



Manchester-by-the-Sea

**WELCOMING  
COMMITTEE**

# **New Resident Handbook**



## MANCHESTER-BY-THE-SEA

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN ? TOWN HALL  
Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts 01944-1399  
Telephone (978) 526-2000 FAX (978) 526-2001  
*E-mail: Manchester@mma.org*

Dear New Resident:

On behalf of the Board of Selectmen of Manchester-by-the-Sea I would like to welcome you as a new resident of the Town. Manchester offers the many benefits of small town life while at the same time it offers a progressive forward-looking town government. If you have any questions or concerns about the Town, the employees at Town Hall and the members of the Welcome Committee are always willing to assist you, as are members of the Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator Melville.

I hope the transition to your new community will flow smoothly and that you will become an involved and vital member of our community.

Once again, welcome to our Town!

Sincerely,

Susan W. Thorne, Chairman

# About Our Town

## Location

Manchester is a residential community encompassing 7.7 square miles in Essex County on the northeastern Massachusetts coast. It is bordered on the west by Beverly and Wenham, on the northwest by Hamilton, on the north by Essex, on the east by Gloucester, and on the south by the Atlantic Ocean. Located 32 miles from Boston, the town's chief access roads are state highways 128 and 127. Frequent train service is provided by the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA).

## Geography

The town's land surface ranges from 100 to 160 feet above sea level. The soil, poor and stony, with considerable areas of wetlands, is a result of New England's glaciers. A 12.8 mile tidal shore line provides several beautiful beaches, a renowned yachting harbor, and commercial lobstering.

## Town Hall

Town Hall includes all operations of **Manchester-by-the-Sea** government except for the Library and the School Department. The departments and operations of Town Hall have been divided into **Town Hall Offices, Major Town Boards** and **Town Committees & other Boards**. **Town Hall Offices** includes Town Accountant, Board of Assessors, Building Department, Town Clerk/Parking Clerk/Registrars, Conservation Commission, Fire Department, Board of Health, Library, Parks and Recreation, Police Department/Harbormaster/Animal Control, Department of Public Works/Water and Sewer/Cemetery, Selectmen, Senior Services and the Treasurer/Collector

**Major Town Boards** includes the Board of Appeals, Finance Committee, Library Trustees, Planning Board, Regional School Committee and the Town Moderator.

**Town Committees & other Boards** currently includes the ADA Advisory, Athletic Fields, Bicycle/Pedestrian, Chebacco Woods, Cultural Council, Dogs on Beach, Downtown Improvements, Electronic Infrastructure, Masconomo Park, Memorial School, Board of Registrars, Salem Sound 2000, Seaside One, Tuck's Point and Welcome Committee.

Town Hall Hours:   Monday-Wednesday 9:00am – 5:00pm  
                                  Thursday 9:00am-8:00pm  
                                  Friday - Closed

For more information, please call 978-526-2040 or visit the town website at [www.manchester.ma.us](http://www.manchester.ma.us)

## ***History of Manchester-by-the-Sea***

The Town of Manchester-by-the-Sea was included in a grant of land to the Massachusetts Bay Colony made in 1629 by Charles I who signed the charter in that year. By June of the same year the first ship, the Talbot, dropped anchor in Manchester Harbor carrying settlers who were attracted by "the promise of a safe harbor, streams of water, the sheltering hills and an abundant opportunity for building fishweirs, which offered an almost ideal spot for the planting of a new settlement."

Prior to the settlers' arrival, the Agawams, a tribe of the Algonquins, inhabited all of eastern Massachusetts. The chief, or Sagamore, who ruled in this region was named Masconomo. He was a friendly, peace loving man whose tribe was decimated by a plague soon after the arrival of the settlers.

Manchester became "Manchester" in 1645, when the people of "Jeoffereyes Creeke" requested and were granted the village name. Before that, the area was part of the town of Salem, and before that belonged to the Algonquin Indians. The settlers acquired land by purchase or by "peaceful possession" until 1700, when a final payment was made to the grandson of Masconomo. At that time, the Native Americans relinquished all right, title, and interest in the land then comprising this township.

