few weeks with mountains of snow removal, literally, receiving praise from the Select Board, town administrator, and others in town. The opening of this new building comes at a good time.

The location of the new facility was originally recommended by former DPW Director Rob Zora. The new building is quite large at approximately 200 by 72 feet, with a ceiling height of 26 feet.

Town Administrator Geoffrey Gorman began the event by thanking the DPW and public for being present at the ribbon cutting. He attributed the success of the new building to the "generosity of the residents of Marion." Chair of the Select Board Randy Parker then spoke, noting the other members of the Select Board, Norm Hills and John Hoagland, were also present. Parker said, "This project was proposed early on, probably 1996, to the tune of \$30,000,000. It was never presented because we thought that was too much money."

He then noted that, with the help of the Marion Finance Committee, they were able to get the bill of the project down to \$5,200,000. He then added, "I'm happy to report, that the team has brought this building \$315,000 under budget." He also thanked the Building Committee and other town officials who played pivotal roles in both completing the project and adhering to and coming in under the original budget. "Thank you all. It's actually heartfelt for me. We worked hard on this," Parker said.

State Senator Kelly Dooner (R-3rd Bristol &

On the Cover: Marion celebrated the grand opening, ribbon cutting, and open house of the Department of Public Works Operation Building on Friday, February 13. A crowd composed of about 85 town officials, municipal employees and community members gathered at Marion Department of Public Works, 60 Benson Brook Road on Saturday, to celebrate the completion of the 14,400-square-foot facility Photo courtesy of Lauren Roberts, Town of Marion

Plymouth) then spoke, beginning, "I just want to say it is so great to see so many people here. I feel like anytime Marion does something, the whole community comes together and its truly just a testament to the Town of Marion and the community that you guys have." Dooner had previously held a seat on Taunton's building committee, and with that, knows how difficult these projects can be. She offered a citation, reading "State Senate Official Citation: Be it known that the Massachusetts Senate hereby extends its congratulations to the Town of Marion in recognition of the grand opening of the Department of Public Works Operation Building and be it further known the Massachusetts Senate extends its best wishes for continued success and that this citation be duly signed by the President of the Senate and attested copy thereof by the clerk as well as myself." She then handed the citation to Chair Parker with thanks.

State Representative Mark Sylvia (D-10th Bristol) then offered his congratulations, saying, "Many people may not appreciate that departments of public works are out there every day, early in the morning, late at night,

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Deadline is Tuesday at 10am

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during the week, on weekends, ensuring that traffic flows and people are safe." He added, "to have the facility you need to get that done is really important." He also noted the importance of the facility for other departments, such as the Fire Department's use for washing their trucks. Sylvia then presented his proclamation from the Massachusetts House of Representatives, reading, "Be it hereby known to all that the Massachusetts House of Representatives offers its sincerest congratulations to the Town of Marion in recognition of the grand opening and ribbon cutting of the town's new Department of Public Works Operation Building, located at 60 Benson Brook Road in Marion, Massachusetts. The entire membership extends its very best wishes and expresses the hope for future good fortune and continued success in all endeavors." He then also handed this citation off to Chair Parker.

Both state representatives then offered recognition to former DPW Director Rebecca Tilden, with Sylvia saying, "it is in part due to your leadership that this project happened." They thanked Tilden for her over-30 years of service to Marion, beginning as a clerk in the DPW. Current DPW Director Jody Dickerson then also awarded Tilden a citation from Governor Maura Healey for her service.

Dickerson spoke last before the ribbon cutting: "For too long, our crews have worked out of outdated, undersized spaces. Today that changes. This facility isn't just concrete and steel. It's a vital tool that will allow us to serve you better." Dickerson then recognized various DPW employees for their many years of service. The director then called on members of the DPW to rise and receive thanks, including Eric Owen, Brandon Sullivan, Richard Vickery, Karl Troupe, Kyle Tracy, Adam Barlow, Nate Fincher, Teresa Firth, Nick Gioni, and others. They all lined up and held the ribbon, awaiting the final cutting. Holding a large pair of scissors, Tilden cut the red ribbon, thus opening the new DPW building.

The new building is divided between vehicle storage and maintenance, a mechanic/machine shop, and office space. Voters approved the current plans and funding at Town Meeting 2023, costing approximately \$6,000,000. The Planning Board approved the site and

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plans in November 2023, with construction starting in late-2024, when materials from Morton Buildings arrived.

Vested in The People

Tri-Town Elections and Town Meetings

By Sam Bishop

Marion:

Special Town Meeting: Monday **March 23** at 6:45 pm in Sippican School. Deadline to submit Citizens Petitions is Friday, March 6. The signatures of 100 registered voters are required for the submission to be accepted by the town clerk.

Town Election: Friday, **May 15**: Nine (9) positions are open across seven government bodies. Board of Assessors (1), Board of Health (1), Select Board (1), Marion School Committee (2), ORR School Committee (1), Open Space Acquisition Commission (2), and Planning Board (3). Nomination papers are available at the Town House Annex, 14 Barnabas Road, and must be returned to the Town Clerk by Friday, March 27 with at least 28 signatures.

Mattapoissett:

Annual Town Meeting: Monday, **May 11** at 6:30 pm in Old Rochester Regional High School. The warrant for this meeting will be made available at least one week prior.

Town Election: Tuesday, **May 19** from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm in Old Hammondtown School. Nomination papers are available through the Town Clerk, with the last day of submissions being Tuesday, March 31. There are 17 positions open across 12 government bodies. Positions open are Town Clerk (1), Select Board (3), Assessor (1), Mattapoissett School Committee (1), ORR School Committee (1), Trustee of Public Library (2), Moderator (1), Water/Sewer Commissioner (1), Board of Health

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(1), Board of Health Vacancy-Fill (1), Planning Board (1), Housing Authority (1), and Community Preservation Committee (2).

Rochester:

Annual Town Meeting: Monday, **May 18** in Rochester Memorial School at 7:00 pm.

Town Election: Wednesday, **May 27** at the Rochester COA from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm. The last day to submit nomination papers is Wednesday, April 22. The list of vacancies has not yet been finalized.

State-Wide:

Last Day to Register For Primary Election:
Saturday, **August 22**

Massachusetts State Primary Election: Tuesday,



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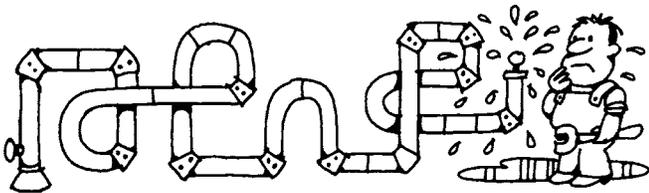
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RISE 

September 1

Last Day to Register For General Election:
Saturday, **October 24**

General Election: Tuesday, **November 3**

Weweantic River Bridges Replacements

By Sam Bishop

Construction on new bridges across the Weweantic River, which separates Marion and Wareham, begins on Monday, February 23. Construction is expected to last throughout the year.

The current project was originally proposed last year, though replacement of the bridge has been in the works for a number of years. Work will see the two bridges across the river replaced. Currently, there are two bridges connected by a 400-foot-long land causeway in the middle. One of the bridges is fully in Marion with the other split between Marion and Wareham.

The current bridges and causeway were built in 1929 and subsequently widened in 1957. According to the MassDOT, "the structure is structurally deficient, functionally obsolete, and critical." According to the original big request from 2024, the project's estimated total costs would be around \$54,000,000.

Along with the bridges being replaced, the causeway itself and approaching land at the edges of the river will be widened. To reduce environmental impacts, notably erosion, a system of retaining walls along the widened sections will be constructed. The MassDOT says the new bridges will be safer, and traffic effects will be mitigated as much as possible.

The MassDOT has pledged to maintain at least one lane in each direction during construction, though how many lanes are closed at a given time "will occur as needed," according to the announcement.

According to the MassDOT, along with bridge replacement, the project will also see "drainage/storm water management facilities, salt marsh replication and protection, traffic and pedestrian management, pavement markings and signage, utility relocation/protection and all other related bridge and highway work."

MassDOT is informing drivers to expect delays if you are on Route 6. This may also cause more traffic on I-195, as drivers travel north around construction.

For any questions, you can contact the District 5 Construction Office at 857-368-5104. MassDOT also sometimes post updates on X (formerly Twitter) @ MassDOT.

Wintertime

The Seaside Gardener

By Laura McLean

I love seeing boats in the winter, their exposed underbellies and hearing their musical halyards play when the wind comes through, waiting for warmer days. Likewise, I hold a great reverence for trees (especially

deciduous) that sit out the season showing their skeletal outlines that are cloaked during the bloom season. On the practical side, the bare branches are advantageous to the pruning season and also in mapping further plantings. I take my cue from these things, as I lean into winter.

Winter more than any season prompts discussion and speculation, and quite frankly I'm inclined to find the subject a tad boring, yet it's something that we tend to check daily (if not twice a day). Yet I don't really organize my days based on what the meteorologists say. I just like to be somewhat informed.

As we well know, the South Coast winter offers a whole different world than summer. In the warm months everything goes full steam, while winter brings it all to a grinding halt. There's the rub: that balance of nature and of life that we treasure.

It's not as silent as it seems, though. Flocks of birds also stay through the winter. They don't have barometers and supermarkets but seem to know where to find what they need. Many a winter's day finds us engaged in studying them. I noticed several that resembled robins with their red breasts, but their behavior had me stumped.

Stationed on tree branches, they dart among the thorny brambles that hug the stone wall, gobbling up berries. I thought robins dined on worms but learned that in the winter months they alter their pattern, roosting communally and eating fruits and berries.

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I'm curious to know the results of the Great Backyard Bird Count that took place over this past weekend and hope to follow up here with the results. A quick Sunday morning check using my Merlin app heard the following birds: song sparrow, bluejay, northern cardinal, purple finch, house finch, house sparrow and tufted titmouse (although no robins were heard). We do feed our wild plumed friends to keep them healthy through the winter and are careful to keep the feeder full.

Like the robins, we modify our diets and our daily rituals in the winter. This slowed pace precedes the frenetic activities of spring. Lest you wonder, it doesn't shut off my gardening ambitions but diverts them to a different medium.



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Instead of digging the dirt, I'm channeling my energies to mental activities – foraging for information. There is little time for serious reading from spring through fall, so I consider myself lucky to have the winter.

One of my standard cold-weather reads is the little yellow *Old Farmer's Almanac* which, among other things, contains the weather forecasts for the different regions of the country, planting tables and astronomical data, as it has since 1792, when Robert B. Thomas published his first edition. Among the numerous articles there is one that has suggestions for planting according to the age-old practice, using cycles of the moon.

I thought the editor's note on "Weathering" was interesting. "To read 234 years of the Almanac is to

witness that the human condition is about weathering storms – both literal and allegorical – about coming through, persisting. How we



endure matters." writes Carol Connare, editor in chief, adding, "Whether weathering foul weather, personal challenges, or a public crisis, time is the only fix we can count on. With time, everything changes – including the weather." The Almanac also has several feature stories on garden-specific topics such as women who pioneered landscape design throughout history. (More about those in a future article.)

This winter, according to the *Old Farmer's Almanac*, winter along the Atlantic corridor will be milder and drier, but that's not been the case this year, though it predicts a late-February snow. It says that trend will continue into March with temperatures 3 degrees above average and precipitation 2 inches below average. April and May will end up hotter and drier than usual, and summer will follow suit with rainfall above normal. A chart for expected precipitation as well as blow-by-blow predictions for each month are printed.

These forecasts are derived from a secret formula devised by Thomas in 1792 and enhanced by the most modern scientific calculations based on solar activity and current meteorological data. The almanac asserts that "nothing in the universe occurs haphazardly, but that there is a cause-and-effect pattern to all phenomena. However, although neither we nor any other forecasters have as yet gained sufficient insight into the mysteries of the universe to predict the weather with total accuracy, our results are almost always very close to our traditional

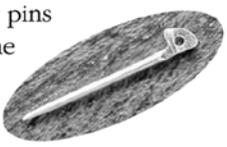
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That’s more scientific than the rite practiced by my former ski club in the White Mountains. Preceding ski season each year, a mock battle was staged with members dressed up as characters from Scandinavian mythology. As I recall, Odin, representing rain, would always lose out to Ullr, the god of snow. If the weather didn’t follow suit, we made the most of things. ... A good life philosophy indeed.

I have to agree that one mustn’t put too much stock in predictions whether by Puxataney Phil or even the Almanac – but they are certainly fun to follow. Obviously, local meteorologists are more dependable. Historically we usually get thawing temperatures around mid-February, but it’s running lower than average now.

On that note, I’m going to strap on my cross-country skis and tootle around the back yard, before the snow begins to melt! My motivation comes from the Winter Olympics – all that shushing! And those cowbells! My neighbors, by the way, built a veritable ski slope in their backyard for their three children to slide down, so let’s hope we can keep this mini-Olympic village going for a bit longer. Apologies to those who aren’t snow enthusiasts, including my cat and chickens!

*“Chill airs and wintry winds/ My ear
Has grown familiar with your song,
I hear it in the opening year,
I listen, and it cheers me long.”*

– Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Preparing Dorchester Heights

This Week in Revolutionary War History

By Sam Bishop

This week in Revolutionary War history, let’s check up on what was going on 250 years ago in and around the colonial Province of Massachusetts Bay. Last week, British General Henry Clinton disembarked in New York, just as the American Major General Charles Lee arrives to prepare the city’s defenses. Tensions are high, but Lee leaves shortly after to the south. Though attention is split between New York, Quebec, and New England, General George Washington

is pressing ahead with preparations for a move on Boston.

On February 11, 1776, Lieutenant Colonel Rufus Putnam writes to Washington and informs the general that this area around Roxbury in the south and Bunker Hill in the north are unsuitable for fortifications. He recommends Dorchester Heights as a staging post, due to its proximity to the city and the suitability of the earth, as ground in other areas is frozen. Washington and Colonel Henry Knox are out this day surveying land, along with the army’s chief surveyor Colonel Richard Gridley. They spend their time looking for wig lines to Boston and the best places to station artillery.

Just as Dorchester begins to be seriously considered and prepared, the empire strikes back. On February 14, British troops under General William Howe make haste across the frozen and not-yet-filled-in South Bay. They raze houses and other potential fortifications before slipping back across to Boston. Washington writes to President of the Continental Congress John Hancock, saying, “Last night a party of regulars, said to be about five hundred, landed on Dorchester Neck and burnt some of the houses there, which were of no value to us, nor would they have been, unless we take post there.” He notes as soon as a response was mustered, the enemy retreated.

On February 16, Washington holds a Council of War with most commenting officers around Cambridge with the express purpose of finally putting forth a plan to



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capture Boston. He states reinforcements are arriving, as well as, crucially, gunpowder. There are few defenders left in the city, with the general noting, “the state of Boston Harbor has been all this year, and now is, a bombardment might probably destroy the town without doing much damage to the ministerial troops within it.” His estimation is that there are currently around 5,000 defenders, though reinforcements are likely. The army currently under Washington’s command around the city numbers around 12,600, far less than he expected to have. With that, he recommends against an immediate attack and instead, await supplies, reinforcements, and to fortify Dorchester with cannons and mortars. By the time the artillery is in place, the general believes powder will have arrived.

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Adrenaline is high on February 17, as Washington instructs, through his General Orders, army regimented immediately prepare for battle with 24 rounds of ammunition each. Men are to be ready for an assault at a moment’s notice, and cannons are to be prepared and primed, entrusting the latter to Colonel Knox. At long last, Washington’s men in Cambridge and surrounding Boston are mobilizing and preparing to break the siege, nearly ten months after the Battles of Concord and Lexington.

The Last Diet Advice You Need to Read

What Does The Doctor Say?

By Dr. Edward Hoffer

Paleo, Keto, Carnivore, Intermittent Fasting , Whole30 – each diet purporting to solve all your health problems. None are terribly healthy and none solve all your health problems.

What do we know, based on lots of observation and backed by science, about what constitutes healthy eating?

First, make plants the foundation of your diet. Whole grains, fresh fruits and fresh (or frozen) vegetables should make up much of your food intake. Use legumes as a healthy source of protein. Use nuts or minimally-processed nut butter as a snack food. A plant-heavy diet reduces inflammation, reduces coronary disease and cuts your cancer risk.

Eat fatty fish, preferably wild-caught, 2-3 times a

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week to get more protein and omega-3.

Use red meat sparingly and do not eat processed meats such as bacon, hot dogs or salami. Despite the new USDA guidelines, heavy consumption of red meat adds to coronary risk and may be carcinogenic.

Avoid highly-processed foods. If you look at the label and see items you cannot pronounce and that are not found in normal kitchens, don't buy it or eat it.

Get adequate dairy for calcium. Best are fermented dairy products such as yogurt, kefir and cheese.

Limit your alcohol intake. Modest (1-2 drinks/day for men, 1/day for women) alcohol intake probably reduces heart disease a bit and increases cancer a bit – sort of a wash. If you enjoy an occasional glass of wine, you do not have to stop, but you certainly do not have to drink for health reasons.

