



RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

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Students Support the Troops... After realizing that a student in her class had a parent serving overseas for the holidays, Colchester Elementary School first grade teacher Kelly Keenan spoke with her students about how they could show kindness and support. Her students, along with those of fellow first grade teachers Amy Rowe and Meghan Barrows, collected requested items for members of the armed forces serving overseas. While donations poured in, students wrote cards, tallied the items and packed everything into three large boxes. In total, over 300 items were collected and sent overseas. The students received photographs from the troops thanking them for their kind act.

Maple Fest Again Kicks the Bucket

By Sloan Brewster

For the second straight year, Hebron's Maple Fest has been canceled due to COVID-19.

In an email Monday, Diane Nadeau, president and CEO of the Windham Region Chamber of Commerce relayed the news "with a very sad heart."

Nadeau said that while the planning committee had looked for "reasonable solutions" to hold the 2021 Maple Fest, it was unable to meet required COVID-19 precautions and therefore the chamber would not be able to host it this year.

"With a crowd of 8,000 or more people, it would be impossible for us to maintain safe distances, control crowd numbers, and provide for appropriate cleaning procedures where needed," Nadeau wrote.

In addition, she said the event would not be feasible for vendors and businesses and organizations in town that depend on the annual event for fundraising.

Nadeau said the chamber has not, however, abandoned the fest but that the hope is the vaccine and a recovering economy will resuscitate it next year.

Nadeau said the chamber would "honor some form of accommodation" for vendors that paid for booths for last year's fest, only to be told days before it was scheduled to occur that it was canceled due to Gov. Ned Lamont's executive

shutdown order.

"You are all on our minds as we go into yet another maple season in lockdown," Nadeau said.

Town Manager Andrew Tierney said it was indeed sad news that the fest was canceled, especially since, prior to last year, it had been held consistently for over 25 years.

"It's very unfortunate. People are looking for light at the end of the tunnel," he said. "Last year at this time we never thought we'd still be here talking about [COVID-19] and here we are. I'm hoping this doesn't kill the event for next year."

Tierney said the pandemic is taking a toll on this type of event, and organizers are becoming concerned they won't be able to stay afloat amid continued shutdowns. He said an organization he runs has been having a tough time making ends meet because of an inability to fundraise and is looking at possibly shuttering for good.

There are also concerns the tractor parade, which takes place the day of the fest, won't come back. The parade has been held in town for the past five years – with Tierney always driving a tractor in the convoy – and has grown every year, he said.

"We were unofficially dubbed the largest tractor parade in New England," he said.

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Portland Awarded Over \$800K in Grants

By Jack Lakowsky

Over the past few months, a grant revenue rush of almost \$833,000 has made Portland's wallet very hard to fold.

Now comes the fun part – putting that money to work, said First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield.

The first, received in November, was a \$306,800 grant from the state's Community Development Block Grant Small Cities Program to expand local and regional resources helping residents at imminent risk of experiencing homelessness.

The second, received earlier this month and totaling \$525,775, from the state's Community Connectivity Grant Program, will be used to improve sidewalks in underserved areas of town, making Portland more traversable for both pedestrians and bicyclists, as well as enhance transportation equity by building a new bus shelter.

Small Cities Grant

Gov. Ned Lamont on Nov. 5 announced the nearly \$307,000 award to expand Portland's homelessness prevention resources.

To fight homelessness, Connecticut towns partner together to form Coordinated Access Networks (CANs). Portland will partner with the Meriden, Middlesex and Wallingford CANs. Efforts are led at the state level by the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness.

"This is about public health and about the general wellbeing of fellow persons," said

Bransfield in a phone call with the *Rivereast* when the award was announced. "People need access to cleaning facilities, to have clean masks."

Awarded over an 18-month period, the grant will bolster CAN resources to aid vulnerable populations by hiring four full-time staff who will expand shelter diversion and housing stabilization services for families, youth and single adults.

Currently town social services staff members, as well as Bransfield herself, help at-risk people. However, the issues surrounding an individual at risk of homelessness are often complex and involve social, financial, emotional and mental health factors that need expert case workers.

The program will serve clients at imminent risk of homelessness.

Bransfield said the grant was competitive and based on needs expressed in towns' applications. The grant draws from a state fund of \$3.4 million.

Portland was among nine recipients. Others include Groton, Guilford, Stonington, Torrington and Westport.

Portland will work with local nonprofits, the state Department of Housing and other municipalities.

Aside from humanitarian benefits, Bransfield said aiding the at-risk and vulnerable also aids the local economy. Recovery from the current

economic slump, symptomatic of the pandemic, is a task that requires as much activity as possible, Bransfield explained.

"If someone is facing the risk and reality of becoming homeless, they aren't able to conduct their business and participate in the local economy," Bransfield said in November. "Businesses and their customers need stability."

On Monday, Bransfield described the work as being Portland's contribution to a regional effort, a greater good.

"You may only have 5 or 6 homeless people in Portland, but you could have 40 in Middletown," said Bransfield. "[The CAN network] will work together to identify, assist, follow through and support."

Bransfield added that Portland has residents facing risk of eviction, and so the regional work will be a direct boon to locals.

For work such as helping those at risk of homelessness, the state's cities, such as Hartford, receive resources as a given, Bransfield explained, due to their substantial needs. Smaller towns must compete for these resources.

The work small towns must do to get the money is intensive, Bransfield said. She said she and her staff worked for three years to win this grant.

Bransfield had to take a class over Zoom to become certified as a grant administrator. She credited the work of the town's contracted grant writers, and that of town employees.

Bransfield said several local nonprofits and faith communities, such as St. Vincent De Paul Place and United Way in Middletown, already work to aid at-risk individuals, and that with this grant, Portland can add its name to the roster.

"We've had a lot of positive feedback from [local groups] who want to be a part of planning and execution of this grant," said Bransfield.

Bransfield said she is working out details on how the town will oversee its part of the work.

"The goal is to be able to say 'yes, we have the resources to help anyone in need,'" said Bransfield.

Development Grant

When the governor's office announced that about \$526,000 of the \$5 million state Department of Transportation's Community Connectivity Grant Program (CCGP) would be awarded to Portland, local legislators voiced their excitement.

"This project will connect some of Portland's key services in a time when we are [heavily reliant] on our local communities," said state Rep. Christie Carpino (R-32) in a joint statement with state Sen. Norm Needleman (D-33).

"I'm grateful the project will be built in an underserved part of town and will connect pedestrians with local resources they use each day," said Needleman.

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From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

I got an interesting response from a reader regarding the Martin Luther King Jr. quotes I shared last week. He said he was guessing, based on them, that I thought "Dr. King hated America." And....no, that's not what I was thinking at all.

I think Martin Luther King Jr. saw, as I did, an America that could be better. Are we better than a lot of other countries? Of course. But the potential is there for so much more. And it doesn't mean you "hate America" to feel this way. Heck, the Founding Fathers even talked about their quest for a more perfect Union.

That's why I like a lot of what I'm seeing in these early days of the Biden Administration. Executive orders like rescinding the previous administration's ban on transgender people serving in the military are huge. It points to a more welcoming, more inclusive America. And it's just the right thing to do. If you're willing to die for this country, it shouldn't matter what your sexual identity is.

And while it's not an executive order, I like Biden's idea of increasing the federal minimum wage to \$15/hour. Would it be nice if it were phased in a little quicker than 2025? Sure, but I totally understand why it can't be. The federal minimum wage has been so low for so long, it would be an impossible burden on employers to do it anything but incrementally.

Still, it's a change that needs to happen. It's been \$7.25/hour for far, far too long. And while there are several states, like Connecticut, which pay well in excess of that federal rate, there are many others, particularly in the southern part of the country, which are stuck on \$7.25/hour – and it's obvious they'll need that federal push to go any further.

There are changes that can, and should, be made to make this country better. Admitting that doesn't mean you hate America. Indeed, it indicates you love it – that you want more for it, that you know it's not yet all it can be. Will it ever get there? I don't know, but we have to try. Dream the impossible dream, as the song says.

The quest for a more perfect Union – it's a heck of a quest to go on.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has forced so many, many gatherings to be virtual events. And while it really stinks not to be able to attend these things in person, it does open up a new world of possibilities in that you can "attend" a variety of programs – even if they're not in your area.

The Evergreen Country Gardeners Garden Club in Glastonbury has a particularly interesting-sounding program coming up. The club will feature "Around the World in 80 Gardens" by Dr. Richard Benfield, emeritus professor of geography, at Central Connecticut State University on Wednesday, Feb. 10. The program will start at 6:45 p.m., and will be held via Zoom. All are invited to go on this virtual journey through 80 gardens on seven continents including Singapore, Australia, the Canary Islands, the U.S. and Canada. Benfield will lead the virtual tour of the English country gardens of his home country. For log-in details, call Kathy at 860-416-7292. There is no charge for the program.

Speaking of COVID-19, there was big vaccine news this week as President Biden announced Tuesday a series of measures aimed at ramping up coronavirus vaccine allocation and distribution. According to CNN, these include purchasing 200 million more vaccine doses – and increasing distribution to states by millions of doses next week.

CNN reported the U.S. will buy 100 million more doses from Pfizer/BioNTech and 100 million more from Moderna. With Pfizer and Moderna working to step up production, Biden said the additional doses will be available this summer.

The new purchase will increase the planned COVID-19 vaccine supply from 400 million to 600 million, according to CNN.

This is very welcome news – particularly after Dr. Anthony Fauci announced last week what we probably all knew was a likelihood: that new data shows the vaccines currently on the market may not be as effective in guarding against new, more contagious strains of

Editor's Desk continued on page 4



Letter of Commitment... East Hampton High School senior Angela Mercaldi has signed a letter of commitment to be a member of the women's track and field team at the University of New Haven, specializing in jumps. Mercaldi is the daughter of Mike and Joanna Mercaldi, and is a four-year member of volleyball and basketball programs at East Hampton.

Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum

Thanks from VFW

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Portland VFW, we would like to give a special thanks to Michael Brown with BT Charities for their generous donation to our post. Despite the many struggles that coronavirus has implemented, they were still able to make a donation.

We would also like to give a thank you to the Marine Corps League Portland Detachment for their donation to the Portland VFW. These donations are greatly appreciated and do not go unnoticed. The Portland VFW offers their sincerest thanks to these two contributors.

Portland VFW Post 6121

Capitol Attack

To the Editor:

A frequent *Rivereast* malcontent submitted a sophomoric letter last week equating the BLM protests with storming the U.S. Capitol – a violent insurrection that murdered law enforcement officers while attempting to thwart a legitimate election and overthrow the U.S. Government. The group responsible wasn't Muslims or Mexicans. It wasn't LGBT militants or Black Lives Matter. It wasn't Socialists or Antifa. It was white Trump supporters. The same gullible half-wits who are insisting that Trump didn't actually participate in the insurrection; therefore, an impeachment trial would be prejudicial.

The fact is the Capitol was overrun, and there was no effort whatsoever to evacuate the president from DC to a secure location. This tells you all you need to know about who launched and directed the violent attack. Let's also remember that on 9/11, Bin Laden didn't actually pilot the planes into the World Trade Center. Those Republicans suddenly calling for "unity" is code for insurrection amnesty, and the United States should never negotiate with terrorists.

Despite their complicity in subverting our democracy, this collusion of dunces is also shamelessly whining about censorship and complaining a private media company kicked Trump off its platform. Perhaps if they simply considered Twitter as a Christian bakery and Trump a gay wedding cake, it would satisfy their feigning empathy. Regardless, since Twitter silenced Trump's dangerous rhetoric, the country has been far calmer.

The reality is, since 1789, there have only been four presidents who've been impeached. Only five failed to win the popular vote. Thirteen failed to be re-elected, and none have been impeached twice. There is only one president who managed to accomplish all four. Let's remember those who abetted this inept criminal and continue to refute their deceit, sedition and fear.

Joe Stevens – Hebron

Shame on You

To the Editor:

As I write this letter, within the last hour of this night (6:50 p.m. on Jan. 22), a Colchester police officer had no choice but to do the compassionate thing, and put down a deer who had been hit by a subcreature who couldn't be bothered to stop. The time was 6:30 p.m., right in front of my house on Van Cedarfield Road.

There is no way you wouldn't have known you hit the poor animal, and I wish you could have seen the suffering in its eyes, and the jagged piece of bone which was all that was left of one of its hind legs. My question to you, "good person" (?) that you undoubtedly are, is why didn't you stop like my good neighbor Jeff did, shine your headlights on this animal, to prevent other drivers from hitting it, and call the police like Jeff did. Shame on you! And thank you Jeff.

Ellen Kraemer – Colchester

Republican Hypocrisy

To the Editor:

Get ready for whiplash as the Republican Party suddenly finds its voice. For four years they were mute as Trump bungled the pandemic, assaulted the free press, kowtowed to our dictatorial enemies, stacked the courts with the most conservative and unqualified judges, assaulted the Constitution and led an insurrectionist mob against Congress. But once Biden takes over, they're screaming mad about every slight they can fasten on to. Listen to Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis as he goes off in faux outrage when the Capitol police leadership sent some National Guard troops out of the Capitol building to an unheated garage. Using the GOP propaganda mouthpiece *Fox and Friends* he shouts, "They are soldiers." "They are not Nancy Pelosi's servants." Who cares that Pelosi had nothing to do with it. From here on in anything with bad optics will be blamed loudly and squarely on Democrats in power – truth be damned.

And how about all the Trumpists angry about the veteran who was shot and killed while breaking into the Capitol chambers with a wild mob behind her? Her death is being chalked up as unjust because she was only "voicing her opinion." Ironic how *Rivereast* writers can "voice their opinions" here without destruction and death. But QAnon dupes are clueless how to use facts and civilized discourse to win debates. Violence and outrage their final resort.

Notice how quickly conservative gun nuts abandon their "stand your ground" mantra when it's one of their own being shot and not one of their own, George Zimmerman, gunning down an unarmed Trayvon Martin. In the forecast – a steady stream of Republican hypocrisy for the next four years to fill the void of Trumps daily tweets and utterances.

Ed Smith – Andover

Bulletin Board

Hello.

Thank you for logging in on the Coronavirus Vaccine Registration website. My name is HAL. I am a software program created by sadists to make your registration experience as pleasant as possible. If at any time you require the assistance of a real person, please text one of your kids.

Shall we begin?

If you are a member of the United States Congress, please press option #1 now so that we may immediately send an experienced physician to your home, office or beachfront cabana to personally administer the vaccine. Please do not forget to specify whether you would prefer the complimentary fruit basket or the basket with mixed specialty coffees and chocolates. U.S. Senators also have the option of selecting free tickets to the hit musical "Hamilton."

If you are not a member of Congress, please press #2.

Thank you for pressing #2. Before we begin, please be sure that you have the following items on hand in order to expedite the registration process: a clay tablet, a pointed stick, and sufficient food and water for four days.

Let us begin.

If you are right-handed, take your clay tablet in your left hand and your pointed stick in your right hand.

If you are left-handed, please scroll down to option 44c.

Thank you.

Taking the clay tablet in the appropriate hand and your pointed stick in your other appropriate hand, scratch your name, last name first, at the top of the tablet. Enter your age underneath your name.

If you cannot remember your name, you may enter instead your great great grandmother's maiden name backwards in all capital letters. In parenthesis please indicate the color of her eyes and the make and model of her first car.

Thank you.

Underneath your age, enter what you had for lunch on Tuesday, May 8, 2012.

I'm sorry. BLT is incorrect. Please try again.

No, it was not a Big Mac either.

Please wait.

Thank you for waiting two hours. We hope you are enjoying the New York Philharmonic Orchestra's uplifting rendition of Chopin's Funeral March.

Your registration is important to us. Due to demand we are experiencing a service backlog. Please wait.

Hello.

Thank you for logging in on the Coronavirus Vaccine Registration website. My name is HAL. I am a software program created by sadists to make your registration experience as pleasant as possible. If at any time you require the assistance of a real person, text one of your kids.

Shall we begin?

Please remove the pointed stick from your left eye...

Jim Hallas, Publisher

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.

(860) 633-4691 — bulletin@glcitizen.com

Reader Forum • Reader Forum

Insurrection Day

To the Editor:
Time after time, Trump schemed to overturn an election he did not win. 62 cases with no evidence. He tried to get states to overturn votes. When that failed, he incited a violent insurrection. They beat to death an officer using an American flag. They hung a noose, all the while threatening to hang Mike Pence and were going to kill members of Congress. The evidence is clear. Convict Trump in the Senate and arrest and prosecute him, his GOP co-conspirators and the insurrectionists.

Being accountable doesn't end when the president's term does. Prosecution serves as a deterrent to any future president who chooses criminal behavior at any time, and in particular, can prevent one from holding a public office again in the future.

Annie Steinbrecher – Marlborough

Divide and Censor

To the Editor:
I was taught as a young man to be a "gracious winner." The Democratic Party won the election, albeit tainted, but they've been "sore winners," looking to inflict humiliation, pain and suffering on their opponents and enjoy doing it. They want to "reprogram" suspected agitators – like they did in Nazi Germany?

Delusional Hillary Clinton thinks Vladimir Putin was coaching President Trump through the "riots" inside the Capitol on Jan. 6. She needs to be medicated once and for all.

Antifa and BLM are Marxist organizations – period!! Antifa is the enforcement arm of the Democratic Party, much like the KKK was to the South decades ago. They'll show up at your house to menace and threaten. Sound familiar?

Biden talks of unity then goes on the attack mode referring to people of "white" color as supremacists, domestic terrorists and political extremists. Way to wave that olive branch, Joe!!

Nancy Pelosi – vindictive and evil – puts Eric

Swalwell, "The Spy Who Shagged Me," as the Impeachment Manager of the House. The new star of *101 Dalmatians*.

Biden stops the Keystone Pipeline – despite Canada begging him not to pull the plug; 11,000 jobs lost, mostly in Nebraska (red state – of course). This will result in higher gas and heating oil prices and more dependence from countries that hate us. Way to go Joe.

Biden cancels President Trump's immigration policies – no border security with a 100-day "pause" on deportation for illegals. Thousands of the "finest" Central Americans gleefully head toward our southern border to enter illegally and put a further strain on our failing economy. Brilliant.

Biden Administration performs a "purity" test on our National Guard because the Dems claim that because 80% of the Guard is white and Joe only received 20% of the white male vote; he could be in danger.

More to come.

Don Denley – Andover

Speak Out Against Insurrection

To the Editor:
We remain deeply disturbed by the U.S. Capitol insurrection; particularly the lack of contrition from insurrectionists and Congressional and Senate Republicans, who repeated The Big Lie of massive voter fraud. This resulted in horrific violence, with five dead, including a Capitol Police officer. We are also disappointed in the silence of Republicans who refuse to disavow violence or support Donald Trump's claim of a "stolen" election.

