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Marion Town House Mural Contest

By Sam Bishop

Renovation work on the Marion Town House is coming along as scheduled, with most construction set to be finished during the summer, and the Town House reopened sometime in August.

At the January 6 Select Board meeting, Town



The inside of the Marion Town House. Construction goes on, but the project is on time and scheduled to finish in late-summer, following the unveiling of a mural from an announced contest.

Photo courtesy of Town Administrator Geoffrey Gorman

On the cover: The Marion Town House renovation project, as approved by residents at last year's Spring Town Meeting, is on schedule and expected to finish in late-summer. The Town House was closed, and renovations began in September 2025, with work seeing the building become Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant, addition of a fire-suppression system, HVAC installation, and an internal lift. Photo by Shawn Sweet

Administrator Geoffrey Gorman gave an update on the status of the Town House. The current renovations were approved of by Marion residents at the Spring Town Meeting in May 2025, with work beginning in September and local government offices and functions moving to the Town House Annex at 14 Barnabas Road. The building will become Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant, something long discussed within the town. Also in ADA compliance, there is to be a lift installed similar to the one in the new Maritime Center. The addition of fire-suppression and HVAC systems was also approved. Internal framing is largely completed, with Gorman telling *The Wanderer*, "We continue to move along the timeline with progress."

The Town Administrator, at the same Select Board meeting, presented an idea to town officials and the public: a mural in the Town House. As he was giving his presentation on the status of construction on building that celebrates its 150th birthday this year, Gorman stated all work was on schedule and the build would be finished by the end of summer. He then put forth an idea, now finalized, that was approved by the board at that meeting.

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The town is inviting local artists to submit mural concepts that will later be installed on an interior wall within the Town House. The town is open to submissions starting next week, on Monday, January 19 with the contest open until April 2 by town office closure, 4:30 pm. The town's announcement states, "The mural will serve as a lasting symbol of community pride and creativity in the heart of Marion's civic center."

There are some stipulations with the allowed mural submissions: It is open to Marion residents aged 18 and older (individuals or teams), each artist may submit one original design concept, and designs must be appropriate for all audiences and must not contain political, commercial, or offensive content.

Starting Monday, artists should submit a digital rendering and concept statement with discussion on theme via email to the Town Administrator Geoffrey Gorman at: ggorman@marionma.gov.

Following the closure of the submission process, the Select Board will then review submissions and select finalists to be voted upon by town residents. In May, a community survey will take place to determine the winner. The timeline for the Town House Mural Contest, as presented by the town, is as follows:

Contest Launch: Monday, **January 19**

Submission Deadline: Thursday, **April 2** by 4:30 pm

Select Board Review: **April** (Date to be announced)

Community Survey & Final Selection: **May** (Date to be announced)

Mural Installation Period: **August** (Date to be announced)

Minor Earthquake Hits Mattapoisett By Sam Bishop

On the night of Wednesday, January 8, a magnitude 1.8 earthquake was felt by many of those in the Tri-Town, especially Mattapoisett. No damage was reported following the incident.

According to the United States Geological Survey, a government agency under the Department of

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the Interior, the earthquake shook the ground a couple seconds after 9:11 pm. The USGS actually estimates the epicenter of the quake was just over the line in Acushnet (41.672°N, 70.869°W), though the closest center of population was Mattapoisett.

The quake luckily wasn't powerful enough to do real damage but was still enough to rattle around some household objects and wake up those that were asleep. Even though it wasn't too mighty, it was still clocked by many around the South Coast, with even some saying they felt tremors in Spencer, MA, about 70 miles away. The closest major station that monitors seismic activity in the area is the Adam Dziewonski Observatory in Harvard, MA.

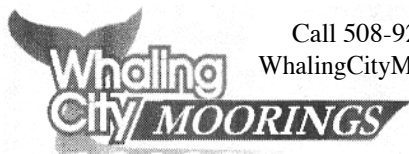
A few hours before, there was a slightly more powerful magnitude 1.9 quake near East Haddam in central Connecticut, about 85 miles west of Mattapoisett.

Earthquakes of this nature hitting New England are rare but not all that unlikely. The last major earthquake recorded in Massachusetts was the Cape Ann Earthquake of November 18, 1755. It was a magnitude 5.8~ (measuring accurately wasn't entirely possible yet) and there is still much speculation as to its origin, with some claiming it to be a ripple effect from another earthquake in Portugal.

We sit nowhere near a plate's fault line; thus, the nature of these quakes is different from those of the Ring of Fire around the Pacific or the eastern Indian Ocean. Most likely, according to geologists, these minor New England quakes are caused either by the settling of the crust after the formation of the Appalachian Mountains or by "post-glacial rebound," or the land still rising from the removal of the weight of Ice Age-era glaciers a few millennia ago.

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The Release of Common Sense

This Week in Revolutionary War History

By Sam Bishop

This week in Revolutionary War history, let's check up on what was going on 250 years ago in and around the colonial Province of Massachusetts Bay. Last week, Americans are crushed outside Quebec City, ensuring Canadian independence and sovereignty. General Richard Montgomery was killed, Major General Benedict Arnold is severely injured, 50 Americans are killed and another 400 captured for no British fatalities. At this time, Colonel Henry Knox march east has been halted due to changing weather and thawing rivers.

On January 7, 1776, General George Washington

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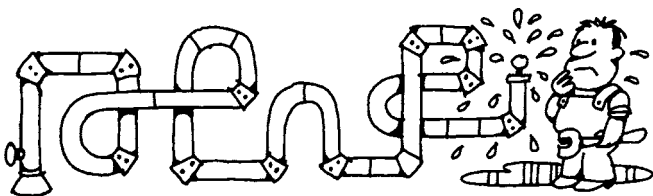


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writes to Governor Jonathan Trumbull, at first thanking the governor for his help and loyalty, he then makes a tactical assessment that foreshadows battles to come. Through his extensive spy network throughout Boston, Washington has uncovered the British are outfitting ships in Boston Harbor for combat, and embarking troops out to sea. He says, "from the season of the year and other circumstances, [the ships] must be destined for some expedition south of this; and having such information as I can depend upon, -if not immediately designed against the City of New-York is nevertheless intended for Long Island; and as it is a matter of the utmost importance to prevent the enemy from possessing themselves of the city of New York."

While jumping the gun a bit, Washington's assessment would seem prophetic, as The Battle of Long Island is about 8 months away from this point, correctly judging the inclination of the British to attempt to capture New York. On January 8, Washington would order Major General Charles Lee to New York City to bolster defenses.

On January 10, a 47-page pamphlet is published in Philadelphia. Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* would ultimately call for the full separation of Great Britain and the "Inhabitants of America." It also notably pushes ideas of more equal governance, enshrining the ideas of democracies in the colonies. In its first three months of publication, the booklet would sell 120,000 copies. By the end of the Revolutionary War, it would sell 500,000, with the total population of the United States being around 2.5 million. Proportional to population, that makes it the most bought and circulated American publication being read by 20% of them.

Paine was born in Norfolk, England and would emigrate to Philadelphia in late 1774. After a turbulent journey and a long recovery, he began the publication of the *Pennsylvania Magazine* and began the release of regular political writings. After only about a year in the area, he would spark a huge flame. The pamphlet was quickly circulated around, through taverns and local squares, boosting Continental Army recruitment dramatically just after many contracts had ended on January 1.

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Paine would write, "For all men being originally equals, no one by birth could have the right to set up his own family in perpetual preference to all others forever." He pushed egalitarian ideas, being a true student of the Enlightenment. Not knowing how fervently his message would spread, he also put down, "A long habit of not thinking a thing wrong, gives it a superficial appearance of being right, and raises at first a formidable outcry in defense of custom. But the tumult soon subsides. Time makes more converts than reason." He pushed for the use of one's "common sense" to strive for liberty and equality at a time of increased absolutism.

On January 13, not yet having read *Common Sense* nor anything from Quebec, Washington tragically

writes to General Montgomery, not knowing he was killed nearly two weeks prior. He says, "our hopes that you will get possession of Quebec, if not already in your hands - I must beg therefore your attention to the wants of the Army here." Washington would note the needs of the army around Cambridge while, again, not yet knowing the man he writes to is dead and nor his commanding army was functionally dispersed across the fringed north.

The Liver Disease No One Talks About

What Does The Doctor Say?

By Dr. Edward Hoffer

If you have diabetes, are overweight or have bad lipids, you may have MASLD: metabolic-associated



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steatotic liver disease – or fatty liver to be brief.

Most of us know that heavy alcohol use is bad for your liver, and years ago, most patients with cirrhosis (advanced liver damage with scarring and loss of function) were alcoholics.

In 2026, with the world-wide epidemic of overweight and obesity. MASLD has become the commonest cause of liver disease that can progress to cirrhosis. Up to 38% of adults have this! If you have Type 2 diabetes, that rises to 65%!

The first stage is fatty infiltration of the liver. If nothing is done, scarring and replacement of functioning liver tissue with fibrous (scar) tissue can follow. Eventually the liver loses much of its function, and the complications of a scarred non-functional liver ensue. These include jaundice, swelling of the legs and abdomen and bleeding.

Untreated MASLD is also the number one cause of liver cancer.

How can you prevent this cascade of catastrophes?

First, if you fit the risk profile (diabetic, overweight and/or high triglycerides), ask your doctor to check your liver. While most doctors know they should check your eyes if you have diabetes, many do not think about the liver.

Standard “liver function tests” are not routinely done and are not always abnormal in early stages of

MASLD. While elevated liver enzymes may offer the first clue to the problem, 20-25% of people with biopsy-proven fatty livers have normal liver blood tests.

A better test is the “FIB-4” value, which is calculated from your age, two simple liver enzyme tests and the count of your blood platelets. If this is abnormal, an ultrasound test should be done to look for any scarring.

The good news is that getting your lipids and blood sugar under control and losing weight will reliably reduce fat in the liver and prevent you from going on to worse liver disease.

The GLP-1 drug semaglutide (Wegovy) has been proven to improve MASLD and is FDA-approved for this use. Though not studied for this use, the other GLP-1 agents would probably be equally effective.

You cannot live without your liver, so look after it!

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

Thoughts about Green Thumbedness

The Seaside Gardener

By Laura McLean

You know you're really a gardener when:

- You cancel dates to watch “Gardeners’ World.”
- You retain plants’ names better than people’s.
- You’re most comfortable in overalls and Wellies.
- You hear the elements of nature in Beethoven’s

Pastoral Symphony.

- Flattering comments about your garden are like a warm embrace.

- You delight in the rain.

- You like the smell of fresh earth and not-so-fresh manure.

- Your garden precedes your social life in importance.

- Smith and Hawken’s attire is preferable to Victoria Secret’s.

- Visits to garden centers stimulate a Pavlovian response.

- Mud on the kitchen floor doesn’t faze you.

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- Your early “playgrounds” were most likely woodlands, streams and fields.
- You have a tendency to anthropomorphize plants - that is, give them human qualities.
- Composting could easily become an obsession.
- You’re not insulted when your beloved gives you an irrigation system for your birthday.
- Your idea of a fun date is going to a flower show/tour.
- Transcendental meditation is an hour in the garden.

Some or all of the above may describe you. I can vividly recall my earliest preoccupations with nature. The feeling I had in my great-grandmother’s garden “rooms;” my first greenhouse sighting at the Roosevelt Mansion on the Hudson River; a preference for the outdoors, be it climbing trees or pondering the mysteries of the frog pond. Even simple things like noticing the changing vegetation as we headed to the Cape for summer vacation. I can’t remember too much about the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY, but I can still picture the surrounding scenery bathed in the summer sun.

I have carried this love of the natural world within me never feeling burdened, although sometimes a bit apart from others. Like the time I remarked to fellow co-eds about the beauty of the White Mountains during a ski weekend in North Conway, NH. They had their sights set on other scenery, so I got some queer looks.

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After years of visits to specialists, MRI’s, injections and surgery, a young man gets relief from years of hip pain.

A colicky infant now sleeps peacefully – as does the rest of his family!

The man who was told it would be 9 months to see a specialist had his low back and neck pain resolve in a few weeks.

A woman who was told she would need carpal tunnel surgery had her hand pain disappear in two weeks.

A preschool teacher can now get on and off the floor with her students comfortably.

A breech baby turned just in time for his mother to have the natural childbirth she wanted.

An aging veteran who was tired of being given pills to manage his pain found relief naturally.

Families stayed healthy through the winter with regular chiropractic care.

An older woman with back and shoulder pain has returned to playing pickleball and gardening.

A toddler who was chronically uncomfortable from constipation now has no problems.

A high school athlete’s nagging injuries and limitations disappeared once under chiropractic care.

A baby with tongue tie now feeds easily.

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During the early 80s when the world was into computers and electronics, I feigned interest in writing on the subject and used the correct buzz words at trade shows. A subsequent job as a news reporter got me out of tiresome suits and stockings and into earthier subjects. I gravitated toward farmers and 4-H people and away from politicians and police.

In more recent years, I have devoted myself to gardening and found it a comfort when away from home. I had to wince when an acquaintance remarked that gardening was a temporary interest of new moms that would eventually wane. Oh yeah!!? Come back in 30 years and eat those words.

So much for an explanation of what constitutes

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a gardener and how some of us are destined for it. Ever wonder why? Most people will say it's simply in their genes, but there may be more to it if you believe in the theory of multiple intelligences. The idea that some people are gifted in certain areas was proposed back in 1983 by Harvard University



psychologist and educator Howard Gardner, Ph.D. It contends that we all possess distinct and somewhat autonomous intelligences in varying degrees and that each is of equal value. The nine intelligences, which some critics prefer to describe as talents, include linguistic; logical-mathematical; spatial; bodily kinesthetic; musical; interpersonal; intrapersonal; naturalist. and existential.

Naturalist intelligence is defined as the ability

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to recognize and classify the numerous species in one's environment. Those who possess it usually enjoy being outside; like to amass collections; show an instinctual fondness for animals; like to cook or garden; is inquisitive about the names of plants and has a good memory for them; and has an eye for detail, noticing how a newly encountered animal or plant is different from or similar to other such entities. People who seek careers as a biologist, nature illustrator, farmer, chef, gardener, or wild animal trainer are believed to have a strong naturalist intelligence.

