

BOOKSTORE

Continued from Page 1

fictions books set in Cape Ann.

"We come in and buy something to support it because it helps the environment," she said. The store, which opened on the country's first Earth Day in 1972, has used its proceeds to support regional environmental projects. The store operates as a nonprofit under the umbrella organization Essex County Ecology Center.

"It's more of a rarity than ever before. One of the charms of Rockport is that it has these things," Zecher said, "There's not a regular bookstore back where we live, with new things coming in every week."

Books a family affair

Ann Broderick grew up in Pigeon Cove with her sister, Moira O'Conner, and the two used to come to Toad Hall Bookstore with their parents, and continued the tradition with their own children.

Ann and her husband John have been taking their three children, now adults, Paul, 48, Elizabeth, 46, and Sam, 45, to the bookstore when visiting Ann's mother since they were toddlers. Now the Brodericks, who live in Whitman, come to visit Rockport often and always stop by Toad Hall.

O'Conner, 77, remembers Toad Hall before it was Toad Hall, when it was a bank. "It was the only little classy place to visit," she said. Now she lives in Raleigh, North Carolina, and returns to Rockport once a year to visit. Those yearly trips always include a stop at Toad Hall. "It's sad," she said. "If any other time kids need books, it's these days."

The family is disappointed to hear that a store they have made so many memories in will close at the end of fall.

"They always went



HADLEY GREEN/Staff photo

A customer shops at Toad Hall Bookstore in Rockport.

downstairs into the kids' room," Ann Broderick recalled. A spiral staircase winds downstairs into the children's room and upstairs to the used books and young adult sections.

"I think that spiral staircase is responsible for me getting a degree in English," Sam Broderick said. They also remember sitting in front of Toad Hall for the Fourth of July parade every year.

"Now where am I going to get this stuff?" Ann Broderick asked as she held one of the store's unique books set in Cape Ann. "It would be nice if they could open up somewhere else ... it's just too bad," she said.

Hopes for another store

Directors plan to sell the business and hope another bookstore will open in town. Toad Hall's departure will leave Art Longwood Books, at 33 Broadway, the town's only bookstore. It specializes in books on art history, architecture, design, modern thought, history, and fluctuating groups of books in a variety of subjects.

If another bookstore does open, it probably would not be in Toad Hall's location at 47 Main St. The 1926 building is the original home of the Granite Savings Bank and is owned by the family of

the late Buck Robinson, who founded Toad Hall.

Linda O'Toole, 70, of Tewksbury, grew up in Gloucester and has been going to Toad Hall since she was old enough to read. "It's disappointing and sad," O'Toole said. "This is like a historical landmark."

Rick Drost of Rockport was buying books with his four children, Julia, 13, Anna, 11, Sophia, 7, and Erik, 11, on Monday. The family was shopping for books after getting gift cards to the store for their birthdays. "It's sad to see a local business close," Drost said. "This is a great place to get gift certificates." The Drosts shop local in town whenever they can to support the local economy.

Giving to the community

Toad Hall, named after the estate in Buck Robinson's favorite childhood book, "The Wind in the Willows," has given more than \$120,000 in grants over its 45 years to scores of projects initiated by Cape Ann schools, according to the directors.

Cape Ann Vernal Pond Team Executive Director Rick Roth said that Toad Hall was the first grant this group was ever awarded. That was in 1995 and the team used the money for a 15-minute video project that tells the story

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of vernal ponds and why they're important temporary wetlands.

"It's a lot easier to get grants once you've already gotten grants, so after we got the Toad Hall grant we got a bunch of other ones and we ultimately finished the project," Roth said. "They were very supportive."

After the project was finished, "Buck" Nelson, who started Toad Hall, enjoyed the video they gave him so much that he showed it in the store and had it running in there for about a year. "It ran all day long and he sold it in the store as well as some of our other products," Roth said.

Toad Hall gave the Cape Ann Vernal Pond Team another grant years later to work on certifying vernal pools, which is how habitats become protected. The team used the money to help them certify 175 ponds out of around 300 on Cape Ann. When the team finished the project, it had \$75 leftover and Toad Hall let the group keep it.

"They've been great supporters of us and we hate to see them go," Roth said. "It was always a fun bookstore"

The store will host a "community celebration" to mark Toad Hall's 45 years of service to the community.

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AUDIT

Continued from Page 1

unpaid two-week suspension and other sanctions to Conners over allegations the city has never defined. The city passed on information from its own investigations to the office of Essex District Attorney Jonathan Blodgett, who, in turn, forwarded them on to the state AG's office and federal officials.

