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Vernal Pool Hosts Nature’s Wonders
By Mick Colageo

What animal in our local area can go into a deep freeze in winter and come out of it in spring?

Gary Johnson says that creature is the wood frog, which had mated, laid its eggs, and left town by the time a group of 10 people visited its vernal pool in an exploration hosted by the Mattapoiset Land Trust on April 17.

“Wood frogs stay in the leaf litter and actually freeze,” said Johnson, who grew up in western New York state where the forest drew his interest as a child. “They put glucose into the cells of their body at a hundred times what a human has in terms of glucose. So, they’re doing research trying to figure out, ‘Wait a second, how can animals do that?’ They load themselves with glucose [and] when warmer weather comes, they just thaw out.”

For the MLT treasurer and past president, the mysteries of nature and what can be discovered in so much as a walk through the woods continues to be a rewarding adventure.

“I’m a little worried that, with global warming – because we’re near the southern boundary of wood frog habitat – and if we don’t have cold enough winters, I’m not sure we’ll have wood frogs much longer,” said Johnson, who was supported on Saturday’s exhibition by MLT president Mike Huguenin and MLT Board of Directors member Wendy Copps.

Sitting under overhanging trees and also partly covered by fallen trees, the vernal pools in coastal Mattapoisett are obscured by thick forest and are therefore not visible from the sky.

“This is a classic vernal pool…. This pool won’t exist in August,” said Johnson.

Vernal comes from the Latin word for spring, and that’s about how long a vernal pool lasts before drying up.

On the Cover: Eleven-year-olds Ava Duponte (center), and Jonalisa Vieira (right), of Mattapoisett, handle what are believed to be salamander and wood frog egg masses. The children participated in an April 17 exploration of a vernal pool led by Mattapoisett Land Trust Treasurer and wildlife expert Gary Johnson (left). The exploration led a party of 10 along a muddy trail through the woods off Angelica Avenue past a forest clearing and ultimately to two vernal pools. Photo by Mick Colageo

In This Issue

Birthdays .................................................. 62
Classified Advertisements .................. 54
Crossword & Horoscope ........................ 50
Happenings ............................................. 46 & 48
Legal Advertising .................................... 52
Local Tide Listings ................................. 66
Marion Selectmen’s Meeting ................ 10
Movies & Entertainment ...................... 42
Obituaries ............................................. 38
ORCTV Schedule ................................. 40
Police Log ............................................. 44
Real Estate Transactions ...................... 65
Regional Lunch Menus ....................... 44
Rochester Selectmen’s Meeting ............ 13
Sports .................................................. 38

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Insect in the palm of Johnson’s hand was actually loose pieces of debris that the newly hatched caddisfly pulled on as a coat until it was ready to confront the world.

“The other nice thing about vernal pools – I mean, you would think aren’t these a horrible source of mosquitoes – but they’re not. Because they’re filled with tadpoles and salamanders, they feed on mosquito larvae, so vernal pools aren’t really a big source of mosquito problems,” said Johnson, who noted that the more domestic occurrences such as a discarded tire with standing water inside is a welcome mat for the seasonal pest.

Johnson carried a plastic tub out of the pool that, at first glance, looked like muddy green water. But there was movement of tiny, half-inch-long tadpoles swimming about, almost indiscernible without complete stillness of the water and perhaps a magnifying glass. The egg material, still translucent, was an indicator of hatching within the prior day or two.

Children, including Ava Duponte, 11, of Mattapoisett, Abel Philbrook, 6, of Marion, and Jonalisa Vieira, 11, of Mattapoisett, were eager to experience the wonders of the vernal pool as Johnson placed the egg masses into their hands.

It was speculated as to whether the vernal pool visited should also be classified as a kettle pond, created by the melting of an ice glacier. “This one’s got a little ridge around it,” said Huguenin, who is soon to visit with a geologist relative and hopes to get an opinion.

On route back from the vernal pool exploration, the group passed by an open area of fallen timber, so Huguenin took the opportunity to explain ongoing efforts to better preserve wildlife on MLT-owned property.

A stone wall running through the woods indicates that the land was once a farm, and the present forest all grew up beginning in the first 20 years of the 20th century when farms were largely abandoned due to poor economics. The resultant forest lacks variety.

“All the trees are about the same age, and they’re mostly a mix of some hardwoods and white pines,” said Huguenin. Foresters, he said, recommended removing unhealthy trees to give the healthy ones more room to

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grow and benefit the forest with other species of plants and a variety in their timelines. “The other thing about a naturally growing forest is it sequesters carbon, and of course we have too much carbon in the atmosphere, which is leading to climate change and global warming.”

New trees, said Huguenin, will pull in carbon and sequester it. The MLT, by the way, does not benefit financially from the work. A good amount of the white pine, he said, is taken to area sawmills and cut into lumber for use. The Massachusetts Audubon Society has signed off on the plan.

After the attendees made a brief stop at a second, smaller vernal pool accessible via a split in the trail, Huguenin distributed trail maps and a colorful wall poster from the state displaying various forms of vernal pool life.

The event was part of the MLT’s free series of public events. Limited to 10 participants due to COVID-19 related guidelines, the tour embarked from a small parking area off Angelica Avenue. The property is fronted by the ongoing replication of the stone foundation that
once sat under a barn owned by Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.

“We’re lucky to have a board member who’s an avid stone mason, so he’s put I don’t know how many hundreds of hours into that,” said Huguenin.

While there is a small parking area off Angelica Avenue, people can also access the trails to the vernal pools there from the top of Beach Street. Parking along the roads in the area is not encouraged.

For more information on MLT programs and the next event on the 2021 calendar, visit the website mattlandtrust.org.

**Rosbe’s Latest Tells Story of Local Church**

By Marilou Newell

Judith Rosbe didn't start her professional life as an author. She had, in fact, studied English and history for a career as an educator. Then Rosbe decided to become a lawyer, a career choice that lasted for 30 years. There were years of building her career coupled with years of nurturing her children. One could say her life thus far has been very full.

Yet her passion in all things Marion has also factored into her industrious nature. Rosbe has had six books themed on different aspects of the history of a town she so clearly loves. The latest book, simply titled “St. Gabriel’s Episcopal Church,” (Arcadia Publishing Company, 2021), was published to commemorate the church’s sesquicentennial celebrations. As a member of the congregation and the church’s historian, Rosbe is donating proceeds from the book’s sale to the church.

But first, we need to go back to book number one to more fully appreciate the journey this author of local history publications has taken.

Rosbe, a member of the Sippican Historical Society for more than 20 years and nearly a decade as its president, was writing weekly articles for a local newspaper, articles that highlighted many of the historic homes found in Marion’s seaside village. Through the archives held by the society, she had access to historic photographs and other documentation that enabled her to detail each featured home’s personality.
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“People seemed to like them,” Rosbe stated with a smile in her voice and sufficed to say she enjoyed writing them. As she puts it (through a little chuckle), “I wasn’t an author, but lawyers do write.” Indeed!

Yet Rosbe was not a complete novice to the publishing industry either, having spent some time as a reviewer of junior adult books for Kirkus. Add that to her list of professional accomplishments.

Rosbe attests that she was not contemplating a writing career until that fateful day when, as she browsed through books at a big box store, she came upon racks that featured local history softcover volumes. Leafing through the pages, Rosbe liked the format that gave generous space for historical pictures and documents augmented with descriptive text from those bygone days. Noting the publishing company’s name, she decided to pitch them the idea of pulling together a book on Marion’s historic homes, a topic she knows so well. Arcadia Publishing Company jumped at the concept, and Rosbe’s new career was launched.

“Marion,” the book, was published in 2000. That was followed in 2002 with a deep dive into the rich maritime background Marion can claim with “Maritime Marion Massachusetts.” She said this second book had far fewer graphic elements and more historical text. After being selected by the Beverly Yacht Club to write their history, Arcadia published “The Beverly Yacht Club”
in 2006. Rosbe was clearly gaining momentum with community groups seeking her talents to bring their organizations’ history to the fore.

That was again the case with “Marion Art Center,” Rosbe’s 2007 published take on the glorious backstory of the cultural gem. But her opus may be the 2009 “Marion in the Golden Age,” which takes the reader into those Elysian days when President Grover Cleveland summered in Marion where it is said he loved to fish.

“St. Gabriel’s Episcopal Church” is more than a slim volume that looks back at the people who have called this house of worship home. It details the construction history, including stained glass windows and the benefactors who funded them.

Rosbe said each of the first five books was dedicated to one of her grandchildren. When her daughters jokingly said she had never dedicated a book to them, she decided to rectify the matter. This latest publication is dedicated to her daughters and her husband.

For now, Rosbe claims she is done with authoring historical books. But that remains to be seen, as history has a way of repeating itself.

Rosbe’s “St. Gabriel’s Episcopal Church” book, along with her other titles, is part of Arcadia’s Images of America series and available through the church office.
Abutter Opposes Propane Business

Marion Board of Selectmen

By Mick Colageo

Flanked by engineer Bob Collucio and installer Troy Phillips, applicant Dena Xifaras presented a well-organized proposal on April 20 before the Marion Board of Selectmen that is meant to eventually yield a special permit to operate a propane storage business at Luce Avenue.

But Xifaras’ application was met with stern opposition from abutter Shawn Brice, 525 Mill Street. A self-described engineer, Brice augmented questions posed by the selectmen with some pointed concerns of his own and stated his intention to argue against the proposal.

Xifaras’ twofold request seeks a special permit to house two 30,000-gallon propane tanks behind barriers at the location and create a tasteful landscaping. She told the selectmen she needs the permit because the parcel is part of the Water Protection District. Collucio noted in a letter with the application that propane does not affect groundwater; it is stored in liquid form but comes out as a vapor. Xifaras noted that propane is also allowed in aquifer protection areas, so it does not pose a risk or hazard to the water supply. The second part of the request is to run a business on that location.

Selectman Norm Hills said his site visit left the impression that it is a private road and “not in the best of shape.... Tanker trucks are large and heavy.” Hills said Xifaras needs to give some consideration to the road and investigate to what extent she has the power to improve it.

Selectman John Waterman was impressed with the presentation, but said, “We need someone independently to tell us about the groundwater,” citing it as a regulated business. Town Administrator Jay McGrail said he will discuss the matter with Town Counsel Jon Witten.

After Phillips said that the propane would emit such a small amount of odor that neighbors should not smell it, Brice asked for a guarantee. He also questioned the applicant’s and associates’ experience handling propane.
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Xifaras said her husband has for 10 years owned and operated a heating oil business and said her team is committed to the educational and certification process required by the state.

She told Brice that, while they do not currently own the land, it is under agreement. Brice asked for detailed plans, and Xifaras told him plans have not advanced to more specialized drawings because the project is too early in the feedback process.

Brice said people who live on the road maintain it. “The road is in very difficult shape,” he said, noting potholes. “I don’t understand the financial considerations with that.” Hills told him that Xifaras has to work out those aspects with the ownership or association.

Fire Chief Brian Jackvony has yet to make his recommendation to the selectmen. The case was continued to May 4 at 4:30 pm and will be heard prior to the warrant presentation.

Also continued to May 4 (at 4:45 pm) was Stone Rooster Hospitality’s application for a special permit for an all-purpose, all-alcohol license at 27 Wareham Street.

The former Gilda’s establishment is under the new management of John Mello, who, like Xifaras, is a life-long Tri-Town resident. In business 11 years, Mello is involved in a partnership at the Gateway Tavern and was behind the Rose Alley Pub in New Bedford.

His goal is to clean up the site, improve it aesthetically, and look at long-view upgrades after the site comes back as a “summer fried clam type of thing” and perhaps “pub pizzas” in the winter.

The building sits in a flood zone at the mouth of River Road at the Wareham town line.

Shippey said the kitchen has not been used in years and must be revamped with smoke detector upgrades, especially considering there is office space on the second floor. Several issues relating to the flood zone, inspections, egress, grease, fire, etc., will come into play, said Shippey.