If there ever was a time to take a side, this is it. We understand that Republicans in Congress fear crossing former President Trump in order to keep their seats; and we condemn those who would threaten Republicans who cross party lines. We are nonetheless compelled to call out those in Connecticut who remain silent, identi-

fying themselves as Republicans and wanting us to believe they are different from their federal counterparts.

For eight years, Democrats were held fully responsible for the actions of President Barack Obama in federal, state and local elections. The same is true for the other side. When white nationalists continue to plan violence on behalf of the former Republican president, there is no luxury to stay quiet.

We applaud those who have taken a stand, including state Rep. Robin Green and the Hebron RTC. We are disappointed in those who have not. And lest some try to bring up the summer's unrest, let us be perfectly clear that we condemn all violence. There is a marked difference between summer 2020 and an insurrection against the United States.

There is still too much silence, particularly considering 197 Congressional Republicans who voted "no" to impeach Donald Trump. We hope more step up and tell Donald Trump he was wrong. And then, together, let us work to make Hebron, Connecticut, and the United States a better place for everyone.

Sincerely,

The Hebron DTC Executive Committee
Tiffany V. Thiele, Chair
Mal Leichter, Vice-Chair
Janet Fodaski, Treasurer
Amy D'Amaddio, Interim Secretary

Don't Allow Bullying

To the Editor:
I read the article about one person treating the trails off of Grayville Road as private property. I live within walking distance to this entrance and definitely do not want to see it closed. I know of this so-called squeaky wheel that wants to ruin things for everyone. Occasionally I will drive to the entrance to bring my elderly dog right onto the trail and I was confronted by her telling me I shouldn't park there. I pay my town and state taxes like everyone else. I should be able to use the state land. Please don't let this person get away with her bullying.

Tony Phalstaf – Amston

Stop the Hating

To the Editor:
It is interesting to me that since Nov. 3 several people have been emboldened to write letters to the editor expressing their hate for President Trump and all Republicans who voted for him.

It is one thing to not like the policies of a person and another thing to hate the person.

On the one hand, Biden says he wants to unite the country and in his next breath, he wants to punish half the population because they did not vote for him. This is the same scenario that many politicians are following. How is that go-

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Wed., Feb. 10 | 5–6pm

PRESENTER:
Mark Tramontozzi, MD, FACS, CWS
Regional Medical Director of Wound Care

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Wound Care Center

Reader Forum • Reader Forum

★ *Letters cont. from page 3*

ing to unite the country?

The giant social media sites are beginning to ban anyone whom they do not agree with. How is that allowing free speech? They do not ban hate speech from those they agree with. How is that being unbiased?

Do you realize that there is a difference between free speech and hate speech? It seems that the editor of this paper and the writers who show their hatred for President Trump and those who voted for him do not understand the difference!

What's comical to me is the letters each week of a small group of people showing their hatred for those with opposing views. (Note: you are only making yourselves look the fool.) Perhaps you need to start giving your views on how we, as a nation, can improve our country. Electing fools and hate-filled people to represent us is not a solution.

The people we elect to the local, state, and federal level must represent the people they serve and not blindly follow, like sheep, the party they are associated with.

If America ever has a chance of surviving, stop the hating, and listen to and read sources that present views different than yours. More next week.

Gary Gile – Andover

Time to End Filibuster

To the Editor:

Perhaps we shall see a Senate that finally becomes a place where legislation does not go to die. The overuse of the filibuster has impeded progress for too long, allowing a minority of 41 votes to thwart popular measures. McConnell has practiced this evil art while lining his pockets and providing tax cuts for the wealthy. Time to end the filibuster.

Ed Gyllenhammer – Portland

“President Joe”

To the Editor:

In response to a recent letter, I would like to add my opinion of “grandpas.”

My grandfather, an old Yankee, spent his leisure time translating the Bible from Greek to English, a way of “exercising his brain.”

My father, a grandfather with an eighth grade education, became a foreman in a large manufacturing company in Rhode Island. His understanding of human nature and world events led him to predict that Stalin would change sides in WWII, just one example of his insight.

My husband, a Harvard student, later at age 50 graduated second in a computer programmer class and worked into his seventies for insurance companies in Connecticut. He was a grandfather.

My son, a grandfather in his 70s, owned his own business and is active in the community.

I have been privileged to have been in a family of “grandpas,” whom I have respected for their wisdom and who learned from their mistakes.

If you, Mr. Kozlowski, are or will be a “grandpa,” perhaps you will live up to your description of one – caring only for how much money is in your pocket, instead of the tremendous problems we face. The long-term, growing knowledge and experience of President Biden is my perception of what a grandfather is and a president should be.

Age is priceless, sir.

**Charlotte Markham,
A Great-Grandmother, 92
East Hampton**

State Trails

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to the article about the trail access on Grayville Road. While the person at the end of the road is definitely a problem, the main problem lies with the state and the person who is in charge for the trail or the state forests. It's obvious whoever it is doesn't like bicycles or has been in their position so long they are out of touch with current trends. Anybody who has ventured out in the woods knows that unless you know where you are going there is no way to tell where you are and you better have a phone so you can figure it out. It's just a joke how these trails are maintained or lacking maintenance and the total lack of signage is idiotic.

I have lived in numerous locations in the west and all of them have trail systems that are well-maintained and signed. Signs are the key to safe travels in the woods. Painting a dot on a tree is not signing trails. The lack of developed parking and trailhead information kiosks is appalling. Not only do signs make the trails easy to navigate and fun, but safe also. Another benefit of well-marked trails is that if people find them to be easy to navigate and fun more people will come to ride and that's just a boost to the economy.

Having no signage on the trails also has another negative effect; it makes it difficult to identify illegally-built trails and what happens is every knucklehead with a shovel has to add their two cents and this just creates a spider web of trails and many not either well-constructed or constructed in areas where they shouldn't be, and Grayville is no exception to this problem.

If you want to fix the trail systems in Connecticut just find who is in charge and get them removed.

Thank you,

Steve Langello – Colchester

Sociopathic

To the Editor:

It concerns me that Edmund Smith is a professional educator. Last week he chose the term “sociopath” to describe some *Rivereast* letter writers. As a paid mentor of children, that was a really classy move and a teachable moment for his students. The tenor of his letter makes me believe “psychopath” is the term that he was really searching for since the scope of sociopathy is narrower, primarily defined by the lack of feeling moral obligation to anyone but one's self. A psychopath can have a broader variety of mental issues, much like the ones Edmund believes his detractors have. Personally, I don't qualify as a sociopath because I feel an immense moral obligation to Edmund's students and their parents when he acts foolish. His employer apparently does not, since they employ a teacher who is vociferous about stereotyping individuals based on their political views, and those views may be held by students (or their parents) that are in his class.

But do you know what is sociopathic and psychopathic? Perpetuating non-existent Russian collusion at the expense of the American people. Assassinating the character of women that your husband sexually assaulted just to protect your own presidential aspirations. Accusing Justice Kavanaugh of running a rape club with no tangible evidence. Accusing Senator Gabbard of being a Russian operative. Deep-sixing Hunter Biden's laptop and the Big Guy's Chinese connections prior to the election when

we all know Donald Trump Jr. and Sr. would not have the same luxury. Should I continue?

We are now subject to a new administration in which poor Joe Biden is nothing but a hood ornament on a clunker. However, an interesting symbiosis has developed between the media and Grandpa Joe. It's like Grandpa is the new Bill Clinton, and the media is Monica Lewinsky.

Regards,

Ed Kozlowski – Colchester

Point/Counterpoint

To the Editor:

I'd like to thank some *Rivereast* letter writers for reviving the classic satire of political debate from the early days of *Saturday Night Live*. For those old enough to remember it, we had Dan Aykroyd snarling at Jane Curtin in Point/Counterpoint...“Jane, you ignorant slut.” Unfortunately, it was funny then, but mostly sad and annoying now.

There are four or five writers on opposite sides of the political spectrum (I won't name them as I'm afraid that seeing their name in print is the reason they write) who engage in a similar charade of real political debate. Ad hominem attacks, the thrust of what passes for argument in their letters, doesn't have a great track record for moving the combatants toward common ground. The result is always the opposite. Positions are entrenched. Heat is generated, not light. The anger and resentment grow. What a fine recipe for sharing the country in peace.

Perhaps, think about why you are writing. If, as I suspect, you are answering last week's attack from the same people, then, instead, take a deep breath, a walk, pet your dog, smile at a neighbor. Do something nice. Don't inflame the same hostilities.

Stephen Markson – Portland

Selectman Collins

To the Editor:

I attended the Hebron Board of Selectmen meeting as a WPCA member on Jan. 21. Selectman Collins seems to have misconceptions in regards to the diligence the WPCA has put into the pump station upgrade. The WPCA reviewed five bids and oversaw five presentations. Three were brought back for second presentations before Wright Pierce Construction was chosen for the design phase.

Based on the one time he attended our regular meeting, Mr. Collins formulated a narrative in which he publicly sullied the character of the board members. The fact that they volunteer doesn't seem to matter to him. Ignoring the due diligence mentioned above, the second engineering company hired to oversee the first, the board with two longtime MDC employees and

a chairman that knows the system like the back of her hand, the director of public works and the project being on a tight time schedule, he spends undue time insisting a third team with no civil engineering experience oversee the first two firms. With no success he then expresses worry that there was no competitive bidding put out by the town prior to its approval of Wright Pierce to oversee the construction phase. Common sense says the people that designed the system should be the ones to oversee the construction.

Throughout the meeting I was struck by his seemingly gross indifference to the proceedings of the BOS itself. Absentmindedly shuffling papers, interrupted by his half-hearted “John Collins Aye” replies to motions as the meeting progressed. Only showing interest when his pet peeve came up. If he is unable to give his full attention to the meetings, and his heart isn't really in it, he might consider resigning. Rather than moving forward in a timely manner, the project is on hold while the bid issue is worked out.

Mark Falade – Hebron

Adopt-a-Family 2020

To the Editor:

This year, Adopt-a-Family Holiday Giving was a bit different from years past, due to COVID-19, but we hit it off great with the outpouring donations during this hard time in our lives. We were able to help four families this year and we couldn't have done it without the generous donations to make this a very special Christmas! Portland Volunteer Fire Department would like to thank the following:

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**Have a safe and great 2021!!!!
Portland Volunteer Fire Department**

Weekly Diatribes Continue

To the Editor:

It is with great sadness that the weekly diatribes and verbal discord by the various regular contributors to the *Rivereast* continue unabated. The inauguration ceremony of the duly-elected (by the people) president voiced a consistent message of unity, restoring truth, and working to bridge the political/philosophical divide in

Editor's Desk continued from page 2

the coronavirus, which are continuing to pop up all across the globe.

Fauci said this news is “all the more reason” to vaccinate people faster, according to CNBC. He said mutations occur when the virus spreads and replicates itself – which can be suppressed if enough people are inoculated against the disease to build herd immunity.

Like most of you, I'm itching for life to go back to normal. I miss activities, I miss vaca-

tions, I miss weekend getaways – heck, I miss people. I can't wait for this mess to be behind us. As I wrote recently, I really feel there's a light at the end of the tunnel – and I'm hoping, with the increased vaccines Biden announced this week, that light will grow closer and closer.

* * *

See you next week.

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our country. President Biden has been in office two days as of this writing, and today's [last Friday's] *Rivereast* already contains a surplus of derogatory comments and verbal insults. Unfortunately, the writers of these letters missed the "unity" message, and have chosen to continue down a path of fear-mongering, venom-filled discourse.

I was pleased to hear and observe the leadership of our country taking a strong position to work together and get past the discord of the past four years. I am not so naive as to believe that all our politicians will change their behavior and work for the American people instead of their political party, but time will tell and their actions will tell us if they are in fact listening.

What do you think, fellow readers? Are these regular contributors capable of working to overcome the massive challenges we face in America? Or are they content to sit on the sidelines and trade insults, distorted views and on the rare occasion, facts that don't have on lick of impact to the various issues facing us.

Why not hold off on the verbal threats, tirades, invective, name-calling for at least the next 100 days till we can determine if we are heading in the right direction? Try taking some concrete, positive steps to help for a change instead of writing hate-filled letters that continue work against unity in our towns and country. How about trying the "unity" approach in our little part of America? Can't hurt!!!

Regards,
Bob Yenker - East Hampton

Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story

★ *Maple Fest cont. from page 1*

Ron Wenzel, of the Wenzel Sugarhouse, said he was not surprised at the cancellation.

He said there was no way enough people would be vaccinated in time for the fest and that if people had to socially distance during demonstrations in his sugarhouse – a staple activity during the annual affair – he would only be able to fit four at a time. He said he normally gets crowds of 25 or more.

Wenzel said that while he said he got through last year's cancellation, it still hit his wallet in that he had purchased signs, advertised and paid for portable toilets for the day of the event.

"I'd rather know in January that we're not going to do it rather than the first of March," he said.

Wenzel said his business is doing alright as folks are still buying syrup. His phone number is on the bottle so anyone looking for the sticky pancake topper can call and he will meet them at the farm and sell them what they need.

The only requirement, he said, is they have to wear a mask.

Russ Schaller, of Woody Acres, said last year's cancellation has had a negative impact on his business. He said that, despite uncooperative weather, he yielded about 30 gallons of syrup, five more than usual – but was unable to sell all of it.

"I made a real lot of light syrup last year, it was just a good year," he said. "I still have some leftover. You keep in in the freezer; it'll last indefinitely."

Schaller said he has no idea why it was such a good year for syrup, as there wasn't a great deal of snow or frost to drive sap up into the trees.

Both Wenzel and Schaller said they were already getting ready for this year's tapping season.

Wenzel said he is picking up sticks and twigs around the farm, cleaning his evaporator, making sure lines haven't been chewed by squirrels, and checking on the health of his trees.

He anticipates he will start tapping trees in mid-February, and said he usually gets between 50 and 80 gallons of syrup a year.

Schaller said he usually taps the trees somewhere around Valentine's Day or Presidents Day.

As far as being hit with potential losses for a second year, he is looking on the bright side.

"It could be worse, I could be one of these retail owners or something else," he said. "People got it a lot worse than I do, so I gotta consider myself lucky."

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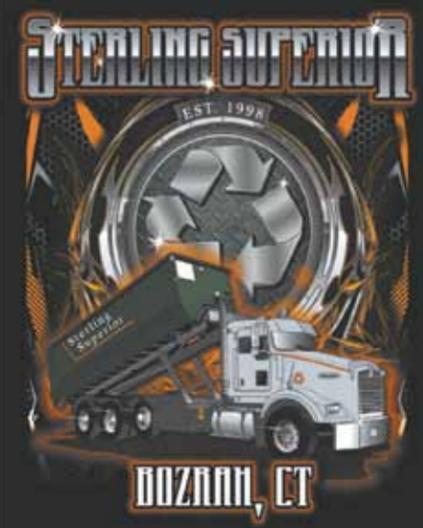
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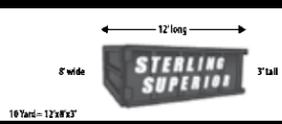
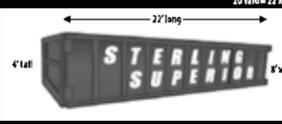
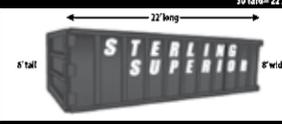
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School Board Adopts 4% Budget Increase

By Jack Lakowsky

At its Jan. 19 Zoom meeting, the Portland Board of Education unanimously approved Superintendent of Schools Charles Britton's 2021-22 school budget proposal, which calls for a 4% increase over the current budget amount.

The adopted budget now goes to the Board of Selectmen for review and possible changes.

School board members voiced their support of the proposed budget, with Board of Education Chair Sharon Peters, a Democrat, saying it reflects the district's policy commitments and goals.

At a Jan. 5 meeting, Britton proposed a budget of about \$22.6 million for fiscal year 2021-22, up almost \$1 million from current year spending.

Board Democrat Chris Darby said the increase is reasonable, and that it covers district priorities, including the 1-to-1 student-to-Chromebook ratio initiative, as well as contractually obligated salary increases which, according to Darby, account for nearly 84% of the increase.

"I hope this budget passes through [the Board of Selectmen] as-is," said board Democrat Lauren Christensen. She went on to say that she knows people would like to see a lower percentage but neglected capital needs have necessitated it the increase.

sitated it the increase.

Christensen said she's aware of the town's apprehension about a leasing agreement to help ensure each Portland student has access to a Chromebook, but that a lease would affirm this commitment.

Leasing Chromebooks, Britton explained in an earlier meeting, is less attractive to town officials.

"The town's not big on leasing programs," Britton said. "Entering into one is like buying a car, it becomes a standing commitment that goes on the town's debt load. You sign that lease, and [Chromebook costs] can't be cut at all. The town would prefer to see them bought every year, but that means they can be cut every year."

Britton said new Chromebooks are often cut when school board budget requests reach town finance officials or the Board of Selectmen.

Britton proposed a major increase of about 40% for the district's equipment budget, up \$93,000 from last year. Most of this increase is due to the district's 1-to-1 student Chromebook initiative, which seeks to make sure all students in grades 5-12 are given a computer.

Many of the district's Chromebooks are out of warranty and have reached the end-of-life

stage.

According to the superintendent's budget information, providing older students with suitable devices under warranty would cost more than \$500,000, to be paid over a course of four years – the life cycle of a Chromebook.

Board member Meg Scata, a Democrat, suggested "rallying" the school district and larger community to help communicate that the proposal is sound and necessary.

Britton noted that Portland schools have yet to receive their allotment of the \$774 million federal stimulus sent to help relieve Connecticut schools of burdensome COVID-19 costs. This money will affect the "major bottom line" of the budget.

Britton still hasn't heard how much this will be, he said in an email to the *Rivereast*. He said he, along with other area superintendents, await with crossed fingers more information.

The district has been waiting on this information for many weeks.

Winter Sports, COVID Update

At the Jan. 19 meeting, Britton shared that Portland's COVID-19 case ratio was up to 68/100,000. These numbers were updated on Jan. 21 to reflect a slight decrease in this, down to about 62/100,000 with 81 new cases diagnosed between Jan. 3 and Jan. 16.

Portland is well above the Chatham Health

District average of about 52/100,000. The district includes Colchester, Hebron, East Hampton, Portland, Marlborough and East Haddam.

Britton said he believes local COVID-19 numbers reached their holiday surge height last week and will start to trend downward.

Portland students from grades Pre-K-6 returned to full in-person learning on Jan. 19, while students from grades 7-12 are slated to fully return on Feb. 1.

Britton said the district is still "confronted with large numbers of faculty and staff quarantined due to outside exposure, with one in school exposure" but that due to the district's recently flooded substitute teacher pool, he should be able to meet staffing needs.

Britton updated the board on his plan for winter sports. He said the state Department of Public Health (DPH) has advised that schools may run winter athletics with pandemic protocols, such as mask-wearing and limiting crowd size.

Britton said athletes of basketball and indoor track, considered low-risk sports, have begun conditioning and training.