For coffee-drinkers, the news is good – 2-3 cups/day may lower dementia risk, reduces the risk of atrial fibrillation and seems to have no harmful effects. Do not drink it at night if it causes insomnia. Regular or green tea (but not herbal) probably has similar benefits.

Finally, loosen up occasionally. Very few foods are dangerous in small quantities; it is the day-to-day that matters. If you are taking your grandchildren to an amusement park, have an ice cream cone. If your boss has you over for a cook-out and serves hot dogs, eat one. You can get back on your normal healthy diet tomorrow.



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Edward Hoffer MD is Associate Professor of Medicine, part-time, at Harvard.

New Officer Rich in Experience

Rochester Select Board

By Michael J. DeCicco

Rochester's Select Board Tuesday approved an outstanding new hire for the Rochester Police Department.

The board endorsed Rochester Police Chief Michael Assad's appointment of Jaelyn B. Kaulbeck as a new full-time patrol officer. Upon introducing her to the Select Board, Assad noted Kaulbeck is a 19-year veteran of

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police work in Massachusetts. He said she's had extensive experience as a police officer, sergeant, and detective with the Walpole Police Department, and her current position is as academy director of the Randolph Regional Police Academy.

"Her experience spans the full spectrum of modern policing responsibilities," said Assad, noting Kaulbeck has also served as an instructor at multiple police academies from active-shooter training to CPR/First Aid to officer safety. The board quickly voted in favor of the appointment without further comment.

In other action, the board learned from Town Administrator Cameron Durant that the town has published a town annex bid procurement notice. Durant explained the town's lease for the current town annex building within the Rochester Women's Club facility is close to ending and this is a formality before simply renewing the Women's Club lease for another three years.

The board approved the Cranberry Trifest Triathlon route through town on August 23.

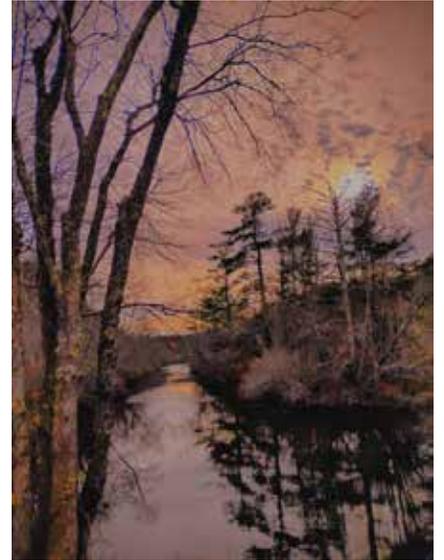
The board endorsed the Buzzards Bay Coalition's Buzzards Bay Watershed Ride fundraiser's use of the town on October 3.

The board approved a request from developer John Maffei to change the name of two streets within the Trailside Estate Project. Pending approval by Building Commissioner Paul Boucher and Fire Chief Scott Weigel, the street names will change to Maplewood Drive and

Applewood Drive.

The board chose the winner of the Photo Contest for the front cover of the next Annual Report. It is a view of one of the town's pond shores taken by resident Abby Shaw.

The next meeting of the Rochester Select Board is scheduled for Monday, March 2 at 6:00 pm in Town Hall, 1 Constitution Way.



Fire Department Makes FY27 Pitch

Marion Finance Committee

By Jeffrey D. Wagner

The Marion Finance Committee met February 12 at the Town Hall Annex in another round of meetings to prepare for Fiscal Year 2027.

The committee started by recapping its last meeting with the Marine Resources Commission about its budget problems, and committee members mentioned that they will work with the Select Board, MRC, and other sources to look at the fee structure. They said the MRC has a shortfall, but there is money to cover it by prior-year funding availability, such as reserve funds. However, the MRC said that taking a close look at the fee structure would address long-term sustainability.

The Finance Committee met with Fire Chief Brian Jackvony, who mentioned that the budget he has prepared reflects the increase in calls and medical services. Jackvony said that this year was the department's busiest year and that calls to the department have been on the rise.

The chief said they work with a local mechanic who has kept service expenses under control. "We are doing our best, and that calls on us to look at grant opportunities," he said.

Still, Jackvony has proposed an annual budget increase of just over 4%.

He said that, due to activity in town, including the most recent snowstorms, the department has had to dip into overtime costs. He added that the overtime line items increased this fiscal year, but that money has been expended, calling for a need to increase that line item.

Jackvony stressed that the department is in need of two working trucks and two ambulances at the same time. He mentioned that at one point there was a recall of one of the trucks, which made response difficult for the department.

Some committee members discussed a different

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financial model for addressing public needs, noting the fire, police and marine services have been struggling financially – and are all needed public services.

No decisions were made, but the Finance Committee is meeting with each department and will make its final recommendation to the Select Board by the end of next month.

The Select Board will meet shortly thereafter and finalize the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting, which sets the money line items for all departments for FY27.

The Marion Finance Committee was scheduled to meet on Tuesday, February 17, for a discussion with the town's Capital Improvements Planning Committee.

Rochester Schools Eyeing Cuts

Rochester School Budget Subcommittee

By Sam Bishop

The Rochester School Committee's Budget Subcommittee met on Thursday, February 12 in the Superintendent's Conference Room, 135 Marion Road, and via Zoom to discuss ongoing budgeting challenges, potential cuts, and planning ahead for Fiscal Year 2027. Many staff in Rochester schools and parents attended the hybrid-style meeting due to widespread talks over the town's school budget shortfalls, with some expressing worries of position security.

In recent years, most school districts have cut what they deem as non-essential staff, with Rochester School District saying they cut one staff position through attrition. District representatives also stated they have reduced nearly all non-staff spending. At the meeting, Old Rochester Regional Superintendent of Schools Michael S. Nelson warned the budget is becoming unsustainable, and keeping services at current levels will become increasingly difficult.

In overlooking FY26 budget numbers, the current school operating budget sits at around \$7,350,000, and will continue to rise unless cuts are made. An initial budget increase of 13.2% could be lowered to around 7.3%, should four non-specified teaching positions be cut. Costs for special education were also weighed, although they cannot be altered without going against both state

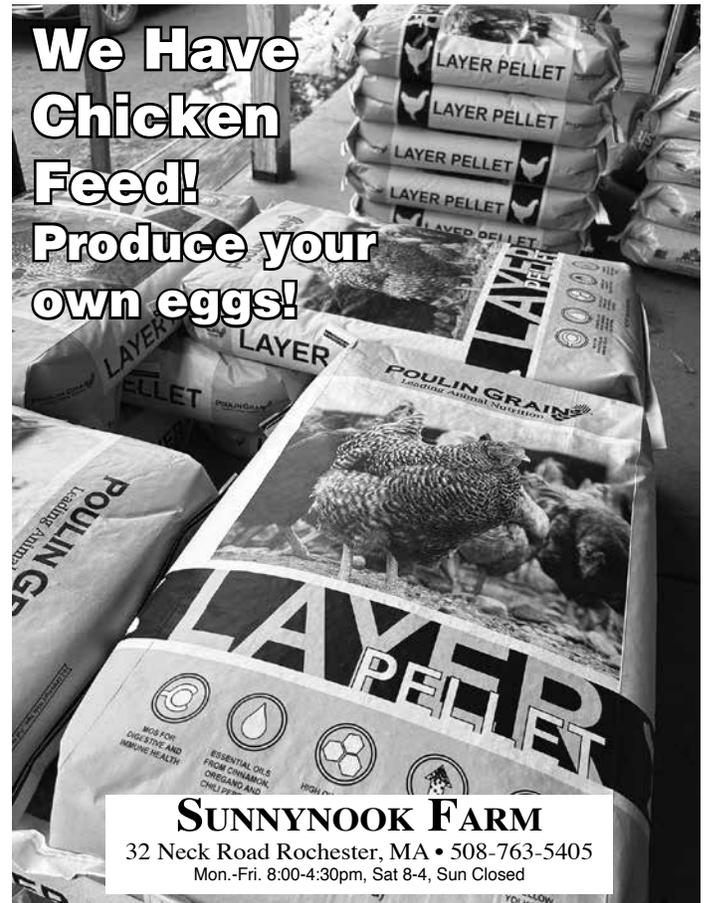


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and federal ordinances. The district spends a considerable sum on tuition for some special education students to receive services out of district. The ORR District is incapable of reducing these costs, however.

Town Administrator Cameron Durant explained that Rochester's budget is also under considerable strain. The town's largest source of revenue is property taxes, which are limited to a 2.5% annual increase, which Durant noted was due to Proposition 2½, passed in 1981, far under inflation and the general rising cost of goods and services. Overriding the 2.5% limit would be possible through Town Meeting, but it is unlikely to make it on the warrant for the Monday, May 18, Annual Town Meeting. It was also mentioned that housing development would yield more tax revenue.

As has been discussed at other town meetings, the town is exploring alternate options for employee healthcare and pension programs. The town administrator said, "We are estimating a 10.5% increase in health insurance [costs] through Mayflower health group that we are a part of," which he estimated at an additional \$180,000 in required new revenue. Durant also noted shifts in the town population and class sizes, stating there would be 22 fewer students next year.

What does all of this mean for Rochester schools, their staff, and their students? To potentially reduce the proposed budget increase, the district may need to eliminate four teaching positions, which would mean larger class sizes in some grades as well as less support for reading and math intervention. Committee members stressed any proposed cuts are due solely to budgetary constraints.

Administrators stressed there is still much to plan for and much to review. A joint meeting with the Select Board is to be scheduled, as well as a Budget Hearing on Wednesday, March 25.

Erosion Control and Storm Debris

Marion Conservation Commission

By Jeffrey D. Wagner

The Marion Conservation Commission met on February 11 at the Police Station's conference room and

took no issue with a few small projects proposed.

Ryan Burke, of Seahorse Way, filed a Request for Determination of Applicability for water service to two parcels he owns, explaining that the shoreline neighborhood has water services and relies on a water distribution tank. Burke proposed that the water line be connected via Dexter Way and service his home there. Burke said, in the long haul, other homeowners can also tap into the line. Burke also said the flood zone is not within the parcels that he owns.

At member Millie Seeberg's motion, the commission voted Burke's proposal a Negative Box 2 determination, thereby approving his plan.

For another project at 137 Allens Point Road, applicant Hope Sidman filed a RDA proposing demolition of a cottage on her property and the addition of an entertainment room. Sidman's engineer, Bob Rogers of G.A.F. Engineering, disclosed that the work proposed for the property would include disturbing land at the fringe of the 100-foot buffer zone to the coastal bank. In explaining his RDA application as opposed to a Notice of Intent, Rogers said that all excess material would be removed from the site and pointed out on his site plan that the new construction only slightly penetrates the 100-foot buffer zone.

Commissioner Shaun Walsh made a motion, which was approved by the entire board, to issue a Negative Box 3 determination, allowing the work as long as the builders take erosion-control measures to protect the nearby buffer zone prior to the start of any work at the site. Walsh said that the presentation showed limited work that could lead to erosion, but a plan on the record would protect neighboring lands. "We want to make sure it doesn't fall toward the harbor," he said.

The agenda on February 11 featured three hearings, but the first one was withdrawn by the applicant – demolishing a home on Beach Street and building a new one.

Commissioners also discussed an ongoing problem but made no motion for change. However, they cautioned residents and officials to be vigilant of the number of downed trees and limbs that have littered



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various areas in town due to the snowy, windy weather this season.

The next meeting of the Marion Conservation Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, February 25 at 7:00 pm in the Marion Police Station.

Hoop Teams Finish Strong

Sports Roundup

By Aiden Comorosky

Old Rochester's boys basketball team played Fairhaven (13-7) in their final game of the regular season on February 13 and won 64-45. Grady Oliveira scored 25 points, and Brody Hiles scored 17 along with 6 rebounds and 6 assists. The Bulldogs ended the regular season with a 13-7 record and 9-4 record in the South Coast Conference. They're co-champions of the SCC Large Division with Dighton-Rehoboth.

Girls Basketball

The Bulldogs hosted Falmouth (11-8) on February 11 and won 43-33. Carly Mello and Hannah Thorell were named the players of the game. Old Rochester takes a 14-4 record into its regular-season finale against New Bedford (7-10) on Thursday, February 19.

Seeds and divisional brackets for the 2026 MIAA state basketball and hockey tournaments will be posted on Saturday, February 21, at miaa.net.

Correction

Due to a reporting error, the February 12 edition of *The Wanderer*, the article "Swipe Right!" incorrectly stated that Library Director Elizabeth Sherry was present at the event. Library staff present included: Head of Adult Services Emily Newell; Children's Librarian Macy Davis; and Young Adult Librarian Elizabeth Dumais.

Copy 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.

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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;



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Poems and essays submitted for publication are subject to *The Wanderer's* Copy Submissions and Letters to the Editor policies.

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.

ORRSD Congratulates Assistant Superintendent Curley

Superintendent Michael S. Nelson would like to offer congratulations on behalf of Old Rochester Regional School District and MA Superintendency Union #55 to Dr. Jaime Curley, who has served as the districts' Assistant Superintendent of Student Services since August 2024,

for her recent appointment as the new Superintendent of Martha's Vineyard Public Schools.

Dr. Curley was recently selected by the All-Island School Committee to fill the role currently held by Martha's Vineyard Superintendent Richie Smith, who plans to retire in June.

Pending successful contract negotiations, Dr. Curley will be the first woman to serve as Superintendent of Martha's Vineyard Public Schools, a school district with more than 2,100 students.

"Please join me in congratulating Dr. Curley on this achievement," said Superintendent Nelson. "I know this has long been a professional goal of Dr. Curley to one day lead a school district as superintendent. While her absence will surely be felt here within our school system's leadership team, we are always happy to see one of our own like Dr. Curley accomplish their dreams."

Dr. Curley described her time with Old Rochester Regional School District and MA Superintendency Union #55 as an opportunity to grow as an educator, immersing herself in the diverse needs of students throughout Marion, Mattapoisett and Rochester.

"I'll forever be grateful for this time in my career and the people I was able to work with here, including the staff, parents, School Committee members and students," Dr. Curley said. "I learned so much in these two school years about what it means to develop a strong culture of collaboration. These are lessons that will remain with me as I start this next chapter in Martha's Vineyard. Thank you again to everyone I've met along the way here in the Tri-Town."

Dr. Curley came to the Old Rochester Regional School District and MA Superintendency Union #55 from the Mashpee Public Schools District with a strong expertise in administrative roles, education and psychology, having earned a Doctor of Education from Nova Southeastern University.

Prior to her time at ORR, Dr. Curley was Director of Special Education Services at Mashpee Public Schools for seven years. Before that, Dr. Curley worked in the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District for 18 years as a Director of Pupil Services, School Psychologist, Lead

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In addition to her doctoral degree, Dr. Curley holds a Bachelor of Arts in psychology from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and a post-baccalaureate degree with a certificate in special education from Bridgewater State University. She also obtained a Master of Education and a certificate of advanced graduate study in School Psychology from the University of Massachusetts Boston.

Dr. Curley will remain with ORR through June 30. In the coming weeks, the school system will begin a search to fill the Assistant Superintendent of Student Services position.

“Dr. Curley has made a meaningful and lasting impact on our students, families and staff during her time with our school system,” said April Nye, Vice Chair of the Old Rochester Regional School District Committee. “Her expertise, thoughtful leadership and commitment to supporting every learner have been assets to our schools. Together, we congratulate her on this well-deserved appointment and wish her great success in this exciting new role.”

“While we will certainly miss Dr. Curley’s leadership and collaborative spirit, we are proud to see her take this next step in her professional journey,” said Superintendent Nelson. “We thank her for her dedication to our Tri-Town community and extend our very best wishes as she begins her tenure with Martha’s Vineyard Public Schools.”

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. All letters must be typed and submitted directly to: news@wanderer.com.

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Dear Editor,

Rochester residents are requesting that the Town Planning Board pause advancement of the proposed border rezoning near Mary’s Pond Road to pursue a comprehensive, independent impact analysis sufficient to justify the Planning Board’s recommendation and establish a defensible public record.

In recent statements made to Sippican Week and at the February 10 public meeting, the Planning Board suggested that the Town faces financial strain, that rezoning would increase tax revenue, and that surrounding property values would rise, despite the absence of a traffic study, fiscal analysis, or defined development plan. In response, residents are asking for

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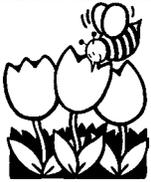


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more than blanketed statements, saying assertions of this magnitude require fact, data, and supporting analysis. Planning Board officials, as recently as February 6, indicated that no such data has been gathered nor studies conducted.

If rezoning is expected to generate net fiscal benefit, Town residents want disclosure of a cost-of-services or fiscal impact study accounting for public safety, public works, capital, and long-term infrastructure obligations. If property values are expected to increase, residents want to know how and why - they need evidence and empirical analysis supporting that conclusion. If traffic impacts are presumed manageable, the Planning Board should provide standard trip-generation and level-of-service modeling to substantiate the claim. However, thus far, none of the above has been furnished.