The bone of contention for River Road resident Chris Collings, a member of Marion’s Planning Board, is the parking lot cannot handle the kind of traffic he expects Mello’s plan to generate. The occupancy load is set at 89 people for Gilda’s, and a sprinkler requirement kicks in at 100 or more. Gilda’s frontage faces Route 6, and according to Collings, is not a corner lot.

After 38 years of service to the Marion Police Department, Sergeant Marshall Sadek is retiring on May 1, and Chief of Police Richard Nighelli requested that Sadek be appointed as a part-time officer to stay on a few details.

The selectmen enthusiastically approved the appointment, as well as two part-time appointments to one-year probationary periods effective April 25 for Gregory Miller and Thomas Bilodeau.

The selectmen agreed to sign an agreement, which they will share with Mattapoisett and KP Law as Town Counsel, in its review of the agreement with the Old
Rochester Regional School District.

Having lifted its moratorium on sewer hookup requests, the selectmen approved a new process in which the Public Works Department enacts a 30-day review period, after which it either recommends the installation or cites information needed to achieve approval.

The selectmen are writing a letter of support regarding the Weweantic Bridge upgrade project, and Waterman asked that conduits under the bridge that could support water/sewer infrastructure be included.

To alleviate confusion with boards and committees, the selectmen approved a cleanup of policy regarding their role when attending committees and subcommittees to which they were neither appointed nor elected. Selectmen do not speak for the board, vote, or factor in a quorum.

In a public hearing, the selectmen approved the move of a 35-foot guide pole across Converse Road to the west side per application from Verizon New England, Inc. and Eversource Energy.

The selectmen approved, subject to Board of Health approval, a common victualer license for Jill Pittman of Sea Dips, the ice cream shop next to Serendipity.

The next meeting of the Marion Board of Selectmen is scheduled for Tuesday, May 4, at 3:30 pm.

Selectmen, FinCom Approve Warrant
Rochester Board of Selectmen
By Mick Colageo

The warrant articles for the Rochester Annual Town Meeting got the seal of approval from both the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee during the former’s hybrid meeting held on April 20. Town Meeting will be held Monday, May 24, at 7:00 pm at Rochester Memorial School.

After the public hearing was opened to review the draft Annual Town Meeting Warrant with representation from the Finance Committee and Capital Planning Committee, along with the town clerk and Town Meeting moderator, Town Administrator Suzanne Szyndlar noted that the Finance Committee still needs to vote on the
Joint committee review and vote of warrant articles began with Article 6, natural resource expenses to the tune of $300 for planting shellfish in Marion, and from there all but two of the remaining articles were voted by both the selectmen and FinCom for recommendation on Town Meeting floor.

Two related articles were pushed to the Fall Special Town Meeting, both relating to the Old Rochester Regional School District agreement. One was the reinstatement of the agreement itself, the other to establish a stabilization fund to support ORR.

Selectman Brad Morse said the proposed agreement was received just last week and there has not been adequate time to thoroughly examine it.

“The three towns should get together and talk about this important agreement,” said Board of Selectmen Chairman Paul Ciaburri.

FinCom was represented by Peter Armanetti, Jim Austin, Chairman Kris Stoltenberg, and David Arancio, who also serves as chair of the Capital Planning Committee.

Arancio abstained from voting on Article 12, recommendation of Capital Plan funding for $201,190 in total requests. The committee has $203,000 to handle those expenditures that will address a variety of Highway Department needs while also providing irrigation, an alarm system, and building and technical upgrades to Rochester Memorial School. Arancio also abstained in the other Capital Planning-related article, the proposed addition of $200,000 to replenish the committee’s funds.

In addressing Szyndlar, the selectmen, and FinCom, Arancio was effusive in his praise for their support in helping the Capital Planning Committee grow from its start only a few years ago.

Other funding articles approved for Town Meeting recommendation by the selectmen and FinCom addressed: $20,000 into the School Stabilization Fund (at $255,000 it would reach a goal set by the selectmen); $80,000 into a Public Stabilization Fund (would reach $211,000); $300,000 into the General Stabilization Fund (current balance $1,645,000); and $100,000 into the Road Stabilization Fund (current balance $303,000).

Rochester School Committee Chairperson Sharon Hartley nominated Shirley Bourque to continue as the Old Colony School Committee representative from Rochester RMS Vice Chair Anne Fernandes seconded the motion, and they and Selectman Woody Hartley voted unanimously in favor of Bourque, who is the chairperson of the Old Colony School Committee.

“It’s just another one of those gems that Rochester has along with Rochester Memorial School and ORR,” said Bourque of the vocational technical high school on the north end of town. “I appreciate everyone’s support.”

Woody Hartley told the meeting he has spoken with Old Colony Superintendent Aaron Polansky, and
Old Colony will soon serve as a home for Rochester Planning Board meetings.

After a 6:10 pm public hearing, the selectmen voted to approve a license for applicants David and Jackie Eckert to store flammable fluid gas in excess of 2,000 gallons at 15 Briarwood Lane. “This is underground storage, so it’s protected” from the threat of traffic, said Rick Charon, noting that the setback is 25 feet from property lines and that corrosion protection will be on the tanks and the ability to monitor voltage.

In a 6:00 pm appointment, the selectmen voted to approve Police Chief Robert Small’s recommendation that James Hightower, 21, be hired as a part-time officer. Hightower is currently a staff sergeant in the National Guard and is based on Cape Cod. His appointment is for a one-year period through April 30, 2022.

Morse’s appointment to represent the selectmen in negotiations with the RMS teachers will begin with a meeting on April 28 at 3:30 pm.

The town is mobilizing search committees to replace outgoing Conservation Agent Laurell Farinon and Town Planner Steve Starrett; Morse will represent the selectmen in the town planner search, and Ciaburri will represent the board in the conservation agent search.

Morse commended the service of Barry Denham who in 20 years on the Tri-Town Veterans Council saw the organization grow from two towns to all three. Christopher Gerrier will replace Denham, who is retiring this year.

With Gordon Hill’s and Jackie Demers’ retirements from the Council on Aging, Andrew Trevell and Mary Besse were appointed.

Szyndlar reported that the Fire Department has been approved for a $12,500 fire safety equipment grant. She also reported that an external audit of the order of financial statements has been completed for FY20. Szyndlar said the process protects public assets and is valuable for credit ratings.

Library Director Gail Roberts sent the selectmen an update. The library opened on April 12 for browsing only. Appointments have been discontinued except for use of a computer. Face masks are still required, and the book drop remains open 24 hours, seven days a week.

Ciaburri told the board he has been invited to attend an Eagle Scout ceremony on Monday, May 10, at 7:00 pm. The selectmen decided to have a certificate of recognition for each scout from Rochester to make the grade.

The selectmen voted to approve Rochester Boy Scout Troop 31’s request to use the Pine Street property to hold a yard sale on June 25-27.

The selectmen voted to sign a proclamation designating April 30 as Arbor Day in the Town of Rochester.

The next meeting of the Rochester Board of Selectmen is scheduled for Monday, May 3, at 6:00 pm.
FinCom Wants Voice in School Budget Process

Mattapoisett Finance and Capital Planning Committees

By Marilou Newell

Following the April 7 meeting of the Mattapoisett Finance Committee, which included a financial presentation from Old Rochester Regional Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations Howie Barber and Superintendent Mike Nelson, the April 14 meeting returned to the subject of school budgets.

“The school numbers were very disturbing,” began FinCom Chairman Pat Donoghue, who once again questioned per-pupil costs, lack of transparency, and the practice of passing along the school budgets with annual 2.5-percent increases.

Donoghue has repeatedly requested financial backstories that would help to support line items in the schools’ budgets. On April 14, she again questioned why the local elementary school numbers show a much larger per-pupil cost than the junior and senior high schools combined. “We are starving ORR and fattening up the elementary schools. This has to stop,” Donoghue stated.
Turning to the costs associated with operating two elementary schools, Donoghue said, “There may be a lot of efficiencies if we consolidated the schools.”

Former Selectman and current FinCom member Tyler Macallister said, “A lot has to do with ORR being accountable to three communities. It boils down to the school committee[s] and the Central Office being difficult to work with.” Macallister said that had been the case in the nine years he was a sitting selectman. He also said that employment contracts are not developed with input from the three towns. “The school committee is writing teachers’ contract[s] when we leave the room.” He said that the schools get the money without any oversight from the town administrators or selectmen on how those monies are spent.

FinCom member Kevin Geraghty wondered what can be done, given that the school committees have the statutory right to conduct business as they have been doing. “If they don’t let us be part of the process, what can be done?” he asked.

Town Administrator Mike Lorenco said the schools’ budgets were formulated before they were presented and had already been unanimously approved by the Mattapoisett and ORR School Committees. He said that next budget season he intends to get the town budget done early enough so that he will have time to drill down into the schools’ budgets.

“We can’t pull a single line item out of the overall budget when we are at town meeting, you get the whole assessment. It really does come down to the towns working with their Central Office,” said Lorenco.

A study scheduled to begin in the summer and intended to help Mattapoisett determine next steps for school buildings will hopefully yield solutions needed to address decreasing enrollments and associated expenses. He said it will produce data including per-pupil costs and comparisons to other cities and towns. Lorenco said that the report from the University of Massachusetts study will be in FinCom’s hands by the fall. Later in the meeting, he said that per-pupil costs at the local elementary schools in 2019 were $20,549, while ORR Junior and Senior high schools came in at $16,508.
On the matter of new revenue sources, Lorenco said the voters will be asked to pass a Meals Tax article, which he said could bring in as much as $100,000 per year. Revenue from the planned solar array at the landfill will eventually put new money in the coffers, but Macallister, solar energy professional, said, “It may take three years.” He said that Eversource has no incentive to move projects forward and has basically shifted into low gear. “I’ve seen projects take eight years.”

Later in the evening of April 14, the Capital Planning Committee met and continued its discussion regarding the necessity of obtaining data from department heads in a uniform process to better understand capital needs requests and to help in facilitating the town administrator in his capacity as the town’s financial advisor.

Chairman Chuck McCullough said the committee is looking at three main areas: the municipal vehicle fleet, facilities, and infrastructure, including technology. He said the members need to determine what type of data is important and to define benchmarks as “good, fair, and poor” when rating a piece of equipment, ensuring consistency across departments.

“We are not intending to assume the responsibilities of the department heads but to help them,” McCullough said in a follow-up. He spoke to a developing process whereby department heads will be asked to answer a series of questions; the answers will
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help drive further discussion and hopefully conclusions, he said.

McCullough said Lorenco discussed the asset management software program with the committee during its April 7 meeting, and that the town administrator would be reviewing the program to determine its viability for town needs, as well as scheduling training for departments. McCullough said that several Capital Planning members would also delve into the program, adding another layer of detail believed necessary to make informed decisions.

On a bright note, McCullough told The Wanderer that a 2010 report produced by Robert Field of Field Engineering on the condition of existing municipal structures has been reviewed by member Bob Burgmann, whose background is in municipal engineering. Burgmann met with Director of Inspectional Services Andy Bobola to discuss that earlier study and where recommendations made by Field currently stand. Burgmann reported to the committee that multiple items identified as needing critical attention have received attention.

The list of facility improvements underway includes the construction of a new fire station, repairs, improvements and upgrades to the Highway Department Building, and the Water and Sewer Department will embark on conceptual drawings including cost estimates for a new all-inclusive headquarters building. Confirming those improvements, Bobola said in a follow-up that Town Hall repairs and improvements are pending the aforementioned UMass study.

“We need to understand what makes the most sense for Town Hall, a new location or repairs,” said Bobola, who added that a quick look at the outside of the building reveals windows and paint in disrepair. He said that Lorenco may need to create a committee to further review and study the matter of school consolidation, Town Hall relocation, or other recommendations.

The next meeting of the Mattapoisett Finance Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, April 27, at 4:00 pm; the next meeting of the Mattapoisett Capital Planning Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, April 21, at 6:00 pm.
Towns Still Prefers Sewer over Septic

By Mick Colageo

Although the Town of Marion amended a bylaw in 2020 to require all new construction septic upgrades to exceed Title 5 compliance and include approved denitrification technology, a tie-in to town sewer, when possible, is much preferred, according to Conservation Commission Chairman Shaun Walsh.