The outlook for wrestlers and cheerleaders isn't so certain, as these activities are considered much higher risk. Britton hasn't decided about wrestling and cheerleading yet, as he will need to see how transmission rates trend over the next few weeks.

St. Mary Church News

St. Mary Roman Catholic Church is located at 45 Freestone Ave. The Rev. John Antonelle is pastor, Dana Garry is deacon and Jeanne Samolik is director of music. The church office can be reached at 860-342-2328. For more information, visit www.stmaryportlandct.org.

Weekend Masses: 5 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sunday. Wearing of masks is required. Social distancing and all COVID-19 regulations are followed.

Online Mass: Each weekend, the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass is livestreamed. Visit the the parish website for more information.

Weekday Mass: Monday and Tuesday at 8 a.m., and Friday at 12:10 p.m.

Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Faith Formation Program: Classes are being held virtually at this time. For more information, call Faith Formation Director Susan Ferraiolo at 860-342-2308.

Holy Hour Benediction: First Friday of every month following the 12:10 p.m. Mass.

Mass in Honor of Blessed Mother: First Saturday of every month at 9 a.m.

Baptisms: First and third Sunday of every month at 1:30 p.m. Call the parish office to make arrangements.

Reconciliation (Confession): Saturday at 4-4:45 p.m. If this time is not convenient, contact Antonelle.

Blessings of Marriages: During Masses on the first weekend of every month.

St. Mary Ladies Guild: Meetings held every third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m., with the exception of winter months. For more information, contact President Marilyn McGrath at 860-342-1137.

Knights of Columbus: All practicing Catholic men are invited to contact Mark Creighton at 860-308-0603 to join.

Community Outreach: Food may be brought to the church office for the Portland Food Bank.

Trinity Episcopal Church News

Due to COVID-19, Trinity Episcopal Church, 345 Main St., is not currently holding inside Sunday services or Church School. Weather permitting, drive-in church parking lot services are being held at 9 a.m. Sundays.

The church is also continuing its 10:30 a.m. Zoom Sunday services indefinitely. Additional information on church services or Bible study opportunities is at trinitychurchportlandct.org.

The church is open for prayer and meditation Fridays from 2-4 p.m. Any group meeting at the church must follow current COVID-19 protocols, including wearing masks and social distancing.

For more information on church activities or to make an appointment with the Rev. Darryl Burke, email trinitychurchportlandct@gmail.com or call 860-342-0458.

Police News

1/7: Guillermo Cruz, 55, of Bronx, N.Y., was charged with first-degree sexual assault, fourth-degree sexual assault, and risk of injury to a minor, Portland Police said. Police said the alleged assault involved a 12-year-old child.

Project Grad Fundraiser

Inner Circle Family Martial Arts of Portland owner Michael Pelton will donate 50% of the proceeds of virtual fitness classes to Portland High School Project Graduation.

Classes accommodate cardio, body weight exercises, stretching and more. Classes run every Tuesday and Thursday, 6-7 p.m., through April 1. As an added bonus, participants will have access to one free in-person class during weekdays!

Cost is \$40 per month or \$99 for all three months (January, February, March). Inner Circle can be reached at 860-342-2381.

Project Graduation is an all-night drug- and alcohol-free party held for PHS seniors the night of their graduation.

Zion Lutheran Church News

Zion Lutheran Church continues to offer online worship services that are available for viewing Sundays after 9 a.m. on YouTube. Search "Zion Lutheran Church Portland CT." Pastor Sara Stall-Ryan, Music Director Allen Hill and church members have worked together to offer videos designed to be inspiring and invite participation.

Bulletins for each service are available on the church website at zionlutheranportland.org.

Zion Lutheran Church is located at 183 William St. The community is welcome to participate in all worship services and special events.

For more information, or if you are in need of pastoral assistance, call 860-342-2860, email zion.lutheran@snet.net or visit zionlutheranportland.org.

Cover Story • Cover

★ Grants cont. from page 1

In Portland, the CCGP grant money will help improve transportation equity by funding the construction of a bus shelter, as well as sidewalk connectivity to places like schools, businesses, health care facilities, churches, the library, the senior center and other services.

Bransfield said the project's main focus will be walkability.

Bransfield said 43 different towns applied for this money, and only 10 were selected. Of those ten Portland is arguably the smallest, with Old Saybrook being the only other grantee of comparable size. Other winners include Bristol, Groton, Meriden, Windsor and Stamford.

"This work is very needed," Bransfield told the *Rivereast* Monday. "We're very happy to have gotten this. I sing the praises of this grant."

The amount received – \$525,775 – was exactly what the town requested in its grant application. The fund's cap was \$600,000 to an individual applicant.

The project, called "Fill-in-the-Gaps to Routes 17/66," will expand transportation equity by building new sidewalks in a densely populated, underserved, low-income area of town.

Specifically, work will focus on sidewalks of Freestone Avenue, High Street, Marlborough Street (Route 17/66), Airline Avenue and Riverside Street. Sidewalks will be repaired or, where the sidewalk ends abruptly, connected to existing pavement.

New sidewalks will be built on the east side of High Street between Route 17/66 and Freestone Avenue. New sidewalks and gap-fillings will be put in front of Daniels Energy on the west side of High Street.

Sidewalk gaps on the south side of Freestone Avenue from High Street to Cross Street will be

filled as well.

According to the town's application, Route 17/66 is a "principal arterial" in Portland, providing the town's east-west connection to surrounding communities. On a daily average, this busy thoroughfare sees 21,400 vehicles, according to town info.

The area is both high-volume and highly populated. Children and adults alike cross this route at the High Street intersection's existing, signalized crosswalk. For many of these locals, it is a main access point to get to grocery stores, medical offices, schools, parks, the food bank and other services.

The Middletown Area Transit (MAT) bus route runs from High Street to Route 17/66. The town wants to build a bus shelter on the east side of High Street, in front of Middlesex Hospital Family Medicine.

The town's Complete Streets Group was instrumental in helping identify Portland as a priority, Bransfield said. Both Complete Streets and MAT endorsed the application.

Bransfield said the grant funds must be used up in three years.

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COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic Next Week

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield this week announced an appointment-only COVID-19 vaccination clinic for residents age 75 and older. The clinic will be held Monday, Feb. 1, at the Waverly Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave.

To schedule an appointment, call the vaccination hotline at 860-262-7238 during weekday business hours and your call will be returned within 24 hours. Callers need to leave their full name and phone number.

The clinic is sponsored by Chatham Health District.

In a Monday interview with the *Rivereast*, Bransfield said the new vaccination hotline is an effort to help Portland's less tech-sav-

vy residents. Several people have come to Bransfield saying the state's online registration system, VAMS, is cumbersome and not user-friendly, she said.

"Our seniors deserve this attention, and can't be left whistling in the wind," Bransfield said.

She went on to explain that in setting up the hotline she had in mind seniors who are able to live independently and not in senior living facilities – where residents are more easily vaccinated – but who may need a little extra help in handling everyday personal business.

Bransfield said future clinics will be announced.

Parks and Rec. News & Notes

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

Youth Programs: Do-It-At-Home DoodleKits with Abrakadoodle: There are new DoodleKits – one for ages 3-5, and one 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). For this month's **Valentine's Day-themed DoodleCraft**, each registration includes instructions and all materials needed for two art projects. Check the website to see examples of each craft. Fee is \$20. These DoodleCrafts are for everyone, but children ages 5 and under may need help with cutting. As an added bonus, chocolate will be included.

Kids' Virtual American Sign Language Beginner Class: Mondays, Feb. 22-March 29,

5:30-6:15 p.m., via Zoom. Fee: \$50/residents, \$60/non-residents.

Virtual Skyhawks Sports: The next program wave begins next week; 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).

Virtual LEGO Masters: Wednesdays, Feb. 10-March 17, 4-5 p.m., via Zoom. Participants can use pieces from their own LEGO collection, or purchase a two-pound bag of assorted LEGOs to keep. This bag will be available for curbside pickup at the Parks and Rec. office. Fee: \$100/residents, \$133/non-residents. Bags of LEGOs cost \$20.

Adult Programs: Tai Chi for Long Life: Via Zoom Wednesdays, Feb. 10-March 31, 9:30-10:15 a.m., or Saturdays, Feb. 13-April 3. Fee: \$40 for either eight-week session. Contact Parks and Rec. if interested in drop-in registration.

Virtual Paint Night: Thursday, Feb. 18, 7-9 p.m., via Zoom. Each participant will receive a canvas board and paints. Fee: \$22. If you need brushes, add \$5.

Historical Society's Annual Meeting Goes Virtual

The Portland Historical Society will host its annual meeting for election of officers and the executive board Sunday, Jan. 31, at 4 p.m., via Zoom. All are invited to attend.

To register, email Portlandcthistory@gmail.com by noon Saturday, Jan. 30. After registering, people will be sent a confirmation email containing information about joining the meet-

ing. Registrants may attend the meeting by connected device or by dialing in using a telephone.

After brief reports by outgoing president George Gilbert and treasurer James McCabe, Bob McDougall, director of the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History, will give a brief overview of the society's latest project — the former Gildersleeve Store.

Portland Library News & Notes

Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave., has made the following announcements. Registration required unless noted. For more information and full program descriptions, visit www.portlandlibraryct.org or call 860-342-6770.

Curbside Only: Due to COVID-19 concerns Portland Library is closed until further notice, as per the Board of Selectmen. Curbside delivery is available; hours are Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-4:45 p.m.; and Saturday, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Reserve items through the online catalog or call 860-342-6770. The outdoor book return is open 24/7, is emptied frequently, and the library continues to waive fines. If you need to print, scan and/or fax, call the library.

Hours and services are subject to change; call the library or access the webpage for current hours. The library is also on Facebook and Instagram.

Youth Programs: Winter Reading Program: For each row you complete on the Win-

ter Reading Bingo card, the library will donate one can of cat or dog food to Portland Food Bank. Stop in to the library between January and February to pick up a bingo card. When you complete a row, email jrenk@portlandct.org or post a picture to the library's Facebook or Instagram pages and write whether you want to donate a can of cat food or dog food.

Online Storytime: Tuesdays, Feb. 9 and 23, at 10 a.m., via Zoom. Share stories, songs and other activities. Registration is required for each week, and space is limited. A Zoom link will be provided within 24 hours of each program.

Preschool Science: Tuesdays, Feb. 2 and 16, 10 a.m., via Zoom, for ages 3-5. Kids will explore color, chemical reactions and more. Registration is required for each week, and space is limited. Supplies can be picked up in advance; a Zoom link will be provided within 24 hours of the event.

Senior Center News & Notes

The Waverly Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave., is currently closed to the public until further notice. Staff is still working, however. For more information call 860-342-6760 or email Mary Pont at mpont@portlandct.org or Carol Revicki at crevicki@portlandct.org. Hours are Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., and Friday, 8-11 a.m.

COVID-19 Vaccination Hotline: For Portland residents age 75 and older. Call 860-262-7238; leave your full name and telephone number and a Portland Library staff person will return your call. Calls will be returned Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Senior center staff will then schedule you for a clinic appointment.

Watercolor Lessons with Bivenne Staiger: While lessons at the center are currently on hold, seniors may take online lessons with Staiger through Yale Peabody Museum's Natural Sciences Illustration Program. Visit www.peabody.yale.edu for more information or email bivenne@yahoo.com.

T'ai Chi with Tom Cushing: Thursdays, 10-10:30 a.m., via Zoom. Cost is \$40 per eight-

week session, payable to Portland Senior Center. Call the senior center if interested.

Senior Poetry Contest: The 28th annual Gerard F. Melito, Senior Citizens Poetry Contest is now open to residents of central Connecticut age 65 or older. All poems received are published in a booklet, distributed to each participant and local libraries. To register and for full contest details, contact the Waverly Senior Center.

Stay Connected: The objective is to help disabled adults age 18 and up and older adults age 60 and up connect with medical providers, community, family and friends during COVID-19, using assistive technology (AT) to foster improved communication. All five Area Agencies on Aging will assist with the screening process to select individuals who would gain the most from technology help. Contact the Waverly Center for full details.

Musical Program: Saturday, Jan. 31, 2 p.m., via Zoom. Lynn Tracey, professional musician, will play and sing songs of a century, including genres of jazz, rock, folk, blues and more.

First Congregational Church News

First Congregational Church of Portland is a member of the United Church of Christ denomination, and is an Open and Affirming congregation. It is located at 554 Main St.

Weekly worship services are recorded in the church sanctuary and available on the church's YouTube channel (First Church of Portland, CT). Virtual church school is offered weekly by

Ann Labby, Director of Christian Education.

The church's annual program and budget meeting will be held Sunday, Jan. 31 at 11 a.m. via Zoom videoconference.

The Prayer Shawl ministry continues to provide knitted prayer shawls to members and friends in need of comfort.

Anyone wishing to be added to the mailing lists (both electronic and postal service) of this congregation should email first.church.pct@sbcglobal.net, or leave a message at 860-342-3244. For more information, look for the church on Facebook at The First Congregational Church of Portland, or visit www.firstchurchportlandct.org.

Solidarity Task Force Launches Survey

Last August, the Portland Board of Selectmen established the Task Force on Solidarity, to expand the understanding of racial equity within the community, and now the task force is looking for community feedback.

The task force has partnered with several departments within the town, including Youth Services, the Board of Education and Portland Police Department, to establish programs, provide resources and create events focused on equality.

The task force recently created a community survey on solidarity. It said the feedback received from this survey will help the task force: guide community forum discussion on Feb. 22; learn more about the needs of the community; and help plan events and opportunities.

The survey is up through Jan. 31. For English, visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q8R2HDM. For Spanish, visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/RZ3CFCH.

Paper copies will also be available outside of Town Hall, 33 East Main St.

Survey responses will be anonymous. Results are reported only in aggregate form.

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Job Announcement for Director/Head Teacher

The First Church Nursery School is announcing an opening for its Director/Head Teacher. The First Church Nursery School is looking for a passionate, dedicated person that is qualified to serve as both the director and head teacher. The First Church Nursery School provides early learning experiences for three and four year old children. The school prides itself on its small learning environment. The school runs a ten month learning program over the course of three days per week. Currently the program will be operating part time for the 2021-2022 school year, but can grow from there. The position is expected to begin in time for the 2021-2022 school year.

PROGRAM DETAILS:

Hours of the Program: 9 to 11:30
 Days of the Week for the Program: Monday - Wednesday - Friday
 Length of Program: September to June
 Ages of Children: Three to Four Mixed Classroom
 Number of Children: Approximately 18 Children
 Salary is competitive for the enrollment and hours of the program
 To apply for the position, please send resume, certification(s) (or willingness to pursue director credit requirements within one year), letter of intent, and three letters of recommendations to: 1stchurchnurseryschool@gmail.com

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COVID-19 Vaccines Come to Colchester

By Karla Santos

On Wednesday, Colchester, in partnership with Chatham Health District, ran the first COVID-19 vaccination clinic in town, at the senior center.

While a second date has not been arranged because of the limited vaccination doses available, the town is working with Chatham Health to bring more vaccine clinics to town and “help in any way needed,” First Selectman Mary Bylone said.

The event took place from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and was by appointment only.

Bylone said appointments filled quickly, creating a lot of “unhappy people.”

She said the town will have more clinics once it has more vaccines.

Patty Watts, Director of Senior Services said that being able to host the clinic at the Senior Center was “fantastic.”

“There is nothing more important that we could be doing right now,” she said. “Seniors are most at risk with the pandemic and being able to offer vaccination clinics for COVID-19 to seniors over the age of 75, I think is wonderful.”

Watts said Chatham Health District, which was providing the clinic, had 120 people scheduled to get vaccinations on Wednesday.

Bylone said Colchester nursing home residents have been vaccinated as have some Fire and Police Department employees. She said Fire and Police Department workers have had to go out of town to get their vaccine.

Superintendent of Schools, Jeff Burt reported that there have been about 50 COVID-19 cases among the Colchester Public Schools this month. Because transmission of the virus is happening while students are out in the community and not in the classrooms, the district will

continue to have its current in person and hybrid learning models. In the superintendent’s weekly update, Burt said the learning models will continue as they are, as long as they have enough staff to open each building and as long as they don’t see consistent in-school transmission.

The State of Connecticut has not yet announced when school aged children will be able to get a COVID-19 vaccine.

Drug-Free Communities Grant

In other news, last week the Colchester Board of Selectmen unanimously approved the position and job description for a coalition coordinator for the Colchester Youth and Social Services [CYSS] Department.

The coordinator will be responsible for the development of substance abuse prevention strategies meant to lead to a decrease in substance abuse rates in the community.

Valerie Geato, Director of CYSS, who was present at the meeting, said the position was created as CYSS received the \$625,000 Drug-Free Communities grant and the position’s funding is within the grant.

The grant is renewable for an additional five years as long as requirements are met in the first five years, Geato said.

According to Geato, because it’s a grant funded position, there is no guarantee there will be a position available if the funding is not available, meaning if the grant is not renewed the paid position may no longer exist. The plan is to re-apply for the funding at the end of the five years, she said.

“If we find that this is an invaluable resource in our community in five or ten years from now, then we’ll figure out a way to sustain it hopefully,” she explained.

Selectman Taras Rudko asked if the town had any metrics on what the department is do-

ing today, the need for substance abuse prevention and how the grant will bridge the gap in the community.

Geato said the department hasn’t “done a great job with metrics” over the last decade but did perform a school-wide substance abuse survey for middle school and high school students about a decade ago. She said the department was hoping to do the same every other year but didn’t do another survey until 2019.

To that end, she said “a huge chunk of the money” from the grant is meant to be used for assessment and measuring the outcomes of programs and initiatives funded by the grant.

She said two surveys on drugs and alcohol will be given every other year. The first will be a regional survey used elsewhere in the state.

“So we’ll have comparable local data,” Geato said.

The second survey is a Search Institute developmental asset survey that takes into consideration a set of 40 different attributes children

have or do not have, Geato explained. From that survey she said she hopes to “build on those resistance skills” so children are less likely to use drugs and alcohol.

Rudko then said he has heard there is an ongoing heroin and fentanyl problem and asked Geato if she had any statistics from law enforcement.

She responded that CYSS is not focused on heroin and fentanyl and explained that the department needed to select two substances, with abuse of which rooted in evidence.

“Our evidence showed that the two most widely used substances among youth are marijuana and alcohol,” Geato said. “Those are the two primary areas of focus that we’ll be addressing through this grant; and that will also include vaping.”

Selectman Denise Turner congratulated Geato for securing the grant and said that anything to “help start combating the drug problem is a big help.”

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 Face-

book, 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.

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.

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.

Feeding the 1,200!

On Friday, Feb. 5, from 1-4 p.m., Abundant Life Church will distribute 1,200 USDA “Farmers to Families” Food Boxes to residents of Colchester and surrounding towns, from the church’s 85 Skinner Rd. location.