The affected parcels are located within an area predominantly zoned Residential/Agricultural, subject to groundwater and watershed overlays, and are not contiguous with existing Limited Commercial districts. Put simply, rezoning without a defined project scope or impact analysis does not constitute responsible, evidence-based planning.

Established planning standards do not permit zoning changes to be justified by hypothetical future uses or generalized claims of economic benefit without a defined proposal and supporting analysis. Proceeding

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without that foundation introduces avoidable risk and undermines the integrity of the Town's adopted planning framework.

In response to the Planning Board's Notice of Hearing, several Town residents cited inconsistencies with the Town's Comprehensive Master Plan and requested, via a letter dated February 10, that the Planning Board put forth a Town Meeting warrant authorizing a not-to-exceed appropriation to fund a comprehensive, independently procured study. The proposed scope would include fiscal modeling, traffic impact analysis, groundwater and environmental review, property value assessment, commercial demand analysis, legal sufficiency review, and independent peer review. However, these studies do not come with a small price tag and can cost taxpayers or a potential developer upwards of approximately \$1.5 million. Although authorizing the estimate does not obligate full expenditure, some residents in opposition to the amendment hold that it ensures analytical objectivity and integrity of process.

Importantly, these residents maintain that their request does not represent opposition to economic development, but instead, a request for substantiation prior to altering zoning classifications and reallocating development rights. According to these residents, the ask is simple: they want the Town officials to do their homework.

If the proposal is as financially beneficial and low-impact as suggested, a comprehensive analysis should be able to confirm it. However, if such studies prove the opposite, the Town's taxpayers deserve to know that information before voting on the Planning Board's recommendation at the Annual Town Meeting.
 Sean M. Carney, Esq.

To the Editor;

When I was about five years old, my father would take me hiking into the forest behind our house. In those days the woods felt endless. Ferns crowded the path, moss climbed the trunks of trees, and sunlight broke through the canopy in pale, shifting columns. This was where we were closest - my father and I - bound by a shared love of the forest. He taught me the names of trees, showed me animal tracks, paused often to admire what he called nature's handiwork.

At a particularly beautiful clearing, he stopped. We stood quietly, listening. I remember nodding along as he spoke about how perfect it all was - the order of things, the balance. I understood that much. The forest made sense to me. It was alive and generous and complete.

Then, still standing there, he told me that in nature men were meant to be with women and women with men. Anything else, he said, was an abomination. Nature didn't allow it. God didn't allow it either.

God was new to me then - an invisible ruler introduced without warning, hovering somewhere beyond the trees. I tried to imagine Him while looking at

the forest, but the two didn't quite line up. The forest was right in front of me. God was not.

Later, deeper into the woods we both loved, my father explained what he believed should be done about "the gay issue." His voice was calm, practical. He said the best solution would be to put all the gays on an island, let them infect each other with AIDS, and allow the rest of us to remain uncontaminated.

I don't remember responding. I don't remember asking questions. What I remember is the forest - still, indifferent, alive. Birds calling. Leaves shifting in the breeze. Life continuing everywhere around us as if nothing had been said.

Even then, something didn't fit. The forest I knew made room for everything: decay feeding growth, fallen trees nurturing saplings, countless lives intertwined without permission or purity. Whatever God my father was describing felt smaller than the place we stood in, more brittle, more afraid.

Much later, I would understand that our disagreement wasn't really about sexuality. It was about authority, about fear, about who gets to claim nature - and God - as evidence for cruelty. Standing in that forest as a child, I couldn't name it yet, but I sensed the fracture clearly.

We loved the same woods.

We did not love the same world.

Jesse J. Green

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Academic Achievements

Grace Ribeiro, of Mattapoisett was named to the University of Mississippi's Fall 2025 Honor Roll. Ribeiro, in the B.A.Ed. in Elementary Education program, was named to the Chancellor's Honor Roll, which is reserved for students who earn a semester GPA of 3.75-4.00.

Benjamin D. Giumetti, son of Shannon and Don Giumetti of Mattapoisett has earned Dean's List honors at Providence College for the Fall 2025 semester.

Macy G. Ingham of Mattapoisett, a sophomore and a math major at Clemson University was named to the President's list with a 4.0 GPA.

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Marion Social Club Chicken Dinner

The Marion Social Club will be having a Chicken Dinner on **March 8** at the Club located at 44 Pumping Station Road in Marion.

The Dinner will include a barbequed chicken, baked potato, vegetable & dessert. Cost is \$18.00 for each ticket, and the cutoff date is March 1. For ticket information please call Betsy Youngson at 508-295-8253. Doors open at noon for socializing, dinner will be served at 1 PM. We are always looking for new members if anyone is interested.

Mattapoisett Library Reopens Seed Exchange

The Mattapoisett Library is excited to announce the return of our beloved Seed Library. As the days grow longer and the snow gradually melts away, it's a perfect time for local gardeners and nature enthusiasts to prepare for spring planting. Whether you're starting a new garden or expanding your collection, our Seed Library is restocked and ready for you.

This season, we're offering a wide variety of plants, including mizuna, parsnips, beets, tomatoes, kale, radishes, peas, and corn. We also have native wildflowers to beautify any landscape. Supplies are limited. Please take only what you need so we can ensure plenty for everyone.

Seeds do not need to be returned. However, we encourage patrons to bring in any seeds they've collected or no longer need when they come check out new ones. And while you're here, visit our Library of Things for all the tools and kits necessary to dig in and grow a garden, including Soil Testing Kits, Soil Block Kits, Tillers, and more.

The Seed Library is free and open to everyone, regardless of gardening experience. Patrons only need an active SAILS library card to participate.

No library card? No worries. Just bring your ID and sign up for one when you visit to browse our seed selection. Library cards are free and provide access to resources offered at the MFPL and surrounding SAILS libraries.

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Music at the MAC: Paul Bielatowicz & Simon Fitzpatrick Duo

Sounds of Silents is a multimedia concert experience featuring Paul Bielatowicz (guitar) and Simon Fitzpatrick (bass/chapman stick), of Carl Palmer's Emerson, Lake & Palmer. Part concert, part cinematic experience, entirely unforgettable.

The show is on Thursday, **March 19** at 7:30 pm, at the MAC, located at 80 Pleasant Street, Marion. Tickets are \$25 for members and \$30 for nonmembers. The show is general admission.

Simon Fitzpatrick has performed with Kee Marcello (Europe), Joe Lynn Turner (Rainbow / Deep Purple), Jennifer Batten (Michael Jackson, Jeff Beck) and numerous acclaimed artists across the rock and fusion world. His unique bass and Chapman stick style has earned him a reputation as one of the most versatile players on the modern progressive scene.

Paul Bielatowicz has recorded and toured with some of the biggest names in progressive rock, including Neal Morse, Dream Theater and Arthur Brown. His genre-defying approach combines classical precision with the sonic power of modern guitar.

Both musicians are veteran members of Carl Palmer's ELP Legacy, bringing a deep authenticity to their interpretations of Emerson, Lake & Palmer's music, some of which audiences can expect during this show.

Sounds of Silents is not simply a concert, but a cinematic event - equally at home in theatres, concert halls, arts centres and music festivals. A celebration of film, virtuosity, and imagination, this is a performance not to be missed.

Tickets and information about the event can be found at marionartcenter.org/events.

Project GROW Preschool Program Registration

Superintendent Michael S. Nelson is pleased to announce that registration for the Old Rochester Regional School District and MA Superintendency Union #55 Project GROW preschool program is open for the 2026-27 school year.

Project GROW has long provided high-quality pre-schooling to children in Marion, Mattapoisett and Rochester.

"Project GROW continues to be an important entry point into learning for many of our youngest students," Superintendent Nelson said. "Project GROW reflects our commitment to early childhood education by offering a welcoming, supportive environment where children can build confidence, curiosity and essential social skills."

The program provides children with a part-day,



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high-quality preschool experience in a public school setting, in addition to an inclusive learning environment for children with special needs.

The program is being offered at three district schools:

Sippican Elementary School, Marion (9:00 am – 1:00 pm)

Center School, Mattapoisett (8:50 am - 12:50 pm)

Rochester Memorial School, Rochester (9:00 am – 1:00 pm)

The program consists of two classes:

Tuesday and Thursday (\$2,520/year)

Monday, Wednesday, Friday (\$3,780/year)

All classes follow the ORR public school calendar.

This four-hour program is open to all children residing in Marion, Mattapoisett, and Rochester who will be 3 years of age before September 1, 2026.

Each Project GROW class is held at the town elementary school where the family resides.

Parents and guardians are reminded that they are responsible for providing transportation to and from the program each day.

“Project GROW is designed to meet children where they are developmentally while encouraging independence, creativity and collaboration,” said Early Childhood Coordinator Doreen Lopes. “Our educators focus on meaningful experiences that help children develop a strong sense of readiness for kindergarten and beyond.”

Each preschool class is staffed by a certified

teacher and assistant. The program aligns with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks and follows the High/Scope curriculum.

MNHM Community Programs

Nature Journaling with Pen & Ink on Saturday **February 21**, 10:30 am to 12:00 pm, Cost: \$20.00. During this session we will learn about the different ways to create form and texture with pen & ink and ink wash. This class will explore using ink via black Sakura brand micron ink pens. With the micron pens we will practice different mark making techniques such as stipple, cross hatching and thick & thin parallel lines to create texture and form.

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Instructor will be bringing in a set of her own quill pens and ink to experiment with ink wash and ink line. No experience necessary. Tricia Cassidy will be teaching and guiding through art exercises. For complete materials list and to register please go to Museum's website: www.marionmuseum.org.

Owl Pellet dissection event for adults - **March 11**, 10:30 am to 11:30 am. Join us for an exciting exploration into the world of owls and their unique eating habits. Over the years we've been asked by the adult community to host an owl pellet dissection opportunity just for them.

Unlike other birds, owls swallow their prey whole because they lack teeth for chewing. Our Owl Pellet Dissection program provides a fascinating insight into these nocturnal predators. Learn how owls consume mice, voles, small birds, and more. We'll delve into regurgitated pellets, consisting of bones, teeth, fur, and feathers.

By dissecting the pellets, we unveil the diverse diet of owls and the frequency of different prey. Each pellet is dry heat sterilized. Gloves and dissection tools are provided to ensure a safe and hygienic experience. A \$10.00 donation to the museum pays for your pellet. Please preregister for this event at www.marionmuseum.org.

Backyard Butterflies with Joe Dwelly - **March 18**, 10:30 am to 11:30 am - In this session we will discuss butterflies that are likely to come to the suburban yard and how to attract them.

We will talk about some of the important plants that might fit into a suburban yard and provide references for identifying plants that attract pollinators.

We will see photos of some of our most common butterflies and share information about how to identify butterflies.

Please remember to preregister at www.marionmuseum.org.

Bourne-Wareham Art Association Scholarship

The Bourne-Wareham Art Association (BWAA) is happy to announce that their Art Achievement Award will be taking place again this year. We are a group of local artists promoting visual arts throughout the

Buzzards Bay region. Graduating seniors from the region who plan to pursue a career in visual art are eligible and encouraged to apply. Participant portfolio presentations will be Saturday April 18th, noon, at the Wareham Free Library, 59 Marion Road, Wareham, MA 02571. The award, \$500+ is provided to the winner(s) after they forward evidence of a first semester passing grade to the BWAA president. Cutoff date to submit application forms is **April 10**. Parents, teachers, and counselors are welcome to attend the student presentations. To obtain a copy of the registration form or for more information, you can go to lindahannonart.com/bwaa-achievement-award/ or email LindaHannonArt@gmail.com.

From the Files of the Rochester Historical Society By Connie Eshbach

When you think of Rochester's past industries, boat building may well not spring to mind. However, we know that prior to the 1850's, ship building in the Sippican and Mattapoisett sections of town was of course attributed to Rochester. Whaleboats were at one time made in North Rochester.

As part of our current exhibit, "The Tools and Industries That Made Rochester", we have some antique tools used in the making of wooden boats. They are on loan from William Womack, who owns a wooden boat building company in Wareham.

Anyone who has ever owned a boat knows that maintenance is pretty much constant. This is particularly true of wooden ships. One such maintenance job for old wooden ships was to have their seams caulked to prevent leaks. (My grandfather every spring would threaten to plant petunias in the old wooden rowboat that we were allowed to use before he caulked the seams to make it seaworthy).

The picture shows three tools used in the caulking process. The front one is called a "reefing tool" and was used to remove the old caulking. The other two tools are a "caulking iron" and a "caulking mallet". Working together they forced the cotton material between the seams of the ship. When wet the boards would swell and tighten the seal.



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These are just a few of the tools used in building and maintaining wooden boats both in the past and today that are on display at the Rochester Historical museum. The museum is currently closed but when the snow melts, anyone interested in viewing the exhibit can call Connie at 617-750-2818 to arrange a time.

Upcoming Events at the Elizabeth Taber Library

Participate in the Elizabeth Taber Library's adult winter reading program! Earn raffle tickets for checking out books, attending programs, and writing book reviews. Weekly drawings every Friday.

Join our young adult and adult Makerspace program on Thursday, **February 26** from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Learn to create a cloth herb sachet with the library sewing machine. This program is librarian-led and all materials are provided. RSVP on the website to reserve a spot.

Save the date for **March 28** at 1:00 pm for Traditions of Chinese Acrobatics. This exciting acrobatic show features performer Li Liu and will be held at the Marion Music Hall. This program is hosted by the Elizabeth Taber Library with funding support from the Marion Cultural Council.

For more information on the Elizabeth Taber Library visit us at www.ElizabethTaberLibrary.org or email the library at ETLibrary@sailsinc.org. 8 Spring Street Marion, MA 02738. 508-748-1252.

Mattapoissett Republican Town Committee

The Mattapoissett Republican Town Committee will hold a caucus to elect delegates to the 2026 MassGOP Nominating Convention on Thursday, **February 19**, at Neimad Hall (formerly Knights of Columbus Hall), 57 Fairhaven Road (Route 6), Mattapoissett.

All registered Republicans in Mattapoissett are invited to attend and vote in electing our local delegates. These delegates will help nominate candidates for statewide offices - including Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, and U.S. Senator - at the state convention.

Any Mattapoissett registered Republican may run for delegate or nominate another eligible resident. Presence is not required to be nominated, but your sponsor must attend the caucus. If you cannot attend but want to run or nominate someone, contact Town Co-Chair Paul Criscuolo ahead of time at pcmattygop@proton.me for eligibility vetting.

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The MassGOP Nominating Convention is set for Saturday, April 25, at the DCU Center in Worcester, Massachusetts. Delegate fee: \$150. Carpooling is being arranged among attendees.

Be part of our fast-growing local party - registrations are at record highs - as we push for common-sense government and audits of the state legislature.

For questions or to express interest, email Paul Criscuolo at pcmattygop@proton.me.

Mattapoissett Woman's Club

The Mattapoissett Woman's Club invites interested local residents to its **February 19** monthly meeting for a unique presentation with professional textile conservator

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Kate Tarleton. Whether it's a family christening gown handed down from generation to generation or a quilt recently purchased at an antique shop, the heirloom textiles in your possession require special care. Join Kate Tarleton and the Mattapoissett Woman's Club to learn about the best methods for preserving, exhibiting, and caring for your precious antique and vintage textile treasures. Participants are encouraged to bring a textile about which they need conservation advice for the Q&A session following the lecture.

Visitors are welcome to attend this presentation which will begin at 11:30 am at the Mattapoissett Congregational Church in Reynard Hall. The Mattapoissett Woman's Club is a civic, social, educational and philanthropic organization. Membership is always open to local women who are interested in the objectives and mission of the organization. For more information or questions please contact info@mattapoissettwomensclub.org.

Mattapoissett Woman's Club Scholarships

The Mattapoissett Woman's Club has announced two \$2,500 scholarships available to Mattapoissett residents who are high school seniors planning to continue full-time studies at the college level.

Scholarships applications are available in the guidance offices at Old Rochester Regional High School, Bishop Stang High School, Tabor Academy, Old Colony Vocational Technical High School, Bristol County Agricultural High School, and online at www.mattapoissettwomensclub.org (see Scholarships). Applications must be postmarked on or before **March 31**. Incomplete submissions or those received after the deadline will not be considered.

The scholarships are made possible by

fundraising events in our community. Membership in the Mattapoissett Woman's Club is open to any woman interested in furthering and supporting the philanthropic, academic, civic, and social goals of the organization.

Mattapoissett Democrats to Hold Caucus

On Wednesday **March 18**, at 6:30 pm, the Mattapoissett Democratic Town Committee will convene in the downstairs public meeting room of the Mattapoissett Free Public Library to hold its local caucus to elect five (5) Delegates and four (4) Alternates to represent Mattapoissett at the Massachusetts State Democratic Convention, to be held Friday and Saturday May 29 and May 30 in Worcester at the DCU Center. This year is a nominating convention for the Senate seat Edward Markey currently holds.