In its April 14 meeting, the commission heard a continued case involving a Notice of Intent filed by J. Thomas Bowler Jr. and Ellen Bowler to demolish a single-family house built in 1986 and replace it with a new house at 17 Moorings Road.

“We would much prefer a sewer line even to a denitrification system,” Walsh told project representative Dave Davignon, who had submitted a second revision on April 7.

Davignon explained that the Board of Health would not grant the project a variance on its requirement that a denitrification feature be included in the planned septic system upgrade. The Bowlers’ intention has been to hook up to town sewer and, only if that cannot be accomplished, use a septic system instead. Davignon said the potential installation of a 2,000-gallon denitrification system will not result in any additional land disturbance.

Walsh said it is highly unlikely the denitrification system will be needed, as he expects the Bowlers will be
able to connect to town sewer.

With that, the commission voted to issue the Bowlers an Order of Conditions including storm damage and flood control stipulations for land subject to coastal storm flowage at 15,000 square feet.

Two other continued public hearings were revisited with positive outcomes.

ConCom voted to issue John and Judith Wyman an Order of Conditions for their Notice of Intent to construct a 160-square-foot addition to their garage and a 296-square-foot carport requiring that several large trees be removed, a 120-square-foot expansion of their driveway that will be paved over 2,400 square feet at 12 Bell Guzzle Lane.

Representing the Wymans, Rick Charron reiterated their need to shelter their vehicles in the winter and pave their driveway so they can spend more time at what had been a seasonal residence. He described the land as a heavily wooded site, so the project would remain low impact despite the removal of several trees.

Representing Christopher Klapinsky in a continued NOI filing, Chris Gilbert detailed his revised plan, addressing some of ConCom’s March 24 comments regarding Klapinsky’s application to construct a patio, retaining wall, planting bed, and reconstruct a deck at 41 East Avenue.

After Gilbert provided a detail of the retaining wall, including elevations at the top and bottom, and explained that the homeowner hopes to add a stone swale there to help drain the area to the east, the hearing was closed, and ConCom voted to issue an Order of Conditions including stipulations for storm damage prevention and flood control.

Four new Requests for Determination of Applicability and two new NOI filings were heard for the first time and, per town rule during remote access public hearings, were continued to Wednesday, April 28, at 7:00 pm.

William Jr. and Elizabeth Weber filed an NOI to replace an existing float and its bottom-anchored chain system with a pile-held, two-float system at 21 East Avenue. Davignon presented on behalf of the Webers. Walsh questioned the design and asked Davignon if he considered copying a float to the east considering the water was less than 2 feet deep.

“There really isn’t all that much water as you go that far out at low tide so ... we didn’t see a whole lot of benefit in terms of how we could use the structure.... The goal here is the existing float that we have is so small that it’s really just not usable for any purpose whatsoever. We’re just trying to grab some square footage,” said applicant William Weber Jr. “We would like at some point maybe in the future to build something more, but that’s a lot more investment. Since we just built the house, we weren’t prepared to start planning something of that size, so this is what we were looking to do in the interim.”

Davignon said the applicant would have to build
out another 30 to 40 more feet in order to gain 3 or 4 more inches of depth.

ConCom member Jeff Doubrava then questioned extending a 20-foot float to 48 feet to achieve a 1-foot, 7-inch depth. Doubrava said his concern is the egress.

“The ramp right now takes up maybe 8 feet of the existing float. We can’t put more than one lounge chair out there just to sit on a sunny day, so we were looking to pick up square footage to actually use it,” explained Weber Jr. “We do have a young family, so at high tide we like to jump off and swim. Paddleboards, kayaks we can leave out there, things of that nature. Things that we just can’t currently do right now.”

Anne Bramhall filed a, NOI to remove non-invasive vegetation and trees within the buffer zone to bordering vegetated wetlands at 260 Converse Road. Her representative, Brad Holmes, described a “number of hazard trees and overhanging vines,” saying that the work would take place on the western portion of the property, staying between the 25 and 100-foot buffer zone.

Several ConCom members walked the site on April 10. “It’s a thicket back there,” acknowledged Walsh. “It looks like it could really use some management.”

Sippican Lands Trust filed three RDAs, one for the placement of boards atop existing rocks allowing passage over a stream for visitors to White Eagle Parcel at Old Indian Trail Road, one to reroute the Osprey Marsh Trail to avoid encroachment of private property at 354 Point
Road, and another to repair a stone wall and remove and cut back invasive vegetation across from 173 Front Street.

The encroachment case met with the most substantial discussion because it is not clear whether or not the Osprey Marsh Trail crosses over the property line onto the lot at 354 Point Road.

“Before the SLT goes forward – it’s absolutely wetlands in this area where the trail would go – so before we act on this RDA, it would be a good idea to definitively determine where this trail is. Once markers are placed … if it is on the adjacent property, we’ll know exactly where we need to cut off that trail and reroute it,” suggested Walsh. Another ConCom member said it would be very difficult to reroute the trail through that area, being the most wet.

In the case of 173 Front Street, Walsh said, “I appreciate the Sippican Lands Trust managing overgrown areas without the use of chemicals. I commend your efforts, and it is a lot of effort to manage invasives in this way.”

Represented by Davignon, Todd Zell filed an RDA for a two-lot subdivision including construction of a roadway, underground utilities, and a stormwater management system adjacent to 525 County Road.

Marion is interested in pursuing grants for coastal resiliency projects (aka hazard mitigation plan), and Walsh told ConCom members that Town Planner Gil Hilario has asked for their participation in a hazard mitigation plan development committee. It is expected that Walsh and one other commission member will join the committee.

Under action items, ConCom voted to issue Jonathan Tracy a full Certificate of Compliance at 14 Ridgewood Lane. ConCom considered a request for comments from the Zoning Board of Appeals regarding an application for special permit or variance at 8 Kabeyun Road to be outside of the commission’s jurisdiction.

The next meeting of the Marion Conservation Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, April 28, at 7:00 pm.

**Access Road Topography a Hot Topic**

*Rochester Conservation Commission*

*By Matthew Donato*

Brian Grady of G.A.F. Engineering, Inc. came before the Rochester Conservation Commission on April 20 to discuss a Notice of Intent filing brought forth by Ben Bailey. The proposed work would see the construction of a 700-foot roadway to provide access to a single-family house lot. Though the project is still in the application process, it is already beginning to raise concerns from abutters on the nearby Gerrish Road.

Grady began his presentation by explaining that the proposed access road is subject to numerous exemptions from the town’s bylaws, as it is being used to access a single-family house lot. Despite these exemptions,
Grady explained that many of the additions to the plan, including a drainage basin, were added to benefit the project as a whole. The proposed limit of work would include clearing and grading within the 100-foot buffer zone to a bordering wetland, but no work inside of the 25 foot no-disturb zone is required for the project to be completed.

Vice Chairman Daniel Gagne expressed concerns that the topography demonstrated on the plans shows that water would have to flow over the roadway in order to reach the water basin. He advised Grady to find solutions, such as a relocation of the water basin, which would prevent this kind of water flow. While Grady informed Gagne that he would look into the flow of the water, he maintained that the water flowing over the road would not be a significant hinderance to the Notice of Intent filing.

Conservation Agent Laurell Farinon told commission members that she still needs to conduct a review of the wetland delineation on the site. She further stressed the importance of having commission members visit the site in order to gain a greater understanding of the topography and wetlands areas near the proposed roadway.

Abutters to the proposed roadway also joined the meeting to voice their concerns surrounding the project. They were primarily concerned with perceived inconsistencies on the plans surrounding the ability for...
Grady worked to explain some of these inconsistencies and clarified that the site would provide access to only one single-family housing lot. Still, abutters recommended that the commission seek the help of an independent consultant to confirm the calculations presented in Grady’s plans.

Commission Chairman Michael Conway explained that the proposal was still in its preliminary stages and that further review would likely resolve much of the concern surrounding the project. The commission voted to continue the public hearing on the filing until their next meeting.

Austin Turner, of Bohler Engineering, came before the commission in order to seek a determination of non-significance for adjustments to a previously accepted Order of Conditions for a solar project on Old Middleboro Road.

Turner had previously come before the commission in order to expand the existing limit of work on the site so that construction could include alterations to an existing ancient way that runs through the site. In his discussions with Farinon, Turner realized that it would be beneficial for all parties to find an alternative solution that would not require changes to the ancient way.

The solution Turner arrived at involved a minor relocation of the outlet for the stormwater basin on the solar site. The new proposal allows the ancient way to maintain its existing location and remain as a continuous pathway. In addition, no additional tree clearing or brush removal will be required under his new proposal.

Farinon explained that she was satisfied with the new proposal, and that the Rochester Planning Board had also accepted the plans made by Turner. For that reason, Farinon recommended that the commission deem the relocation of the water basin outlet as an unsubstantial change to the plan. The commission followed her recommendation and voted to allow the relocation of the basin to go forward.

The next Rochester Conservation Commission meeting is scheduled to take place over Zoom on Tuesday, May 4, at 7:00 pm.
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The April 15 meeting of the Mattapoisett Zoning Board of Appeals was not chockablock full, nor did it feature more than one case. But the case before the ZBA members would be a bit tricky given the L-shaped lot in question with an existing watermain easement running through the middle.

The variance and special permit application filed by Marc Lareau, 44 Prospect Road, was represented by David Davignon of Schneider, Davignon, & Leone, Inc.

Davignon began his narrative of the filing, noting that the lot was legally nonconforming and originally laid out in 1913 with an L-shaped configuration consisting of one section measuring 120 feet by 70 feet and the other 90 feet by 60 feet. The property also borders three roadways of which two are paper roads, having never been constructed. Davignon also stated that the public water easement runs through the middle of the property. As such, the applicant sought to move the water service piping, at his expense, and move it to a more conducive location for both the construction of a proposed in-ground swimming pool and the Water department’s service access. Davignon said a bonus to the neighborhood would be the replacement of an 80-year-old water pipe with modern materials.

Setbacks were also discussed, as it came to light that on one side of the property the pool would be 18 feet closer to one of the paper roads than is allowed. Davignon said it is highly unlikely that the road will ever be built since it would have to be a private way, the costs would be high, and the pool would still be 30 feet from the roadway.

Davignon also said that he had met with the Water and Sewer Commissioners regarding the possibility of moving the water line, receiving a positive response. ZBA member Colby Rottler said, “It makes a lot of sense. I like the idea of replacing an 80-year-old water main; the town benefits and this will benefit the community.”

The vote was unanimous to grant the variance.
and special permit.
The next meeting of the Mattapoisett Zoning Board of Appeals was not scheduled upon adjournment.

Only Codification Makes Cut
Marion Planning Board
By Marilou Newell

The April 20 meeting of the Marion Planning Board could have been a long night’s journey into day. It was, however, a rather short meeting with all cases except one continued.

The case being opened and acted upon was the public hearing for the Proposed Bylaw Codification. The
board members unanimously voted to send the bylaws along to the May 10 Town Meeting. The warrant will contain changes to Section 7 Community Preservation Committee, Section 109 Animal Control, Section 218 Water Main Installation, Section 230-5.3 Multifamily Residential Housing, and Section 230-8.1 Flood Hazard District.

A request from the Zoning Board of Appeals for the Planning Board’s comments to a case they will be hearing on April 21 was discussed. At the ZBA’s request the Planning Board reviewed plans for a new residential construction project planned for 8 Kabeyun Road. While comments were forthcoming such as those shared by member Norm Hills regarding the lack of elevation details on the plan and his overall impression that what was submitted for review was a “poor presentation,” ultimately the board decided to make no formal comments at all.

The continued public hearing for a Special Permit and Major Site Plan Review for property located on Spring and Mill Street was reopened. Petitioner Sherman Briggs said he now understood that waivers to subdivision bylaws could be requested. He also offered to give the town’s peer-review consultant Beals and Thomas a tour of the site, along with one or two Planning Board members. Briggs also inquired what will happen if the currently seated board ends up with two new members after the local elections take place. Town Planner Gil Hilario said he would discuss the matter with the town administrator and possibly town counsel.

