

News Bulletin

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

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October 15, 2021



It's the Great Pumpkin!... The staple outdoor supply store and greenhouse Paul's & Sandy's Too of East Hampton celebrated 50 years last week – a major milestone for founder Paul Peszynski, who's seen here ready to whip around in the store's motorized pumpkin. See related story on page 16.

Teen Helping Out Trail Hikers

by Sloan Brewster

A hiker and lover of exploring the great outdoors with her family and dog, Catherine Chester wants folks to be more aware of the location of trails in Hebron and better able to find their way through them.

Solving the dilemma is her Girl Scout Gold Award Project.

On Tuesday, Chester, who is a senior at RHAM High School, took a short hike on the town owned Hibbert property with the *Rivereast* to point out what she is doing.

In August, Chester started blazing trees on the trail with blue markers to indicate what direction to follow when hiking there. Mysteriously, however, she said people have been peeling the bark off trees she's already marked in a seeming endeavor to erase the blue blazes and she has been forced to go out and repaint the stripes.

Chester said she wants people to understand that the paint won't harm the trees and will help the town get more use out of the trails.

Ann Zitkus, the project manager for Chester's project, echoed the sentiment and said she hoped whoever is trying to remove the markings comes to understand that they are there to make sure folks know where the trail is.

"All that's being doing is to preserve and keep these areas pristine," Zitkus said.

Keeping and using open space, Chester said, is a great way to help the environment and checks a point off the list of requirements to get a Gold Award. One of the requirements is that the project has global reach.

"My global reach is that by helping save these open spaces and making them into trails rather than having them made into parking lots I'm helping save the trees, which will help with

the carbon emissions," Chester said.

Very true, according to Zitkus, who said that one acre of forested land can store between 40 and 60 tons of carbon, a number that increases and can double as the forest ages.

Preserving open space and focusing on natural systems, Zitkus said, goes a long way in the quest to solve the climate crisis.

"It's actually central to the solution and not on the margins as many people think," she said. "Forests really are important in saving climate."

A Gold Award Project must also have a community aspect and include something with longevity, so Chester said she is planning to form a group of Trail Rangers under the tutelage of Parks & Recreation Director Craig Bryant. The Rangers will regularly hike the trails and report if anything is amiss, she said. They will also be in charge of maintenance, including picking up sticks and litter from the paths and will inform the trail manager, who she said, would likely be Bryant, when trees come down over trails.

Bryant would then send someone out the clear the way.

While on the Hibbert trail Tuesday, Chester pointed to a broken log bisecting the trail and said it was an example of something the rangers would move out of the way to make the trail move accessible and user friendly.

Chester will be working on three different properties – the Hibbert, Way and Harasimowitz properties.

The Hibbert Property is located at 310 Old Colchester Rd. and runs parallel to the Air Line Trail. It also abuts the Bernstein Property, which voters agreed to purchase as open space at a special town meeting last month.

See *Helping Trail Hikers*, page 2

EH Drafts Village Center Improvement Plan

by Jack Lakowsky

Landscaping and cleaning up blighted properties were among improvements to the town's commercial district named in the "East Hampton Village Center Plan." The plan was unveiled in last week's zoning commission meeting.

Nothing is set in stone, said town planning intern Chris Roberts who, along with town staff, residents and business owners, designed the outline. But, he said, the plan articulates actionable needs and wants.

Roberts' work with the town is funded through a state grant the land use department received.

Roberts presented the plan to the town Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) and named goals including increased connectivity to the Air Line Trail and between businesses, as well as improving bike and pedestrian friendliness.

Roberts said connecting to the trail is a major focus of the work, that it's a "unique aspect of the center," given that it stretches across the eastern half of the state.

"It lacks connectivity other than the trailheads," Roberts told the commission, adding the trail needs landscaping and maintenance throughout.

Roberts said local business owners have said many customers come from the trail, as well as from other towns like Glastonbury, Killingworth, and as far as Bozrah in the state's southeastern area.

Increasing local awareness of center offerings was also named in Roberts' report.

East Hampton Planning and Zoning Official Jeremy DeCarli told PZC funding these improvements is a discussion to be held later, that

this plan is to give the town ideas on what to fund in the first place.

Roberts performed a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis of the center, derived from his own observations and local input.

Strengths named were a dedicated community of businesses, a diversity of types of businesses, out-of-town patrons, the area's charming New England architecture and unique shops.

Infrastructure was named as a weakness, as well as poor signage and directions to public parking, lack of awareness among locals, poor traffic control, and a low number of restaurants. Another listed in comments from the public was the lack of connectivity with business districts in other towns.

See *EH Center Plan*, page 3

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Cover Story • Cover Story

★ *Helping Trail Hikers cont. from page 1*

The Way Property, which the town purchased more than 20 years ago, is at the intersection of Jagger Lane and Hardy Road, Zitkus, who is also an alternate on the town's Conservation Commission, said. A grassy area, it was the first open space parcel purchased by the town with money from the Open Space Land Acquisition Fund.

The Harasimowitz Property is also on Old Colchester Road but since it is mostly a forest of pine trees, the plan is to install posts with markers and only mark some of the trees, Zitkus said.

Chester said she is also planning to install signposts at the trailheads so passersby will be able to see where the trails start.

Chester is also mapping out the trails and has a display with maps and photos at the Douglas Library. She said when the maps are completed she plans to make them available online.

While she was traversing the Hibbert Trail, blazing the trees Chester learned some of its secrets. On Tuesday, she pointed out an old stone wall across a river that runs along the trail and said she and her team believe it to be an old dam.

Near the end of the trail, Chester said she came upon the site of an old mill.

While she could not say for certain if the mill was a new discovery, Maryann Foote, town historian and chairman of the Historic Properties

Commission, said it was not part of *Lost Mill Sites of Hebron Connecticut*, by Tolland resident Richard Symonds. Foote was part of the team that researched the sites for the publication.

Chester said she hopes to complete her project in November.

Chester is not the only Scout to take to local trails for a project.

According to a press release, Eagle Scout Matthew Richard, for his Eagle Scout project, installed signposts and signs with historical information at the Raymond Brook Preserve. For his project, Eagle Scout Adam Lemieux led a team of Scouts and others in installing signposts, signs and a map on the walking trail at Burnt Hill Park.

At the Sept. 16 Board of Selectmen meeting, the board issued proclamations naming September 25, 2021 Adam Joseph Lemieux Day and Matthew George Richard Day.



Catherine Chester, of Hebron, paints a stripe on a tree on the Hibbert Property. Marking local trails so folks can more easily find their way around them is part of Chester's Girl Scout Gold Award Project.

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Cover Story • Cover

★ *EH Center Plan cont. from page 1*

Opportunities aside from connecting to the Air Line Trail included development of old, blighted mills, as well as possibly conducting a witch hazel festival.