Registered and pre-registered Democrats in the Town of Mattapoissett may be elected as delegates or alternates during the caucus. Pre-registered Democrats must be 16 years old by the start of the caucus window (February 19, 2026) and must be pre-registered by the time of the caucus.

Those interested in getting involved with the Mattapoissett Democratic Town Committee or for more information pertaining to the caucuses, please email Chairperson Nicki Demakis at ndemakis@tidhlaw.com.

Town of Marion Local Election

The Town of Marion Local Election will be held on Friday, **May 15**. Nomination Papers are now available at the Town Clerk's Office. The deadline to return completed papers is Monday **March 27** by 5:00 pm. The potential candidate must secure twenty-eight (28) signatures to be placed on the ballot. The Town Clerk recommends that the potential candidate obtain at least

OBITUARIES



Maryann Sands died peacefully on February 14th in Tobey Hospital, Wareham MA at the age of 81.

Maryann is survived by her husband Philip Sands of Marion MA, and her son Scott Zuffanti and his wife Julie of Grafton MA; as well as two sisters; Winifred Pilla of Albuquerque NM, and Deborah Lovequist of Palm City FL and three brothers; Anthony Barrett of The Villages FL, Robert Barrett of Wildwood FL, and Christopher Barrett of The Villages FL.

She is predeceased by her sister Linda Polefka of Hingham MA; brother James E. Barrett, Jr. of Wayland MA; and father and mother James E. and Elna Barrett of Newton MA.

Maryann was born on September 1st, 1944 in Newton MA to James and Elna Barrett and grew up in Newton,

graduating from Our Lady Help of Christians High School.

She held various jobs during her life. She was especially fond of dog grooming for show dogs and her work housekeeping and cooking for St. Catherine's Parish in Westford MA.

Maryann loved going to the beach with her husband Phil, travelling to Maine and was an avid reader.

No services are planned at this time.

Donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at <https://www.stjude.org/>

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.

thirty-five (35) signatures. In order to run for an elected position, you must be a registered voter in the Town of Marion. Any questions, please contact the Town Clerk's Office at 508-748-3502.

The open seats are as follows: Board of Assessors (1), Board of Health (1), Select Board (1), Marion School Committee (2), ORR School Committee (1), Open Space Acquisition Commission (2), Planning Board (3).

Marion Special Town Meeting

The Town of Marion will hold a Special Town Meeting on Monday, **March 23**, beginning at 6:45 pm at the Sippican School Multipurpose Room. The warrant will be closed at the February 18 Select Board meeting and warrants will be mailed to voters. For more information, please contact Donna Hemphill at 508-748-3520 or dhemphill@marionma.gov.

Rochester Women's Club Scholarship Fundraiser

On Saturday **February 21**, from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm the Rochester Women's Club will again be hosting its Left Right Center Scholarship Fundraiser. Join us at the American Legion Hall, 3 Depot Street in Mattapoisett.

Join us for a fun afternoon of games, raffles and snacks. A \$20.00 entrance fee will get you in the door. Winners keep all their cash.

We will have \$1.00 Games and \$5.00 games. All proceeds from the entrance fee will go to our scholarship fund. Each year we award three Rochester graduating high school seniors with a \$1,000.00 scholarship.

Space is limited so get there on time to grab your table. Bring your own snacks and drinks or enjoy the ones we will be providing. The legion does not supply alcohol. This is a bring your own event.

Weweantic River Bridge Construction

MassDOT estimates that bridge construction over the Weweantic River will begin on **February 23** and run through the end of the year. Hours of work are 7:00 am to 3:30 pm on weekdays. Work will start with tree clearing and erosion control in February, followed by bridge demolition and replacement through the remainder of the year.

The contractor will use advanced warning signs, truck-mounted attenuators, arrow boards, traffic cones or reflectorized drums, temporary barriers, and police details for typical lane and shoulder closures. Drivers should expect delays, reduce speed, and use caution. All work is weather-dependent and may be impacted by emergency situations. For any questions, please contact the District 5 Construction Office at 857-368-5104.

Nature Journaling at the MNHM

The Marion Natural History Museum is offering Nature Journaling with Pen & Ink on **February 21**, 10:00

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am to 12:00 pm. During this session we will learn about the different ways to create form and texture with pen & ink and ink wash. This class will explore using ink via black Sakura brand micron ink pens. With the micron pens we will practice different mark making techniques such as stipple, cross hatching and thick & thin parallel lines to create texture and form.

Instructor will be bringing in a set of her own quill pens and ink to experiment with ink wash and ink line.

No experience necessary. Tricia Cassidy will be teaching and guiding through art exercises. To register please go to www.marionmuseum.org.

Call for Entries - Declaration & Dialogue: Reflections on 250 Years

The Marion Art Center announces a call for entries to its upcoming juried summer exhibition, Declaration & Dialogue: Reflections on 250 Years. As we mark the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, we invite artists to engage deeply with what this milestone means now - through lenses of commemoration, critique, hope, and transformation. This exhibition seeks contemporary works that spark conversation, paired with historic artifacts or artworks on loan from private collections or institutions.

All visual media is eligible - painting, sculpture,

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TRITOWN HAPPENINGS



Past tennis pals Bob Grant, Ann Martin and Deanne Girouard celebrated Aubrey Pothier's 93rd birthday.



Town Beach from a snowbank by Rob Grant



Mattapoissett Harbor iced in. Photo by Jennifer Shepley

These photos and more are available online at www.wanderer.com

mixed media, video, or new media. Works should reflect the artist's personal interpretation of the Declaration's legacy - its ideals, challenges, complexities, or contradictions. Submissions may or may not offer political or social commentary; entries may reflect personal, aesthetic, emotional, or conceptual interpretations.

The deadline for entries is **June 1**, and the show dates are July 10 to August 7. More information and application instructions can be found at marionartcenter.org/events.

South Coast Children's Chorus Welcomes New Singers

The South Coast Children's Chorus is welcoming new singers for the upcoming spring season. SCCC is open to all students from grades 1-12. Thanks to the support of local cultural councils, the South Coast Community Foundation and generous donors, tuition is only \$125 for the year and there is free or reduced tuition for any singer who requests it.

The first rehearsal will take place on Tuesday, **February 24**. New singers are accepted during the first three weeks. Rehearsals take place on Tuesday nights, 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm (Preparatory Chorus) and 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm (Advanced Chorus) at Tabor Academy in the Fireman Center for the Performing Arts, 245 Front Street, Marion. To register visit the SCCC website at www.singsouthcoast.org.

The mission of the South Coast Children's Chorus is to provide a joyful, educational choral experience for young singers, helping them to develop responsibility, confidence, musicianship, and a passion for excellence in all they do. The SCCC core values are Service, Culture, Confidence & Community. SCCC performs throughout the South Coast with interesting musicians such as Candida Rose and the Kabu Jazz Ensemble, the New Bedford Harbor Sea Chantey Singers and with the internationally renowned African Children's Choir at venues including at AHA., the Zeiterion Performing Arts Center, The Children's Advocacy Network Gala, Big Sing. Central, Salve Regina University in Newport and Fenway Park in Boston.

For more information contact: SCCCsings@gmail.com also, visit us on Facebook and Instagram @ [southcoastchildrenschorus](https://www.facebook.com/southcoastchildrenschorus).

Noah Greany's Legacy Blood Drive

March is Red Cross Month, a time to recognize more than 130 years of lifesaving work by American Red Cross volunteers. In that spirit, the community is invited to roll up a sleeve and help save lives at a Red Cross Blood Drive on Saturday, **March 7**, from 9:00 am to 1:30 pm at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 57 Fairhaven Road, Mattapoisett. The blood drive is sponsored by the Noah Curtis Greany Foundation and honors Noah.

Greany's Legacy, inspired by Noah's childhood

dream to "find the cure for cancer" and improve survival rates for patients. Through blood donation, that dream continues to make a real difference.

The drive also honors Noah's uncle, Joe Corazzini, who is battling a rare and terminal autoimmune disease known as VEXUS. Joe has required numerous blood transfusions over the past six months and depends on donations from the community blood bank. Without these transfusions, his family says he would not be alive today.

According to the American Red Cross, someone in the United States needs blood every two seconds. Blood donations are critical for accident and burn victims, heart surgery and organ transplant patients, and individuals receiving treatment for cancer, leukemia, and sickle cell disease. All blood types are needed.

Community members can help save lives and honor Noah's legacy by scheduling an appointment at RedCrossBlood.org using sponsor code MATTAPOISETTLEGACY, or by calling 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Giving blood is a simple act that can mean everything to someone in need.

Sippican Woman's Club Scholarship

The Sippican Woman's Club is pleased to announce that it will award four Scholarships, each up to \$2,500, to graduating high school seniors who reside in Marion. Scholarships are based on academic achievement, co-curricular involvement, community service, and financial need.

One recipient will also receive the \$500 Lu Chevrier Award, presented to a student who plans to pursue teaching or has demonstrated a commitment to teaching through tutoring or mentoring. The award honors Lu Chevrier, a former President of the Club and longtime board member.

In addition, the Club will award eight Renewal/Continuing Education Scholarship awards, each up to \$500, to Marion residents currently enrolled in a post-secondary college or training program. These scholarships are intended to support students continuing their

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Thursday February 19, 2026

7:00 AM Seniorcize
7:30 AM Deutsche Welle - In Good Shape
8:00 AM Marion Veg - with Barbie Burr and Brooke Johnson
8:30 AM Sippican Historical Society Oral History - Peggy Repass
9:30 AM Mattapoisett Woman's Club Speaker Series - 75th Anniversary Documentary
10:00 AM Rochester Historical Society - An Ancestor Search
11:00 AM Mattapoisett Rail Trail
11:30 AM Tabor Academy
Sesquicentennial Documentary
12:00 PM What's Linda Cooking?
12:30 PM Cooking Healthy with Coastline
1:00 PM The Human Truth with Chuck McIntyre
1:30 PM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
2:00 PM The Collective Chat
2:30 PM The Jeannine Hunt Experience
3:00 PM MAC Jazz Jam
4:30 PM Tri-County Symphonic Band - Power and Glory
6:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Euromaxx
6:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Tomorrow Today
7:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Global US
7:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Focus on Europe
8:00 PM Teach Your Home Energy Costs! with David Green
9:30 PM Marion Natural History Museum - The Famed Bird
11:00 PM Classic Movie

Friday February 20, 2026

7:00 AM Seniorcize
7:30 AM Deutsche Welle - In Good Shape
8:00 AM Deutsche Welle - Euromaxx
8:30 AM Deutsche Welle - Tomorrow Today
9:00 AM Deutsche Welle - Global US
9:30 AM Deutsche Welle - Focus on Europe
10:00 AM Southcoast Matters
11:00 AM Mattapoisett Rail Trail
11:30 AM Tabor Academy

Sesquicentennial Documentary
12:00 PM What's Linda Cooking?
12:30 PM Cooking Healthy with Coastline
1:00 PM Rochester Affordable Housing Inc ADU Presentation
2:00 PM The Human Truth with Chuck McIntyre
3:30 PM The Collective Chat
3:00 PM The Jeannine Hunt Experience
3:30 PM Marion Veg - with Barbie Burr and Brooke Johnson
4:00 PM Sippican Historical Society Oral History - Peggy Repass
5:00 PM Tri-Town Christmas Events
5:30 PM Tri-Town Veteran's Day Events
7:30 PM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
8:30 PM Paltrocst with Darren Paltrowitz
9:00 PM A Conversation With...
9:30 PM Fur, Fins and Feathers
10:00 PM For Your Health
10:30 PM Sidewalks Entertainment
11:30 PM Classic Movies

Saturday February 21, 2026

6:00 AM Saturday Morning Cartoon Festival
11:00 AM Marion Veg - with Barbie Burr and Brooke Johnson
11:30 AM Tri-Town Christmas Events
12:00 PM Mid-Day Movie
2:00 PM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
2:30 PM The Human Truth - with Chuck McIntyre
3:00 PM The Collective Chat
3:30 PM The Jeannine Hunt Experience
4:00 PM Sippican Historical Society Oral History - Peggy Repass
5:00 PM Sippican Historical Society - Celebrating the Archive
6:00 PM Marion Natural History Museum - Native American Archaeology
7:30 PM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
8:30 PM Paltrocst - with Darren Paltrowitz
9:00 PM Sidewalks Entertainment
9:30 PM A Conversation With...
10:00 PM Beacon Hill Report
10:30 PM Gay USA
11:00 PM Classic Movies

Sunday February 22, 2026

7:00 AM Lamb of God Christian Church
8:00 AM Mattapoisett Congregational Church
9:00 AM First Congregational Church of Rochester
10:00 AM St Gabriel's Church
11:30 AM Tabor Academy
Sesquicentennial Documentary
12:00 PM What's Linda Cooking?
12:30 PM Cooking Healthy with Coastline
1:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Euromaxx
2:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Tomorrow Today
2:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Global US
3:00 PM Two Grannies on the Road
4:00 PM Miss New Bedford
5:00 PM Putnam Murdock Concert at the Marion Art Center
7:00 PM ORR Girls Basketball vs Falmouth
8:00 PM ORR Boys Hockey vs Somerset Berkley
9:30 PM ORR Girls Basketball vs Aponequet
10:30 PM ORR Boys Basketball vs Aponequet
11:30 PM Classic Movies

Monday February 23, 2026

7:00 AM Seniorcize
7:30 AM Deutsche Welle - In Good Shape
8:00 AM Deutsche Welle - Tomorrow Today
8:30 AM Deutsche Welle - Global US
9:00 AM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
9:30 AM Two Grannies on the Road
10:30 AM Miss New Bedford
11:00 AM For Your Health
11:30 AM Tabor Academy
Sesquicentennial Documentary
12:00 PM What's Linda Cooking?
12:30 PM Cooking Healthy with Coastline
1:00 PM Beacon Hill Report
1:30 PM Southcoast Matters
2:30 PM Sidewalks Entertainment
3:00 PM Paltrocst with Darren Paltrowitz
3:30 PM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
4:30 PM The Human Truth

5:00 PM Tri-County Symphonic Band - Power and Glory
6:30 PM Sidewalks Entertainment
7:00 PM Marion Veg - with Barbie Burr and Brooke Johnson
7:30 PM Sippican Historical Society - Dr. Michael Moore
8:30 PM Marion Natural History Museum - Butterflies of Southeastern Mass
9:30 PM The Collective Chat
10:00 PM The Jeannine Hunt Experience
10:30 PM AMC Outdoor Journey Fund
11:00 PM Classic Movie

Tuesday February 24, 2026

7:00 AM Seniorcize
7:30 AM Deutsche Welle - In Good Shape
8:00 AM For Your Health
8:30 AM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
9:00 AM Sidewalks Entertainment
9:30 AM Mike Paige Doodle Club
10:00 AM Saturday Morning Cartooning
10:30 AM The Collective Chat
11:00 AM The Jeannine Hunt Experience
11:30 AM In the Toy Box
12:00 PM What's Linda Cooking?
12:30 PM Cooking Healthy with Coastline
1:00 PM Point Road Park Renaming Ceremony
1:30 PM Miss New Bedford Insider
2:00 PM The Human Truth with Chuck McIntyre
2:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Tomorrow and Today
3:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Euromaxx
3:30 PM Two Grannies on the Road
4:30 PM Teach Your Home Energy Costs!
6:00 PM Putnam Murdock Concert at the Marion Art Center
8:00 PM The Beacon Hill Report
8:30 PM Pete on the Street
9:00 PM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
10:00 PM Gay USA
11:00 PM Classic Movie

Wednesday February 25, 2026

7:00 AM Seniorcize
7:30 AM Deutsche Welle - In Good Shape

8:00 AM Cape Conversations
8:30 AM For Your Health
9:00 AM Two Grannies on the Road
10:00 AM Sidewalks Entertainment
10:30 AM Paltrocst with Darren Paltrowitz
11:00 AM Mattapoisett Congregational Church
12:00 PM What's Linda Cooking?
12:30 PM Cooking Healthy with Coastline
1:30 PM Southcoast Matters TV
2:00 PM Marion Veg - with Barbie Burr and Brooke Johnson
2:30 PM Money Matters
3:00 PM A Conversation With...
4:00 PM Tri-Town Veteran's Day Events
6:00 PM Building the Future
6:30 PM Pete on the Street
7:00 PM World Fusion Show
7:30 PM Tri-County Symphonic Band - Power and Glory
9:00 PM Teach your Home Energy Costs! With David Green
10:30 PM Mattapoisett Women's Club Speaker Series - Jack Matthews
11:00 PM Classic Movies

MARION GOVERNMENT

**Comcast Channel 26
Verizon Channel 39
Daily Schedule**

7:00 AM Marion Board of Selectmen
9:00 AM Marion Planning Board
10:30 AM Marion Board of Health
11:30 AM Marion Open Space Acquisition Commission
12:30 PM Marion Finance Committee
2:30 PM Marion Water and Sewer Commission
4:30 PM Marion Conservation Commission
5:00 PM Marion Marine Resource Commission
6:30 PM Marion Zoning Board of Appeals
7:30 PM Marion School Committee
9:00 PM ORR School Committee
10:00 PM ORR Joint School Committee