So, the next time you're out golfing or driving along the highway to some destination - a ball game or a shopping mall or the airport - take note of the landscape in its natural or manmade state. It may bolster your own green giftedness a bit. Even if you are more the kinesthetic type.

"Every morning was a cheerful invitation to make my life of equal simplicity, and I may say innocence, with Nature herself." - Henry David Thoreau.

Mattapoisett Receives \$3,500,000 Grant

Mattapoisett Select Board

By Marilou Newell

The Mattapoisett Select Board meeting held on Tuesday, January 13 adjourned on a happy note. It was announced by Select Board Chairman Tyler Macallister that the town has received a federal grant of \$3,500,000 for



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environmental work needed at Molly's Cove. A culvert at that location has been failing for years, causing the marsh system to be ineffective, unable to flush water adequately, and hindering the nutritional needs of tidewaters and the ecosystem.

A statement received from Town Administrator Mike Lorenzo said, "...Mattapoisett received \$3,653,381 from the Massachusetts Executive office of Energy and Environmental Affairs for the Mattapoisett Neck Tidal Restoration." Lorenzo also noted that the efforts of the Mattapoisett Land Trust, Buzzards Bay Coalition, the Woods Hole Group and the town made filing the grant request possible. He said that the grant was "pass through" funds from NOAA's office of Coastal

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The board met briefly to accept final edits to the updated Waterfront Management Plan that the Marine Advisory Board has been working on for many months. The board thanked the MAB for their work, which in no small part included the efforts of the MAB Chairman Carlos DeSousa.

A public hearing with Eversource representative Jessica Elder was held. The hearing was a request from the utility to install a new utility pole on Crystal Springs Road. Abutter David Lawrence of 32 Crystal Spring Road once again brought to the attention of Eversource the need for portable toilets at the construction site being discussed on this night. He stated that each time construction at

this site resumed he had brought up the need for sanitary facilities. He said he lives next door to the site and will be vocal should this basic human need continue to be overlooked by the utility. Elder said she would contact the utility's construction division and pass along the request. The Select Board also added a condition to their approval requiring portable toilets.

The board also met with Roberta Gaspar, who is spearheading a 250th celebration for the town. She expressed that with only six volunteers it is difficult but proceeded to share fun and interesting activities that the small but mighty group has been working on. Such activities may include tours of historic locations throughout the town, a community picnic at Neds Point, a field of flags at Dunseith Park, and possibly a bonfire.

If you are interested in helping the town organize the event, contact the Select Board office.

The next meeting of the Mattapoisett Select Board will be held on January 27.

Multi-Generational Home Secured

Rochester Zoning Board of Appeals

By Michael J. DeCicco

The Rochester Zoning Board of Appeals began the new year with two easily decided approvals. On January 8, the board granted a variance to permit an attached garage over 1,000 square feet on the 4-acre lot at 522 Walnut Plain Road. Applicant and property owner Karl Ferreira said he needs a 2,400-square-foot garage to store and work on his large truck, several farm tractors and excavator. A smaller-sized garage would not fit all the equipment he owns.

Agreeing with this reasoning, ZBA Chair Donald Spirlet said Ferreira has a big piece of property. Thus, the larger size of the garage will not be detrimental to the neighborhood. In fact, the garage would improve the neighborhood because this equipment would no longer be stored outside, he said. Board member Doug Sims noted in the variance language he motioned that the standard-size garage would be a hardship as it would not provide effective storage for what Ferreira owns. The garage that was approved will be a 40x60 foot, steel-frame structure on a concrete slab.

The Zoning Board of Appeals then approved a Special Permit to allow the construction of a two-family residence at 309 Neck Road. The plan here is to build a new two-story home on 2.65 acres and demolish the single-family home, built in 1971, that sits there now.

Applicant Jennifer Jones described what is being planned as a tri-level home. The first floor will be for her parents, she said. The second floor will be for her, as their caretaker, and her young daughter. The property has been owned by the family for over 50 years and three generations, she noted. This will keep the home in the family for years to come. She admitted she already has a foundation permit and has built that foundation.



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Abutter Rick Charon endorsed the plan, saying he was speaking as a neighbor of the address for 47 years rather than the project's engineer. "I am speaking highly in favor of this plan," he said. Charon noted he has made a similar plan to move his daughter and eight-year-old granddaughter to live with him, and it's part of popular trend. "It's what people with families are doing nowadays," he said.

Board members echoed this theme, as it voted its approval. "It's so close to what is permitted now by right," board member Richard Cutler said. "The intent is a beautiful thing," Spirlet said. And it's close to meeting frontage requirements, Spirlet added.

The Special Permit includes the condition that the current residential structure be demolished within a year after the certificate of occupancy for the new home is issued.

The Rochester Zoning Board of Appeals did not set a date for its next meeting before adjourning.

FY27 Budget Planning

Marion Finance Committee

By Jeffrey D. Wagner

The Marion Finance Committee, at the January 7 meeting in the Town House Annex, planned out a schedule for review of the Fiscal 2027 budget.

Finance Director Heather O'Brien noted that many department-drafted budgets, including the school budget, have been received. She expressed optimism that by this week she will have received all drafts. She also said that she will have completed initial meetings with department heads by mid-January.

Finance Committee Chair Sean Healy said that the Finance Committee will meet with department heads between February 2 and March 18. Committee members went over their individual schedules to determine which dates would work.

Some committee members asked if the committee would have time to review and vote on non-departmental money items that will appear on the annual Town Meeting warrant in the spring.

Healy said that the Finance Committee has been



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charged with submitting recommendations by March 31, so there should be time to review the entire warrant and make a formal recommendation.

Healy tentatively recommended March 25 or March 26 and optimal meeting dates for an entire warrant review for Fiscal 2027, which begins on July 1.

In recent years, town officials have called for fiscal restraint and maintaining a level-services budget, which calls for around a 2% increase from the previous year.

Funding Pending for Water Street Culvert

Mattapoisett Conservation Commission

By Marilou Newell

The January 12 meeting of the Mattapoisett

Conservation Commission was a full evening of Notice of Intent filings and Request for Determination of Applicability's (RDA's), not the least of which was a filing by the town for repairs needed to the Water Street culvert. The aged culvert suffered a final blow when the interior collapsed causing temporary road closure approximately 18 months ago.

Town Administrator Mike Lorenzo confirmed that design of a new and improved waterway passage from the north to the south side of the village has been underway with the engineering firm Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. Representatives from the firm met with the commissioners to answer any remaining questions they might have prior to issuing an order of conditions for the Notice of Intent previously submitted.

Several state agencies were involved in reviewing designs offered by Greeman-Pedersen. One such agency was the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act Office. MEPA reviews environmental impacts of development projects and other activities that require one or more agency actions. While a tentative start date for the repair work is September, funding the project has yet to be solidified.

Lorenzo said, "We intend to use grant funding and other sources - we want to keep as much as possible off the taxpayers." He said the estimated cost hovers around \$2,000,000.

A Notice of Intent filed by 0 Nashawena Road, owned by Deborah Chapman Living Trust was conditioned after lengthy discussion concluded with abutters and others in the neighborhood aired their concerns regarding storm water runoff and associated weather-related flooding.

Represented by David Davignon of Schneider Davignon and Leone, Davignon explained in detail measures taken in the design to handle rood runoff and the use of swales to assist in the management of storm water. After much discussion the filing was closed, an order of conditions was issued.

A Notice of Intent filed by NEPO Realty LLC for properties located on Ned's Point Road were continued allowing time for further drainage study.



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An RDA filed by Dennis Mahoney and Sons for property located at 0 Aucoot Road was continued. The filing is for the clearing for a private driveway onto property that will be used as a nursery. At issue are concerns expressed by the Highway Surveyor Garrett Bauer regarding the use of Bowman Road for heavy truck traffic anticipated resulting in Bowman Road suffering damage.

Bauer said he would prefer to see Aucoot Road used to access the property in question versus Bowman Road. The filing was continued to the next meeting to give all parties time for further review.

The next meeting of the Mattapoissett Conservation Commission is scheduled for Monday, January 26.

Solar Project Approved

Rochester Planning Board

By Michael J. DeCicco

Rochester's Planning Board began its meeting Tuesday by putting the finishing touches on its approval of the massive Logging Swamp Solar project off of 600 Snipatuit Road.

The board endorsed the developer's Approval Not Required application to permit the creation of four house lots within the 35-acre project. Chair Arnold Johnson said the plan had a flaw. There was inadequate frontage for at least one of the lots. Project representative Greg Sampson successfully argued there are adequate 40-foot setbacks on the plan. He added he was unsure of detailed plans for these lots. He noted simply that the property owner has asked him to create these lots.

The panel then approved the project's draft decision, the final hurdle to allowing the solar array to be built after months of hearings that debated plan details and addressed neighbors' concerns. The plan covers 35 acres of a 2,000-acre wooded property bordered on one side by Northern Avenue and surrounded by a 350-acre swamp.

Next, the board came close to approving the Definitive Subdivision plan for 19 County Road, West Wareham, a proposal to divide an 8.67-acre parcel into

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three lots. The board voted in favor of the permit waivers in the draft decision but also continued the hearing to its January 27 meeting and the decision deadline to February 14. Johnson urged the project's representatives to have the appropriate surety bond, \$760,000, in place by then.

The Site Plan Review application for a project closer to home was also continued to January 27. This is a plan to clear land behind town hall and re-grade it with a 12-inch gravel base and stone surface for an 8,220 square-foot parking area and 10-foot-wide mulched border.

Project consultant Rick Charon said the goal is to add 18 parking spaces to the Town Hall lot and correct the drainage system that pools storm water in front of Town Hall. Town Administrator Cameron Durant

acknowledged that the land behind town hall has already been cleared. He did not know the project needed a Site Plan Review approval, until now.

Johnson instructed Charon to return with a more detailed plan of the drainage plan, specifically a cross-section of where the new water flow will go.

In other action, the board continued to February 10 its hearing into a modification of the "Sniptaut Ponds Estates" Definitive Subdivision Plan for Gerrish and Bishop Roads and the decision deadline to March 16. The board scheduled a site visit to the Rochester Memorial School Solar Canopy project for January 19 at 8:00 am. Johnson noted the panels are already being installed.

The Rochester Planning Board's next meeting will be Tuesday, January 27 at 7:00 pm at Town Hall, 1 Constitution Way.

Home Approved, Despite Neighborhood Concerns

Marion Zoning Board of Appeals

By Jeffrey D. Wagner

The Marion Zoning Board of Appeals and residents within the Briggs Terrace area had many questions and concerns about an applicant's bid to subdivide a lot with two structures on the lot.

In the end, the ZBA on January 8 in the Marion Police Station conference room still approved applicants Dina and William Quinlan's variance to raze a shed and build a one-story, three-bedroom home in its place.

The applicants' engineer noted that state law allows such subdivision plans, but the plans do not conform to a town bylaw dictating a minimum lot requirement. The Planning Board had approved plans, but neighbors had concerns about property values declining with a more clustered look to the area. One neighbor said the proposed additional home would be 30 feet from his property.

ZBA Chair Cynthia Callow expressed concern that this plan would set a precedent. She and one neighbor said residents could decide to tear down a chicken coup and build a home in its place. Applicant representatives said that not building the home could

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represent a financial hardship for the residents, who would have more flexibility with building a second home that they could sell.

Both the applicants and board member Robert Grillo said that if the applicant chose to make this home an accessory dwelling unit (ADU), there would be no need for a variance from the ZBA. "In this case, they are asking for a variance even though there is no dwelling there. They would like to put a dwelling there. There is not much of a difference than having a house there and rebuilding it," Grillo said.

An ADU, however, would tie both homes together and the applicants could not have the same financial flexibility.

Some neighbors questioned if the second home would strain the sewer line, but the applicant and Grillo said that both homes would be connected to the same line.

The applicants also stressed that the home would not conflict with the overall appearance of the neighborhood.

Citing that and the possible financial hardship, the ZBA on a unanimous 4-0 vote approved the variance for the project to move forward.

The next meeting of the Marion Zoning Board of Appeals is scheduled for Thursday, January 22.

Grassi Bog Maintenance

Marion Open Space Acquisition Commission


By Jeffrey D. Wagner

The Grassi Bog Conservation Area is a popular spot, but it's riddled with potholes and people who use it to socialize during night hours, according to Open Space Acquisition Commission members at their January 8 Zoom meeting.

OSAC members are looking to find donated posts to rebuild the gate to close the parking lot after hours. OSAC members learned that there are no Community Preservation Act funds for fixing the potholes, but members are asking the Department of Public Works for help with filling the potholes.

OSAC members Adele Sands and Carol Molander

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frequently walk the trails there. They reported broken beer bottles there, out-of-town residents in pick-up trucks, and hunters who frequent the area. "There is a lot going on in the off-hours when we are not down there," Sands said. "Quite a bit of activity down there."

OSAC member John Friedman says he knows someone who can donate pressure treated wood to help refasten a gate that once was there to close the area after daytime hours. Chairman John Rockwell said a dock owner once donated posts, but they were stolen. He said the gates are still in the town's possession.

The OSAC also approved some small routine items but talked at length about hiring an engineer to fill gaps within the gravel-surface Point Road walking

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and biking path. Neighbors in the area who frequent the path note that the area is not wheelchair or stroller accessible, limiting the access for some people. Rockwell also said that the project once had an in-house engineer to maintain the path, including submission of a stormwater management report to the Conservation Commission. He said since 2019, when first approved, OSAC no longer has an in-house engineer to maintain the gaps in the path or complete the stormwater maintenance reports.

Select Board member Norm Hills expressed frustration over the issue. "We keep putting stuff on to stuff and we are not accomplishing anything. We are just wasting money," Hills said, while also that the project originally was supposed to rely on donated funds and materials and has strayed away from that goal.