Fishing and seafaring were the chief livelihoods of the early settlers. At one point the town had more than 40 sea captains commanding vessels. In the mid-1800s Manchester became a summer resort for the wealthy and well known. Presidents, princes, and ambassadors were among the many distinguished people who vacationed here. Notables from the theatrical world were attracted to the town, particularly after the opening of the Masconomo House, an elegant hotel at the corner of Beach and Masconomo Streets built by Julius Booth, brother of the infamous John Wilkes Booth.

During this period, because there were many Manchesters in New England, it became vogue to call the town "Manchester-by-the-Sea." The usage so irked Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes that he headed his letters to Manchester friends "Boston-by-the-Charles." Regardless, the custom persists today.

Manchester is probably best known for its exceptionally beautiful beaches and harbor, its pleasant residential character, its numerous buildings of historical significance and its handsome estates.

# Education

## Nursery and Preschools

1. *Magic Years Cooperative Nursery School*  
Chapel Lane, Manchester-by-the-Sea  
Phone: 978-526-4750

Established in 1973, this parent cooperative preschool for ages 3-5 features a program where parents assist professional, certified teachers in the classroom and assume a job responsibility associated with the school's operation.

2. *Shore Nursery School*  
38 Bridge St. Manchester-by-the Sea  
Phone: 978-526-1193

Established in 1953, this private, integrated, family owned and operated preschool serves ages 2.9 - 7 years.

3. *Tara Montessori School*  
62 School St. Manchester-by-the-Sea  
Phone: 978-526-8487  
Website: [www.taramontessori.com](http://www.taramontessori.com)

Founded in 1988, this school subscribes to the principles of Montessori Learning and offers classes for ages 14 months through Kindergarten separated into four age groups.

## Manchester- Essex Regional School District

Superintendent of Schools  
Phone: 978-526-4919  
Website: [www.mersd.org](http://www.mersd.org)

1. *Manchester Memorial Elementary School*  
43 Lincoln St. Manchester-by-the-Sea  
Phone: 978-526-1908  
Website: [www.memorial.mersd.org](http://www.memorial.mersd.org)

The town's public elementary school for grades K-6

2. *Manchester Essex Regional Middle/High School*  
36 Lincoln St. Manchester-by-the-Sea  
Phone: 978-526-4412  
Website: [www.hs.mersd.org](http://www.hs.mersd.org)

Serving students in grades 7-12 from both Manchester and Essex.

## **Community Services**

### **Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce**

Regional Visitor Center, 33 Commercial St., Gloucester, MA

Phone: 978-283-1601

Website: [www.info@capeannchamber.com](mailto:www.info@capeannchamber.com)

Cape Ann Event site: [www.capeannvacations.com](http://www.capeannvacations.com)

The Chamber of Commerce is organized by divisions and committees which focus on specific goals and needs of the Cape Ann community.

### **Manchester Community Center**

40 Beach Street, Manchester-by-the-Sea

Phone: 978-526-7626

Rental Information: 978-526-1537

Website: [www.manchesterbythesea.org](http://www.manchesterbythesea.org)

The not-for-profit Manchester Community Center offers a variety of community-centered programs and activities. The facility can be rented for meetings and functions. Membership is \$10 for Senior citizens, \$25 Individual and \$50 for Families. Benefits include discounts on events as well as rental of the center. Business hours are Monday through Friday 9:00am-12:00pm.

### **Manchester Council on Aging**

Town Hall, 10 Central St., Manchester-by-the-Sea

Phone: 978- 526-7500

Email: [COAMBTS@hotmail.com](mailto:COAMBTS@hotmail.com)

The Manchester-by-the-Sea Council on Aging is a service agency of the Town created to meet the diverse interests and needs of its citizens who are sixty years of age or over in areas such as health, education, social services, recreation, entertainment, transportation and fitness.

### **Manchester Parks and Recreation Department**

Town Hall, 10 Central Street, Manchester-by-the-Sea

Phone: 978 526-2019

E-mail: [parksandrecbythesea@yahoo.com](mailto:parksandrecbythesea@yahoo.com)

Website: <http://www.manchester.ma.us/>

Or [www.activityreg.com](http://www.activityreg.com) - click on Massachusetts, then Manchester-by-the-Sea

The Parks and Recreation Department is committed to providing a variety of recreational programs that meet the needs of residents through the use of local resources. By offering healthy, educational, active, and passive activities they aim to create a sense of community, self-respect, and feelings of success for all participants. Their ultimate objective is to yield a fun and rewarding experience. The Department also handles reservation information for Tuck's Point Chowder House.