**ROCHESTER GOVERNMENT
Comcast Channel 26
Verizon Channel 40**

Daily Schedule

7:00 AM Rochester Board of Selectmen
8:30 AM Rochester Planning Board
10:00 AM ORR School Committee
11:00 AM Old Colony New Building Discussion
2:30 PM ORR Joint School Committee
4:30 PM Rochester Planning Board
7:00 PM Rochester Conservation Commission
8:00 PM Rochester Zoning Board of Appeals
9:00 PM Rochester Planning Board
11:30 PM Rochester Select Board

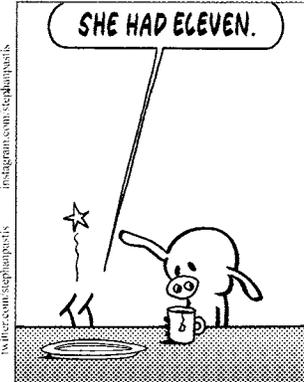
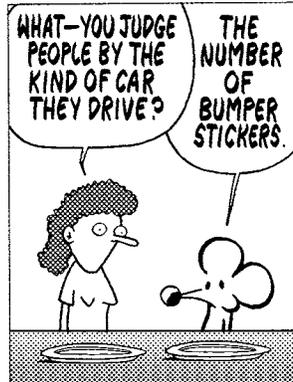
EDUCATION CHANNEL

**Comcast Channel 8
Verizon Channel 37
Daily Schedule**

7:00 AM Bulldog Weekly
7:30 AM Old Colony New Building Discussion
10:00 AM RMS 4th Grade Concert
10:30 AM RMS Winter Concert
11:30 AM Bulldog Sports
12:00 PM Bulldog Weekly
12:30 PM ORR Girls Basketball vs Joseph Case
1:20 PM Tabor Academy
Sesquicentennial Documentary
1:30 PM ORR Senior Superlatives
2:00 PM ORR Girls Basketball vs Somerset Berkley
3:00 PM ORR Hockey vs Somerset Berkley
4:30 PM ORR Girls Basketball vs Aponequet
6:00 PM Bulldog Weekly
7:30 PM ORR Boys Basketball vs West Bridgewater
8:30 PM ORR Boys Basketball vs Bishop Stang
10:00 PM ORR Hockey vs Monomoy
11:30 PM ORR Girls Basketball vs Seekonk

**MATTAPOISETT GOVERNMENT
Comcast Channel 26
Verizon Channel 38**

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



academic journey beyond their initial year of study, including current college students - as well as individuals pursuing career-advancing coursework, professional certifications, or trade and technical programs. The Club is proud to support lifelong learning and educational advancement at all stages.

Applications are available at www.sippicanwomansclub.org and through the guidance departments at Old Rochester Regional High School, Tabor Academy, Falmouth Academy, Bishop Stang High School, Old Colony Regional Technical High School, and Upper Cape Cod Regional Technical High School. Applications must be received by **April 15**.

The Club also presents the Alice Ryder Book Award to the highest-ranking 8th grade English student. Alice Ryder served as President of the Sippican Woman's Club three times and authored *Lands of Sippican*, a history of Marion, Rochester, and Mattapoisett.

Founded in 1887, the Sippican Woman's Club is a nonprofit organization dedicated to social, educational, and humanitarian initiatives. Through year-round programming, community outreach, fundraising efforts and generous local business sponsors, the Club proudly supports local students and the Marion community.

Women who live in Marion or have an interest in Marion are welcome to join. Membership information is available at www.sippicanwomansclub.org.

Marion Town Sticker Purchases

The following permits will be available for purchase in the Town Clerk's Office at the Marion Town House Annex, 14 Barnabas Road:

- Marion Resident Beach/Parking Permits.
- Marion Resident Transfer Station Permits.
- Marion Resident Guest Passes.
- Marion Shellfish Licenses.

These stickers will no longer be available at the Harbormaster Building.

Town of Mattapoisett Scholarships

The Mattapoisett Scholarship Committee is offering two distinct scholarship awards each of up to \$1,500 to deserving and qualified applicants who complete our application process.

The Details are:

1. Mattapoisett Graduating Senior Award, Eligibility: Any Mattapoisett resident who is graduating from High School prior to July 1. Award(s): The total Scholarship Award amount is \$1,500. The Committee reserves the right to decide how many applicants will receive a stipend that will, in total, not exceed the \$1,500 total. Requirements: Students should submit in addition to the application form their letters of recommendation, transcript and a cover letter addressing their aspirations and financial need. Submission Deadline: **April 17**.
2. Mattapoisett Continuing Education

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TRI-TOWN POLICE LOGS



MARION

Log highlights Feb 8 – Feb 14

- Cranberry Way – Found property
- Converse Rd – General service
- Point Rd – Suspicious activity
- Front St – MV collision
- County Rd – MV collision
- Mill St – MV stop/citation
- Barnabas Rd – MV stop/citation
- Wareham Rd – Suspicious person
- Spring St – MV collision
- Oakdale Ave – EMS/medical
- Village Dr – Follow up investigation
- Lewis St – General offense
- Mill St – Suspicious activity
- Pine Hill Ln – EMS/medical
- Mill St – MV collision
- Indian Cove Rd – Officer wanted
- Spring St – General service
- Oakdale Ave – EMS/medical
- Washburn Park Rd – Officer wanted
- Wareham Rd – MV collision
- Luce Ave – MV stop/citation
- Wareham Rd – Health/welfare
- Spring St – Parking enforcement
- Converse Rd – EMS/medical
- Pleasant St – EMS/medical
- Point Rd – MV collision
- Point Rd – Found property
- Front St – Road hazard
- Wareham Rd – Health/welfare

MATTAPOISETT

Log highlights Feb 8 – Feb 14

- Oakland Way – General service
- Pine Island Rd – Follow up
- North St – Open door
- Church St – Medical assist
- Water St – Animal control
- Marion Rd – MV violations
- Barstow St - Trespassing
- County Rd – MV crash
- Wildwood Ter – Medical assist
- Acushnet Rd - Disturbance
- Fairhaven Rd – MV lockout
- Hawthorne St – Assist citizen
- Acushnet Rd – Medical alarm
- Marion Rd – MV crash
- Baker Ln – General service
- North St – Larceny/forgery/fraud
- Marion Rd - Harassment
- Acushnet Rd – 911 call
- Meadow Ln – Follow up investigation
- Tara Rd – 911 call
- Marion Rd – Harassment order
- Marion Rd – Health/welfare
- Acushnet Rd – Officer wanted
- Marion Rd – Health/welfare
- Wildwood Ter – Medical assist
- Mendell Rd – Open door
- Cove St – General service
- Fairhaven Rd – MV violations
- Marion Rd – Harassing/annoying calls

ROCHESTER

Log highlights Feb 8 – Feb 14

- Vaughn Hill Rd – MV collision
- Dexter Ln – 911 call
- Braley Hill Rd – 911 call
- Cranberry Why – Structure fire
- Walnut Plain Rd - Harassment
- Mayflower Ln – Burglar alarm
- Dexter Ln – Firearms licensing
- County Rd – Road hazard
- Snipatuit Rd – Follow up
- Cranberry Hwy – Burglar alarm
- Dexter Ln – 911 call
- Marys Pond Rd – MV stop/citation
- Snipatuit Rd – General services
- Braley Hill Rd – MV collision
- New Bedford Rd – MV collision
- Neck Rd – Road hazard
- New Bedford Rd – General services
- Bryant Ln – Noise complaint
- Cranberry Hwy – 911 call
- Alley Rd – Burglar alarm
- Gerrish Rd – 911 call
- Sarabeth Ln - Fraud
- Neck Rd – MV stop/verbal warning
- Snipatuit Rd – Animal control
- New Bedford Rd – Suspicious activity
- Cranberry Hwy – MV stop/verbal
- Cromwell Ln – Message delivery
- Marys Pond Rd – Erratic MV
- Walnut Plain Rd – Medical alarm

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



REGIONAL LUNCH MENUS

COASTLINE ELDERLY NUTRITION PROGRAM

Monday, Feb 23: Beef stroganoff, egg noodles, brussel sprouts, wheat roll, cinnamon apples

Tuesday, Feb 24: Stewed tomato, chicken thigh, rice pilaf, kale & red peppers, wheat roll, vanilla pudding, diet: fruit

Wednesday, Feb 25: Beef chili w/cheese, whole grain buttermilk biscuit, mixed root vegetables, fruit

Thursday, Feb 26: Teriyaki shrimp, white rice, edamame, corn & peppers, cornbread loaf, banana

Friday, Feb 27: Cheesy vegetable & rice casserole, green peas, dinner roll, oatmeal cookie

CENTER SCHOOL

Monday, Feb 23: All beef hot dog on whole grain bun, BBQ baked beans, oven baked French fries

Tuesday, Feb 24: Taco Tuesday: beef taco, brown rice, black bean salad, taco toppings bar

Wednesday, Feb 25: Warm bacon, egg & cheese breakfast sandwich, orange smiles, hashbrown patty

Thursday, Feb 26: Baked creamy

chicken penne, seasoned broccoli, garlic breadstick

Friday, Feb 27: Stuffed crust pizza, roasted chic peas, garden salad, assorted salad dressing

OLD HAMMONDTOWN

Monday, Feb 23: All beef hot dog on whole grain bun, BBQ baked beans, oven baked French fries

Tuesday, Feb 24: Taco Tuesday: beef taco, brown rice, black bean salad, taco toppings bar

Wednesday, Feb 25: Warm bacon, egg & cheese breakfast sandwich, orange smiles, hashbrown patty

Thursday, Feb 26: Baked creamy chicken penne, seasoned broccoli, garlic breadstick

Friday, Feb 27: Stuffed crust pizza, roasted chic peas, garden salad, assorted salad dressing

OLD ROCHESTER REGIONAL JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH

Monday, Feb 23: All beef hot dog on whole grain bun, BBQ baked beans, oven baked French fries

Tuesday, Feb 24: Taco Tuesday: beef taco, brown rice, black bean

salad, taco toppings bar

Wednesday, Feb 25: Warm bacon, egg & cheese breakfast sandwich, orange smiles, hashbrown patty

Thursday, Feb 26: Baked creamy chicken penne, seasoned broccoli, garlic breadstick

Friday, Feb 27: Appetizer basket: meatballs, onion rings, breaded mozzarella sticks served w/warm marinara sauce, fresh veggie sticks

ROCHESTER MEMORIAL

Monday, Feb 23: All beef hot dog on whole grain bun, BBQ baked beans, oven baked French fries

Tuesday, Feb 24: Taco Tuesday: beef taco, brown rice, black bean salad, taco toppings bar

Wednesday, Feb 25: Warm bacon, egg & cheese breakfast sandwich, orange smiles, hashbrown patty

Thursday, Feb 26: Baked creamy chicken penne, seasoned broccoli, garlic breadstick

Friday, Feb 27: Stuffed crust pizza, roasted chic peas, garden salad, assorted salad dressing

SIPPICAN SCHOOL

Monday, Feb 23: All beef hot dog on whole grain bun, BBQ baked beans, oven baked French fries

Tuesday, Feb 24: Taco Tuesday: beef taco, brown rice, black bean salad, taco toppings bar

Wednesday, Feb 25: Warm bacon, egg & cheese breakfast sandwich, orange smiles, hashbrown patty

Thursday, Feb 26: Baked creamy chicken penne, seasoned broccoli, garlic breadstick

Friday, Feb 27: Stuffed crust pizza, roasted chic peas, garden salad, assorted salad dressing

OLD COLONY REGIONAL

Monday, Feb 23: Teriyaki chicken lo mein & roasted vegetables

Tuesday, Feb 24: Italian sub, corn & fries

Wednesday, Feb 25: Spaghetti & meatballs, green beans & garlic bread

Thursday, Feb 26: Build a baked potato, steamed broccoli

Friday, Feb 27: Assorted pizza & Caesar salad

Scholarship. Eligibility: Any Mattapoissett resident who is reentering the academic world. They should be pursuing a post graduate degree, career advancing courses or trade certification. Award(s): The total Continuing Education Award amount is \$1,500. The Committee reserves the right to decide how many applicants will receive a stipend that will, in total, not exceed the \$1,500 total. Requirements: Applicants should submit their letter of recommendations, applicable transcript(s), any applicable course or training information and a cover letter addressing their aspirations and financial need. The committee shall take into consideration each recipients financial need, character, scholastic record, and involvement in community work as well as extracurricular activities. Successful applicants will be informed by **May 8**.

Blank and completed application forms are available at: Mattapoissett Town Hall, c/o Christine Richards, 16 Main Street, Mattapoissett, MA 02739, Phone: 508-758-4100, Email: crichards@mattapoissett.gov.

Marion Democratic Town Committee

The Marion Democratic Town Committee will hold its caucus to elect delegates to the Massachusetts Democratic Convention at its monthly meeting on **February 19**. The meeting will begin at 5:30 pm in the Community Room, Marion Police Station, 550 Mill Street. All registered Marion Democrats are welcome to

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run for delegate positions. We will elect four delegates and four alternates. The convention will be held on May 29 and May 30 at the DCU Center, Worcester. This is a nominating convention, where delegates vote for Democratic candidates, so it is an important way for Democrats to participate in government.

Marion Planning Board

The Marion Planning Board is currently seeking a qualified candidate to fill a recently vacated seat. The applicant will seek appointment for a temporary seat starting March 2 to May 15. Online applications are available on marionma.gov or you may complete a hardcopy at the Planning Board Office at the Marion

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Super Crossword

NBA PLAY

ACROSS

- 1 Relatives of pistachios
- 8 Mail-related
- 14 Baio and Turow
- 20 Wife of Nero
- 21 Fingers-in-ears syllables
- 22 Headwear for Mr. Peanut
- 23 Golden State hoopster who lives for Saturdays and Sundays?
- 25 Existence
- 26 Days of yore, archaically
- 27 Ruling group
- 28 Schleppe through the entrance
- 30 Ballesteros of golf
- 33 Groom, e.g.
- 35 Exemplary Houston hoopster?
- 38 San Antonio hoopster scaling a mountain?
- 42 Suffix with lion
- 43 Guy in the fam
- 44 High peak
- 45 Heavenly
- 46 Health club
- 48 Gyro bread
- 49 Semi fuel

- 51 Cowardly Denver hoopster?
- 55 "Mom" actress Jaime
- 58 Start eating
- 59 Org. against pollution
- 60 Redding of R&B
- 61 Event for stunt pilots
- 64 — -Z (total)
- 65 Foot part
- 68 Brooklyn hoopster using a rod and reel?
- 71 Phoenix hoopster pop genre preparing a typeface for printing?
- 74 Frau's "Oh!"
- 75 Girl in the fam
- 76 Name originally proposed for Utah
- 78 Gas guzzler
- 79 Reindeer kin
- 80 Notion, to Fifi
- 81 Damsels
- 84 Los Angeles hoopster originally from New England?
- 90 Train in the pool
- 92 All excited
- 93 Mtn. stat

- 94 Tested for fit
- 97 "— culpa!"
- 98 "Stillmatic" rapper
- 99 Footed vase
- 101 Sacramento hoopster holding power?
- 103 Eco-conscious Charlotte hoopster?
- 107 Livy's lang.
- 108 Words in an analogy
- 109 Some nobles' domains
- 110 Jamaican pop genre
- 112 Baby wolf
- 114 Justification
- 116 Chicago hoopster devoid of spontaneity and emotion?
- 122 Sock with diamond patterns
- 123 "Seinfeld" character
- 124 Shrunken Asian lake
- 125 Some vowel sounds
- 126 Phrase structure
- 127 Lower than

DOWN

- 1 Mooing beast
- 2 High card

- 3 Fr. holy woman
- 4 Olajuwon of the NBA
- 5 Daredevil
- 6 Power sources with spinning sails
- 7 Tearful
- 8 Strategize
- 9 Rowers' tools
- 10 35mm camera inits.
- 11 Alteration pro
- 12 Not silently
- 13 Huge
- 14 Directs
- 15 Buyable apartments
- 16 Vision-related
- 17 Have high aspirations
- 18 Bit of ink art
- 19 Piggpen
- 24 Flying needs
- 29 Collect bit by bit
- 30 Cousin of a jack mackerel
- 31 Oval-shaped
- 32 Spiteful
- 34 Even one
- 35 Capital of Bavaria
- 36 One-named Deco master
- 37 Exactly
- 39 Pollen eaters
- 40 "Get 'em, Spot!"