Hills said only the Select Board can accept donations for town projects and he is not aware of donations recently for the Point Road path.

OSAC gave Rockwell the green light to seek engineering funding from the CPA to remedy both issues.

The next Marion Open Space Acquisition Commission meeting was not scheduled at adjournment.

Bulldogs Earn Big Road Win

Sports Roundup

By Aiden Comorosky

Old Rochester's boys basketball team played at Greater New Bedford Voc-Tech (6-2) on January 9 and

won, 66-58. Henry Berry was named the player of the game, scoring 18 points. Noah Thorell added 13 points and 5 rebounds, while Brody Hiles scored 10 points, had 5 assists, and had 4 steals. The Bulldogs were up 53-41 at the end of the third quarter, but GNB Voc-Tech kept fighting in the fourth quarter to cut the lead to 4 points. Old Rochester ended up closing it out, improving their record to 6-3. The Bulldogs will host Bourne (1-5) on Friday, January 16.

Copy Submission Policy

The Wanderer gladly accepts any and all news and press release items from local nonprofit organizations for publication on a weekly basis. The deadline for submission of news items is Monday at noon for publication in that week's edition. Due to the increasing number of submissions; however, publication of press material is never guaranteed. *The Wanderer* will make every effort to publish timely news items and announcements as the subject warrants and as often as spacing allows. 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 Monday at noon, and the publication of photographs is also subject to spacing constraints and cannot be guaranteed.

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

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

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

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(we check, so no cheating) and accompanied by a signed official entry form. No AI submissions, we check that also. Participants may enter just one original artwork into the contest.

Artwork that is formatted in a tall, portrait format will look best on the cover of *The Wanderer*.

Deadline for submissions is Friday, **January 23** at 12:00 pm. Online voting will begin on Saturday, **January 24**, and will remain open until Tuesday, **January 27**.

The cover contest winner will be announced in the January 30 edition and will be contacted to retrieve their cash prize.

Full contest details can be found at www.wanderer.com.

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Celebrate the midpoint of winter with *The Wanderer* on Groundhog Day and hope for an early spring! Now go, get those cover submissions ready and get them to us before it's too late!

Academic Achievements

It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates **Andrew Wronski** of Rochester, **Rebecca Mann** of Mattapoisett, and **William Gaspar** of Mattapoisett on being named to the Fall 2025 President's List. The fall terms run from September to December.

Rochester Memorial School Committee Vacancy

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

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

A joint meeting of the Select Board and the School Committee will be held to review submissions and vote on the appointment at the Rochester Town Hall on February 24 at 6:00 pm. All interested and qualified residents are encouraged to apply.

Mattapoisett Library

From now until the end of January, we are collecting donations for local food pantries in the form of non-perishable food, pet food, diapers, cleaning supplies, and items to support personal hygiene. Thank you to those who have already donated. Your generosity has

made all the difference.

Our storytimes are back. Family Storytime is on Thursdays at 10:30 am, and Baby Storytime is on Fridays at 10:30 am. This batch of sessions will run until mid-February.

The world-famous Quahog Reading Program is back for its 13th year. This reading program is specifically for children in grades 3-6 and runs from **January 17 to April 12**. We have a fantastic selection of books this year, so you will not want to miss out on this one. Registration starts on Saturday January 17 at 10:00 am, and registration for the program ends on February 28 at 4:00 pm, so that should give folks plenty of time to get down to the library and get signed up. Early bird registrants who register on the 17th are invited to watch *The Wild Robot* with us at the library and earn their first raffle ticket for the program. Come visit us, send us an email, or give us a call for more info.

We're trying something new later in January - two new play groups. On Tuesday mornings from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm noon, starting **January 20**, we will be hosting a Drop-In Play Group for crawlers to Pre-K. On Thursday afternoons from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm, starting January 22, we're hosting a Drop-In Play Club for kids ages 5-10. Please note that these groups are drop-in, not drop-off: There's no registration required, but adults must stay with their young ones.


On Tuesday, **January 20**, at 3:30 pm, we have the return of the community favorite No-Sew Sock Snowman Craft. Due to limited supplies, please register beforehand to guarantee your spot at this wicked fun, and festive program.

To register for our events or for more information, please check out our website, mattapoisettlibrary.org, or give us a call at 508-758-4171. We hope to see you in the library soon. Until then, keep reading.

Kindergarten Registration Available for ORRS

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

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



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

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

The required documents include:

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

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

-Child's medical records.

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

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

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

registration process and required enrollment paperwork.

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

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

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LOCAL CABLE PROGRAMMING

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PUBLIC ACCESS

Comcast Channel 9

Verizon Channel 36

Thursday January 15, 2026

7:00 AM Seniorize
7:30 AM Deutsche Welle - In Good Shape
8:00 AM Marion Veg - with Barbie Burr and Brooke Johnson
8:30 AM Sippican Historical Society Oral History - Lee Gunschel
9:30 AM Mattapoissett Woman's Club Speaker Series - Jack Matthews
10:30 AM Rochester Historical Society - Cemeteries, Genealogy, & the Revolutionary War
12:00 PM What's Linda Cooking?
12:30 PM Cooking Healthy with Coastline
1:00 PM The Human Truth with Chuck McIntyre
1:30 PM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
2:00 PM The Collective Chat
2:30 PM The Jeannine Hunt Experience
3:00 PM MAC Jazz Jam
4:30 PM Tri-County Symphonic Band - Christmas Concert
6:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Euromaxx
6:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Tomorrow Today
7:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Global US
7:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Focus on Europe
8:00 PM Teach Your Home Energy Costs! with David Green
9:30 PM Marion Natural History Museum - Amazing Animal Ambassadors
11:00 PM Classic Movie

Friday January 16, 2026

7:00 AM Seniorize
7:30 AM Deutsche Welle - In Good Shape
8:00 AM Deutsche Welle - Euromaxx
8:30 AM Deutsche Welle - Tomorrow Today
9:00 AM Deutsche Welle - Global US
9:30 AM Deutsche Welle - Focus on Europe
10:00 AM Southcoast Matters
11:30 AM Fall Family Fun Day
12:00 PM What's Linda Cooking?
12:30 PM Cooking Healthy with

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

Saturday January 17, 2026

6:00 AM Saturday Morning Cartoon Festival
9:30 AM Tri-County Symphonic Band - Christmas Concert
11:00 AM Marion Veg - with Barbie Burr and Brooke Johnson
11:30 AM Tri-Town Christmas Events
12:00 PM Mid-Day Movie
2:00 PM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
2:30 PM The Human Truth - with Chuck McIntyre
3:00 PM The Collective Chat
3:30 PM The Jeannine Hunt Experience
4:00 PM Sippican Historical Society Oral History - Bill MacDougall
5:00 PM Sippican Historical Society - Wampanoag Art for the Ages
6:00 PM Marion Natural History Museum - From Submarine Vents to Life on Other Ocean Worlds!
7:30 PM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
8:30 PM Paltrowitz with Darren Paltrowitz
9:00 PM Sidewalks Entertainment
9:30 PM A Conversation with...
10:00 PM Beacon Hill Report
10:30 PM Gay USA
11:00 PM Classic Movies

Sunday January 18, 2026

7:00 AM Lamb of God Christian Church
8:00 AM Mattapoissett Congregational Church
9:00 AM First Congregational Church of Rochester
10:00 AM St Gabriel's Church
11:00 AM Tri-Town Veteran's Day Events
12:00 PM What's Linda Cooking?
12:30 PM Cooking Healthy with Coastline
1:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Euromaxx
1:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Tomorrow Today
2:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Global US
2:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Shift
3:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Focus on Europe
4:00 PM Miss New Bedford
5:00 PM Putnam Murdock Concert at the Marion Art Center
7:00 PM ORR Boys Basketball vs Bishop Stang
8:30 PM ORR Boys Ice Hockey vs Monomoy
10:00 PM ORR Girls Basketball
11:30 PM Classic Movies

Monday January 19, 2026

7:00 AM Seniorize
7:30 AM Deutsche Welle - In Good Shape
8:00 AM Deutsche Welle - Euromaxx
8:30 AM Deutsche Welle - Tomorrow Today
9:00 AM Deutsche Welle - Global US
9:30 AM Deutsche Welle - Focus on Europe
10:00 AM Deutsche Welle - Shift
10:30 AM A Conversation With...
11:00 AM For Your Health
11:30 AM Money Matters
12:00 PM What's Linda Cooking?
12:30 PM Cooking Healthy with Coastline
1:00 PM Beacon Hill Report
1:30 PM Southcoast Matters
2:30 PM Sidewalks Entertainment
3:00 PM Paltrowitz with Darren Paltrowitz
3:30 PM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
4:30 PM The Human Truth
5:00 PM Tri-County Symphonic Band - Power and Glory
6:30 PM Marion Veg - with Barbie

Burr and Brooke Johnson
7:30 PM Sippican Historical Society - Women's Involvement in the History of Preservation in New England
8:30 PM Marion Natural History Museum - The Early Life of Humpback Whales
9:30 PM The Collective Chat
10:00 PM The Jeannine Hunt Experience
10:30 PM AMC Outdoor Journey Fund
11:00 PM Classic Movie

Tuesday January 20, 2026

7:00 AM Seniorize
7:30 AM Deutsche Welle - In Good Shape
8:00 AM For Your Health: Stress
8:30 AM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
9:00 AM Sidewalks Entertainment
9:30 AM Mike Paige Doodle Club
10:00 AM Saturday Morning Cartooning
10:30 AM The Collective Chat
11:00 AM The Jeannine Hunt Experience
11:30 AM In the Toy Box
12:00 PM What's Linda Cooking?
12:30 PM Cooking Healthy with Coastline
1:00 PM Point Road Park Renaming Ceremony
1:30 PM Miss New Bedford Insider
2:00 PM The Human Truth with Chuck McIntyre
2:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Tomorrow and Today
3:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Euromaxx
3:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Global US
4:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Focus on Europe
4:30 PM Deutsche Welle - In Good Shape
5:00 PM Four Deep Sports Talk
6:00 PM Sippican Historical Society - 100 years of the Herreshoff H-12
8:00 PM The Beacon Hill Report
9:00 PM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
10:00 PM Gay USA
11:00 PM Classic Movie

Wednesday January 21, 2026

7:00 AM Seniorize
7:30 AM Deutsche Welle - In

Good Shape
8:00 AM Cape Conversations
8:30 AM For Your Health
9:00 AM Two Grannies on the Road
10:00 AM Sidewalks Entertainment
10:30 AM Paltrowitz with Darren Paltrowitz
11:00 AM Mattapoissett Congregational Church
12:00 PM What's Linda Cooking?
12:30 PM Cooking Healthy with Coastline
1:30 PM Southcoast Matters TV
2:00 PM Marion Veg - with Barbie Burr and Brooke Johnson
2:30 PM Money Talk Tuesday
3:00 PM A Conversation With...
3:30 PM ORR Girls Soccer vs Fairhaven
5:30 PM Beacon Hill Report
6:00 PM Building the Future
6:30 PM Pete on the Street
7:00 PM World Fusion Show
7:30 PM Tri-County Symphonic Band - Power and Glory
9:00 PM Teach your Home Energy Costs! with David Green
10:30 PM Mattapoissett Women's Club Speaker Series - Jack Matthews
11:00 PM Classic Movies

MARION GOVERNMENT Comcast Channel 26 Verizon Channel 39 Daily Schedule

7:00 AM Marion Board of Selectmen
9:00 AM Marion Conservation Commission
10:00 AM Marion Planning Board
11:00 AM Marion Water and Sewer
1:00 PM Marion School Committee
2:30 PM Marion Zoning Board of Appeals
3:00 PM Marion Affordable Housing Committee
4:00 PM Marion Open Space Acquisition Commission
5:30 PM Marion Finance Committee
6:00 PM Marion Board of Health
6:30 PM Marion Board of Selectmen
8:30 PM Marion Conservation Commission
9:30 PM Marion Planning Board
11:30 PM Marion Water and Sewer

ROCHESTER GOVERNMENT

Comcast Channel 26 Verizon Channel 40 Daily Schedule

7:00 AM Rochester Board of Selectmen
8:00 AM Rochester Planning Board
9:30 AM ORR School Committee
10:30 AM Rochester Zoning Board of Appeals
12:30 AM Rochester Conservation Commission
1:30 PM Rochester School Committee
3:30 PM ORR Joint School Committee
5:00 PM Rochester Board of Selectmen
6:00 PM Rochester Planning Board
7:30 PM Rochester Conservation Commission
8:30 PM Rochester School Committee
10:30 PM ORR School Committee
11:30 PM Rochester Planning Board

EDUCATION CHANNEL

Comcast Channel 8 Verizon Channel 37 Daily Schedule

7:00 AM Bulldog Weekly
1:00 PM ORR Football vs GNBVT
2:30 PM ORR Unified Basketball
3:30 PM ORR Boys Soccer vs Somerset Berkley
5:00 PM ORR Field Hockey vs Apponequet
6:30 PM ORR Football vs Dartmouth
8:30 PM ORR Boys Soccer vs Dighton-Rehoboth
10:00 PM ORR Girls Soccer vs Seekonk
10:30 PM ORR Field Hockey vs Somerset Berkley

MATTAPOISETT GOVERNMENT Comcast Channel 26 Verizon Channel 38

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parents can wait in the lobby during the appointment.

Additionally, a Kindergarten School-Based Building Orientation will take place on Thursday, March 26 at 6:00 pm. This in-person orientation allows parents and guardians to meet key staff members, learn about a student's daily schedule and gain valuable insights into the transition into kindergarten.

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

Falmouth Academy

Falmouth Academy, an independent college-preparatory school serving grades 7 through 12, will host its annual Scholarship Exam & Faculty Forum on Saturday, **January 24**, from 9:30 am to 11:45 am on the Academy campus.

This event invites prospective students entering grades 7-9 and their families to experience firsthand what makes Falmouth Academy's academic community distinctive while competing for one of four \$10,000 merit scholarships awarded to the top scorers.