The public said the town should more often incorporate the witch hazel motif given the town's history with the herb, which could also include planting witch hazel shrubs through the area.

Blighted properties were also named as a threat to the center's productivity, as were the lack of large-scale events, the town's poor water infrastructure and quality, littering, speeding, and its low walkability.

Roberts took stock of the center's amenities. Although there are sidewalks throughout the center, Roberts said, their conditions vary greatly, and more are still needed. Of sidewalks, Roberts said the town has a "good start" already.

The center needs more streetlights and benches, and garbage cans are not available everywhere. It also needs to improve existing – and add new – crosswalks.

Parking, Roberts said, was an issue raised by many residents and businesses. Roberts took inventory of current parking availability and discovered the issue is not an inadequate amount of parking space, but of directional signs to public parking.

"That's one issue this plan wants to address," Roberts said.

Roberts took a look at the center's gateways,

the routes by which people enter. He said one head start the town has is the "Welcome to Belltown" sign on Route 66, which has a map of town and a legend pointing out businesses.

Roberts said the town could put more signs like this at center entry points, as well as add landscaping, to improve the first impression commuters have when they drive through the center.

Roberts added that local businesses suggested collaborating on a deliberate brand or theme they'd like the center to have, making the area more marketable.

Branding was among the long-term goals Roberts listed, as well as making for safe, comfortable, ADA-compliant pedestrian access to the center.

Two parcels for possible development were named: 3 Walnut Ave., which is town-owned and connects to the trail, as well as 92 Main St., not town-owned, but desirable for its Main Street frontage.

Creating a park at 92 Main, Roberts said, was the most favored option. Another suggestion was a skate park. Roberts said the parking lot or a new development would be a permeable surface, more sustainable and less susceptible to spilling polluted runoff than blacktop.

In a previous interview with the *Rivereast*, DeCarli said he thinks the Town of Cheshire's downtown area is one to emulate.

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Ghost Run Returns Next Month

The 18th annual Air Line Trail Ghost Run will take place Saturday, Nov. 6, from 9 a.m.-noon. This is a 13.1-mile certified half-marathon that starts in Hebron and ends in East Hampton.

The parks and recreation departments of Hebron, Colchester and East Hampton are collaborating along with the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to host the event.

Runners registered by Oct. 21 will receive a T-shirt. Registration deadline is Oct. 29. Pre-registration is required; there will be no registration on race day. Early T-shirt and bib pickup will be available at the Hebron Parks and Recreation office on Nov. 4 and Nov. 5 between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m.

The race begins at Hebron Elementary School, located on Route 85. Runners will run south on Route 85 and pick up the Air Line Trail behind Juliano's Pools. The race continues on the Air Line Trail through Colchester and into East Hampton. At the trail head, runners will continue on the trail to Watrous Street, then to Summit Street. Follow Summit Street to Center Elementary School. Shuttle buses will be available for all the runners in each direction. The trail is flat and is surfaced with packed dirt.

To register, visit lightboxreg.com or call the Hebron, Colchester or East Hampton parks and recreation departments, at 860-530-1281, 860-537-7297 or 860-267-7300, respectively.

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The State Police Troop K Cadets recently donated a new sign in front of the Troop K barracks in Colchester. Pictured from left are cadets Ryan Abousamra, Jailene Gomez, Maddie DiFrancesca, Ashleigh Michaud, Emily Harmon and Patrick Frommer.

New Sign for Troop K

The State Police Troop K Cadets recently donated a new sign in front of the Troop K barracks in Colchester. More than \$15,000 was raised by the cadets to purchase this sign as well as a second sign that has been placed over the front door of the building.

The Troop K Police Cadet program consists of leadership training, law enforcement train-

ing, PT and team-building. The program is always looking for new members between the ages of 13 and 20. It's not necessary to be seeking a career in law enforcement or the military.

For more information on the police cadet program, call advisor Mindy Johnston at 860-465-5468, email troopkcadets028@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/TroopKCadets.

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From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

I'm baaaaaaack.

Well, okay, I was only gone for a week, but I trust I was missed. A sincere tip of the cap to assistant editor Sloan Brewster, who filled in for me last week while I was on vacation.

So where did I go, you're wondering? (Humor me, folks; it's election season.) Down to New York City. I hadn't been there since before the pandemic struck, and I'd been itching to go back. To quote Billy Joel, I was in a New York state of mind.

The Big Apple is one of my favorite cities. I love the hustle and the bustle. I love the sights and sounds – and yes, the smells. There's such fantastic eating down there. My first night, I had dinner at a French restaurant in "Restaurant Row," a wonderful stretch of eateries located not far from Times Square. Another night there, I dined in Little Italy, right on Mulberry Street, and had some delicious pasta.

Perhaps my favorite meal of the trip, though, wasn't a dinner dish; rather, it was breakfast. I discovered online a restaurant on 9th Avenue, called "Mom's Kitchen," that featured a terrific shrimp-n-grits dish. Cajun jumbo shrimp atop good old-fashioned southern grits, with gruyere cream sauce in the middle and a very flavorful peppercorn gravy lining the sides. It was exquisite; a fantastic start to the day.

And speaking of restaurants, this was pretty cool: to dine indoors at a restaurant down there, you needed to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination. I knew this was the case going down there, so I happily brought my vaccination card with me, and had no problem displaying it. It took me back to the days when I still enough resembled a 21-year-old that I would be carded at bars or package stores.

But more importantly – much more importantly – it provided some delightful peace of mind. I've been fully vaccinated since early May, and haven't had any cause to show off the card yet. I hadn't been any place that required one. I'm hardly a hermit; it's just most places around here don't require proof. To be honest, I wish more did.

Also requiring proof of vaccine – in fact, they require not just proof of vaccine but also masking, I suspect because they're in-

door settings where folks are tightly packed – are Broadway venues. I managed to see two shows while I was down there: the play *To Kill a Mockingbird* and the hit musical *Wicked*.

I, like many others, had read *To Kill a Mockingbird* when I was in middle school, and I'd also seen the famous movie version of it starring Gregory Peck. I loved both the book and the film, and was anxious to see the stage adaptation of it – which had been extremely well-reviewed.

The script for this particular adaptation was written by Aaron Sorkin, the brains behind such well-received TV shows as *Sports Night*, *The Newsroom* and of course the hit series *The West Wing*. Sorkin's dialogue often sparkles, and boy did it shine in *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

The acting performances were top-notch as well, particularly Jeff Daniels in the main role of Atticus Finch. Daniels, the star of such classic movies as *Purple Rose of Cairo* and *Pleasantville*, was nominated for a Tony for the role in 2019, and it's easy to see why. He was extraordinary.