Planning Board Chairman Will Saltonstall noted the applicant’s team had not had sufficient time prior to Tuesday’s meeting to review comments from Beals and Thomas, comments that primarily dealt with stormwater and associated drainage systems. He also said that the planned height of retaining walls may be impactful. The filing was continued until May 3 at 7:15 pm.

Also continued was a Definitive Subdivision Plan for County Road filed by Todd Zell. The case will be reopened on May 3 at 7:05 pm.

Continued until May 3 at 7:20 pm was the continued public hearing for a Special Permit for Proposed Zoning Change to Residence E (currently listed as Residence D), for property located on Bournhurst Road and represented by Patricia McArdle, Esq.

Saltonstall said that it appears the applicant may be pulling back from the original plan to have the Zoning Bylaw change brought before the May 10 Town Meeting. He said the applicant has reached out to the Board of Selectmen on the matter of a sewer connection for the property. The hearing was continued until May 3 at 7:20 pm.

Earlier in the meeting, the board members discussed a request from Luis Bettencourt for property located at 450 Wareham Street, Dunkin’ Donuts. Saltonstall told the members that a letter requesting minor alterations to the building color and number of signs had been received. He said that the Dunkin’ corporation was going through a “rebranding” process and thus the changes were requested.

Hills pointed to the bylaws that govern the number and types of signs on places of business. He said that there are currently two, which is permissible, but that Bettencourt was seeking to add two more. “They want to put signs on the side of the building, and the drawings are inconsistent, it’s a mess,” said Hills. All other Planning Board members in attendance agreed.

Member Andrew Daniel added that trash barrels, which were originally part of the agreement, were no longer visible and that he had taken some 25 photographs of trash on the grounds of the business.

Hills asked that the original Planning Board decision be circulated to the members to refresh their memory of what was approved before any further consideration of the request.

The next meeting of the Marion Planning Board is scheduled for Monday, May 3, at 7:00 pm.

‘Virus Isn’t Sick of Us’
Mattapoisett Board of Health
By Marilou Newell

Coming before the Mattapoisett Board of Health on April 14, Public Health Nurse Emily Field provided an update on what has clearly changed our social culture – the COVID-19 pandemic.
Field began her comments by saying that Mattapoisett is in the yellow zone, which translates to a 3-percent positivity rating over a 10-day period, adding that no in-school transmissions have been reported. On this day, Field said that as of April 14 there were six active cases. “But there are plenty of cases identified through contact tracing who are not in our community,” she said. Of school activities, Field said that both moderate-risk and high-risk sports are being managed effectively and precautions are being taken.

Recent news of incidents of blood clots as a rare side effect and the resultant “pause” in the dispensing of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine amidst investigation has altered Field’s plan to use the vaccine for people unable to leave their homes. Of the two-dose vaccines that have been distributed, Field reported that she will receive second doses, but does not believe the state will continue to support community vaccine programs. “It’s unknown if Mattapoisett will receive more vaccine,” she said.

“Everyone is sick of the virus, but the virus is not sick of us,” Field stated as she urged the public to continue to wear masks, maintain social distancing, practice diligent hand-washing hygiene, and stay the course for the foreseeable future.

Field also addressed the importance of keeping a Board of Health eye on those establishments that might be reopening with concern expressed about ventilation systems and bacteria in standing water. Board of Health Agent Kayla Davis agreed. Field also noted the importance of taking precautions when outdoors, as there is a growing number of tick-borne diseases being reported.

On the topic of COVID-19 variants, Field said that those are being researched and that the possibility exists that a booster vaccine will be needed to help guard against infection from one of the known variants. She said that investigatory results and recommendations may be forthcoming by the fall.

In other business, earlier in the meeting the BOH held a hearing on a septic system upgrade application filed by Barry Sturgis, 34 Meadowbrook Lane, represented by Peter Lyons of Collins Engineering. Lyons explained that there were three variances being requested. The first variance requested was to grant the use of grain size analysis or sieve analysis versus what is Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection agency policy, a percolation rate test.

The second variance asked for a decrease in the distance between a new sewer line and the property’s freshwater source from 100 feet to 75 feet. The third variance sought a decrease in the separation between the high groundwater elevation and the lower tank invert from 12 inches to 6 inches.

The residence itself was also discussed. It was noted that the deed restricts the number of bedrooms to just one; however, the upgraded septic would be rated for two bedrooms. It was established that the deed would
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not be modified or amended to allow a two-bedroom residence on the property.

Chairman Carmelo Nicolosi said he would have to review the sieve analysis, stating that Lyons should review the Title 5 requirements for guidance and that well water quality should be tested before and after the new installation.

Member Ken Dawicki said, “I prefer a nitrogen removal system because this is so close to Brandt Island Cove.” Nicolosi said that that requirement is being enforced for new construction only, not for septic repairs or upgrades.

In the end, the majority ruled as both Nicolosi and BOH member Russell Bailey voted to approve with the caveat that the deed restriction remain in place and certified freshwater well testing will be done according to the Title 5 standards. Dawicki voted no.

The next meeting of the Mattapoisett Board of Health will be held on Wednesday, May 12, at 10:00 am.

Raccoon Calls Up, No Rabies Confirmed
Marion Board of Health
By Jean Perry

According to the Marion Board of Health on April 20, Animal Control Officer Sue Connor has received a record number of resident phone calls reporting wild animal sightings.

The discussion over the impending annual oral rabies vaccine distribution kicked off the conversation.

Public Health Nurse Lori Desmarais said that during this spring season, two raccoons had been captured and euthanized, ultimately yielding negative results for rabies, although residents reported their behavior as atypical or suspicious. She said there had been several sightings of “quite a few sick raccoons” around Marion, including a call about a raccoon spotted at Silvershell Beach over the weekend.

According to Desmarais, Connor says she had received more calls this season than she in any other season “in the last 20 to 30 years.”

Desmarais suggested disseminating a “wildlife tips for spring” flyer to residents via email and on the
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town’s Facebook page and website. She also said Connor is willing to come to speak to the BOH and the public at the board’s next meeting.

The oral rabies vaccine distribution will occur throughout the region between May 3 to June 4 via low-flying aircraft.

Also during the meeting, Recreation Director Scott Tavares spoke about guidelines concerning coastal and inland beach COVID-19 safety and commented that he is confident he and Desmarais can work together to meet all the guidelines as the pandemic continues into summer.

Those guidelines will include at least 12 feet between towels along the sand, hand sanitizer stations, lidless trash receptacles, and one-way entry and exit into restroom facilities.

The food concession will be run by Fieldstone Farm Market and will be a grab-and-go service with no dining tables available for seating.

Beachgoers will be handed a list of rules for visiting the beach, and guidelines will also be posted at the property. Face masks will be required, but someone other than the lifeguards will be tasked with mask enforcement.

On the COVID-19 front, Marion has 11 active cases; Sippican School reports eight people in quarantine with one positive case currently in isolation.

Tabor Academy has reported “a few positives in isolations,” said Desmarais, with an unstated number of others in quarantine awaiting test results. On-campus testing of staff and students is ongoing.

Sippican Healthcare Center reports no new COVID-19 cases and has gone 72 days since its last confirmed positive.

The Town held its final COVID-19 vaccine clinic on April 15, completing two rounds of doses for 1,200 recipients.

The town first began Phase 1 vaccination of first responders before it served the age 75-plus population of Marion, of which is now 90 percent vaccinated, Desmarais stated. She said 60 percent of Marionites have been fully vaccinated so far.

In other business, Eileen and J. Thomas Bowler of 17 Moorings Road formally withdrew their request for a septic system upgrade variance after the board expressed its disinclination to grant the variance during its April 6 meeting.

As the Bowlers seek permission to tie into Marion’s municipal sewer system, they had hoped the board would waive the town’s new regulation calling for a denitrification septic system and allow the older system to stand in order to gain the proper building permits to start construction. Board member Dot Brown opposed deviating from the regulation so soon after its adoption, especially without a “Plan B” of sorts if the town denies the sewer hookup.

The board accepted the withdrawal but was
A LETTER TO THE PEOPLE OF MATTAPOISSETT ON THE BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

As your next Selectman, I'll take particular interest in building “Community Engagement.”

When people are more engaged with something, you tend to have better outcomes. Just think about this in terms of your health (more knowledge + better habits = a healthier you), or your personal finances (more knowledge + better habits = a wealthier you). But we all know, especially with these two examples, it’s a lot harder in real life because, well, we’re human—we’re much more prone to eat that extra Uncle Jon’s cookie, or spend a little more at Target than we should.

When it comes to the health of our town, I see all kinds of opportunities for better engaging us citizens so that we can make smarter decisions, which will ultimately lead to better outcomes.

As I’ve reviewed some of the important policy decisions that have been put forth in recent years by our dedicated elected officials and volunteers—and as I talk daily with my fellow citizens and hear about their wants and needs—I’m struck by the fact that when it comes down to it, so few of us choose to have a seat at the table to help influence the future of our community. Simply put, most of us are not engaged.

Getting involved and being engaged is not easy. We’re all busy. You need to be at work by a certain time. The kids need to be taken to practice. Dentist appointments can’t be missed. Life is busy. But this doesn’t mean our Town government shouldn’t do everything it can to help you better understand the issues, communicate that information to you in ways that you’re more inclined to take it in, so that we can all be smarter and more engaged around the issues that affect us on a daily basis.

If I’m elected as your next Selectman, I am going to advocate for creating a Community Engagement Committee that is focused on these three things:

1. Promoting transparency of important issues across all aspects of town government.
2. Developing more impactful and contemporary communication tools to better educate citizens—tools like a more robust and easy to navigate town website, community news boards in high visibility locations, email and text communications, direct mailings on important town issues, and regular Zoom-meeting Town Halls where our Town leaders and volunteers help you better understand how the town is working on your behalf.
3. Finally, if we don’t measure how we’re doing, we won’t know how much we need to improve. I will advocate for an annual benchmark where we give the town a grade for Community Engagement. Let’s be sure to measure how we’re doing in order to continue increasing our level of Community Engagement.

One of my main goals as your next Selectman will be to put policies in place that encourage more transparency and better communications in order to build Community Engagement. For starters, please be certain to have a voice in the process as far as who your next Selectman will be and other important elected positions—and policies—that will impact life in Mattapoisett. Be sure to make a notation of “Town Election” on Tuesday, May 18th in your home calendar or smartphone. Voting will take place at Old Hammondtown School from 8:00am-8:00pm.

A vote for me, Nicki Demakis, is a vote to keep Mattapoisett moving forward.

Yours truly,

Nicki Demakis

PS: Please feel free to reach out to me to discuss this and any other issues that are of importance to you. You can email me at electnickid@gmail.com.

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not inclined to approve the proposed 2,000-gallon denitrification septic system because none of the board members had seen it, although engineer David Davignon stated that he submitted the plan last week.

The next meeting of the Marion Board of Health will be on held on Tuesday, May 4, at 4:00 pm.

**Indirect Costs Make Direct Hit**

*Marion Marine Resources Commission*

*By Mick Colageo*

Marion Harbormaster Isaac Perry told the Marine Resources Commission on April 19 that he is troubled by the Harbormaster Department’s rising indirect costs, which he estimated to top out at $188,000 for Fiscal Year 2020. He asked that the item be included for discussion on the MRC’s May 17 meeting agenda.

Alluding to the Town’s 2020 Annual Report and his own revenue export report for the last three years, Perry said, “You’ll see the indirects in there.... It’s been a hot-button issue and it’s becoming a serious problem.”

A $6,000 annual increase in indirect costs to the department was followed in FY20 by a $9,000 increase. By comparison, Perry estimates that Mattapoisett pays approximately $70,000 in indirect costs.

“If it keeps within that trend, come this time next year that could be a serious problem,” he said, suggesting the problem be brought to the attention of both the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee. “This is going to be a problem going forward.”

MRC Chairman Vin Malkoski told Perry he will work with him and Deputy Harbormaster Adam Murphy to craft a letter over the next week, using figures from Perry’s three-year spreadsheet.