Scholarship Exam: Students will participate in

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TriTOWN HAPPENINGS



No ICE for Good Rally was held on January 11 at Dunseith Gardens, up and down North Street and Route 6. Music and message gathered two-hundred plus for two hours plus. Photos by Jennifer Shepley



Common Goldeneye on the Eel Pond, Godspeed Island Road, Mattapoisett. Photo by Bill Poutsiaka



Harbor Ice. Photo by Jennifer Shepley



Mattapoisett Harbor. Photo by Rob Grant



Ned's Point. Photo by Ruth A. Griffin

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a faculty-designed exam that includes sections in math and English crafted to reflect the school's rigorous and engaging curriculum. Snacks will be provided during a short break.

Faculty Forum: While students test, parents and guardians are invited to attend a series of brief presentations from Falmouth Academy faculty. The forum offers insights into the school's academic philosophy, programs, and the ways faculty nurture curiosity, critical thinking, and intellectual growth in students.

In addition, representatives from the Admissions Office will provide an overview of the application process and available tuition assistance options.

"We're excited to welcome prospective families to campus," said David Perry, Head of School. "This event showcases both student potential and the



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vibrant, supportive community that helps every learner thrive."

Registration: Families are encouraged to register in advance online. Drop-in attendance is welcome, but pre-registration helps the school plan appropriately.

This event is intended for students applying for grades 7-9 for the 2026-27 school year. Currently enrolled Falmouth Academy students are not eligible to participate in the exam.

For more information and to register, visit go.falmouthacademy.org/scholarship-exam.



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OBITUARIES



Lynne F. Chase, 79, of Mattapoisett passed away on Monday, January 5, 2026, after a long, courageous battle with health issues. Her beloved husband of 51 years Russell “Chippy” Chase, Junior was at her side. Lynne grew up in Spencer, Iowa, the daughter of the late Carole Lane Fisher and James Earl Fisher. She graduated from the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, Minnesota. After college Lynne moved to Mattapoisett and began teaching kindergarten at the Potter School in Dartmouth and later worked for several years at Liberty Travel.

Lynne was a friend to many and had many friends. She enjoyed her time playing mahjong, daily walks, and dining out. She was an avid reader. In summer she especially enjoyed take-out fish and chip dinners at Neds Point Lighthouse, eating ice cream at the town wharf, and having guests for cookouts on her patio by the pool. She enjoyed watching and tending the birds that frequented her many feeders. In winter Lynne and Chippy frequently traveled to Sugarloaf Ski Resort and nearby Sunday River in Maine. She felt her time assisting Seniors at the Sippican Health Center in Marion especially rewarding.

Lynne leaves behind two daughters, Amy Chase and her husband Tracy Lane Bradfield of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Sarah Rothschild, her husband Andrew, and her beloved granddaughter Cameron of Richmond, Virginia; a sister Marty Fisher-Blakeley of Eau-Claire, WI, a brother William Lane Fisher and his wife Mary of Merrill, WI and nephews James Fisher of Panama City, FL, Jonathan Fisher of Merrill, WI and Matthew Fisher-Blakeley of Eau-Claire, WI and their families.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Mattapoisett Free Public Library.

Her memorial visitation will be held Friday, January 16, 2026 from 4-6 pm in the Saunders-Dwyer Mattapoisett Home for Funerals, 50 County Rd., Mattapoisett. For online guestbook, please visit www.saundersdwyer.com



Roger Converse Gibbons, 61, died at his home in Mattapoisett on January 8, 2026.

He was the son of the late John D. Gibbons and Vera Converse Gibbons.

Roger graduated from Avon Old Farms, Rollins College, and the London School of Economics.

He was a licensed real estate broker and real estate developer.

Roger was an unassuming athlete who excelled in most sports, especially tennis.

He coveted time with his family and was always interested - and up to date - on what everyone was up to. A gentle soul with a big heart, Roger never forgot birthdays, graduations or other important occasions. He kept everyone

laughing with his sharp sense of humor, spot-on impersonations, and one-liners.

Roger is survived by his brother, John D. Gibbons, Jr. of Westfield NJ (Colleen); and his three sisters, Tina Roberts of Palm Beach, Florida (Joel); Joanela Cannell of Mattapoisett (Jim); and Vera B. Gibbons of Palm Beach, Florida.

Other family members include 8 nieces and nephews, and five great nieces and nephews.

Burial services were private. A Celebration of Life will be held later this year when the weather is warm.

Arrangements are with the Saunders-Dwyer Mattapoisett Home for Funerals, 50 County Rd. (Rt. 6), Mattapoisett. For online guestbook, visit www.saundersdwyer.com.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Mattapoisett Police Department, 64 County Road, Mattapoisett, MA 02739.



Donald Soren Bjerre, 82, passed away peacefully on December 25, 2025, at his home in Mattapoisett, MA. He was the loving husband of the late Mary Alice (Maccini) Bjerre.

He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Erik and Sonia Bjerre, and their children, Claire and James, of Fall River, MA; and his daughter, Krista-Lee Bjerre, and her partner, Tobias Olsen, of Waterford, CT. In addition to his wife Mary Alice, Don is predeceased by his sister, the late Ruth Marie Bjerre.

Don hailed from Boston, MA, and his love of boats was evident from an early age. Following four years in the U.S. Navy, he went to work for the Polaroid Corporation in Waltham, MA. An opportunity at the New Bedford Industrial Park in 1973 led to Don moving his family from Nashua, NH to Mattapoisett, MA, where he lived the rest of his life. He loved Mattapoisett, and often remarked how fortunate he felt to live there.

For more than 30 years, Don worked as a draftsman for Polaroid, where he forged many lifelong friendships. He later consulted for Hart Engineering in Boston, which he thoroughly enjoyed.

In an age that preceded the widespread use of computers, when drafting tables and mechanical pencils were still the order of the day, Don was renowned for his meticulous nature and exacting detail: if he said that a complex piping system would fit inside a given space, it absolutely would -- often to the dumbfounded awe of co-workers.

Don enjoyed many hobbies, including trap shooting, fishing, and biking. He was an expert at ropework, and his skills were always prominently displayed. But his favorite hobby, by far, was boating: some of his fondest memories were of time spent with his family and friends on excursions to the Elizabeth Islands and Martha's Vineyard.

Continued on page 28

Open Table Is Back

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

Marion Community Preservation Committee

Applications for Community Preservation Act funding will be available in the Town Clerk's office at the Marion Town House Annex located at 14 Barnabas Road, Marion, MA 02738. The Community Preservation Act is a Massachusetts Law that allows participating cities and towns to adopt a real estate tax surcharge supplemented by State matching funds in order to fund community preservation. Eligible projects must be directed towards: open space/recreation, historic preservation or community housing. Applications must be received no later than 4:00 pm on **February 20** to be considered for presentation at the May 2026 Annual Town Meeting.

Past Community Preservation funds have been

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used to:

- Construct a pavilion at Osprey Marsh
 - Install fencing, ADA-compliant benches and litter receptacles at the Benjamin D. Cushing Community Park
 - Catalog the collections and restore exhibits at the Marion Natural History Museum
 - Construct Pickleball Courts at the Point Road playground
 - Town House Restoration
 - Preservation of Veterans Grave Stones
- Committee Contact: William Tiftt (Chair),

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OBITUARIES

Even when he was no longer able to meet the physical demands of boating, Don would still drive to the town pier at least once a day, so he could, in his words, "make sure that it's still there."

In Don's final years, the most important things were his faith, his family, and his friends. He began each day reading Bible passages, and he attended weekly service at the Mattapoisett Congregational Church. He looked forward to his Tuesday morning breakfasts with friends from Polaroid, saying that they were always sure to tip well because they would often sit at the table and talk for hours after they'd finished eating.

Don loved the people in his life -- more than he may have felt comfortable expressing. If you were a part of his life, in any way, please know that he appreciated every kind gesture, every warm word, every phone call, and every card. He loved his life, and he was thankful.

His memorial visitation will be held on Tuesday January 20th from 4-8 pm at the Saunders-Dwyer Mattapoisett Home for Funerals, 50 County Rd., Route 6, Mattapoisett. His graveside service will be held on Wednesday January 21st at 9:45 am at the Massachusetts National Cemetery in Bourne. In lieu of flowers, donations in Don's memory may be made to the Shriners Hospital for Children, 51 Blossom St., Boston, MA 02114.



Joyce Ellen (Backus) Kohout, 94, longtime resident of Marion, MA, passed away peacefully on Thursday, December 18, 2025. Beloved wife of the late Paul Smith Kohout. Born March 13, 1933 in New Bedford, MA. Beloved daughter of the late Clyde and Laura (Milam) Backus. Joyce is survived by her son Paul Scott and his wife Joy (Derouchie) Kohout of Acton,

MA and her son-in-law Stephen Hokscho of Pottstown, PA. She is further survived by her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Shawna (Kohout) Paro and her husband Michael Paro and their sons Noah Paro and Finn Paro, James Kohout, his partner Kerry McKeon and his son Jack Kohout, Melissa Hokscho, and Ethan Hokscho and his wife Morgan Nash.

After graduating Phi Beta Kappa from Smith College, she received her Masters at the Middlebury School of Spanish in Spain. She taught Spanish Language and Literature at St. Lawrence University and secondary English and Spanish in Fort Covington and Malone, New York.

Mrs. Kohout was very active in the sport of ice hockey, attending the 1980 Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, NY, 1984 in Sarajevo and 1988 in Calgary, Canada. For several years she was the secretary-treasurer of the New York State Amateur Hockey Association. She was very active at St. Gabriel's Church in Marion, MA and as a recruiter for Smith College. Mrs. Kohout loved the ocean, gardening, reading and puzzles.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Paul; and their daughter, Connie Ellen Hokscho.

A private family service will be held in the Spring of 2026. Interment at Elmwood Cemetery, Fort Covington, New York. Arrangements are with the Saunders-Dwyer Mattapoisett Home for Funerals, 50 County Rd. (Rt. 6) Mattapoisett.

Remembrances may be made to Saint Gabriel's Episcopal Church, 124 Front Street, Marion, MA 02738 or Doctors Without Borders, 40 Rector Street, 16th Floor, New York, NY 10006.

Marian (Grady) Greene, 94, of Mattapoisett died peacefully January 11, 2026 at Care One of New Bedford with the support of her loving family.

She was the wife of the late James F. Greene.

Born and raised in New Haven, CT, daughter of the late James W. and Marian Virginia (Flanagan) Grady, she moved to Mattapoisett in the late 1960's.

She was formerly employed as a bank teller and office manager.

In her younger days she enjoyed cooking and having dinner parties with friends. More recently she enjoyed hearing stories of her grandchildren's adventures and spending time with her local grandchildren.

Survivors include her son, Robert Greene and his wife Susan of Conway, SC; 4 daughters, Beth Walters of Littleton, CO, Donna Muller and her husband Peter of Stamford, CT, Patricia Kaplan and her husband Alan of San Diego, CA and Joann Porter of Mattapoisett; 11 grandchildren, Robert Greene, Jr., Meg Greene, Jeffrey Walters, Courtney Walters, Daniel Muller, Brian Muller, Jason Kaplan, Andrew Porter and Caitlin Porter, Lisa Robidoux and Jennifer Robidoux; 4 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

She was the sister of the late James Grady, Jr., Donald Grady and Ann Grady.

The family would like to acknowledge the wonderful care she received from Southcoast Health at Home in her final days and CareOne staff for their help over the past few months.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Mattapoisett Police Department, P.O. Box 436, Mattapoisett, MA 02739 or your favorite charity.

Her family will receive guests on Saturday, January 17th from 9:30-10:30 AM at the Saunders-Dwyer Mattapoisett Home for Funerals, 50 County Rd. (Rt. 6), Mattapoisett, followed by her Funeral Mass at St. Anthony's Church at 11 AM. Burial will follow in St. Anthony's Cemetery. . For directions and guestbook, visit www.saundersdwyer.com.

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

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

After-school Programs at the MNHM

The Marion Natural History Museum will host The Great Backyard Bird Count on **February 4** from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm. The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is a free, fun, and easy event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of bird populations. Participants are asked to count birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the four-day event and report their sightings online at birdcount.org. Anyone can take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count, from beginning bird watchers to experts, and you can participate from your backyard, or anywhere in the world.

With the help of Nasketucket and Brookline Bird Club member Carol Molander we will be learning how to identify some of our more common bird species, taking a walk into the woods to see what we can find and then learning a little more about this important event. Warm hats, gloves and boots are highly recommended for our excursion.

The next program scheduled is Owl Diet Detective on **February 25** from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm. Join us for an exciting exploration into the world of owls and their unique eating habits. Unlike other birds, owls swallow their prey whole because they lack teeth for chewing. Our Owl Pellet Dissection program provides a fascinating insight into these nocturnal predators. Recommended for grades 2-6.

What you'll discover: Owl Dining Secrets: Learn how owls consume mice, voles, small birds, and more.

Pellet Examination: Delve into regurgitated pellets, consisting of bones, teeth, fur, and feathers. Scientific Investigation: By dissecting the pellets, we unveil the diverse diet of owls and the frequency of different prey. Each pellet is dry heat sterilized. Gloves and dissection tools are provided to ensure a safe and hygienic experience.

Get ready to become a junior ornithologist and uncover the mysteries hidden within owl pellets.

To register for these programs and others please go to the Marion Natural History Museum's website: www.marionmuseum.org.

Marion Town Clerk's Office

Happy New Year. This will be a busy year as there

will be 2 Elections as well as a State Primary.

The dates are as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

The open seats are as follows:

-Board of Assessors (1)

-Board of Health (1)

-Select Board (1)

-Marion School Committee (2)

-ORR School Committee (1)

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

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

-Planning Board (3)

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

Upcoming Events at the Elizabeth Taber Library

The library will be closed on Monday, **January 19** in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

The Cozy Cup Book Club will be discussing "Vera



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MOVIE REVIEW

Deadtime for Bonzo

By Rob Gonsalves
www.robsmovievault.com

Primate. Starring Johnny Sequoyah and Troy Kotsur. Directed by Johannes Roberts. Running time: 89 minutes. MPAA rating: R. Now playing in theaters.

