



RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

Serving Amston, Andover, Cobalt, Colchester, East Hampton, Hebron, Marlborough, Middle Haddam and Portland

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December 18, 2020



The Rev. John Antonelle, new pastor of St. Mary Church in Portland, smiles with his beloved dog Pasquale, or "Patsy." Pasquale shares a birthday with, and is named after, Antonelle's late father – who used to tell his son that if he were to come back after death, it would be as a dog. Photo by Frank Cape.

New Portland Pastor Takes to 'Later Vocation'

By Jack Lakowsky

Congregants of St. Mary Roman Catholic Church in Portland last month welcomed the Rev. John Antonelle as their new pastor, following the retirement of the Rev. Paul Boudreau earlier this year.

Antonelle has also been appointed as chaplain to Portland's first responders.

"Being town chaplain is a new hat for me," Antonelle told the *RiverEast* on Monday.

Antonelle will offer spiritual and emotional guidance and support for Portland's police, firefighters, and other emergency responders. Antonelle can offer a Mass for their safety and, should anything unfortunate happen, Antonelle will be available to the injured or traumatized.

Antonelle has served Portland for about a month, and said the town and its congregants have been warm and welcoming to their new leader in worship.

Antonelle had previously served in several Connecticut parishes, including Norwich, Rockville, Pawcatuck, Coventry, and Storrs (where he also served as UConn's campus minister). Along with Portland, these are all members of the Diocese of Norwich, which is overseen by Bishop Michael Cote, who ordained Antonelle in 2006.

At the time of his ordination, Antonelle was nearing his 50s.

"I'm what's known as a 'later vocation,'" said Antonelle. "I went into seminary at 46 years old. Prior to that, I worked in graphic arts and advertising in New York."

Antonelle grew up in Queens and Brooklyn, and lived in Manhattan for nearly 20 years while working in his first career. Throughout his life, and his fruitful media career, Antonelle felt called to ministry.

"I felt called at a young age, but never pursued it," said Antonelle. "But I've always been

close to the church, was always a regular weekend attendee and got involved with the Knights of Columbus. I was doing well in my career; my finances were secure, and I lived in a nice co-op apartment in Manhattan."

Then, Antonelle was spurred to pursue his latent calling after the loss of a dear friend, who suffered a "massive" heart attack.

"He was a big success" in the business world, Antonelle said. He said the death showed him "that everything [we] live for and build up could end in the flash of an eye. I knew God was calling me for a long time, but this gave me the purpose I needed to pursue [ministry]."

Antonelle initiated himself and was assigned to Holy Apostles College and Seminary in Cromwell, which serves as a seminary for older prospects seeking second careers in Catholic ministry. There he trained for five years before being ordained for the Diocese of Norwich.

For the next decade, Antonelle wound around eastern Connecticut, serving in various parishes, until the diocese assigned him to lead Portland's Catholics – and it's a role he said he intends to fill for a long time.

"I'm very comfortable in this area," said Antonelle. "The Archdiocese of New York is so huge, and I wanted something more intimate and fraternal, and I saw these right away in Norwich. There's a strong 'small diocese' sense here that made me want to be part of it. I still visit family in New York, so I get the best of both worlds; wonderful, beautiful New England, and I get my New York fix."

Antonelle said that because St. Mary has been well-maintained and regularly renovated, he is able to focus on bringing the community and the parish together, rather than oversee any demanding structural or aesthetic improvements.

A 2020 newspaper interview wouldn't be

See Pastor, page 24

Longtime Marlborough Clerk Bids Farewell

By Karla Santos

After more than 30 years serving the Marlborough community, Nancy Dickson, most recent assistant town clerk, has retired.

Last Thursday, Dec. 10, was Dickson's last day on the job.

Dickson was elected town clerk in 1995. She stepped down to become assistant town clerk in 2018.

Before becoming town clerk, she was a registrar of voters for six years, starting in 1989.

Dickson's story serving in Marlborough started when she was asked if she could help as a poll worker and count absentee ballots. Then the person that served as registrar of voters departed, and asked Dickson if she wanted to take on that role, to which she said yes.

Dickson was then asked if she'd be willing to run for a town clerk position. She again said

yes, and won election.

"I absolutely loved the job," Dickson said. "I love helping the people of Marlborough. It's very rewarding to work in the town clerk's office."

Dickson, a former Marlborough resident who currently lives in Hebron, said one of the things she enjoyed about working in the town clerk's office was handling the records and history of the town.

"Just knowing the history of the town and working with the people, I just found it very rewarding," Dickson said.

She said her favorite part of the job was greeting, meeting, talking to residents and helping people. She said that helping people was very rewarding.

"It just makes you feel like you are part of the

town, like you are helping," Dickson said.

She said that while the job was very rewarding, there were also everyday challenges to it.

"For instance, this year, with the change in the way the voting was done – that was a huge challenge," Dickson said, referring to the universal absentee balloting put into place for this year.

She said the current town clerk, Lauren Griffin, did a "wonderful, wonderful job" handling that change.

Dickson said ensuring everyone received an absentee ballot was a challenge.

"Usually in a presidential election we do maybe 200 absentee ballots," Dickson said. "This year we did over 1,500 and to just make sure everyone got their absentee ballot and that everyone had the opportunity to vote was a

huge challenge."

Dickson said she enjoyed her time working in town and said it was an honor to have been elected into the town clerk's position.

She said that being able to help others gave her a "good feeling."

Dickson is leaving calmed as she knows the town clerk's office is in good hands.

"I feel good that I have Lauren taking my place because she's making a wonderful town clerk," Dickson said. "She is just very professional and very friendly and kind."

Griffin said she worked with Dickson for eight years.

"She is an amazing mentor," Griffin said. "I came to this office with zero knowledge about what a town clerk does, and after six and a half

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From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

As was mentioned on the cover of last week's paper, you're holding in your hands the final Rivereast of 2020. The office will be closed the next two weeks, and there will be no paper during that time.

So, this is my final column of 2020. And let me just say, as I bid the year farewell.....

Good riddance to bad rubbish.

This was such a tough, tough year, in so many different ways. And while the presence of a vaccine provides so much hope, a real light at the end of the tunnel - we must remember we've still got an awful lot of that tunnel left to travel. Getting the vaccine isn't like flipping a switch. And even if it were - we're probably at least six to eight months away from the majority of the country being inoculated. Dr. Fauci said earlier this week we'll probably have to continue to mask and social distance and avoid large indoor gatherings for most of 2021. And while that makes sense, it's still a rather depressing thought.

Still, there is an end in sight. That's something to cheer about.

So, as many of us get ready for a holiday

season away from family, away from friends, we can take comfort in knowing there's a great likelihood next year will be more like the Decembers we remember. To again quote my favorite Christmas song: someday soon, we all will be together.

Here's, then, to a better 2021.

Kudos to the Cleveland Indians for deciding, at long last, to change their name. The storied baseball franchise has been known by the now-outdated term for more than 100 years, and in recent years, there had been increasing pressure to change the name.

Cleveland never really seemed to take such calls seriously until this year, when, following the death of George Floyd in May, there was a nationwide discussion and reevaluation of race. Even the Washington Redskins - which had long resisted pleas to change what was perhaps the most racist team name in all of sports - finally caved.

Washington in fact was so quick to acquiesce with dropping the offensive moniker

Editor's Desk continued on page 4



Spreading Holiday Cheer... Girl Scout Troop 63000 in Colchester recently recorded holiday carols to spread joy to the community. Their annual holiday caroling is typically in person at local convalescent homes, but this year will be done through video.

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Bulletin Board

I read the other day in my daily newspaper that part of the reason for a recent statewide crime wave is the Coronavirus. (And here I was laboring under the misconception that the surge in crime results from a general collapse of morality, personal responsibility and respect for authority, all of which are nobody's fault because "the system" has failed us.)

Part of the problem involves our jury system, which has been indefinitely suspended as no one wants to sit shoulder to shoulder for hours or perhaps days with someone who might be coughing up Coronavirus.

The downside of this suspension is that criminals are free to pursue their unlawful interests without fear of being harassed by the courts. The upside is that those of us who might normally be chosen for jury duty don't have to come up with ingenious excuses as to why we can't serve.

If you've ever been called for jury selection you have presumably read the accompanying flyer that you are to regard this incredible inconvenience (the general view voiced by selectees) as "an obligation and an honor." Apparently, the former takes precedence over the latter as the flyer further advises that if you fail to appear you could be imprisoned—and there is no mention whatsoever as to where you can pick up a medal or participation trophy or similar honor in recognition of your service.

This is not to say there is no recompense. The flyer notes that your employer is required to pay your wages for the first five days if you are chosen to serve. After that, the State of Connecticut will pay you the munificent sum of 50 dollars a day.

Considering such generosity, I am frankly astonished that people are not clamoring to serve. Curiously, it is my experience that the exact opposite is the case. The last time I had to show up at the court house for jury selection, my 200 or so prospective fellow jurors were fervently swapping schemes on how to get out of their commitment with excuses ranging from psychotic delusions to chronic flatulence.

Part of the problem may be the slow speed at which jurors are picked for civil trials in this state. Last time I checked, Connecticut finished dead last in the nation, taking four times longer than the state with the next worst record (California)—as long as 16 hours.

According to the National Center for State Courts, South Carolina is the quickest at choosing jurors for civil cases, completing the task in an average of a half an hour. This may be because the only question South Carolina jurors are asked is if they'd like to be part of the firing squad, whereas in Connecticut lawyers want a comprehensive list of everyone who ever hurt your feelings. Speaking strictly for myself, I can attest that this takes time.

Also, in Connecticut you are not allowed to bring "disruptive or potentially dangerous items" into the courthouse. If you are concerned about your personal safety, you are encouraged to rely on the security provided by the court marshals, most of whom appear to have been classmates of Calvin Coolidge, but are hopefully much fleet of foot than appearances would indicate.

Jurors are further admonished to pay attention to testimony (no napping, no matter how interminably the judge drones on). No note taking (they're probably afraid you'll use the time to compile something useful, like a grocery list). You cannot "discuss, describe or communicate any information about the case or related to the case with anyone."

In the event you are an imbecile, the brochure then helpfully defines what is meant by "anyone," which includes, well, everyone (with the possible exception of your own multiple personalities), as well as what is meant by "communicate" which includes everything from speaking to texting to (presumably) smoke signals and winking lascivious messages in Morse Code at the suspect's weeping sister.

Jurors are also warned not to "attempt to do your own research on the law or the case." The reason, we are told, is that the information may be misleading or inaccurate and lead you to a mistaken opinion. The court apparently prefers that if you are going to be misled, it should be done by lawyers who are making 300 dollars an hour, while you are only making 50 bucks a day. After all, law school is expensive.

But now, of course, thanks to Covid-19, this carefully scripted process has become irrelevant. And so too, at least for the time-being, is my ingenious plan to avoid jury duty the next time I am called.

I am sure that those who select juries have by now heard every conceivable excuse under the sun as to why any given person should be excused. So I was greatly excited when I saw that you can't be forced to comply if you are dead. Fortunately, you don't actually have to kill yourself. All you have to do is write 'Deceased' on the summons and mail it back.

It's the very same technique I use with persistent bill collectors. Who knew?

Jim Hallas, Publisher

Garden Club Greetings

To the Editor:

The Belltown Garden Club of East Hampton is alive and well, in spite of the pandemic!

Although our November meeting, the much-enjoyed and anticipated annual wreath-making event, was canceled, individual members took up the charge and created wreaths and swags to adorn various locations in town as has been the tradition for many years. The Congregational Church (who generously allows use of Fellowship Hall for our monthly meetings), the town library and the Comstock Bridge are festively adorned with beautiful live-green wreaths and the gazebo in the old village center has lovely swags of greenery and bows to bring joy to all who pass by.

Another change in tradition due to COVID-19 was the cancellation of our annual holiday social gathering. To keep the holiday spirit alive, the club members are participating in "2020 Secret/Surprise Santa. Each participating member received the name of a fellow garden club member to delight in some way over the holiday season.

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all from The Belltown Garden Club of East Hampton!!

Belltown Garden Club East Hampton

Merry Christ-mass

To the Editor:

Amid the depressing rubble of COVID-19, I got to thinking about why we celebrate Christmas. What is it about Jesus that has us celebrating his birth?

We celebrate the birthdays of George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King, and so many others because of their accomplishments. None is celebrated for simply being born. So who was Jesus, and what did he do?

Easter gives the answer. Without Jesus' death and resurrection there would be no reason to celebrate the birth of the Christ child. Christmas, then, is the backstory to Easter.

As the incarnate Son of God, Jesus was born for a mission. That mission was made known prior to his birth when an angel appeared to a troubled Joseph, worried about his pregnant fiancé. After explaining the situation the angel said, "You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

Christmas and Easter come together in the verse John 3:16. It's the good news of the gospel in a nutshell:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

It's a mission and a message that takes the curse out of COVID-19.

Peter Kushkowski "Almost Heaven" Portland

Why Not Connecticut?

To the Editor:

I see Elon Musk is moving himself and much of his Tesla factory from California to Houston. I wonder if he considered Connecticut as a place to locate. Hmm, I suppose he looked at our tax rates, GE's move to Massachusetts, Pfizer's preference for a Manhattan headquarters, E.B.'s expanding plant in Rhode Island, and Pratt and Whitney's increasing presence in Florida. The easy conclusion is that he's well aware of Connecticut's unfriendliness to business.

Thank God for the skilled labor and construction expertise of Electric Boat!

George Coshow - Middle Haddam

Choose Compassion

To the Editor:

As I've gotten older, I've more fully understood that everyone is walking around wounded in some way. Whether it's loss and grief, illness, trauma, depression, anxiety, mental illness, financial stress, loneliness and isolation, or some other stressor, life is full of hardships, and we never know the depths of another person's challenges.

The person who cut you off in traffic, maybe they have a toxic job that they live in fear of every day. The cashier who could have been nicer, maybe they just lost a parent. The co-worker who finds the negative in every situation, maybe they didn't get the love they needed as a child. The teenager who stole from a local business, maybe they knew their family couldn't afford holiday gifts. There are so many reasons that people act the way they do.

My general rule of thumb is that hurt people hurt people. Thinking this way gives our hearts and minds the space to choose compassion and kindness. Choosing compassion is not about excusing bad behavior, it's about controlling the only thing we have control over, our own reaction.

When we can remember that everyone we encounter during our day has their own life and their own unique challenges, it's easier to not take negative behavior personally, and instead offer a smile or a kind word.

As we move through this unprecedented holiday season where many are feeling the stress of missing their loved ones, let compassion be our guiding force.

Michelle Noehren Colchester is Kind

Thanks, Library Staff

To the Editor:

The East Hampton Library Advisory Board would like to commend the staff of the East Hampton Public Library for their exceptional service to our community. The employees of the EHPL have done an amazing job of re-conceptualizing library services during the COVID-19

News copy deadline for The Rivereast News Bulletin is Tuesday at noon. Please address all letters & news articles to: Rivereast News Bulletin, P.O. Box 373, Glastonbury, CT 06033

Letter Writers: Due to space constraints, letter writers must limit their letters to 300 words or less. No exceptions will be made. E-mail is preferred. Word or text documents are best. Letters submitted without a contact phone number will not be published nor will anonymous letters or letters submitted by someone other than the person who wrote it. We cannot guarantee all letters will be published.

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pandemic. Curbside pickup for materials was organized when the library could not allow patrons inside the building. As soon as libraries were allowed to open, the staff made sure all precautions were in place to make the building as safe as possible. Bringing services to the community was initiated by sending monthly collections of books to six daycare centers and providing 180 early literacy kits for preschoolers each month. Collections of books are sent to the two senior housing complexes as well. When there were children on the waiting list for take and make activity kits, the staff didn't want any child to be without, so they volunteered to make more kits. The annual Jingle Bell Parade has been a very popular event in our town. This year the parade was reimagined to be a holiday lighting event. The library staff has assembled 250 Jingle Bell Parade kits for children so that this tradition can continue.

These are just a few examples of how the staff of the East Hampton Public Library has shown their dedication to providing exemplary service to our community. Even with social distancing protocols, the library continues to be a very welcoming place. When surveyed, 96% of patrons said that their last experience with the library was exceptional. Please join the East Hampton Library Advisory Board in expressing our gratitude for the amazing work that the East Hampton Public Library employees have done during this challenging year.

East Hampton Library Advisory Board

On Trump

To the Editor:
Donald's Big Lie takes root in that 77% of Republicans say the election was rigged; 126 House members and 18 attorneys general signed up to the Texas lawsuit to throw out the votes in four states.

The GOP now has but two wings: the traditional conservatives and the upcoming autocratic wing dedicated to raw power and the degradation of democracy.

Ed Gyllenhammer – Portland

Candidates Needed

To the Editor:
Our town boards/committees are crucial to the management of our town. Every decision made by board members affects all residents. The decisions they make shape our taxes, land use, school ranking and more. Greater involvement from members of the community is needed.

This coming May, Andover residents will choose candidates to represent us on these boards. We need people willing to work together to find the best solutions to the issues facing Andover. We need fresh ideas to help our community succeed and grow. The choices we make determine the character of Andover, what we'd

like to see change and what we'd like to see remain untouched.

We have openings on the Board of Finance, Board of Education, Planning & Zoning, Zoning Board of Appeals and more. Please consider joining one of these very essential commissions. If interested in helping influence the direction of Andover, contact me at the Andover Democratic Town Committee andoverctdems@gmail.com

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." – Margaret Mead

Catherine Magaldi-Lewis, Chair
Andover Democratic Town Committee

The Enemy from Within

To the Editor:
House building requires many skilled tradespeople – architects, heavy machine operators, carpenters, plumbers, electricians etc. working for months. But one fool arsonist's single match can destroy it within minutes. Lincoln imagined America as a house, strategically founded by intellectual elites Franklin, Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Jay, Henry, Hamilton, Paine, Monroe, et al. Accepting civil war, Lincoln saved that house from slave-owning arsonists – traitorous secessionists spreading everywhere the horrific violence they had honed for centuries against helpless Black men, women, and chil-

See Letters, page 4

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★ *Letters cont. from page 3*
dren.

Here, today, we are engaged with that ‘enemy from within’ the founders most feared. An immoral demagogue, with credulous dupes in tow seeks to burn down our 244-year-old constitutional democratic republic. Trump would be impotent but for an enabling national GOP and local dimwits like Don Denley, Ed Kozlowski and Sam Prentice, who parrot Trump’s lies in the *Rivereast*. Last week, four thoughtful writers demolished Sam’s latest deranged letter. Each addressed different parts of the Prentice letter, effectively rebutting every single laughable sentence. Patriot writers all – Andover’s Scott Sauyet, Colchester’s Harry Cion, Haddam Neck’s R. Thurston Clark.

Other patriot writers last week who addressed racism, the GOP’s big lie, lack of shame and election conspiracies included Hebron’s Joe Stevens, East Hampton’s Maureen Heidtmann, Marlborough’s Dave Porteous, Portland’s Ed Gyllenhammer and Colchester’s Ellen Kraemer.

Rivereast towns rely on such contributors for sensible, intellectually stimulating conversations within our community paper. Not so much Colchester’s Ed Kozlowski, whose strip club fixation (mentioned seven times) left me wondering why he’s addressing me instead of asking Don Denley for the insider story. Kozlowski further pronounced “there are numerous facts that contradict [my] opinions.” His evidence? “George Soros writes [my] letters”? I believe

in “rainbows, unicorns and magic beans”? Thus our Trumpian comic book world. An endless spewing of nonsense, innuendo and childish taunts. Republican SNAFU.

Ed Smith – Andover

Death of Shame BS

To the Editor:

Spreading the lies seems to be Joe Stevens’ way. Joe, you claim President Trump “continues to ignore a raging pandemic claiming 3,000 lives every day” – what utter bullcrap. Too many lives have been lost for sure, but President Trump hasn’t been ignoring it. Monday, Dec 14, people started getting the COVID-19 inoculations thanks to Operation Warp Speed, all President Trump’s doing as he was fought every inch of the way.

Because of Warp Speed it only took nine months to do something that normally takes up to 20 years to get done. Never in our history has something like this happened so quickly. Technology that has been around for over 20 years in the fight against cancer was diverted to the COVID-19 virus and now people are starting to benefit and live because of it. In test trials the Pfizer vaccine had a 95% effective rate, far better than most vaccines. Another one will be available in a week; don’t know much about that one though.