“The harbor cannot serve as a profit center for the town; the town does not own the waters,” said Malkoski.

Perry speculated that some of the problem stems from shared employees and legal costs, but he will construct a detailed report with percentage breakdowns for the selectmen’s and FinCom’s consumption.

Chris and Nat Bryant, brothers who own an aquaculture license for a half-acre of space, attended the meeting and expressed concern that they may be left standing by new regulations and will not have had input before they become law. “Nobody’s making a lot of money out there, and to add another $3,000 in expenses,” said Nat Bryant, is a concern.

“The other concern that we have ... is this is going to put all the other shellfishing farms out of business in Marion,” said Chris Bryant. “For now, it will be just my brother and I working under these conditions ... from what we’ve heard.”

Malkoski, explaining that the subcommittee’s conclusions will be brought under the whole MRC’s review, with whatever the MRC recommends then reviewed by the Board of Selectmen, did not promise the Bryants an opportunity to participate in the think tank.

“The Town was stuck with a bill for $11,000 to clean up a mess ... that is what we’re trying to address,” said Malkoski, who acknowledged the Bryants’ strong performance and track record but stated that the MRC’s first obligation is to protect the Town.

Shellfish Officer and Deputy Harbormaster Adam Murphy stated that the Harbormaster’s Department never said that everybody is going to be out of business.

Chris Bryant referenced the oyster festival he and his brother brought to Marion and alluded to the challenge that the coronavirus pandemic has posed to their business, including three unsuccessful attempts to expand to another half-acre of farming space. “We would just like to be talking on the same page and not be talking on rumors and possibilities,” he said.

The Town’s new pump-out shed, canceled for 2020 by the coronavirus pandemic, is now up and running, according to Perry in his Harbormaster’s Report. Also installed are two new Island Wharf transient floats, and Perry says the floats, replacing those that were damaged beyond repair by a storm in 2019, are installed and will soon be up and running. A dinghy dock was installed in the past week as well, leaving only a couple of scheduled float replacements left for installation, including one at Silvershell Beach.

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boat, the Harbormaster Department is spending $3,000 on motor repairs as a temporary fix until July when the new motor is expected. Voters approved the motor’s replacement at last fall’s Special Town Meeting.

“It’s not a hit that we can’t overcome,” said Perry, noting that the repair money will come out of the Waterways Account.

Perry told the MRC that he believes the only harbor-based article on the Warrant for the May 10 Annual Town Meeting is Article 17, $16,000 for the replacement of a motor and associated equipment for a pump-out boat. Perry said he expects to only need $5,000 of those funds, the rest being expected as a reimbursement from the state Division of Marine Fisheries but cannot be confirmed until January 2022.

Revised plans for a new Maritime Center will be presented before the Board of Selectmen on Monday, April 26, in a 6:00 pm Zoom meeting, and Perry asked for MRC members to attend in support.

The harbormaster is holding off on completing commercial mooring and aquaculture regulations until after the May 10 Annual Town Meeting so the process can take place via in-person subcommittee meetings.

In response to requests for an open house to meet with the MRC and visit the present harbormaster facility, Malkoski suggested a Saturday morning for a couple of hours. He told the meeting he will approach Town Administrator Jay McGrail with May 8 or 15 as potential dates.

Perry said he still needs to complete a grant application and send it to the Seaport Economic Council by May 1.

Salem State University will no longer be Marion’s supplier of soft-shell clams, but Perry said he is still trying to get the clams from Salem State this year.

Finding another supplier will take time, and Murphy told MRC member Scott Cowell he will put together a list of possibilities “once the regulations are behind us.” Murphy told the MRC that he is preoccupied trying to get all the equipment in the water and operable for the 2021 season.

Based on news that Marion intends to resume in-person public meetings after Town Meeting is held on May 10 at Sippican School, Malkoski is hopeful that the next meeting of the Marion Marine Resources Commission scheduled for Monday, May 17, at 7:00 pm will be held in person, location to be determined.

Bulldogs Back on Track
Sports Roundup
By Nick Friar

The Old Rochester Regional High School football team once again has an opportunity to get up over .500 for the first time in the Fall II season, thanks to their 30-12 victory over Martha’s Vineyard on April 17.

Ryon Thomas provided most of ORR scoring, rushing for a pair of touchdowns and connecting for one through the air with Tommy Durocher. The Bulldogs quarterback led his team with 115 all-purpose yards, but Stephen Arne wasn’t far off Thomas’ total despite doing all of his work on the ground. The ORR running back rushed for 93 yards and a touchdown on 13 carries to average 7.2 yards per attempt.

Now sitting at 2-2, ORR hits the road again for its fifth game of the season. Originally scheduled for Friday, the Bulldogs visit Somerset Berkley on Saturday, April 24, for a noon kickoff.

Old Colony Football

After being required to take two weeks off because their opponent was forced to quarantine, the Cougars got back to work on April 17. Despite being back on their Rochester campus, Old Colony was still unable to secure its first win of the season, losing 35-8 to Hull.

The Cougars’ lone touchdown was scored by Austin Mendes in the final quarter of the game.

Old Colony gets back to Friday night action this week, as the team continues to search for its first win of the season. Upper Cape will make the trip to Old Colony for a 7:00 pm kickoff on April 23.

Old Rochester Regional Volleyball

The Bulldogs remain perfect through 10 games in the Fall II season after having defeated Bourne on April 16 in three sets, 25-21, 25-13 and 25-20.

Kailee Rodrigues did an outstanding job of facilitating, finishing with 22 assists in the win. Mickenna Soucy led ORR with 10 kills, while Shelby Carmichael had five of her own to go with her six aces.

ORR’s second meeting with Durfee that was
scheduled for April 19 and their only regular-season match against GNB Voc-Tech that was scheduled for April 20 have both been canceled. The Bulldogs only have one more match between themselves and a perfect regular season – to be followed by a South Coast Conference tournament. Their final match before the postseason is at Fairhaven on Friday, April 23, at 6:00 pm.

Old Colony Golf

The Cougars’ strong start to the season continued April 19 in their match against Tri-County, as Luke Butler and Brady Weglowski set the tone with their best rounds of the season. Both logged a nine-hole round of 38 against Tri-County, while Ty Dumas, Michael Niemi, Derek Fortunato and Will Harrop all did their part to secure the 9-0 victory.

Now a perfect 5-0 on the season, the Cougars start a back-to-back against Norfolk Aggie on Wednesday, April 21, at 2:45 p.m. Old Colony will be on the road in the first match, then host Norfolk Aggie on Thursday, April 22, at 2:30 p.m.

Old Rochester Regional Field Hockey

With some help from Maggie Nailor, Carly Drew was the only Bulldog who was able to find the back of the net against Case. Her goal was enough to force a 1-1 tie, bringing ORR’s record to 1-1-2. Following a 10:00 am meeting with Seekonk at home on Wednesday, April 21, the Bulldogs take a trip to Somerset Berkley on Friday, April 23, for a 2:00 pm start.

News Submission Policy

The Wanderer gladly accepts any and all news and press release items from local nonprofit organizations for publication on a weekly basis. The deadline for submission of news items is Monday at noon for publication in that week’s edition. Due to the increasing number of submissions, however, publication of press material is never guaranteed. The Wanderer will make every effort to publish timely news items and announcements as the subject warrants and as often as spacing allows. All press material must be submitted by email to news@wanderer.com and must be either in a text or Word file. We are not able to retype, correct, or hunt down information to repair incomplete press releases, and we are not able to retype or reformat posters or bulleted lists that are not in readable paragraph form. We cannot accept any handwritten material or news items via telephone, no matter how brief.

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
Letters to the Editor

Earth Day is this week, April 22, and Arbor Day is next week, April 30. Usually the Marion Tree and Parks Committee would celebrate with a town wide cleanup and tree seedling give away, but of course, due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are not doing that again this year.

Instead, the Tree Committee will be helping to plant trees in front of the newly renovated Town House and in front of Sippican School along Spring Street. I am sure you have seen that several maples have been removed, and five new zelkovas will replace the ones in front of Town Hall and three new sugar maples in front of Sippican School. There will also be a new landscaped plan of shrubs and plants for the Town House as well.

Some of you may remember a third-grade teacher at Sippican, Fred Hutchings, who used to take students out to tap the maples for maple sugar. Those old Norway maples (planted in the ‘50s) served well for many years but were on their way out. The three new ones will serve as a reminder.

Mr. Hutchings used to also challenge his students...
The Auditor

By Rob Gonsalves
www.robsmovievault.com


Sometimes you just want a brutality expert wrecking house and perforating faceless bad guys, and Nobody gives you that and then some. At ninety-one minutes, the movie embodies “lean and mean,” and it’s not about anything — it’s just an excuse to get our hero into as many ferocious encounters as possible. It’s the kind of pure cinema that traditionally gets little respect except from action-film fans, who have seen everything and just want to see it done well. Is it realistic? Gedoudda here. It’s a cartoon. But as directed by Ilya Naishuller (Hardcore Henry) and written by Derek Kolstad (the John Wick series), it’s made by people who know what they’re doing. When a baseline of competence is in place, there’s solid ground from which to jump, take flight, indulge in excess.

Perhaps best known these days for Breaking Bad and its spin-off Better Call Saul, Bob Odenkirk would seem, at the very least, cast against type here as Hutch Mansell, an apparently meek office drone crunching numbers in his father-in-law’s business. (Indication of the fun to come: dad-in-law is played by badass character actor Michael Ironside.) About half an hour into the movie — by which time we’ve seen Hutch decline to meet a couple of home invaders with a violent response — we find out that Hutch used to do wetwork for “the three-letter agencies.” A tough guy in a tattoo parlor sees a tat on Hutch’s wrist and backs right down; he knows what that means. Soon, a group of goons threaten a young woman on a bus Hutch happens to be on, and we’re off to the races.

The fight choreography and bone-snapping editing give us a clear view of the carnage. Odenkirk trained for over two years to master Hutch’s lethal moves, and it shows. Is it easier to get a performance out of a nonactor but professional fighter (say, Steven Soderbergh’s Haywire) or to hire an actor and train them to fight? In this case, Odenkirk brings a resigned slouch to his pre-violent scenes as the retired hit-man turned family man (he has a wife, played by Connie Nielsen, and two kids). Hutch once thought he wanted the quiet life, but after some years away from the bloodshed he wants back in. He doesn’t really suffer any great tragedy to push him back into the fray. He’s just tired of, as the first song in the movie underlines, being misunderstood.

Hutch runs afoul of a Russian gang, led by casually vicious Aleksei Serebryakov. He could take them on alone, but where’s the fun in that? Hutch enlists the aid of two men whose identities I won’t spoil, and just the sight of them joining in the mayhem is boundlessly entertaining. Nobody made me deeply happy not in spite of but because of its dedication to gritty, grunting, gore-splattered climaxes. I liked the reasoning behind Hutch letting the two thieves go at the beginning: as someone well-acquainted with true evil, Hutch didn’t sniff it on these nitwits. Hutch’s wife and son, it turns out, don’t know him very well; they take him for a boring wimp. His little daughter on some level knows what he is; she feels safe with him.

Some fans are already agitating for sequels, or a crossover set in the John Wick-verse. I say let Hutch (and Odenkirk, who’s 58 and probably doesn’t have many more Nobodys in him physically, though I have no doubt he could still kick my ass) stroll off into the sunset and take pride in a job well done. Not everything has to be a franchise. As it is, this plays like the sort of outstanding but obscure action tape you used to find on the bottom shelf of a mom-n-pop video store, a fierce one-and-done. Its story is complete. Hutch came back once; he doesn’t need to keep coming back. By its very energy and happy ingenuity, Nobody argues pretty persuasively for Hutch’s violent past, at least as the subject of a solar-plexus-punching B movie. It’d be depressing in real life. And the other side of Odenkirk’s phenomenal performance is that Hutch, we sense, knows just how depressing. Odenkirk shows us the contradiction of the samurai, many of whom were also Buddhist. Also there’s a dude who gets chest-bumped with a damn Claymore.
to learn their multiplication tables and reward them with a ride on the back of his motorcycle. That can no longer happen these days but is another fond memory.