Moving forward

The city has heeded a call from the U.S. Attorney's office to hold off on pursuing its departmental audit until its investigation is completed, which spokeswoman Christina DiOrio-Sterling indicated Monday ongoing.

Last week, Judge James F. Lang, hearing the case of a man charged in the 2015 shooting of a bouncer outside Gloucester's Minglewood Tavern, ordered the release of the AG's and U.S. attorney's reports regarding Conners to the defense attorney, but also ordered that the lawyer not share them with anyone else because of the ongoing probe.

Destino said Monday the city is looking to "tweak the scope" of the probe in a way to allow it to move forward.

The audit aims to revisit the damning audit of the city's Police and Fire departments that MRI carried out in 2009, to identify structural and other problems with the police department today. The results would be used to lay the groundwork for searching and hiring a permanent chief to succeed McCarthy, 59. McCarthy is a 39-year veteran of the department who has long been eligible for retirement, though he has not submitted papers to step aside, Destino said.

Destino said talks with the U.S. Attorney's office indicated that the office's call to hold off on any audit has stemmed from concerns about having anyone within the Police Department who might still have to be interviewed for the Campanello-Conners probe speaking separately with an independent department auditor.

"When I heard that, I understood what their issue was," he said. "But at this point, I think we can at least get this started — and we want to get this moving."

Putting pieces in place

City Council President Joe Ciolino, who had previously expressed concern over the months of delay, said Monday he would be glad to see an audit go forward, even in preliminary form.

"Anything like this isn't going to happen overnight," he said, "and it's been (eight) years since we did the previous one. We need to get a sense of what best practices are, and what we should be looking to do once we get ready to look for a chief."

"None of this has anything to do with John (McCarthy) — he's doing a terrific job, we know he will continue to do a terrific job, and he's said he will stay as long as we need him," Ciolino added. "But we do have to get a sense of what we need and what we need to do. He can have the job for as long as he wants it as far as I'm concerned, but it would be good to put all these pieces in place."

The previous MRI audit found a variety of problems within the Police and Fire departments, and led to the retirements under then-Mayor Carolyn Kirk of police Chief John Beaudette and fire Chief Barry McKay. Among other issues, the audit cited command issues at emergency scenes, which led to the addition of full-time, non-union assistant chiefs, one of which was McCarthy, who was named to the assistant's post in 2012. Mike Lane had served as interim police chief from 2009 through 2012, when the city hired Campanello.

Those positions had remained in place until this year, when both were left out of the city's budget for fiscal 2018, which began July 1.

Destino said the city hopes to resurrect those positions "as soon as we can."

"But there are some things we need to look at — including their (salary) levels," he said. Each assistant chief had been paid an annual salary of \$117,093, just below the chiefs' salaries of \$127,890.

"That's just one reason why we want to get this (audit) process going separately with an independent department auditor."

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FIRE

Continued from Page 1

and that residents had returned. Preliminary estimates from the Gloucester Fire Department placed damages at \$100,000.

Water seeped down into the walls of a number of units, she and Smith said, but none were damaged to the point of residents being forced from their homes.

Investigators said the fire, which filled hallways from the fourth floor up with smoke, had been ignited after the Apartment 413 resident left food cooking on the stove, then left the apartment to go to the grocery store. The man had returned to find city firefighters battling the blaze in his apartment.

Sheridan said McPherson's

ceilings, floors and walls are all sealed in cement, and that serves as a fire barrier that can keep a blaze from jumping from room to room. Smith said that's why the Fire Department did not call for any of the residents to evacuate after arriving firefighters found they could contain the blaze to one unit.

"In situations like this," Smith said, "the safest thing (for the other residents) to do is to shelter in place in their rooms. The safest thing to do is to keep the door closed, maybe put a wet towel across the bottom of the door to keep any smoke from seeping in, and open the window to get fresh air from the outside. But as soon as you open that door, then that only allows the smoke to get in and fill the room and that's what causes more problems."

"Certainly in a high rise — and in one with this many units — the last thing you want is to have everybody trying to try running down

the hallways and stairways to get outside all at once," Smith said, "and that's especially the case given (McPherson Park's elderly) population."

Smith said McPherson Park complies with all fire codes for a building constructed, as it was, in 1976, and said the facility has regularly passed fire inspections. But its only sprinkler systems cover the building's common areas, not the individual rooms.

"If there was a sprinkler in that room, it probably would have put down this fire before we even got there," Smith said. "And if you were to build this building today, you wouldn't be able to do it without (in-room) sprinklers. At the same time, I know that trying to retrofit something like that into buildings like this can be cost-prohibitive."