Being someone who is over 70 with breathing and other problems, I thank President Trump for doing the things Joe Stevens says he isn’t doing.

Mike Goodie – Colchester

Kudos to Letter Writers

To the Editor:

Also, to the *Rivereast* News Bulletin readers, I wish to praise and thank the letter writers:

Harry Cion, Ed Gyllenhammer, Maureen Heidtmann, Ellen Kraemer, Scott Sauyet, Ed Smith, Joe Stevens, Monica Swyden.

Some of them having written multiple times, some not so much, have provided honest, factual, thoughtful letters. It takes considerable effort, time, research, and thought to compose a truthful message to educate the readers here. Most of us are probably thankful also, and hopeful, for a kinder, more intelligent, and especially, selfless White House occupant starting in January. Hopefully the violent, aggressive, rabid, radical right-wingers will calm down, understand that we are a country governed by a majority of the electorate, as we have shown this time.

Remember, if a political party suppresses the vote, or tries to overturn it, because that party doesn’t like the outcome, that is a dictatorship, and yes, let’s get rid of that laughing stock of the rest of the world, the Electoral College! E Pluribus Unum.

Best wishes to the above letter writers for a happy, healthy, safe holiday season, and New Year. Keep up the good work!

Tricia Heldmann – Colchester

A Marvelous Treat

To The Editor:

What a marvelous treat for the entire town performed Sunday, Dec. 13, by our Board of Selectmen: Jeff Maguire (Santa), Adrian Mandeville, Jeff Murray, Scott Person and Paula King, and Shannon Louden (Mrs. Claus), who sang Christmas carols and read stories to so many in town. They were at Hop River Senior

Housing where seniors have called to say what a wonderful treat and it made them feel so much more in the Christmas spirit with all the sadness in the world. So thank you all for taking time out of your lives to perform a “miracle” for not only our seniors but our entire town. This shows how much care and concern our town officials have working for the betterment of our town.

This is also an appropriate time to thank the people who have supported and helped with our seniors, disabled and veterans this past year. Truly grateful for our Resident State Trooper Darrell Tetreault, our Town Clerk Carol Lee, Assistant Assessor and Municipal Agent Roberta Dougherty, Town Administrator Eric Anderson, our BOS, my husband Mike Palazzi, Pat and Frank Chaves, Tiiu and Ylo Anson, George and Judy Knox, our very special senior transportation drivers, Ellie Skoog and Ricky Kauffman. Special thanks to our first responders at the AFD. Without these people there is no way I could have done my job to help our senior population.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

Sincerely,

Cathy Palazzi

Andover Senior Coordinator

A Scientist Behind the Vaccine

To Future Scientists,

Nine months since the COVID pandemic began, my 10-year old daughter, like everyone else, is longing for the simple pleasures, like seeing the grandparents and hugging friends. “When will life be normal again?” she asks. “When we have a COVID-19 vaccine?” When her eyes glazed over, I knew I have lost her with the details of messenger RNAs transcribing a novel protein mimicking the virus and the im-

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AMERICAN SPEECH-LANGUAGE HEARING ASSOCIATION

Editor’s Desk continued from page 2

that it didn’t even wait until a new name had been chosen. All this current football season it’s been known as the Washington Football Team.

Cleveland’s not going quite that far, though. They’re going to continue as the Indians until a new name is chosen and, according to MLB.com, “various branding and trademarking issues are resolved.” (Never forget that, no matter how noble intentions may seem at a given moment, baseball is first, last and always a business.)

Still, while the knowledge that Cleveland is going to continue on as the Indians for at least another year takes a little bit of the air out of the announcement, I’m glad they’re making the change. It’s well past time. Calling Native Americans “Indians” is an outdated concept that conjures up a lot of painful stereotypes. Many high school and college teams are getting away from such nicknames. It’s high time professional sports teams do the same.

“There is a credible number of people in this community who are upset by our name, are hurt by our name, and there is no reason for our franchise to bear a name that is divisive,” team owner Paul Dolan told MLB.com on Monday.

I couldn’t agree with him more.
* * *

A week from today is Christmas Day, so I thought I’d close out this column with some inspirational Christmas quotes I recently came across. Enjoy.

“Nothing ever seems too bad, too hard, or too sad when you’ve got a Christmas tree in the living room.” – Nora Roberts

“Christmas is most truly Christmas when we celebrate it by giving the light of love to those who need it most.” – Ruth Carter Stapleton

“A good conscience is a continual Christmas.” – Ben Franklin

“Love the giver more than the gift.” – Brigham Young

“God never gives someone a gift they are not capable of receiving. If he gives us the gift of Christmas, it is because we all have the ability to understand and receive it.” – Pope Francis

“When we recall Christmas past, we usually find that the simplest things – not the great occasions – give off the greatest glow of happiness.” – Bob Hope

“Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful.” – Norman Vincent Peale

“Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love.” – Hamilton Wright Mabee

And lastly, and a quote that certainly brings me to memories of my own childhood: “One of the most glorious messes in the world is the mess created in the living room on Christmas Day.” – Andy Rooney
* * *

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us at the *Rivereast News Bulletin*.

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Portland • Portland

Students to Learn Remotely Through Jan. 8

By Jack Lakowsky

Superintendent of Schools Charles Britton told the Board of Education last week that Portland, the state, and the nation are in what historians will see as the pandemic's precipice.

Between Nov. 22 and Dec. 5, 63 new COVID-19 cases were diagnosed in Portland, and the town's infection ratio is now about 48/100,000.

These numbers were updated Dec. 10, and were not updated as of press time.

Fortunately, there were no additional COVID-19-related deaths in Portland during that timeframe. In neighboring East Hampton, a man in his mid-40s recently succumbed to the virus.

"Portland's getting a little beat up right now," said Britton, going on to say when schools first reopened, officials were using 25 cases per 100,000 residents as the most alarming milestone. Every town in the Chatham Health District (Colchester, East Hampton, Hebron, Marlborough, Portland, and East Haddam) has surpassed that ratio, and are all in red alert.

Portland's ratio is above that of Middlesex County as a whole, which averages 40/100,000, according to Britton.

Due to these numbers, Britton decided that all Portland students will continue to learn remotely until Friday, Jan. 8. Students, as of now, are slated to return to full in-person instruction on Monday, Jan. 11.

In-school transmission remains minimal in Portland and across the state, according to Britton, who attributed this to the "efficacy of mitigation strategies." The superintendent said the state Department of Public Health continues to say schools are safe from widespread infection.

"I think we're in the darkest night before dawn," said Britton.

Britton is optimistic about the upcoming months, and said he believes people need to "buckle up and recognize where we are." Britton's optimism did not supersede his realism, however.

Britton said that when Portland's district, and districts across the state and nation, begin reopening, there is no question COVID-19 will accompany the flux of students and staff.

"It's a question of how much, and how many," said Britton. "When we reopen, we must be able to accommodate large numbers of students and staff who are either sick or quarantining."

Britton said Portland students are in remote learning due to staffing shortages, not from widespread COVID-19 transmission. To compound that challenge, substitute teachers are not readily available.

"We're simply not prepared right now," said Britton. "We don't have enough subs to accommodate 15 teacher absences."

Britton estimated he would need between 20 and 25 substitutes available at all times,

and who will work exclusively with Portland schools.

In an effort to deal with this statewide staffing stymie, Gov. Ned Lamont last week signed an executive order changing hiring requirements for substitute teachers.

The order waived the bachelor's degree requirement. Essentially any adult 18 years or older can apply as a sub, preferably those with childcare experience, although that is not a dealbreaker. Applicants must still pass a comprehensive background check and will be fingerprinted.

"Last weekend I put a plea [requesting substitutes] to the community, and was absolutely blown away by the response," said Britton, who said 75 applicants offered their services.

Britton said many of these 75 don't necessarily have ambitions to pursue a teaching career but are motivated by their own selflessness and desire to help their town.

As of the Dec. 10 meeting Britton had interviewed around 15 applicants and had about 10 this week. Britton said they've all been "wonderful, trustworthy candidates" and although many don't have extensive experience, they are willing to learn and help.

Britton beamed at these numbers, saying that should all go according to plan, he will have the necessary pool of substitutes to maintain in-person learning.

Delaying the reopening for now, Britton said, will allow time for interviews and for the oft-lengthy background check process, which must go through state and federal agencies, including the F.B.I. Britton guessed hiring the subs will take between two and four weeks.

Issues with Fall Sports Guidelines

In late October, Britton decided to only allow parents of seniors to attend fall athletic events, like soccer games. Portland will have no winter sports whatsoever. Authority to decide whether to hold sports was granted to all state superintendents through an executive order from Gov. Lamont.

On Nov. 6, a group of six parents of high school junior girls attended their daughters' game, ignoring and violating Britton's policy. The parents, who were made aware of the policy prior, were asked to leave or risk forfeiture of the match.

They refused, and so Portland police were called to remove them, a decision Britton in an email to the *Rivereast* said he supports, as it was made to safeguard public health and safety. He stressed that calling the police is never a decision made lightly, and that it is a result of officials having reason to believe that ignoring expectations presents "a danger to themselves and others."

"When administrators make decisions, especially decisions designed to promote safety, we have an obligation to ensure that those decisions are implemented," said Britton in an email.

Britton said there are some things we would have done differently were he allowed to go back in time to August, but added that there is no handbook to meeting a district's needs during the worst public health crisis in a century, which has killed more than 300,000 Americans.

One of the defiant parents from that Nov. 6 incident, John Prince, spoke with the *Rivereast* last week about the incident. He said Portland Police asked them to move to a different field so that they would not be forcibly removed.

Prince said the decision to allow only parents of seniors to attend games was made "without thinking things through." He said the choice was made with just one game left to the season.

The rule also disproportionately affected parents of non-senior young women, Prince said, explaining that three parents (not including Prince's group) of young women attended, while for the boys' team, about 22 parents attended.

Prince added that players have played away games in other red-alert towns.

Prince and the group of parents reached out in an attempt to compromise with district officials, volunteering their efforts and resources to lay social distance markers and to sanitize gathering areas, as well as provide spectators with cleaning supplies.

"We thought this was an acceptable solution," said Prince. "We did not get an answer on that. There was zero logic [in the decision]."

Although no specific games have been identified as super-spreaders, Russell Melmed, direc-

tor of the Chatham Health District, said tracers have traced back to soccer games a "not insignificant" number of COVID-19 cases.

"Soccer was an issue in our district," said Melmed.

Melmed said many soccer players were infected at home or socially. After becoming sick, they'd then expose their teammates and other teams.

The complication, Melmed explained, was that tracers couldn't determine if transmission occurred during gameplay or during the post and pre-game interactions of players.

"We found teammates do a lot of things together," said Melmed. "Many players are friends, best friends in some cases, who get together for a lot of social engagements."

Melmed noted that soccer is a relatively pandemic-friendly sport, as players are in constant motion and rarely near one another for more than a few seconds, unlike in contact sports like football.

Melmed also said that zero cases were traced back to spectators.

"It's pretty clear the main interaction is between players, putting them at much higher risk," said Melmed.

Melmed said that, overall, sports-based transmission was limited. However, he said the reasoning behind limiting and foregoing sports was to help keep schools open as much as possible.

"The state discouraged sports and large crowds at games to help keep kids in school," said Melmed. "If you have to quarantine a whole team or league, you'll have dozens of kids out of school. We're doing all we can to help maintain in-person learning, and sports run afoul of that."

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Parks and Rec. News & Notes

Parks and Recreation is offering the following. To register or for full program descriptions, visit portland.recdesk.com or call 860-342-6757. For more information, call 860-342-6757 or email nfoley@portlandct.org or adionne@portlandct.org.

Memo: Remember to socially distance, wear masks, and bring your own hand sanitizer while visiting town parks or facilities. Playgrounds and outdoor fitness equipment are open for use, but they are not sanitized. Refer to the signs at all of the parks and playgrounds for more information.

Portland Trail of Lights: Fridays and Saturdays, 6-8 p.m., Dec. 18, 19, 25, 26, Jan. 1 and Jan. 2. Take a family drive through Portland to experience the holiday lights and lawn displays designed by members of the community. Viewers must remain in their vehicles. Take photos of your favorite decorations, and then tag homes by address/name of display and local businesses by name on Facebook @PortlandCTParksandRec or @PortlandMarketPlace. Maps of the Trail of Lights are on the Parks and Rec. website. Scan the QR code to vote for the best holiday display by midnight on Jan. 2. Awards will be given to first-, second- and third-place displays.

Adult Programs: Tai Chi with Ken Zaborowski: Virtual Tai Chi: A new Wednesday class meets Dec. 30-Feb. 3, 9:30-10:15 a.m., via Zoom. Fee is \$7/class or \$30 for the six-week session. A new Saturday class will be held via Zoom Dec. 19-Feb. 6, from 10-10:45 a.m. each week. Fee: \$7/class or \$40 for the eight-week session.

Personal Euphoria Exercise Classes: Virtual classes held via Zoom start in January. Schedule is: Full Body Refresh: Mondays, Jan. 11-March 22, 8-8:45 a.m., fee is \$70 for a nine-week session; Barre: Mondays, Jan. 11-March 22, 5:45-6:30 p.m., fee is \$70 for a nine-week session; Pilates: Tuesdays, Jan. 12-March 23, 6-6:45 p.m., fee is \$80 for an 11-week session; High Interval Training: Wednesdays, Jan. 13-March 24, 7:45-8:30 a.m., fee is \$80 for an 11-week session; Tighten & Tone: Wednesdays, Jan. 13-March 24, 5:45-6:30 p.m., fee is \$70 for an 11-week session; Core Strength: Thursdays, Jan. 14-March 25, 6-6:45 p.m., fee is \$80 for an 11-week session.

Family Virtual American Sign Language Beginner Class: In this six-week course, learn the ASL alphabet and corresponding words including basic words and phrases such as colors, numbers, family members and more. Meets Tuesdays, Jan. 12-Feb. 16, 6-6:45 p.m., via Zoom. Fee: \$70/Portland residents, \$80/non-residents.

Youth Programs: Virtual Home Alone Safety Class: Monday, Dec. 21, 4:30-6:30 p.m., via Zoom, for ages 8-13. Class size is limited to 15 to allow for optimal opportunities for participation. Fee: \$50 for Portland residents, \$55 for non-residents. There is a six-participant minimum.

Do-It-At-Home Doodlekits with Abrakadoodle: If a member of your household is interested in virtual art classes but is unable to commit to a weekly class, there are new DoodleKits. There are two separate DoodleKits for two separate age groups – Mini Doodlers for ages 3-5, and Doodlers for ages 6-12. Each kit comes with all the necessary supplies and instructions needed for five winter-themed crafts. Participants have the option of doing their crafts with Abrakadoodle over Zoom on Wednesdays at 5:15 p.m., but this is not required. Fee: \$55 for one DoodleKit (five crafts) or \$100 for two DoodleKits (10 crafts). Order by Dec. 20

Last Call for Portland Ornaments

Boy Scout Troop 2 of Portland announced pewter ornaments will no longer be sold after Dec. 24. Ornaments are \$10 each.

Call Peggy at 860-342-1095 to either purchase or pick up a picture list of the available ornaments.

Hot Cocoa Gift Jars

Parks & Recreation and the Waverly Senior Center have made holiday hot cocoa gift jars for all the families at Chatham Court. The jars will be distributed at the Community Room at Chatham Court Tuesday, Dec. 22, from 2:30-3:30 p.m., for residents to pick up.

All residents stopping by must wear a mask and maintain social distance. Pictures may be taken.

Festive holiday hats or sweaters are encouraged.

to make sure your DoodleKit arrives before Christmas.

Chess Wizards - Winter 2021 Online Chess Wizards Club: Mondays, Jan. 11-March 1, 4-5 p.m., via Zoom, for grades K-6. Participate in chess games, lessons, tournaments, team matches, trivia and more. Novices and seasoned veterans welcome. Fee: \$80/Portland residents, \$85/non-residents.

Online Art Enrichment with Abrakadoodle: Wednesdays, Jan. 13-Feb. 17, via Zoom. Musical Masterpieces, for ages 3-5, meets 10-11 a.m., and Do Re Mi Music & Art, for ages 6-12, meets 4:15-5 p.m. Fee is \$70, and includes all art supplies.

Virtual Happy Hoopin' With Bringthoopa: Thursdays, Jan. 14-Feb. 18, 4:15-5:15 p.m., via Zoom for ages 5-12. All participants receive a custom-designed and handmade Hoopla hoop. All hoops are weighted and sized by age and level. Fee: \$85/residents, \$95/non-residents.

Virtual Skyhawks Sports: The next wave of programs begins the first week of February; registration is underway. There will be Cheerleading (ages 6-9), Soccer Skills (ages 6-9), PhysEd Fun (ages 6-9), SoccerTots (ages 3-5) and HoopsterTots (ages 3-5).

Carpino Re-Upped as Caucus Chair

House Republican Leader-elect Vincent Candelora has announced that state Rep. Christie Carpino (R-32) will continue to serve as Republican caucus chair through the 2021-2023 legislative term.

He also appointed her to the Government Administration and Elections Committee and reappointed her to the Public Health and Regulations Review Committees.

"Rep. Carpino is a consummate professional and a steady influence within our caucus," Candelora. "Her leadership will be invaluable to her colleagues as we confront new rules and procedures while navigating what is certain to be a challenging legislative session."

As caucus chair, Carpino will work closely with Candelora as a member of senior leadership. She will also serve as a mentor to more

junior legislators, especially incoming freshmen.

"It is an honor to be selected to continue the important role of caucus chair," Carpino said. "I look forward to working with leadership and our caucus members to bring ideas and solutions to our districts and advocate for the best interests of Connecticut."

She added, "The public health of our community and the integrity of our elections are issues that will remain in the forefront. My committee assignments match the interests of the 32nd District – public health and government administration and elections."

Carpino was first elected to the legislature in 2010 and was recently re-elected to her sixth term. The 32nd Assembly District covers Portland and Cromwell.

More Portland News on page 26

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Longtime Justice of Peace Hanging Up Robe

By Sloan Brewster

Robert Warner, who said he has officiated about 400 weddings over the course of his nearly four-decade stint as a Justice of the Peace, is hanging up his robe.

After 38 years, Warner will be retiring from his position as a Republican justice of the peace (JP) on Jan. 3, when his current term ends.

Warner was first sworn in, in 1982. At the time, he was the tax collector for the town and then Town Clerk Mary Celio told him there was an opening for a JP. He thought it would be an interesting thing to do and went to a Republican Town Committee meeting and said he wanted to do it.

Shortly thereafter, he was sworn in for the first time.

Warner does not consider his work as a JP a career or source of income, he said. Rather, it's been a hobby.

He said he does not seek out weddings but lets the happy couples find him – and never charges them.

"I let the bride and groom give me whatever it's worth to them," he said. "The younger people are more generous than the older people."

Older couples on their second or third weddings tend to worry more about the bills they have and dole out less to him for his efforts while the more youthful first timers are grateful for his help, he said.

"I've got a number of remembrances over the years," he said.

In some years Warner said he has officiated 25 weddings, but lately he's been slowing down to three or four a year and, with COVID-19, 2020 has been a very slow year.

Warner said he hasn't performed any virtual weddings during the pandemic but recalled a wedding he did by telephone for a friend who had fallen in love with a woman in Australia, who was in very sick in her home country.

He did a three-way call to perform the nuptials, which, he said, were not legitimate and involved none of the legal paperwork.

"She was dying, so it was something that he wanted to do for her," Warner said.

The last wedding Warner officiated was in Madison three months ago. With most folks wearing masks, the JP had one too, in case the



Robert Warner

bride and groom decided to don them. When the duo opted to go mask-free for the sake of their wedding photos, he performed the ceremony without a mask and was able to take in the fresh sea air by the Madison Hotel, he said.

"I did the ceremony down by the sea," he said.

The car ride back to Gilead was nearly as memorable as the lovely service. His car, which he had plans to bring to a mechanic the following day, was on the verge of breaking down and he wasn't sure he would make it.

"I'm like, 'Oh get me back home please,'" he said.

Warner said he had heard from three other couples desiring to marry this year, "but they chickened out, basically."

Having been staying home himself for months, he said he understands their concern and that most 2020 weddings have been cancelled or postponed, including in his own family.