Each sealed box contains 30 pounds of fresh produce, meat and dairy products. This is part of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program from the USDA under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act to purchase and distribute agricultural products to those in need. Distributors have chosen Abundant Life as a point of distribution faith-based organization to reach this area of Connecticut.

There are no financial criteria to receive a Farmers to Families Food Box. Remain in your cars and release your trunk and a volunteer will load your box.

For more information, contact Abundant



On Feb. 5 Abundant Life Church will distribute 1,200 “Farmers to Families” Food Boxes to residents of Colchester and surrounding towns.

Life Pastor Charles Brown at c.brown26@mac.com or 860-303-0416.

Live Performance of Shakespeare Play

The Connecticut Repertory Theatre at the University of Connecticut will present the Shakespeare classic *Pericles, Prince Of Tyre* live via Zoom for a special price to Colchester Senior Center members on Saturday, March 6, at 2 p.m.

The show will feature undergraduate and graduate acting students as well as professional actors, with a Q & A with the actors after the show. Tickets are \$10 per household (payable to CSC). Register by calling 860-537-3911.

Deadline to sign up is Feb. 19. The Zoom link will be emailed directly.



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Dean's List

Marlie Gill, a psychology major from Colchester, made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Coastal Carolina University in Conway, S.C.

Dean's List

Erin Mathieu of Colchester made the fall 2020 Dean's List at the University of Vermont.

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.senior-center. More information about senior trips can also be found online.

The Colchester Historical Society will host this special presentation, in celebration of Black History Month, entitled "A Discussion About African Americans in Colchester During the 18th and 19th Centuries," presented by Gary Walter. The link to join is on the Monthly Zoom Links table.

Mardi Gras Lunch-to-Go: Tuesday, Feb. 16, noon. Pick up your festive lunch of Louisiana-style Jambalaya (a mildly-spiced rice dish with chicken, tomatoes, celery and green peppers), a tossed garden salad with dressing, a personal "King Cake" cupcake for dessert and some Mardi Gras-inspired surprises. Pre-register by Feb. 10 by calling the senior center. Cost is \$8 and can be paid on the day of pickup.

Mandala Mug Craft: Wednesday, Feb. 24, 1:30 p.m. During this Zoom session, you will create a mandala on a coffee mug while learning about the history and the symbolism of this ancient art. Mug kits are \$5 each and can be picked up at the senior center. Call the center to register and schedule a time to get your kit.

Community Conversation with the First Selectman: Thursday, Feb. 25, 2 p.m., via Zoom. First Selectman Mary Bylone will discuss COVID-19 in Colchester, announce town-wide events and more. Bring your questions.

International Cooking Demo on Zoom: Poland: Friday, Feb. 26, 1:30 p.m. Follow along at home or simply watch a demonstration on how to prepare galumpkis, or Polish stuffed cabbage rolls. After the program you are welcome to stop by the senior center to get a sample of the dish; pre-registration required. Contact the senior center for a recipe and shopping list.

Snowman Decorating Contest: All are invited to create a one-of-a-kind snowman. Mini Styrofoam snowmen will be provided for people to decorate however they like. There will be winners for Funniest, Most Unique, and Most Beautiful. Participants have until Feb. 26 to complete their snowman and submit a picture for judging. Call the office to set up a time to pick up your snowman starter kit for \$3.

Colchester Senior of the Month: Each month, beginning in February, the senior center will give one or two of its members the spotlight to tell more about themselves. If interested in being the February Senior of the Month, call Ruth at the senior center.

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.

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.

Spring Virtual Vendor Fair

Parks and Recreation is planning a new spring vendor fair book, following the success of the holiday book. This time around, Parks and Rec. will expand the book to include local farms, gardeners and businesses.

Applications will be accepted until Feb. 15 and the book will be published mid-March. Each vendor will have four pages to display their items for sale. Vendors should include contact information and how to pick up and pay for items, and should be sure to follow all COVID-19 guidelines listed on the State of Connecticut website.

Registration forms are available at www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department or by calling the office at 860-537-7297.



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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; visit the church website at westchesterconchurch.org for Zoom login information.

Safety precautions are in place to protect against COVID-19; pews are labeled for safe physical distancing, masks are required to be worn, hand sanitizer is available, and there is no singing, but music is played.

The church has a small white wooden Blessings Box in its lower parking lot, with non-

perishable food items and other helpful items for anyone who needs them. All are welcome to come and give or take a few items.

Sunday School is not in person yet, but the church emails video links and mails out packages of worksheets to children for the Sunday School experience. Email westconchurch@gmail.com or call 860-267-6711 to request Sunday School items.

Church tag sales will return; check this newspaper and the church website for news of upcoming events.

Parks and Rec. News & Notes

Parks and Recreation has announced the following. For more information, call 860-537-7297 or email parksandrec@colchesterct.gov. More information, including weather-related cancellations, is also 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. For full program descriptions and to register, visit colchesterctrec.recdesk.com/Community/Home. 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."

Scholarship Available

Carl Guild and Associates has announced its community scholarship program for local high school seniors entering college in the fall. There are five \$1,000 scholarships given, one each in East Hampton, Portland, Colchester, East Haddam and the RHAM school district.

There are no restrictions or qualifications; all local seniors can apply. For applications, visit www.carlguild.com/scholarship or ask your school's guidance counselor. Deadline is April 1.

Drive-Thru Polish Dinner

St. Joseph Polish Club will have a Drive-Thru Polish dinner Friday, Feb. 12, from 5-6:30 p.m., to benefit the Madonna Place, a Norwich-based nonprofit social services organization.

Dinner includes pierogis, galumpkis, kielbasa, and rye bread with butter. Tickets are \$15 and only sold at the club, 395 South Main St. Advance ticket sales only.

Tickets cannot be purchased online or emailed.

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.

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

Upcoming Events: Snow People in the Park: Keep an eye on the Parks and Rec. Facebook page, as during one of the upcoming snowy days Parks and Rec. will hold a "pop-up" program at the park. Parks and Rec. will hand out bags with everything needed to make snow people in the park. This is a free program.

Free Family Game Nights: Fridays through Jan. 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.

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

Beat Those Winter Blues

Sara Walker from United Community Family Services will share strategies for coping with the winter blues in a special Zoom seminar Wednesday, Feb. 17, at 10:30 a.m. She will also explain what seasonal affective disorder is and give coping mechanisms to combat it.

For more information, call Colchester Senior Center at 860-537-3911.

Fire Calls

From Jan. 17-23, the Colchester Hayward Fire Department responded to 33 calls: 29 emergency medical calls and four motor vehicle crashes. There were no fire/fire-related calls. Calls included:

Crashes: three single-car crashes, one three-car crash (Marlborough).

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

CHFD provided mutual aid twice last week – once each to Marlborough and East Haddam. It did not receive any mutual aid last week.

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.

CHFD to Participate in Risk Reduction Program

The Colchester Hayward Fire Department was recently selected by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to participate in the second phase of a pilot program to build a digital community risk assessment tool. Aligned to NFPA 1300, Standard on Community Risk Assessment and Community Risk Reduction Plan Development, the tool, or "dashboard," enables community leaders to gain valuable insights and make data-informed decisions around fire prevention and other risk-reduction activities in their communities.

According to NFPA, the concept of community risk reduction (CRR) – a process that identifies and prioritizes risks and ensures impactful mitigation initiatives – has been gaining traction across North America for more than 20 years. Reflecting that momentum, NFPA's community risk assessment (CRA) tool works to help fire departments aggregate and disseminate data that pinpoint where risks exist within a given community.

"Access to accurate data will allow CRR leaders to use insights and make informed decisions about where to focus efforts and resources," said Karen Berard-Reed, community risk reduction strategist at NFPA. "While many fire departments have struggled to work with data sets, NFPA's CRA tool will do the complex work behind the scenes to compile relevant data allowing stakeholders to create effective community risk reduction plans that incorporate five priorities - education, engineering, enforcement, economic incentives, and emergency response - in the most impactful ways possible."

The first phase of the pilot project, which included participation from 50 fire departments across the country, helped identify features of the digital dashboard that will work effectively and those that need fine-tuning.

During the second phase of the program, which involves participation from 250 departments nationwide, the Colchester Hayward Fire Department will provide insights around the use of dashboard through this June to help continue refining and enhancing its effectiveness.

"Participation in this project allows each fire department to provide important feedback that will be used to improve future versions of the dashboard, positions the community among CRR leaders in the United States, and signals an interest in leveraging technology to drive high-quality community safety initiatives," said Berard-Reed.

As a participant in the pilot program, Colchester Hayward Fire Department will have free access to the dashboard, which includes customized visualizations (maps, charts, graphs) that illustrate each community's risks and hazards across a variety of categories such as demographics, geography, building stock, economics, infrastructure, and event loss history. The dashboard also provides a snapshot of local capacity for risk reduction activities with information about public safety response agencies and community service organizations. In addition to dashboard access, participants will be provided rich networking and professional development opportunities with other communities engaged in CRR.

"We are thrilled to be participating in this important project," CHFD Interim Fire Chief Sean Shoemaker said. "Not only will access to the tool give us invaluable information about our community's needs, but it's rewarding to know that using the tool will increase its effectiveness and help other fire departments in the long run."

Follow NFPA's CRR efforts on social media using #itstartswithinsights, or for more information online, visit www.nfpa.org/crr.

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.

Social distancing remains 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 is 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 at-

tend Sunday Mass remains in effect until further notice.

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

Dean's List

Colchester resident Alaina Walsh made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I.

High Honors

Kellen Beaton of Colchester made the fall 2020 High Honors List at Pomfret School in Pomfret.

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Town Making Progress in Senior Center Plans

By Karla Santos

The town is making progress in the planning of a brand-new senior center. The \$9 million center, if approved at referendum, would open in 2023, and would offer a wide range of opportunities ranging from health to entertainment options for the seniors of the town.

The proposed senior center was presented at a recent joint meeting of the boards of finance and selectmen and the Senior Center Building Committee.

David Stein, principal at Hamden-based Silver/Petrucci & Associates, was also in attendance and provided the architectural overview of the proposed senior center.

The new center would be a one-story building, located on Louis Lane; the property would have access from Lebanon Avenue and Town Hall. At 14,650 square feet, the building would be nearly three times the size of the current senior center. At least one third of the building was designed for functions such as social events and weddings.

Stein explained that the floor plan includes a lobby area, offices, two fitness areas, a room for the "Making Memories" program for seniors with dementia, a conference room, a game room, an activity room, an art area, two multi-

purpose rooms with a kitchen, a covered patio and more.

Stein said a pyramid structure would define the entrance of the building. Some of the areas of the building would have glass walls to promote the programming and to access natural light.

The building would be made with a variety of materials, including brick for part of the exterior walls and metal for the roof.

"We are really trying to reflect the diversity and the history of Colchester through those materials," Stein said.

Mark Garilli, project executive for Stamford-based Construction Solutions Group, also participated in the presentation and talked about the cost estimate of the project.

During the meeting, Garilli said the construction of the proposed senior center has an estimated total cost of \$9.32 million. In a phone call with the Rivereast this week, Anthony Tarnowski, chairman of the Senior Center Building Committee, said the committee has moved some items in the hopes of lowering the cost of the construction which might be between \$8.9 million and \$9.1 million.

The construction cost, which includes labor and materials, is estimated to be \$8.05 million out of the total cost.

Soft costs such as design, oversight, legal, testing and insurances will be about \$824,017 of the total cost.

Contingency will be about \$443,423 of the total cost. Garilli said contingency "indicates dollars reserved for any possible unforeseen cost that may materialize during construction."

Garilli also said there will be an effort to educate the public about the project, including through social media posts, a newsletter sent to every household in town, a project-specific page on the town's website, various board presentations, and outreach conducted by the Commission on Aging.

Kevin Hastings, member of the Senior Center Building Committee, was also part of the presentation and said he hopes to hold the referendum on the project in late June. If approved by voters, the design of the building would then be finalized and followed by pre-construction activities such as ordering materials.

The committee hopes construction would start by March 2022, with the project completed by March 2023.

History of the Senior Center

At the start of the presentation, Tarnowski shared some history of the senior center. He said that in 1978, the senior center began as the

Commission on Aging, and was housed in the former NuNu's Bistro building, which at the time was the Colchester Grange.

In 1980, the senior center moved into what was previously the Bacon Academy Arts and Sciences building. It has remained there to this day.

"For the last 40 years, the center has seen many changes as well as tremendous growth in population, diversity, outreach, services and programming and, more importantly, the improvement in the quality of the lives of the Colchester seniors," he said.

Town officials have long felt, however, that the senior center has outgrown its current home. As far back as 2007, officials started to look for a new and larger senior center. At a 2013 referendum, voters rejected a \$57.26 million proposal to build a new senior center along with a new community center and a renovated William J. Johnston Middle School. The project was later passed when it was scaled down to just focus on the middle school – but it still left the senior center without a new home.

In February 2017, a property on Louis Lane was purchased by the town for \$90,000, with the intention of one day building a senior center there. Then in October 2019, the Senior Center Building Committee was formed and charged to plan for a building that would serve as the location for the senior center and the town senior services department.

Last year, the town hired Silver/Petrucci as architect and designer for the property. The committee has also been working with Construction Solutions Group, which has been serving as project manager and cost estimator.

Tarnowski thanked the committee along with Patty Watts, director of senior services and Rosemary Coyle, Board of Selectmen liaison, for their guidance and input throughout the process.

Questions and Answers

There was also an opportunity at the meeting for questions and answers – one of which was on how the group came to determine a square footage for the building.

Stein said that the building committee met with the senior center staff to determine the needs and compared it to the strategic plan that was developed in 2017. After they determined the needs, they figured out what was required by code, and from there developed a floor plan.

In response to another question, about the materials used in the project, Stein said electrical and plumbing systems would be high performing and consume less energy.

He said the proposed roof could accommodate solar panels, which could then be used to offset energy costs.

In addition, Stein explained that some of the walls within the inside of the building will be built with flexibility in mind – to accommodate potential changes in programming needs down the line.

"We wanted to make sure that this building – which is long and linear – is designed in a way that you could be flexible with your spaces; that in five years, ten years you could adapt it," Stein added.

Marjorie Mlodzinski, a member of the Senior Center Building Committee, spoke during the public comment portion of the meeting and said that for 15 months the committee has worked diligently to present the recommendation of a building that meets the "goals and objectives" of the Senior Center Strategic Plan. Mlodzinski noted that the committee has reviewed many design options while considering resident's opinions.

"We now believe we are recommending to you a senior center that will greatly enhance the lives of our seniors as well as the community and residents of Colchester," she said.

Mlodzinski stressed that 40% of Colchester's population will be over 55 by the year 2030.

"I ask that you put the senior population and our community first and support the recommendation presented to you by our committee tonight," Mlodzinski said at the meeting. "Our seniors have waited a very long time."

Patty Watts, director of senior services, said the proposed building would be an "outstanding complement to the many excellent attributes to community life in Colchester."

"Not only will it serve well to those who are currently seniors, but also for generations of seniors to come, attracting even more members of this growing demographic," Watts said.

Dean's List

Alicia Grant of Colchester made the fall 2020 Dean's List at the University of Rhode Island in Kingston, R.I.



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Colchester • Colchester

Upcoming Children's Programs at Library

The following programs are offered for children this month at Cragin Memorial Library. 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. 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. 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. 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.

February Programs: Groundhog Day Puppet Show: Tuesday, Feb. 2, via the library's social media sites.

Feed the Birds: Wednesday, Feb. 3, 11 a.m., for all ages. Celebrate National Bird Feeding Day with a Take & Make Bag at the library and watching a video to share some kindness with the birds by creating a bird feeder for them.

World Read Aloud Day: Wednesday, Feb. 3, 1:30 p.m., for all ages. The recorded story will stay up for a week.

Take Your Child to the Library Day: Saturday, Feb. 6, all day, for all ages. Celebrate the 10th anniversary of this day by coming into the library. There will be special Valentine Card Take and Make Bags and a treat.

Valentine Craft: Wednesday, Feb. 10, all day. All ages are invited to come and grab the Valentine Take & Make Craft Bag: A Love Monster.

Foodie Fun: Chocolate M&M Pretzel Bites: Saturday, Feb. 13, all day. Kids and teens can pick up a Take & Make Bag, watch the video on the library's social media channels, and enjoy.

Catching Snowflakes Take & Make Craft: Wednesday, Feb. 17, all day, for all ages. Celebrate winter with this craft of kids catching snowflakes. Pick up your Take & Make Bag at the children's desk.

Polar Bear Art Take & Make Craft: Saturday, Feb. 27, all day for all ages. Celebrate National Polar Bear Day with this art craft. Pick up the bag and create a piece of art.

Resident Presents at University Symposium

Liah Brown of Colchester, a student at Lasell University in Newton, Mass., presented at the university's Fall Career Readiness Symposium in December.

Brown participated in a project focused on the "three pillars of transformation," or ways to use practices of mind, body, and emotion to unlock new levels of healing, happiness, and purpose in one's life. Brown's project focused specifically on the effects of emotion.

Tax Deferment Program

The Board of Selectmen recently voted to defer taxes with application and offer the low interest rate program – and the deadline is coming soon.

Gov. Ned Lamont through an executive order is allowing municipalities to provide temporary tax relief options for their community in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The tax deferment program covers any tax, water and sewer bill that was due Jan. 1. The program is designed to provide a three-month

deferment period for the payment of taxes, without interest.

To defer your taxes, you must complete the OPM M-COVID19 form and submit it no later than Feb. 1 to the tax collector's office. PDF fillable forms can be found at www.colchesterct.gov/tax-collector. Forms submitted after Feb. 1 will not be eligible.

For more information, call Tax Collector Michele Wyatt at 860-537-7210.

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.

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.

on in-school learning days and 10-10:30 a.m. on distance learning days.

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 Raneheim, nutrition coordinator, at 860-537-9421 ext. 381 or lraneheim@colchesterct.org.

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 workstations 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.

Honor Society Inductee

Colchester resident Lindsay Palma was recently inducted into Alpha Eta, the national honor society for the allied health professions, during a virtual ceremony at Quinnipiac University.

Palma is majoring in health science studies.

Book Sales on Hold

The Colchester Historical Society is temporarily sold out of *Images of America: Colchester*, the Arcadia Publishing book by Gary Walter.

Book sales at the Colchester History Museum have been suspended until a reorder of books arrives. An announcement will be made when book sales resumes.

The 2021 calendar is also sold out but will not be reordered.

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year is now open at the Colchester Public Schools website, www.colchesterct.org.

Children who turn 5 by Jan. 1, 2022, are eligible to register for the full-day program. Registration must be completed online. Select the "For Families" tab and on the drop down menu click on the tab for "Registration and Residency." Follow the necessary steps outlined on the website.

You will need to make an appointment with the Colchester Public Schools Board of Education office once all of the online enrollment forms are completed. To do this, call 860-537-7267. Registration hours are by appointment only on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A list of documents needed can be found on the website.

