Hello and welcome to the Gloucester400+ Update. This may be the first time we have landed in your mailbox. We intend to regularly inform you about what’s happening and inform you about the special events being planned for 2023. We invite our Partners and Sponsors to let us know what you are doing so we can give you a shout out to help promote your events.

You may have wondered, why the plus “+” sign by the 400. It’s deliberate because we want to recognize and acknowledge that people have lived here for thousands of years. A first step towards this recognition has been to utilize the land acknowledgment statement the Gloucester 400+ Diversity and Equity Committee prepared to acknowledge the indigenous people who lived on this land before the European settlers arrived in 1623 — hence the “+” sign in Gloucester 400+. We are developing a new habit of speaking the land acknowledgment statement at the start of our Steering Committee Meetings and events.

We respectfully acknowledge the City of Gloucester is located on the traditional and ancestral homeland of the Pawtucket people and their neighbors the Massachusett, Nipmuc, Penacook, and Wampanoag tribes. The original Algonquian name for this land is Agawam, potentially meaning “fish-curing place”. We recognize and honor the Native and Indigenous people who have lived in this territory for more than 10,000 years, are here now, and will be here for generations to come.

SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE!

Gloucester 400+ Stories Project Manager, Terry Weber Mangos, was thrilled to accept the Story Teller Award for 2022, from North of Boston’s Convention and Visitor’s Bureau (NOB) on behalf of Gloucester 400+. The awards were hosted by Nancy Gardella, Executive Director of NOB, at a gala on November 9th in Salem’s historic Waterfront Hotel. The Gloucester contingent was 20-strong, all happy to celebrate the event!

The Stories Project is collecting 400 stories, videos, and poems by the people of Gloucester that will create a lasting legacy for the city. Generations to come will enjoy and be thrilled and entertained to read our stories of grit, perseverance, determination and character, not to mention appreciation for life in Gloucester. All have left their mark.

We welcome your story and can help you write it — send your idea to us, or write your own.

We are interested in hearing from young and old alike, students, writers and non-writers.

“We all have a story to tell,” said Terry. “And the Gloucester400+ team can help you tell it.” She dedicated the award to the people of Gloucester. Contact Terry at info@gloucesterma400.org.
Our mission is to bring as many free, open to-the-public events as possible to Gloucester. 2023’s calendar is packed with family-friendly events, programs, exhibitions, and much more, from storytelling to dance, art, theatre, and outdoor festivals. Highlights include a festival to explore the city’s cultures, tours of historic neighborhoods and cemeteries, theatrical retellings of “The Gloucester Story,” a 400+ mile-long fun-run, and much more. To see what we have planned so far, please visit our website at www.gloucester400ma.org/calendar and if you would like to see your event featured please email us at events@gloucesterma400.org.

**COMING UP**

**The Gloucester 400+ Early Lighted Leap Into 2023!**

Join the Mayor in celebrating New Year’s Eve together with Gloucester and Dorchester, UK, for a 7 pm “Ball Drop” at midnight UK time. All Gloucester residents are invited to gather at 6:30 pm New Year’s Eve, December 31, on Stacy Boulevard between the Tavern and the Blynman Bridge. Following the “Ball Drop” ushering in 2023, will be a brief Laser and Light Show just moments into our 5th century.

Dress warmly and sport your best decorated hat. Bring your flashlights and noise makers. And, of course, your biggest smile to help make Gloucester’s short, historic leap into 2023 a fun, forever memory!

In case of severe weather on December 31st the event will be cancelled and not rescheduled. Please check the website www.gloucesterma400.org.

**The Gloucester 400+ Overture to 2023**

Join your neighbors to kick-off the 2023 year-long commemoration and celebration of our rich cultural diversity on January 15, 2023.

With music, song and dance, story-telling and poetry, The Overture to 2023 will give sneak peaks and glimpses of events and programs that you can expect throughout the year. We’ll look back but also forward as we embrace Gloucester’s future.