## **Manchester Public Library**

15 Union Street, Manchester-by-the-Sea

Phone: 978- 526-7711

Website: <http://manchesterpl.org>

The Manchester-by-the-Sea Public Library, seeks to be an integral part of its community by providing all residents and other users with a balanced range of resources and activities, meeting educational, cultural, and recreational needs. The library serves as the center for lifetime learning and enjoyment. A knowledgeable library staff provides high-quality reader's guidance and research and assistance using local resources and interlibrary materials and services. Hours: Monday 10:00am-8:00pm, Tuesday-Thursday 1:00pm-8:00pm, Friday 10:00am-6:00pm, Saturday 10:00am-1:00pm. Closed Sundays, Holidays and Saturdays July-Labor Day.

## **Manchester-Essex Conservation Trust**

P.O. Box 1486, Manchester-by-the-Sea

Phone: (978) 526-4211 or 526-7692

Email: [MECTrees@hotmail.com](mailto:MECTrees@hotmail.com)

A privately funded, non-profit membership organization preserving the natural beauty, wildlife, and resources of the Manchester-Essex area. Membership \$35 Family, \$20 Individual, \$10 Student. Membership includes a seasonal newsletter highlighting events and activities for all ages, and trail guides to all conservation properties within Massachusetts.

## **Department of Public Works**

10 Central Street, Manchester-by-the-Sea

Phone: 978-526-1242

The Department of Public Works is responsible for the operation, maintenance, and repair of roads, cemeteries, parks and beaches, trash collection, water supply and treatment, as well as sewage collection and treatment.

Weekly curbside service (Monday and Tuesday). Stickers are required for pickup and are available for purchase at Crosby's, Manchester Hardware, Richdale's and the Town Clerk's office at Town Hall.

Transfer Station is located off Pine Street and is open Wednesday 8:00am-11:15am and 12:45-3:00pm and Saturday 10:00am-3:00pm.

Recycling is collected every other week (Monday and Tuesday)

Compost Area is located off School Street and is open Saturday from 10:00am-2:00pm, April – November.

# Churches

**Emmanuel Church** (Episcopal)

Masconomo Street, Manchester-by-the-Sea

Phone: 978-526-0085

Seasonal services beginning in June

**First Assembly of God**

3 Dolloff Ave. (off of Bridge St), Beverly

Phone: 978-927-1862

**First Baptist Church**

20 School St, Manchester-by-the-Sea

Phone: 978-526-4283

Website: [www.manchesterbaptist.com](http://www.manchesterbaptist.com)

**First Parish Church** (Congregational)

1 Chapel Lane, Manchester-by-the-Sea

Phone: 978-526-7661

Website: [www.firstparishchurch.org](http://www.firstparishchurch.org)

**Religious Society of Friends** (Quaker)

Hart Street, Beverly Farms

Phone: 978-526-1139

**Sacred Heart Church**

62 School St, Manchester-by-the-Sea

Phone: 978-526-1263

**St. John's Episcopal Church**

705 Hale St., Beverly Farms

Phone: 978-927-0229

Website: [www.stjohnsbeverlyfarms.org](http://www.stjohnsbeverlyfarms.org)

**St. John the Baptist Church**

52 Main Street, Essex

Phone: 978-768-6284

**Temple Ahavath Achim**

86 Middle St, Gloucester

Phone: 978-281-0739

Website: [www.taagloucester.org](http://www.taagloucester.org)

**Unitarian Universalist Independent Christian Church**

Phone: 978-283-3410

## ***Sports & Recreation***

### **Junior Hornets**

Contact: Roland Henneberger 978-526-8131 or Paul Douglas 978-526-9077

### **Manchester Athletic Association**

Contact: Bob Fulford 978-526-4114

### **Manchester Athletic Club**

8 Atwater Avenue, Manchester-by-the-Sea

Phone: 978-526-8900

Website: [www.macwc.com](http://www.macwc.com)