Sheridan noted that the Gloucester Housing Authority is developing a plan for upgrading McPherson through a \$6.3 million grant extended in January by the state's Department of Housing and Community Development. The grant is geared toward carrying out a phased rehabilitation of the building's mechanical and electrical systems and other

needs, but Sheridan said she was not sure whether it includes an expanded sprinkler system. GHA Executive Director David Houlden was not available Monday for comment.

Smith said the residents were allowed back inside their apartments over the weekend after the department confirmed that the building's electrical and alarm systems were not damaged in the fire.

"The alarm system worked just the way it was supposed to," he said. "There was no one in the apartment at the time, yet we got the alarm from that room and were able to respond quickly. That's how it is supposed to work."

All 97 residences at McPherson Park, the GHA's largest senior housing facility, are single-bedroom units. The GHA's largest overall complex is the 160-unit Riverdale Park, which houses families in a number of duplexes and four-unit buildings on Veterans Way and Patriot Circle.

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HOME SCHOOLED STUDENTS

Parents who wish to home-school their children or who are currently home-schooling their children should be aware that they must inform the Superintendent of Schools and apply to home-school for the 2017-2018 school year.

Please write or telephone Superintendent of Schools:

Robert Liebow, Rockport Public Schools, 24 Jerden's Lane, Rockport, MA 01966. (978-546-1200)

Public Announcement Concerning a Proposed Health Care Project

Lahey Health System, Inc., located at 41 Mall Road, Burlington, MA 01805 (the parent of Lahey Clinic Hospital, Inc., 41 Mall Road, Burlington, MA 01805, Northeast Hospital Corp., 85 Herrick Street, Beverly, MA 01915, and Winchester Hospital, 41 Highland Avenue, Winchester, MA 01890), CareGroup, Inc., located at 109 Brookline Avenue, Boston, MA 02215 (the parent of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Inc., 330 Brookline Avenue, Boston, MA 02215 (which in turn includes Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital-Milton, Inc., 199 Reedsdale Road, Milton, MA 02186, Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital - Needham, Inc., 148 Chestnut Street, Needham, MA 02492, and Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital - Plymouth, Inc., 275 Sandwich Street, Plymouth, MA 02360), New England Baptist Hospital, 125 Parker Hill Road, Boston, MA 02120, and Mount Auburn Hospital, 330 Mount Auburn Street, Cambridge, MA 02138), and Seacoast Regional Health Systems, Inc., located at 25 Highland Avenue, Newburyport, MA 01950 (the parent of Anna Jaques Hospital, 25 Highland Avenue, Newburyport, MA 01950) (collectively the "Applicant"), intend to file an Application for Determination of Need ("Application") relative to a proposed affiliation involving the Applicant (the "Project").

The Applicant is submitting its Application as it intends to affiliate to create a new comprehensive, distributed, high quality and high-value non-profit healthcare delivery system to serve patients throughout Eastern Massachusetts. To facilitate the level of economic and clinical integration required to better manage the health of a broad population and meaningfully impact care delivery in the state, the Project would establish a new parent company that will function as the sole corporate member of each hospital, and will also include the participation of the organizations' accountable care organizations.

The Total Value of the Project is estimated to be approximately \$5,323,154,000. There is not expected to be any anticipated price or service impacts on the Applicant's existing Patient Panel. Any ten Taxpayers of Massachusetts may register in connection with the intended Application or amendment by no later than October 16, 2017, by contacting the Department of Public Health Determination of Need Program, 250 Washington Street, 6th Floor, Boston, MA 02108.

Gloucester Daily Times (USPS 220-540) Periodicals postage paid at the Lawrence, MA, Post Office. Published by North of Boston Media Group, 100 Turnpike Street, North Andover, MA 01845, daily except Sunday and Christmas. SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Postpaid by mail to all parts of the United States; 1 month \$27.08; 12 weeks \$75.00; 24 weeks \$150.00; 48 weeks \$300.00. Carrier home delivery: \$6.25 per week. All subscriptions will include up to five premium issues per year valued up to \$5.00 each. Premium issues are a subscriber benefit included in the current subscription rates. Premium issues scheduled to date are: February 14, June 27, September 12, December 5 and the Thanksgiving edition on November 23 2017. The schedule for premium issues and subscription prices are subject to change. For questions about your subscription, please call customer service at 1-800-836-7800. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Gloucester Daily Times, 36 Whittemore Street, Gloucester, MA 01930. Advertisers should check their ads the first day. The Gloucester Daily Times will not be responsible for typographical errors, but will reprint that part of an advertisement in which a typographical error occurs if notified immediately. The right is reserved to reject, omit or edit any copy offered for publication. MEMBER AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATION Telephone: 978-283-7000 Classified Advertising: 800-927-9200



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