C3 Programs Starting Soon

C3 has opened registration for upcoming programs. Programs are best suited for families with children birth to age 8.

Joyful Noises Outdoors, featuring physically-distanced outdoor activities with music, movement, games and stories for children ages 2-5, returns the first week of February at Ruby Cohen Woodlands. Additionally, parent workshops on the Circle of Security, designed to help parents understand how to read their child's behavior and identify their needs, will be provided virtually beginning the first week of February.

More parent workshops on Temperament and Love Languages are coming soon as well.

For more information, visit colchester3.org or register at colchester3.jumbula.com.

CES Students Give Back to Their Community

After learning about the community and its needs, all of the first grade classes at Colchester Elementary School have decided to start a food drive that will be donating to the Gemma E. Moran Food Bank that services all of New London County.

The students have been working hard to reach out to members of the community asking for their support with this new project. It is the goal of the first grade classes to spread love by giving back to their community.

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New CBD Store Wants to Ease Customer Ailments

By Jack Lakowsky

Three familiar words led Platinum Natural CBD owner Suhail Aponte to choose East Hampton as the town where she wanted to run her business: location, location, location.

In finding the best spot for a new CBD store, Aponte noticed there were none within 15 miles of East Hampton, she told the *Rivereast*.

With her store's 11 North Main St. location found, Aponte developed her business model. She set out to offer her customers effective and affordable CBD products.

CBD is an industry acronym for cannabidiol, a non-psychoactive extract of the cannabis plant. Consumers can enjoy the benefits of CBD without the high of tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, which is the psychoactive substance in cannabis.

Aponte's products, housed in the North Main Street plaza near Stop & Shop, treat a range of issues.

"We have gummies and oil to reduce anxiety and improve sleep, and a balm that helps with muscle recovery and relaxation," said Aponte. "Our sleepy time gummies are our number one

seller."

Aponte's shop also sells anti-anxiety dog treats (which worked for the *Rivereast* reporter's anxious Jack Russell terrier). Also available are tinctures, edibles, and topical products, as well as teas, and coffee.

Especially appetizing are the store's CBD infused cookie and cake recipes, and its hot chocolate bomb. Aponte said anyone familiar with edibles knows they sometimes taste medicinal or, frankly, like cannabis. Not a problem with her products, Aponte said, attesting that all her edibles taste excellent.

For a full list of products, visit the shop's website, platinumnaturalcbd.co. The website has a live chat feature for customer questions.

Delivery and contactless pickup are available.

Aponte said some customers unfamiliar with this new type of retailer tend to be a little apprehensive. To help answer customer questions, Aponte offers free samples of most of her products. She wants customers to find what works for them before investing their money.

"We want to see what works for each person, instead of just pushing whatever we can sell for profit," said Aponte.

Aponte said she and her employees will sample a new product to ensure its effectiveness before selling it.

Aponte said, although pandemic restrictions have cut into revenue, business has been going well since her August opening. She said she plans to have a grand opening when the pandemic finally eases and will also host CBD edible brunches and informational seminars.

"We're getting a very mixed crowd," said Aponte. "Younger adults and people in their middle age – but our senior crowd has started coming in. [Seniors] have usually done some research and heard the buzz."

Aponte said the town has been welcoming, supportive and generous.

Older customers, Aponte said, have taken to the idea of a more holistic, natural approach to

everyday ailments like sleep troubles, anxiety or muscle tension. Shoppers seek CBD products for many reasons, everything from college students seeking relief from presentation anxiety to cancer patients wanting to relieve the nausea caused by chemotherapy.

If "regular" marijuana is legalized in Connecticut this year, Aponte said it would boost her revenue, should she choose to sell it.

However, she's not waiting for sluggish legislation to expand her product selection.

"We want to have more options of how to take [CBD]," said Aponte.

Aponte, a member of the Connecticut non-profit Women's Business Development Council, said running a shop at the forefront of a new industry is "exciting", and she looks forward to serving East Hampton for a long time.

For a full range of products, hours and other questions, visit the store's website or call 860-365-5746.

Children Sought for Preschool Programs

The East Hampton Public School System is seeking 3- and 4-year-old residents interested in preschool programs for the 2021-22 school year. There will be two preschool programs offered: the Integrated preschool half day program and full day Smart Start program.

Memorial Elementary School's preschool Integration program will be held three times a week for 3-year-old students and four times a week for 4-year-old students. Due to limited spaces, selection for peer models will be determined through a lottery process. If selected, peer models demonstrating age-appropriate skills will be assigned by age to either a three-day- or four-day-a-week schedule (2.5 hours per day).

Memorial's Smart Start Program will be held five full days per week (8:50 a.m.-2:50 p.m.), following the East Hampton Public Schools calendar. Priority will be given to 4-year-old children that meet income guidelines or have

other factors for consideration. Other applicants, regardless of economic or risk factors, will then be selected.

Parents interested in proceeding through the selection process must pick up an application/information packet at either Memorial Elementary School, located at 20 Smith St., or East Hampton Public Library, located at 105 Main St. Packets will be available Feb. 1 at both locations.

The completed parent interview form, immunization form and a proof of residency must be returned to Kelly Caruso at the Memorial School office no later than March 19. Once all three forms are returned, parents will be contacted by phone, no later than March 26, to schedule a time to bring their child for the screening and lottery/selection process.

Forms received after March 19 will not be accepted.

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.

Schedules and programs have changed significantly. The center is developing virtual meetings and programming for those with internet access. In addition, the center has expanded its email newsletter and continues to mail out monthly newsletters. If not receiving either, call the center to receive a copy.

Online Program Registration: All program registration is now 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.

Virtual Lunch Bunch: Every other Monday at 12:30 p.m. for an hour, via Zoom. Next date is Feb. 8, with special guest Hardy Hemphill, whose resume includes touring, recording and composing music. Register online.

Weekly Virtual Events: Register online via MyActiveCenter.com. Schedule: Bingo: Tuesdays at 1 p.m.; Writing Our Lives to Open Our Hearts: Thursdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Register online.

Seated Yoga via Zoom: Wednesdays at 10 a.m. through March 10. Fee is \$20 for the session. Register online. Mail payment to East Hampton Senior Center; make check payable to the Town of East Hampton.

Creative Crafts: Wednesday, Feb. 24, 1 p.m., via Zoom. Learn to make a butterfly pin. Register online.

February Chill: Having trouble signing up for MyActiveCenter.com? Then come virtually Monday, Feb. 1, at 11 a.m. Call or email the senior center to register.

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).

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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On Saturday, Feb. 13, VFW Fowler-Dix-Park Post 5095's Auxiliary is having a drive-thru dinner. Advanced orders only; dinners are \$15 each. Reservations are due Feb. 6.

On Feb. 13, from 4-6 p.m., people can pick up their reserved dinners at the VFW, located at 20 N. Maple St. Dinners are a stuffed chicken breast, "smashed" potatoes, gravy, carrots and a roll.

For reservations, call the post at 860-267-8837 after 3 p.m. any day by Feb. 6.

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Christ Episcopal Church News

Christ Episcopal Church, 66 Middle Haddam Rd (mailing address: P.O. Box 81) Middle Haddam, will not hold regular Sunday services until further notice. Services will be conducted each Sunday at 10 a.m., with Church School at 11 a.m. Both services are available on Zoom.

The Rev. Ann Perrott is Priest-in-Charge, the Rev. Joanne Neel-Richard oversees 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.

Congregational Church News

Due to the number of COVID-19 cases in Connecticut, The Congregational Church of East Hampton, UCC, is once again holding all services via Zoom. Current and past services can be accessed at www.cc-eh.org. All are welcome.

The Teen Youth Group will resume its monthly meeting Friday, Feb. 26, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Students in grades 6-12 are welcome.

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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Applicants Sought for High School Athletic Field Work

By Jack Lakowsky

This week the Town Council approved the creation of the High School Athletic Fields Building Committee, which will develop plans to fix the high school's tennis court, baseball field, soccer field and track.

The council approved the resolution at its Jan. 26 meeting.

The new committee should not be confused with the school district's existing building committee, a permanent body.

Now, the council will fill the committee with seven seats. It will include one town council member, the Parks and Recreation Department Director, the school district's facilities director, and at least four members of the public who "demonstrate knowledge or experience deemed beneficial to the execution of the project," according to the resolution penned by Town Manager David Cox.

The committee will oversee work that was added to the scope of the 2013 High School Renovation, Improvements and Additions Project. The group will develop plans, find contractors, and eventually make a recommendation to the town council as to what contractor should

be awarded the work.

The committee will likely oversee the project for at least one year. Cox said applicants should be prepared for an intensive process, especially during the first few months.

When members are finalized and approved by the council, Cox said they should be ready to "hit the ground running."

Cox anticipates the committee will meet bi-monthly, with a possible reduction to monthly meetings when the bulk of work is done.

The athletic fields improvements will not add a single cent to the project's cost, Cox told the *Riverast* on Tuesday, and will work within the \$50 million fund approved eight years ago.

The work was added due to pressing, time-sensitive needs.

Specifically, the project aims to replace the tennis and track court surfaces, as both are cracked and about 20 years old, Cox said. Correction of flooding issues on the soccer and baseball fields will also be a main focus.

Flooding has at times made both fields unusable, and the troubled baseball field is what brought these needs to light, according to Cox. The fields flood for long periods even after light

rain.

Facilities Director Don Harwood, at an early 2020 East Hampton Board of Education meeting, shared unflattering photos of the fields and courts. Grass was rife with puddles. Faults and heaves were plainly visible in the tennis court and track.

"We want them to try and move quickly through the design phase, accomplished within a few months," said Cox.

Cox said he anticipates the project will go out to bid around late March or early April, with construction slated for the summer months.

Anyone interested in applying for the athletic fields committee can download an application from the town's website or pick up a copy at the East Hampton Town Hall.

Cox said applications should be in by Feb. 5. Cox and the council will review them and expect to start making appointments as soon as the Feb. 9 council meeting.

Cox said two applications have already been received.

The council reasoned that citizen input would be crucial in the work, and so formed the majority-resident group.

"The council felt the owners of the project- should be involved," said Cox.

Cox said improved and, frankly, viable fields will behoove the whole community, not just East Hampton High School Bellringers and their parents. He explained that the tennis court and track are used extensively by the public for outdoor, pandemic-friendly, recreation, exercise and gameplay.

Of the track and tennis surfaces, Cox said there have been alarming signs of impending underground and subsurface deterioration, an issue that would jump the cost if left to worsen.

"Really, [public use] is a big part of the reason we can't have these deteriorating further," said Cox.

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](https://www.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.

Virtual Afterschool Programs: Footprints, Fribrarys, and Fundays: The library offers fun and educational after school programming for children in grades 2-5 on Fridays during the school year, and Monday Fundays for middle school students on select Mondays. Programming takes place at 4 p.m., and all programs are over Zoom. Registration required. The schedule is: Footprints, for grades 2-3, Jan. 29 and Feb. 19; Fribrary, for grades 4-5, Feb. 5 and 26; Monday Fundays, for grades 6-8, Feb. 8 and 22.

Mindful Movements: Thursdays, 10 a.m., via Zoom, for ages 3-8. This is an early literacy program for child and caregiver that combines singing, dancing, and whole body movement. Siblings welcome. For weekly reminders and recordings, register online.

Valentine's Pork Roast Dinner

The Congregational Church of East Hampton, located at 59 Main St., is sponsoring a takeout, Valentine pork roast dinner Saturday, Feb. 13. There will be drive-thru pick-up from 5-7 p.m. in the church parking lot. Church workers will follow safety protocols.

The dinner will include boneless pork roast with herb stuffing, roasted red potatoes with fresh rosemary, glazed baby carrots, buttered green beans almondine, and yeast rolls. Red velvet cake with cream cheese frosting is the

featured Valentine's dessert.

Cost is \$15 each, payable by cash or check (made out to CCEH) at the time of pick-up.

Pre-ordering is required. To reserve dinners and pick-up time, call the church office Tuesdays through Fridays (9 a.m.-noon) at 860-267-4959, or Teri at 860-267-6150.

Orders can only be guaranteed if received by Teri no later than Friday, Feb. 12. If ordering on the last day, be sure to speak to a person.

Virtual Night to Shine

Hope Church will again serve as a host of Night to Shine 2021, sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation – though this year there are some changes, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This prom night experience celebrates people with special needs and will be held by host churches around the world simultaneously on Friday, Feb. 12, through a 'Shine Thru' drive-thru event followed by an online event later in the evening.

This virtual event will be complete with all of the prom elements, as every guest will get to enjoy music, dancing, prom favors, and messages from special guests – all leading up to the moment when each guest is crowned king or queen of the prom. Guests will drive through Hope Church parking lot beginning at 4 p.m. on Feb. 12 to pick up their prom kits and visit prom stations from their car to get ready for the big night at home. All volunteers will be wearing masks and following guidelines for safety.

For more information and to register, visit cthope.com/nts. And for more information on the worldwide movement of Night to Shine, visit www.timtebowfoundation.org.

'Comedy for Rotary'

The East Hampton Rotary Club will co-host "Comedy for Rotary" live online Friday, Feb. 12, at 7 p.m.

The hour-long event will feature two comedians: Sam Morrill, who has performed on *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, *Conan* and in three Comedy Central specials, and Moody McCarthy, who has also performed on *The Late Show* and *Conan*, as well as *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*

This event contains mature content and is intended for ages 18 and older.

Cost is \$20; there is no limit on the number of viewers per link. Proceeds benefit Rotary's efforts to help those in need. Tickets can be purchased at <https://rotary7980.myeventscenter.com>. Include East Hampton as the Rotary Club when registering.





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Donation for Books... East Hampton Rotary Club recently donated \$550 to East Hampton Middle School. The funds were used to purchase all of the Nutmeg 2021 titles. The Nutmeg collection has the highest circulation in the library and is read by students and teachers alike. This grant makes it possible to buy multiple copies of titles.

Local COVID-19 Death Toll Nears 20

By Jack Lakowsky

Town Manager David Cox on Jan. 22 announced that COVID-19 has killed 17 residents.

According to the most recent information from the state Department of Public Health (DPH), 94 new COVID-19 cases were diagnosed between Jan. 3 and Jan. 16, for a daily positivity rate of about 52/100,00.

This equates to almost seven new cases per day in East Hampton in that reporting period.

Since COVID-19 tracking began in March, 534 positive cases have been identified in town.

The jump in deaths is a result of a "reconciliation" of data, according to Chatham Health District Director Russell Melmed.

Melmed explained this happens when a death from COVID-19 occurs, but the deceased could not be tested for the virus at point-of-care. So, the medical examiner's office makes a posthumous determination that the person died of coronavirus.

The time between a given COVID-19 death and its recording into the state system can be up to a few months, Melmed said. When the death is reconciled and the individual traced back to their town, it is then recorded into that area's pandemic numbers.

While death is the most common reason for a delayed report, there can also be a delay in reports from schools or private practices that run their own tests.

"These systems are simply not designed to deal with thousands and thousands of cases,"

said Melmed. He said current public health emergency systems were designed to deal with acute, small scale emergencies, like a case of smallpox.

"At this point, it's just what we're living with," said Melmed. "The state medical examiner's office was not designed to deal with so much death."

In a Tuesday interview with the *Rivereast*, Cox said the town is now trying to "create and vet" a new method whereby residents 75 and older can register for an appointment-only vaccination, as many older residents may need help registering through the state's Vaccine Administration Management System [VAMS].

Cox said, for example, VAMS registration requires a unique email ID. This presents an obstacle to seniors without email accounts.

According to Cox's release, Chatham Health is finishing plans to help those without internet access make vaccination appointments.

However, until these plans are cemented, individuals over the age of 75 can register at www.dphsubmissions.ct.gov/onlinevaccine. Residents can also call the COVID vaccine appointment line at 877-918-2224.

United Way of Connecticut runs this line and due to a high volume of calls, Cox in his release urged residents to be patient, as United staffing is limited.

Callers to the line can make appointments for vaccinations at Rentschler Field in East Hartford, with other sites expected to be added soon.

Haddam Neck Covenant Church News

Haddam Neck Covenant Church, located at 17 Haddam Neck Rd., invites all to Sunday Worship at 9 a.m. online at www.facebook.com/Haddam-Neck-Covenant-Church or in-person with masks, social distancing and safety protocols. Pastor is the Rev. Tom Cowger.

Puppet Ministry: Each Sunday the Church's Puppet Ministry features Digger the Dog from Farmer M's Red Barn to help Cowger explain the meaning of the message topic.

Bible Study: Cowger hosts a Zoom study entitled "God's Peace and Prayers" every other Thursday from 7-8:30 p.m. The foundation of the study is the book *Armchair Mystic -- How Contemplative Prayer Can Bring You Closer to God*.

Call the church office at 860-267-2336 for more information. Office hours are 12:30-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

St. Patrick Cemetery News

Due to the amount of snow received so far, and in anticipation of more, people visiting St. Patrick Cemetery are advised that at times all of the roadways in the cemetery may not be plowed – and therefore caution is encouraged.

Also, Christmas decorations were allowed during December through Jan. 6, the Feast of the Epiphany. Therefore, people are asked to completely remove Christmas decorations from the cemetery as soon as possible; do not throw in the woods or near the stone wall.

People are also asked, when considering a decoration, to adhere to the rules and regulations posted in the cemetery regarding non-breakable items.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church News

During the pandemic, the Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church congregation has not held services in its church but instead holds them via Zoom. All are welcome; Zoom information can be found at www.facebook.com/BethlehemEH.

Services begin every Sunday morning at 10:15 a.m., with fellowship following. Communion blessings began with the Jan. 23 service. Participation only requires a piece of bread.

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Police News

1/10: After an investigation into a one-car rollover crash in the area of West High Street and Old Middletown Road where the driver of the vehicle had left the scene prior to police arrival, Adam Doran, 24, of 59 Freestone Ave., Portland, was issued a summons for evasion of responsibility, failure to drive right, improper use of a marker plate and driving without proper insurance, East Hampton Police said.

1/11: Autumn Goetz, 24, of 17 N. Main St., East Hampton was arrested and charged with sixth-degree larceny (shoplifting), police said.

1/12: Karl Nagy, 32, of Chaplin, was arrested and charged with driving under the influence, failure to drive right and possession of a controlled substance, police said.

1/14: Daniel Cook, 57, of 225 W. High St., was issued a summons for operating under suspension and failure to carry insurance, police said.

1/20: Michelle Oliva, 51, of 45 E. High St., was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and second-degree violating conditions of release, police said.

From Jan. 4-17, officers responded to seven medical calls, five motor vehicle crashes and 15 alarms, and made 46 traffic stops, police said.

Little League Registration Open

East Hampton Little League Registration is now open. Boys and girls ages 5-13 are welcome to play baseball and softball. For more information, visit www.belltownll.org. For questions, email ehllpres@gmail.com.

Kindergarten Registration to Start

Kindergarten registration packets for the 2021-22 school year will be available at the Memorial School foyer and online Monday, Feb. 15.