Our hope is that in the future, people will know and appreciate the new trees and remember that they were planted in 2021 when the Town House was restored to its former glory.

So, please, celebrate Arbor Day and take a walk, plant a tree, enjoy the flowers, and be glad that spring is here again.

Margie Baldwin for the Marion Tree and Parks Committee

National Student-Athlete Honor Society
Grace E. Jackson of Marion has been inducted into St. Lawrence University’s chapter of the Chi Alpha Sigma honor society for being an outstanding college student-athlete who excels in the classroom, in their sport, and in the community.

Grace Jackson is a member of the Class of 2022 and is majoring in psychology and performance and communication arts. Jackson attended and is a member of the riding team at St. Lawrence University.

Students are nominated for inclusion in this society by their head coaches for their contributions to their team, for their moral character, and for having achieved a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.4 or higher.

Academic Achievements
Falmouth Academy has announced its Head of School List for academic achievement in the second trimester of the 20-21 school year. Students named to the list have earned at least three A’s and no grade below B-minus for the trimester. Falmouth Academy has 225 students in grades 7 through 12, from Cape Cod, the Southcoast, the South Shore, and Martha’s Vineyard. The list includes:


From the Files of the Rochester Historical Society
By Susan LaFleur, Secretary/Librarian
The Air Raid Warden’s armband seen here belonged to Andrew MacGregor, a farmer who lived and whose family still lives on Vaughan Hill Road. He was just one of several Rochester men who “kept an eye to the sky” during World War II. Called the “Ground Observer Corps,” these men took turns stationed at a watchtower/post, one of many along the eastern and western coasts, keeping a lookout for an attack by German and Japanese fighter planes. At its height, these civilian observers numbered 1.5 million with 14,000 coastal observation posts. Rochester had one set on Vaughan Hill Road. Fairhaven’s tower still stands on West Island. It was part of an anti-submarine fire control system. Thankfully, the threat never came to our towns.

For those too young to know, the fear of attack was high on everyone’s mind. Towns organized groups of men who volunteered to be part of a Home Guard. The United States Civil Defense gave out printed handbooks to every volunteer. Duties listed in this booklet included
**Regional Lunch Menus**

**COASTLINE ELDERLY NUTRITION PROGRAM**

**Marion**
- Monday, April 26: Chicken-a-la-king, egg noodles, peas & carrots, multigrain roll, pineapple
- Tuesday, April 27: Pot roast w/gravy, mashed potatoes, spring vegetables, oatmeal bread, banana
- Wednesday, April 28: Buttermilk chicken, red bliss potatoes, glazed carrots, whole wheat bread, mini chocolate fudge cake, diet: low sugar cake
- Thursday, April 29: Beef chili, rice, snowflake roll, pears
- Friday, April 30: Broccoli & cheese bake, hash browns, tomato Florentine, fruit loaf, Mandarin oranges

**Old Colony Regional Junior & Senior High**
- Monday, April 26: Crispy chicken sandwich, oven roasted French fries, savory green beans, 1% milk, assorted fresh fruit (OR) Cereal & yogurt fun lunch
- Tuesday, April 27: Taco nacho platter, fiesta corn & bean salad, 1% milk, assorted fresh fruit (OR) Cereal & yogurt fun lunch
- Wednesday, April 28: Pancakes, baked ham, oven baked potato wedges, crazy carrots, 1% milk, assorted fresh fruit (OR) Cereal & yogurt fun lunch
- Thursday, April 29: Homemade Shepard's pie, whole grain dinner roll, 1% milk, assorted fresh fruit (OR) Cereal & yogurt fun lunch

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For a full PDF of the three towns’ police logs from the past week, including arrest reports, visit www.Wanderer.com.
going around town to ensure all residents were following guidelines set up by the government; for example, at night, all windows had to be blackened out so that no light showed through that could be used by “the enemy” to find their targets. Heavy dark draperies and roofing paper were two of the items used to do this. Car headlights were painted halfway down with special blackout paint so that the little light that could be seen did not point skyward and was just enough to see to drive. Many homes kept buckets of sand to use to put out fires that would be ignited by a bomb hitting the roof.

In writing for the Rochester Journal published by the Plumb Library, Barbara Besse, who grew up in town, remembered Mr. Rounseville driving down the road tooting his car horn three times at each home. That was
“Happy to see that a pair of oyster catchers are back enjoying the beaches,” says Faith Ball, who submitted this photo.

Marion Boy Scout Troop 32 earned a second-place finish at the Klondike Derby on March 13 at Camp Cachalot in the Myles Standish State Forest. During the event, scout patrols went from station to station with a traditional Klondike sled (called a sledge) to test their skills and leadership ability in the outdoor winter environment. Photo courtesy Laura Pedulli

Jennifer Feeney was on a beach walk and snapped this photo on Pico Beach in Mattapoisett which she titled, “Love Is in The Air.”

These photos and more are available online at www.wanderer.com
the signal for the home’s occupants to put out the lights and pull down all shades. In this same journal, Virginia (Fuller) Decker noted that an observation post was located in one of her father’s brooder houses on Neck Road. If a plane was seen, the “spotter” would call a central number to describe the aircraft and tell which direction it was headed.

The Ground Observer Corps was disbanded in 1944 and revived in the early 1950s due to the Cold War. It was ended in 1958 with the advance of automated radar.

Rochester resident Art Benner remembers as a teenager in the 1950s manning the Vaughan Hill lookout with a friend. Their job was to spot planes flying overhead and reporting what they saw to a “filter
Abel Philbrook (right), 6, of Marion, uses a magnifying glass to get a closer look at tiny tadpoles swimming in a tub of murky water retrieved from a vernal pool on Saturday afternoon in Mattapoisett. Photo by Mick Colageo.

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

We can assist with applications for Payroll Protection Program loans (PPP), SBA’s Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) and the forgiveness applications.

Mattapoisett Woman’s Club

Daffodils blooming in public spaces. Window boxes shouting spring. Gorgeous flowers at the Shipyard Park garden. Library urns overflowing with color. Did you know that many of the plantings around town are a result of the hard work of the Mattapoisett Woman’s Club Garden Group?

Mattapoisett Town beautification work began in the 1970s with the start of the Garden Group. The first plantings were at the Triangle, the Post Office, and the Town Hall. This work has continued for more than 50 years with plantings that expanded to other locations – the Historical Society, the Town Wharf, the Mattapoisett Free Public Library, and Town Beach House window boxes. A dogwood tree was planted at the “new” Police Station on Route 6 to honor Eleanor Ross, a former Mattapoisett and State Federation President.

Recently, the group planted a Butterfly Garden at Center School in memory of Suzanne Sylvestre, a Club member and a Center School teacher, and a tree at the Town Hall, a Stewartia, in honor of the club’s 75th anniversary. Continuing this mission of civic engagement there is a biennial Garden Club Tour featuring several private gardens in Mattapoisett.

In celebration of the 80th anniversary year of the Mattapoisett Woman’s Club, the 2021 garden tour includes seven Mattapoisett gardens. The “Glorious Gardens” tour is scheduled for June 26, rain or shine. Like all events during this time, please watch for updates.

The Mattapoisett Woman’s Club is always open to new members from the South Coast area. For more information and a membership application, please see the Club’s website www.mattapoisettwomansclub.org/members/.

Mattapoisett Woman’s Club Tag Sale

The Mattapoisett Woman’s Club will hold a Tag Sale on May 1, from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm, at the old Bowlmor parking lot next to Ying Dynasty. The rain date is May 8.

Also available for purchase at the Tag Sale are the specially designed MWC notecards and postcards of local scenes and flowers, and the Pathway to Planting Passport. This $10 passport will provide purchasers with special discounts for local florists and greenhouses. Most shops included will discount only on May 21, 22, 23. The exception with special dates are Village Gardens (May 17-23) and TomCat Daylily Farm (the month of July).

If you need a wonderful gift idea for Mother’s Day, the Mattapoisett Woman’s Club Tag Sale is a terrific place to start. All proceeds from the sale support scholarships that are awarded to local students annually.

Tri-Town Veterans Counsel

The Tri-Town Veterans Counsel is pleased to announce the selection of our new Veterans Agent for Marion, Mattapoisett, and Rochester.

Christopher Gerrior of Rochester, a retired US Naval Officer, has been chosen by the Tri-Town Veterans Counsel to replace retiring Veterans Agent Barry Denham.

Gerrior had a highly decorated 24-year career in the Navy before retiring. He brings to the Tri-Town Veterans Counsel a depth of knowledge and experience of working with veterans in several areas while in service.

The Tri-Town Veterans Counsel wishes to thank our outgoing Veterans Agent Barry Denham for his over 20 years of dedicated service to the veterans and their families.
SALOME’S STARS

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Whether a waiting period is taking longer than expected, or just seems that way, the anxious Lamb would do well to create a center of calm within her- or himself, and not do anything rash.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Practical matters dominate the week, but cultural activities also are favored, especially those that can be shared with someone special in the Bovine’s life. Some important news might be forthcoming.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You need to know more about a possible career move in order to see if it offers a real opportunity or just a change. You’re sure to get lots of advice — some of it good — but the decision must be yours.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) The arrival of hoped-for good news about a loved one dominates most of the week and provides a great excuse for the party-loving Moon Child to plan a special event to celebrate.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Leos and Leonas rushing to finalize their plans might want to think about slowing down the pace, or risk overlooking an important consideration that could become a sore point down the line.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) The week’s challenges call for logical approaches. But sentiment also has its place. Sharing memories with a special someone, for example, strengthens the bond between you.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A brand-new approach to a problem could have a good chance of succeeding if it’s based on a solid foundation of fact to strengthen its potential for standing up to scrutiny.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A favorable report should give your optimism an important boost as you confront another phase of a challenge. Don’t be timid about accepting advice from someone you trust.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You might want to target another goal if your current aim is continually being deflected. But stay with it until you find that first sign of an opening, and then follow through.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Although offers of advice might not always please the usually sure-footed Goat, good counsel is always worth considering, especially from those whose experience can be invaluable.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Don’t rush to make up for lost time. Your productivity can be measured not only by what you do, but how you do it. Move carefully until the job is done the way you like it.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Emerging facts about someone you know might cause you to rethink your relationship. But remember to make judgments in context of a full situation, not just on scraps of data.

BORN THIS WEEK: You are known both for your love of acquiring beautiful things as well as for your generosity to others.

(c) 2021 King Features Synd., Inc.
families of the Tr-Town area. Under Denham’s leadership we have grown from a two-town veterans’ service to serving all three towns. Barry has left a well-organized Veterans Service operation for Gerrior to take over the helm.

Earth Day with the Rochester Women’s Club
Earth Day town wide clean up at the Rochester Women’s Club was met with great enthusiasm this year. With the support of many town organizations, much neighborhood participation, families, and various groups of happy excited folks. The cold, rainy Saturday, April 17, certainly did not dampen the spirits of the citizens of Rochester, Massachusetts. The effort continued through the weekend with many folks out in the warm sun shining Sunday, the 18th. Many, many streets, baseball parks, parking lots, and neighborhoods are sparkling clean, thanks to the efforts of the citizens of our town.

The ladies of the Rochester Women’s Club would like to thank everyone who volunteered their time, whether it was cleaning the streets, picking up the trash bags, providing snacks, helping to set up and take down, directing traffic, organizing their neighbors, or creating our swag bags. We are grateful for your participation and your caring.

The Rochester Women’s Club is located at 37 Marion Road in Rochester. We are a fun-loving group of dedicated ladies who care.

For any information on the Woman’s Club and its mission, email us at rwomensclub@aol.com, or contact Marsha at 508-322-0998. You can also find us on Facebook.

MLT digital Annual Meeting
Mattapoisett Land Trust will conduct its 2021 Annual Meeting using the digital platform Zoom on Sunday, April 25, at 4:00 pm. The meeting will feature updates on MLT activities, a recognition of volunteers, and an election of board members for the coming year. Members and others interested may call in to the meeting using a computer, tablet, or smartphone. To register for the meeting (pre-registration is required), please send an email to info@mattlandtrust.org. MLT will confirm your registration and provide Zoom sign-in information. We look forward to “seeing” everyone on April 25!