### **Manchester Bath and Tennis Club**

Raymond Ave., Manchester-by-the-Sea

Phone: 978-526-4970

### **Manchester-Essex Little League**

Contact: Peter Ferriero 978-768-7288

Website: [www.essexma.com/mell](http://www.essexma.com/mell)

### **Manchester-Essex Softball**

Contact: Leanne Christopher 978-526-4268

### **Manchester Sailing Association**

15 Tuck's Point Road

Website: [www.manchestersailing.org](http://www.manchestersailing.org)

### **Manchester Soccer Club**

Phone: 978-526-8501

Website: [www.townsoccer.net](http://www.townsoccer.net)

### **Men's Baseball (Mariners)**

Contact: Jonathan Ranger 978-526-4027

### **Men's Soccer (Hurricanes)**

Contact: Mike McDonagh 978-526-9946

### **North Shore Swim Club**

Contact: Dan Warner 978-283-4456

Website: [www.northshoreswimclub.com](http://www.northshoreswimclub.com)

### **YMCA**

Locations: 254 Essex Street, Beverly – 978-927-6855 (Cabot)

245 Cabot Street, Beverly – 978-922-0990 (Sterling)

Website: [www.northshoreymca.org](http://www.northshoreymca.org)

## ***Community Organizations***

### **Manchester Historical Society**

10 Union Street, Manchester-by-the-Sea

Phone: 978-526-7230

Website: [www.manchesterhistorical.org](http://www.manchesterhistorical.org)

The museum features a mixture of federal, Victorian and other period pieces including fine arts and decorative arts; a collection of furniture manufactured in the Manchester area and photographs of early summer homes. Hours are Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. Other times by appointment. Membership Family -\$25, Individual - \$15, Senior \$10.

### **Manchester Mother's Club**

PO Box 1424, Manchester-by-the-Sea

Contact: Jenni Athanas – 978-526-8776

Website: [www.manchestermothersclub.org](http://www.manchestermothersclub.org)

The MMC welcomes members from all over the Cape Ann Community and is organized so that local mothers, care givers and mothers-to-be can meet and socialize on a regular basis, establish friendships, share ideas and become involved in the community. Once a month activities and weekly playgroups. Membership \$40/year

### **Manchester Woman's Club**

Contact: Kathy Ryan 978-526-1566

Open to women of all ages. Luncheon meetings with a program September through May, the third Tuesday of the month at 12:30pm at the Congregational Chapel. The Club sponsors programs such as the Christmas Concert and Friendship Tree, Visiting Nurse Association, and scholarships for graduating students.

### **Seaside Garden Club**

Contact: Carol Powers 978-526-1919

Annual membership \$20.00. Meetings September through June, the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm at the Manchester Community Center.

### **The Friends of Manchester Trees**

PO Box 103, Manchester-by-the-Sea

The organization encourages a respect for aesthetic, ecological and horticultural value of trees by promoting the planting and maintenance of trees and shrubs in Manchester-by-the-Sea and to coordinate the actions of interested citizens, government bodies and other groups in such activities.

**American Legion Post 113**

14 Church Street, Manchester-by-the-Sea  
Phone: 978-526-4591

**Boy Scouts**

74 School Street, Manchester-by-the-Sea  
Contact: Tom Kehoe 978-526-4381

**Essex County Club**

Phone: 978-526-7311

**Girl Scouts**

Contact: Lynn Branch Office 781-592-5182  
Website: [info@ssgsc.org](mailto:info@ssgsc.org)

**Lions Club**

Contact: Chris Brown 978-526-8200

**Manchester-Essex Rotary Club**

Contact: Paul Sullivan 978-526-1164  
Meets every Wednesday morning at the Legion Hall at 7:15am

**Manchester Club**

Contact: Tom Andrews 978-526-8488

**Manchester Harbor Boat Club**

Contact: Commodore Paul Dozier 978-526-1593

**Manchester Yacht Club**

Contact: John Newhall 978-526-7654

**Masons, Manchester Lodge**

Contact: Josiah R. Collens 978-526-8317

**Singing Beach Club**

Phone: 978-526-4965

