



Gloucester Daily Times

Town Talk: Manchester woman named 'Unsung Heroine'

By Mary Markos

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Courtesy photo Gretchen Wood of Manchester was named one of the state's "Unsung Heroines" this week. She was nominated by state Rep. Brad Hill, R-Ipswich.

Manchester resident **Gretchen Wood** was honored this week as one of the state's **Unsung Heroines** by the **Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women** (MCSW) with a reception at the Statehouse.

Wood served as Manchester's town clerk for many years, as well as coordinator for the town's American with Disabilities Act Committee. During her retirement, Wood continues to serve as a member of the Manchester Housing Authority, and is the town's representative for Action Inc. She is also an active volunteer in her local church and at Manchester Public library.

Wood was nominated for the accolade by state Rep. **Brad Hill**, R-Ipswich, who also represents Manchester.

"Having worked tirelessly to serve both her town and her community for decades, Gretchen is an extremely deserving recipient of a 2017 Unsung Heroine award," Hill said in a prepared statement. "Between her work in local government, and her volunteer efforts throughout Cape Ann, Gretchen is certainly an asset to our community."

Established in 2004, the Unsung Heroine Awards are presented annually at the Statehouse. This year's event honored 117 women from across the state who use their time, talent and enthusiasm to enrich the lives of others and make a difference in their neighborhoods, cities and towns.

Pick-Up Field Hockey

In partnership with **Manchester Parks & Recreation**, **Seaside Sustainability** has brought back the **pick-up field hockey league** this summer for beginner and novice players.

The league costs \$89 for the season, which meets weekly on Wednesdays through Aug. 16 at the Coach Ed Field Field at Norwood Avenue and Brook Street in Manchester.

Clinic coach **Patty Wright** started playing field hockey at a very young age. Born and raised in Essex, after graduating from Manchester Essex Regional High School, Wright played all four years of college for New England College's Division III field hockey team as a starter. After college, she came back to the North Shore and became the freshman field hockey coach for Manchester Essex schools.

The Youth League is for beginners, ages 8 to 14, and plays 4:30 to 6 p.m. The Pick-Up League is for intermediate players, with at least two years of experience, ages 14 and up, and meets 6 to 8 p.m.

Registration and more information is available by contacting Manchester Parks & Recreation at 978-526-2019 or recreation@manchester.ma.us, or visiting <http://www.manchester.ma.us/268/Parks-Recreation>

Book reading, signing

Wendy Hinman will sign and read her book, "Sea Trails: Around the world with duct tape and bailing wire," on Wednesday, June 28, at 6 p.m. in the Waterline Center at the **Essex Shipbuilding Museum**, 166 Main St. in Essex.

The book centers around the **Wilcox family**, who won't let a shipwreck end a dream of circumnavigating the globe. To triumph, they must rebuild their boat on a remote Pacific island. Damage sustained on the reef and a lack of resources haunt them the rest of the way around the world as they face wild weather, pirates, gun boats, mines and thieves, and starvation in a trial that tests them to their limits.

Hinman will share this story and that of her own voyage years later with one of the survivors.

Manchester library news

Two **new comfortable chairs** are in the browsing section of the Reference and Media Room of the **Manchester Public Library**, thanks to the Friends of the Manchester Public Library.

Besides the new chairs, the library is getting some **new carpeting**. On Monday, July 3, and Tuesday July 4, the library will be closed in honor of Independence Day and because new carpeting will be installed in the circulation hall and the front lobby. The library will resume its regular hours on Wednesday, July 5 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Speaking of closings, the library will start its **summer schedule** as July begins. It will be closed Saturdays starting through Labor Day. Regular hours are Mondays and Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.; and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Last year, **summer reading** participants, kids and teens read over 4,000 books during the summer. This year, the Manchester librarians want to challenge patrons. If patrons can read a combined 4,500 books, all the **librarians will dye their hair in rainbow colors**.

Town Talk is compiled by Mary Markos.