Mattapoisett Tree Committee Observes Arbor Day
Join the Tree Warden and the Tree Committee on Friday, April 30, at 10:00 am as we raise the Arbor Day flag at Mattapoisett Town Hall. The Town of Mattapoisett does an annual observance of Arbor Day to qualify for Tree City USA recognition. In addition, we sponsor a public service or educational event each year. This year we will be planting a tree at the Police Station as a memorial tree to recognize our town’s first responders: The Police, Fire, and EMTs. The tree and its accompanying plaque will be planted later this year due to the Fire Station construction. The public will be invited for this important event as well as the flag raising. The Town of Mattapoisett is celebrating its 13th year in the Tree City USA program.

The ‘88 Bulldog Pride Award
Alumni of the Old Rochester Regional Class of 1988 and friends of the class (including ORR alumni from the Classes of 1986, 1987, 1989, 1990 and 1991) are proud to announce the 2021 call for applications for the ‘88 Bulldog Pride Award. The award is to be given to an outstanding graduating senior who has shown a demonstrated pride for our alma mater.

The ‘88 Bulldog Pride Award recognizes the contributions of an outstanding graduating senior of the Class of 2021 who emulates the legacy of the Class of 1988, demonstrating pride for the class and school. The ORR Class of 1988 wishes to recognize a graduating senior who may go unnoticed because of the unsung values that are often missed by scholastic or athletic merit-based awards. We wish to support a champion of fellow students, the class, and the school. Through recognition of students who passionately support their peers in class and Tri-Town activities, the Class of 1988 wishes to promote kindness and goodwill towards others as the pathway to acceptance and inclusion. This is the spirit of the ‘88 Bulldog Pride Award.

Threadfully Yours
Barbara “Bobbi” Gaspar
508-758-2058 thasismystyrosg8@gmail.com
Alterations, Repairs & Custom Designs

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Custom Design is our specialty! www.brewerbanner.com

www.wanderer.com
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to Chapter 76, Section 12B of the Massachusetts General Laws, you are notified that there will be a Public Hearing of the Rochester School Committee regarding school choice for the 2021-2022 school year at 6:30 pm, on Monday, May 3, 2021. Due to restrictions on public gatherings as a result of COVID-19, this meeting will be held remotely and members of the public will not be allowed to physically attend. To access the meeting, please use the link information below. https://oldrochester-org.zoom.us/j/93988302409?pwd=B2dTbEtsTC9ieWk1QmE4Q2xNMmxEUT09

If you need additional login information, please contact the Superintendent’s Office at 508-758-2772 ext. 1956. 4/22

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to Chapter 76, Section 12B of the Massachusetts General Laws, you are notified that there will be a Public Hearing of the Mattapoisett School Committee regarding the filing of a Definitive Subdivision Plan entitled “Longbow Lane” prepared for Bendrix Bailey, 34 Gerrish Road, Rochester, MA, dated February 23, 2021 and prepared by GAF Engineering, Inc. 266 Main Street, Wareham, MA, 02571. The property is located off Gerrish Road and is designated as Lot #29-F, on the Rochester Assessors’ Map # 43-A.

A copy of the original plans can be viewed in the office of the Town Clerk during normal business hours, or downloaded from the Town’s website at https://www.townofrochester-mass.com/.

Anyone wishing to be heard on this matter should appear at the time and place designated above or send written comments prior to the hearing to the Rochester Planning Board at 37 Marion Road, Rochester, MA 02770. Arnold Johnson, Chairman 4/22, 4/29

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PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED ADS 24 HOURS A DAY 7 DAYS A WEEK ON-LINE AT www.wanderer.com
The successful graduating senior of the Class of 2021 will be awarded $300 to augment the winner’s future study at a two- or four-year college or university or for activities related to a gap year experience.

The scholarship award is drawn from the ORR Class of 1988 Scholarship Fund, established in July 2018 on the occasion of the class’s 30th reunion, with the generous contributions of ORR alumni who attended the reunion weekend. This fund will sponsor the financial contribution to the ’88 Bulldog Pride Award for the period of 2019-2023. The scholarship has been awarded to Michaela Mattson ’19 of Marion and to Megan McCullough ’20 of Mattapoisett.

The Alumni Selection Committee is led by the class president, Thomas Xenopoulos Peccei (Mattapoisett), along with Vice-President Christopher Danse (Marion), Salutatorian Dana Palmer-Donnelly (Marion), Lorraine Durgin Kumlin (Mattapoisett), Tom Fletcher (Mattapoisett), Racquel Rezendes (Marion), Lara Schofield (Marion), and Jeff Silva (Rochester), including class advisor Mrs. Teresa Dall.

To receive the award brief and 2021 application, send an email to txpeccini@yahoo.com. The electronic submission period closes on May 20 at 3:00 pm. Any applications received after this time will not be accepted for consideration. Once the completed application is received, the graduating senior will receive notification that the application has been accepted for consideration by the Alumni Selection Committee. Please note that the student will not be notified by the committee if the application is incomplete.

If you have any questions about the process, please contact the class president or Kelly Bertrand, guidance secretary at Old Rochester Regional High School, at 508-758-3745 ext. 1414.

The Alumni Committee of the Class of 1988 would like to express its gratitude to ORR alumni and friends who’ve contributed to this scholarship fund in order to facilitate this financial award. Special thanks are given to the Guidance Department of ORRHS who provide support to the alumni committee and to the faculty/staff and peer leaders of the school who support the seniors’ applications.

If you are an alumnus/alumna of ORR and would like to inquire about contributing directly to this alumni-sponsored scholarship fund, please contact the committee’s chair. Donations of any amount are welcome so that we alumni can continue to support young and active members of our community. Due to the generosity of anonymous contributions and efforts by its alumni volunteers, all proceeds go directly to funding the award.

**Clothes Fundraiser**

The Old Colony High School PTO Clothes will host a Fundraiser on April 24 from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm at the Old Colony High School. Please drop of your unwanted clothes and linens in black garbage bags to the school on that day and time. Cash donations also accepted for this fundraiser. Please email Oldcolonypto1@gmail.com

**The Trail Tale**

The Plumb Library and Rochester Land Trust are collaborating to offer a free spring activity for families. The Trail Tale at the George and Catherine Church Wildlife Conservation Area takes you on a half-mile walk through the woods as you follow the story of “The Gruffalo,” by Julia Donaldson, a popular children’s book about a mouse and his friend. Extend this experience with an outdoor activity at the Plumb Library. The Trail Tale and activity at the library will be available until May 6.

The 20-acre Church Wildlife Conservation Area is centrally located on 193 Marion Road (Route 105) near the center of town and its half-mile, easy walking trail is perfect for young children. This property is a pine forest in transition, with selective trees cut in the past few years to make way for new, healthy trees. While the forest is in transition, visitors will find many nooks and crannies from fallen trees that provide homes for animals.

The Plumb Library, located a mile from the Conservation Area, has beautiful grounds for families to explore while they follow instructions for a seek-and-find scavenger hunt. The first 20 families to complete both activities will receive a special prize!
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AND

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This opportunity is a great way to enjoy nature and reading with your family this spring. The Rochester Land Trust is an all-volunteer organization that owns and manages six properties open to the public for passive recreation across town. For more places to walk, visit RochesterLandTrust.org.

Per public health guidelines, please practice 6 feet social distancing and wear masks. The trail takes you through the woods. Please wear appropriate clothes, footwear, and tick prevention.

As of April 12, Plumb Library no longer requires an appointment to browse for books. Appointments are still required for computer use. Contact the library at 508-763-8600 with any questions.
SO, HOW'D YOUR VACATION GO?

WOW! LAST SEAT! HOW LUCKY IS THAT?!

WARREN FAILS TO HEED THE ADVICE "NEVER GET BETWEEN A MOTHER BEAR AND HER YOUNG"

TATTOOS

TAKE YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY SPECIAL!

SPRING IS FINALLY HERE. WE'VE BEEN SITTING INSIDE FOR SO LONG. I'M NOT SURE WHERE TO BEGIN.

WE COULD FIX UP THE TREE FORT, GO FISHING, RIDE DIRT BIKES OR MAYBE PLAY IN THE BARN.

WE HAVE ALL SUMMER AND FALL WITH A LONG, LONG TIME BEFORE ALL THE SNOW, BEFORE COLD....

BEFORE CHRISTMAS.
See Buzzards Bay in a Whole New Way at the MAC

“Postcards from Buzzards Bay” by Cape Cod composer Michael Donovan is a musical celebration of the body of water that shapes the lives of all who live and work in and around this wonder of nature. On Sunday, May 16, the Marion Art Center (MAC) will present an enhanced virtual encore of the Tri-County Symphonic Band performing the premiere of “Postcards from Buzzards Bay” and other evocative works about the sea. For this performance, the concert will be accompanied by compelling images of Buzzards Bay, both vintage postcards and original fine art.

Included in the program are compositions by James Fulton, Francis McBeth, Robert Russell Bennett, Ralph Vaughn Williams, and John Philip Sousa, and a new piece by Rochester resident and composer John Wallace. After the concert, viewers can see recorded interviews with composers Donovan and Wallace and participate in a live Zoom question and answer session. The event begins at 3:00 pm, when it will be broadcast on ORCTV and livestreamed through the MAC’s YouTube channel. To register for this event and receive the Zoom link, email info@marionartcenter.org with “Postcards Concert” in the subject line.

This exciting virtual concert is one of eight events presented by the MAC for SouthCoast Spring Arts (SCSA), a 10-day festival connecting innovative, creative, and affordable art and cultural experiences in communities from Fall River to Wareham. More than two dozen local cultural organizations have come together for SCSA to celebrate the arts across the South Coast region May 7-16. SCSA events will be virtual, hybrid, or outdoors in-person, in response to the state’s current safety
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### Weekly Sudoku

**by Linda Thistle**

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

**Difficulty This Week:**

- Moderate
- Challenging
- H.O.O.B.O.Y.!

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**SCRAMBLERS**

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordedy words. Then merge the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the grid!

```
Distant

METEOR

Truly

QUIET

Shiny

SAINT

Edge

FINGER

**TODAY’S WORD**
```

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**The Wanderer**

April 22, 2021

www.wanderer.com
April Programs at Plumb Library
Come to Backyard Band Jam with Ms. Rhonda! Welcome back to Plumb, Ms. Rhonda (Matson)! Register now for some outdoor physically distanced FAMILY music-making fun! At a Backyard Band Jam, families engage in musical play with traditional children’s songs, sing-along storybooks, props, and instruments. Remaining physically distanced, we sing together, move and groove together, and, of course, jam out together! This jam will include many animal tunes as a preview to the summer program theme of Tails and Tales! This event will take place on Thursday, April 22, 1:30 pm – 2:15 pm with another jam scheduled for Saturday, April 24, at 11:00 am. Backyard Band Jams are best suited for children up to age 9, but all are welcome! Registration is limited to 10 families – one family per spot, please. Register on the Event Calendar.

Please bring along something to shake – anything from a box of mac & cheese to actual egg shakers. A scarf kind of thing – facecloth, dishcloth, etc... And a collection of instruments, anything that’s a “real” instrument or ones made from the recycling bin or kitchen cabinets. All that is really required is a willingness to play musically! Jams will be held weather permitting. Rain dates may be possible. Masks are required for anyone over the age of 5. Masks are encouraged for ages 2-5. This show is FREE to families, thanks to the Friends of Plumb Library. Donations are gratefully appreciated and welcomed to support the Friends!