But a nephew who had planned to get married this year and decided to hold off until next year changed his mind again.

"That sneak went off and got married," Warner said.

The bride's mother insisted she had to be married in the church, so the couple had a small private ceremony in a church in Glastonbury.

"They're still going to have a nice bash next year," Warner said, adding that at least that's the current plan. "That may or may not happen."

Warner said he has seen it before when a couple holds a quiet ceremony with plans for a big wedding and reception later. Sometimes bigger party falls together and sometimes not.

Warner said he believes the focus should be on the bride and groom and recalled one situation in which the couple was "having struggles with their clergyman."

The pastor insisted they needed to take classes before they were wed.

"They got to the point where [they said] we want to get married now," Warner said. "The whole church was behind them."

The couple decided to have Warner marry them in a nice ceremony at the Riverside Inn in South Windsor and the congregation proved it was on their side.

"[There's] not too many weddings I've done that had the church choir behind me," Warner said. "That just showed me that the pastor wasn't working with the congregation."

Warner said "he has the heart of a servant" and is willing to work with couples to give them the ceremony they desire as it's their day.

"I don't marry the couple; the Lord marries the couple. I just officiate" he said. "For me, if a couple wants to get married, they should be able to get married, not to be subject to church rules or things like that."

He said he believes brides and grooms should not stall their plans.

He shared a sad recollection of his niece planning her wedding when her husband-to-be died unexpectedly at the age of 31.

"Months went by and they could've been a married couple for at least some of it," he said. "I went to the funeral service and there she was, following the casket, when a week later she was supposed to get married. Seize the moment!"

Warner said he has officiated elaborate costly weddings with ice sculptures and has also done small re-creations on big anniversaries.

"I've seen couples spend \$30,000," he said.

He remembered a wedding re-creation on a 25th anniversary in Willimantic a few years ago and said the groom had no idea what was coming.

Warner was standing in the middle of the room there with man who was saying his wife had been acting weird when, to his great surprise, she came out in her wedding gown.

"That's joyous," Warner said. "It's nice to have a dedication ceremony."

Some soon to be married folk say they want to write their vows, Warner said. Unfortunately, they don't all get to it and on the big day they have trust that he will say all the right things.

About 20 years ago, Warner officiated the wedding of Robert and Crystal Downey at Wickham Park in Manchester.

They had been planning to get married for quite some time and wanted the wedding low-key, said Robert Downey.

"We're not huge religious people, and Rob being a JP was perfect for it," he said.

Warner has "had a lot of hats" and joked that he is still trying to figure out his career.

With a degree in accounting from Central Connecticut State University, he has worked as an accountant, tax collector and was the last first selectman in Hebron before the town switched to a town manager form of government in 1989.

He also worked as a photojournalist for the *Riverast* from 1990 to 2001, covering the towns of Andover and East Hampton and credits himself and a woman from the sales department with encouraging publisher Jim Hallas, who at the time was editor of the *Riverast*, to add Colchester to the list of towns covered by the paper.

"I was the first reporter to go in," he said. "I covered Colchester for eight years."

Warner said he is ready to retire, however. "I've enjoyed my years as a JP," he said.

Town Clerk Carla Pomproicz sent Warner an email congratulating him on his many years of service.

"Best wishes on your next adventure for I am sure your spirit of public will continue in some form or another," she wrote.

Christ Lutheran News & Notes

The members of Christ Lutheran Church (LCMS) invite all to join them for Sunday worship. The church is located at 330 Church St. For more information, call 860-228-1152, visit www.CLCHebron.org or 'like' the church at [facebook.com/CLCHebron](https://www.facebook.com/CLCHebron) for up-to-date news and announcements.

Caring Shepherds: Through their Caring Shepherds ministry, volunteers at Christ Lutheran encourage members of the community to stop by their next curbside pickup event Saturday, Dec. 19, anytime between 9 and 11 a.m. Pre-packed supplies will be available, including food, toiletries, devotionals and more. For more information about this ministry, call 860-494-0431.

Sunday Worship: Sundays at 9 a.m., an in-person Divine Service is held. All are invited. For current safety protocols and the latest pandemic-announcements, visit www.clchebron.org.

org/open. Coffee hour and in-person Bible study, which ordinarily follow worship, are still on hiatus. Details about online streams of the service are listed at www.clchebron.org/online.

Saturday Worship: First Saturday of the month at 5 p.m. This is a service for higher-risk individuals. There are elevated levels of protocols, masks are required, and there is no singing. Communion is served.

Online Sunday Bible Study: At 7 p.m., church members are gathering virtually for Bible study taught by the pastor. Anyone can participate or listen in. Information is at www.clchebron.org/online.

Sunday School: Sundays at 10:30 a.m., in person and also livestreamed at [facebook.com/CLCHebron](https://www.facebook.com/CLCHebron).

Youth Group and Wednesday Evening In-Person Bible Studies: Continue to be on hiatus.

Early Childhood Center: Open to people of all faiths. For more information or current offerings call 860-228-5134.

Kindergarten Registration for 2021-22

Gilead Hill School is registering eligible kindergarten students for the 2021-22 school year.

Parents/guardians of children who will be five years of age on or before Dec. 31, 2021, and are planning to have their child attend public school in Hebron, are asked to contact the Gilead Hill School office at 860-228-9458 by Friday, Jan. 15, to begin the registration process.

Registration packets will be mailed to parents/guardians and are asked to be returned to Gilead Hill School during school hours (7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.) prior to Friday, Jan. 22. Parents/guardians are required to return their registration packet completed along with your child's original birth certificate (which will be returned to you), a non-returnable photo and two proofs of residence (such as a utility bill).

Pre-kindergarten students (Peer Model Program or School Readiness) that attend Gilead Hill School at this time do not need to call for a registration packet.

Holiday Closing

The town transfer station will be closed Thursday, Dec. 24, in observance of the Christmas holiday.

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Blue Christmas Service

On Monday, Dec. 21, at 7 p.m., via Zoom, Gilead Congregational Church will offer a Blue Christmas service of comfort, healing and hope.

The holidays can be difficult, the church said, and many people find they have trouble feeling "in the spirit" of things, whether because of the recent (or anticipated) death of a family member or friend, the end of a marriage, the loss of work, or another difficult change. The Blue Christmas service provides a space and time for people to acknowledge that struggle and concern, the church said.

If you'd like to join in this service, call the church office at 860-228-3077 to receive the Zoom link.

Local Fields Need Irrigation

By Karla Santos

On Monday, Public Works Director James Paggioli held an athletic field educational forum, at which he said irrigation would improve the safety of the fields in town.

Paggioli called irrigation the “biggest piece necessary” for improving field safety at the Recreational Complex, known locally as RecPlex.

The detailed presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session in which residents voiced concerns for the status of the fields and asked questions about it.

According to Paggioli, the issue with the athletic fields has been highlighted as a concern since 1997 and reiterated in 2007 and 2016.

He said much analysis has been done to understand the status of the fields, which need to be reconstructed and irrigated, but said the remediation work has yet to take place.

Paggioli estimated the cost for a complete reconstruction with proper grading and irrigation to be \$250,000 per field. He said about \$43,000 is available from a fee charged to sports league users.

In addition, Paggioli recommended that the town should not only fix the fields that need work but add more fields for school athletic and recreational use.

“Regardless of how much improvement we were to do at the RecPlex, there is a definite need for additional field space,” he said.

He explained the difference between high, medium and minimal management fields and said if the reconstruction and irrigation projects are funded, his plan is to get the RecPlex to the medium management level.

Paggioli said when looking at field use and turf condition, it is necessary to analyze how many fields there are compared to the population utilizing them.

He said that some fields in town are educational and others are recreational.

In addition, he explained that he did a regional comparison, including fields in some towns where Colchester plays. In the comparison, he measured populations against the number of athletic fields based on a field to person ratio.

Through the comparison, he said he realized that Colchester does not have the available athletic field space per capita that towns, such as Hebron, East Lyme, Montville, Waterford, Stonington and Marlborough, do.

He used Google Maps to show pictures of fields in Colchester and across towns and explain their conditions.

He also spoke about the long-term effort the town has been going through to demonstrate the poor condition of the fields.

Paggioli said the 1997 recreational master plan, included a recommendation to install irrigation systems and that the need to acquire additional properties was also noted.

He also pointed out that more sports are played now than when that plan was drafted.

In the year 2000, there was an additional field constructed in Colchester, he said.

“From that point forward into to 2007, no further action was taken by the town to either address land acquisition issues nor was any other funding provided for additional athletic field or irrigation on other athletic fields,” he said.

Then in 2007, the Colchester Recreational Site Improvements Master Plan was completed by a consultant that prepared an analysis of existing town-owned properties for athletic field expansion.

Paggioli said that in 2014, a long capital plan was submitted to the boards of finance and selectmen that highlighted the over use of existing facilities, the need for additional site acquisition and the start of the over-seeding program.

He said short term maintenance and repair items listed had been funded and addressed but “long-term systematic issues were generally ignored for solution via general fund allocation.”

In 2014, a field assessment and report for the RecPlex was also done. Paggioli said the primary challenges at that point were lack of irrigation, malfunction of existing irrigation, no core cultivation, minimal over-seeding, and an inability to control weeds.

He said some of the recommendations were adapted by staff and funded through the 2014-2015 budget. However, due to funding constraints, irrigation was not addressed.

According to Paggioli, in 2016, a Field Sustainability Task Force was formed.

He said because no general fund allocations were brought forward at that point, in 2017, an ordinance was amended, establishing a field sustainability fee for sports league users. He said the estimated funds available to date from that are \$43,000.

Paggioli said that the fields look better now because, with the pandemic, they haven’t been used; but said when they are highly used the conditions worsen, and if it rains, children find themselves playing sports in the mud.

At the end of the presentation, multiple members of the public spoke, mainly to ask questions about the fields.

Board of Finance member Andreas Bis-

bikos asked if more personnel would be needed to manage the fields prior to any expansion. Paggioli said additional personnel might not be necessary except for seasonal workers to improve summer time conditions.

Resident Norm Kaplan asked various questions and while he said he appreciated the presentation, he also voiced concern about the project, particularly for high school level playing fields.

“I think Jim has done a nice job describing where we are, where we could be with minimal amount of work and with, maybe a little bit more than minimal amount of work; but there are unknown variables and we just started talking about those,” Kaplan said.

St. Andrew Church News

St. Andrew Catholic Church holds Sunday Mass Saturdays at 4 p.m. and Sundays at 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. The church is located at 128 Norwich Ave.

The Mass schedule for Christmas is: Dec. 24 at 4, 7 and 11 p.m., and Dec. 25 at 9:30 and 11 a.m. Tickets are required to attend Mass; call the office at 860-537-2355 to reserve them.

Also, since social distancing will remain in place, pews are sectioned off to maintain six feet, in all directions, between individuals and/or households. Available seating is clearly marked. Seating is limited to 100 people per

Mass, due to social distancing and local regulations. The only entrance to the church will be on the parking lot side.

Parishioners should bring and use their own hand sanitizer. Also, facemasks that cover both nose and mouth are required of all attending public worship.

The dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains in effect until further notice. Christmas Masses at 4 p.m. Christmas Eve and 9:30 a.m. Christmas morning will be livestreamed.

For more information, call 860-537-2355 or visit www.standrewcolchester.org.

Abundant Life Church News & Notes

Abundant Life Church, located at 85 Skinner Rd., has announced the following pieces of news. For more information, call the church at 860-537-3082 or visit AbundantL.com. Abundant Life Church is a Christ-follower church that believes salvation through Jesus Christ.

Weekly Sunday Service: The church continues open door services on Sundays. Facial masks while roaming and social distancing guidelines are followed, including only allowing less than 50 attendees. Sunday School is at the church at 9:30 a.m., with the main service beginning at 10:30 a.m. Call the church if you would like to attend.

The service is also broadcast live on Facebook, beginning at 10:30 a.m., with a special children’s program included. Go to www.facebook.com/groups/abundantLifeCT or look for the church on Facebook. For more information or if unable to connect, call the church at 860-537-3082.

Christmas Eve: The church’s annual candlelight service will be held Christmas Eve at 6 p.m. Puppets will be present to share the message on this night.

Power of Prayer: Prayer is provided by a group of faithful members at Abundant Life. If you are in need of prayer for healing, financial issues, troubled family members, life-controlling habits, or any other need, call the church to be placed on its prayer list. You may also ask about the various days and times the prayer groups meet and come at that time.

January Children’s Programs at Library

The following programs will be offered for children in January at Cragin Memorial Library are being offered for children. While the library is currently open, it is not hosting any in-person programming. Most of these programs will be conducted online. For more information, call the children’s department at 860-537-7201.

The library has a list of available craft bags at the Children’s Circulation Desk; supplies are limited and are on a first-come, first-served basis. The library is located at 8 Linwood Ave.

Baby Activity Videos: Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m., starting Jan. 6, on Facebook and YouTube. There will be book suggestions, baby bounces and more. Often, activity bags will be available to accompany the videos.

Sharing Stories: Mondays at 10:30 a.m., starting Jan. 4, on Facebook and YouTube. There will be stories, songs and more. A craft will be showcased, and bags will be available

for pick-up.

Exploring the Alphabet: Fridays at 10:30 a.m., starting Jan. 8, on Facebook and YouTube. Each week, explore a new letter of the alphabet, sing songs, practice writing and share books. A craft bag will accompany each video, bags can be picked up on Monday the same week as the video.

Other January Programs: Foodie Fun: Snowpeople S’mores: Saturday, Jan. 9, 10:30 a.m., for children and teens. Watch the video, pick up your ingredients bag, and create a snack of a melting snowperson.

3D Snowpeople Craft: Wednesday, Jan. 27. Grab a craft bag and create this winter project.

National Puzzle Day: Wednesday, Jan. 29, all day and for all ages. Grab a puzzle to take home and complete. Puzzles will vary between mazes, word searches and crosswords.

Project Graduation Raffle and Wreath Sales

Bacon Academy Project Graduation is selling raffle tickets for its December calendar fundraiser, with prizes being awarded each day.

Total donated items in the raffle are valued at over \$1,000 and include gift cards to local businesses, gift baskets, cash prizes, holiday items and local artisan creations. Due to the strong response to this fundraiser, some days include more than one winner, so that raffle ticket holders have more than 31 chances to win.

Raffle tickets can be purchased via check, mailed to P.O. Box 393, Colchester CT 06415, or through Venmo @KathyLawrence2934. If using Venmo, email ba.projectgrad@gmail.com with ticket holder information. Purchases must include raffle ticket holder’s name, address, email, phone and whether recipient is

over 21 years of age. The calendar with list of available prizes can be viewed at the www.baconacademyprojectgrad.org.

The mission of Bacon Academy Project Graduation is to enhance drug- and alcohol-free awareness by providing safe events for all graduating seniors of Bacon Academy. Project Graduation’s most critical event is a graduation night party.

All Project Graduation events and initiatives to benefit BA seniors are entirely paid for through the fundraising efforts and contributions of Bacon Academy parents, students, businesses and community members. No tax dollars are ever used. For more information, visit www.baconacademyprojectgrad.org.



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Parks and Rec. News & Notes

Parks and Recreation has announced the following. For more information, call 860-537-7297 or emailing parksandrec@colchesterct.gov. More information, including weather-related cancellations, and registration is at www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department. The Parks and Rec. office is located at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave. To visit in person, call to make an appointment.

Registration is required for all programs. Forms and payment can also be left in the Town Hall drop box. If paying by check, place any forms and payment in an envelope with "Colchester Recreation" written on the envelope. To mail in your registration, fill out the registration form and mail it and a check to: Colchester Recreation, 127 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT 06415. Make checks payable to "Town of Colchester."

December Events: Holiday Home & Business Decorating Contest: Voting will end Dec. 31 and the contest winners will be announced the week of Jan. 4. For a map of decorated homes and businesses, visit tinyurl.com/yd8zfxp9, and to vote, visit tinyurl.com/ydf75qca.

Annual Gingerbread House Contest: Vote for your favorite gingerbread house at tinyurl.com/y9a8lzou. Voting will end Dec. 31 and the contest winners will be announced the week of Jan. 4.

Town of Colchester Ornament: Can be purchased during regular business hours at Town Hall. Call when you arrive, and staff will meet you at the front door. Ornaments are \$6 each.

Joyful Ornament Project: Decorate a homemade unbreakable ornament and add it to the live tree in the gazebo on the Town Green. If you add two or more decorations, take one home to decorate your tree.

Virtual Vendor Fair: This is a way to support local artisans and independent sales representatives. Contact the vendor directly to purchase items. View the vendor fair book at tinyurl.com/y2mmyqv.

January Events: Free Family Game Nights: Fridays, Jan. 8-29. Register online and then stop in the recreation office to pick out your game. Just return the game the following week so it can be disinfected for a new family to enjoy the following week. The first 20 families to register each week will receive a \$5 gift

certificate for a local restaurant.

Foundations: Jan. 12-Feb. 20. The goal of this series is to build the deep supporting muscles of the spine, using basic yoga-like postures. Each session is 30-50 minutes; meets three times per week. Each class will be recorded and sent to participants who miss a class. Classes are: Tuesdays, 6 p.m., on Zoom; Thursdays, 6 p.m., in person at a location to be determined (Zoom available); and Saturdays, 8 a.m., on Zoom. Cost is \$95 per person.

Mindful Movement: Mondays, Jan. 11-March 1 (no class Jan. 18 or Feb. 15), 6-7 p.m., at Colchester Senior Center. For ages 18 and up. Cost: \$65.

Fitness Kickboxing with 360 Defense: Meets at 360 Defense (space is limited to eight people) with a Zoom option available. Session 1: Mondays and Wednesdays, Jan. 4-27, at 9:30 a.m. Session 2: Tuesdays and Thursdays, Jan. 5-28, 10:30 a.m. Cost: \$45/session.

Martial Arts Fitness for Kids: Meets via Zoom on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Jan. 5-28, at 3:45 p.m. Cost: \$25/person. All proceeds will be donated to local programs to help Colchester residents.

Gentle Yoga: For ages 45 and up. All levels of fitness or yoga experience are welcome. Meets Mondays, 4:45-5:45 p.m., from Dec. 28-Jan. 25 (no class Jan. 18) or Feb. 1-March 3 (no class Feb. 15). Class meets via Facebook Live; the private link will be mailed to you after you register. Cost: \$35/residents, \$40/non-residents.

Barre: Mondays, Jan. 11-March 22 (no class Jan. 18 or Feb. 15), 5:45-6:30 p.m., via Zoom. Cost: \$72/residents, \$77/non-residents.

Core Strength: Thursdays, Jan. 14-March 25, 6-6:45 p.m., via Zoom. Cost: \$88/residents, \$93/non-residents.

Full Body Refresh: Mondays, Jan. 11-March 22 (no class Jan. 18 or Feb. 15), 8-8:45 a.m., via Zoom. Cost: \$72/residents, \$77/non-residents.

High Interval Training: Wednesdays, Jan. 13-March 24, 7:45-8:30 a.m., via Zoom. Cost: \$88/residents, \$93/non-residents.

Pilates: Tuesdays, Jan. 12-March 23, 6-6:45 p.m., via Zoom. Cost: \$88/residents, \$93/non-residents.

Tighten & Tone: Wednesdays, Jan. 13-March 24, 5:45-6:30 p.m., via Zoom. Cost: \$88/residents, \$93/non-residents.



The Colchester Historical Society's 2021 calendars are for sale, and feature newly-discovered photographs of the town. Among the pictures is this shot of Main Street in Colchester, looking south, with Merchants' Row on the right and the town green on the left.

Historical Society Calendars are Here

The Colchester Historical Society's 2021 calendar features newly-discovered photographs of Colchester. Glass plate images of Colchester from around 1890 depict the town, while horse and buggy were the primary mode of transportation.

On the calendar cover, there will be a photograph of Main Street looking south, flanked by the town green and Merchants' Row. Highlighted in the calendar are images of Colchester that will be soon featured in an upcoming Arcadia Publications' *Images of America* book of Colchester.

The limited-edition 2021 Colchester Historical Society pictorial calendar sells for \$12. This year, for \$20, the historical society will also include a copy of *Historical Landmarks: A Historical Tour of Colchester*. This book features 50 historic sites throughout Colchester, many walking distance from the center of town.