And then there's *Wicked*. I just can't say enough good things about it. While I was familiar with a few of the musical's songs, I had never seen it live, or heard the score from start to finish. And just....wow. Everything about the show was just mesmerizing. The songs were fantastic, the performances delightful, and the story was just completely absorbing. I've long been a fan of *The Wizard of Oz*, so it was very, very interesting to see this quasi-sequel to it.

As soon as *Wicked* ended, I wanted to see it again. So when it next returns to the Bushnell – as it does from time to time – you can be sure I'll jump at the chance to buy tickets. I highly recommend the rest of you do as well. What a wonderful, wonderful experience.

It was also a very neat experience to be in a Broadway audience again. Broadway shows only recently came back; due to the pandemic, the Great White Way had been on pause since March 2020. The first ones resumed production in early September, with more and more opening in the ensuing weeks. *To Kill a*

Editor's Desk continued on page 5



Down in Pumpkintown... Nicholas Roberson, 4, of Methuen, Mass., is enjoying himself during a visit to Pumpkintown USA on Oct. 10. Pumpkintown is open daily through Halloween (weather permitting), from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at Paul's and Sandy's Too, 93 East High St. in East Hampton. For more information, visit www.pumpkintown.com. Photo by Christopher Roberson.

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

Kudos and Thanks

To the Editor:

I would like to give very special thanks to Gerry Wright, Agent Orange advocate, and Carol Lee, Andover town clerk, for the tremendous effort put forth to create a memorial for veterans.

The individual personalized brick walkway is a memorial to all those who have served our country and all the supporters of those efforts. Everyone who has a brick is someone to remember and thank.

Gerry Wright and Carol Lee are also heroes for me.

I would also like to thank those persons who installed bricks. That must have been a huge task!

Sarah Shapiro – Andover

I Am You

To the Editor:

I am you. I am a parent and someone who is worried about the direction our state and our towns are going. I will never deceive, lie or sugarcoat. If you believe in parents making decisions for their own children, and want someone who is running for the Board of Education because it is a necessity, then vote for me. I intend to listen to all opinions, whether they align with mine or not, with empathy and compassion, all while focusing on facts and not emotions. Now is the time to remind those in positions of power that this country was built by men and women like you and me who were not afraid to stand for their beliefs. People continue to wait for someone to come and "fix things," and I am here to say "that someone is you and me."

I often watch as my children harmoniously play

with other children of differing races, colors, creeds, and conditions, without skipping a beat. I watch as they are unaware of any apparent differences and understand this is because they are not different. I am against teaching our children to discriminate, while the elite make millions on these false narratives. I believe American history is deeply rooted with proud people of all backgrounds (some of which with whom I served) and do not disagree with teaching the important history of our nation, even the parts that are not so great. In contrast, our state aims to force our local communities to teach politically driven and divisive curriculums.

Thank you for your support and I look forward to representing our kids during their most formative years.

Michael Buck
Candidate for East Hampton
Board of Education

Relentless Speeding

To the Editor:

The relentless speeding on Norwich Avenue poses a threat to the safety of Colchester residents. Hundreds of cars travel on Norwich Avenue daily, including inexperienced high school drivers going back and forth from Bacon Academy five times per week. It is not uncommon to see the road littered with skid marks and animal carcasses from drivers who treat Norwich Avenue like a race track. I live on Norwich Avenue and every time I let my dog outside I need to worry about him wandering into the road and being hit by a driver going over the speed limit. Enough is enough; it is time for something to be done about the rampant disregard for speed limits on Norwich

Bulletin Board

Weary of the "real" news on TV and in the newspapers, I decided to fabricate some possible news items of my own addressing a few of the issues of our day, from British royalty to the FBI. Some we might like to see and others we might be afraid to see. Decide for yourself.

- Recently returning to California following their multi-city nationwide "Why can't the media just leave us in peace?" television interview tour, Prince Harry and the Duchess of Sussex are reportedly busy working on the illustrations for Meghan's new tell-all book tentatively titled, "The Queen Tried to Push Me Down the Stairs to Kill Harry's Baby." The book also reportedly claims that the Queen hates puppies and kittens. A spokesperson for Buckingham Palace said the Queen hasn't seen advance copies of the book, but that she typically doesn't engage in verbal warfare with American gold diggers married to half-wits.

- Progressive Congressional Democrats this week unveiled their proposed "Path to Citizenship" for illegal aliens. The plan calls for awarding automatic citizenship to anyone in this country illegally who registers as a Democrat between now and the 2022 midterm elections. The plan will also apply to any illegals who are already registered Democrats. Republicans, meanwhile, offered their counter proposal, which calls for tying large rocks to illegal aliens and throwing them in the ocean. Anyone who floats will be deported. Those who sink will be eligible for U.S. citizenship.

- President Joe Biden has been nominated for the prestigious Fields Medal—considered the Nobel Prize of Mathematics—for his recent revelation that you can spend \$3.5 trillion dollars for "zero dollars." A panel of esteemed academics, who can't tie their own shoes or change a tire, have called Biden's claim the greatest discovery since the invention of smoke and mirrors. "It's a game changer," said one egghead. "If the government has learned how to spend money at no cost, the sky's the limit. No one besides rich people, and people like plumbers and electricians, will ever have to work again. The rest of us can sit around and write poetry and make up new rules of behavior for other people to follow." The medal is normally awarded to candidates under the age of 40. Biden is 78, but the nominating panel says anyone who can spend \$3.5 trillion at no cost should find it a simple matter to make himself 40 or younger.

- Supply chain experts are advising consumers to buy their Christmas presents now because delivery could take months. Waiting until the last minute could mean your presents don't arrive until February or March. On the other hand, if you order a present for someone now and they die before Christmas, will you be able to return it for a full refund? "It's a crap shoot," admit the experts. "Your best bet might be to buy gift cards to places you like to shop at. That way if grandma croaks before the holidays, you won't get left stuck with some stupid glass angel figurine that was made by political prisoners in China."

- Emperor of the Universe perpetual candidate Jim Hallas issued a statement this week calling for the punishment of people who begin every sentence with "So." He pointed out that this habit has become widespread among everyone from talking monkeys to TV news reporters (which might be an oxymoron), to wit: How old are you? "So, I'm 33." Where do you want to go tonight? "So, I was thinking..." It's damn annoying, said Hallas. "So stop it." In another memo, Hallas suggested that the State of Connecticut sub contract with the Taliban to come in and resolve the state's ongoing problem with juvenile car thieves. "A few public amputations ought to do the trick," he remarked. "It's pretty hard to steal a car when you don't have hands."

- The FBI this week said an 11-year-old boy who wrote "School Sucks" in chalk on the sidewalk in front of his house could be charged with a hate crime and domestic terrorism. An FBI spokesman added that their investigation also found that the suspect has a history of abusive and misogynistic behavior, revealing that as a 5-year-old he refused to share his crayons with his sister, blurting, "I hate girls!" Local school administrators and union officials are urging that the suspect be charged as an adult in federal court, saying that anyone who questions their authority and competence is a terrorist and should be severely punished.