New Programs for Adults and Teens at the MAC
The Marion Art Center is pleased to present new programs for adults and teens. Plein Air Sketching begins May 19, and Midsummer Stages begins June 28. Would you like to draw the beauty of nature around you, but aren’t sure where to begin? Join instructor Catherine Carter for an outdoor drawing class and learn to capture the observed landscape in your sketchpad. Through live demonstrations and individual guidance, we will cover methods for selecting a subject, composing the page, describing organic form, and achieving value and texture. This class is perfect for both beginners and those with previous drawing experience. The six-week Plein Air Sketching class will meet on the MAC lawn, patio, or in Bicentennial Park on Wednesdays from May 19 – June 23, from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. The cost is $160 for MAC members, and $180 for nonmembers.
good const excavating screened loam delivered and starting at $15/hr. Part-time or Seasonal. Call (508) 748-1250 or email Jkelly@Kittansett.org

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John Deere LA 145 Riding Mower Best offer 508-758-2952

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PEARLS BEFORE SWINE
by Stephen Pastis

AND THATS WHAT HAPPENED WHEN I TURNED OFF SOCIAL MEDIA. HANG ON. I'M THE HANGING OUT THAT IS.
Join a youth theater troupe this summer! Midsummer Stages at the MAC is a summer theater company consisting of young adults in grades 7-12. The program incorporates movement, acting, and performing for a complete theater experience, running a full production from start to finish. The company meets for three hours, three days a week for seven weeks. Each day, actors will meet to rehearse, create costumes, and perform. Participants will also explore movement of the body and develop their own yoga practice along the way. Actors will work with local theater teacher and Equity actor, Jacob Sherburne, alongside the Marion Yoga Loft’s very own Elke Pierre. Program guests will include local actors who have been seen on the MAC stage. During the weekend following the final session, there will be three performances of Shakespeare’s greatest rom-com, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, at the outdoor Bandstand at Island Wharf in Marion. Rehearsals and practice will take place in Bicentennial Park, at the Bandstand at Island Wharf, or inside the MAC Theater. All theater company meetings, rehearsals, and productions will adhere to current CDC and state guidelines regarding COVID-19 protocols. Actors are expected to wear a mask at all times while inside, or when 6 feet of distance cannot be maintained.

No stage experience is required to be part of this production. People of all types and abilities are
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Asking $6800 Marion; 508-207-2255

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White/Teal, very low miles, Like New
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Don’t forget to wish these people a Happy Birthday!

Martha Smith April 22
Nigel Wrightington April 22
Thomas Janicki April 22
Joaquina Lombard April 23
Marc Nadeau April 23
Paul Coderre April 23
Amber Moen April 24
Carol Bannon April 24
Geraldine Tirrell April 24
John Vance April 24
Julie Borgatti April 24
Katelyn Alyssa Craig April 24
Luzga Jackivicz April 24
Shane Ryan April 24
Tyler Boardman April 24
Phyllis Magee April 25
Robert Teixeira April 25
Rosalyn Gula April 25
Cole Higgins April 26
Diane Brewster April 26
Mario Rego April 26
Michelle Vachon April 26
Nicole Kearns Berger April 26
Ryan Blanchette April 26
Hannah Ribeiro April 27
Jerry Johnson April 27
Linda Rosa Denise April 27
Sam Pasquill April 27
Susan Griffith April 27
Vera Gibbons April 27
Walter D. Costa April 27
Emily Hiller April 28
Jennifer Gerrior April 28
Mary Flood April 28
Tyler Jones April 28
Hummingbirds Are Coming

encouraged to sign up! Auditions for lead roles will take place on Saturday, May 22, with options to audition in person or via Zoom. Auditions are NOT required to participate in the program. The company will meet for seven weeks on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm, June 28 – August 11 at the MAC. The cost is $445 for MAC members and $495 for nonmembers.

Think you might be too young or too old to participate? Have schedule conflicts? Please call the Marion Art Center at 508-748-1266 or email info@marionartcenter.org with questions. Find out more and register online at marionartcenter.org/midsummer-stages.

Mattapoisett’s Annual Town Election

Mattapoisett’s Annual Town Election is scheduled for Tuesday, May 18, at Old Hammontown School, 20 Shaw Street. The polls will be open from 8:00 am – 8:00 pm. Those wishing to obtain an absentee or vote by mail ballot may do so by submitting a request in writing to the Town Clerk, Catherine Heuberger, P.O. Box 89, Mattapoisett. The request must contain a signature, your legal voting residence, the address to which you would like the ballot mailed, and the election you are requesting the ballot for.

As a convenience, the official applications are available on the Town website under the Town Clerk’s page. They are also available at Town Hall during regular business hours. If you would like a ballot application mailed to you, please call. Applications may be returned via email, regular mail, fax, or they may be placed in the blue election mailbox on the front lawn of Town Hall. Ballots will be mailed as soon as they are available to those who have requested them. Please submit your request early, as we must receive the voted ballot back before the polls close on election day for your vote to be counted. Questions? Please email townclerk@mattapoisett.net or call 508-758-4100 x 2.

2021 Lamoureux Music Scholarship

The New Bedford Symphony Orchestra is pleased to announce that applications are now available for

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the 2021 Lillian B. Lamoureux Music Scholarship. The scholarship competition is open to all music students ages 14–21. Two $1,000 scholarships will be awarded, one high school student and one college student. The deadline for application (including two letters of recommendation) is Friday, April 30. Students will be asked to submit a video of their audition performance via Dropbox by May 4. Questions may be directed to Education Director Terry Wolkowicz at twolkowicz@nbsymphony.org.

The scholarship, established in 2000 to support young musicians who intend to pursue their music education, continues to recognize the legacy of former President Emerita and longtime NBSO board President Lillian B. Lamoureux.

To download the scholarship application form, visit www.nbsymphony.org/scholarships.

The NBSO is a professional orchestra that annually presents a concert series of classical and pops music with internationally acclaimed guest artists, as well as an outstanding chamber music series. In addition, the NBSO’s innovative and nationally recognized educational programs reach 8,000 students each year. The NBSO is dedicated to building a community of music in the South Coast. Visit www.nbsymphony.org today!

**Take Home Science: Chemistry**

Calling all grade 3-7 young scientists! Do you like to do science experiments? Make up potions? Watch a solution change colors? Launch rockets?

If so, please join the scientists at SEED, Inc. for a virtual program with the Mattapoisett Free Public Library. You can register to pick up a full science kit that will have all of the materials you need to perform seven unique experiments at home. Each experiment involves a chemical reaction or mixture, and you’ll have a fun time exploring each one! You can follow along with the lessons using custom-made videos that guide you through how to use the materials for each experiment. Come have fun with science in the safety of your home!

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Mattapoisett Local Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. To register or learn more, visit our website, mattapoisettlibrary.org, or call the library at 508-758-4171.

**ORCTV Annual Meeting**

Old Rochester Community TV will hold its annual meeting via Zoom at 5:00 pm on Thursday, May 20. The annual meeting will include the election of officers to the Old Rochester Community Television Board of Directors. The nominees for 2021 are: Marion Nominee – Phillip Sandborn, 2-year term; Rochester Nominee – Tom Bretto, 2-year term; Membership Seat – Elaine Botelho, 1-year term; and Mattapoisett Nominee – Chris Charyk, 2-year term.

**Mattapoisett Land Trust**

The Mattapoisett Land Trust Education Committee has new and updated family activities such as story walks and scavenger hunts ready and waiting for your participation at MLT properties.

On the Bowman Road “Grace Pond” property, you will find a new installation of Kate Butler’s ORR Visual Design art students’ work that corresponds with the “Monarch and the Milkweed,” by Helen Frost and Leonid Gore story walk. The walk is alongside a beautiful wildflower meadow where milkweed grows.

All family activities will teach you about many of our Mattapoisett Land Trust Properties. Visit mattlandtrust.org to obtain trail maps for hikes. And watch for our ‘Staycation’ banner at the (Dexter) Tub Mill property off Route 6!
I Found the Aardvark!

Each week, hidden somewhere in the pages of The Wanderer is a tiny drawing of an aardvark. The little guy you are looking for looks exactly like the one pictured above (but don’t put down this page as your answer, there’s another one hidden somewhere in this issue).

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

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

In the April 15, 2021 edition the Aardvark was on page 44!
Friends’ marketplace
at PLUMB CORNER

SALE EFFECTIVE:
Friday, April 23 - Thursday, April 29, 2021
565 Rounseville Road • Rochester, MA 02770
Phone: 508.763.5333
Open Daily: 7am–9pm

Grocery, Dairy, Frozen & Bakery

Full Circle market
15.5 oz. Selected Organic Beans
5/$5

26.46 oz. Pomì Chopped Tomatoes......... $2.99
25.3 oz. Selected Perrier Sparkling Mineral Water ................... Plus Dep.
64 oz. 100% Food Club Apple Juice ....... $2.99
40 oz. Selected Betty Cracker Bisquick Pancake & Baking Mix .......... $3.49
15.2 oz. Selected Skippy Peanut Butter .......... $2.99
28 oz Original BB&M Baked Beans ........... $2.99

14.3/19.35 oz. Selected Nabisco Oreo Cookies ......................... 2/$6
52 oz. Selected Floride’s Natural ............... $3.69
5.1 oz. Selected Chobani Greek Yogurt .......... 4/$5
20-32 oz. Selected Alexia Potato Sides ........... 2/$7

Fresh Baked, 27 oz. Pkg. Fresh Baked Pop Tarts ................... $2.49 ea.

Quality Meats, Deli & Prepared Foods

Friends’ Premium Black Angus
85% Lean Ground Chuck
$5.99 lb.

Boar’s Head London Broil Roast Beef .................. $11.99 lb.
Boar’s Head Imported Swiss Cheese ................. $9.99 lb.

Chairman’s Reserve Prime, Bone-In Pork Chops $3.79 lb.

Wine & Beer

FANTASTIC SPRING WINES!

750 ml California, Chardonnay Raeburn .......... $14.99
750 ml Washington Pinot Noir Whole Cluster .......... $22.99
750 ml California Fume Blanc Ferrari-Carrano .......... $14.99

We also carry a great selection of Ready to Drink Cocktails & Seltzers
• White Claw • Truly • Cytoswater • Fisher’s Island • High Noon • & more!

We have an awesome selection of fresh, cold Craft Beer from...
• Buzzard’s Bay • Mayflower • Bissell Brothers • Lawson’s
• Lord Hobo • Wormtown • & many more!

12 oz. Cans/Bottles, 30 Pack Bud Light ................. $27.99
12 oz. Selected, 12 Pack Samuel Adams ............. $17.99
12 oz. Selected, 12 Pack Sierra Nevada .......... $19.40
12 oz. Cans, 18 Pack Pabst Blue Ribbon ........... $17.99

All Beer is Plus Deposit

Produce

6 oz. Pkg. Blueberries ................................... $2.99
Soft & Sweet Cantaloupes .................. 2/$5
Seedless Red Grapes ................. $2.49 lb.
Make Caprese Salad! Heirloom Tomatoes .......... $2.99 lb.
Florida Fresh Corn on the Cob ........... 5/$2.99
Crisp Broccoli Crowns ................. $1.69 lb.

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL GREAT SAVINGS THIS WEEK!
SALE EFFECTIVE: Friday, April 23 Thursday, April 29, 2021

**BLOCKBUSTER SAVINGS!**

**Friends' Marketplace**

- **Friends’ Premium Black Angus Boneless Rib Steak**
  - $18.99 lb.

- **Friends’ Store Baked Turkey**
  - $7.99 lb.

- **Barilla 12/16 oz. Selected (Excludes Protein+ & Gluten Free) Pasta**
  - 2/$3

- **Friendly’s 48 oz. Selected Ice Cream**
  - $3.99

- **Coors Light 12 oz. Cans/Bottles 30 Pack**
  - $27.99

- **One Stone 750 ml California Cabernet Sauvignon Wine**
  - $15.99

**Garden Center**

**PANSIES HAVE ARRIVED!**
- 6 Packs Annuals ................. $2.49 ea.
- 6 Inch Pots Assorted Colors Pansies ............... 2/$10

**VEGETABLES & HERBS**
- 6 Packs, Assorted Cold Season Vegetables or Herbs .......... $2.39 ea.

**Cheese & Spreads**

- 16 oz. Pkg. Selected Cedar’s Hommus ................. 2/$7

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL GREAT SAVINGS THIS WEEK!