Calendars can be purchased at Nathan Liver-

ant and Son Antiques, located at 168 S. Main St., and Copies Plus....more, located at 31 Halls Hill Rd. Calendars can also be purchased at the Colchester History Museum on Saturdays and Sundays, noon-2 p.m., or Wednesdays, 5-7 p.m., from Dec. 19-Jan. 6. Look for the "Calendars for Sale Today" sign in front of the museum, which is located at 24 Linwood Ave.

Calendars and copies of the *Historical Landmarks* book can also be mailed for an additional \$3 to cover shipping. Calendar with shipping is \$15, and the calendar and book with shipping are \$23. Contact the Colchester Historical Society at mail@colchesterhistory.org or 860-537-4230 to purchase.

Calendar sales provide funds for the Colchester Historical Society to carry on its mission of educating the community on the history of Colchester.

Dean's List

Connor Groene of Colchester made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Nazareth College in Rochester, N.Y.

Police News

12/8: State Police said Maximus T. Meyers, 20, of East Haddam, was arrested and charged with failure to appear.

Dean's List

Morgan P. Shumaker of Colchester made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Clarkson University in Potsdam, N.Y.

Shumaker is a freshman majoring in mechanical engineering.

Colchester Federated Church News

Colchester Federated Church is an Open and Affirming church located at 60 Main St. Pastor is the Rev. Lauren Lorincz.

The church remains closed to the public until further notice. The church has canceled in-person worship and Sunday School until disease rates decline in Colchester. Worship will be offered via Facebook Live at 9 a.m. Sunday mornings by a small worship team and Sunday School lessons will be shared virtually with families.

Virtual worship can also be found at www.colchesterfederatedchurch.org under the "Worship & Sermons" tab.

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CYSS News and Notes

Colchester Youth and Social Services has announced the following. For more information and full program descriptions, contact CYSS at 860-537-7255 or youthservices@colchesterct.gov. Register online at www.colchesterct.gov/youth-social-services. Registration is required for every session of each program due to the current COVID-19 guidelines.

The Learning Lounge: Mondays-Fridays, 8:30-11:30 a.m., for grades 6-8. This program provides middle school youth space to complete their distance learning. Socially-distanced work stations and support will be provided. Limited availability.

Youth Uprise: Wednesdays, 12:30-1:30 p.m., at the Youth Center, for grades 9-12. High school students come together and discuss unity, diversity, civic engagement and making a change.

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New Book for StoryWalk... A new book, *Winter Dance* by Marion Dane Bauer, has been posted at the StoryWalk at Ruby & Elizabeth Cohen Woodlands, 96 MacDonald Rd. A StoryWalk combines physical activity with reading as the pages of the book are transformed into signs on a trail inviting children and their caregivers to read as they move along the path. The StoryWalk is free and open to all, provided by Cragin Memorial Library, Colchester Garden Club, Colchester Land Trust, Colchester Wildlife Habitat and the Collaborative for Colchester's Children. Pictured here is Brayden Buyniski.

Senior Center News & Notes

Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave., has announced the following programs and events. Most programs are on Zoom; to learn more about join them, or for full descriptions of any program, call the center at 860-537-3911 or email csc@colchesterct.gov. The center is online at www.colchesterct.gov. More information about senior trips can also be found online.

Upcoming Programs: Learn to Sign with Ruth: Mondays, 11 a.m.-noon. This course teaches the basics of how to communicate with sign language. No prior experience necessary.

Farewell 2020 Celebration on Zoom: Thursday, Dec. 31, 10 a.m. Welcome in the New Year with goody bags, a year in review presentation, and laughs. Register by Dec. 24 to receive your "Goodbye 2020" gift bag.

Walking Group: Wednesdays, 10 a.m., weather permitting. Social distancing and masks required.

Weekly Zoom Programs: Exercise with Anne: Mondays and Thursdays, 9 a.m.; **Senior Yoga:** Thursdays and Fridays, 11 a.m.; **Sittercize:** Mondays and Thursdays, 10 a.m.; **Tai Chi:** Tuesdays, 9:45 a.m.

Fire Calls

From Dec. 6-12, the Colchester Hayward Fire Department responded to 40 calls: 33 emergency medical calls, six fire/fire-related calls, and one motor vehicle crash (a two-car crash). Calls included:

Fire: service call, two; fire alarm, two; structure fire, one; smoke in building, one.

Medical: sick person, five; cardiac distress, five; difficulty breathing, six; lift assist, five; fall injury, three; mental disorder, one; seizure, one; abdominal pain, two; overdose, three; injured person, one.

CHFD provided mutual aid four times last week – once to Hebron and three times to East Haddam. It received it twice – once each from

Gardner Lake and Glastonbury.

CHFD also offers free CO checks, and car seat safety checks and installations by appointment only; call the department at 860-537-2512 to schedule one. Reflective address marker signs are also available to order in blue or green, vertical or horizontal; cost is \$12. Forms are available at the firehouse, 52 Old Hartford Rd., or online; go to colchesterct.gov, click on 'departments' and select 'fire department.'

Note: The Department of Emergency Management conducts tests of the emergency sirens throughout town, on the first Saturday of every month between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. These are just tests.

Ahavath Achim News

Congregation Ahavath Achim, 84 Lebanon Ave., has announced the following schedule:

Friday night Shabbat service, 6:30 p.m. on Zoom; Saturday, Shabbat morning service, 10 a.m., on Zoom; Tuesday, Kabbalah class, 5:30 p.m. on Zoom; Tuesday, Talmud class, 6:30 p.m. on Zoom.

There are daily prayer classes on Facebook Live, by Rabbi Ken Alter.

There will be a book club discussion, on *Man's Search for Meaning*, Thursday, Jan. 21, at 7 p.m.

For more information, call 860-537-2809. Office hours are 8 a.m.-noon Tuesday-Friday.

Westchester Church News

Westchester Congregational Church, located at 98 Cemetery Rd., holds worship services in-person Sundays at 10 a.m. Services are also available on Zoom.

The church will hold its Christmas Eve service at 5 p.m. Dec. 24, both at the church and on Zoom. If attending at the church, masks must be worn. Pews will be labeled for distance seating, and there will be no singing except for the small masked choir – but lots of Christmas music will be played. Feel free to bring a donation for church outreach projects and/or items to donate for its Blessings Box (mini food bank).

Visit westchesterconchurch.org for Zoom login information.

From our family to yours, many thanks to all our clients, friends and family for another successful year! And wishing you a prosperous New Year!

From the Skyview Team – Jack, Lori & Matt Faski, Linda Cullen, Rick Sharr, John Jacoby, Nick Ogle, Rhom Saunders, Dimitri Anastasiou

Skyview REALTY

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School Nutrition Program Update

Thanks to a USDA grant, all students and children under the age of 18 can get free breakfast and lunch. This will be in effect until the last day of school in June 2021.

Note: milk is included in every meal; however if a student wants to buy just a milk, the cost is 65 cents. For those interested in grab-and-go meals, which are also free, pick-up is at William J. Johnston Middle School from 12:30-1 p.m. for in-school learning days and 10-10:30 a.m. on distance learning days.

Note that grab-and-go meals will not be available during the winter recess, from Dec. 24-Jan. 1. Also, grab-and-go meals will not be available on days when students do not come to school because of inclement weather.

Any questions can be directed to Leanne Rahnheim, nutrition coordinator, at 860-537-9421 ext. 381 or Iranheim@colchesterct.org.

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TOWN OF COLCHESTER NOTICE OF DECISION

At its meeting of December 15, 2020, the Zoning Board of Appeals made the following decision:

Jay R. Einhorn - Bulkeley Hill Road – Appeal of Enforcement Order (2020-03) – To appeal the decision of the Zoning Enforcement Order regarding the conduct of an unpermitted commercial activity on Bulkeley Hill Road (Map 03-11, Lot 043), Rural Use District – **APPEAL DENIED/CEASE & DESIST ORDER MODIFIED AND UPHELD.**

All modifications/conditions are on file in the Planning Department. A copy of this notice has been filed in the Town Clerk's office.

Anyone wishing to appeal this decision to superior court, may do so by service of process within fifteen (15) day from the date that notice of decision was published as required by general statutes.

Zoning Board of Appeals
Laurie Robinson, Chair

Andover • Andover

Whimsical Carol Sing Brings Cheer

By Sloan Brewster

Santa and Mrs. Claus are getting a divorce, although it's totally unrelated to Mrs. Claus' recent singing debut with the Grinch – and, according to Santa, the real Scrooge is Andover's town administrator.

The Traveling Carolers carol-sing, held Sunday, included various Christmas characters. While it was not a town-sanctioned event, elected officials played the iconic – and socially-distanced personalities – as they rolled through town on a 22-foot long, 8-foot wide trailer towed by a pickup truck.

In a video of the fun on the Andover Support Network Facebook page, Santa, played by First Selectman Jeff Maguire, can be seen standing six feet back from his compadres and bellowing “Ho! Ho! Merry Christmas!” as the trailer pulls up and stops in local neighborhoods.

When the bedecked and brightly-lit trailer stops on the corner of Erdoni and Lake roads, some neighbors gather at the end of their driveways to listen. Just as the music for “Let It Snow” begins and the singers raise their mics, Santa's voice can be heard from behind Mrs. Claus, who, sans her costume, is Board of Education Chair Shannon Loudon.

“I am not married to you,” Santa intones. “We will be divorced tomorrow,” Mrs. Claus concurs.

In a phone call Monday, Loudon, who's a lawyer in real life, called Maguire “flipping saucy” and joked that she told Santa she had drafted a divorce agreement and said “He lit into me immediately.”

“It was really fun,” she added. In a phone call Tuesday, Maguire said he had no misgivings about the end to the short-lived nuptials, joking that he and Mrs. Claus were divorced before they even got married.

“Thank God!” he said, but added, “It was a magical moment while it lasted.”

Mrs. Claus' love affair with Santa over, she got together with the Grinch, who – played by Vice First Selectman Adrian Mandeville – joined her in a duet of “Baby It's Cold Outside.”

Watching from nearby, Mandeville's wife Kristin McGregor played an elf.

“My wife had the best time. She had never been caroling,” Mandeville said in a phone call Monday. “Oh God, she had a blast. She was like a little dancing elf the whole time.”

McGregor may have been dancing, but, in a video posted on Selectman Paula King's Facebook several hours before the carol sing, the “head elf,” played by King, is kidnapped.

The Grinch can be seen holding a large cloth bag and quietly tip-toeing behind the elf while she decorates a tree. Just before the scene cuts, the green-faced monster slips the bag over the

unsuspecting elf.

In the next scene, Santa is working on his famous list, checking it twice, when a voice asks him what he's going to do about the missing elf.

“My elf is missing?” Santa asks, seemingly shocked.

“Yes,” the voice replies. “The Grinch came and took your elf, your head elf.”

“Goodness, we're gonna have to cancel the caroling,” Santa insists.

“Not the caroling?” the voice replies, dismayed.

“Oh my goodness,” says Santa.

A banner comes on screen inviting folks to join officials at the caroling event to see if the elf is freed.

Later, at the start of the festivities, Mrs. Claus announces that the elf was found.

Mandeville joked that he chose to play the Grinch because “if they had the happy version of Christmas, I was the frustrated version.”

He's not the only one, according to Maguire – who insisted that the real Scrooge was Town Administrator Eric Anderson.

Maguire joked at Monday's Board of Selectmen meeting that the carol singers arrived at Anderson's driveway Sunday night only to find the house completely dark and in “full ‘bah humbug’” mode.

“He is a Scrooge,” Maguire told the *Rivereast*.

Anderson, in a phone call Tuesday, offered no arguments, saying Christmas is “not my thing” and “I'm not really much of a Christmas person.”

While saying he didn't think the carol singers really showed up at his house, he added, “If I'd have known they were coming, I would've turned my lights off, though.”

Ironically, Anderson comes off as a cheerful person, using the catchphrase “Cheers” whenever bidding folks farewell, but Maguire said that doesn't necessarily imply Anderson is happy-go-lucky.

“That's British,” he said, laughing.

The carol sing started beside the gazebo at Town Hall, with a small gathering of socially-distanced onlookers, King, who organized the event, said.

“[It was] something that I put together as a resident because, you know, a lot of things have gotten canceled and I figured, let's bring some holiday cheer,” she said in a phone call Monday.

It wasn't a completely new notion, however. King said she and Loudon have talked about going caroling together for years but it never happened and then, after an outdoor event they were planning to attend was canceled, they decided to take their show on the road.

It was not the first time the pair has sung together. Loudon, King, Selectman Jeff Murray

First Congregational Church News

The First Congregational Church, UCC, of Andover, 359 Route 6, invites all ages to worship Sundays at 10 a.m. Enter through the Narthex. Masks and social distancing are required. If you don't have a mask, a mask will be given to you.

The service also streams live on the church's Facebook page (First Congregational Church, Andover, CT).

For more information, call the church office at 860-742-7696.

The church has a weekly Bible Study on Tuesdays at 11 a.m. both via Zoom and in person at the church (observing CDC guidelines regarding social distancing and masks). If interested in attending via Zoom, call the church

Republicans Seek to Fill Seats

The Andover Republican Town Committee said it is looking for Andover residents to fill openings on boards and commissions. These positions will be voted on at the May 2021 election. The Town of Andover elects members to boards and commissions for four-year terms.

The Republicans will hold a caucus Friday, Jan. 15, to officially fill any open positions. The RTC asked people to review the below positions that are open and call committee chair Carol Barton at 860-742-9829 if interested or wish more information.

The local Board of Education oversees the elementary school. The seven-member board does not have to present its budget to the Board of Finance; rather, it presents the budget at a town meeting, where residents can request reductions if they feel it is too high.

The Board of Finance works with all boards, commissions and the town administrator to present a town budget to residents. Residents can attend finance board hearings and advocate

and leave a message and Nilson will send you the meeting link. Biblr Study will resume after the holidays.

Dec. 20 will be Skit Sunday, taking place during the regular Sunday worship service at 10 a.m. This skit brings to life the story of Christmas with a modern twist.

Christmas Eve: The church's Christmas Candlelight Service will be at 10 p.m. All are invited.

The Food Pantry is Mondays from 5-7 p.m. Bring your own bags. CDC guidelines will be observed and masks are required. The Food-share van comes to the church every other Wednesday from 9-9:30 a.m. and will next be there Dec. 23.

to either increase or decrease the budget, but only at a town meeting can they decrease or reject the budget prior to going to vote. Members of the seven-member Board of Finance meet monthly except prior to the May budget vote where they may meet more often.

The Planning and Zoning Commission works to create laws on land use in town and make sure residents are in compliance with zoning regulations. There are also alternate positions open; these members attend all meetings and if a regular member is not present they be seated for that meeting. This is a five-member board, with at least two alternate members.

The Zoning Board of Appeals reviews denials of zoning regulations made by the Planning and Zoning Commission, to see if an exception is warranted. There are also alternate positions open; these members attend all meetings and if a regular member is not present they be seated for that meeting. The ZBA is a five-member board with at least two alternate members.



Town officials delighted residents Sunday as they rolled through town, on a trailer towed by a pickup truck, singing Christmas carols and performing holiday skits.

and Andover Elementary School Principal John Briody formed a band called the Bipartisan Balloteers and entertained voters from the gazebo on Election Day in November.

Everyone involved in the carol sing said they had a blast and hoped it raised holiday spirit and promoted good will.

Maguire said he hopes it elicits more participation in the community and that the message they are spreading is that it's okay to be involved.

“We were trying to spread a little Christmas cheer, it's not easy times right now but we figured we'd get out and spread a little Christmas cheer and we did,” he said.

Lucie Wilson, of Lake Road, said her family had a bonfire going in their driveway and everyone, including her three children and two of her friend's kids really enjoyed the caroling.

“We loved it. It was just spectacular and they did a wonderful job on the trailer with decorations. Beautiful,” she said. “It was just so much fun and a light-hearted good time, just what we needed. The spirit of Christmas.”

Even Scrooge – er, Anderson – ended on a positive note.

“Just hoping everybody hangs in there obviously COVID is effecting everybody,” he said. “Hoping everybody has a good Christmas and gets to relax a little bit.”

Library Scales Back Access

Due to the rising number of COVID-19 cases in Andover and throughout Connecticut, Andover Public Library has scaled back library building access.

Effective this past Monday, Dec. 14, operating hours remain the same (Monday and Wednesday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, noon-7 p.m.; and Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.), but patrons who want to come inside the library to browse, check out materials or use the internet should call 860-742-7428 when they arrive at the library. Building access is currently limited to one patron/one family at a time.

Curbside service remains available. For more information, visit the library at www.andoverconnecticut.org/library or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/AndoverPublicLibrary.CT.

Andover Preschool Screening

The Andover Board of Education, through the Andover Elementary School Early Learning Center, will hold a screening for children that reside in Andover and are 3 or 4 years old by the time of the screening on Friday, Jan. 9.

The screening will be held differently this school year due to the ongoing pandemic. School staff will send home an age-appropriate questionnaire for parents to fill out about their children. The questions are in the areas of speech, language, cognitive, and motor development. Parents will then receive information which will assist in fostering their child's growth, if needed.

If interested in having your child screened, contact the director of special education at 860-742-7339 or at maioranoh@andoverelementaryct.org to request an ASQ-3 questionnaire.

This is the first of three screenings. Additional dates will be March 5 and May 14.



And the Winner is... On Saturday, Dec. 12, Mrs. Merry Claus, a.k.a. Dianne Grenier, selected the winning ticket for the Andover Friends of the Library quilt raffle. The recipient was longtime Andover resident Naida Arcenas. The Friends group thanked quiltmaker Jean Mamonas of Andover, and all who purchased tickets supporting the fundraiser. Just under \$1,000 was raised to support the library.

Christmas Tree Pick-Up

Boy Scout Troop 8 will hold a Christmas Tree Pick-Up Saturday, Jan. 9. Suggested donation is \$10 per tree.

Reserve a tree pick-up at www.troop8.net, and place the tree at the end of your driveway by 7 a.m. Jan. 9. If you are using either check or cash for your donation, place in an envelope and tape it to your front door. Checks should be made out to Boy Scout Troop 8.

If you cannot register on the website, you can email a message with your name, street address and phone number to: trees@troop8.net.

This is a contactless pickup, and is for East Hampton, Middle Haddam and Cobalt addresses only.

No wreaths or garlands. Trees will be recycled into mulch.

Village Center 'Shop Local' Holiday Raffle

East Hampton Public Library and the Economic Development Commission have announced the third annual East Hampton Village Center 'Shop Local' Holiday Raffle.

Make a purchase at any participating Village Center store by Dec. 22 and receive a raffle ticket. Return the ticket to the library, 105 Main St., for a chance to win a gift basket stuffed with local items and gift cards. The drawing will be held on Dec. 23.

The merchants participating in the raffle include: Air Line Cycles, Center Package, Dexter's Tunes, Tales and Ales, ECO Coffee, Little Fish Gallery & Gift, Old Bank Flowers & Greenery, Red Door Boutique, Studio 13 and Willow.

Congregational Church News

Due to the rising number of COVID-19 cases in Connecticut, the Congregational Church of East Hampton, UCC, located at 59 Main St., will once again hold all services via Zoom beginning with the Christmas Eve service, at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 24. This will be a special service of lessons, music and candle-lighting. The Zoom service, as well as past services, can be accessed via www.cc-eh.org.

The December Teen Youth Group will be held in person today, Dec. 18, for students in grades 6-12, from 6:30-8 p.m.

This Sunday, Dec. 20, is Pageant Sunday and the third week of Advent. The church will light the Peace candle on the Advent wreath. This will be the last in-person service, and it will begin at 10 a.m. Masks must be worn and social distancing practiced. There will be music, singing and readings presented by the youth. People may also access the livestream service at www.cc-eh.org.

For more information, visit the church website or call 860-267-4959 during office hours, Tuesday-Friday from 8 a.m.-noon. In case of pastoral emergencies, the Rev. Jim Latimer can be reached at 610-568-2480.

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HOLIDAY SHOPPING GUIDE



LYME BITES

CT Lyme Riders is presenting the following great article for anyone who has a loved one, friend or family member that suffers from chronic Lyme disease, or just wants to understand more about this disease and the stress of holidays.