Since winning the Best Supporting Actor Oscar for playing the patriarch of the mostly-deaf family in *CODA*, Troy Kotsur hasn't been around much in movies (he's kept his hand in on TV). This month, though, brings him back in two features. The second to be released here, on the 23rd, will be the Canadian thriller *In Cold Light*, and then there's *Primate*, which just opened at #2 this past weekend. It's good to see Kotsur again, so I hope *In Cold Light* is better than *Primate*, a gory and basic horror movie — essentially a slasher movie with a rabid chimp as the slasher.

The chimp, named Ben, is a combo of actual chimp performance, animatronics, and latex. Sometimes he looks pretty fake, which may be a relief for those concerned about using live chimps in many violent scenes. (The ominous opening number of Jordan Peele's *Nope* demonstrated why most productions don't lean heavily on monkey actors.) *Primate* is best described as a hard-R splatter movie, with Ben drooling and screeching as he rips faces and jaws off or beats people to death.

People have been testifying to how "fun" it all is, but I found it repulsive and unpleasant, especially in Ben's rare lucid moments when he seems to snap out of his murderous haze and express sadness and regret to the family that loved him. Then it's back to more stalking and blood. Maybe I'm getting too old for this sort of stuff, or maybe the real-life murder video I and the rest of the world saw this week dampened my taste for death for the foreseeable future. That video and its implications are more terrifying than anything in *Primate*, though I can understand moviegoers wanting to be transported by a predictable creature feature with fairly unreal brutality.

Kotsur more or less has the second lead as Adam, a famous author who owns Ben and lives in a remote cliffside home in Hawaii, where, he says, there's no rabies — so the dead mongoose found in Ben's enclosure on Adam's property, which tests



positive for rabies and has bitten Ben, would seem to be a plot hole. The movie doesn't get into how mongooses, an invasive species, could *potentially* carry rabies; the authority on such matters would have been Adam's deceased primatologist wife, also mother to Adam's two daughters (Johnny Sequoyah and Gia Hunter).

The daughters take advantage of Adam's being away at a book signing to have a girls' party at the elaborate family house, with the older daughter's two college-age friends rounding out the group. Two frat bros show up at the house later, too, mostly to be fed to Ben. Weirdly for this sort of movie, one of these bros gets the movie's most dread-ridden death, with a lot of emphasis on the guy's fear and straining to get out of the situation. A ghastly sight gag involving Ben playing with one of the dude's body parts almost made me think the director, Johannes Roberts, has some morbid wit going for him; it reminded me, of all things, of a disturbing scene with dentures in Larry Clark's *Ken Park*.

But that makes *Primate* sound artsier than it is or intends to be. Its true forefather is not Larry Clark but Stephen King, whose rabid-dog thriller *Cujo* stood more or less alone in the sub-subgenre of horror about hydrophobic animals until now. Usually animal-attack thrillers are premised on man-made goofs that drive the critters mad, like electric lines or environmental depredations. The king of them all, of course, furnished no cause or reason whatsoever for its great white shark deciding to put down roots off Amity Island and chow down. Here, as in *Cujo*, the killer, who comes across as friendly though a little off pre-carnage, can't help it. So the movie, for me, also became depressing. Ben deserved to grow old surrounded by a doting family. Instead he goes out like a soulless psycho in any '90s Hollywood thriller. *Primate* is not my idea of "fun."

Wong's Guide to Snooping (on a Dead Man) on **January 14 and 28**. As always, coffee and tea are provided.

We're excited to host Rickrack the Clown for a red nose reader program on Saturday, **January 17** at 11:00 am. Rickrack will read a story and then put on her clown makeup during the program. This special storytime is for kids of all ages.

Save the date for Take Your Child to the Library Day on Saturday, **February 7**. You won't want to miss crafts, storytime, and more between 10:00 am and 3:00 pm.

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

Marion Art Center

Winter is full of activities and learning for all ages. The Marion Art Center is pleased to present winter classes for all: Six Stories, Six Weeks - Instructor Sarah Banse returns with our popular writing class, 6 Weeks, 6 Stories. This is an opportunity to experiment with new forms and share fresh work in a supportive environment. This generative class is for anyone ready to take on writing

practice, whether you're a seasoned writer or brand new to the world of fiction. You can expect to write a new story draft (ranging from 300-1000 words) each week, and to be workshopped by the class with written feedback from the instructor. You'll leave class with: new ideas and inspiration, six new story drafts, writing prompts to carry you forward, and a grasp of the fundamental elements of short fiction. Classes are on Tuesday evenings, 6:30-8:30pm in the MAC Studio. The Winter session runs **February 3 through March 17** (no class Feb 24th) \$235 MAC members and \$275 nonmembers. Classes are held at the MAC Studio, 80 Pleasant St. Marion. More information at marionartcenter.org/adult-classes.

Weaving on a Rigid Heddle Loom - Learn a new fiber skill on a rigid heddle loom. Have you ever wanted to try weaving but not sure where to begin? Join instructor Lisa Elliott for this course over five weeks. You can create and take home your very first woven project. Students will weave one of the following: a scarf, table runner, set of placemats, or set of tea towels. Classes are on Thursday evenings, 6:00-8:30pm. Classes begin on **February 12** and run through March 12. The cost is \$160 for MAC members and \$170 for nonmembers. Classes are held at the MAC Studio, 80 Pleasant St. Marion, MA. More information at

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TRI-TOWN POLICE LOGS



MARION

Log highlights Jan 4 – Jan 10

- Spring St – EMS/medical
- Delano Rd – MV collision
- Delano Rd – EMS/medical
- Wareham Rd – MV stop/warning
- 195 West – MV collision
- Wareham Rd – Suspicious MV
- Delano Rd – Health/welfare
- Point Rd – General service
- Village Dr – Fire alarm
- Village Dr – General services
- Mill St – Lost property
- Cottage St – Follow up investigation
- Delano Rd – EMS/medical
- Wareham Rd – Road hazard
- Mill St – MV collision
- Spinnaker Ln – EMS/medical
- Mill St – General service
- Front St – Waterways/general service
- Alden Rd – EMS/medical
- Emil's Way – General service
- Point Rd – EMS/medical
- Delano Rd – EMS/medical
- Main St – Animal complaint
- Point Rd – Animal complaint
- Mill St – Health/welfare
- Delano Rd – EMS/medical
- Wareham Rd – MV collision
- Cove St – EMS/medical
- Bullivant Farm Rd – Suspicious MV

MATTAPOISETT

Log highlights Jan 4 – Jan 10

- North St – MV crash
- Wildwood Ter – Medical alarm
- Randall Ln – Suspicious MV
- Mechanic St – General service
- North St – MV violations
- Reservation Rd – Animal control
- Beacon St – Health/welfare
- Lebaron Way – General services
- County Rd – Property lost
- Cathaway Ln – Animal control
- Tobey Ln – Medical assist
- Pearl St – Animal control
- North St – Ambulance request
- Acushnet Rd – MV violations
- Brookside Dr – Health/welfare
- Port Way – Larceny/forgery/fraud
- Shaw St – Officer wanted
- Fairhaven Rd – Arrest/warrant
- Nantucket Dr – Follow up
- Aucoot Rd - Complaint
- Wolf island Rd – Property found
- County Rd – MV crash
- Wildwood Ter – Ambulance request
- Fairhaven Rd – General services
- Noyes Ave – 911 call
- Knollwood Ave – Ambulance request
- Wildwood Ter – Medical assist
- Cove St – Medical assist
- North St – MV lockout

ROCHESTER

Log highlights Jan 4 – Jan 10

- Pierce St – Erratic MV
- Thistle Ln – Animal control
- Wamsutta Ln – Suspicious activity
- Bowens Ln – Animal control
- Snipatuit Rd – Noise complaint
- Mattapoisett Rd – Suspicious activity
- Kings Hwy – MV collision
- Neck Rd – Animal control
- Robinson Rd - Fraud
- Cranberry Hwy – Burglar alarm
- Hiller Rd - Road hazard
- Marys Pond Rd – Road hazard
- Neck Rd – MV collision
- Hartley Rd – Animal control
- Dexter In - Fraud
- North Ave - Medical
- Cushman Rd – MV collision
- Forbes Rd – Suspicious activity
- Cranberry Hwy – MV collision
- Featherbed Ln - Medical
- Neck Rd – Burglar alarm
- Cranberry Hwy – 911 call
- Marys Pond Rd – MV stop/citation
- Coombs Rd – Inside gas leak
- Bowens Ln – Detector issue
- Walnut Plain Rd – Suspicious activity
- Walnut Plain Rd - Vandalism
- Mendell Rd – Suspicious activity
- Snipatuit Rd – MV collision

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



REGIONAL LUNCH MENUS

COASTLINE ELDERLY NUTRITION PROGRAM

Monday, Jan 19: Martin Luther

King Day – No meals served

Tuesday, Jan 20: Pork

Cacciatore, white rice, green peas, whole grain cornbread loaf, applesauce

Wednesday, Jan 21: Beef stew w/whole grain biscuit, broccoli, chocolate pudding, diet: fruit

Thursday, Jan 22: Rosemary & garlic chicken, mashed potatoes, carrots, wheat roll, vanilla cupcake, diet: fruit

Friday, Jan 23: White fish piccata, rice pilaf, mixed root vegetables, whole grain cornbread loaf, pear

CENTER SCHOOL

Monday, Jan 19: Martin Luther King Day – No school

Tuesday, Jan 20: Loaded tater tot nachos, warm soft pretzel

Wednesday, Jan 21: Pancakes, warm blueberry sauce, maple syrup, Jones low salt sausage links, hashbrown patty

Thursday, Jan 22: American chop suey, savory green beans,

garlic breadstick

Friday, Jan 23: Pizza crunchers, marinara sauce, roasted chic peas, garden salad, assorted salad dressing

OLD HAMMONDTOWN

Monday, Jan 19: Martin Luther King Day – No school

Tuesday, Jan 20: Loaded tater tot nachos, warm soft pretzel

Wednesday, Jan 21: Pancakes, warm blueberry sauce, maple syrup, Jones low salt sausage links, hashbrown patty

Thursday, Jan 22: American chop suey, savory green beans, garlic breadstick

Friday, Jan 23: Pizza crunchers, marinara sauce, roasted chic peas, garden salad, assorted salad dressing

OLD ROCHESTER REGIONAL JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH

Monday, Jan 19: Martin Luther King Day – No school

Tuesday, Jan 20: Loaded tater tot nachos, warm soft pretzel

Wednesday, Jan 21: Pancakes, warm blueberry sauce, maple

syrup, Jones low salt sausage links, hashbrown patty

Thursday, Jan 22: American chop suey, savory green beans, garlic breadstick

Friday, Jan 23: Appetizer basket: meatballs, onion rings, breaded mozzarella sticks served w/warm marinara sauce, fresh veggie sticks

ROCHESTER MEMORIAL

Monday, Jan 19: Martin Luther King Day – No school

Tuesday, Jan 20: Loaded tater tot nachos, warm soft pretzel

Wednesday, Jan 21: Pancakes, warm blueberry sauce, maple syrup, Jones low salt sausage links, hashbrown patty

Thursday, Jan 22: American chop suey, savory green beans, garlic breadstick

Friday, Jan 23: Pizza crunchers, marinara sauce, roasted chic peas, garden salad, assorted salad dressing

SIPPICAN SCHOOL

Monday, Jan 19: Martin Luther King Day – No school

Tuesday, Jan 20: Loaded tater tot nachos, warm soft pretzel

Wednesday, Jan 21: Pancakes, warm blueberry sauce, maple syrup, Jones low salt sausage links, hashbrown patty

Thursday, Jan 22: American chop suey, savory green beans, garlic breadstick

Friday, Jan 23: Pizza crunchers, marinara sauce, roasted chic peas, garden salad, assorted salad dressing

OLD COLONY REGIONAL

Monday, Jan 19: Martin Luther King Day – No school

Tuesday, Jan 20: Turkey club, baked beans & fries

Wednesday, Jan 21: Bagel pizza & side salad

Thursday, Jan 22: Steak cheese sub w/peppers & onions, tater tots & green beans

Friday, Jan 23: Assorted pizza & Caesar salad

marionartcenter.org/adult-classes.

Adult Tap Fit - Ready to tap out of "adulting" for a bit and get a good workout? Join the MAC at our partner location at the American Legion Post 280, 3 Depot Street, Mattapoisett, for a lively, fun dance class led by instructor Teah Keogh. This 60-minute class is designed for adults who want to add a little more happiness and a little less seriousness to their week. In this all-levels class, you'll develop rhythm, balance, and coordination while exploring your creativity and boosting both physical and mental wellness. Whether you're brand new to tap or dusting off old skills, this is your percussive playtime. This means no prior dance experience necessary. Classes are ongoing on Monday evenings from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm. Pre-registration is required. Drop-ins must be registered by 4:00 pm on the day of class. Register at marionartcenter.org/adult-music-movement. A 10-class punch card is \$215 for MAC members and \$255 for nonmembers. Drop in is \$25 per class for MAC members and \$30 for nonmembers.

Youth Theater - The MAC is pleased to announce its after school theater program for ages 9-12. Instructor Garrett Olson returns to work with young actors in this interactive afternoon program that will explore multiple facets of theater craft. Activities may include acting, improvisation, theater games, scene study and exploration, script analysis, and movement for the stage. We've added a new option for 2026 - an additional one-hour scene study module. This longer class is great for students who wish to hone their scene study and monologue skills. In this final hour, students will dive deeper into these activities in this focused portion of the class. The course starts on **January 26** and runs through March 16. There are no classes on February 16 or March 2. Classes are held Monday afternoons starting at 3:00 pm at the MAC - 80 Pleasant St. Marion. The 2-hour session runs for 6 weeks and costs \$195 for members and \$225 for nonmembers. The more in-depth 3-hour sessions run from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm and cost \$290 for MAC members and \$330 for nonmembers. More information at marionartcenter.org/youth-theater

Half-Day Early Dismissal Camp: The MAC is once again running Early Dismissal Half Day Camps for Ages 6-12 starting at 12:20 in the MAC studio and running until 3:00 pm in the MAC Studio, 80 Pleasant St, Marion on January 28. The cost for each child is \$75 for MAC Members and \$85 for nonmembers. Instructor Aylin is creating a Fidget Zone, where kids can unleash their creativity by designing and building their own sensory

and fidget toys of all kinds - ones that you can wear, squish, spin and more. Registration and information at marionartcenter.org/art-lab.