Hey, the way things are going these days, it could happen.

Jim Hallas

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

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Reader Forum • Reader Forum

Avenue.
I propose installing driver feedback signs on Norwich Avenue to reduce the number of drivers speeding. Driver feedback signs have been shown to slow down speeders by anywhere from 4 to 9 miles per hour. Speed humps are an alternative to driver feedback signs; however, Norwich Avenue is a main road for emergency vehicles to travel on, and speed humps on average slow down first responders by 10 to 30 seconds. One study done measuring the impacts of driver feedback signs found that fatality rates decreased by 79% even after road usage rates increased, installing a driver feedback sign on Norwich Avenue could help save lives.

I encourage everyone to stop speeding on Norwich Avenue and contact local officials to persuade them into having a driver feedback sign installed on Norwich Avenue. Driver feedback signs installed on Norwich Avenue would create a safer driving environment for Bacon Academy high school students, walkers, bicycle riders, nearby residents, and everyone else who travels using Norwich Avenue.

Sincerely,
Luke Pennella – Colchester

Veterans' Orgs Don't Engage

To the Editor:
Recently, a political mailing was distributed in Colchester, with photos that included members of the three principal local veteran organizations. The commanders of these organizations wish to make it clear to the citizens of Colchester that our organizations do not engage in partisan politics or endorse any candidates or parties. We do however encourage our members, as individuals, to participate in all functions of citizenship and to vote as their personal views may guide them.

As veterans, we appreciate and cherish the patriotic and continuing support we have received from all sectors of our community. We shall continue to serve and support faithfully, our nation, state and community.

**Dan Henderson, Commander,
American Legion Post 54
Bob Kvederas, Commander,
Colchester Veterans Honor Guard
Chris Emmerson, Commander,
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6990 Colchester**

Democrats for Curley

To the Editor:
I met Ryan Curley in 2019, and until that point and even since, I had never met anyone so passionate about a town the way Ryan is about Portland. Accepted into the same cohort in UConn's Master of Public Administration Fellows Program, I got to know Ryan as a leader both inside and outside of the classroom, and as my town clerk. Already a demonstrated leader, I watched Ryan's confidence and knowledge grow over the course of our two-year program. Ryan brought innovative, thoughtful, and truly exciting examples of how he was already working to better Portland to class every week, and as a cohort, we learned a lot from him.

Ryan's ideas and insight about what would make Portland an even better place to live, to raise a family, and to call home, are refreshing. I truly believe in Ryan's vision for Portland, we have good schools and safe streets, but Ryan wants more for us. His ideas for elevating Portland – incentivizing new business, increasing the use of technology (it's 2021, why are we just now able to pay water and sewer bills online?), and highlighting the wonderful offerings Portland already has, is why he should be our next first

Editor's Desk continued from page 2

Mockingbird, in fact, had reopened just three days before the performance I happened to catch.

Ultimately, there were masks, and there were those aforementioned vaccine card requirements, but by and large, New York looked a lot like it usually does. Which was fine by me. Broadway is back, New York City is back – and I absolutely loved being a part of it all.

While Sloan, as she has before, did a great job filling in for me last week, there was a bit of a confusion in regards to files I had worked on before I left Oct. 1 and those I had not, and, to make a long story short, some letters to the editor that should have been published were not. So I'm publishing them this week and, since it was no fault of the letter-writers, I did allow those writers affected to submit a second letter for this week, if they wished. In these last weeks before Election Day,

selectman.

Always kind and ready to go out of his way for the people of Portland, Ryan's intelligence, humility, and exciting new ideas for Portland are why I, a proudly registered Democrat, will be voting for him this November.

I love Portland, and I am so grateful every day that I get to call it my home, but I want, and Portland deserves, more than the status quo. I believe Ryan can elevate this wonderful town, and I am excited to support him in that mission.

Sincerely,
Zoe Schwartz – Portland

On Natural Selection

To the Editor:
I've heard a lot of people who align themselves with the party of "peace, tolerance, and the inclusion of diversity" commenting on how they can't wait for COVID-19 to kill people who don't wear masks or decline the "vaccine." They even mention how people who have died deserve a "Darwin Award" because of how ignorant and "antiscience" they are. Such hateful dialogue seems antithetical to what they claim to support but I suppose a person should take any political parties buzzword platforms with a grain of salt.

The fact that so many "enlightened" people hold Darwin up as some sort of infallible saint is especially ironic because he was an unabashed eugenicist who spoke out many times on the superiority of the British bloodlines, denigrating Black people as "savages" and the Irish as an inferior race.

The truest form of "natural selection" we have in American politics is in our election process. People enjoy debating the "integrity of our elections" when it's obvious to anyone who is paying attention that we do not have an election process anymore but a selection process. The people who do the selecting are the people with the most money and power and do so in order to further their own interests. Glaring examples of this are when Jeb handed his brother the presidency through Florida in 2000, when the DNC rigged the primary and burned Bernie...twice, and Biden's most recent "victory" over Trump. Instead of the nationalistic Trump, the establishment installed the globalist "Build Back Better" candidate that is aligned with the agenda to reshape the world into a digital gulag.

All that said, the sooner people emancipate themselves from the left/right paradigm the sooner we will get back to living in a more natural order and not the antihuman New World Order.

Colin McNamara – Colchester

Challenging Times

To the Editor:
We, the East Hampton Athletic Hall of Fame Association, like many similar community/volunteer organizations, are facing some challenging times. Last year's inductions and accompanying induction banquet were postponed, and unfortunately this year's has been as well. This is due partly to the COVID precautions and restrictions that have made large gatherings a bit of a challenge, but also the goals for additional nominations and overall interest in our group, and its goal of honoring outstanding East Hampton athletic achievement.

Anyone who has attended one of our banquets walks away with a feeling of pride, emotion, and a stroll down memory lane with the inductees, who for a couple hours get to relive special memories that to them feel like yesterday. It is a wonderful evening, but simply stated we need help to continue. Our nomination process is not difficult and we can help. If you have someone in mind, or any other suggestions, please contact us. We are on Facebook where

many folks have their letter-writing carefully planned out. It didn't seem fair to punish them for what was ultimately a communication breakdown on our end.

So if you see a couple of letters by the same people this week, don't worry, I'm not growing soft. Writers are still normally limited to one letter per week. I'm just making an exception for these select writers because, like I said, it's not their fault.

Lastly, and speaking of elections, don't forget that next week's issue, the Oct. 22 one, is the last chance people can submit letters to the editor that criticize or attack candidates. This is to allow the candidates a chance to respond, if they wish, in the following week's letters section. The letters for the week of Oct. 29 should be positive in nature only. Letters attacking candidates will not be published.