Facing the Holidays with Chronic Lyme

Author: Paula Jackson Jones • Orig Pub: 11/25/2017

Nothing reminds you of your illness more than when you're limited by the things that you can no longer do and the places that you can no longer go. And nothing highlights those limitations more than the holidays. Grieving the loss of holiday traditions, or feeling like you're letting your friends and family down by staying home or cutting outings short, can elicit so many difficult emotions that no one should have to deal with around the holidays.

No one ever thinks that something as tiny as a tick bite can change their life in so many ways, until it happens to them. I sit with people in person and on the phone who are struggling to understand this disease, struggling to make sense of their new normal, struggling to keep it together for their families. Struggling. It's something that chronically ill people do constantly. Everything is a struggle. Getting up in the morning, even getting through the day. Trying to plan events. Even something like going to the grocery store is taken for granted. I remember getting out and going to the store and running into people who would say things like "Oh, you look so good. You must be doing better" without realize just how much effort it took for me to pass for "good". How much energy it took just to get dressed and put on a good face and be seen in public.

While chronically ill people want to be a part of the holiday celebrations, they realize just how impacted they are by it all ~ sights, sounds, smells and overall exertion, that often exasperates their symptoms, that they feel the only choice they have is to stay home. I recall attending church services to sing carols and being overstimulated by the sounds, smells and lighting that I had to leave and go back home before a seizure was triggered. Holding a conversation was physically and mentally exhausting. Trying to focus on who was speaking to me, what they were asking and by the time I figured out my response, they were on to another topic. I often wondered what they thought, standing there in front of me ~ did I look as disconnected as I was feeling on the inside?

The holiday season is, and always has been, my favorite time of year and as I regained my health, I tried to re-engage with all my favorite holiday activities, but found that foods and over-stimulation were, and continued to be, a sensory trigger.

Something that I would ask of you all this holiday season ~ be kind and give grace to those suffering from chronic illness. Whether you understand their illness or not, understand this ~ they are doing their very best and that is all that can be asked of them. If they come, don't over quiz about what's been going on. Instead, welcome them into the group and make them feel as comfortable as you can. For one night, let them feel normal. Let them forget that they are ill. Understand that as the group chatter volume rises, that they may need to find a quiet reprieve to tamper down any rising symptoms. Don't be offended if they can't eat what you're serving. As much as we all love holiday goodies, chronic illness sometimes demands a change in diet to reduce symptoms during treatment. Maybe ask in advance what they can eat. Sugars and gluten are a no-no when putting together treats to give to them. Along with sounds, lighting can be a sensory issue for those suffering from neurological Lyme. Don't stare if your guest appears wearing sunglasses. I had someone approach me saying "What are you stoned? You must be to wear sunglasses at night" and I was so taken back and offended. Never judge what you don't understand.

Holidays are meant to be celebrated by families and friends, so I would ask that you please don't forget those who are chronically ill. They want to be a part of the celebration, but they know and understand all too well their limitations and they don't want to be a burden to their families, so they think staying home is the answer. Isolation is never the answer and causes more harm and damage mentally. Reach out in love, send cards, call before you visit but do visit. And if you bring a gift, leave out the sweets and gluten. Limit your use of perfume and keep the setting quiet. Limited the over-stimulation, keep the conversation light. Share what's going on with you and make them feel included. This will ensure a heartfelt and thankful visit and it will serve the one who is ill in ways that you may never understand.

This holiday season, remember those who are ill and not able to attend functions. Do your part, however small or grand, to make them feel remembered, missed and loved. This feeds their spirit and spirit is something that no disease can ever touch.



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Schools Chief Awarded for Volunteer Work

By Jack Lakowsky

The New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) last week awarded East Hampton Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith with a 2020 Service Award for his volunteer work in the organization's school accreditation process.

NEASC accreditation is meant "to serve as a framework for schools to meet their own unique goals [and maintain] alignment with research-based [accreditation standards] that define the characteristics of high quality, effective learning communities," according to the organization's website.

NEASC also assesses a school's systems for self-reflection and continuous growth.

The East Hampton Schools Facebook page in a Dec. 9 post announced Smith's reception.

In an interview that same day, Smith told the *Riverast* he serves on the NEASC Committee on Public Elementary, Middle, and High Schools (CPEMHS), specifically in the public high school sphere, helping in the accreditation

of high schools throughout New England.

NEASC evaluates most of the northeast's schools, including all colleges, all technical or trade schools, and most private and public schools.

To be accredited by the bureau, Smith said schools must meet certain criteria regarding learning culture, professional practices, learning support systems available to students, resources available to students and staff, safety protocols, instructional practices, comprehensive building improvement plans, and special education resources.

"Some are required, some are expected, some are ambitious," Smith said of the NEASC standards. Smith said schools are evaluated based on their individual resource availability, like the budget their town allots them.

Schools are reviewed every 10 years. Smith said schools will work for years to prepare for the decennial event. In a more typical year, Smith said, he and a team of volunteers will visit a school, interview its officials, and review

its evidence of having met NEASC standards.

Normally, NEASC volunteers will visit schools in teams of eight and work for a few days or more evaluating the district. In the era of COVID-19, visits and interviews are virtual.

"I'm very committed to the process," said Smith. "It's very helpful as a blueprint for our own district."

Since volunteering for NEASC, Smith has had a hand in the bureau's shift from looking exclusively at a school's course offerings and student performance to a more holistic approach.

"In East Hampton, we have our 'profile of the graduate,'" said Smith. "That's become a key element [in a district's accreditation], and we ensure there's always one in place."

Smith said the approach has evolved from "basic content knowledge" to asking schools to name what transferable skills students will have upon graduating and what students can achieve with their learning.

"We're going in and asking schools to show



Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith us employable graduates, ready for careers after high school and after college," said Smith. "This is an organization that I really believe in."

Parks and Rec. News and Notes

Parks and Recreation has announced the following. For full program descriptions or to register, call 860-267-7300 or visit easthamptonrec.com.

Holiday Jukebox Bingo: Wednesday, Dec. 23, 6:30-7:30 p.m., via Zoom. Cost is \$5/person.

Photography 101: Mondays and Wednesdays, Dec. 28-Jan. 6, 6:30-7:30 p.m., in the Town Hall Community Room, 1 Community Drive. Cost is \$25.

Kids Bingo Winter Wonderland: Wednesday, Dec. 30, 4-5:30 p.m., at the Town Hall Community Room. Cost is \$15/person. Doughnuts will be provided.

Morning and Afternoon Adventure: Parks and Recreation's before and after school program held at Memorial School has availability starting in January.

Dean's List

Victoria Kelpen of East Hampton made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Nazareth College in Rochester, N.Y.

Christ Episcopal Church News

Christ Episcopal Church, 66 Middle Haddam Rd. (mailing address: P.O. Box 81), Middle Haddam, conducts Morning Prayer Sunday at 10 a.m., with church school at 11 a.m. Both will be available on Zoom.

A special Advent service will be conducted at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 23, via Zoom.

The Rev. Ann Perrott is Priest-in-Charge, the Rev. Joanne Neel-Richard handles Children's Ministry, and Martha Alimi is the music director.

For more information or if in need of pastoral assistance, call the church at 860-267-0287 or visit www.christchurchmiddlehaddam.com.

Christmas is Coming to Haddam Neck Covenant Church

This Sunday, Dec. 20, "Love" the cat, from Farmer M's Barn, will be at Haddam Neck Covenant Church to help Pastor Tom Cowger explain the meaning of the fourth week of Advent. All are welcome to attend.

"Love" will help children learn how to experience the real meaning of Christmas – love.

Worship is at 9 a.m. each Sunday at the church, located at 17 Haddam Neck Rd. Call the church office at 860-267-2336 any afternoon Monday-Friday to reserve a space. When attending on Sunday, wear a mask. Your temperature will be taken at the door and hand sanitizer is available. Safe distancing will be practiced.

The service is also broadcast on Facebook Live at www.facebook.com/Haddam-Neck-Covenant-Church, and is on YouTube about an hour after live worship.

As the church moves into the New Year, other barnyard friends will be joining the services to help teach children how the lessons they've learned this Advent of hope, peace, joy and love make them happier people.

All are also invited to attend Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, at 5 p.m., for a special treat. There will be a special message from church pastor the Rev. Tom Cowger, a living nativity family, puppets and special music and candlelight.

Senior Center News & Notes

East Hampton Senior Center, 105 Main St., continues to be closed, although staff is available via phone (860-267-4426) and email (seniorcenter@easthamptonct.gov) through normal business hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. For the latest information, visit www.easthamptonct.gov/east-hampton-senior-center.

Online Program Registration: Register for programs online at MyActiveCenter.com. You will need your key-swipe tag number that you scan when you visit the center, as well as the phone number and email you used when originally registering at the senior center. Once registered for MyActiveCenter, you'll only need your email and password to get back in. Call the senior center for assistance.

Overly Stressed? Struggling? East Hampton Social Services, in collaboration with the senior center, is offering group therapy sessions via Zoom Wednesdays from 2-3 p.m. To sign

up, contact the senior center at 860-267-4426 or register online. Individual therapy is also available by appointment through East Hampton Social Services at 860-267-9982.

Virtual Lunch Bunch: Every other Monday at 12:30 p.m. for an hour, via Zoom. Next date is Dec. 28. Register online, or contact the senior center for an invitation.

Tai Chi with Tom Series: A new eight-week session runs Thursdays, Jan. 7-Feb. 25, from 10-10:30 a.m. Cost is \$40. Register online at MyActiveCenter.com.

Volunteer Shopping: The center has a program where a volunteer will shop for you. If interested or for more information, including how to arrange payment, call 860-267-4426 or email [jewling@easthampton.gov](mailto:jewing@easthampton.gov).

Weekly Virtual Events: Register online via MyActiveCenter.com. Schedule: Bingo: Tuesdays at 1 p.m.; Yoga via Zoom: Wednesdays at 11:15 a.m.; Writing Our Lives to Open Our Hearts: Thursdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Call the center for more info.

Pen Pals: The center will match you with a pal who you can write to, back and forth. It may be a senior center friend or someone from the community. The center will supply all you need to participate. Call the center to sign up or for more information.

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East Hampton • East Hampton

East Hampton Library News & Notes

East Hampton Public Library, 105 Main St., has made the following announcements. For more information, call 860-267-6621 or visit easthamptonpubliclibrary.org or facebook.com/EastHamptonLibrary.

Library Hours: The library is open Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; and Thursday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. All patrons age 2 and up are required to wear masks that cover their nose and mouth in the library and observe social distancing. If unable or unwilling to wear a mask, call the library to schedule a curbside delivery.

Stories and Songs: Wednesdays at 10 a.m. via Zoom, for ages 1-5. No registration required.

Family Bedtime Stories: Mondays at 6:30 p.m., via Zoom, for ages 3-8. This program combines stories, songs and literacy activities. Siblings, pajamas, and stuffed animal friends welcome. No registration required; just drop in. However, you can register online to receive weekly reminders for storytime.

Take-and-Make New Year's: Scheduled pick-up for the event is Thursday, Dec. 31, 12:15 p.m., for ages 3-6, grades 1-5, and grades 6-12. Registration required. Ring in the New Year with the public library. At noon, the library will post a balloon drop video to its Facebook page, so that all can count down together. Pick up your New Year's take-and-make celebration kit on New Year's Eve; balloon included! Registration required.

Teen Advisory Tuesday: Next meeting Tuesday, Jan. 26, 3 p.m., via Zoom. For grades eight-12. In this online program, students will come together to plan and create events and programs they want, and provide input to expand the library's YA/Teen collection. The Teen Advisory Board requires a monthly commitment and participation; upon registration, teens will receive an application and agreement to be completed prior to the first meeting. Registration and applications are being taken now.

Shop Local Holiday Raffle: For the third year in a row, the library will sponsor a Shop Local Holiday Raffle in the Village Center. For every purchase you make at a participating Vil-

lage Center store, you'll receive a raffle ticket. Return the ticket to the library and you will be entered to win a gift basket stuffed with Village Center goodies and gift certificates. Raffle tickets will be distributed through Dec. 22, and the drawing will be Dec. 23. Entrant need not be present to win.

Let it Glow! 2020 Jingle Bell Parade: Download a map at easthamptonpubliclibrary.org/glow, load up your car, and tour the community to check out the best holiday lighting in town – and then vote on your favorite. Prizes will be awarded to winners. The competition runs through Dec. 23.

How to Get Organized and Stay that Way!: Tuesday, Jan. 12, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom. Are you finding yourself with more and more tasks to do, yet there's never enough time to get everything done? Are you stumped about how to accommodate kids, spouse and yourself, learning and working virtually from home at the same time, or in limited space? In this program, learn practical solutions designed to motivate you and leave you thinking, "Now why didn't I think of that?" Register online for the Zoom link

Christmas Masses at St. Patrick

This year, reservations are required for all interested in attending the celebration of Mass Christmas Eve and Christmas morning at St. Patrick Church, as the church is adhering to strict reduced capacity and social distancing and mask requirements.

There will be vigil Mass at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. Christmas Eve, and Holy Mass at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Christmas morning. Once capacity for all Masses has been reached, additional Masses may be added to accommodate extra participants.

Call the parish office at 860-267-6644 to reserve a spot.

Helping Hands

Helping Hands, a ministry of Cornerstone Bible Church, is open the first and third Saturdays of each month. The ministry offers free gently-used clothing, household items, books, linens and more to community members in need.

Due to COVID-19, all must sign up for a time slot and wear a mask when entering. To register for a time slot, call 860-918-0784 or email jholm225@sbcglobal.net, on the Sunday before the open Saturday.

Helping Hands will accept donations only on the first and third Saturday of each month.

Residents Sought to Serve

The town continues to look for volunteers to serve on various boards, commissions and agencies.

Currently with vacancies are: Arts & Culture Commission, Brownfields Redevelopment Agency, Clean Energy Task Force, Conservation-Lake Commission, Design Review Board, Ethics Commission, Housing Authority, Inland Wetlands Watercourses Agency, Library Advisory Board, and Middle Haddam Historic District Commission.

Applications are available in the town manager's office at 1 Community Drive or at www.easthamptonct.gov.

Police News

11/13: David Limo, 33, of Vernon, was issued a summons for misuse of plates and failure to drive right. East Hampton Police said.

11/24: William Torres, 56, of Old Saybrook, turned himself in pursuant to a warrant and was charged with criminal violation of a protective order, police said.

11/25: Richard Collins, 50, of 52 Ridgeview Drive, turned himself in pursuant to a warrant for his arrest and was charged with disorderly conduct and first-degree threatening, police said.

11/27: Jesse Colton, 21, of Middletown, was issued a summons for operating an unregistered motor vehicle, misuse of plates, operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license and operating a motor vehicle without minimal insurance, police said.

12/1: Daniel Read, 29, of Durham, was arrested and charged with third-degree robbery, second-degree breach of peace, and sixth-degree larceny, police said.

From Nov. 23-29, officers responded to four medical calls, four alarms, three motor vehicle crashes and 10 traffic stops, police said.

12/1: Kristin Mahoney, 40, of 9 Harlan Place,

was charged with issuing a bad check and sixth-degree larceny, East Hampton Police said.

12/3: Todd Goodspeed, 30, of 85 N. Main St., was charged with interfering/resisting an officer, possession of drug paraphernalia, first-degree failure to appear, and four counts of second-degree failure to appear, police said.

12/4: Christopher Scaplen, 36, of 18-1/2 Wells Ave., was charged with violation of a protective order and second-degree threatening, police said.

12/4: Heath Galvin, 31, of 54 Midwood Farm Rd., was charged with second-degree threatening, second-degree breach of peace, and third-degree criminal mischief, police said.

12/7: Neil Baloga, 35, of Old Saybrook, was issued a summons for allowing operation of a motor vehicle without insurance, police said.

12/7: Michael Fitzgerald, 62, of Plainfield, was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle under suspension and failure to grant the right of way, police said.

Also, from Nov. 30-Dec. 6, officers responded to nine medical calls, three alarms, 11 hazardous conditions and three motor vehicle crashes, and made 18 traffic stops, police said.

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Evacuation Cribs... In early December, the East Hampton Rotary Club provided a grant to KOCO Child Care Center for the purchase of two evacuation cribs. Since the move to their new location on Long Crossing Road last year, KOCO was able to expand their program serving children under the age of 3. The added enrollment increased the number of evacuation cribs needed. Evacuation cribs have special wheels that allow for the safe evacuation of infants during emergencies. KOCO Child Care Center said it is grateful for the of the East Hampton Rotary Club. Pictured from left are Texas Adaskaveg, Lillian Capetta, Skylar DeMay and Sawyer Gribko.

Fire Department Santa Runs

The escalating COVID-19 situation has necessitated some significant changes to the format of this year's Santa Runs sponsored by members of the East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department.

Santa will be perched high upon a fire truck as he tours through the various neighborhoods in East Hampton. However, he will not be able to stop for pictures or to interact directly with children, as he has in the past.

The runs will begin at approximately 5:30 p.m. each night and will closely follow the itineraries shown below. Emergency responses or inclement weather may force a delay or cancellation of any particular evening's event and there will be no reschedules. Any changes to the schedule below and all updated information will be posted on the Fire Department's Facebook page as soon as practical.

Dec. 18 – Northwestern Section: Main Street (from Barton Hill to Route 66), Spice Hill, Tarragon (upper), Nutmeg, Tarragon (lower), Curry, Saffron, Arden, Champion Hill, Abbey, Anderson, Flannery, Cone, Childs Road (66 to Middle School), North Main, Hills Avenue, Fairlawn, Melburn, Laurel Glen, Sherry Drive, North Maple, Maplewood, Beechcrest, North Main, Christopher,

West Drive, Bellwood Court, Edgemere Condos, Clark Hill, Waterview, Mountainview, Hilltop, Sunrise, Skyline, Highland, Tiffany, Midwood Farm, Stonegate, North Cone.

Dec. 19 – Village/Metro Section: Lakeview, Bishop Hill, Summit, Bevin Blvd, Barton Hill, Crescent, Steepleview, Oak Knoll, Maple, Forest Glen, Forest, Hyde Farm, Mary Ann Drive, Hayes, East Hayes, Childs Road (off Forest), Forest to Skinner, Edgerton, Chatham Fields, Huckleberry, Sunset, Cedar Ridge, Holly, Smith, Dogwood, Royal Oaks area, Arch, Viola, Flanders, Daly, Peacouett, Portage, Bear Swamp, Peach Farm, Whispering Woods, Town Line Drive, Orchard View, Flanders to Route 196, Walnut.

Dec. 20 – Northeastern Section: Old Marlborough Road, Poet's area, Lake Vista Drive, Edgewater Hill, Laurel Ridge, Indigenious Peoples' area, Lake Drive, Staeth, Aaron's, White Birch (lower), Ridgeview, White Birch (upper), Country Lane, Tammie Ann Dr., Berkshire, Chapman, Elmwood, Birchwood, Crestwood, Fernwood, Mott Hill, Brack Farm, Mott Hill to Lake Dr. Candlewood, Raymond, Pococotpaug Dr, Auburn Knoll, Island View, Blue Heron, Eastham Bridge, Seven Hills Crossing.

Grant Applications Welcome

The East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission welcomes grant applications from East Hampton organizations and individuals with programs and/or projects that enrich the lives of East Hampton residents through the arts. Deadline to apply is April 1, 2021; email applications to arts@easthamptonct.org.

There are two \$500 grants available. Grants will be awarded to East Hampton individuals or organizations the commission determines will have the most potential impact of arts and/or culture on the town. Incomplete forms will be denied; applicants can resubmit.

Criteria for awarding grants: The artistic and organizational quality of the organization and/

or project and its likelihood of continuing viability or success, and the organization's or project's accessibility and service to the East Hampton community.

Grant recipients must credit the East Hampton Arts and Culture Commission on all press releases, posters, print advertising and programs.

An interview may be requested of the candidate prior to awarding the grant. An update of your progress will be required six months after the award date, and a final report will be required one year after the award date.

Applications are available at www.artsforeasthamptonct.org and can be submitted to arts@easthamptonct.org or to the town manager's office at Town Hall, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424. Check out last year's grant winners at www.artsforeasthamptonct.org

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The word "Frank" means open, straightforward, honest, unmistakable. This makes our Frankie well named. This friendly two year old is open to new people and new experiences...everyone he meets is a new friend. Frankie is perfectly straightforward about what he wants: petting, playing, and then a little more petting. His charm is unmistakable. And look at those eyes! Frankie is winning lots of hearts at the shelter, but to be honest we think he would rather be going home with you.