Art In the Afternoon, Fridays - The Maker Club (Ages 6-12) - In this hands-on art club, kids will have access to a wide variety of arts and crafts materials, tools, and textures each week. From paint and paper to recycled bits, fabric, wire, and more - every session is an invitation to explore, invent, and make something uniquely their own. With creative prompts to spark ideas and a supportive instructor to help guide their process, students are free to experiment, tinker, and express themselves in a relaxed, imaginative environment. The 4-week winter session runs **January 23 through February 13**, in the MAC Studio. Choose from 1 or 1.5 hours starting at 3:00pm after school. The cost for the 1-hour class is \$105 for MAC members and \$125 for nonmembers, and the 1.5-hour class is \$155 for MAC members and \$185 for nonmembers. More information: marionartcenter.org/art-lab.

Dance & Music - Rolling registrations - MAC Dance Academy winter session will take place on Mondays, **January 26 to February 23**. Preschool/ Kinderstep (ages 2.5-5) classes run from 4:15-5:00pm

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ACROSS

- 1 It turns
litmus paper
blue
7 Strip a dis-
guise from
13 "— Baby"
(#1 U2
album of
1991)
20 Arrive like
the tide
21 Savage
22 Less dull
23 Rural
lumber-
jack resting
after
chopping?
25 Lounged
around
26 Dreamcast
producer
27 Get as clear
profit
28 100-yr.
period
29 Heap (up)
30 Trough for
toting bricks
33 Extended
cloth used
for messy
cold-weather
meals?
38 Hostile force
40 Down food
41 Purple
spring
blooms
42 Wide-shoe
letters

- 43 Spool
44 Gets firm
46 Produced a
napped
surface on
48 Chart show-
ing the highs
and lows
of actress
Ellen's
career?
51 LP replacers
52 KGB's milieu
56 "— all over!"
57 Asian dress
58 Alex of "The
Godfather"
61 Unit of work
62 Orioles great
Ripken
63 Gp. for
Qatar
64 Sea in 75-
Across
65 "Now I see!"
67 Matchstick-
removing
game
68 Suffix with
señor
69 Item pinned
on to support
a Russian
poet's elec-
tion to office?
72 Sarge, e.g.
73 Abbr. for a
handy-andy
74 Mil. missions
75 Qatar locale
76 Lovers' deity
77 Still

- 78 Revise
80 Prepare to
give a ring?
81 Horse father
82 Beijing-to-
Shanghai dir.
83 Shot fluids
84 "— see it ..."
86 One of the
Skywalkers
dressed up
as St. Nick?
89 Kind of pear
93 With skill
94 Fir's cousin
95 "Ender's
Game" star
Butterfield
98 Unmoving
machine part
99 Troop gp.
100 They negate
deles
101 Afghan-
wrapped
football?
106 "Help!"
107 Guthrie at
Woodstock
108 B-to-F string
109 Thai tongue
110 "Think of
— a loan"
112 Foot lever
114 Clean a
jack-o'-
lantern with
a Hoover?
120 More
weighty
121 Alicia of
ballet

- 122 Choose
123 Aden citizens
124 French edict
site of 1598
125 Nail coater
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1 Wall St.
opportunist
2 Singer
Rawls
3 Dutch airline
4 Home to
edelweiss
5 Probable
6 Architect
Jones
7 Alien craft
8 Writer Anaïs
9 Not be joking
10 "Get Happy"
songwriter
11 Highland
terrier, briefly
12 Saloon
barrel
13 Figured out
the value of
14 Stations
15 Hair hider
16 Linda in
1998
headlines
17 "Rabbit,
Run" novel-
ist John
18 — Mae (loan
provider)
19 Graham or
Lorne
24 Sister of Bert
Bobbsey

- 28 Big name in
shortening
30 Weedkillers
31 Singly
32 James Feni-
more Cooper
novel, with
"The"
34 Grow
wealthy
35 "I — Male
War Bride"
36 History unit
37 Suffix of
enzymes
39 Monogram
in civil rights
44 Grab quickly
45 Departure
46 Most prickly
47 Trio less one
49 Crustacean
such as a
wood louse
50 Kudos
53 Features of
cloudless
days
54 Cuts, as pie
55 Far-off
distance
59 Jewish
mysticism
60 "McQ" actor
Gulager
61 Speed
skater Dan
65 Of a heart
chamber
66 Shout of joy
70 State east of
Colo.

- 71 Nuclear trial
prohibition
79 Catch cold
80 Tartan skirt
sporter
84 First
Constitution
section
85 Risen people
87 Galileo's gp.
88 Inclined (to)
90 Petition, e.g.
91 History unit
92 Light refrain
95 Disinterest
96 "No —!"
("Uh-uh!")
97 Glistening
99 Hall-of-Fame
footballer Mel
100 Flower organ
102 Dry, white
Italian wine
103 Strips for
breakfast
104 Currency
unit of Laos
105 Musical
exercise
111 Lab safety
org.?
113 Major racket
114 U-Haul
rental
115 Capitalize on
116 Cal. dozen
117 — Jong-un
118 Suffix with
chlor-
119 "— Blu Di-
pinto di Blu"
(1958 hit)

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SALOME'S STARS

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Events could inspire adventurous Lambs who are looking to make a major career or personal move. But as always, get all the facts before rushing into any sort of deal or commitment.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) What seems to be a great opportunity could cause even usually practical Taureans to ignore their inner caution cues. Best to move carefully to avoid falling into unseen traps.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Need a holiday now that the seasonal festivities are behind you? Good idea! Plan to go to someplace wonderful. You'll return refreshed and more than ready for a new challenge.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Progress continues to be made on that pesky workplace problem. Meanwhile, don't assume that a personal situation will work itself out. Best to get more involved earlier rather than later.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Catnaps are definitely recommended for LEOs and LEOnas who had been going at a hectic pace over the holidays. Adding relaxation time to your schedule helps restore your overdrawn energy reserves.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Sure, some of the new friends you made during the holidays might move out of your life at some point. But at least one might show significant "staying power" with some encouragement.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Encourage family members to join you in supporting a relative who could be facing a difficult emotional challenge in the New Year. Showing your love and concern helps keep this person's hopes up.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) While a long-deferred decision might suddenly take on some urgency after news on a related matter, you still need to weigh all the factors carefully before deciding one way or the other.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) This is a good time to reassess the earlier plan you made for the New Year. Some elements you felt you could depend on to make it work might no longer carry this assurance.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Forming a renewed connection with a former associate is only the first step toward working out your new plans. Be prepared for problems and deal with them as soon as they arise.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A romantic situation that was going smoothly not too long ago might take a new turn. Be honest about your feelings before you decide whether to follow it or take another path.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) The wise PISCES (that's you, of course) will make sure that everyone knows your plan to keep your options open and will listen to all sides of the situation before making any decisions.

BORN THIS WEEK: Your honest approach to life and living is always an inspiration for others who are fortunate enough to know you.

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are \$105 for members and \$125 for nonmembers. Elementary/Tumbling classes (ages 6+) run 5:00-6:00pm and cost \$120 for members and \$145 for nonmembers. Registration is also open for the 10-week spring session starting March 9. Learn more: www.marionartcenter.org/mac-dance-academy.

Guitar, Piano, & More All Ages and Levels (Adults too) The MAC and Instructor Colin Bradley have added availability for music lessons for adults and children. The 6-week winter session runs **January 13 to February 12** (with no classes the week of February 17). Students may enroll at any time and pro-rated to actual attendance. The cost for a 6-week period is \$235 for MAC members and \$260 for non-members. Spring sessions are also open for registration. Half-hour lessons are scheduled on Tues, Wed, and Thurs afternoons in the MAC's upstairs Patsy Francis Gallery. Students attend one day per week. Find more information at: marionartcenter.org/kids-music-lessons, or for adults: marionartcenter.org/adult-music-movement.

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Groundhog Cover Contest

The Wanderer is once again holding our Groundhog Day Cover Contest. The winner's artwork will appear on the cover of our January 29 issue. The winner will also receive a cash prize of \$100!



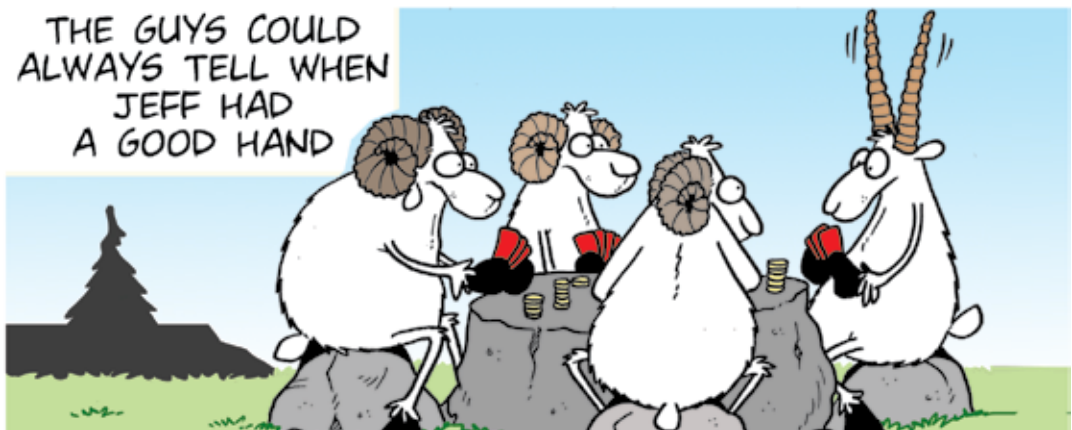
Create an original work of art to be displayed on the cover of *The Wanderer*. Anything that can be displayed on the cover is acceptable, photos, drawings, paintings, etc. Entries are due in The Wanderer office, 55 County Road, Mattapoissett by noon on January 23. Remember, all artwork should be tall to best fit on our cover. All entries must include a signed copy of the Official Entry Form which can be picked up at The Wanderer office, 55 County Road, Mattapoissett or downloaded at www.wanderer.com

Voting will start on January 24 and end on January 27. To vote, visit our web page at: www.wanderer.com. The winner will be on the cover of our January 30th edition.





THE GUYS COULD
ALWAYS TELL WHEN
JEFF HAD
A GOOD HAND



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by Chad Carpenter



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MEET SOMEONE
WHO ACTUALLY LOOKS
LIKE THEIR PROFILE
PICTURE.

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www.tundracomics.com



Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



seeking new members. The Commission meets once a month in the evening and is currently working to identify projects to improve accessibility of Town facilities. The next meeting of the Commission will be held **January 28**, at 5:00 pm at Town Hall, all are invited to attend. If you are interested in serving on the Commission, please send a letter of interest to the Select Board or fill out the volunteer form on the Town's website, Mattapoisett.gov/443/Boards-Committees.

Beavers - More than Soft Fur and Flat Tails

Join the Marion Natural History Museum on **January 30** at 6:00 pm when we welcome Wildlife Biologist Steven Wright of Massachusetts Fisheries and Wildlife to learn about these fascinating animals.

American Indians called the beaver the "sacred center" of the land because this species creates such rich, watery habitat for other mammals, fish, turtles, frogs, birds and ducks. We now know that beaver damming provides essential natural services for people too.

Beavers prefer to dam streams in shallow valleys, where the flooded area becomes productive wetlands. These cradles of life support biodiversity that rivals tropical rain forests. Almost half of endangered and threatened species in North America rely upon wetlands. Freshwater wetlands have been rated as the world's most valuable land-based ecosystem.

Beavers reliably and economically maintain wetlands that sponge up floodwater, alleviate droughts and floods (because their dams keep water on the land longer), lessen erosion, raise the water table and act as the "earth's kidneys" to purify water.

Please register for this fascinating program about one of our most ambitious mammals at www.marionmuseum.org.

Mattapoisett Woman's Club Presentation

The Mattapoisett Woman's Club invites local residents to its **January 15** monthly meeting for a special presentation, "The Magic Is You: Finding Your Creative Voice," by Jenny Martin, the new Director of the Mattapoisett Free Public Library. Join Jenny for an inspiring talk on sharing your gifts and living your best creative life. A librarian for nearly twenty years, Martin is also the author of two novels published by Penguin-Random House. She is an experienced teacher and presenter who has appeared at conferences including TLA and San Diego Comic-Con, and she previously served as Director of Outreach for DFW Writers' Workshop, one of

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the largest and oldest professional writers' workshops in the Southwest.

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

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TOWN OF ROCHESTER PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Rochester Planning Board will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 7:00 pm in the Rochester Town Hall Conference Room regarding a Definitive Subdivision Plan filed by Richard J. Charon, P.E. and depicted on a plan entitled, "Definitive Subdivision Plan of Land prepared for Alfred M. & Rebecca Guaraldo", dated November 3, 2025 for property located at 314 Neck Road, Rochester, MA 02770 designated as Lot 28G on Assessor's Map 26. The applicant's proposed plan is intended to create a second house lot from the existing 5.25-acre parcel.