See you next week.

additional info is available. Please take a minute and think back to who really made a huge difference and a contribution to athletics in East Hampton and its Hall of Fame worthy. We thank you in advance.

If you would like to submit a nomination for an athlete, coach, or team, please e-mail seidl@sbcc-global.net for a nomination packet.

Sincerely,
**Michael Vasquezna, President
East Hampton Athletic
Hall of Fame Association**

Please Get Vaccinated

To Whom it May Concern:
We are the residents at Harrington Court Complete Care in Colchester. As residents at a long-term residential care facility, we have been through a lot in the last year and a half. Among us are veterans, teachers, nurses, parents, grandparents, and many different walks of life. We have been through a lot in our lifetimes and right now, we are going through a pandemic.

This is what we must face together. Our hearts are already heavy with the loss of our friends. We are tired and want our lives to return to a somewhat normal state. As with polio, the measles, and mumps, we know the best way to overcome a disease is through vaccination.

We were elated when the vaccine became available to us. We are equally perplexed by the amount of people who don't want to get it. No one is invincible. The vaccine protects you from getting severely ill and significantly slows the spread of the disease. Vaccinations also reduce the chances of diseases mutating by transmitting from person to person. For those who think that COVID-19 isn't real, they should go to a hospital and see what it looks like when someone is very ill from it. At the time we are writing this letter, 693K Americans have died from COVID. Some of them were our friends and family and we're sure some of them may have your friends and family.

As an older generation who has been through a lot and have wisdom on our side, we urge you to consider getting vaccinated for COVID. It's the best way to eradicate this horrible disease that has impacted our lives so much. It is safe. We are proof of that.

Sincerely,
**Ralph Piscitelli, Michael Erardy, Don Standish,
and Florence Stevens
On Behalf of The Residents of
Harrington Court Complete Care**

Curley is Qualified

To the Editor:
After reading Ryan's biography on his website, it only took me minutes to realize he has the experience and tools to perform the job as First Selectmen, just see for yourself! Curley previously has served four years as a member of the Board of Selectmen, six years as our town clerk, and he holds a bachelor's degree in accounting as well as a master's in public administration.

The love and dedication Curley has for our town makes me remember these three things: experience, knowledge, and initiative. I know I have found the best candidate for first selectman... Have you?

Matt Breece – Portland

Bats Not Flying Mice

To the Editor:
Bats have lived on this planet for 55 million years, long before the appearance of Homo sapiens (which means "wise man"). The rare fossil remains show that there is little change in the skeletal structure between prehistoric and modern-day bats. Then and now, a bat's skeleton is very similar to that of wise man.

Bats are in the order chiroptera, which means hand-wing. A bat's wing consists of an arm (humorous and radius), and five flexible fingers; the thumb protrudes from the top of the bat's wing. However, unlike humans, there are two thin membranes of skin stretched over the bat's arm and fingers to allow for flight. When flying, a bat has the same flexibility and control over its wings that humans have over their arms and hands. Bats are remarkably aerodynamic; they can dive, turn and tumble in mid-flight.

Bats are the only mammals that truly fly; flying squirrels and sugar gliders soar and drift from place to place. And bats use their wings for more than just flying. They can wrap their wings around insects while hunting, or around fruit to hold it in place while eating. Many kinds of bats also wrap their wings around their pups, like a comforting blanket.

Baby bats are called pups. Most mother bats give birth to just one pup each year.

The slow reproductive rate is a problem. Over the past century, bat numbers have been in steady decline worldwide due to many factors, including habitat destruction and climate change. In 2006, a fungal disease, white-nose syndrome, was accidentally carried to a cave in upstate New York. It is an invader from Europe, and the bats in NY had no immunity to its devastating effects. Since then, WNS has spread widely and has killed millions of bats: an environmental nightmare.

Sincerely,
Maureen Heidtmann – East Hampton

Seeking Relection

To the Editor:
Taxpayers in East Hampton need someone who will advocate for them. I have been working to keep your tax burden reasonable while delivering the services we must have. I'm seeking reelection to be your voice in the budget process.

My priorities are affordability, not only in the current year but in subsequent years and services such as public safety and education.

I'm concerned about East Hampton residents being taxed out of their homes. I vote to get the "best bang for your buck" while maintaining our 11% fund balance and the top credit rating of Aaa.

Our fire, police, and ambulance do a great job. I'll support their efforts with equipment and training every time I have the opportunity.

Our schools are educating all our children well and have recently added the "Industrial Pipeline" program that is designed to prepare graduates for jobs in industrial fields directly out of high school providing careers in manufacturing. This is an initiative I introduced to our superintendent of schools in 2018 and has now come to fruition.

Please vote for me, line 9B, for Board of Finance.
Alannah Danaher Coshow – East Hampton

Support for Curley

To the Editor:
I am writing this letter in support of Ryan Curley for first selectman of Portland. I have had the pleasure of knowing Ryan for over eight years and have always been impressed by him. Ryan is a smart, energetic and honest young man. He has worked very hard and has done an excellent job as our town clerk. He is always there to offer assistance to anyone that needs it.

Ryan is totally committed to the Town of Portland and its residents. Let's support Ryan and elect him as our first selectman.

AngelaRose Canneto – Portland

Second Term on the BOF

To the Editor,
I am a twenty-nine year resident of Hebron, whose two adult children went through local schools. My education and background are in finance and operational management with an undergraduate degree in business - accounting and a graduate degree in business management.

I am running for a second term for the Board of Finance because of my strong commitment to give back to the Hebron community in a meaningful way. I am dedicated to working with the Board of Finance group members and I have served as liaison to the Hebron Board of Education with a goal to have clear communication between the groups and to have a balanced approach to serve all constituents in the community.

See Letters page 6

Reader Forum • Reader Forum

★ Letters cont. from page 5

Your town representatives are volunteers, so please support us by coming to Hebron Elementary School on November 2 and vote, and please vote for me!

Thank you,
Diane Del Rosso

Proven and Experienced

To the Editor:
Jim Tripp has given, in his 22 years as a resident of Portland, his vast knowledge, proven experience and dedication to improving Portland for all its citizens. As a member of the Brownstone Quorum, I have personally seen Jim lead in improving Portland's Riverfront Park. With his leadership the park now attracts hundreds of people to concerts each summer; and

on any given day, it is used by walkers, joggers, dog owners or for celebratory events.

As a Portland resident I have also seen his leadership in improving our sidewalks; his involvement in our new Route 17 recreational park; his technical help while on the Board of Education and his continued civic help as a leader of the Lions Club, in getting food donations, for those in need.