- 41 Syllable after "oom"
- 46 Broiling bar
- 47 Church seat
- 48 Club swingers' gp.
- 50 Meeting period, informally
- 52 Picked
- 53 — pot (sinus-cleaning product)
- 54 "Once — a time ..."
- 56 Dillydallies
- 57 Dark half of a Chinese circle
- 60 Birds — feather
- 62 News aggregation website
- 63 Precipitous
- 64 "— girl!"
- 65 Giant waves
- 66 Paid more than
- 67 Musician Brian
- 69 Capri, e.g.
- 70 Adidas rival
- 72 Pro —
- 73 Celtic speaker
- 77 Piece for seven
- 79 Heart test, for short
- 80 Ailing
- 82 Apathetic response

- 83 Ding- —
- 84 Light half of a Chinese circle
- 85 Lab gelatin
- 86 Horse feed holders
- 87 Body of rules
- 88 Verdi's "— tu"
- 89 Fix illegally
- 91 Pudding starch
- 95 China's Zhou
- 96 Day, in Peru
- 99 Open, as a new rug
- 100 Some French wines
- 101 Make a new digital image of
- 102 Dry dog food
- 104 Class that's a cinch
- 105 "Blue" singer
- 106 Hockey great
- 110 Capital of Yemen
- 111 Lego alternative
- 113 — Bator
- 114 Jogged, e.g.
- 115 History unit
- 117 Smack
- 118 Taxi
- 119 D.C.'s nation
- 120 Tennis call
- 121 "— -di-dah!"

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125							126							127					

SALOME'S STARS

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Yours is one of the most potent good-luck signs of the Zodiac. And this week you'll get some news that reinforces why this is so. A loved one shares in the good tidings.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) There's an underlying sense of anger that makes the Divine Bovine see red. Deal with it now before it explodes so that you can avoid more problems from the fallout.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Even if you don't expect to make a career move anytime soon, investigating an upcoming offer will certainly pay off. Travel arrangements also need to be made soon.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A friend from the past returns and makes an unsettling demand. Don't allow your emotions to take over. Deal with the situation openly and honestly.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) A workplace problem needs more attention before it can be settled. Meanwhile, your financial picture improves, and someone's surprise revelation creates an unusual reaction.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Being the sixth sign of the Zodiac makes you more selective than most folks. But you might need to be a mite more flexible about a long-deferred matter.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) The blame game could get out of hand. All accusations need to be weighed carefully in order to determine what is true and what is potentially harmful innuendo.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A new job could be within your grasp. Be patient and allow the decision-making process to work itself through. On another note, spend more time with loved ones.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Sometimes you might feel like you're not getting your share of life's good things, but prospects open up this week that could make you feel otherwise.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Patience and understanding finally enable you and a loved one to work out your pesky problems once and for all. Good luck!

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Expect good news from someone whom you thought had forgotten you. This could lead to a change that you had earlier considered but then set aside.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A romance that seems to be floundering needs tender, loving care if you hope to rescue it. In addition, be prepared to change travel plans as new information emerges.

BORN THIS WEEK: You can bring various elements together to create something new and wonderful. No wonder you're considered the Celestial Chemist!

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Town House Annex, 14 Barnabas Road, no later than February 17, 2026. Any questions, please contact Doug Guey-Lee at dgueylee@marionma.gov or 508-748-3513.

Mattapoissett Nomination Papers

Nomination papers are now available for the 2026 Annual Town Election in Mattapoissett. There are many offices up for election this year including Town Clerk, Select Board, Assessor, Mattapoissett School Committee, ORR School Committee, Library Trustee, Moderator, Water & Sewer Commissioner, Board of Health, Planning Board, Housing Authority, and Community Preservation Committee. The deadline to request nomination papers is Friday, **March 27**. The Annual Town Election is scheduled for Tuesday, **May 19**. Please check the town website (www.mattapoissett.gov) or call the Town Clerk's Office at 508-758-4100 x 2 for more information.

Mattapoissett Woman's Club Scholarships

The Mattapoissett Woman's Club has announced two \$2,500 scholarships available to Mattapoissett residents who are high school seniors planning to continue full-time studies at the college level.

Scholarships are available in the guidance offices at Old Rochester Regional High School, Bishop Stang High School, Tabor Academy, Old Colony Vocational Technical High School, Bristol County Agricultural High School, and online at www.mattapoissettwomansclub.org (see Scholarships). Applications must be postmarked on or before **March 31**. Incomplete submissions or those received after the deadline will not be considered.

Our scholarships are made possible by fundraising events in our community. Membership in the Mattapoissett Woman's Club is open to any woman interested in furthering and supporting the philanthropic, academic, civic, and social goals of the organization.

ArtWeek SouthCoast

ArtWeek SouthCoast, the region's collaborative arts festival celebrating creativity across Southeastern Massachusetts, is gearing up for its 2026 return in May, and the newly launched website is now live at artweeksouthcoast.org. Artists, cultural organizations, municipalities, local businesses, and community groups are invited to submit events for inclusion in this year's festival schedule at artweeksouthcoast.org/submit-your-event.

ArtWeek SouthCoast takes place **May 8** thru **May 17** offering opportunities for residents and visitors to experience artists and cultural spaces throughout the region. The festival encourages a wide range of experiences, including hands-on workshops, live performances, gallery exhibitions, open studios, artist talks, family-friendly activities, and behind-the-scenes opportunities that invite the public to connect with the arts in meaningful ways.

"ArtWeek SouthCoast is about making creativity more visible and more connected across our communities," said Patti Rego, Director of Communications and Community Engagement at the SouthCoast Community Foundation, which is leading coordination efforts for the 2026 festival. "The Foundation has long supported arts and culture across the South Coast, and over the past decade, our Creative SouthCoast partnership with the Barr Foundation has deepened that commitment, allowing us to invest more intentionally in the people and places where cultural expression helps communities thrive."

This year's celebration will engage returning partners from Fall River, New Bedford, Dartmouth, Marion, Westport, Fairhaven, Mattapoissett, Somerset, and Wareham, while also welcoming new voices, new communities, and new creative leaders from across Southeastern Massachusetts, including Attleboro, Brockton, Taunton and neighboring cities and towns.

"New Bedford Creative has been involved with ArtWeek SouthCoast from the very beginning, and we continue to be inspired by how it champions the incredible talent of our region," said Margo Saulnier, Director, Creative Strategies at New Bedford Creative. "ArtWeek SouthCoast not only showcases artists - it invites the public to participate, explore, and experience arts and culture in unexpected ways. That sense of access and shared discovery is what makes this festival so

Old Tyme Chimney

Chimneys/Masonry Repaired



Re-Pointed
Re-Crowned
Re-Flashed
& Water Sealed

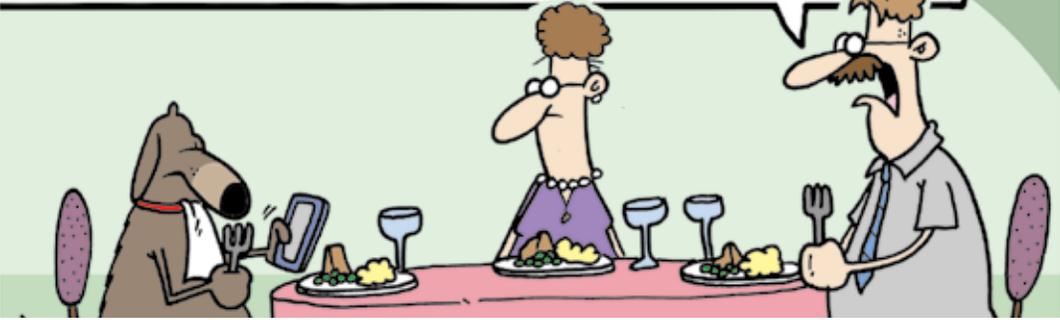
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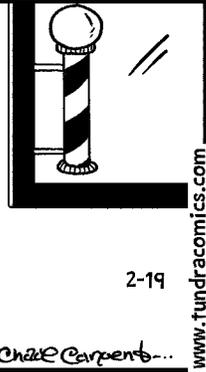
Email: Oldtymechimney@yahoo.com
www.OldTymeChimneySweep.com



SURE, HE'S WELL TRAINED, EXCEPT FOR THE TEXTING AT THE TABLE.

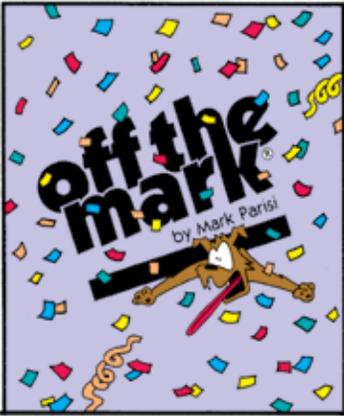


Tundra
by Chad Carpenter
©Tundra 2026

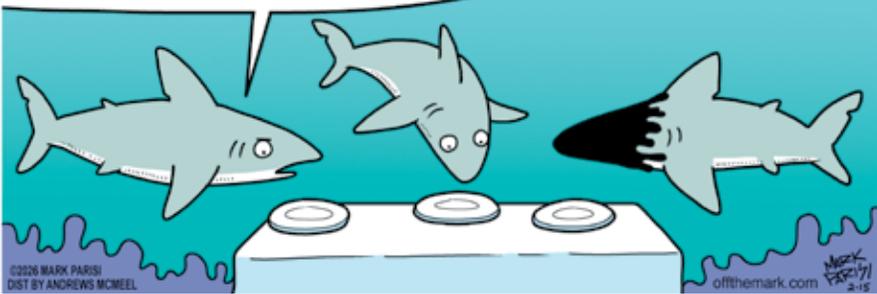


2-19

Chad Carpenter... www.tundracomics.com



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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



impactful for our communities across the South Coast.”

Plan Your ArtWeek Experience. With dozens of arts experiences expected across the region, ArtWeek SouthCoast invites the public to start exploring early, mark calendars, and plan their own path through performances, exhibitions, demonstrations, and opportunities to connect with local artists and cultural spaces.

“We look forward to this festival each year at the Marion Art Center. The MAC partners with artists and organizations across the South Coast to provide unique, accessible cultural experiences across the region, said Jodi Stevens, Executive Director at the Marion Art Center. During ArtWeek, there’s truly something for everyone. From free concerts and creative workshops to performance and movement classes, ArtWeek offers creative experiences for all ages. It is such a privilege to be on the South Coast and to participate in this cultural community.”

Events will continue to be added on an ongoing basis as submissions come in. To view the evolving schedule and learn more, visit artweeksouthcoast.org.

Mattapoissett Library Online Learning Platform to Empower Adults 55+

With the number of Americans aged 65 and older projected to increase by 24 million by 2050, MFPL is proud to announce the availability of Gale Presents: GetSetUp, a proven digital resource designed to support the growing needs of older adults across our community. According to the 2024 Active Aging Report, older adults are increasingly turning to digital tools for health, wellness, and lifelong learning, as evidenced by their participation in over 5.27 million GetSetUp online activities last year. To meet their needs, Mattapoissett Library is offering free access to this innovative platform built specifically for adults aged 55 and over.

“We’re excited to bring this empowering resource to our patrons,” said Amanda Lawrence, Adult Services Librarian. “GetSetUp helps older adults stay mentally sharp, socially connected, and physically active - all from the comfort of home.”



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Key Features of Gale Presents: GetSetUp:

-A rotating catalog of 5,000+ live and on-demand classes, short videos, and articles on topics like digital literacy, fitness, nutrition, mental wellness, travel, and retirement planning.

-Peer-led instruction by older adult educators who understand the unique learning styles of their audience.

-Built-in community features that foster social interaction and reduce isolation.

-Flexible, self-paced learning accessible on smartphones, tablets, and computers.

-Support from Helen, an AI assistant that helps users find classes, answer questions, and stay engaged.

Why It Matters Now:

-28% (16.2 million) of older adults live alone, making social connections more critical than ever.

-45.9% of GetSetUp surveyed users engage in daily physical activity, and many active agers are seeking new ways to stay healthy.

-Nearly 900,000 digital literacy classes were taken through GetSetUp in 2023 on topics including online banking, telemedicine, and smart device usage, showing a strong desire to stay informed and tech fluent in today's world.

Mattapoissett Library is committed to supporting the well-being of older adults in Mattapoissett by offering inclusive, accessible, and engaging resources.



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LEGAL NOTICES	LEGAL NOTICES	LEGAL NOTICES
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**TOWN OF MARION
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CASE #839**

The Marion Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at 6:30 pm on Thursday, March 12, 2026 in the conference room of the Marion Police Station, 550 Mill Street, on the application of Sarah Martin Banse, for a Special Permit under section 230-6.1c of the zoning by-law to allow an addition to a nonconforming garage to be converted to an Accessory Dwelling Unit.

The property, located at 90 Main Street, is further identified on Assessors' Plan 15 as Lot 73.

Cynthia Callow, Chairperson 2/19, 2/26

**TOWN OF MARION
SELECT BOARD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Application - Retail Package Goods License – Wine & Malt

Sonal Patel, d/b/a Marion Beer & Wine Store
664 Mill Street Marion, MA

The Marion Select Board, acting as the Local Licensing Authority, will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 6:00 pm in the Marion Police Department Conference Room, 550 Mill Street, Marion, on the application of Sonal Patel, d/b/a Marion Beer & Wine Store, for a retail package goods license for the sale of wine and malt.

Randy L. Parker, Chair 2/19, 2/26

**TOWN OF ROCHESTER
PLANNING BOARD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Pursuant to M.G.L. 40A, §5, notice is hereby given that Rochester Planning Board will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at 7:00 PM at the Council On Aging, 67 Dexter Lane, Rochester, MA 02770 to consider the following amendments to the Zoning Map:

- Rezone the following parcels from Residential/Agricultural (R-AG) District to Limited Commercial District: to include the following parcels located at
 - o 711 Mary's Pond Road, also known as Map 16 Lot 19G_0
 - o 73 County Road, also known as Map 10 Lot 5_0
 - o 35 County Road, also known as Map 10 Lot 3G_0
 - o 0 Mary's Pond Road, also known as Map 10 Lot 2_0
 - o 0 Mary's Pond Road, also known as Map 10 Lot 1_0
 - o 0 Mary's Pond Road, also known as Map 12 Lot 7_0
 - o 0 Mary's Pond Road, also known as Map 12 Lot 7C_0
 - o 475 Mary's Pond Road also known as Map 12 Lot 4_0

The purpose of the proposed zoning map change is to rezone the above listed parcels from the currently zoned Residential/Agricultural (R-AG) District to the proposed zoned Limited Commercial District to support appropriate land use and to align with existing development patterns and existing businesses.

Copies of the article are on file at the Rochester Town Hall Annex, 37 Marion Road, during business hours.

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88693183176>
 Meeting ID: 886 9318 3176
 Or Call: 1 646 876 9923

Proposed parcels to be rezoned
(See Map Below)

Arnold Johnson, Chairman 2/19, 2/16

**TOWN OF ROCHESTER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION & TOWN
FOREST COMMITTEE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

A public hearing of the Rochester Conservation Commission will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 7:00 pm in the Town Hall Conference Room regarding a Notice of Intent filed by High Street Solar 1, LLC & High Street Solar 2, LLC, 55 Technology Drive, Suite 102, Lowell,

Continued on page 38



Whether aging patrons are looking to learn a new skill, connect with others, or simply stay active, GetSetUp has something for everyone. With practical, tech-focused classes like "Online Safety: Protect Your Personal Information" and "Using Your Android Smartphone," seniors can confidently navigate today's rapidly changing digital environment. At the same time, courses such as "Ease the Ache with Gentle Stretches for Back Pain" and "Brain Boost: Keeping Young with Music" can help older adults stay mentally sharp, physically active, and creatively inspired - all while connecting with peers who share their interests and experiences.

How to Access: Library cardholders can access GetSetUp for free by visiting mattapoissettlibrary.org/, clicking "Online Resources," and then "Online Learning." Scroll down to "GetSetUp by Gale." If you need assistance, please contact the library.

Please remember that a Mattapoissett library card is required to access this database outside of the library. If your card is missing, we can replace it. To avoid losing it again, download the SAILS mobile app. It's an excellent alternative to carrying your physical library card. Please see a librarian if you need help or have questions.

For more information, please visit us at 7 Barstow Street, online at www.mattapoissettlibrary.org, or call the library at 508-758-4171.

Marion Art Center

DATMA joins the Marion Art Center as they host the third installation of *Being Seen: Celebrating Pride in the SouthCoast*. Being Seen is a monumental community tapestry created by over 100 SouthCoast residents from Fall River to Wareham. Over an 18-month period, this work travels throughout the region, concluding in November 2026. The indoor exhibition expands on the public art installation with additional context, honoring the LGBTQIA+ community through stories, archival materials, and recognition of local advocates. The exhibition features the legacy of figures such as David B. Boyce (1949–2014), memorialized in George Segal's renowned sculpture The Gay Liberation Monument, as well as SouthCoast residents whose advocacy for Massachusetts's Marriage Equality Act helped shape national progress.