To secure a screening appointment, return all completed registration paperwork to the school office or drop box in the foyer by Friday, March 26. Memorial School is located at 20 Smith St.

A parent information night will be held Thursday, May 6, at 6 p.m. Details to follow.

Kindergarten screenings will be held 9 a.m.-2 p.m. the week of May 24-28.

Capstone Grant Program

Time is running out for East Hampton High School juniors and seniors to apply for a \$200 East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission (EHACC) grant.

The grant would help support one student's proposed capstone project, a multifaceted assignment that serves as a culminating academic and intellectual experience for students. capstone projects may take a wide variety of forms including a long-term investigative project that culminates in a final product, presentation, or performance.

Applicants will be invited to present their capstone project idea to commission members during an agreed upon commission meeting.

Those interested can download applications at www.artsforeasthamptonct.org and can be submitted to arts@easthamptonct.org or can be mailed/dropped off at the town manager's office at East Hampton Town Hall, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424. Applications are due Monday, Feb. 1.

Winter Classes to Start at Epoch Arts

Epoch Arts is offering an eight-week in-person series of classes starting Monday, t month, in a variety of art forms – and the nonprofit arts-for-youth organization will also offer a new art expression in the form of a youth-led Epoch magazine. Epoch invites youth to either be part of the creation and editing team or to share their art and written word, photography and more.

Classes will begin Feb. 1 and full registration and descriptions are online at epocharts.recedesk.com/Community/Program.

Organizers said they are watching COVID numbers and will have protocols in place for safety. If numbers are still rising at the time of classes, Epoch said it will re-evaluate and push the start to a later date.

Epoch Arts is located at 27 Skinner St. For more information, visit www.epocharts.org.

Lions Wants Your Shoes!

The East Hampton Lions Club is kicking off a shoe collection drive Monday, Feb. 1. Any new or gently-worn shoes, sneakers and boots are welcome. The Lions said they hope to collect 2,500 pairs, which will be used to support small businesses in developing countries.

The Lions have partnered with the students of Center School for the drive. The classrooms will compete for the top three classes that collect the most shoes. The students will bring the shoes to the school for the Lions to pick up.

The Lions intend to have a few shoe collection boxes around town. However, in the interim, call Lion Mary Krogh at 860-977-5760 or Lion Sandy Giordano at 860-593-1220 to have your shoes picked up.

Dean's List

Taylor Engel of East Hampton made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Siena College in Loudonville, N.Y.

Alexandra Dombrowski made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Upper Iowa University in Fayette, Iowa.

Dombrowski is an emergency/disaster management major.

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.

Scholarship Available

Carl Guild and Associates has announced its community scholarship program for local high school seniors entering college in the fall. There are five \$1,000 scholarships given, one each in East Hampton, Portland, Colchester, East Haddam and the RHAM school district.

There are no restrictions or qualifications; all local seniors can apply. For applications, visit www.carlguild.com/scholarship or ask your school's guidance counselor. Deadline is April 1.

Dean's List

East Hampton residents Alyssa Chunko, Kristiana Cloutier, Erin Gannon and Clara Gustine made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I.

East Hampton residents Grace Cronin and Maggie Donohue made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Springfield College in Springfield, Mass.

Cronin and Donohue are both majoring in health science and pre-physical therapy.

East Hampton residents Jonathan Barber and Ardyn Lezak made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Springfield College in Springfield, Mass.

Barber is majoring in computer and information sciences, and Lezak is majoring in criminal justice.

London Brazal of East Hampton made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Brazal is a freshman majoring in communications. She is the daughter of Jodi and Dwight Brazal and a 2020 graduate of East Hampton High School.

Marlborough • Marlborough

Group Aims to Help with COVID-19 Vaccines

By Karla Santos

Marlborough Fire Department Rescue Captain Mark Merritt has been working on an initiative that could help save lives – but has nothing to do with fighting fires.

Merritt has formed a group of volunteers to help town seniors register to get their COVID-19 vaccine.

Merritt said so far the group has helped about 85 people get registered to get their vaccines, and is hoping to help more. He said they have been calling everyone in town age 75 and older help them get registered if they want the vaccine.

He told the *Rivereast* he wanted to spread the word that he is doing this over the phone, as some seniors have been resisting, as they don't know the caller and in order to register they have to provide confidential information such as their Social Security Number.

"I'm hoping even more so that maybe some other towns will follow through and someone will be inspired enough to do it on their own and get it done for the older crowd," Merritt said.

Merritt said that when he registered his own mother two weeks ago, he realized that, for seniors who don't have internet, a smart phone or an email address, it might be difficult to get registered. In addition, they have to follow up on the process to get their second shot, Merritt noted.

"We are creating emails and accounts for all these people," Merritt said.

Marlborough Senior Center is also helping seniors get connected with Merritt or one of the other volunteers that can assist with registration. Interested seniors can call the senior center at 860-295-6209 to get their vaccination process started.

Merritt said the senior center is also helping coordinate rides so those that don't have access to transportation can be taken to the vaccine site.

He said people "need to do something for this whole demographic, this whole age group, because those are the ones most at risk – and they are the ones that are kind of being overlooked."

Resident Frances Terasé said Merritt is "like a life saver."

She explained she and her husband are not "computer people," but said they were able to register with Merritt's help. She said she tried to register over the phone a few times with the state, but she was not able to get connected.

"I was very happy to hear from Mark because he's taken all this leg work out of it," Terasé said. "We have an appointment in two weeks."

Melissa Jordan is one of the volunteers working with Merritt to get seniors registered. She said it's been "awesome" to be able to help in that capacity.

"I'm also a healthcare provider who is at home full-time," she said, "so it's actually something awesome for me as a way of being involved while I'm not able to be on the front lines at this time raising my family."

Historical Society News

Marlborough Historical Society has announced the following pieces of news:

Architectural Surveys: The society is conducting surveys of historic structures in town. For more information, email mhs@marlboroughhistory.org or write to the society at P.O. Box 351, Marlborough, CT 06447.

2021 Calendars Available: Purchase at www.marlboroughhistory.org or by mail at 17 School Drive. Cost is \$18.

Reflections Into Marlborough's History: This town history book is available for purchase. Cost is \$50. More information is at www.marlboroughhistory.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, 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.

Dean's List

Marlborough residents Lia Baroncini and Jordan Frey made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Springfield College in Springfield, Mass.

Baroncini is majoring in health science and pre-physical therapy, and Frey is majoring in exploratory studies.

Parks and Rec Programs

Marlborough Parks and 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. Parks and Rec. advises people not to wait until the last minute to register, as the program may be canceled if minimum registration is not fulfilled by a certain date. Also, all in-person classes are subject to change to virtual programs, based on state regulations.

Youth Programs: Fashion Sketching 101: Wednesdays, Feb. 2 and 9, 3:15-4:15 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. For grades 2-8. Fee: \$53/residents, \$57/non-residents.

Kids Quilting 101: Tuesdays, Feb. 2-23, 3:15-4:30 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center, for grades 4-8. A supply list and homework will be given prior to the first class. Fee: \$63/residents, \$68/non-residents.

Mad Science: Tuesdays, Feb. 2-March 23, 3:20-4:20 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center, for grades K-6. Fee: \$150/residents, \$155/non-residents.

Artventureswithkids: Thursdays, Feb. 4-March 25, 4:15-5:15 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center, for grades K-4. Fee: \$132/residents, \$138/non-residents.

Kids Private Virtual Sewing: Days, nights

Cardboard Cutouts in Pews

A community-wide fundraiser is being sponsored by Marlborough Congregational Church – parishioners in the form of cardboard cutouts.

Worship services are livestreamed Sundays at 10 a.m. through mcc.marlconchurch.org with only church pastor the Rev. Bob Faulhaber, organist Dave Mulligan, and a technical staff in attendance. So that Faulhaber won't need to preach to an almost empty sanctuary, there are plans to have "Pew People" fill the seats using professionally-made life-size photo cardboard cut-outs.

All ages are welcome to participate, including church and family members, friends, people from the community and beyond. There is a \$50 minimum donation per cutout.

For details, contact the church office at office@marlconchurch.org or 860-295-9050.

and weekends are available. Fee is \$48 for a 90-minute session.

Adult Programs: Private Virtual Sewing: Days, nights and weekends are available. Fee is \$48 for a 90-minute session.

Barre/Pilates: Mondays, Feb. 1-22, 5:30-6:15 p.m. Class instruction is virtual. Fee is \$50, or a \$15/week drop-in fee.

Yoga: Mondays, Feb. 1-22, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Class instruction is virtual. Fee is \$50, or a \$15/week drop-in fee.

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING

The Marlborough Zoning Board of Appeals will hold the following public hearing on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. via teleconference.

Teleconference Number 877 - 304 - 9269 / Access Code 423694#

APPLICATION #ZBA-8-20 - Gordon Sime (Applicant/Property Owner) Pettengill Vacant Lot located between 40 Pettengill Road & 39 Washington Road - is seeking variance of Article Three A.1, Minimum Requirements, Article Three A.3 Conformity of Buildings & Land, Article Three A.5 Reduction of Lot Areas or Minimum Required Yards, Article Three A.9 Minimum Required Yards, Article Six D. 2 a Front Yard Setback, in order to construct a single family house with a Front Yard Setback of 32 feet where 50 feet is required.

APPLICATION #ZBA-1-21 - Bill Lardi & Amy Traversa (Applicant/Property Owner) 153 Saner Rd - is seeking variance of Article Three A.1, Minimum Requirements, Article Three A.3 Conformity of Buildings & Land, Article Three A.5 Reduction of Lot Areas or Minimum Required Yards, Article Three A.9 Minimum Required Yards, Article Six D. 2 a Front Yard Setback, in order to construct a deck with a Front Yard Setback of 34 feet where 50 feet is required, to construct a front door landing area with Front Yard Setback of 28 feet where 50 feet is required, and to construct breezeway with a Front Yard Setback of 45 feet where 50 feet is required.

Interested parties can review the application materials on the Town of Marlborough Website marlboroughct.net then go to meetings & agendas click on Agendas then go to Zoning Board of Appeals. Written testimony should be sent at least 24 hours ahead of the public hearing date to building@marlboroughct.net and oral testimony may be given during the public hearing.

Last Day to Pay Taxes

Monday, Feb. 1, is the last day to pay the second installment of motor vehicle, real estate and personal property taxes, and the supplemental motor vehicle tax, which were due Jan. 1.

Payments can be mailed to Tax Collector, P.O. Box 29, Marlborough, CT 06447, or placed in the drop box to the left of the Town Hall door. Town Hall is located at 26 N. Main St. No cash is to be placed in the box or the tax collector's window. Taxes can also be paid online at marlboroughct.net.

Deferred applications must be received by Feb. 1.

Contact Barbara C. Murray with questions at taxcollector@marlboroughct.net or 860-295-6205.

Arts Center Preparing for Tag Sale

Marlborough Arts Center, located at 231 N. Main St., is planning its annual tag sale for as soon as COVID-19 restrictions will allow. In preparation, donations of household goods and other tag sale items will be accepted in February, on Tuesdays from 6-7 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-noon.

No books, TVs, or clothing will be accepted. Donations may be left at the lower level of the center, next to the door.

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Congregational Church News

The Sunday worship service at 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.

Regular 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.

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.

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

Mission-giving for January will go to the Marlborough Food Bank. If donating, make your check payable to MCC, note "first quarter missions," and mail to the church at P.O. Box 57, Marlborough, CT 06447.

All students in grades 5-7 are invited to Junior Youth Group. For more information, contact Gwen Lawson at gwendolynn78@yahoo.com.

Amazon Smile donates .5% of purchases back to the church when you sign in using smile.amazon.com/ch/06-1038392.

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.

Dean's List

Hunter Tuohey of Marlborough recently made the fall 2020 Dean's List at the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Va.

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.

Adult Book Club Resumes: The club will be meeting virtually, beginning with an initial "welcome back" meeting to be held Thursday, Feb. 4, from 9:30-10:30 a.m. New members are encouraged to join the group. Email the library to register for the program.

Cartooning with Joe Vos: The library is bringing the Charles M. Schulz Museum to the community – virtually. Children in grades kindergarten and up can attend Wednesday, Feb. 3, from 4:30-5:10 p.m., on Zoom to work with professional cartoonist Joe Vos, who will lead students through guided drawing lessons that break down the art of cartooning into easy-to-follow instructions. This fast-paced, live instruction covers the art of visual storytelling,

from basic line work to developing characters, and helps students understand their artistic abilities. This program is geared towards all skill levels. Children should have pencils and lots of paper. Email richmondprograms@gmail.com to register.

Art of the Holocaust: The library will be partnering with the Holocaust Museum of Houston in Texas for an Art of the Holocaust program on Monday, Feb. 8, at 7 p.m., on Zoom. Through the analysis and interpretation of artwork created by Jewish artists in ghettos and in concentration camps, program attendees will learn about the role of artwork during times of injustice and how these visual voices shed light on the personal experiences of Jewish men, women, and children throughout the Holocaust. Email the library to register.

Library2Go Teen Take & Make: Snowman Origami: Pre-teens and teens (recommended for ages 11 and up) can pick up a Library2Go Teen Take & Make Kit with instructions and materials to make your own origami melting snowman. Available while supplies last.

Winter Storytimes: Children ages 2-3 can meet virtually at 10 a.m. Mondays, Feb. 8 and 22, March 8 and 22, and April 12. Children ages 3-5 can meet virtually at 10 a.m. Fridays, Feb. 12 and 26, March 12 and 26, and April 9. Email richmondprograms@gmail.com to register.

Book Drop: The book drop is open. Items are quarantined for three days (72 hours) before being checked in. Overdue fines are not accruing at this time.

Curbside Printing: Email a JPEG, DOC, or PDF to richmondprograms@gmail.com and staff will print it for you. Standard printing charges still apply; the first two pages are free, then 25 cents per black and white page and 50 cents per color page. Exact change must be put in a sealed envelope with your name on it and left in the library book drop. Staff will contact you when the item is available for pick-up. Allow up to one full business day.

Police News

1/20: A two-car crash left one with suspected serious injuries, State Police said. According to a press release, the accident happened at around 6:44 a.m., when a Mazda and Ford were each driving east on Route 2 – which police said was icy and covered with snow. Police said the driver of the Mazda lost control of the vehicle, causing it to become disabled in the right lane of the road. The driver of the Ford crashed into the Mazda. According to the press release both drivers sustained injuries and were transported by Emergency Medical Services for evaluation. The driver of the Ford had a "possible injury" while the driver of the Mazda had a "suspected serious injury." The crash remains under investigation.

1/22: State Police said that RYANNE LEAH GROMATZKY, 31, of 52 Johnson Rd., Marlborough, was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and second-degree assault.

Dean's List

Elizabeth Chapman of Marlborough made the fall 2020 Dean's List at the University of Connecticut.

She has graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in allied health, with a concentration in disease tracking/health education.



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Obituaries

Amston

George E. Alden III

George Edward Alden III, 77, of Amston, beloved husband of Marilyn (Clifford) Alden, died Wednesday, Dec. 30, at Masonicare Health Center in Wallingford. He was born in New Britain Aug. 27, 1943. He was oldest of nine children, born to parents George Edward Alden Jr. and Jane (Cook) Alden.



George was a Navy submarine veteran of the Vietnam War. He served as a sonar technician and rose to the level of chief petty officer.

George met his beloved wife Marilyn when they were both teenagers. They were married Nov. 22, 1963. George is survived by his loving wife, Marilyn; his daughter, Kimberly Riordan and her husband Francis; his son, George Edward Alden IV and his wife Lisa; and daughter Toni D'Addeo and her husband Antonio. He also leaves behind 10 grandchildren and two adoring great-granddaughters.

George was a great outdoorsman! He traveled to Alaska to fish and hike with his brothers Jeff, Chris and sister Jill. He fished, grew an amazing vegetable garden and tended his yard with loving care. He was an avid birdwatcher and enjoyed feeding squirrels and frogs from his hands. He was active in state and town politics, including leadership in local Tea Party Patriots.

A memorial service will be held at a later date when it is safe to gather.

Those who wish may send memorial donations to the Hebron Interfaith Human Services, 20 Pendleton Drive, Hebron, CT 06248.

To share memories or express condolences online, please visit www.beigafuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Sally Boyce

Sally (Hood) Boyce, 93, of East Hampton, passed away at her home Monday morning, Jan. 18. Born Jan. 24, 1927, in New Rochelle, N.Y., she was the daughter of Dr. Robin Hood and Juna Hix Hood. She graduated from New Rochelle High School and continued her education at Stephens College in Columbia, Mo.



While growing up, Sally summered at Lake Pocotopaug where she met her husband, William S. Boyce. She was married in June 1947 and lived at Lake Pocotopaug her entire married life of 63 years. The lake house was a hub of constant activity for the family. There were always picnics, parties and get-togethers, especially on the Fourth of July. The entire family and friends could enjoy the benefits of Sally's hospitality. Sally's presence was always front and center and she will be sadly missed.

Sally was a master at handling needles and crochet hooks. The entire family was gifted many blankets, sweaters, mittens and the beautiful Christmas stockings that we all still use today. She also loved to garden and cook.

Sally was predeceased by her husband of 63 years, William S. Boyce. She is survived by her six children and spouses, Deborah and David Jackson of East Hampton; John and Marcy Boyce of East Hampton; Robin and Joan Boyce of Simpsonville, S.C.; Donna and Dennis Jenks of East Hampton; Gregory Boyce of East Hampton; and William Gary and Jamie Boyce of Glastonbury. In addition to her children, she leaves her grandchildren, Shelley Carpenter and her husband Eric; Stacey Amende and her husband Corey; Brian Jackson and his wife Ashley;

John Boyce Jr.; Courtney Eighmy and her husband Jack; Wesley Jenks; Janine Shumbo-Jenks and her husband Dale; Evan Boyce; Madison Boyce; McKenzie Boyce; Alexandra Boyce; Emma Boyce; Jack Boyce. She also leaves behind 14 great-grandchildren.

The family is planning a private memorial service at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the donor's choice.

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

Portland

John Sullivan

John Sullivan, 69, of Portland, passed away peacefully Friday, Jan. 22, in Florida, with family and friends by his side. John was born Jan. 27, 1951, and was the youngest child of William and Anne (Fitzgibbons) Sullivan.



John grew up in the town of Portland and spent his entire life in the town. He truly loved Portland. He graduated from Portland High School in 1969. Always an entrepreneur at heart, John began working in the office equipment industry, selling and repairing typewriters. Eager to own and run his own business, John and his business partner Vincent Lanzi struck out on their own in 1983 and purchased what was to become A&A Office Systems. John put his heart and soul into the business and made the company a success. John relocated the business in 2001 to Middletown because he loved the community and wanted to have his business there. He built several buildings and the company grew to almost 100 employees.