I have found Jim to have a wide range of knowl-

edge, to be an excellent listener and to always try to find a solution for a current need. Right now, Portland is in need of water and sewer infrastructure improvements; to help reduce the rates to taxpayers and to secure a more permanent solution for essential water and sewer needs. Jim has led the studies as chair of the BOS Water and Sewer Committee. Portland needs his experience and dedication to this project.

Whatever the challenge Portland faces, I believe Jim Tripp will handle it with fairness, open mindedness and in the interest of bettering the life of Portland citizens.

Mary Pear – Portland

Vote Your Conscience and Heart

To the Editor:

As of late, the political environs in Washington resemble the gladiators' pit of ancient Rome more than the sacred halls of democracy.

The cast of characters on daily display in the news are far from the grand gents of yesterday's political parties. A true politician could and would negotiate, compromise and in the end come up with legislation that was more or less a win-win for both sides. That attribute has all but disappeared as the sides have been spread apart leaving an abyss of ill content and resentment between the factions.

Locally, the boards which govern several aspects of town governance still have some of the old-time attributes between them. Issues are not as volatile. The players are tangible and so they have access to the citizens and vice versa. The boards are comprised of both parties, doing their due diligence to come up with equitable solutions in the best interest of the town.

Vote. Vote your conscience and heart. Be an active part of democracy and cast your ballot. Regardless of who wins or loses, you are an integral part of the process. So, exercise your right and please, vote in November.

Alison Walck – East Hampton

Supports Tammaro-Dzagan

To the Editor:

I am a resident of East Hampton for over 35 years. I am supporting Christina Tammaro-Dzagan as a candidate for East Hampton Board of Education. I have known Christina for some 20+ years. She is a lifelong resident of East Hampton, attended East Hampton schools, is a homeowner and a very bright and conscientious young woman. Christina is a wonderful mom to two beautiful children who will be attending East Hampton schools. I believe that she will be an excellent choice as a Board of Education member.

John Majewski – East Hampton

Excellent Candidate

To the Editor:

Election season is near, and you will undoubtedly hear about the candidates in the upcoming weeks through their polished resumes. Let me tell you why Anna Holden is an excellent Marlborough BOE candidate that you won't find on her resume. My first encounter was when she donated a photo session to a mother because she recognized that moms often don't take time for themselves, and she could fill a need for someone local. She joined the Coalition on Diversity and Equity because she recognized that it was an underserved area that needed attention – and she could fill that need for a strong voice. Hearing of so many dogs being euthanized across the state, she stepped up to be a foster family because she knew she could fill that rescue need. She's notorious for offering giveaways and encouraging donations alongside her personal checks to Richmond Library, and Hope after Loss, a group dedicated to improving lives of families touched by infant loss.

I could go on – but I think the trend is clear. When Anna sees a piece of a puzzle that she can fill, she fills it, and fills it well. She has been a consistently dedicated member of our community without fanfare. Now, she has her eyes set on Marlborough's BOE. She has demonstrated that she can be approachable, and thoughtfully considerate on issues impacting our children and our town. I have no doubt that she is fully capable of speaking for the best interests of the majority of our MES families. As a mom and a for-

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Reader Forum • Reader Forum

mer teacher, she understands both sides of the coin and is ready and willing to go to bat for our children using sound logic and personal experience.

Please join with me on Nov 2 to vote for Anna Holden!

Lisa Wolfe – Marlborough

Positive Impact

To the Editor:

Ralph Zampano has worked hard to make a positive impact on our Portland community. In this time of constant change, he has immersed himself in learning about the town, residents' needs, current resources and how to move forward by working in a cooperative, diplomatic way. In addition to his many years as the Parks & Rec chairperson, he has served on the BOS for four years, an honor he takes very seriously.

As his wife, I see this commitment every day. I see Ralph research options for solutions to minimize our costs without "kicking the can down the road" for the next generation to figure out. He makes decisions in a thoughtful way considering what the people want. We have built a wonderful life here in Portland, and we thank leaders, volunteers, and municipal employees for their ongoing efforts. Jim Tripp, April Graves, John Dillon, and Laurel Steinhauser along with the entire Row A candidates, are also committed to our community.

I support Ralph's daily effort for Portland and ask for your support on Nov. 2. Thank you.

Bernice Zampano – Portland

Choosing Curley

To the Editor:

As Portland's town clerk, Ryan Curley has modernized the office and brought Portland's technology into the 21st century. He digitized Portland's land records going back over 150 years. He also added credit card payments, online dog licensing and electronic land recordings.

As Portland's next first selectman, Ryan will continue to modernize town services throughout all departments to be more cost-effective and to save you, the taxpayer, money. Realizing the urgent need for a better water source, he will work tirelessly to identify that new source and solve the high increases in your water bills. He plans to bring in new business to offset some of the tax burden for you, the residents.

I have found Ryan to be honest, intelligent, courteous, experienced, a good listener and easy to talk to. He is of the highest integrity and I trust that you will join me on Election Day to cast your vote and make Ryan Curley Portland's next first selectman.

Sharon Hoy – Portland

Seeking Second Term

To the Editor:

I've been serving as an elected official on Hebron's Board of Finance for the last four years and I'm running for a second term. My interest in running is purely to serve our community as our town's elected positions are unpaid, volunteer positions. I've lived in this community for half of my life and volunteered through the youth football and high school football groups many years ago. Four years ago, I decided it was time again to reconnect with the activities of the community and ran for a position on the Board of Finance. This position aligns with my formal education and work experience.

On the Board of Finance, I am most interested in making sure that all constituents are served by our community. Like everyone, I have an opinion, though I make decisions after listening to be influenced and gathering fact-based information.

Here's where you come in. Please make sure to vote on Nov. 2. Consider the things that most matter to you and attend a town meeting where these topics

may be discussed. Feel free to give public comment to ensure that your thoughts are known. Also consider volunteering in our community as our town will benefit from your participation in whatever capacity suits your interest.

Please give me your vote on Nov. 2 and thank you for your consideration.

Diane Del Rosso – Hebron

Respectable, Responsible Candidates

To the Editor:

I would like to endorse three responsible and respectable candidates for the Marlborough Board of Education: Angela Colantonio, Anna Holden and Wes Skorski. I believe in their honesty to promote the positive and productive education for the children of Marlborough as well as to support the teachers with the resources they need in these unusual times with extra challenges.

Many years ago, I served with Wes Skorski on the AGM (Action Group of Marlborough) to recuperate the Spanish and the Enrichment programs, both of which are still going strong today at MES. I found him to be an honest, hardworking member of the group. We both participated at Marlborough Day for the AGM. Later, he was elected to the Board of Education and served as both vice chair and chairperson. I received positive feedback on Angela Colantonio from teachers at MES, she is a nurse, and I know her husband Eric. Finally, Anna Holden was a teacher for seven years. I firmly believe that some of the Board of Education members should be educators because they understand the needs of both the students and the teachers. I am impressed that Ms. Holden serves on both the Nature Trails Commission of Marlborough and the Coalition for Diversity and Equity. Our town needs support for both of these causes.