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Mercy Honor Roll

The following students made the Mercy High School Honor Roll for the first quarter of the 2020-21 school year:

High Honors

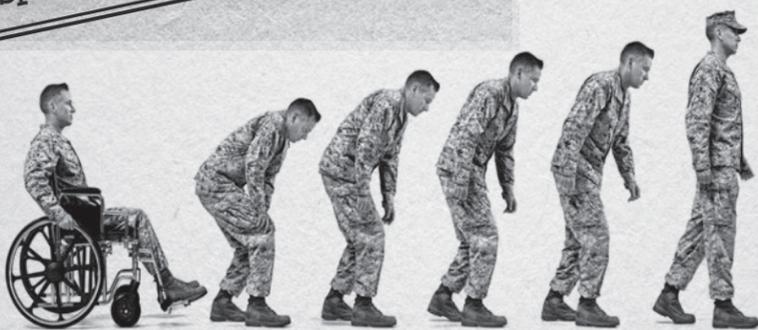
East Hampton: Reilly Keegan and Grace Riegler, Grade 12; Harper Carlson, Grade 10.

Middle Haddam: Cecilia Rossi, Grade 12.

Honors

East Hampton: Mairan Hall, Grade 10.

It's time to evolve our methods for supporting spine-impaired veterans.



Spine impairment is a leading cause of disability for veterans—and it's on the rise. We urge Americans to back vets up by joining our efforts to treat and defeat these injuries. Get involved, our website is a great place to start.

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VISIT ORTHINFO.ORG/BACKVETSUP



O Christmas Tree... Even though things are a bit different this year, East Hampton Nursery School head teacher Wendy Zimmerman and assistant teacher Maggie Nablo are doing their best to keep their yearly tradition going. Instead of going to Lost Spring Farm in East Hampton with the 4-year-old class as they have done for so many years, "Mr. Joe" – a.k.a. Joe Goodreau, owner of Lost Spring Farm, brought the tree to them! He's shown here with the class.

Marlborough • Marlborough

Town Will Pay \$50,000 for Wiring at Pump Station

By Karla Santos

Last Wednesday, the Board of Finance agreed to spend \$50,000 on a new electrical service for water pumps at the pump station.

The payment, which is part of the lease agreement for the recent sale of the Municipal Water Company, will come from the town's capital non-recurring funds account.

On Thursday, the Board of Selectmen awarded the bid for installing the electrical service to Stula Enterprises and authorized the First Selectman to enter into the contract.

Once the project is completed, the wellfield – which is currently supplied with primary and backup power via Marlborough Elementary School – will have its own electrical service, as required by the sales contract.

Wednesday evening, prior to approving the payment, the Board of Finance held a public hearing on the matter.

While only two members of the public spoke during the hearing, members of the Board of Finance and First Selectman Greg Lowrey had a lengthy discussion about the way they interpret the language of the lease agreement.

Board of Finance member, Ken Hjulstrom pointed out that when he was reading the land lease agreement, he realized that it stated that the lessee, which is Aquarion, “at its sole expense shall arrange for its own separately metered electrical supply service from the local utility company” and questioned why the town was taking on the \$50,000 expense.

“The lease agreement very clearly states that Aquarion is responsible for doing this at their expense,” Hjulstrom said.

First Selectman Greg Lowrey, in disagreement with Hjulstrom, explained that the lease agreement refers to the electrical service, not

wiring, and said the \$50,000 was for the wiring.

Lowrey said the lease and closing documents were prepared on the understanding that the wiring would already be completed but that because of several delays, it wasn't.

“In fact, we have a separate agreement where Aquarion will be reimbursing the school for electrical service until the wiring is complete,” Lowrey said.

Finance Board Chairman Susan Leser asked Lowrey why the closing, which took place on Nov. 30, happened before the electrical changes were made.

Lowrey said there were two timelines, one for getting the electrical work done and the other for the closing.

He said the closing should've happened in the spring, but there were a lot of delays in the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority hearings.

“It's a dynamic situation with these two timelines; that they did not crossover neatly is really a function of a lot of variables related to the bidding process and the regulatory process,” Lowrey said.

Hjulstrom then argued that the same section of the lease concerns electrical consumption and service and asked what it costs to power the well system each year.

“Because I'm questioning whether it makes sense to spend \$50,000,” he said. “It seems like it's a long payback.”

Hjulstrom said he wondered if it would make more sense to leave things as they were and credit the school or bill Aquarion for consumption.

Lowrey said that they were talking about a regulated utility and said that the annual cost of running the wellfield was about \$3,600.

“We anticipate that the school will have a

slightly lower electrical cost once this wiring is complete,” he said.

Hjulstrom said he still thought it was a “big expense.”

Then Leser asked Lowrey if he looked for a legal opinion on the matter. Lowrey said he discussed it with an attorney on the day of the closing, after the closing and the attorney interpreted the agreement the way he had.

Board of Finance member Liz Gorgoglione asked if the attorney could submit his legal opinion on the issue in writing. Lowrey said he thought that was “unnecessary.”

Gorgoglione said she also thinks the wording in the document implies that Aquarion is responsible for the \$50,000 expense.

Lowrey said Aquarion was required to reveal a list of capital investments it would make over the next five years in its application to Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority [PURA]; and that list does not include the wiring.

“If Aquarion was going to do that investment, they were required to disclose that to PURA,” he said.

Before the meeting ended, resident Louise Concodello spoke and said she had been following the process of the project. She noted that it started in May 2019 and that recently, Peter Hughes, Town Planner, sent a letter to the Board of Selectmen saying that as part of the sale of the water system, the pump station needs

to have its own electrical service line and meter.

The Board of Finance meeting started immediately after the hearing and made two motions regarding the project.

Their first motion was to retire a previously planned project related to the water system, so they could reallocate the funds for the new project. All board members voted in favor.

The second motion – to spend the \$50,000 on the new electrical service – passed with Hjulstrom voting no, Gorgoglione abstaining and the rest of the board in favor.

The next day, when the Board of Selectmen agreed to award the bid to Stula, Selectman Joe Asklar voted against the motion.

Before the motion passed, selectmen discussed the issue and Asklar raised the same issue the Board of Finance had discussed the previous evening, saying he had read the contract.

“The term service keeps coming up and the question is how do we define service and exactly what is it,” Asklar said.

He also asked who was responsible for paying for the service and said he interprets the land lease agreement as if it was the responsibility of Aquarion to pay for the service and not the tax payers of the town.

“I don't have any qualms whatsoever about moving forth with this,” Selectman Amy Traversa said. “I understood it from the very beginning when we were first talking about the project and all the way through.”

Historical Society News

Marlborough Historical Society has announced the following pieces of news:

Architectural Surveys: The society is continuing to conduct architectural surveys of the historic structures throughout the town. This will update the 1998 survey conducted by David Ransom. For more information, email mhs@marlboroughhistory.org or write to the society at MHS, P.O. Box 351, Marlborough, CT 06447.

2021 Calendars: Calendars are available for purchase either online at www.marlboroughhistory.org or at 17 School Drive. Cost is \$18.

Reflections Into Marlborough's History: Marlborough's complete 296-page history book is once again available for purchase. Cost is \$50. More information is at www.marlboroughhistory.org.

history.org.

Lost in History: The historical society is looking for any photographs of South School. The school was located close to where the exit 15 off ramp is now. It was standing in the 1930s but abandoned. People are asked to contact the society if they have any photographs that may depict this school.

Donations and Proceeds: Marlborough Historical Society is a nonprofit organization. To make a tax-deductible donation to aid in its historic preservation efforts, visit www.marlboroughhistory.org or mail to Marlborough Historical Society, P.O. Box 351, Marlborough, CT 06447. All proceeds from sales of calendars and the *Reflections* book go to support the society.

Richmond Library News & Notes

The Richmond Memorial Library building, located at 15 School Drive, remains closed, but there are many services still being offered. For more information, call the library at 860-295-6210 or visit richmondlibrary.info.

Library2Go Curbside Pickup: Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Window Browsing: While the library building remains closed to the public, the library is now offering window browsing for adults. Stop by and peek through the windows on the adult side of the building. If you see something you like, call the library during curbside hours and staff will check it out and run it outside for you. If you are visiting during hours when staff is not available, you can place a hold online.

Democrats Seek to Fill Seats

The Marlborough Democratic Town Committee is accepting applications from registered Democrats, Independents and unaffiliated voters to serve on local boards and commissions.

Current openings include seats on the Planning Commission, Economic Development Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, and the Nature Trails and Sidewalks Commission. The DTC is also looking for individuals to serve as alternates on the Zoning Board of Appeals, Economic Development Commission, and the Water Pollution Control Authority.

For more information, call Amy Traversa at 860-771-1134 or Betty O'Brien at 860-573-0552.

Parks and Rec Programs

Parks & Recreation has announced the following. For full descriptions or to register, visit marlboroughct.recdesk.com and click on “programs,” stop by the office at Town Hall, 26 N. Main St., or call 860-295-6203.

Adult Programs: Barre/Pilates – Mondays: Through Dec. 28, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Class instruction is virtual. Fee is \$15 per week to drop in.

Barre/Pilates – Wednesdays: Through Dec. 30, 6-7 p.m. Class instruction is virtual. Fee is \$15 per week to drop in.

Yoga – Mondays: Through Dec. 28, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Class instruction is virtual. Fee: \$15 per week to drop in.

Yoga – Tuesdays: Through Dec. 29, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Class instruction is virtual. Fee is \$15 per week to drop in.

Youth Program: Horseback Riding Lessons: For ages 5 and up. Lessons are private and are an hour; days and times are flexible. Fee: four lessons for \$175/residents, \$180/non-residents.

Driveway Reflective Number Signs: Cost is \$35 each. Order forms are online and at Town Hall.

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Marlborough • Marlborough

New Italian Restaurant Opens Its Doors

By Karla Santos

Tony Mangiafico sees his mother as a “quiet hero.” She was a military wife that spent a lot of time behind the stove while raising five children, supporting her husband and learning English on her own.

That’s why Mangiafico, of Manchester, named his new Italian restaurant “Zina’s Cucina,” in honor of his mother.

Zina’s Cucina, located in the heart of Marlborough, opened its doors to the public on Dec. 5.

Zina’s Cucina is the reflection of the kitchen of Mangiafico’s mother, who cooked original Italian dishes for her family all the time, he said.

Mangiafico said he had the idea of opening up a restaurant when he used to drive by the restaurant’s building – 17 North Main St. – on his way to the shore to go fishing.

“I always said to myself, ‘That’ll be a great place to have a restaurant,’” Mangiafico said.

One day he decided to stop by and talk to the owner of the building, who told Mangiafico he was in agreement with having the space used to offer the community “something that was needed.” Mangiafico leased the space.

This is Mangiafico’s first time owning a restaurant and has he never been a cook.

He called the restaurant a “family business,” as his nephew Marc Mangiafico serves as the executive chef.

Mangiafico said that before opening the business, he was getting ready to leave his job as a grocery broker. He said he didn’t retire; he just didn’t like what he was doing.

Mangiafico said cooking is his nephew’s passion, and thought that Marc could handle the kitchen.

“I knew that I could do the accounting and I knew he could do the cooking,” Mangiafico said.

Mangiafico – who has Italian roots – said that one day he was with his family brainstorming names for the business. He said they started to think about individuals in their family with a

story they could portray by naming the restaurant in their honor.

“The first thing I thought of was my mother,” Mangiafico said. “She loved to cook and everybody loved her food.”

In Mangiafico’s family, they always planned meals ahead of time, making food “a huge part of my growing up,” he said.

He said his mother Vincenza Providence La-Bruna – who everybody knew as Zina – was always quiet but smiling.

Mangiafico’s mother was born in Hartford, but before age two, she was living in Italy. She moved back to Hartford when she was 17 years old and started to work in a factory, manufacturing military equipment. At that time, women were doing that kind of work because most men were at war. Mangiafico said that at that point, his mother spoke only Italian and didn’t know how to drive. Mangiafico’s mother and father met at work when his father was a sailor in the Navy. Mangiafico’s parents had five children together. His mother learned English on her own while raising her children, Mangiafico said.

“She was a big inspiration of mine,” Mangiafico said. “She was the driving force behind the restaurant.”

He said the idea was based on her legacy as a quiet woman, who spent a lot of time behind the stove while raising five children, supporting her husband and not being able to drive.

“She was a quiet hero,” he said, adding that she passed away at age 96 in 2017.

Some of the recipes at the restaurant are his mother’s recipes, Mangiafico said.

Marc Mangiafico was Zina’s grandson. He said that when he was little, he used to stand on a stool and watch his grandmother cook.

“That’s kind of how I got into cooking,” Marc Mangiafico said. “I’ve always loved it.”

He said his cooking career started in high school, when he became a dishwasher. He then went to Johnson & Wales University. He said he has traveled and worked in a variety of restaurants across the country including some promi-



From left to right Tony, Margaret and Marc Mangiafico are part of the team at Zina’s Cucina, a new Italian restaurant in Marlborough. The restaurant’s name is in honor of Tony’s mother, and some of the menu items were her own original recipes.

nent ones.

“I became like a fix-it; when restaurants were in trouble I would come and reorganize it, I would redesign the menu to the demographic,” Marc Mangiafico said.

He said he is glad his uncle is honoring his grandmother through the restaurant. He said his grandmother was the “happiest lady” he ever met.

“She could never look at me and not laugh,” Marc Mangiafico said.

He said he not only loves the concept of the restaurant, but he enjoys working with his uncle and aunt, Margaret Mangiafico.

“My aunt knows my grandmother’s recipes,” Marc Mangiafico said. “She cooked alongside Zina. So it’s really nice. I see my grandmother in my aunt so much.”

“I hope we honor her well,” Marc Mangiafico continued. “I hope she’s looking down on us, I hope she’s proud of me.”

The restaurant is take-out only for the moment. Right now, the team is focusing on re-

fining the take-out business so that when they open up for dine in, take-out will be solid, Tony Mangiafico said.

He said he started to plan for the restaurant before the pandemic and decided to open the business because when he posted something about it on the Marlborough, CT Happenings and Community Facebook page, he received an “overwhelming response.”

“Everybody was excited,” Mangiafico said.

He said he feels “great” he was able to open his business and added that the community’s response is even “stronger” now than before the opening.

“People love the food, the originality of it,” he said.

Mangiafico said something he likes about his business model is that he and his team are transparent about how they prepare the food. The kitchen area and ingredients are exposed “so that people can see exactly what’s going on in the kitchen.”

The restaurant is open Tuesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., and is closed on Sundays.

To learn more about the business, please email www.zinascucina.com or call 860-365-5940.

Congregational Church News

The Sunday worship service at the Marlborough Congregational Church is livestreamed every Sunday at 10 a.m. through the church website, mcc.marlconchurch.org, and follows the usual order of Sunday worship.

Weekly participants include church pastor the Rev. Bob Faulhaber, Carolyn Brodgerski, organist Dave Mulligan, and other musicians and participants from the church and community. A Message for the Children by Christian Education/Junior Youth Director Gwen Lawson is given immediately following the worship service.

The fourth Sunday of Advent will be celebrated Dec. 20 at 10 a.m. The Rev. Bob Faulhaber will lead worship. His sermon title is “How Words Becoming Flesh,” based on John 1:1-14. During the four Sundays in Advent a ceremony of lighting the Advent wreath candles with

words of hope, joy, love and peace takes place during the worship service.

Sunday services are recorded and available for viewing on the church website later that same day. All previous worship services can be viewed through the webpage.

Christmas Eve: Worship will be live online at 8 p.m. through mcc.marlconchurch.org. Weather permitting, the community is invited to a Christmas Eve candle-lighting in front of the church at 9:30 p.m., featuring the singing of “Silent Night” performed by a church musician. Masks are required.

Phone messages are checked at Faulhaber’s direct line at 860-295-0432 and at the church office at 860-295-9050.

Second Blessings Thrift Shop is planning to reopen in April, but is selling on eBay. New items are listed each week at bit.ly/MCCebay.

Police News

12/7: State Police said Gabriel Orozco, 27, of Vernon, was arrested and charged for driving under the influence and with a suspended license.

12/11: State Police said Jennifer Marcaurel, 44, of 7 Main St., Apt. 1 A, East Hampton, was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and violation of protective order.

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Marlborough Coat Drive
 All are asked to donate clean gently-used or new coats and hats/scarves/mittens this holiday season. The Marlborough Democratic Town Committee is accepting coats outside of the Old Country Store at The Shops at Marlborough Barn on North Main Street and outside of the old Dunkin’ Donuts.
 Items will be donated to the Marlborough Food Bank and overflow will be sent to other charitable organizations.

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St. John Fisher Church News & Notes

St. John Fisher Roman Catholic Church is located at 30 Jones Hollow Rd. The Rev. Thomas J. Sas is pastor, John McKaig is deacon and the pastoral assistant is Holly Bangham. The church office can be reached at 860-295-0001 or. For more information, visit www.stjfisher.org, or look for the church on Facebook (Saint John Fisher Roman Catholic Church) or Twitter (@StJohnFisher_CT).

Weekend Masses: 4 p.m. Saturday and 9:30 a.m. Sunday. Wearing of masks required. A maximum of 44 parishioners is able to attend each Mass; pre-registration required (on the church website via a live link available Thursday mornings). Contact the parish office with questions.

Weekday Mass: Tuesday and Thursday at 8:30 a.m. Appropriate spatial distancing and use of masks are required and disinfectants will be provided.

Online Mass: Each weekend's Mass is also available on the parish website, starting at 4 p.m. Saturdays.

Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Face-to-face office visits are limited due to COVID-19 regulations. Call before heading over or connect via the phone.

Youth Faith Formation Programs: There are currently virtual classes and continued outreach; grades 1-8 should contact Faith Formation Coordinator Theresa Brysgel at 860-830-2194 or tbrysgel@stjfisher.org, and Confirmation Grades 9-10 should contact Confirmation Director Jen O'Neill at oneill.jen@comcast.net.

Youth Group and Youth Leadership "Teen

Emmaus": High school students continue virtual meetings and connections. Contact O'Neill or information.

Adult Faith Formation: Contact O'Neill for information on program offerings and virtual opportunities.

RCIA and Adult Confirmation Programs: For more information, contact RCIA Coordinator James Castellani at jcast@stjfisher.org or 860-295-9904.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Sundays, 4-4:45 p.m. Appropriate spatial distancing and use of masks are required and disinfectants will be provided.

Knights of Columbus: All practicing Catholic men are invited to contact Michael Schadtle at 860-295-9701 for information about joining this international charitable and service fraternity.

Community Outreach and Service: Bring food or household donations directly to Marlborough Food Bank Monday and Tuesday mornings; sandwich-making and collection continues on the last Thursday of the month for St. Vincent DePaul in Middletown; and the Community Garden to benefit the Marlborough Food Bank is underway. Other service opportunities are scheduled monthly; see the church website for more details.

Someone in Need: If you or someone you know is in need, whether it be someone to talk to, someone to pray with, or anything else that you think the church could help with, reach out to Sas at 860-295-0067 or McKaig at 860-918-4084. You can also email McKaig at dcn.john@cox.net.

Honor Roll

The following local students made the honor roll at Howell Cheney Technical High School for the first quarter of the 2020-21 school year:

High Honors

Logan Kolakowski, Grade Nine.

Honors

Ryan Martins, Grade Nine; Talan Shaye Stockburger, Grade Nine.

Christmas Tree Sales

The East Glastonbury Fish and Game Club will sell Christmas trees this Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 19 and 20, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. each day. The club is located on Planeta Road in Marlborough, just off West Road.

All trees are \$30. Cut your own or ask for assistance. There will be members present to help you cut and load your tree. For more information, visit www.egfg.org.

'Virtual Giving Tree' for Food Bank

Marlborough Food Bank is looking to help local families and seniors who are currently struggling financially this holiday season, via a "Virtual Giving Tree."

Due to COVID-19 concerns, the lobby of Marlborough's Liberty Bank will be closed through the holidays. In lieu of the Liberty Bank Giving Tree, a "Virtual Giving Tree" has been established. If interested in making a donation, email Marlborough Food Bank at MFBXMAS@gmail.com. The food bank will help to match you with the wishes of a senior or family.