John also had a passion for improving Portland and purchased several buildings on Main Street to improve them. Along the way, he started two other businesses, the Brownstone Bottle Shop and the White Dog Café. He was very proud of his businesses and what he had accomplished professionally. He sold all his businesses over the last several years and all are still thriving. John always had an instinct for business and the ability to make the right move at the right time.

John met his wife Eileen Keser after being set up on a blind date. They were married in 2000 in Portland and moved to a house on the Portland Golf Course the same year. Living overlooking a Portland golf course had been a dream of John's since he was a young boy. John and Eileen have been together over 20 years and they truly loved each other through thick and thin. John was married previously to Debra (Haydon) Sullivan also of Portland with whom he had two children, Barry and Robyn Sullivan.

John had the heart of a philanthropist and was very generous over the years to many organizations and individuals. He always donated generously to the Middlesex United Way, Middlesex County Community Foundation, Portland Food Bank, St. Mary Church, Middlesex YMCA and the Portland Police Department, to name a few. He was given the Alexis deTocqueville Philanthropy award from the United Way in 2016. His contributions to Middlesex Hospital over the years even resulted in a room being named in his honor. He sponsored and helped plan and run the annual "Chumley" Golf Tournament for 10 years in Portland that was given in honor of Eileen's brother Chumley and benefited the Portland Food Bank. You would always see him there smiling and making sure everyone was having a good time.

John also helped countless individuals who needed help over the years. During this past

year, John donated a great deal of money to Connecticut Children's Medical Center and other pediatric cancer research foundations after the diagnosis of his youngest grandchild.

John had an infectious personality and always gave you a cheerful greeting and a smile. He will be remembered for his one-liners, his humorous wit, and that million-dollar smile. His blue Irish eyes constantly twinkled, giving away his gregarious and mischievous spirit.

John enjoyed cars and racing and travelled many years to watch the Daytona 500 and other races around the country, always rooting for Darrell Waltrip. He was also a New England Patriots fan and season ticket holder as well as a Boston Red Sox fan. He enjoyed going to games with friends and family. John was a die-hard Rolling Stones fan and went to many of their shows over the years. John had a zest for living, a quick wit, and was the life of many a "partay" as he would say. He made everyone he was with feel important and special.

In addition to his loving wife Eileen, John is survived by his son, Barry Sullivan and his wife Micky of Portland; daughter, Robyn Sullivan of Wethersfield; stepdaughter, Meagan Salinsky of Glastonbury; stepson, Patrick Dill of Colchester; stepdaughter, Moira Dill of Portland; grandson Brady; granddaughters Haydon and Abigail; they were the apples of his eye!! He is also survived by sister Betty Martyszczuk and her husband Bill; nieces Kathy Thurz and her husband Mike, Susie Angersola and her husband Don, Jennifer Dellavecchia and her husband Bob, Kim Clark, Kelly Sullivan, and Kyli Sullivan; nephews Brendyn Sullivan and his wife Kori, and Easton Sullivan and his wife Jessica; his best friend Jim Curley; and the two family cats, Big and Little.

John was predeceased by his parents; his big brothers, Michael and Billy; his beloved sister, Patricia Sienkiewicz; brothers-in-law Edward Sienkiewicz, Joe Keser and Charles "Chumley" Keser; his friend, Dana Sweet; and his baby Isis, the dog.

In lieu of flowers, the family is asking for donations to be made to either the Portland Food Bank or Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held today, Jan. 29, at 10 a.m., at St. Mary Church in Portland. Burial will be private in St. Mary Cemetery, Portland.

Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland is in charge of arrangements.

Colchester

Frank Lavech Jr.

Frank "Frankie" Lavech Jr. of Colchester, beloved husband of Lillian (MacGregor) Lavech, father, father-in-law, grandfather, brother, uncle, godfather and friend, passed away Monday, Jan. 18, his 89th birthday. Frank was born in Delanson, N.Y., to Frank Lavech Sr. and Elna (Hansen) Lavech on Jan. 18, 1932. He married his high school sweetheart, Lillian, and they have resided in Colchester for the last 61 years.



Frank was a quiet man, with twinkling eyes, and a strong work ethic, who loved his family above all else. He was a proud father and an even prouder grandfather. Nothing made him happier than being around family; enjoying meals together, holiday celebrations, picnics, savoring a Chinese buffet, or antiquing at Brimfield, Mass., with his niece and her husband. His favorite family pastimes included spending time with his granddaughters; from camping all over New England, to attending their school events, and cheering them on at their basketball, baseball or soccer games. You could always find Frank at one of Connecticut's country fairs, as he and Lillian went to almost all of them every year.

Throughout his life, Frank was an avid fan of both watching and playing sports. He enjoyed playing basketball and baseball in high school, loved the Boston Red Sox, and was one of the most enthusiastic fans of the UConn women's basketball team. Frank enjoyed being outdoors in every season, from fishing and hunting, to tending to his impressive vegetable garden and watching with great pride as it grew and produced every year. He also enjoyed putting around his property and watching the many different types of birds at their numerous bird feeders around the yard.

Frank and Lillian's 1778 colonial farmhouse and its surrounding property sparked many hobbies and lots of hard work throughout the years. Frank completed all of the restoration

work and repairs on this old but charming house by himself, whether it was wood shingle roofing, plumbing, electrical, heating, or carpentry work. He also tried his hand at blacksmithing, brewing maple syrup, and buying and selling antiques. He even took the time to raise a couple of calves along the way.

Frank was extremely proud of his military service in the U.S. Army. He first served in the Army Reserves and then as a tank commander in the 23rd Recon Company, stationed in the Panama Canal Zone. After his service in the U.S. Army, Frank became a pipefitter by trade at Electric Boat in Groton, where he worked his way up to being a supervisor in the construction of nuclear submarines. Frank worked at Electric Boat for 29 years.

Frank was civic-minded, had strong opinions, and loved the town in which he lived. He was active in the Colchester Historical Society for 40 years, and he attended the Colchester Federated Church where throughout the years he performed a myriad of church duties. He served as a deacon, an usher, a member of the stewardship committee, business committee, and helped to host church dinners and banquets.

Frank is survived by his loving wife, Lillian; daughters, Debra McConville (Garry) of Vernon, Barbara Lavech-Allen (Dale Allen) of Lebanon; granddaughters, Dr. Victoria O'Brien (Conor) of Chadds Ford, Pa., and Catherine Allen (Tyler Johnson) of Marlborough, N.H. Frank is also survived by sisters, Doris Patterson (Royce) of Clifton Park, N.Y., and Ruth Deruzza of Unadilla, N.Y., and predeceased by his sister, Phyllis Evans of Las Vegas, Nev. "Uncle Frankie" also has many nieces and nephews, all of whom were very special to him. He was happily awaiting the arrival of his first great-grandchild.

I LOVE YOU 8,000 ME

Frank Lavech Jr., "a man well-loved, a life well-lived."

There will be a graveside family service at the Linwood Cemetery in Colchester.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in Frank's honor to the Colchester Federated Church "Deacons Fund," 60 S. Main St., Colchester, CT 06415.

East Hampton

Claire O'Neil

Claire (Moran) O'Neil, 88, of East Hampton, passed away Saturday, Jan. 23, after a brief illness. The daughter of the late Robert and Emma Moran, she was born in Camden, N.J., in 1932, but moved to Connecticut at an early age.



She is survived by three children: her son John and his wife Gail of Middletown; her daughter Eileen of New Britain; and her daughter Maura Weber and her husband Joe of East Hampton. She is also survived by her sister, Barbara Korenkiewicz of Mystic, and her brother, Robert Moran and his wife Cindy of Griswold. Claire is survived by two grandchildren, Michael Weber of Worcester, Mass., and Emily Weber of Boston, Mass.

Claire was predeceased by her husband of 44 years, John F. O'Neil; her daughter Jean; and her brother William Moran.

A strong proponent of education, Claire spent her career as a kindergarten and special education teacher in the East Hampton Public Schools. She graduated from the Norwich Free Academy, and then received her B.S. from UConn, a 5th year degree from Eastern Connecticut State University, and her M.S. from Central Connecticut State University. She was very active in the local community and was most proud of her service on the Library Board for eight years, including a position as the secretary for four years. During that time she served on the Library Building Committee, and was instrumental in finding a site for the new library, interviewing and choosing the architect, and working on plans for the building. Claire was an active member of St. Patrick Church in East Hampton. She served as secretary of the parish council from 1999 to 2001, and was vice president of St. Patrick Guild in 2002.

Claire was an avid traveler in retirement, enjoying many cruises with her husband and later with close friends. Not one to sit still for long, she spent her time reading, golfing with a women's golf league, playing bridge at the senior center, and keeping up with local and national politics. Claire also volunteered at Middlesex Hospital, dedicated to providing hospice care to those in need for many years. In her later years, her greatest joy was spending time with her

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Obituaries continued

children and grandchildren. We will all miss her quick wit, generosity and unassuming compassion.

A funeral liturgy will be celebrated Saturday, Jan. 30, at 10 a.m., at St. Patrick Church in East Hampton, with burial to follow in St. Patrick Cemetery.

To leave online condolences, please visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

East Hampton

Mark James Zadrozny

Mark James Zadrozny of East Hampton bid adieu to us all Wednesday, Jan. 20. He was born to the late John Zadrozny and Florence (Dougherty) Zadrozny on Sept. 30, 1960, in New Britain.



A self-described prankster and troublemaker, he happily encouraged young and old to join in on the antics. He would repeatedly encourage his niece to “stir it up” and “give ‘em hell.” He cemented this advice by gifting her a “Bad to the Bone” bumper sticker, which, to her mother’s dismay, she proudly hung in her bedroom.

When he was not thinking of ways to pull someone’s leg he could be found in a garden or painting. He was a prolific gardener and had not one but two green thumbs. He would selflessly share his bounty with friends and strangers alike. No doubt the gardens he tended felt the fullness of his heart, which was big.

His favorite vegetables, tomatoes and peppers, accurately represented him – sweet and spicy. He was also fond of sunflowers, no doubt feeling as if he and they were kindred spirits with their love of basking in the sun and bringing joy to others.

His love of gardening was matched only by his love of the ocean. While most of us “suckers” toiled away under fluorescent lights, Mark reveled in soaking up the sun while sipping on suds. He believed the beach and seafood to be a panacea for anything that ailed you and, truth be told, it’s pretty good advice. His co-conspirator and lifelong buddy Gordon (Gordie) Greenwood would agree.

He is survived by his two siblings, Kathleen M. York (significant other C. Joseph Plourde, Jr.) and William J. Zadrozny (Debbie Zadrozny) of East Hampton, who he equally loved and loved to razz; nieces, Chelsea Zadrozny

(significant other Keith Helstrom) of Hebron, and Alexandra (Amy) York (Elizabeth Kozlow) of Alexandria, Va., who intends to keep Mark’s full heart, love of the ocean, and jokester nature alive albeit in a PG-13-rated version instead of his R-rated version; and two grandnephews, Avery and Skyler York, both of whom happily subscribe to Mark’s mission of causing trouble and making people laugh.

While there will be no formal service and the family requests no flowers be sent, you can still remember Mark in your own way. He would most likely prefer you remember him while savoring some juicy tomatoes, hot peppers or shrimp while sitting by the ocean and making everyone around you laugh. You could also support a garden club such as the Belltown Community Garden Club.

Or if you would rather donate money in his memory, please send donations to the Benny Fund: Neiweweems c/o The Benny Fund, 83 Wopowog Rd., East Hampton, CT 06424 or visit <https://bennyfund.org/>. They have a mission Mark would definitely support “Be kind. Do Good.” And he would no doubt jokingly add “raise some hell.”

We wish God much luck with Mark’s antics; he’ll certainly need it. Much like the summer season he loved so much, Mark left all of us too soon.

To leave online condolences, please visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

Mary Jane Woods

Mary Jane Woods, “Whirl Wind,” 67, of Colchester, passed away Saturday, Jan. 23, at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown. Born Dec. 21, 1953, in Grand Island, Neb., she was a daughter of the late Mariano and Betty Rodriguez.



Mary was very passionate and proud of her Native American background; she was part of a lineage that could be traced directly back to Geronimo. Mary was a proud member of the American Indian Movement (A.I.M.) and participated in several protests to help advance Native American causes, most notably protesting at the former Alcatraz Prison.

For over 20 years, Mary worked as the arts

and crafts coordinator for the Pequot Tribe, where she created numerous tribal regalia and other works of art for ceremonies and had the honor of having several pieces of her art on display in the Smithsonian museums. In her spare time, Mary enjoyed traveling across the country with her husband Robert; the two of them would share a motorcycle and go on road trips for weeks at a time.

She is survived by her husband, Robert J. Beckman; daughter, Eva (Joshua) Avery; stepchildren, Jerry Beckman, Mark Cargo and Heather Fouse; grandchildren, Isaiah, Ahviel, Cameron, Barry and Rilee; and many other numerous extended family and friends.

Walk-through calling hours will be held today, Jan. 29, from 4-7 p.m., at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. All who wish to attend must wear a mask.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial donations be made to Mary’s GoFundMe page, gofund.me/b8c1c706.

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

Colchester

Judith A. Ellis

Judith (Judy) A. Ellis, 70, of Colchester, passed away Thursday, Jan. 21, at Backus Hospital in Norwich, after an extended illness.



Judith was married to Terrance Ellis, who predeceased her in 2014. She retired several years ago after a long and successful career as a medical assistant with Dr. Jan J. Akus.

She leaves to mourn her loss two stepdaughters, Cynthia Duprey (Mark) and Diane Buttmer; seven grandchildren; five great-grandchildren;

three very dear friends, Lynda Ruzsala, Tina Sklar, Janice Felciano; and numerous extended family and friends. In addition to her husband and parents, she was predeceased by a stepdaughter, Deborah Schools, and grandson, Jason Schools.

Judy will be remembered as a good friend who loved getting together for lunch, day trips and card games. Funeral services will be held privately, according to her wishes.

The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with care of arrangements. For online condolences, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com

Obituary Policy

Rivereast will publish obituaries free of charge if the deceased person is a resident or former resident of any of the towns we circulate in.

Charges apply for obituaries of persons who were not residents. Contact the advertising director at (860) 633-4691 for rates.

LIQUOR PERMIT

Notice of Application

This is to give notice that, I,

BRIAN AIDA

9 GROVE ST

PORTLAND, CT 06480-1956

Have filed an application placarded 01/28/2021 with the

Department of Consumer Protection

for a RESTAURANT LIQUOR PERMIT

for the sale of alcoholic liquor on the premises at:

91 MAIN ST STE B

PORTLAND CT 06480-1825

The business will be owned by:

CONCENTRIC BREWING COMPANY LLC

Entertainment will consist of: Acoustics (not amplified), Concerts,

Disk Jockeys, Karaoke, Live Bands, Plays/Shows, Comedians,

Sporting Events, Magicians

Objections must be filed by: 03-11-2021

BRIAN AIDA

2TB 1/29, 2/5

**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Regular Meeting at 7 pm on February 8, 2021 via Zoom meeting (see Town website for details) to consider the following:

- Application ZBA-21-001: Brian Galovich, 35 Highland Terrace, to increase the lot coverage from previously approved 13% to 17% to construct an 18’x36’ IG pool with 650 sq. ft. concrete decking around and a 20’x30’ pool house. Map 18/Block 44/Lot 78-28.
- Application ZBA-21-002: Ursula Mascaro, 49 Wagonk Trail, to reduce the north side setback from 15’ to 4.47’ and the south side setback from 15’ to 6.91’ to construct a second story addition and a 40 sq. ft. second deck. Map 9A/Block 70C/Lot 39
- Application ZBA-21-003: Nancy, Donald Jr., Robert and Sue Briere, 91-93 Lake Drive, Subdivide property for Lot A and B: reduce min lot area for Lot A from 20,000 SF to 12,029 SF, reduce lot width for Lot A from 125’ to 112.70’, increase lot coverage for Lot A from 20% to 23.8% and 28.2% for Lot B, reduce front setback for Lot A from 25’ to 19.6’ and reduce the side setbacks for both lots from 25’ to 3.8’. Map 25/Block 64/Lot 56

Matthew Walton, Chairman

2TB 1/29, 2/5

**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice of Hearing

The East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a regular meeting on February 3, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. to consider the following (contact the Land Use Department for location details):

- Application PZC-20-024: Paula Free**, 249 West High St., for a special permit per Sec. 8.4 Motor Fuel Filling Station for a proposed convenience store. Map 06/Block 12/Lot 1B.
- Application PZC-20-026: Long Hill Estates, LLC.**, Long Hill Estate Subdivision, for a Zone Change R-2 to C. Map 06/Block 12/Lot 8
- Application PZC-20-027: Connecticut Contractors Group, LLC.**, Young/Daniel Street Subdivision. Map 13/Block 51/Lot 1

Ray Zatorski, Chairman

Note* any question re: Applications and Maps are on file in the Land Use Office 860-267-7450.

2TB 1/22, 1/29

Detention Basin Clearing

**TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH, CONNECTICUT
INVITATION TO BID**

Sealed Bids for the Detention Basin Clearing will be received by the Town of Marlborough at the Town Clerk’s Office until 10:00 AM local time on Thursday, February 25, 2021. Received Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at this time. The Project consists of clearing all trees and woody vegetation within and around 11 detention basins.

Bids shall be on a lump sum. Prospective Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents on-line at marlboroughct.net or State CT DAS website, and may obtain copies of the Bidding Documents from the Building Land Use/Building Department by calling 860 295 6202 or e-mail Building@marlboroughct.net.

To receive the documents via package services, send a completed pre-paid pickup label from either UPS or FEDEX to the Issuing Office. PDF copies are available upon request after the receipt of the non-refundable fee.

The date that the Bidding Documents are transmitted by the Issuing Office will be considered the Bidder’s date of receipt of the Bidding Documents. Partial sets of Bidding Documents will not be available from the Issuing Office. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including Addenda if any, obtained from sources other than the Issuing Office.

A pre-bid conference will be held at 2:00 PM on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at the Department of Public Works, 66 South Main Street, Marlborough, CT. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is highly encouraged but is not mandatory.

The successful Bidder will be required to provide Performance in the amount of one hundred percent of the Contract Price. The Owner is exempt from payment of Sales and Use Taxes on all materials and equipment to be permanently incorporated in the Work. These taxes shall not be included in the Bid.

Attention of bidders is particularly called to the requirement for all contractors and subcontractors to provide affirmative action to ensure equal opportunity employment as noted in the Governor’s Executive Orders 3 and 17.

The bidder agrees that its bid shall be good, capable of being accepted, and may not be withdrawn for a period of sixty [60] days, Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays excluded, after the opening of bids.

The Town reserves the right to waive any technical defects in the bids; to reject bids which do not conform to the terms and conditions described in the specifications; to reject any, any part of, or all bids; to waive informalities or irregularities in the bidding process; and to accept that bid which the Town deems to be in its best interest, whether or not it is the lowest dollar proposed.