Some of the threads in these three candidates that impress me are how they promote quality education that would include not only the basics of Reading, Writing and Arithmetic, but also the sciences to include health, physical education and environmental studies, global awareness and diversity understanding through social studies, Spanish and Enrichment programs. I am confident that these three candidates will help steer the education given in our town through both turbulent and peaceful waters.

**Christi Moraga
Retired Teacher
Marlborough**

Seeking School Board Seat

To the Editor:

Hi, my name is Anna Holden and I'm running for a seat on the MES BOE.

My husband and I moved to town when our oldest was in seventh grade. Choosing a home with excellent schools was a priority and I was beyond relieved when she informed us how much more rigorous and interesting her classes were as well as how much more organized RHAM was. Fast forward nine years and we now have a first- and second-grader at MES, both of whom started in the pre-K program there. My family has only had positive experiences with the district.

If elected, I'm ready to bring my experiences as a mom, community member, small business owner, and former science educator to the table. My goal is simple: improve our already impressive schools. There's much work to be done after the disruption of the pandemic, but we can't just play catch-up. We need to find ways to be sure our children are not only filling in gaps, but also actively engaged with new opportunities for learning (and that our teachers are supported in this monumental task). Also, with a passion for science — I have a bachelor's in environmental science with a concentration in chemistry and a master's in teaching (I'm permanently certified to teach

chemistry and general science 7-12 in New York) — I want to be sure our students are getting the education they need to become scientifically literate adults.

I'm also currently serving on the Nature Trails and Sidewalk Commission in town as well as on the Hebron Coalition on Diversity and Equity. I love meeting new people and working toward improving our already amazing community! I'll be at Chateau le Gari on Oct. 20 from 7-9 p.m. for a candidate meet and greet — please stop by and say hi!

Anna Holden – Marlborough

Voting for Holden

To the Editor:

I am writing to encourage all Marlborough voters to cast their ballot in November for Anna Holden in her bid to represent us on the Board of Education. I have known Anna for many years. She is a trustworthy, genuine and generous person in our community. More importantly, she has qualities and values that will make her a valuable presence on the Board of Education. Anna is a level-headed and pragmatic person. Especially in these times of partisanship and divisiveness, Anna has the personality and disposition to navigate difficult topics and situations.

Anna builds bridges in our community — not walls. Anna is a dedicated mother and spouse, but she is also committed to the well-being of the entire Marlborough community. We can trust that she will exercise her judgement on the Board of Education to pursue the best interests of all of our children. Finally, Anna takes the time to listen and seek to understand the viewpoints of others. This doesn't mean she compromises her values. Anna is committed to ensuring our school and community in Marlborough remains inclusive, healthy, and strong for the future.

So please come and vote in November, and vote for Anna Holden for Board of Education.

Jen Coffield – Marlborough

Excited to be Running

To the Editor:

My name is Orus Coffield. I am very excited to be a candidate for election to Marlborough's Planning Commission this November.

I have been a member of the Planning Commission since 2018. Over that time I have helped lead efforts to adopt an updated Plan of Conservation and Development as well as prepare for a new Affordable Housing Plan and Sustainable CT certification. This work is incredibly fulfilling, and I am proud to have the opportunity to give back to the Marlborough community.

My family has lived in Marlborough for over 10 years. All four of my children attend MES. My wife and I are both Air Force veterans and currently work in the insurance industry. We understand the importance of living in a sustainable, growing, and welcoming community like Marlborough.

As a member of the Planning Commission, I make

these commitments to everyone in our town: That I will use my voice to develop policies for Marlborough with the goal of creating a prosperous and inclusive community today, tomorrow, and for years to come; that I commit to making myself available for Planning Commission meetings and obligations (I have attended 100% of meetings in 2020 and 2021); and that I will be an empathetic listener and seek to find healthy compromises as we plan the future of Marlborough and balance diverse interests.

My family and I love living in Marlborough. I am excited to continue to be a leader in order to give back to our community, and I ask for your vote in November. Thank you.

**Orus Coffield – Marlborough
Candidate for Planning Commission**

Going for Curley

To the Editor:

I have gotten to know Ryan Curley over many years. Ryan has always impressed me with his work ethic and commitment to Portland, both on the Board of Selectmen and also as town clerk. While serving on the BOS, Ryan always fought for fiscal responsibility and I have no doubt that he will do the same as first selectman. As a former accountant, Ryan also knows how to prioritize our needs as a community and he knows how to maintain a balanced budget. In addition, Ryan also served on the water and sewer subcommittee during his time on the board. He will waste no time in getting to work and finding a long-term solution to our water and infrastructure needs.

Please join me in supporting Ryan this Nov. 2.

Richard Cote – Portland

Nastri and Plourde for BOF

To the Editor:

On Nov. 2, I ask the voters of Marlborough to support Michael Nastri and Jeff Plourde for election to the Marlborough Board of Finance. Michael is currently an alternate member of the Board of Finance and is now seeking a full seat. Jeff is new to elected office, but both Michael and Jeff are committed to serve as "watchdogs" for the taxpayers of Marlborough. They also share real life career experience in financing. Jeff has 12 years of auditing experience with the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services and has served as a Utilities Examiner for the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA). Michael has a BA in accounting and an MBA in business with over 30 years of experience in banking and in the finance industry.

However, experience is just part of what is needed to serve as an effective member of Marlborough's Board of Finance. What is more important than credentials is a heartfelt dedication to our community and a commitment to ensuring that our tax dollars are not wasted. They want to make sure that we get the biggest bang for our buck when assembling and

See Letters page 29

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by George M. Mantikas, DMD

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Tongue scraping may sound a little unsettling, but it is an important step in obtaining a clean, healthy mouth. It is also one of the best ways to retain pleasant breath long after brushing. Your tongue may feel smooth most of the time, but it is actually covered in tiny bumps called "papillae" that are responsible for tasting and feeling the texture of your food. However, they can also harbor bad bacteria that result in sour breath, cavities, and gum disease, not to mention food debris and dead skin cells. Although brushing your tongue can help, using a specially designed tongue scrapper is much more effective at removing the bacteria and debris from your mouth, leaving it cleaner and fresher.

While oral bacteria can be your teeth's worst enemy, routine tongue scraping, brushing, flossing, and professional dental checkups can be your body's best friends. Has it been so long since your last dental visit that you can't remember when it was? Then why not take charge of your dental health and call us for an appointment? You'll find that nothing is more economical than regular professional attention to your oral hygiene.