Further information may be obtained by contacting the Rochester Town Hall Annex, 37 Marion Road, during normal business hours. Arnold Johnson, Chairman 1/8, 1/15

TOWN OF MATTAPOISETT PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40A Section 9, you are hereby notified of a public hearing. The Mattapoisett Planning Board will hold a hearing on Monday February 2, at 7:00 pm, at the Mattapoisett Fire Station Meeting Room, 62 County Road, Mattapoisett, MA 02739 and over zoom, to consider the following proposed amendments to the Town of Mattapoisett Zoning By-laws: 1) to add an Accessory Dwelling Unit By-law in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 40A Section 1A and Section 3, and 2) to add a Cottage Community By-law, the draft text of which is on file with the office of the Town Clerk and the Planning Board. All persons, parties, or corporations interested therein may appear and be heard in relation thereto. Thomas Tucker, Chair 1/15, 1/22

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

A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Rochester Town Hall Meeting Room regarding a request for an Amended Order of Conditions (DEP File # SE272-0587) made by Steen Realty & Development Corp., 3 Ledgewood Boulevard, Dartmouth, MA 02747, for property located at 22 Cranberry Highway, Rochester, MA 02770, designated as Lot 41C & 50 on Assessor's Map 17. The original Or-

LEGAL NOTICES

der of Conditions was issued on January 04, 2021 and an Extension Permit was issued on January 16, 2024. The proposed work has been reduced to general grading, the installation of a double catch basin overflow diffuser with associated rip rap and drainpipe, and a small portion of Townhome Building 7 and wood deck. The overflow diffuser will be located approximately 58 ft away from the resource area boundary with the rip rap approximately 44 feet away from the boundary. No work will be performed within the 25 ft no disturb buffer.

The applicant's representative is Allen & Major Associates Inc., 10 Main Street, Lakeville, MA 02347. This hearing is being held under the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act, MGL Ch. 131, Section 40 and the Town of Rochester Wetland Protection By-Law.

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88346669878>
Meeting ID: 883 4666 9878
Christopher Gerrior, Chairperson 1/15

TOWN OF MARION CONSERVATION COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Marion Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at 7:05 pm at the Marion Police Department Conference Room 550 Mill Street, also available via Microsoft Teams (Remote Participation Option), on a Request for Determination of Applicability, submitted by Theresa Fitzpatrick, for

Continued on page 40

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

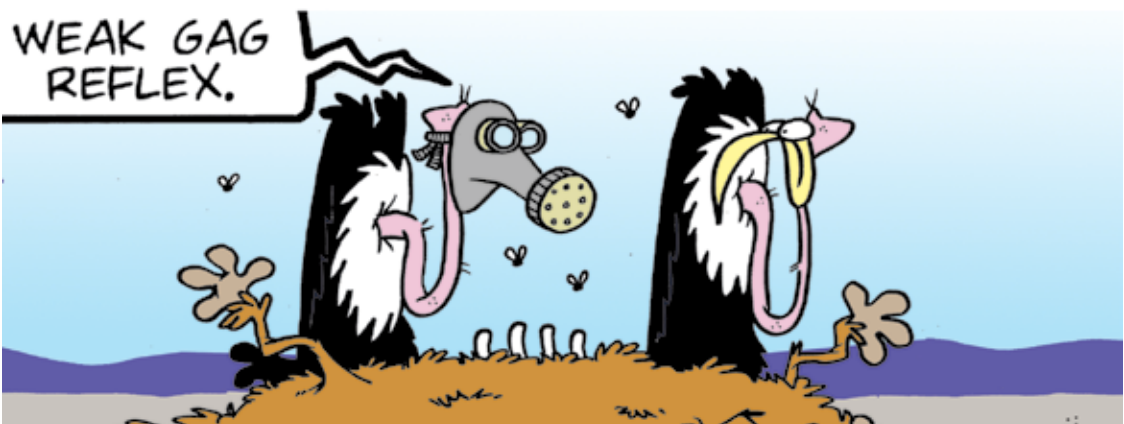


HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

Alexis Rezendes	January 15
Marcia Calusine	January 15
Abigail Bentz	January 16
Joann Price	January 16
Robert Luebke	January 16
Robin Lamb	January 16
Aiden Levasseur	January 17
Hope Perkins	January 17
Lee Hamilton	January 17
Marc Heon	January 17
Alexander Wurl	January 18
Heather Frink	January 18
Julie McGrail	January 18
Kate LaMontagne	January 18
Deanne Girouard	January 19
Dylan Disabella	January 19
Grace Stephens	January 19
James Alferes	January 19
Kevin Pepin	January 19
Sarah Ribeiro	January 19
Ava Boo	January 20
Katherine Foster	January 20
Marie Sylvester	January 20
Ryan D Fraine	January 20
James Santos	January 21
Julie Hillier	January 21
Lily Ambrosi	January 21
Michael Gagnon	January 21
Nathan Perry	January 21

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



Mattapoisett Republican Town Committee

The Mattapoisett Republican Town Committee will hold a public meeting on Thursday, **January 15** from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Neimad Facility, 57 Fairhaven Road, Mattapoisett.

The meeting will address important community concerns. In a friendly atmosphere, we encourage community members to join the discussion, share perspectives and to learn more about the vital issues that shape our future. Get involved with nominating and supporting upcoming seats for Governor, U.S. Senator, U.S. House of Representatives, and others. Let's start off 2026 strong. 6:00 pm - Light snacks and cash bar, 6:30 pm - General Meeting and discussion.

Please visit [Facebook.com/MattapoisettGOP](https://www.facebook.com/MattapoisettGOP) for information on our scheduled monthly speaker.

Lamb of God Christian Church

The Lamb of God Christian Church of Mattapoisett will be presenting the following events in January: Adult Bible Study every Sunday at 6:30 pm at the American Legion Hall, 3 Depot Street. Free Food Outreach, **January 18** from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the American Legion Hall. Children's "Bible Story Time" for children, parents, and care givers of children, **January 27** at 10:00am held at the Mattapoisett Free Public Library, in the lower meeting room. For more information call 508-998-6990, or E-Mail: pastor@lambofgodma.org.

Marion Democratic Town Committee

The Marion Democratic Town Committee welcomes all residents to its monthly meeting at 5:30 pm on **January 15**. The committee will meet at the Elizabeth Taber Library, 8 Spring Street. The agenda will cover plans for the coming year. We also will discuss possible questions that concern Marion residents which we will ask Rep. Mark Sylvia, who will be invited to a meeting with the group this spring.

Peter Hodges Memorial Scholarship

The Mattapoisett Lions Club, a member of Lions International, the world's largest service club organization consisting of 46,000 clubs and more than 1,400,000 members worldwide, is pleased to announce the availability of two (2) - \$2,000 scholarships to be awarded this year to a graduating high school senior or home-schooled student residing in Mattapoisett, Marion, or Rochester or a school-choice student attending Old Rochester Regional High School. In addition, we are

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pleased to announce the availability of one (1) \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating senior who will be entering the trades and attending an accredited trade school OR tool reimbursement of up to \$1,000 with proof of purchase to a graduating senior who will directly be entering the trades with an apprenticeship agreement.

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

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

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

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

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the demolition of an existing house and to rebuild a new house on the existing foundation at 27 Beach Street.

The site is further identified as Lot 55 on Marion Assessors' Map 17. Plans are available at the Town House Annex for review.

Matthew Shultz, Chair

*Please contact Olivia Prior at oprior@marionma.gov for the Microsoft Teams link and for meeting information. The meeting will be live streamed on ORCTV. 1/15

TOWN OF MARION PLANNING BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

To be held at the Marion Police Department Conference Room

550 Mill Street

Also Available via Teams (Remote Participation Option)

On Monday, February 2, 2026, at 7:05pm, the Marion Planning Board will hold a public hearing pursuant to M.G.L. c. 41, § 81Q and the Town's Subdivision Control Law, to consider adoption of the following amendments:

- Amend 300-3.10A, Residential Compounds, of the Subdivision Regulations to update internal section references.
- Amend 300-4.6, Stormwater Management, of the Subdivision Regulations to reference the newly adopted Stormwater Management Bylaw and associated Rules and Regulations.

The public is invited to attend and comment on this matter and may inspect the full text of the proposed amendments at the Town Hall Annex, 14 Barnabas Road, Office of the Planning Board or at the Town Clerk's office during normal business hours.

Please email Doug Guey-Lee for the remote meeting information: dgueylee@marionma.gov. If you are a resident attending the public hearing, we request you identify your name and address for the record.

Join Teams Meeting

<https://bit.ly/4qcZj6p>

Meeting ID: 243 864 945 194 50

Passcode: gD3gW9CV

Andrew Daniel, Chairman

Alanna Nelson, Vice Chair 1/15, 1/22

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*There is only upper case and lower case lettering.
*No graphics may be used in Classified Advertisements.
*Classified Ads cannot be placed on hold.
*Classified Ads cannot be taken over the phone.

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

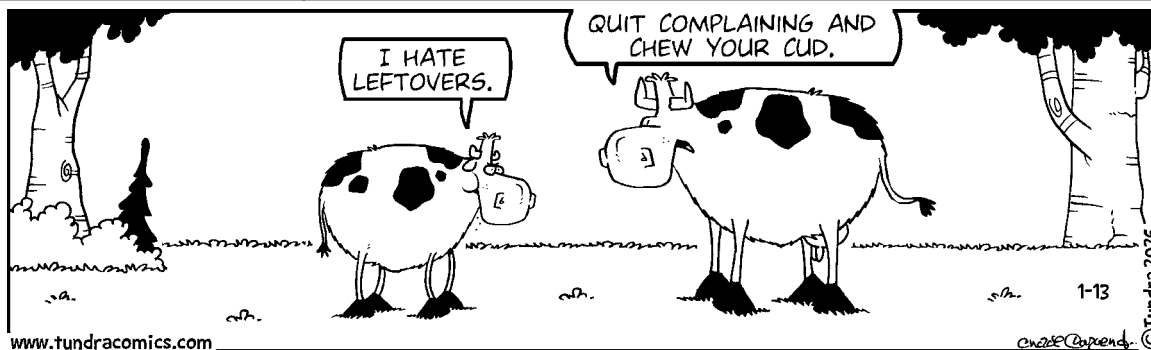
Placing Classified Ads On-line: Ads can be placed on line at: www.wanderer.com

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

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by Chad Carpenter



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1-13

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Open Table Is Back

Mattapoisett Congregational Church is very excited to announce that Open Table is back with 3 dinners planned for **January 9, February 27, and March 13** (weather permitting), so be sure to mark your calendar now. The OT crew hopes to see you on January 9 for the first of three delicious meals served in Reynard Hall at Mattapoisett Congregational Church, 27 Church Street, Mattapoisett. There is no charge, although donations are gratefully accepted. Doors open at 4:30 pm and supper will be served at 5:00 pm. Invite a friend or neighbor. All are welcome.

Showstoppers Performance Troupe Seeking Local Talent

The Showstoppers community-service singing troupe is seeking talented youth for its 24th season. Boys and girls in grades 2 to 12 with singing ability are encouraged to apply.

Candidates are asked to submit 2 audition videos, one ballad and one upbeat song, for review. Call backs will be in person by appointment. Submissions do not need to be professionally done and can be recordings of solos in previous school productions. We are looking for kids with great potential.

Successful candidates will rehearse one day per week for 1 1/2 to 2 hours and will have the opportunity to perform with the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra in December. They will also make an impact on their community by providing musical entertainment to the elderly at nursing homes, senior centers, and assisted living facilities throughout the Southcoast. The troupe also performs for the community at-large through a variety of private and public venues, including fairs, festivals, schools, malls, charitable fundraisers and other civic events.

Videos and/or video links should be sent to ShowstoppersME@gmail.com. Email for more information or call 508-758-4525.

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Showstoppers Musical Entertainment is a subsidiary of Showstoppers Performing Arts, Inc., an all-volunteer non-profit organization. Follow them on Facebook to keep updated on their activities: www.facebook.com/showstopppers.us.

South Coast Chamber Music Series

The South Coast Chamber Music Series offers a Place to Pause. When life moves too fast and the world feels loud, we all need a place to pause. The South Coast Chamber Music Series returns this fall with five weekends of transformative musical storytelling designed to help you slow down, breathe deeper, and reconnect - with yourself, with others, and with the beauty around you.

From soulful string quartets to joyful piano quintets, this season invites you on a journey through soundscapes that stir the spirit and quiet the mind. Whether you're seeking inspiration, healing, or just a moment to exhale, there's space for you here.

Under the inspired direction of pianist and Artistic Director Janice Weber, the 2025-2026 season is a vibrant mix of the familiar and the unexpected - featuring beloved classics, boundary-pushing works by contemporary composers, and rare gems that surprise and delight.



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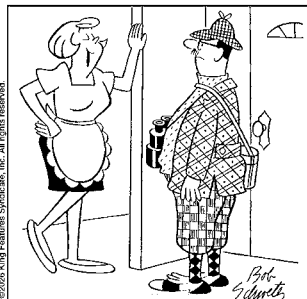
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	4	1				5	9	
			7	5	9	4		1
	6			1			8	
	1	5	6	3				
6		7					2	5
2		4					1	3

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

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Concerts take place Saturdays at 3:00 pm at St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church in Marion and Sundays at 3:00 pm at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in South Dartmouth. Tickets: Individual concerts: \$35 (advanced purchase required), Season subscription: \$140 for all five concerts (save 20%. Available through October 3).

To reserve your seat and find your moment of stillness, visit nbsymphony.org or call 508-999-6276 ext. 222.

The South Coast Chamber Music Series (SCCMS) was formed to present superior chamber music for the communities of Southeastern Massachusetts. SCCMS held its first subscription series concert on October 20, 2001. Since then, we have performed composers from Bach, Brahms, and Ravel to present-day masters Takemitsu and Piston. Each program presents an engaging array of styles, timbres, and artists in lively acoustic environments in Marion and South Dartmouth. We joined forces with the NBSO in 2014, giving both organizations an opportunity to expand in all directions - more concerts, more musicians, and more music - and are thrilled to connect with our loyal and growing audience.

Naval Sea Cadet Corps

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

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

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

at Gosnold Division.