The food bank said gift cards for local grocery stores, restaurants, Walmart, Target, etc., as well as gas cards, are always welcome.



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Obituaries

Colchester

Charles Price

On Monday, Nov. 30, Charles "Skip" Price suddenly and unexpectedly passed away.

Born in Kansas City, Mo., and longtime resident of Colchester, Skip was a great and loving man that was a movie star stuntman when he was young and then the next great stunt he pulled off was being the greatest father to his two children he leaves behind, Brook and Taylor Price. He was also a beloved grandfather to Havanna Price, the daughter of Taylor and son-in-law Alexis Castanon. He was also a great father and grandfather to his wife Joyce Price's children, Daniel, Allen, Sara, Lindsay and Jeffery DiCicco, and their children.

He was the son of Charles Price and Mary Sue Price Napier and brother of Michael Price that he joins in heaven; his sister, Kathy Heman of Missouri, he also leaves behind. He was friends throughout his whole life with Gary and Lori Huckins of Nevada and Rick Lamar of Missouri.

Skip lived the fullest of lives starring in movies, hanging with celebrities, surfing, jumping off buildings, walking on wings of a plane – you name it he did it. Skip has always lived life in the fast lane and he will always be loved and remembered by everyone he ever embraced with his presence.

Services will be held private with family and may be delayed due to COVID-19.



Colchester

Aldene Bauchmann

Aldene Mary (Liedke) Bauchmann, longtime resident of Colchester, passed away peacefully at her home in Altamont, N.Y., Monday, Nov. 30. She was born to the late Aldene and Harold Liedke May 15, 1935.

Aldene (Deane) grew up in Meriden and later attended UConn, earning her bachelor's degree in nursing in 1957. Deane married Donald K. Bauchmann (deceased in 2011) on Sept. 22, 1962, shortly thereafter moving to Colchester. It was there she resided for nearly 50 years, raising her family in the community she always considered home.

Deane had an adventurous spirit, always planning activities and outings, belonging to numerous clubs and organizations. She greatly loved her life in Colchester, and was blessed to have such grand friendships which she deeply cherished. Deane had a love for reading and was involved with Cragin Memorial Library for much of her time in Colchester. She was an avid traveler reaching many international travel locations as far away as China and Egypt. Deane also enjoyed kayaking adventures, playing bridge and being with those she loved.

Aldene is survived by: a daughter and son-in-law, Jennifer and Paul Betancourt of Altamont, N.Y.; a son and daughter-in-law, Peter and Mary Bauchmann of Old Lyme; four grandchildren, Belen, Alec, Max and Kate. She is also survived by niece, Dena; nephews, Ed and Don; and their families. And, she is survived by many loyal and good friends, especially Gail, Nan and Lynn.

Aldene will be laid to rest at the Connecticut Veterans Cemetery in Middletown with her late husband.

If friends desire, contributions in her memory may be made to Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave, Colchester, CT 06415.

Portland

Thomas Alexander Jensen

Thomas Alexander Jensen, beloved son and brother, passed away Sunday, Dec. 13.

He was the son of Alexander and Monica Jensen of Portland, and brother to Sarah and her husband Nathan Grover of Portland and to Rose Jensen and her husband, Warren Amidon of Southington. He dearly loved his nephew and niece, Jack and Vivian Grover, and was looking forward to meeting his new nephew in the spring. He also leaves his grandmother, Joan Richard of South Bend, Indiana, and aunts, uncles, and cousins across the country.

Tom was born June 27, 1987, and grew up in Portland. He was a Cub Scout, played Little League and CYO Basketball and was a member of the Portland High School golf team. He



graduated Portland High School in 2005 and Central Connecticut State University in 2010. He worked for many years in landscaping and golf course maintenance. He loved cars, was an avid Patriots fan, and seemingly, had a *Seinfeld* reference for any occasion. He had many dear and lifelong friends who have been lifelines for him. We will miss his sense of humor and golden heart.

Services will be private.

For those wishing to make a memorial contribution please consider giving to Educated Canines Assisting with Disabilities at ecad1.org, an organization that has been important for his niece, Vivian.

Hebron

David J. Wrobel

David J. Wrobel, 52, of Hebron, died Sunday, Nov. 29, at New York Presbyterian Hospital-Columbia in New York, where he was courageously awaiting a lung transplant due to his long battle with pulmonary hypertension. He was born in New Britain Sept. 18, 1968, to Joseph and Mary (Czajka) Wrobel.

Dave graduated from E.C. Goodwin Technical High School in New Britain and was united in marriage to Lorraine Davis May 4, 1996. Prior to his illness, he worked for many years at Tilcon as a driver of mixer and quarry trucks. Dave was an avid National Dragster photographer and fan; he and his camera never missed a race in his coverage area. One of Dave's greatest loves was his '68 Mustang convertible that he restored, but his real true love was that of his family and spending time with his kids.

Dave will be sorely missed by Lorraine Wrobel, his loving wife of 24 years, and their children Ethan and Emma of Hebron; his mother, Mary Wrobel of New Britain; his brothers, Alan Wrobel and wife Karen of Seminole, Fla., and Walter Wrobel of New Britain; his sister, Marilyn Labieniec and husband John of Berlin; nieces and nephews, Daniel, Sarah, Matthew and Jeremy Labieniec, Amanda Mistretta, and Alan and Nicole Wrobel.

He was predeceased by his father, Joseph Wrobel.

Walk-through calling hours were held Saturday, Dec. 12, at Belmont Funeral Home LLC, 144 S. Main St., Colchester. Funeral services were private for the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Dave's name may be made to the Connecticut Humane Society.

Visit www.belmontfh.com for condolences.

Portland

Leon Roy Case II

Leon Roy Case II, 87, of Cromwell, formerly of Portland, passed away Thursday, Dec. 10, at Pilgrim Manor in Cromwell. He was the devoted husband of the late Marilyn R. (Peterson) Case.

After earning a degree in mathematics from Wesleyan, Leon began his career at the start of both the space age and the computer age. From 1956-58, he served in the U.S. Army at the Ballistic Missile Agency in Huntsville, Ala., programming early computers to track aircraft and launch the first U.S. satellite, Explorer I.

He then progressed through a 35-year career creating efficient and effective data systems for General Electric, Travelers, and Aetna. He also shared his computer skills as a graduate school teacher, a volunteer in the Portland schools, and as the sometime accountant and administrator of his church. He also helped his wife Marilyn develop computer systems for the Middlesex Memorial School of Nursing.

Leon had a love of music and a talent for song. He was a longtime member of the choir at Bethany Lutheran Church in Cromwell. He performed for many years as Matthew in the traveling musical *The Last Supper*, and even performed for a few years in a barbershop chorus. In his later years, one of his greatest joys was watching his grandchildren perform in their school musicals.

Leon is survived by his son, Douglas C. Case and daughter-in-law Andrea G. Case of Wayland, Mass.; two grandchildren, Jack Case and Renée Case; a sister, Virginia Parkin of Mattituck, N.Y.; and many nieces and their families.



A private interment will be in the Swedish Cemetery in Portland.

In lieu of flowers, donation in Leon's name can be made to the Covenant Village Benevolent Fund, 52 Missionary Road, Cromwell, CT 06457.

To share memories or send condolences to the family, please visit www.doolittlefuneralservice.com.

Colchester

Pearl Anita Epstein

Pearl Anita Epstein, "Hannah Perl," passed away Wednesday, Dec. 9, at Harrington Court in Colchester. Born Aug. 3, 1932, in Hartford, she was a daughter of the late Jacob and Lilyan (Friedman) Berkowitz.

In 1950, Pearl graduated from Bacon Academy as the valedictorian of her class. After her graduation, Pearl proudly followed her father into the real estate business. She was a licensed real estate broker for over 50 years and co-founded the Epstein Agency, a residential/commercial real estate company that was headquartered in Colchester, with her husband Morris.

Pearl was a loving wife and mother who was known for her cooking and baking skills. Above all else, she always put her family first and treated strangers with kindness.

Pearl will be forever loved and remembered by her husband, Morris Epstein of Colchester, her son Jeffrey (Marlene) Epstein of Colchester, daughter Lori (Joshua) Plaut of Martha's Vineyard, Mass.; sister, Sally Zubow of California; her grandchildren, Carrie Epstein of Colchester and Jonas Plaut of Massachusetts; and numerous extended family and friends.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her sisters, Gertrude Cohen and Joan Paskow.

Graveside services were held Friday, Dec. 11, directly at the Jewish Aid Cemetery located on Gillette's Lane in Colchester.

The Epstein family would like to express a heartfelt thank you to the clinical and administrative staff at Harrington Court for their level of compassion and care that they showed to Pearl during her stay.

For online condolences, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

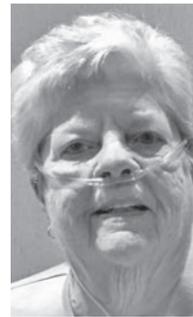
Andover

Judith H. Vezina

Judith H. Vezina, 79, of Columbia, passed away Wednesday, Nov. 25, at home, with family by her side. Judy was born Feb. 5, 1941, in Hartford, to Thomas and Mary (Kelly) Henry. She moved to Andover in 1953 and was a member of the first graduating class of RHAM High School in 1958, where she met her future husband, Alfred Vezina, also of Andover.

Judy graduated LPN school in 1963, and became an RN in 1965, graduating from the Ona May Wilcox School of Nursing in Middletown. She later completed her bachelor's degree in psychology at Eastern Connecticut State University. Al and Judy were married in August 1962 and moved to Columbia in 1964.

Judy worked at Windham Hospital in many nursing capacities from the mid-1960s to 1992, retiring as acting vice president of nursing. She



then worked another 10 years at United Health-care as a nurse lead/care coordinator, until her retirement in 2002.

All things family were Judy's passions. A longtime boating family, her grandchildren were essentially raised on the water. The family enjoyed 20 years on Old Hatte, a 42-foot Hatteras yacht, and spent their summers in Westerly, R.I. Boating, the ocean air, and the sea will forever be in her grandchildren's blood. Although she did not have the best of health in retirement, through mental strength, perseverance and sheer will, she lived her life to its fullest with family by her side.

She always lived her life with purpose; however, her most important one was to see her precious granddaughters grow into the young women that she loved fiercely and could not be prouder of. Attending plays, competitions, recitals and school events, in addition to holidays and family traditions, she was proudly and affectionately there.

She is survived by her daughter, Sharon (Vezina) Kandro and her husband, Rob Kandro of Portland; her son, Scott Vezina and his wife Felicia (Smith) Vezina of Columbia; and her four granddaughters whom she adored, Jenna Vezina, Regan Vezina, Adriana Kandro and Veronica Kandro. In addition, she is survived by her sister, Kathleen (Henry) Muldowney and her husband James Muldowney of Raleigh, N.C.; her sister, Mary Lou (Henry) Peters and her husband Nicholas Peters of Brookfield; her sister-in-law, Pauline (Vezina) Marin and her husband Arthur Marin of South Royalton, Vt.; and many loving nieces, nephews and extended family.

She was predeceased by her husband of 52 years, Alfred Vezina; her father, Thomas Henry; her mother, Mary (Kelly) Henry; her sister, Sheila (Henry) Seeley; her brother-in-law, John Seeley; and her nephew, Sean Muldowney.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to the staff of Windham and Hartford hospitals for the care that they have provided over the years. There are so many people who deserve recognition for the love and support that they have provided for Judy and her family and Sharon and Scott would like to acknowledge a few special people that we cannot overstate our gratitude for: Felicia Vezina, Rob Kandro and Betsy Stockmal. In her final years, Mom had a quality of life that we could not have provided her without you.

A celebration of her life will be planned at a later date.

Donations in Judy's memory can be made to the Saxton B. Little Free Library, 319 Route 87, Columbia, CT 06237.

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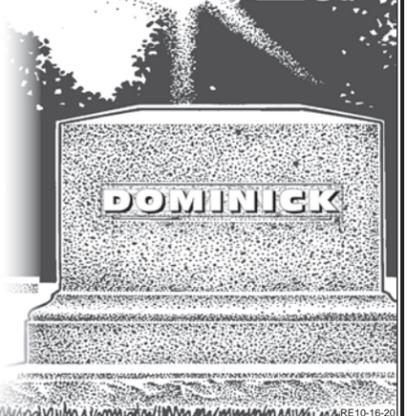
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Reader Forum • Reader Forum

★ *Letters cont. from page 4*

mune cells mounting an attack that may sicken people. “With the vaccine, you will have antibodies to protect you from a new infection,” I said. My daughter seems to understand, saying, “Like a flu shot?”

But to reach this simple truth, it took my friend, Dr. Katalin Karico, among others, many decades. I was excited to read about how Dr. Karico’s key technology of modifying RNAs enabled the COVID-19 vaccine’s “spectacular success,” according to the *Washington Post* (see <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2020/12/06/covid-vaccine-messenger-mrna/>).

I got to know Katalin when I just started my postdoctoral training where she was an established biochemist. I was the lucky recipient of her two favorite topics, RNAs and her daughter, who was competing to become a U.S. Olympian for rowing. What I did not fully grasp at the time was her struggle in getting support for her science (see tinyurl.com/y9dykeyu). I cherished the fact that she was in the lab helping junior scientists but not in “fancy” faculty meetings that she was often omitted. Despite failures in the early stages of the technology, Katalin persisted, and now her discovery may well save millions of lives.

“My daughter cooks breakfast for herself since 9; I spend too much time in the lab and no time for her,” I remembered the pride in Katalin’s face. May the triumphs of both scientific discovery and her personal story inspire future generations of scientists.

Min Schomer – Marlborough

Liberal Drivel Returns

To the Editor:

Wow, was I wrong! Last week I lamented the lack of liberal drivel in the *Rivereast* following Grandpa Joe’s orchestrated victory, and then all hell broke loose! All the political science (and virology) experts contributed commentary last week. It was like Halloween for a bunch of politically adolescent nose-miners. Prior to writing their letters, they all tuned into CNN’s 24-hour “dashboard of death” to get into the right frame of mind and pontificate about impending planetary demise. Nothing says “liberal” like melancholy, doom, and despair. And, of course, fabrication, hyperbole and vitriol. I’m curious how many of the liberal letter writers have missed a paycheck during the pandemic? I think we all know who was hoarding toilet paper back in April and May.

It’s comical listening to liberals whine about Trump making “baseless” allegations regarding voter fraud when we now know that Russian collusion was the biggest frame in the history of American politics. And what’s even more comical is an impeachment based on a phone call allegedly requesting information about inappropriate foreign financial activities of the Biden crime family, only to find out there is evidence and a witness to support such activity. If it weren’t for double standards, liberals would have no standards. And thanks to the Democrat flying monkeys known as the media, information can be cultivated and shaped to push a desired agenda. After the past four years of relentless liberal rhetoric, did anyone really think the Democrats would lose this election? Ask yourself: Do you think the media would have downplayed Don Jr.’s laptop?

When the history of America is written, it will reflect everything that privileged liberal power-mongers deem appropriate, and little of the facts and truth that made America a destination for those looking for a better quality of life.

Regards,
Ed Kozlowski – Colchester

Thank You, Hebron!

To the Editor:

Our SnoFolk Project is installed and the response from Hebron has been an overwhelmingly thumbs up. Thank you to all my fellow artists: Caleb Greenleaf, Paul Hanusch, Maggie Kendis, Shannon-MacGrogan-Ellis, Christiane O’Brian, Ruth Reinwald and Jordan Summerer for their hard work, and talent in making Hebron’s town center more beautiful and interesting as we face the long winter months ahead. We will be awarding prizes selected by our panel of judges (Gail Hughes, Michele Sinkez and myself) that will be announced shortly. We are also awarding a “People’s Choice” prize, vote your personal favorite on our website. <https://www.thetowncenterproject.org/snofolk>.

This project would not have happened without Todd Habicht and Stu Alexander, who spent hours turning Styrofoam balls into the three-stage SnoFolk. Holly Habicht, Sara Lemire and Kaitlin Hershey (Waxwing Design) have kept interest in this project alive with tantalizing

posts on Facebook, flyers and publicity.

We are grateful for the support of The Peridot Foundation and The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, they did the heavy lifting to make this project possible. It is gratifying to see the positive response this effort has received from Hebron’s residents.

If you like what TTCP is doing to enliven Hebron’s downtown: Make Music Day, July 4th Celebration, Adirondack Chairs, Summer Concerts (pre- and post-COVID), and coming back in 2021, Harvest Moon Celebration, and want to see more activities, events and art installations, please consider supporting us with your donation or even better, your time. We are a volunteer organization and none of what we do happens without our friends and neighbors stepping up to make it so.

Write us at ttcp@thetowncenterproject.org or mail your contribution to The Town Center Project, Inc. P.O. Box 153, Hebron, CT 06248.

Judith Podell, President
The Town Center Project (TTCP)

Ignorant or Spiteful?

To the Editor:

I don’t know if Ellen Kraemer is merely wallowing in ignorance or being deliberately spiteful.

1. “Children in cages” was begun by Obama as proven by 2015 photos and Biden’s admission.

2. “Insulted Gold Star families” was a lie made up out of whole cloth and contradicted by approximately 40 witnesses.

3. “Insulted reporters” – they did most of the insulting, of his family as well, and spent four years refusing to report on Trump’s accomplishments and calling him every derogatory thing they could dream up. They also diligently hid any hint of the financial scandal about to break over the whole Biden family. Whatever “insults” Trump aimed at reporters and their employers were not insults because they were true.

4. “Repealing the ACA” – that plan was founded on Obama’s repeated lies and would have been replaced with something actually planned by doctors rather than a community organizer had it not been for bitter, jealous Senator McCain. He put personal pique over country.

5. “Covid-19” (better named the China virus) – even Biden has admitted that Trump did all the right things, while he stridently opposed them at the time.

We would all be better off if everyone realized that the mainstream media are now nothing but the publicity wing of the Democratic Party. Every voter has the duty to check all sources of information so as to be fully informed before casting his vote.

George Kitchin – Andover

Out of Touch – Again

To the Editor:

During my campaign this past year, I had the great experience of meeting so many wonderful people. While we were all very concerned about the health of our friends and families, there was also an overwhelming angst about Connecticut’s high taxes and poor business climate. As a small business owner, I can relate to both of these issues, and these are reasons I chose to run for state Senate.

Since March, nearly 600 restaurants have closed, and other businesses are facing shut-downs. These businesses employ our friends and neighbors. These small business owners have risked capital and invested all they have, now only to shut their doors – just devastating. To make matters worse, the decisions made under the golden dome in Hartford continue to add costs and burdens at this unprecedented time.

On Jan. 1, 2021, most in Connecticut will pay more taxes as the new paid leave law goes into effect. Legislators, many of whom have never had to make payroll, created the Connecticut Paid Leave Authority, which will oversee this boondoggle. The program as written is ripe for fraud and abuse, with the standards for claiming leave being incredibly lenient. I am proud that my business offers a combination of paid leave and disability benefits to our employees already. Yet, we are forced to enroll in this new program. My employees and their families are going to see less money in their paychecks. They will have no ability to access this money until maybe 2022.

Gov. Lamont had the opportunity to halt this new tax, but chose not to. Our Democratic lawmakers, like Sen. Osten, a former SEIU leader, who voted for this bill in 2019, are out of touch. One group that is exempt from this law is that of unionized state employees – how convenient for them.

Steve Weir – Hebron

Membership Drive

To the Editor:

As a volunteer at the Marlborough Arts Center (MAC), I want to take this opportunity to remind you of the Membership Drive taking place now. All of the “particulars” can be found at the website marlborougharts.org.

Marlborough is blessed to have an arts center within its community. This is a nonprofit organization started and maintained by a group of tireless volunteers who do so because they believe in the arts and in the community. Located on attractive grounds at 231 North Main St., MAC provides this community as well as surrounding communities the opportunity to enjoy the arts. From musical events (4th Fridays at the Café’, concerts by the local elementary school, outdoor concerts, etc.), classes in various art forms taught by gifted artists, art shows for local youth, and so much more, people can enjoy a variety of arts right in their neighborhood.

What makes this place tick? You do! It’s people willing to make a small donation to become members that allow MAC to survive, to thrive, and to deliver quality artistic endeavors to the community for all to enjoy.

There are many of you who renew every year. There are many who have joined and renewed over the years but skipped a year or two here or there. Then there is a group of you who started off as members but for some reason haven’t renewed in a while. Well, we have one message for you: we want you back!