All work to be performed in connection with the proposed project will be subject to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, ordinances and regulations.

If the Town determines, in its sole discretion, to proceed with the work, the successful bidder must execute and deliver an Agreement and furnish valid Certificates of Insurance with full policies, a performance bond, and to the Town prior to the start of any work.

It is the responsibility of the bidder to ensure that it has received any and all addendums to this Invitation to Bid prior to submitting a bid.

This Invitation to Bid is not binding on the Town.

The Town reserves the right to revise or amend the plans and specifications from time to time as it deems necessary.

This Invitation to Bid has been prepared solely to solicit bids and does not constitute a contract offer.

The Town reserves the right to amend, cancel, postpone, withdraw, or resubmit this Invitation for Bid at any time if it is in the best interest of the Town to do so.

The Town is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Minority/Women Business Enterprises are encouraged to apply

Town of Marlborough, Connecticut
By: Gregory J. Lowrey, First Selectman
Date: January 28, 2021

2TB 1/29, 2/5

YOUR SATISFACTION IS OUR #1 PRIORITY

OIL & FILTER CHANGE

Change Oil Filter
Change Engine Oil
Check All Fluid Levels
Get Tire Pressure
Inspect Air & Fuel Filter
Inspect Belts & Hoses

SPECIAL \$28.95 Plus Tax

Synthetic oil not included. Coupon good through 1/31/2021. One per customer. Most vehicles. Cannot be combined with any other offer.

EVANS AUTOMOTIVE

A/C Service Special!

\$20.00 OFF

Coupon good through 1/31/2021. One per customer. Most vehicles. Cannot be combined with any other offer.

EVANS
Automotive Repair

29 Mill Hill Rd., Colchester, CT 06415

860-537-0640
evansautomotiverepair.com

Check our Quality Serviced Pre-Owned Vehicle Selection \$598 and Under

Celebrating 27 Years in Colchester

Foreign & Domestic • Medium & Heavy Duty Trucks • Engine Repair (Gas & Diesel) • Transmissions • Brakes • Electrical • Suspension & Steering • Heating & Air Conditioning • Towing

LEGAL NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF CERTIFICATION OF PARTY-ENDORSED CANDIDATES FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICES INCLUDING NOTICE OF “UNDERENDORSEMENT” FOR SOME OFFICES

LEGAL NOTICE

A certified list of Republican party-endorsed candidates for the Town of Andover, CT for election as:

- Board of Finance
- Board of Education
- Planning & Zoning Commission
- Planning & Zoning Commission Alternate
- Zoning Board of Appeals
- Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate
- Board of Fire Commissioners

is on file in my office at 17 School Road - Andover, CT, and copies thereof are available for public distribution. The certified list as received includes fewer names of party-endorsed candidates than the party is entitled to nominate for some of the following offices:

Office	Number of Names Certified	Number Entitled to be Nominated
Board of Finance	3	3
Board of Education	2	2
Planning & Zoning Commission	2	2
Planning & Zoning Commission Alt	0	1
Zoning Board of Appeals	2	2
Zoning Board of Appeals Alt	1	1
Board of Fire Commissioners	1	2

A Primary will be held March 8, 2021, if, for a particular office, the number of party-endorsed candidates plus the number of candidates filing petitions pursuant to Sections 9-382 to 9-450 of the Connecticut General Statutes exceeds the maximum number which the party is entitled to nominate for that office. Petitions must be filed not later than 4:00 p.m. of February 2, 2021. Petition forms, instructions and information concerning the procedure for filing of opposing candidacies, including schedules, may be obtained from:

Wallace Barton - Republican Registrar of Voters
17 School Road - Andover

Carol H. Lee
Municipal Clerk of Andover

1TB 1/29

LEGALS

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.

Taxpayers who have been financially impacted by COVID-19 may apply to have their January 1, 2021 taxes deferred. Deferment of taxes are by application only and must be received by the Tax Collector no later than February 1, 2021. Please contact the Tax Collector for more information on this program. Taxpayers who have been approved for the deferment program will have until April 1, 2021 to pay until interest and penalties occur.

If any tax due on January 1, 2021 is not paid on or before February 1, 2021, the tax installment shall be delinquent and will default to the low interest rate program until March 31, 2021. The interest rate on the low rate program is 0.25% per month going back to the due date of the bill. Taxes that become delinquent on February 1, 2021 shall be charged delinquent interest for the months of January and February, 2021, or 0.50%. Any outstanding balance due April 1, 2021 will default back to the standard interest rate of 1.5% per month or 18% annum and will defer back to the due date of the bill January 1, 2021. Therefore any balance outstanding on April 1, 2021 will automatically have 6% interest applied.

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

2TB 1/8, 1/29

LEGAL NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF CERTIFICATION OF PARTY-ENDORSED CANDIDATES FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICES INCLUDING NOTICE OF "UNDERENDORSEMENT" FOR SOME OFFICES LEGAL NOTICE

A certified list of Democrat party-endorsed candidates for the Town of Andover, CT for election as:

- Board of Finance
- Board of Education
- Planning & Zoning Commission
- Planning & Zoning Commission Alternate
- Zoning Board of Appeals
- Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate
- Board of Fire Commissioners

is on file in my office at 17 School Road - Andover, CT, and copies thereof are available for public distribution.

The certified list as received includes fewer names of party-endorsed candidates than the party is entitled to nominate for some of the following offices:

Office	Number of Names Certified	Number Entitled to be Nominated
Board of Finance	3	3
Board of Education	2	2
Planning & Zoning Commission	2	2
Planning & Zoning Commission Alt	1	1
Zoning Board of Appeals	2	2
Zoning Board of Appeals Alt	1	1
Board of Fire Commissioners	1	2

A Primary will be held March 8, 2021, if, for a particular office, the number of party-endorsed candidates plus the number of candidates filing petitions pursuant to Sections 9-382 to 9-450 of the Connecticut General Statutes exceeds the maximum number which the party is entitled to nominate for that office. Petitions must be filed not later than 4:00 p.m. of February 2, 2021. Petition forms, instructions and information concerning the procedure for filing of opposing candidacies, including schedules, may be obtained from:

Linda Derrick - Democrat Registrar of Voters
17 School Road – Andover

Carol H. Lee
Municipal Clerk of Andover

1TB 1/29

TOWN OF PORTLAND PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION

At the January 21, 2021 meeting, the following action was taken:

APPROVED PZC Application #20-02: 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.
Dated at Portland, CT. this 26th day of January 2021
Robert Ellsworth, Chairman
Planning & Zoning Commission

1TB 1/29

TOWN OF PORTLAND PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION

At the January 21, 2021 regular meeting, the following action was taken:

APPROVED PZC Application #20-07: 242 Main Street (aka 238 Main Street). Application of Timothy Tynan. Property of Samuel Eddinger. Assessor's Map 28, Lot 31. Zone B3 and TCVD.
Dated in Portland, CT. this 26th Day of January 2021
Robert Ellsworth, Chairman
Planning & Zoning Commission

1TB 1/29

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF ANDOVER REVENUE COLLECTOR'S NOTICE

To the taxpayers of the Town of Andover – the third installment of the taxes listed on the October 1, 2019 Grand List becomes due and payable to the Town of Andover on January 1, 2021. Payments must be postmarked, paid online, or brought to lockbox outside Town Hall by February 1, 2021 to avoid penalty. Interest will be charged starting February 2, 2021 on all delinquent bills at a rate of 18% per year (1.5% per month) from the due date of January 1st, with a minimum charge of \$2 for each bill.

Online credit card payments may be made at www.andoverct.org. Checks or money orders payments may be placed in the locked drop box at Town Hall. Payments by check or money order may be mailed to the Tax Collector's office. Failure to receive a tax bill will not invalidate the tax or any interest which may, by State law, accrue.

Please refer to the Town website www.andoverct.org for Town Hall hours.

If you have any questions, please contact our office at 860-742-4035, option 4.

The Town recognizes that many residents may find it difficult to pay the January installment of taxes on time. Andover is offering relief in the form of a reduced rate interest program that will lower interest on delinquent taxes from 1.5% per month to .25% per month through the end of March.

Eileen Curtin, Tax Collector
Town of Andover
17 School Road
Andover, CT 06232

2TB 1/8, 1/29

TOWN OF PORTLAND

Legal notice is hereby given to the taxpayers of the Town of Portland that the second installment of real estate and personal property taxes on the October 1, 2019 Grand List and the Supplemental motor vehicle taxes are due and payable on January 1, 2021.

The Town of Portland adopted the Covid-19 Tax Relief Low Interest Rate Program for all Portland taxpayers. Taxes not paid in full on or before Monday, February 1, 2021 become delinquent and are subject to interest of .25% per month for 90 days from due date of January 1, 2021. On April 1, 2021, interest will be charged back to 1.5 per month from due date and minimum interest charge of \$2.00.

Failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the tax. Please contact the Collector of Revenue if you do not have a bill or tax information is available on the Town of Portland website www.portlandct.org.

Online tax payments are accepted by visiting our website www.portlandct.org and are subject to convenience fees.

Due to the Covid transmission rising sharply, payment by mail is strongly encouraged. Please mail to: Town of Portland Collector of Revenue, P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480-0071.

There is also a secure payment drop box located at the rear entrance of the Town Hall, 33 East Main Street, Portland, CT 06480

Nancy DiGirolamo, CCMC
Town of Portland
Collector of Revenue

3TB 1/8, 1/22, 1/29

"Pet of the Week"



Coco is a 2 year-old pit bull mix who weighs about 50 lbs. Coco is house trained, crate trained, and knows her basic commands. She is working on her greeting manners and leash skills, but is very smart and eager to please, so ongoing training would be super fun with her. Her ideal home would be with an active family committed to continuing her training and making her a central part of their lives. She is very sweet and friendly, but we believe a home with older children (12+) would be best for her. She also has a prey drive so no kitty siblings for this gal.

Logan, 2, is dressed for a celebrity ball in his handsome black and white tuxedo but he's a little too shy to ask anyone to dance. But hold your hand out and invite him to step closer and you could have a dance partner for life, especially if you happen to offer him something to eat. Despite his initial shyness, Logan can be very playful and endearing. He likes the laser toy and loves to be petted and scratched behind the ears. We think that once he knows that he is safe and loved, Logan is going to be the life of the party!



For more information on adopting **CATS** or **DOGS**, call 860-569-0722
VOLUNTEERS & FOSTER HOMES NEEDED - For information call: 860-569-0722
Protectors of Animals, Inc. A non-profit, all volunteer animal rescue organization, rescuing abandoned, abused and impounded cats and dogs.
144 Main St., Unit O, E. Hartford, CT 06118
Check us out on our website - www.poinc.org

EMPLOYMENT

EAST HAMPTON, CT Small industrial machinery sales shop is looking for full time help to maintain the inside/outside of buildings and other properties. Duties would include but not limited to: Lawn care, janitorial duties, cleaning and preparing machines for sale and maintaining vehicles, forklifts. Forklift experience and a Driver's Medical Certificate a plus. Please call: Ener-G Machinery, Inc. 860-467-3999 or email eneregmachinery@gmail.com

MECHANIC NEEDED FOR AUTO SHOP IN MIDDLETOWN under new ownership. ASE certification a plus but not required. Welding experience a plus. Must have own tools. Immediate hire! Call George at 203-624-0105

CNA NEEDED - Nursing home experience preferred. Colchester area. Must have own transportation, be reliable and have three references. 860-334-1553.



Andover School District Occupational Therapist – Part Time

The Andover School District is seeking qualified candidates for the position of part-time Occupational Therapist, or up to 15 hours/week.

Hours will vary based on students' needs. Application is available online at www.andoverelementaryct.org and should be sent along with letter of intent, resumé, copy of CT certification, transcripts and 3 letters of reference to:

Andover Elementary School
35 School Road
Andover, CT 06232
ATTN: Holly Maiorano, Special Education Director
[Or send via email to:
maioranoh@andoverelementaryct.org]

6TB 1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26

CASHIER POSITION AVAILABLE at a gas station in Glastonbury, FT or PT. Will train. Please call 860-617-4349

WELDER/FABRICATOR: Custom Sheet Metal Fabrication, light structural, min 5-10 yrs exp & SHEET METAL MECHANICS, APPRENTICES & HELPERS: Steady work, good benefits. Call for interview. 860-828-3762



Town of Andover Now Hiring

The Town of Andover is hiring a Finance Director. The individual will supervise and manage the Finance Department, which provides financial services to the Board of Education of the Andover Elementary School, and Municipal Government. The position will direct the accounting and reporting, financial planning and analysis, budgeting and debt service of the Town of Andover. Ensures the financial integrity of all Town of Andover fiscal matters. This is a full time position. A complete job description can be found at www.andoverct.org. Please send Cover Letter, Application and Resume to adminassistant@andoverct.org. Applications will be accepted until position is filled. EOE

2TB 1/22, 1/29



STYLISTS WANTED!



Part-time & Full-time hours available
Reasonable booth rates
Easy-access location
Modern spa-like setting

Please contact salon owner Ashley at 860.335.9140



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8 Independence Dr., Unit D • Marlborough, CT 06447
860.365.5896 • thevioletlily@yahoo.com • thevioletlilyhairstudio.com

REB-12-20

TOWN OF SALEM Full Time Career Firefighter / EMT / Maintainer Position 50 hr Work Week

\$61,100 Annually with Benefits

Wages, hours, terms and conditions of employment established by the CBA between IAFF Local-3831 and the Town of Salem Equal Opportunity Employer

Applications are being accepted for a full time position within the Town of Salem Emergency Services. Applicant must possess a High School Diploma or GED and hold current CT certifications in FF2, Hazmat Ops., EMT, CPR and AED.

Required experience: 3 years of active ambulance service in addition to 5 years of continuous active volunteer firefighter status with officer experience and/or 3 years of continuous employment as a career firefighter.

Additional requirements include: Connecticut CDL Class B license or 2Q endorsement. Current annual Fire Department physical and currently hold a valid CPAT card or complete within 6 months of conditional employment offering. CT certifications for Pump Operator, Aerial Operator, Instructor 1, and Officer 1 are highly desired, but not required. Employment Application*, Resume with cover letter, References, and Documentation highlighting personal assets and qualifications for the position of Firefighter/ EMT/ Maintainer are required.

*Applications can be found at saalemct.gov on the Human Resource Department page. All required documents can be emailed to the Human Resource Department: Lisa.jablonski@saalemct.gov

Required documents may also be dropped off in the drop box at entrance to Town Hall or mailed to: **Salem Town Hall Attn: Emergency Service Administrator, 270 Hartford Rd., Salem, CT 06420.**
The Town of Salem is an Equal Opportunity Employer

REB-12-21

REAL ESTATE

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Margaret Wilcox
Watkins & Associates

860-430-1699



RENTALS

MARLBOROUGH NEWLY RENOVATED RAISED RANCH HOME, 3 possibly 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, home office space, large laundry room with washer and dryer. Convenient to Rte. 2 and town center. No pets, no smoking, \$2200./month plus utilities. For details, questions, appointment call 860-798-6038

APARTMENT IN HEBRON AVAILABLE NOW in downstairs of private home. \$975. monthly including all utilities. Security deposit required. No pets, no smoking. Call/text 860-830-0887

GLASTONBURY LAW FIRM HAS SINGLE OFFICE FOR RENT at \$950. monthly. Rent includes parking, utilities and use of conference room, kitchen and work room. Perfect for someone looking for bright corner office to see clients. 860-291-9061, Erin.



FOR RENT

Second Floor apartment of two family house located at 1099 Tryon Street, South Glastonbury. Two bedroom with office, living room and dining room. Rent is flexible between \$1200-1700 based on occupants. Heat and electricity not included. Lease and security deposit required.

Call or text George at
860-918-5442

YOUR AD Should Be Here!

CALL US AT:
860-633-4691



Love people, not things.
Use things, not people.

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East Hampton 55+ Privacy & Luxury



East Hampton, Owner Sale \$307,500

Immaculate Ranch style home with private yard on cul-de-sac in Very Desirable Active 55+ community. 3 Bedrm, 2.5 baths. Move-in condition (option – furnished!) One level living! Hardwood flrs, Gorgeous Cherry and Stunning Granite eat-in kitchen, First floor master suite with whirlpool, shower, 2 sinks. Living Rm w/ fireplace, Dining rm, laundry/mudrm, attached garage. Upstairs 2 bedrm and full bath with tub. Full basement. Don't delay on this rarely available home in Laurel Ridge. Brokers protected.

Info: 18northridge.com call: 860.834.6549

Attention Buyers & Sellers!

It's a sellers market & there is an extreme lack of inventory. If you are a seller and want top dollar for your home, contact me for a complimentary evaluation. If you are buying, interest rates are low, and the market is very competitive. You need a strong, experienced agent to position you in the best light in these constant multiple offer situations.

Contact me for a complimentary home evaluation. It would be my absolute pleasure to serve you!

Dana Flanagan 860-796-0562



www.FlanaganRealtyGroup.com

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The Glastonbury Citizen & The Rivereast News Bulletin

Email your Classified Line Ad to sandy@glcitizen.com and call with your credit card number.

(We regret we cannot take ads over the phone)



Jack Faski
Owner/Broker



Matt Faski
Sales Associate



27 Edgewood Drive, Colchester Offered at \$249,000

Almost completely remodeled 4 Bedroom 2 bath home on a cul-de-sac. Full eat-in kitchen and large living room with propane heater. First floor has 2 good size bedrooms and full bath. A large living room with hardwood. Upstairs has 2 bedrooms and another full bath. Lower level has a partially finished family room with pellet stove, workshop and a laundry room with cedar closet. Large deck overlooking private backyard.

* Colchester Commercial Opportunities *

63 Norwich Ave. – \$625 month for this 2nd floor space for office or other services possible right off the Town green. Many businesses surround you and you share with a bank, insurance and civil engineer. There is one large open area of 500 sq ft with 2 possible entrances so can use as 2 private offices or waiting area and office area.

43 Hayward Ave. – \$825 plus utilities for this great downtown location for your business in this beautiful historic building. This second floor space includes a front and rear entrance and a large open area with a side alcove area for break room or files and 2 large office areas for private meetings or conference rooms. Come see this space today to make your presence known in Colchester.

44 Main St. – \$1000 a month plus utilities gets this Fantastic location in Downtown Colchester. Things are hopping with all the local shopping! Don't miss out on this great spot with parking right out front and in back. Unit is all open space with an office area or storage and a half bath. Come see if your business can succeed here today!

— 860-214-1147 • www.skyview-realty.com —

35 Hayward Ave., Colchester, CT 06415

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HOUSING DISCRIMINATION IS ILLEGAL For Help Call 888-247-4401

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



Hilary Culver
860-310-9715
hilaryculver@gmail.com



Emily Cyr
860-805-0451
emilycyrrealtor@gmail.com



Allison Dillon
860-301-0955
abdillon@snet.net



John Drury
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john@harrs.com



Faith Farina
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