Marion Vaccination Information

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

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

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

Mattapoisett Congregational Church

The Mattapoisett Congregational Church's steeple is lit nightly and is a beacon of welcome and comfort to all. The Beacon of Light was started as a way to celebrate and honor loved ones or special occasions. If you would like the steeple to be lit in remembrance of, in celebration of, or in honor of a loved one or blessed event, please call the church office at 508-758-2671 or email mattconchurch@gmail.com for more information. We welcome and encourage multiple entries each month. This is a special way to celebrate our beautiful steeple, as a Beacon of Light in Mattapoisett, and to financially support our church. Thank you for your donation.

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Call Jeff at 774-992-9626

Caring PCA with lots of experience to care for you
or a loved one needs. Can help with personnel care
or home care, what ever is needed. Please call.
Tammy 508-951-3091

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Cleaning By Solange

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

Depot Road Painting

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

Done with the tree? We've got it!

Quick hassle-free Christmas tree removal.
No needles, no mess, no stress!
Local, insured, and affordable!
Book your pickup today!
Call Arbor Tech Services!
508-209-1777

**DUMP RUNS and MORE Any cleanup, yards,
houses, attics, apts, etc. Oil tank and boiler
removal call Cliff 508-472-8539**

Experienced & reliable CNA
seeks a position as a caregiver, companion or to
assist. Will prepare home cooked meals, clean,
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Excellent references will be provided.
Available any time including nights and weekends.
Please call Carol at 929-329-9960

Interior Painting

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

ISO LAND IN ROCHESTER for personal build
of modest home for one. 2+ acre, private, quiet
retreat/flag/back lots ok. 508-525-5835

JR Painting A Legacy

Interior & Exterior
High quality painting
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Instagram @jrpaintingalegacy

KW Powerwash Free Estimates

Book now!
508-997-2892

LeBron Cleaning

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

The Wanderer

The Wanderer is an independently
owned and published weekly
newspaper that is distributed to the
public free of charge throughout
Mattapoisett, Marion, Rochester and
the surrounding communities.

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News:

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Deadlines:

(Display Ads) Friday at 3pm

(News) Monday at noon

(All Others) Tuesday at 10am

Office Hours:

Mon., Thur. & Fri. 9am-3pm

Tues. 9am - 12 noon

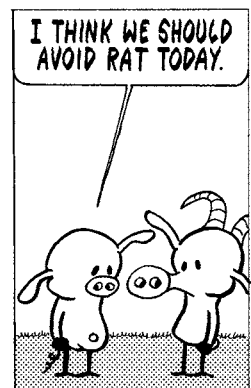
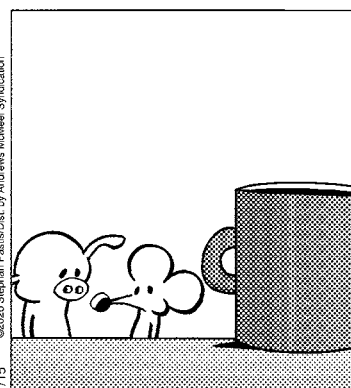
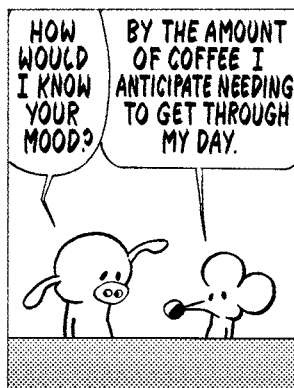
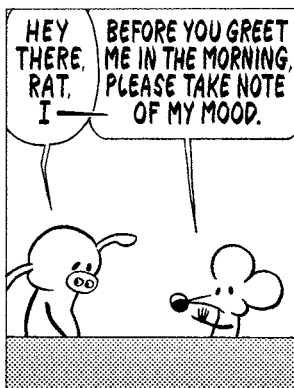
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ISSN 1559-1212

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



American Legion: Florence Eastman Post #28

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

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

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

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

Birthday Parties at the MAC

The Marion Art Center's Arts & Crafts instructor Aylin Cetik is offering birthday parties in the MAC Studio. Parties for ages 4 and up will be scheduled on Saturdays and Sundays, with 15 to 20 minutes reserved at the end of the party for a sweet treat. Available times are 10:00 am to 11:30 am or 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm. Suggested party themes include: mermaids, fairies, outer space, pirates, art and science, or custom. The cost is \$275 for up to ten guests and \$15 for each additional child with a maximum of 15 children. Add-on options include outdoor lawn games or other activities by request, for an additional fee. For more information and to inquire about dates, email aylincetik@gmail.com.

Marion Natural History Museum

Attention Pre-Schoolers and Home Schoolers, the Marion Natural History Museum is now open to the public on Friday mornings. The museum features collections of minerals, fossils, butterflies, birds of prey, and many other specimens. Appointments may be made for field trips. If you would like to schedule a time to come in and view these specimens as part of a lesson or just for fun, please contact the director for an appointment. We are open on Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm and Fridays from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Emergency Preparedness

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

If you feel that you would require assistance in an emergency, we would like to have a discussion with you so we can prepare a plan that will be ready to go



NEW CONSTRUCTION
ADDITIONS
RENOVATIONS

**SOUTHCOAST DESIGN
& CONSTRUCTION, LLC**

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

Christian McCullough / Michael Bichsel - Owners

when needed. If you rely on medical equipment at your residence that requires electricity. If you would require transportation to a shelter when such a need arises or live in a known flood zone. If you have a communication-related disability, we need to know the best way to communicate in an emergency state. If you take medications, we need a list.

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

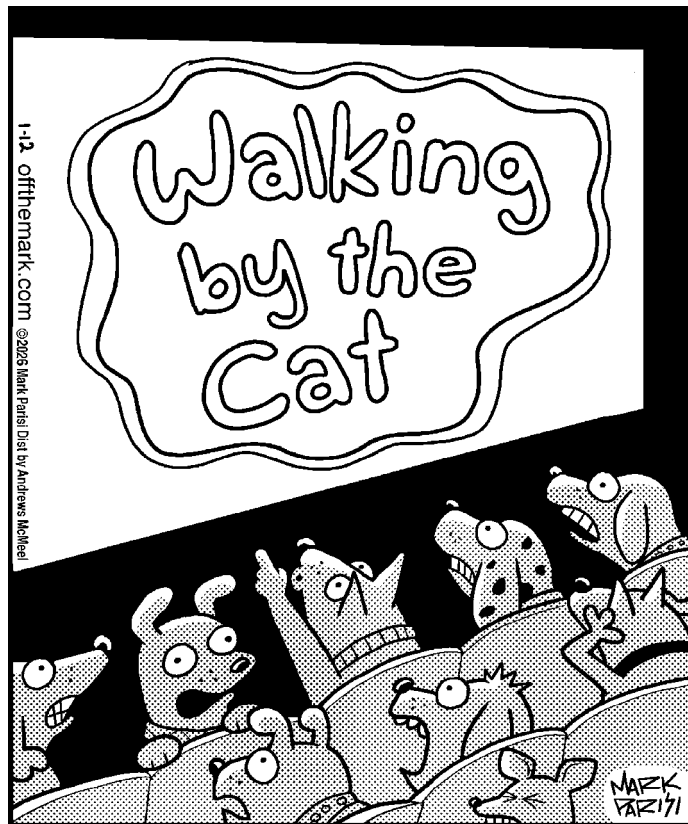
Please call the Council on Aging at 508-748-3570 so we can compile this information which will be reported to Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). We want to be prepared.

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

Tri-Town Against Racism

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

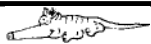
REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS			See past listing on our website: www.wanderer.com		
Buyer(s)	Seller(s)	Address	City	Date	Price
Cooney, Brendon P	Cooney, Joseph P Cooney, Deborah L	1087 Walnut Plain Rd	Rochester	12/24/2025	462,500.00



Local Tides

Day	Date	High		Low	
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Thursday	January 15	5:34	5:49	11:41	11:13
Friday	January 16	6:16	6:30		12:23
Saturday	January 17	6:53	7:08		1:04
Sunday	January 18	7:29	7:46	12:42	1:43
Monday	January 19	8:04	8:24	1:25	2:18
Tuesday	January 20	8:41	9:04	2:06	2:49
Wednesday	January 21	9:21	9:46	2:46	3:18
Thursday	January 22	10:03	10:30	3:25	3:49
Friday	January 23	10:50	11:19	4:06	4:24
Saturday	January 24	11:41		4:52	5:04
Sunday	January 25	12:11	12:36	5:48	5:53
Monday	January 26	1:06	1:34	7:03	6:54
Tuesday	January 27	2:06	2:37	8:56	8:05
Wednesday	January 28	3:13	3:47	10:23	9:20
Thursday	January 29	4:25	4:55	11:23	10:31
Friday	January 30	5:30	5:55		12:16
Saturday	January 31	6:27	6:48		1:05
Sunday	February 1	7:17	7:38	12:28	1:49

Phases of the Moon	New Moon	January 18th
	First Quarter	January 26th
	Full Moon	February 1st
	Last Quarter	February 9th



I Found the Aardvark!

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

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

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

In the January 8, 2026 edition the Aardvark was on page 23

PUZZLE
ANSWERS

CROSSWORD SOLUTION



SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Ambush; 2. Breach;
3. Gambit; 4. Inches

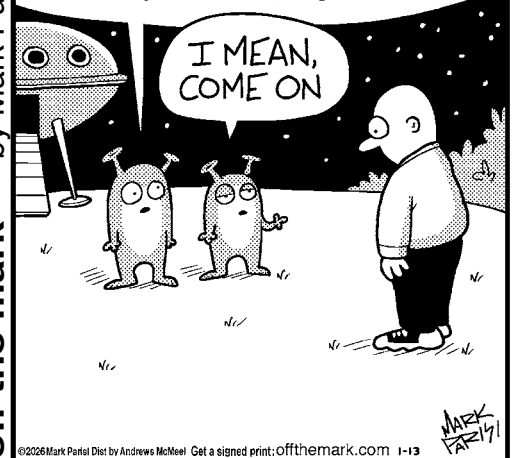
Today's Word

WATCHING

Sudoku Answer

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

WE HAVE CROSSED GALAXIES
TO ASK YOU A QUESTION.
IS THE PLATYPUS REAL?



GROCERY, DAIRY & FROZEN

64 oz. 100%
 Food Club
 Apple Juice
2/\$5



11.04 oz. Selected Variety
 Swiss Miss
 Hot Cocoa Mix
2/\$6



18 oz. Family Size
 General Mills
 Cheerios **\$4.99**

5.25-10 oz. Selected Variety
 Near East
 Side Dishes **\$1.79**

16 oz. Selected Variety
 Green Mountain Gringo
 Salsa **\$4.49**

14.75-15.25 oz. Selected Variety
 Green Giant
 Canned Corn **\$1.69**

8.6-10.05 oz. Selected Varieties
 M&M's
 Candy **\$5.99**

8 oz.
 Green Mountain Gringo
 Tortilla Strips **\$2.59**

13.5-28 oz. Selected Varieties
 Alexia
 Side Dishes **\$4.99**

MEAT, DELI, PREPARED FOODS & CHEESE

16 oz. Pkg.
 Selected Varieties
 Hormel
 Black Label
 Bacon **\$8.99**



2.52 oz. Pkg.
 Oscar Mayer
 Cooked
 Bacon **\$5.99**



Deli Sliced
 Land O Lakes
 American
 Cheese **\$7.99 lb**



7.5 oz. Pkg. Country Breakfast
 al fresco
 Chicken Sausage **\$3.99**

Deli Fresh
 Friends' Store Baked
 Turkey **\$8.99 lb**

Deli Fresh
 Friends' Store Baked
 Roast Beef **\$14.99 lb**

Deli Fresh
 Friends' Store Packaged
 Beet & Onion Salad **\$6.99 lb**

Deli Fresh
 Friends' Store Packaged
 Seafood Salad **\$10.99 lb**

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

8 oz. Pkg.
 Cedar's
 Hommus **2/\$6**

8 oz. Pkg.
 Boar's Head
 Muenster Cheese **\$4.99**

BAKERY

21 oz. Pkg. Sourdough Bread
 Nashoba Valley
 Sliced Half Loaf **\$5.29**

Loaf
 Store Baked
 Garlic Bread **\$3.49**

CHEF PREPARED

Selected Variety, With Blue Cheese Dressing
 Gameday Wings! **\$10.99 lb**

Pint, With Apples & Butternut Squash
 Farro Salad **\$10.99**

Fresh
 Garden Side Salad **\$6.99 ea**

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

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

Shepherd's Pie **\$12.99 ea \$19.99 ea**

WINE

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

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



SEE OTHER SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL GREAT SAVINGS THIS WEEK!



Wishing you a New Year filled with
peace, love and good cheer!
Here's to a healthy and happy 2026!

Visit our website!
www.friendsplumbcorner.com

Friends'
marketplace

565 Rounseville Rd.
Rochester, MA 02770
Phone: 508.763.5333

Open Daily: 7am-8pm

at PLUMB CORNER

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

SALE EFFECTIVE: Friday, January 16, to Thursday, January 22, 2026

BLOCKBUSTER SAVINGS!

Certified Black Angus
Friends' Bone In
Strip Sirloin

\$18⁹⁹
lb



12.1 oz. Selected Varieties

Quaker
Instant
Oatmeal
\$1⁹⁸



7-8 oz. Selected Variety
Cracker Cuts or Slices

Cabot
Cheese
2/\$6



Juicy
CantaGold
Cantaloupes

\$1⁷⁸
ea



6.09 oz. Original
Near East
Rice Pilaf

98¢



48 oz. Selected Variety
Breyers
Frozen Dessert

\$4⁹⁹



QUALITY PRODUCE



3 lb. Pkg.
Peelz Minneolas

\$4⁹⁹

6 oz. Pkg.
Blackberries or Raspberries

\$3⁹⁹

Fresh
Green Grapes

\$2⁹⁹
lb

Fresh
Red Peppers

\$3⁴⁹
lb

Fresh
Broccoli Crowns

\$1⁹⁹
lb

1 lb. Pkg.
Baby Carrots

\$1⁴⁹



SEE OTHER SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL GREAT SAVINGS THIS WEEK!