Won’t you consider joining/renewing today? It’s affordable, it’s easy, and it will make you feel a sense of pride in helping an integral part of your community stay afloat.

Download your membership form, pay with Pay Pal or by check, and feel that good feeling in your heart for helping to support a local organization.

Thank you!

Debbie Bourbeau – Marlborough

Note: Bourbeau is a member of the Marlborough Board of Finance, but said she is speaking as an individual.

Democrats’ Stupidity

To the Editor:

I’ve always wondered what level of stupidity was required to vote Democrat. But those responding to my last letter put that on full display. Disavowing the blatant fraud in this election is mind-blowing, but it can’t be seen if you’re unwilling to look, which they either refuse or are incapable of doing. In actuality, they probably condone/ignore the fraud because it served their cause.

This election was stolen in plain sight. Trump’s 74 million votes eclipsed Obama’s previous record of 69 million. And we’re to believe that Biden earned 80 million after refusing to leave his basement? Despite my quoting Biden’s exact words, one writer claims I took him out of context and demanded a source, while videos of it abound on the internet!

People rejoicing over Biden’s supposed victory don’t even realize what they voted for. They believe they’re going to be given student loan forgiveness, free college, free health care, and free everything. They’re too naive to recognize they won’t receive any of these. Nothing in life is free and they’ve been played.

Stalin called people like this “useful idiots.” After the tyrants they support gain power, they quickly become “useless idiots,” regarded as expendable and viewed as potential threats. They find themselves in even more dire circumstances than visible opponents.

Biden is only a placeholder for Harris and her puppet-masters. Hunter Biden’s laptop displaying massive treasonous corruption, initially censored and dismissed as Russian disinformation, is now emerging from the media’s blackout. If Biden wins, it will be used to depose him.

Every court has refused to even review any evidence of fraud, dismissing challengers as lacking standing. But now, conclusive evidence of foreign interference discovered in the Dominion voting machines is going to be de-legalizing. This isn’t yet over; buckle up!

Sam Prentice – Andover

Cover Story • Cover



Marlborough Town Clerk Lauren Griffin, left, said Nancy Dickson, right, has been an “amazing mentor.” Dickson officially retired last week, after more than 30 years of working for the town.

★ *Story cont. from page 1*

years of her kind and careful tutelage, she felt comfortable enough to turn her office over to me.”

Griffin said she was “sad” to see Dickson go. “She is a fixture around here,” Griffin said. “There is no way I can fill her shoes. But it is time for her to finally be on her own clock, and hopefully enjoy the benefits of a true retirement.”

Griffin described Dickson as “hilarious.” “She kept the tone of the office light,” Griffin said. “When I would get stressed or cranky, she would say something funny to get me out of my mood. And she is so very kind.”

The new assistant town clerk is Martha Lawton, and Dickson said she and Griffin both had been training her before Dickson’s final day on the job last week.

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LEGALS

TOWN OF PORTLAND PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Portland Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, January 7, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom to consider the following:

PZC Application #20-06: Request for Text Amendment to Zoning Regulations, Table 7.4.4 "Permitted Uses in Flood Plain Zone & Special Flood Hazard Areas" to allow dwellings in a Special Flood Hazard Area by Special Permit. Application of Frank Magnotta, P.E.

At this hearing interested persons may appear and be heard and written communications will be received. A copy of this application is available for review on the Town of Portland Website: www.portlandct.org

Dated at Portland, CT. this 8th day of December 2020
Robert Ellsworth, Chairman

1TB 12/18

LEGAL NOTICE MARLBOROUGH ZONING COMMISSION NOTICE OF ACTION

The Marlborough Zoning Commission at its meeting of December 3 2020, took the following action:

APPLICATION ACCEPTED; PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED:

Application #Z-12-20 Special Permit - Bill G. Jonbalaj (Applicant) 21 Austin - HGB LLC (Property Owner) - South Main Street (Between 11 & 19 South Main Street) & Johnson Road - Village Cluster Residential Planned Development.

A public hearing is scheduled for February 4, 2021.

AMMENDMENT APPROVED:

Amendment to Article 6.B.4 Accessory Buildings. Effective date of January 1, 2021.

APPLICATION WITHDRAWN:

Application #Z-04-20 -Special Permit - Bill G. Jonbalaj (Applicant) 21 Austin - HGB LLC (Property Owner) - South Main Street (Between 11 & 19 South Main Street) & Johnson Road - Village Cluster Residential Planned Development.

APPLICATION APPROVED:

Amendment to article 6.B.4 Accessory Buildings.

APPLICATION CONTINUED; SITE WALK SCHEDULED:

Application #Z-11-20 - Mirabito Holdings Connecticut LLC/ Brett Hughes (applicant/property owner) 12 West Rd - Construction of a propane distribution facility. A site walk is scheduled for Thursday, December 10th at 4:00 pm.

KEVIN ASKLAR, ZONING COMMISSION CHAIR
Dated at Marlborough, CT this 10th day of December.

1TB 12/18

TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH LEGAL NOTICE

All persons liable to pay the second installment for Real Estate, Personal Property, Motor Vehicle and the first installment for the Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax to the Town of Marlborough as levied on the October 1, 2019 Grand List are hereby notified the taxes are due and payable on January 1, 2021 and will be delinquent February 2, 2021. The mill rate for the 2019 Grand List is 36.27. Delinquent bills shall be subject to interest of 18% per year (1.5% per month). Minimum interest is \$2.00.

Tax payments may be paid at the Tax Collector's Office, 26 North Main St., Marlborough, CT or by mail to Tax Collector, PO Box 29, Marlborough, CT 06447. Checks are to be made out to the Town of Marlborough. The Tax Collector's hours are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Tuesday 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Friday 8:30 a.m. to 12 Noon. Tax Payments can be paid on-line at www.marlbroughct.net with MasterCard, Visa or ACH (automatic checking). A Drop Box to the left of the main door to the Town Hall is available for payments or the Tax Collector window.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barbara C. Murray, CCMC
Tax Collector

3TB 12/18, 1/8, 1/22

LEGAL NOTICE MARLBOROUGH CONSERVATION COMMISSION NOTICE OF ACTION

The Marlborough Conservation Commission at its meeting of December 7, 2020, took the following action:

APPLICATION APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS:

Application #12-20 - Mirabito Holdings Connecticut LLC/ Brett Hughes (applicant/property owner) 12 West Rd - Construction of a propane distribution facility.

APPLICATION APPROVED:

Application #13-20 - Mr. Marcus Wilkinson (applicant/property owner) 69 Lakeridge - stonewall repair on waterfront property. The application is continued until December 7, 2020.

APPLICATION CONTINUED:

Application #14-20 - Gordon Sime (applicant/property owner) Pettengill Vacant Lot - Construction of a single family house within 30' of marked wetland area. The application is continued until January 4, 2021.

APPLICATION CONTINUED; SITE WALK SCHEDULED:

Application #16-20 - Bill G. Jonbalaj (Applicant) 21 Austin - HGB LLC (Property Owner) South Main Street (Between 11 & 19 South Main Street) & Johnson Road - Special Permit - Village Cluster Residential Planned Development. A site walk is scheduled for 10am on Saturday, December 19th.

Dated at Marlborough, CT this 16th day of December.
MARLBOROUGH CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Yvonne Bolton, Chair

1TB 12/18

TOWN OF COLCHESTER LEGAL NOTICE

The Historic District Commission will hold a virtual public hearing on December 21, 2020, at 7:00 P.M. to hear and consider the following petitions:

1. Town Green Improvement Project - Certificate of Appropriateness (2020-02) - To implement the improvements of the Community Connectivity Program grant including renovation of the main path, erection of a new bus shelter and installation of new lights, benches and trash receptacles on the Town Green.

At this hearing interested persons may be heard and written communications received. A copy of this petition is in the Planning and Zoning Department, Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, and may be inspected during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday).

Historic District Commission
Ellen Sharon, Chair

2TB 12/11, 12/18

TOWN OF PORTLAND INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION

At the December 14, 2020 regular meeting, the Inland Wetlands Commission took the following action:

Approved Application #20-01: 179 Ames Hollow Road. Request for a 3 lot subdivision. Application of Michael Roy. Property of M&R Custom Homes LLC. Assessor's Map 42 Lot 7-1. Zone RR.

Approved Application #20-02: 1200 Main Street (CT Route 17A). Request for a picnic facility and related improvements. Application of 321 LLC. Property of 321 LLC. Assessor's Map 75, Lot 7.

Dated in Portland, CT. this 15th day of December 2020
Richard Morin, Chairman
Inland Wetlands Commission

1TB 12/18

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF COLCHESTER ATTENTION COLCHESTER TAXPAYERS

Notice is hereby given to the Town of Colchester taxpayers that Motor Vehicle Supplemental taxes and the second installment of Real Estate taxes on the Grand List of October 1, 2019 are due and payable on January 1, 2021. The second installment bill for Real Estate taxes was included with the Real Estate tax bill due on July 1, 2020. No additional bills for the second installment for Real Estate taxes will be mailed.

Taxes not paid in full on or before February 1, 2021 become delinquent and are subject to interest at the rate of 1 1/2% per month or 18% annum, from the due date of the tax, as required by Conn. Gen. Stat. 12-130,145 and 146. Mail postmarked (US Postal Service postmark only) on or before February 1, 2021 will be considered as having been paid on time. **Payments dropped in the town hall's drop box after 4:30p.m. on February 1, 2021, will be considered as having been made on the following business day and will be deemed as paid late.**

Failure to receive a tax bill does not invalidate the tax or any interest charged should the tax become delinquent. If you did not receive a bill and think you should please contact the office immediately. Conn Gen Stat. 12-130

Please make all checks payable to the Town of Colchester. Checks may be mailed to Tax Office, 127 Norwich Avenue Colchester, CT, 06415. If a receipt is desired, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope and two copies of the bill. Pay on-line by visiting our website www.colchesterct.gov; online payments are subject to convenience fees. Hours of collection are Monday - Wednesday and Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm; Thursday 8:30am- 7pm. Questions concerning tax payments should be directed to the Tax Office, (860) 537-7210.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michele Wyatt, C.C.M.C.
Tax Collector
Town of Colchester

3TB 12/18, 1/8, 1/22



EMPLOYMENT

Parks Maintainer/Maintainer I

The Town of East Hampton Parks and Recreation Department is accepting applications for the full-time position of Parks Maintainer/Maintainer I. This position performs a wide variety of manual labor tasks in the construction, installation, repair and maintenance of parks, grounds, and recreational areas and facilities. Applicants must have knowledge and experience in the safe operation of equipment, including manual shift trucks, towing trailers with equipment, hand and riding mowers, hand and power tools, trimmers, paint machines and other equipment used in maintenance of municipal facilities, turf, athletic fields, recreational areas, etc. Custodial duties and snow removal included. Must hold a valid Connecticut driver's license, with clean driving record, and be in good physical condition.

This is a bargaining unit position. Starting hourly rate is \$18.89. 40-hour workweek, overtime as required, plus benefit package. Job description and employment application available at www.easthamptonct.gov.

Interested candidates are required to send a cover letter along with a resume, and employment application to the Town of East Hampton, Department of Human Resources, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424, no later than January 3, 2021, or until filled. EOE/M-F/AA.

1TB 12/18

Volunteer. The Benefits Are Extraordinary!



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East Hartford facility -
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www.poainc.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAMINATING AVAILABLE AT THE CITIZEN: Protect your important documents, memorabilia, ID, Social Security, membership cards, photographs, menus, etc. **The Glastonbury Citizen.** Reasonable rates. Material laminated up to 18" wide. Call 633-4691 or visit the office at 87 Nutmeg Lane.



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CT 12/18/20

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EMPLOYMENT

HELP WANTED TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH PART TIME ASSESSOR AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

The Town of Marlborough is accepting applications or resumes for an appointed, non union position, Part Time Municipal Assessor for 24 hours/week. The duties include the valuing of all taxable property to establish the Grand List, including both real and personal property. Computer knowledge is required. The position requires a valid Connecticut Motor Vehicle operator's license and a Connecticut Municipal Assessor's Certificate. Five years municipal experience as an Assessor is required.

A Town of Marlborough Employment Application or resume must be submitted along with a copy of diplomas and documentation showing Connecticut Municipal Assessor's Certification. Contact the Town Clerk's office at 860-295-6206 for an application. Completed applications are to be submitted to the:

Town Clerk
P.O. Box 29
26 North Main Street
Marlborough, CT 06447

We consider applicants for all positions without regard to race, creed, religion, gender, national origin, age, disability, marital or veteran status, sexual orientation, or any other legally protected status.

4TB 12/18, 1/8, 1/15, 1/22

ADVERTISERS

The Glastonbury Citizen and The Rivereast News Bulletin will make every effort to see that all advertising copy is correctly printed. The publisher assumes no liability or financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertising, but will reprint, without charge, that part of an advertisement in which an error may occur, provided that a claim is made within 5 days of publication. The liability of the publisher on account of errors in or omissions from any advertisement will in no way exceed the amount of the charge for the space occupied by the item in error, and then only for the first incorrect insertion. Also, the publisher takes no responsibility for statements or claims made in any advertisement, and will upon request, reveal the name and address of the person or persons responsible for placing any display advertisement, political or otherwise, except for "blind" box ads. The Glastonbury Citizen Inc. reserves the right to reject advertisements which it deems unsuitable for its publications. Every effort will be made to verify the legitimacy and propriety of all ads for the protection of our readers. The Citizen will take requests for specific placement of ads and will try to accommodate everyone's requests. The Citizen cannot guarantee specific placement.

PART-TIME HOUSEKEEPER — FIRST SHIFT HOLIDAYS, WEEKENDS Assisted Living Community in Hebron CT

Looking for a compassionate housekeeper to work in our Senior Living Community

Perform cleaning duties to keep our building neat and clean according to management requirements.

Provide basic housekeeping including laundering and changing of bed sheets and towels, cleaning bathrooms and kitchens, dusting, mop and vacuum floors, etc.

Must be able to work as a team member with the housekeeping staff. A successful Housekeeper will have a heightened level of awareness and attention to detail.

Minimum qualifications:
One-year experience as a housekeeper.
Excellent working knowledge of cleaning procedures and proper use of cleaning agents.

High school diploma or GED certificate.
Please send resume to mcorso@colebrookvillage.com.

CT12/11-20

EMPLOYMENT

WELDER/FABRICATOR: Custom Sheet Metal Fabrication, light structural, min 5-10 yrs experience, steady work, good benefits. Call for interview. 860-828-3762

SHEET METAL MECHANICS, APPRENTICES & HELPERS: Steady work, good benefits. Call for interview. 860-828-3762

MECHANIC NEEDED FOR AUTO SHOP IN MIDDLETOWN under new ownership. ASE certification a plus but not required. Welding experience a plus. Must have your own tools. Immediate hire! Call George at 203-624-0105

HELP WANTED

Snow removal, snowblowing and shoveling. Equipment operator. Must have a valid and clean driver's license. Good Pay. **Thompson Landscape 860-659-1438**

East Hampton Public Schools is seeking Substitute Teachers.

Applicants must be over 18 years old with a High School Diploma or equivalent and have experience with school-age children. The position reports to the principal or designee at the location to which they are assigned and is responsible for providing instruction and managing the learning environment. The per diem rate is \$105.

Please apply on-line at <http://www.applitrack.com/east-hampton/onlineapp/>. For further information contact Mary Clark, mclark@easthamptonct.org.

The Town of East Hampton is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

3TB 12/18, 1/8, 1/15

To Advertise in The Riverast News Bulletin Real Estate Section Call 860-633-4691

CNA

for Assisted Living Community in Hebron CT

Looking to hire compassionate CNA's for an Upscale Senior Living Community. Third Shift Part Time and Full Time available.

You must enjoy working with senior citizens and giving outstanding customer service.

Must have a current Certified Nursing Assistant Certificate in accordance with state requirements.

Please send resume to mcorso@colebrookvillage.com. Competitive pay.

CIT12-11-20

Building Code and Enforcement Official

The Town of East Hampton is accepting applications for the full-time position of Building Code and Enforcement Official. This position is responsible for town-wide code inspection and compliance. It involves interpretation and application of the State Building Codes. The successful candidate will be an energetic, motivated, self-starting, customer-service-oriented individual, as well as a team player capable of leading a small office.

Extensive experience in building construction, including site preparations, building systems and mechanical systems, experience as an inspector or designer of building and construction or an equivalent combination of experience and training is required. Considerable ability to interpret state and local codes, regulations and ordinances including current CT building-related codes, A.D.A, zoning, etc. Must be licensed as a Building Official by the State of Connecticut within six (6) months of appointment. Must hold a valid Connecticut driver's license, with clean driving record, and be in good physical condition. Supervisory skills required.

This is a bargaining unit position. \$73,786 - \$86,807 per year commensurate with experience and education, plus benefit package. Job description and employment application available at www.easthamptonct.gov.

Interested candidates are required to send a cover letter along with a resume, and employment application to the Town of East Hampton, Department of Human Resources, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424, no later than January 8, 2021, or until filled. EOE/M-F/AA.

1TB 12/18

CDL Seasonal Heating Oil / Propane DELIVERY DRIVERS DANIELS ENERGY - PORTLAND, CT

"We need "SEASONAL" CDL drivers to be part of our Heating Oil and Propane Fleet"! "Our business is expanding and we need to expand our staff, so come join our Team"! Daniels Energy is a family owned company looking to hire SEASONAL CDL drivers with at least one year experience transporting liquid product. The right candidate would need to possess either a Class A or B driver's license and have HazMat and Tanker endorsements at the minimum.

Requirements: Professional, clean cut, and drug free. Pre-employment drug screening and background check required. Must be able to meet the requirements to possess a medical card. Valid Driver's License and good driving record a must. Excellent communication skills required. Ability to read, write, comprehend, and follow instructions. Ability to add, subtract, multiply and divide and compute rates.

We offer highly competitive pay based on level of driving experience.

Email resume to set up an appointment: DDetuccio@DanielsOil.com or ChrisM@DanielsOil.com

CIT10-29-20

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CIT12-20

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KREIGER LANE - Available Nov. 1, 1800 SF office - warehouse. Bathroom and overhead doors. 860-633-5469

Glastonbury Center - 2 Bdrm \$1,290 Inc. Heat / Hot water. Excellent condition. Large 2 bdrm; Lvg room; 1 bath; large kitchen, hardwood floors throughout. Private parking lot; laundry in building; large storage area. Heat and hot water included. Perfect for someone looking for an immaculate apartment. \$1,290/mo. 860-798-7403.

GLASTONBURY CENTER - 2 Bdrm \$1,390 Inc. Heat / Hot water. Excellent condition. Large 2 bdrm, Lvg room, 1 bath. Quartz, stainless and tiled kitchen. Hardwood floors throughout. Private parking lot; laundry in building; large storage area. Heat and hot water included. Perfect for someone looking for an immaculate apartment. \$1,390/mo. 860-798-7403.

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Wishing you a safe, happy holiday season and best wishes for 2021!

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Manchester \$199,900

Close to all the amenities! A truly move in home. 1325 s.f. 3 BR, 2 BA, & partially finished basement allows for future expansion. Fenced in back yard for furry friends and young ones. Seriously a nice home at a great price!



New Britain \$209,900

Just minutes from GCSU! A great opportunity to invest. 2 levels of rental opportunity! A property with beautiful woodwork and original details. You should take a look at this home if you are considering making an investment.



East Hartford \$179,900

Nice home in the south end of town near Glastonbury. 4 BR's. 1 Full Ba, kitchen w/ss appliances, c/air, newer mechanical updates, and paint. Great rear deck for outdoor entertaining. Close to shopping & schools.



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Roderic "Mac" McCorrison, Broker



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If anyone refused to rent to you because of your source of income, race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, religion, marital status, age, disability or because you have children, you may have been the victim of illegal housing discrimination. Contact the Connecticut Fair Housing Center.



REAL ESTATE



THE FUTURE OF REAL ESTATE



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hilaryculver@gmail.com



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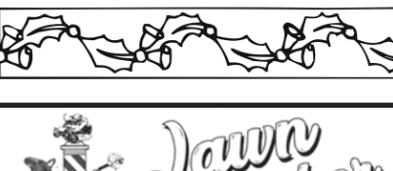
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