Call for Art: Answering Our Ancestors - The MAC announces an open call for art & ephemera that honors the joy, hopes, struggles, lives, and stories of the LGBTQIA+ community. Artists and members of the community are invited to submit work that answers the questions: How do we honor the queer ancestors who came before us to pave our path? When the world turns toward darkness, how do we let our joy shine? We are also seeking historical LGBTQIA+ ephemera and memorabilia specific to the SouthCoast region. Do you have any posters, pins, bar coasters, clothing, photographs, and artifacts that celebrate the stories and joy of the Queer community?

www.wanderer.com

The MAC will host the traveling indoor exhibition supporting Being Seen: Celebrating South Coast Pride from February 13 through March 13, with an opening celebration on Saturday, **February 14**, 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the MAC, 80 Pleasant St. Marion. Artists may submit up to two pieces each; 2D and 3D are welcome. Video work will also be considered, but artists must provide their own AV equipment. Artists may choose to have their work travel to future exhibition sites in collaboration with DATMA's Being Seen project. More information at marionartcenter.org.

For more information and to book tickets: marionartcenter.org/events.

Rochester Memorial School Committee Vacancy

The Town of Rochester is accepting letters of interest from residents who wish to be considered for appointment to a vacant seat on the Rochester Memorial School Committee. This appointment will fill the remainder of a term that expires at the Town's May Annual Election. Submission Deadline is February 6 at 12:00 pm (noon).

To Apply email a letter of interest to alacerda@townofrochester.com

A joint meeting of the Select Board and the School Committee will be held to review submissions and vote on the appointment at the Rochester Town Hall



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LEGAL NOTICES

MA 01851 for property located at 0 High Street, designated as Lots 35; 21 & 22; 5, 16 & 17 on Assessor's Map 21A; 21; 20. The applicant is proposing work within Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW), the 100-foot buffer zone to BVW and the local 25-foot No Disturb Zone. The proposed development includes a ground-mounted solar array system with coupled battery energy storage system (BESS), associated site work and utility interconnection.

This hearing is being held under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, MGL Ch. 131, Section 40 and the Town of Rochester Wetlands Protection By-Law.

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88038678796>
 Meeting ID: 880 3867 8796
 Christopher Gerrior, Chairperson 2/19

**TOWN OF ROCHESTER
 CONSERVATION COMMISSION & TOWN
 FOREST COMMITTEE
 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

A public hearing of the Rochester Conservation Commission will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 7:00 pm in the Town Hall Conference Room regarding a Notice of Intent filed by High Street Solar 1, LLC & High Street Solar 2, LLC, 55 Technology Drive, Suite 102, Lowell, MA 01851 for property located at 0 High Street, designated as Lots 4 & 5 on Assessor's Map 20. The applicant is proposing work within the 100-foot buffer zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetland (BVW). The proposed development includes a ground-mounted solar array system with coupled battery energy storage system (BESS), associated site work and utility interconnection.

This hearing is being held under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, MGL Ch. 131, Section 40 and the Town of Rochester Wetlands Protection By-Law.

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88038678796>
 Meeting ID: 880 3867 8796
 Christopher Gerrior, Chairperson 2/19

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
 REVIEW**

PROJECT: High Street Solar
 LOCATION: 0 High Street, Rochester, Massachusetts

PROPONENT: High Street Solar 1, LLC & High Street Solar 2, LLC

The undersigned is submitting an

LEGAL NOTICES

Environmental Notification Form ("ENF") to the Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs on or before February 17, 2026.

This will initiate review of the above project pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act ("MEPA," M.G.L. c. 30, ss. 61-62L). Copies of the ENF may be obtained from:

Sarah W. Stearns, Beals and Thomas, Inc., 144 Turnpike Road, Southborough, MA (508) 366-0560 sstearns@bealsandthomas.com

Electronic copies of the ENF are also being sent to the Conservation Commission and Planning Board of Rochester.

The Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs will publish notice of the ENF in the Environmental Monitor, receive public comments on the project, and then decide if an Environmental Impact Report is required. A site visit and/or remote consultation session on the project may also be scheduled. All persons wishing to comment on the project, or to be notified of a site visit and/or remote consultation session, should email MEPA@mass.gov or the MEPA analyst listed in the Environmental Monitor. Requests for language translation or other accommodations should be directed to the same email address. Mail correspondence should be directed to the Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs, 100 Cambridge St., Suite 900, Boston, Massachusetts 02114, Attention: MEPA Office, referencing the above project. By High Street Solar 1, LLC & High Street Solar 2, LLC 2/19



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Don't forget to wish these people a Happy Birthday!

- Cheryl (Camacho) Disabella February 19
- Madisyn delucca February 19
- Michael Norton February 19
- Russell Mello February 19
- Bill Sherman February 20
- Darlene J. Blackett February 20
- Cynthia Loranger February 21
- Frank Beatriz February 21
- Georgie Barry February 21
- Jackie Pullo February 21
- John R Romano February 21
- Jacob Nye February 22
- Jean Perry February 22
- Lillian Maki February 22
- Tres Elger February 22
- Andrew Hebert February 23
- Carl Achorn February 23
- Genevieve Hebert February 23
- Jerry Plante February 23
- Madelyn Arruda February 23
- Matthew Lopez February 23
- Pamela Humphrey February 23
- Arthur Halter-Harrison February 24
- Kyle daSilva February 24
- Maggie O'Donnell February 24
- Michelle Hughes February 24
- Tiffany Harris February 24
- Tricia McKim February 24
- Christopher Heuberger February 25
- Claire Rezendes February 25
- Quinn Perry February 25
- Tori Saltmarsh February 25

If you would like *The Wanderer* to announce a birthday for yourself, a friend or family member, please submit your information online to us at www.wanderer.com. To submit information by regular mail, please send the person's name (month and day) along with your name and phone number so we can confirm the information to Birthdays, c/o The Wanderer, P.O. Box 102, Mattapoisett, MA 02739. You may submit birthday announcements anytime during the year and they will be published/posted during the appropriate week.



on **February 24** at 6:00 pm. All interested and qualified residents are encouraged to apply.

Kindergarten Registration Available for ORRS

Superintendent Michael S. Nelson is pleased to share that kindergarten registration for next school year is now available at elementary schools in the Old Rochester Regional School District and MA Superintendency Union #55.

All Marion, Mattapoisett, and Rochester children who will reach the age of 5 before September 1, are eligible to register to attend kindergarten at the elementary school in the town they reside in for the 2026-2027 school year.

Families must complete pre-registration for their student via the elementary school website.

After the student is pre-registered, their records must be provided to the elementary school building. Paperwork can be delivered to the building during the school's regular hours of operation.

The required documents include:

-Child's valid birth certificate and military records, if applicable.

-Proof of residency and proof of occupancy (i.e., property tax bill, mortgage statement, utility bill, current signed lease with dates and address as required by the Residency Policy)

-Child's medical records.

-Child's updated record of immunization, including DPT (Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus), MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella), Hib, Polio, Hepatitis-B, Varicella, record of lead testing, TB screening, and vision screening/Stereopsis.

Families are encouraged to complete the registration process by Friday, **March 6**.

An Online Parent Information Night for all three elementary schools will be held on Wednesday, February 11 at 6:00 pm. This virtual presentation will detail the registration process and required enrollment paperwork.

Families that have completed the registration process will receive an email with a link to sign up for kindergarten screening.

Screenings are required by state law and help to identify children who might have a special need. This process allows schools to appropriately provide for the child's needs. Screenings will be held at Sippican School, Center School and Rochester Memorial School on Tuesday, **May 26**, Thursday, **May 28**, and Friday, **May 29**, with each appointment expected to take approximately 30 minutes. Children must be present for the screening, and parents can wait in the lobby during the appointment.

Additionally, a Kindergarten School-Based Building Orientation will take place on Thursday, March 26 at 6:00 pm. This in-person orientation allows parents and guardians to meet key staff members, learn about a

student's daily schedule and gain valuable insights into the transition into kindergarten.

Questions about the registration process should be directed to the student's elementary school: Sippican School at 508-748-0100, Center School at 508-758-2521, Rochester Memorial School at 508-763-2049.

Open Table Is Back

Mattapoisett Congregational Church is very excited to announce the second Open Table of 2026. The OT crew hopes to see you on **February 27** for a delicious meal served in Reynard Hall at Mattapoisett Congregational Church, 27 Church Street, Mattapoisett. There is no charge, although donations are gratefully accepted. Doors open at 4:30 pm and supper will be served at 5:00 pm. Invite a friend or neighbor.

Marion Community Preservation Committee

Applications for Community Preservation Act funding will be available in the Town Clerk's office at the Marion Town House Annex located at 14 Barnabas Road, Marion, MA 02738. The Community Preservation Act is a Massachusetts Law that allows participating cities and towns to adopt a real estate tax surcharge supplemented by State matching funds in order to fund community preservation. Eligible projects must be directed towards: open space/recreation, historic preservation or community housing. Applications must be received no



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Classified Rates: Classified Advertisements are \$8.00 for 3 lines or less per week. Each additional line is \$1.00 per week. There are an average of six words per line. Bold is an addition \$1 per week.

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- *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

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* Legal Ads are \$1.00 per line, at a minimum of \$25. per ad.

Tundra
by Chad Carpenter

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later than 4:00 pm on **February 20** to be considered for presentation at the May 2026 Annual Town Meeting.

Past Community Preservation funds have been used to:

- Construct a pavilion at Osprey Marsh
- Install fencing, ADA-compliant benches and litter receptacles at the Benjamin D. Cushing Community Park
- Catalog the collections and restore exhibits at the Marion Natural History Museum
- Construct Pickleball Courts at the Point Road playground

-Town House Restoration

-Preservation of Veterans Gravestones

Committee Contact: William Tifft (Chair),

Community Preservation Committee, Marion Town House Annex, 14 Barnabas Road, Marion, MA 02738, or email: CommunityPreservation@marionma.gov.

Marion Town Clerk's Office

Happy New Year. This will be a busy year as there will be 2 Elections as well as a State Primary.

The dates are as follows:

-Marion Town Election: Friday, **May 15***.

-State Primary: Tuesday, **September 1**.

-State Election: Tuesday, **November 3**.

* Nomination papers will be available for the Marion Town Election beginning Tuesday, February 2. They will be due back on Monday, March 26, by 5:00 pm.

In order to run for an elected position, you must be a registered voter in the Town of Marion. The potential candidate must secure twenty-eight (28) signatures in order to be placed on the ballot. The Town Clerk recommends that the potential candidate obtain at least thirty-five (35) signatures.

Any questions, please contact the Town Clerk's Office at 508-748-3502.

The open seats are as follows:

- Board of Assessors (1).
- Board of Health (1).
- Select Board (1).
- Marion School Committee (2).

- - Architectural Design
- - New Home Design
- - Renovation Design
- - ADU Design

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-ORR School Committee (1).

-Open Space Acquisition Commission (1 seat for three-year term).

-Open Space Acquisition Commission (1 seat for one-year term).

-Planning Board (3).

Please return your annual census (street list) and license your dog (cats are not required to be licensed in Massachusetts).

Peter Hodges Memorial Scholarship

The Mattapoisett Lions Club, a member of Lions International, the world's largest service club organization consisting of 46,000 clubs and more than 1,400,000 members worldwide, is pleased to announce the availability of two (2) - \$2,000 scholarships to be awarded this year to a graduating high school senior or home-schooled student residing in Mattapoisett, Marion, or Rochester or a school-choice student attending Old Rochester Regional High School. In addition, we are pleased to announce the availability of one (1) \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating senior who will be entering the trades and attending an accredited trade school OR tool reimbursement of up to \$1,000 with proof of purchase to a graduating senior who will directly be entering the trades with an apprenticeship agreement.

The funds for the Peter Hodges Memorial Scholarship are raised through fundraisers held by the



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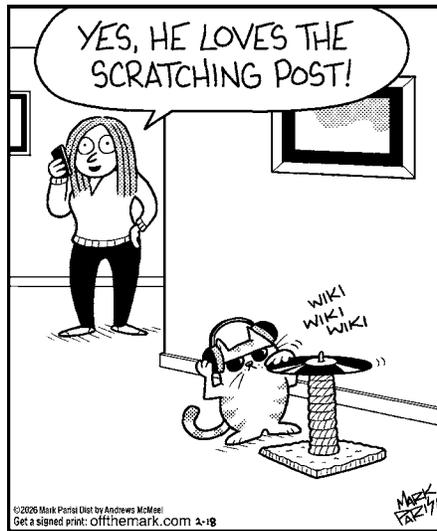
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			4			2	5	9
	4			6				

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

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

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

- King _____
- HICLAP _____
- Inset _____
- ALIYN _____
- Weight _____
- REDBUN _____
- Feint _____
- ODDEG _____

TODAY'S WORD



"First they fill you with chicken, then _____"

Mattapoisett Lions Club throughout the year, including Harbor Days, an annual Arts and Craft Festival held in Shipyard Park, Mattapoisett every third weekend of July.

The Lions Club motto is "We Serve," one of the largest charitable causes of Lions 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 & Melinda Gates Foundation and here at home providing services for those in need in our communities.

To obtain an application, learn more about this award or to learn how to become a member of the Lions Club, visit our website, www.mattapoisettlionsclub.org. Award applications are also available through the guidance department at your high school.

Applications must be received by **March 28**.

Naval Sea Cadet Corps

Gosnold Division and Training Ship Patriot State of the Naval Sea Cadet Corps are welcoming new applicants to the training program at Mass. Maritime Academy. Young men and women between the ages of 11 and 17 who may be interested in nautical or military opportunities are encouraged to join.

Scheduled events include an annual Swim Meet, community service, parades, ceremonies, marksmanship training, skills competition weekend at Joint Base Cape Cod and many other activities, as well as annual summer training, nationwide.

Training is conducted on alternating Saturdays between 10:00 am and 3:00 pm at Mass. Maritime Academy. Interested applicants should contact Lt. Cdr. James McLoughlin at 508-759-8606. View us on Facebook at Gosnold Division.

Marion Vaccination Information

The Marion Board of Health would like to let residents know that they still have flu and COVID-19 vaccines available.

If you are in need of in-home vaccination appointments, these are administered through the Marion Community EMS Program.

Please contact Maureen at the Board of Health at 508-748-3530 then press #1 if you are interested in scheduling an appointment for a vaccination.

Mattapoisett Congregational Church

The Mattapoisett Congregational Church's steeple is lit nightly and is a beacon of welcome and comfort to all. The Beacon of Light was started as a way to celebrate and honor loved ones or special occasions. If you would like the steeple to be lit in remembrance of, in celebration of, or in honor of a loved one or blessed event, please call the church office at 508-758-2671 or email

mattcongchurch@gmail.com for more information. We welcome and encourage multiple entries each month. This is a special way to celebrate our beautiful steeple, as a Beacon of Light in Mattapoisett, and to financially support our church. Thank you for your donation.

American Legion: Florence Eastman Post #28

All Southcoast Active Service Military, Reservists and Veterans are invited to join the monthly meetings of the American Legion: Florence Eastman Post #28.

(Serving the Tri-Town area of Mattapoisett, Marion, Rochester and beyond).

We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 1900 (7:00 pm).

Florence Eastman Post is located at 3 Depot Street, Mattapoisett. Tri-Town Veterans Office: www.mattapoisett.net/tri-town-veterans-office.

Birthday Parties at the MAC

The Marion Art Center's Arts & Crafts instructor Aylin Cetik is offering birthday parties in the MAC Studio. Parties for ages 4 and up will be scheduled on Saturdays and Sundays, with 15 to 20 minutes reserved at the end of the party for a sweet treat. Available times are 10:00 am to 11:30 am or 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm. Suggested party themes include: mermaids, fairies, outer space, pirates, art and science, or custom. The cost is \$275 for

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\$5.29 /1 qt.
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Professional Tree Service
Certified Arborist

Tree Removal, Fine Pruning, Cabling,
Tree Care, Planting, Stump Grinding,
Crane Service, Soil Samples, Storm Cleanup.
10+ Years of Experience.
Free Estimates!
Call Raphael at 508-209-1777.

Blinstrub's Painting, Finishing & Remodeling
drywall repairs, bathroom remodels,
flooring, decks, pergolas
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blinstrubs@gmail.com

-Brandon's Tree Service & Landscaping-
- Professional Tree Trimming and Removals -
- 50' Bucket Truck, 15+ Years Experience -
- Bobcat Service, Full Landscaping -
-Land Clearing, Lawn Mowing, Power Washing-
-Thorough Yard Cleanups, Mulching -
- Stone Walls, Patios - **FULLY INSURED** -
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Call Jeff at 774-992-9626

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Reliable, trustworthy professional with references
and fully insured. Our services include: daily,
weekly, monthly, or one time cleaning. Please call
(774) 360-1975 our visit our website <https://www.solangedkleaner.com>

Demers Construction Company

Licensed and Insured General Contractor
New Construction - Remodeling - Additions
Siding - Windows - Kitchens - Decks
Nathan@DemersCC.com
View our work at DemersCC.com or [Facebook.com/DemersCC](https://www.facebook.com/DemersCC)
Give us a call for a free estimate! 774.849.2325

Depot Road Painting

Interior or Exterior -36 yrs experience
references available call (508) 563-6563

Dr. Patricia Gardiner
Christian Counseling Services
Individual, Couples, Family, Trauma
74 County Rd 774-328-6561
Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri by appt.