We have a snow date the following day on January 16. The venue is Gloucester High School Auditorium from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Light refreshments will follow the program. You will also have an opportunity to purchase Gloucester 400+ merchandise after the event, including anniversary medals from years 350 and 375, as well as the present.

Tickets are free but you do need to reserve them as seating in the auditorium is limited. Reserve online at Eventbrite beginning in late December 2022. Please check our website www.gloucesterma400.org for any changes.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS DECEMBER 2022**

We are participating with Discover Gloucester and the Greater Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce in the 3rd Annual Winter Lights on Cape Ann. Stop by the decorated office at 123 Main and see our lights and those of our neighbors on the street. Chasing the gloom away!

Ladies and Mens’ Shopping Nights — Our doors will be open on December 1 and 15 for Ladies Night and Men’s Night. The businesses on Main Street will be open from 10am–8pm on those days. We have a limited number of items for sale, including Wayne Sonia’s book Ed and Joe. Please stop by to say hello, enjoy a refreshment and pick up a brochure.
JANUARY 2023 EVENTS

Interested in being a volunteer?

Partner and Sponsor Shout Out!

A big shout out to our Sponsors and Partners who believe, with us, that 2023 will see Gloucester shine on the world stage. Their enthusiastic support has been critical and encouraging. Thank you!

SPONSORS

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National Grid • Sudbay Motors • Bomco • Brookline Bank
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1623 Studios • Action Inc. • Annisquam Village Players
Backyard Growers • Cape Ann Animal Aid • Cape Ann Art Haven
Cape Ann Artisans • Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce
Cape Ann Farmers Market • Cape Ann Finns
Cape Ann Media Productions • Cape Ann Museum
Cape Ann Symphony • Cape Ann YMCA • City of Gloucester
Down the Fort • Essex Historical Society and Shipbuilding Museum
First R Foundation • Generous Gardeners
Gloucester Adventure, Inc. • Gloucester Cinema
Gloucester Cultural Initiative • Gloucester Education Foundation
Gloucester Merchants Association • Gloucester Stage
Gloucester Writers Center
GMGI – Gloucester Marine Genomics Institute
Good Morning Gloucester • Greenbelt – Essex County’s Land Trust
Hammond Castle Museum • Harborlight Homes
International Dory Races Committee • Jonathan Bayliss Society
LEAP for Education • Manship Artists Residency & Studios
Maritime Gloucester • Melissa Cox Photography • NOAA Fisheries
Northshore Community Development Coalition • Ocean Alliance
Pathways for Children, Inc. • Rockport Music
Rocky Neck Art Colony • Sawyer Free Library • Senior Care, Inc.
The Open Door • Thomas E. Lannon • Wellspring House

The City of Gloucester and the State of Massachusetts have been generous supporters, as have many smaller business and individuals, including Ann-Margaret Ferrante and Bruce Tobey. We are deeply grateful. We invite everyone to participate, whether it be a gift of time and talent (yes, we are looking for volunteers), attending an event, or making a donation, to join us. You can give online at:

www.gloucesterma400.org/donate

Interested in being a volunteer?

Want to help? If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us at info@gloucesterma400.org. We could use a hand in staffing our office space at 123 Main Street, administrative support, help at events, and could use writers, editors and video producers for our 400 Stories Project. Please let us know if you have a few hours, or a few days.

1st: Rocky Neck Swim
• Polar Plunge in partnership with the Maritime/Waterways Committee

6th: First Friday After Hours
• Hosted by the Cape Ann Museum

15th: An Overture to 2023
• Hosted by G400+
• Gloucester 400+ presents an Overture to 2023, looking forward at glimpses of what is planned for 2023, our first year of our fifth century and beyond, while acknowledging aspects of the good, bad and ugly from our past. A program of music, dance, poetry, photography and both young and seasoned Speakers will lead us eagerly into 2023.

28th: Bruins Alumni Event
• Hosted by the Athletics Committee