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houses, attics, apts, etc. Oil tank and boiler
removal call Cliff 508-472-8539

Dog Walker
email Diane J.
dianef3564@gmail.com

Ellis Appliance and Refrigeration Service

Most brands
Call Scott 774-271-6784

**EXCITED ABOUT THE HISTORY OF
NEW BEDFORD? ENJOY BEING ON
THE WATER?**

WE ARE HIRING FOR 2026 SEASON
USCG License Required,
some support available
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Fun and satisfying job!
Contact: info@newbedfordharbortours.com

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Portuguese Style, Home, Office & Boat Interiors
508-287-7947

House Cleaning

15+ yrs experience - Refresh your home
or summer home! Priscilla 718-607-8046

House Sitter

email Diane J.
dianef3564@gmail.com

Interior Painting

Average size room, 2 coats on walls, \$300
Excellent Tri-town references!
508-728-4386

Janeiro Architecture

Call/Text 508-493-0322
John@janeiroarchitecture.com
www.janeiroarchitecture.com

KW Powerwash Free Estimates

Book now!
508-997-2892

LeBron Cleaning

Take advantage of our special discounts this month
Regular small \$120; med \$200; large \$250
Book now: 508-840-0484
marcia-cleaner@hotmail.com

The *Wanderer*

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owned and published weekly
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the surrounding communities.

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55 County Road (Route 6) Mattapoisett

Telephone: 508-758-9055

Web Page: www.wanderer.com

E-mail:

General/Advertising:
office@wanderer.com
News: news@wanderer.com

Deadlines:

(Display Ads) Friday at 3pm
(News) Monday at noon
(All Others) Tuesday at 10am

Office Hours:

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

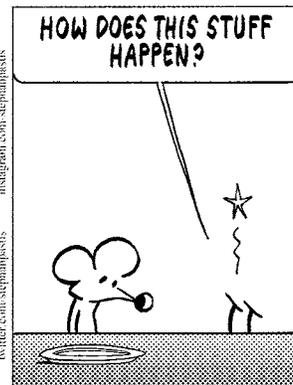
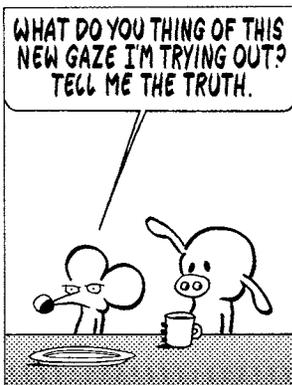
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PEARLS BEFORE SWINE
by Stephan Pastis



up to ten guests and \$15 for each additional child with a maximum of 15 children. Add-on options include outdoor lawn games or other activities by request, for an additional fee. For more information and to inquire about dates, email aylincetik@gmail.com.

Emergency Preparedness

This is the perfect time to think about and prepare for emergencies and disasters as Massachusetts faces a variety of hazards - weather-related or otherwise throughout the year.

If you feel that you would require assistance in an emergency, we would like to have a discussion with you so we can prepare a plan that will be ready to go when needed. If you rely on medical equipment at your residence that requires electricity. If you would require transportation to a shelter when such a need arises or live in a known flood zone. If you have a communication-related disability, we need to know the best way to communicate in an emergency state. If you take medications, we need a list.

If there is any other targeted assistance that you may need.

Please call the Council on Aging at 508-748-3570 so we can compile this information which will be reported to Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). We want to be prepared.

We encourage residents and family members who may reside out of town to sign up for E-alerts from the Town of Marion (visit: marionma.gov/subscribe).



NEW CONSTRUCTION
ADDITIONS
RENOVATIONS

**SOUTHCOAST DESIGN
& CONSTRUCTION, LLC**

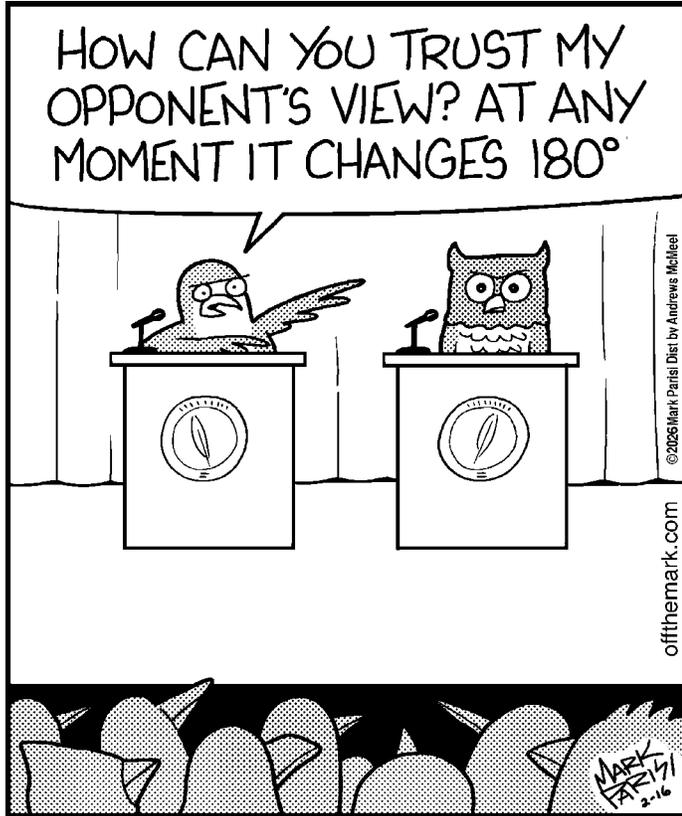
508-758-2474
<http://www.southcoastdc.com>
cmm@southcoastdc.com

Christian McCullough / Michael Bichsel - Owners

Tri-Town Against Racism

Tri-Town against Racism (TTAR) announces they have developed a system to document discriminatory incidents experienced by community members in the Tri-Town. Collecting this information will help to identify how to best support the Tri-Town Region. The incident report can be completed online, either on a computer or mobile device, anonymously if preferred. Community members can also choose to identify themselves to TTAR in the report. Their personal identifying information will never be shared outside of TTAR. The incident report allows for individuals or families to share their stories to inform local change. Completing the form and sharing your experiences with TTAR will help to make a positive impact. The incident report can be found by visiting this link: forms.gle/UGEsEmjBCZTEYKX56.

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS		<i>See past listing on our website: www.wanderer.com</i>			
Buyer(s)	Seller(s)	Address	City	Date	Price
Olym Hc Whm LLC	78 Wareham Road Inv LLC	78 Wareham St	Marion	01/28/2026	8,000,000.00
Hatfield, Patricia K	Hoikala, Karen A	17 Channel St	Mattapoissett	01/28/2026	415,000.00
Goulston, Stephen E TR Goulston, Patricia A TR Mattakiset Road RT	Hermon, Adam Hermon, Kathleen	26 Mattakiset Rd	Mattapoissett	01/29/2026	970,000.00
Schmich, Kathryn Elizabeth Schmich, Michael C	Lunn, James E TR James E Lunn RT Lunn, Susan H TR Susan H Lunn RT	291 County Rd	Marion	01/30/2026	810,000.00
Amirault, David C Amirault, Mary Beth	Sylvia, Sharon J TR Sharon J Sylvia RT	8 Hathaway Pond Cir	Rochester	01/30/2026	679,900.00
Graham, Hilary Georgantas, Andrew	Baptiste, Aarron M Baptiste, Stephenie M Mackerron, Stephenie M	563 County Rd	Rochester	01/30/2026	425,000.00
3-4 Nickys Lane Realty LLC	Chase, Daniel W TR Dandy Realty Trust	3 Nickys Ln 4 Nickys Ln 0 Nickys Ln	Mattapoissett	02/02/2026	2,950,000.00
White 115 Realty LLC	Chase, Daniel W TR 115 Fairhaven Rd NT	115 Fairhaven Rd	Mattapoissett	02/02/2026	514,000.00
Yellow, 117 Realty LLC	Chase, Daniel W TR 117 Fairhaven Rd NT	117 Fairhaven Rd	Mattapoissett	02/02/2026	364,000.00



		Local Tides			
Day	Date	High		Low	
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Thursday	February 19	8:58	9:20	2:32	2:47
Friday	February 20	9:42	10:06	3:12	3:21
Saturday	February 21	10:30	10:55	3:54	3:57
Sunday	February 22	11:23	11:49	4:38	4:39
Monday	February 23		12:19	5:32	5:28
Tuesday	February 24	12:47	1:19	6:48	6:30
Wednesday	February 25	1:50	2:24	9:12	7:49
Thursday	February 26	3:01	3:34	10:26	9:23
Friday	February 27	4:15	4:42	11:21	10:42
Saturday	February 28	5:20	5:41		12:07
Sunday	March 1	6:13	6:33		12:47
Monday	March 2	7:01	7:20	12:29	1:20
Tuesday	March 3	7:44	8:04	1:15	1:48
Wednesday	March 4	8:26	8:47	1:57	2:14
Thursday	March 5	9:07	9:28	2:36	2:42
Friday	March 6	9:47	10:09	3:12	3:12
Saturday	March 7	10:28	10:50	3:48	3:45
Sunday	March 8		12:10	5:25	5:21

Phases of the Moon	First Quarter	February 24th
	Full Moon	March 3rd
	Last Quarter	March 11th
	New Moon	March 19th

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 on line 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 February 12, 2026 edition the Aardvark was on page 5

PUZZLE ANSWERS

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

C	A	S	H	E	W	S	P	O	S	T	A	L	S	C	O	T	T	S	
O	C	T	A	V	I	A	L	A	L	A	L	A	T	O	P	H	A	T	
W	E	E	K	E	N	D	W	A	R	R	I	O	R	E	N	T	I	T	Y
S	E	V	E	L	D	I	N	S	L	U	G	G	E	D	I	N			
S	E	V	E	M	A	N	M	O	D	E	L	R	O	C	K	E	T		
C	L	I	M	B	I	N	G	S	P	U	R	E	S	S	B	R	O		
A	L	P	E	L	Y	S	I	A	N	S	P	A	P	I	T	A			
D	I	E	S	E	L	C	H	I	C	K	E	N	N	U	G	G	E	T	
P	R	E	S	S	L	Y	C	H	E	W	E	P	A						
O	T	I	S	A	I	R	S	H	O	W	A	T	O	T	O	E			
F	I	S	H	I	N	G	N	E	T	S	E	T	T	I	N	G	S	U	N
A	C	H	S	I	S	D	E	S	E	R	E	T	A	U	T	O			
Y	A	N	K	E	E	C	L	I	P	P	E	R	D	O	L	A	P	S	
A	G	O	G	A	L	T	T	R	I	E	D	O	N	M	E	A			
N	A	S	U	R	N	R	E	I	G	N	I	N	G	K	I	N	G		
G	R	E	E	N	H	O	R	N	E	T	L	A	T	I	S	T	O		
B	A	R	O	N	I	E	S	S	K	A	C	U	B						
R	E	A	S	O	N	M	E	C	H	A	N	I	C	A	L	B	U	L	L
A	R	G	Y	L	E	L	A	I	N	E	A	R	A	L	S	E	A		
N	A	S	A	L	S	S	Y	N	T	A	X	B	E	N	E	A	T	H	

SCRAMBLERS

solution

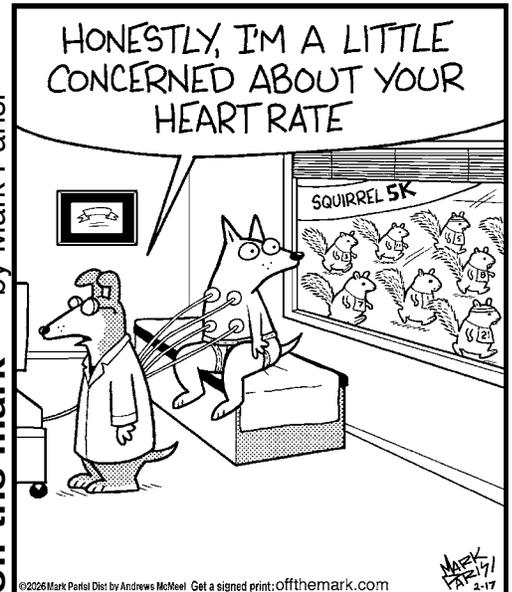
1. Agenda; 2. Cache;
3. Gleam; 4. Rapid

Today's Word
BALONEY

Sudoku Answer

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

off the mark by Mark Parisi



GROCERY, DAIRY & FROZEN

64 oz. 100%
Food Club
Apple Juice
2/\$4



16 oz. Selected Variety
Food Club
Butter
\$3.49



Half Liter Bottles, 24 pk.
Poland Spring
Water **\$5.99**

Liter Bottle, Selected Variety
Poland Spring
Sparkling Water **\$1.19^{+Dep.}**

16 oz. Selected Variety
Green Mountain Gringo
Salsa **\$4.99**

3.75 oz.
King Oscar
Sardine Oil **\$3.79**

8 oz.
Diamond of California
Chopped Walnuts **\$4.99**

8 oz. Original
Green Mountain Gringo
Tortilla Strips **2/\$6**

16 oz. Selected Variety
Planters
Peanuts **2/\$6**

24 ct. 10 Inch
Simply Done
Paper Plates **\$2.99**

10 oz. Selected Variety
Stonyfield Organic
Smoothies **\$1.99**

26 oz. Selected Variety
Willow Tree
Chicken Pot Pie **\$10.49**

MEAT, DELI, PREPARED FOODS & CHEESE

Fresh, Boneless
Bell & Evans
Chicken Thighs
\$5.49^{lb}



Deli Sliced
Land O Lakes
American Cheese
\$7.99^{lb}



12 oz. Pkg. Selected Variety
Kayem
Bacon **\$8.99**

2.29 oz. Pkg. Selected Variety
Boar's Head
Fully Cooked Bacon **\$5.99**

Deli Sliced
Boar's Head
Oven Gold Turkey **\$12.99^{lb}**

Deli Fresh
Friends' Store Packaged
Red Bliss Potato Salad **\$6.99^{lb}**

7 oz. Pkg. Grass Fed
Truly
Cheddar Cheese **\$6.99**

5 oz. Pkg. Selected Variety
BelGioioso
Cheese Cups **\$3.99**

8 oz. Pkg. Smoked
Boar's Head
Gouda Cheese **\$5.99**

Ready to Serve
Allen's
Rotisserie Chicken **\$9.99^{ea}**

BAKERY

2 ct. Pkg. Selected Variety
Fresh Baked
Brownies **\$3.99**

10 oz. Pkg. Gold or Chocolate
LaBree's Bakery
Mini Cupcakes **\$6.49**

CHEF PREPARED

Fresh
Garden Side Salad **\$6.99^{ea}**

Various Styles
Take & Bake Pizza **\$8.99^{ea} - \$10.99^{ea}**

Homemade
Savory Pies to Go!
Chicken Pot Pie **Small \$13.99^{ea} Large \$19.99^{ea}**

Shepherd's Pie **\$12.99^{ea} \$19.99^{ea}**

WINE

Buy any three
bottles of wine &
receive 10% off!

*Excludes 3/\$25. Wines
ending in .98 and previously
reduced wines.



SEE OTHER SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL GREAT SAVINGS THIS WEEK!

ENTERTAIN WITH FRIENDS'!

Check out our online catering menu for an amazing selection of platters and main dishes to make all of your gatherings stress free and delicious!

Visit our website!
www.friendsplumbcorner.com



Friends'
 marketplace

565 Rounseville Rd.
 Rochester, MA 02770
 Phone: 508.763.5333

Open Daily: 7am-8pm

at PLUMB CORNER

We reserve the right to limit quantities & correct typographical errors. Illustrations are for design purposes only. Items are while supplies last and no rain checks. Due to current market conditions, item retails may change, and products may become unavailable unexpectedly.

SALE EFFECTIVE: Friday, February 20, to Thursday, February 26, 2026

BLOCKBUSTER SAVINGS!

Certified Black Angus, Boneless
Friends' Premium Ribeye Steak
\$19.99
 lb

20 oz. Squeeze Bottle
Heinz Ketchup
\$1.98

8 oz. Selected Variety Shredded or Bars
Food Club Cheese
2/\$5

Deli Sliced
Friends' Store Baked Ham
\$8.99
 lb

32-52 oz. Selected Variety
Planet Oat Oatmilk or Creamer
\$2.99

48-54 oz. Selected Variety Sorbet or
KEMPS Frozen Yogurt
\$4.99

QUALITY PRODUCE



Seedless Red Grapes **\$1.88**
 lb



16 oz. Pkg. Blueberries **\$3.99**

16 oz. Pkg. Strawberries **\$3.99**

6 ct. Pkg. Mini Cucumbers **\$2.99**

Fresh Butternut Squash **\$1.19**
 lb

2 lb. Pkg. Yellow Onions **\$1.29**

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL GREAT SAVINGS THIS WEEK!