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Colchester • Colchester



The four Colchester Cougars youth football squads were in action last Sunday against WPTP. Pictured here, the Colchester C Squad's Noah Garvie and Dominic Helm block for Edward Gignac.

Youth Football Recap

The Colchester Cougars youth football squads took on WPTP last Sunday. Here is how they fared:

D Squad: Won over WPTP. The Cougars came up strong on both offense and defense to secure the victory.

C Squad: Won, 33-6. Niko Ibrahim and TJ Garvie both had two touchdowns apiece and Jakob Sheehan added another touchdown following a strong run. Brady Bigelow, Keegan King and Casey Donat each added an extra point. Jack-Jack Ploski and PJ Brodeur both had exceptional kicks for the Cougars and also made some incredible tackles on defense. Drew Browning made his first offensive run of the season, bringing the Cougars close to the goal line. Aiden Francis, Behr McCormack, CJ Little and Jack Wissler led the defense with multiple backfield tackles and a QB sack. TJ Garvie also had a backfield fumble recovery which set the tone for the Cougar triumph.

B Squad: Won, 41-12. The Cougars scored on touchdown runs by Vinny Arrigoni, Luke Sands, Edward Gignac and a pass reception by Gavin King. Extra points were scored on runs by Noah Garvie and pass receptions by Gavin King and Ryan Browning. The scoring drives were led by the blocking of Carmine "the Boss" Rossi, Adam Bigelow, Kobe Wyman, Lilliana Anderson, James Wissler, and Lucas "Pete" Jodoin. On defense, the highlights were interceptions by Vinny Arrigoni and a big Pick 6 by Gignac. The defense also came up huge on the play of Chance Markovitz, Alan Marshall, Jacob Hashem, Charlie Gorman, Dominic Helm, and Jameson Grant.

A Squad: Won, 40-13. The Cougars offense was powered by the running ability of Riddick Burroughs, Joey Gignac and Lucian Dean.

Brevin Gonzales connected on a touchdown pass to Elijah Anctil. On defense, Michael Krol had 22 tackles and a fumble recovery. Cayden King had two sacks as well as a blocked punt while Dean added an interception for the Cougars.

The prior week, on Oct. 3, the Cougar squads were in action against RHAM in Hebron. Here are the results from those match-ups:

D Squad: Won, 12-0. Touchdowns were scored by Xavier Smith and Ty Corrado. Defensive standout players were: Brennan King, Sam Gorman, and Parker Chaplinsky.

C Squad: Lost, 19-7. Quarterback Niko Ibrahim scored the only touchdown for the Cougars. Defensive standouts were Jakob Sheehan with a quarterback sack and TJ Garvie with a touchdown saving tackle from the opposite side of the field.

B Squad: Won, 33-6. The Cougars scored on touchdown runs by Edward Gignac, Vinny Arrigoni and Dominic Helm. Extra points were brought in by Charlie Gorman and Noah Garvie. The running attack was made possible by the offensive line blocking of Carmine Rossi, Adam Bigelow, Kobe Wyman and Lillyanna Anderson. The defense was led by the strong tackling of Ryan Browning, Sam Collazo, Jacob Hashem, Alan Marshall, and Chance Markovitz.

A Squad: Won, 34-19. There was an amazing effort given on the offensive line which led to two touchdown runs each for Riddick Burroughs and Joey Gignac. Brevin Gonzalez connected with Burroughs for a touchdown pass and Elijah Anctil added two extra point kicks. Josiah Wells had a fumble recovery while Tyler McLaughlin forced many bad snaps and added three sacks on defense.

Senior Center News & Notes

Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave., has announced the following. For full descriptions, call 860-537-3911, email csc@colchesterct.gov, or visit www.colchesterct.gov/senior-center.

Monday, Oct. 18: 9 a.m., Making Memories, Exercise w/Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign; 12:30 p.m., Mahjong; 1 p.m., Cake Decorating, Bridge; 1:30 p.m., Presentation for Dublin Village.

Tuesday, Oct. 19: 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m., Book Club; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle; 1:30 p.m., Bingo.

Wednesday, Oct. 20: 8:30 a.m., Walking Group meet-up at the Air Line Trail in Amston; 9 a.m., Making Memories Program, Bistro Train Trip departs; 10 a.m., Adult Coloring, Sit & Be Fit; 11 a.m., Oktoberfest special luncheon; 1:30 p.m., Line Dancing; 7 p.m., AARP Wildlife.

Thursday, Oct. 21: 9 a.m., Exercise w/ Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Wii Bowling; 11 a.m., Yoga; noon, Chair Massage; 12:30 p.m., Dominoes; 1 p.m., Knit & Crochet.

Friday, Oct. 22: 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit; 10:30 a.m., Choral Group; 11 a.m., Yoga; 11:30 a.m., Lunch Bunch to Loco Perro; 1:30 p.m., Bingo.

Upcoming Programs: Family Feud: Monday, Oct. 25, 1 p.m. Two teams will face off against each other to try to guess the most popular answers to questions. The game is free, but pre-registration is required.

Leaf-Peeping Trip: Thursday, Oct. 28, 10 a.m. Take a bus trip, and check out the foliage along the way, to B.F. Clyde's Cider Mill in Mystic. Bus will depart at 10 a.m. Tickets are \$10 and include transportation and refreshments. Space is limited.

age along the way, to B.F. Clyde's Cider Mill in Mystic. Bus will depart at 10 a.m. Tickets are \$10 and include transportation and refreshments. Space is limited.

Halloween Pizza Party and Costume Contest: Friday, Oct. 29, 11 a.m. Prizes will be given for funniest, spookiest, and best overall costumes. The festivities will be followed by a lunch of pizza, garden salad, a soft drink, and dessert. Tickets are \$7 each. Register by Oct. 22.

Alzheimer's Association Caregivers Zoom Series: Mondays, Nov. 1-15, 6 p.m. November is National Family Caregivers Month, and the Colchester Commission on Aging invites all to a three-part series entitled "Living with Alzheimer's: for Caregivers: Early Stages" Kristopher Sortwell, the Eastern Region director of education and outreach with the Alzheimer's Association, Connecticut Chapter will be guest speaker throughout the series. Call the center for the Zoom links for these presentations.

Special Info Sessions on Senior Center

The Colchester Senior Center will hold special sessions for the residents of Dublin and Ponemah villages to talk about the proposed new senior center on Mondays, Oct. 18 and 25, at 1:30 p.m.

Meet with members of the Senior Center Building Committee and learn about this project. There will be senior bus transportation to Dublin Village on Oct. 18 and Ponemah Village on Oct. 25.

Register if you need a ride, by calling 860-537-3911.

Youth Basketball Registration Open

Registration for the Colchester Youth Basketball (CYB) Recreational Program for children in grades one through high school will be open through Nov. 1. The CYB Travel Program for children grades four-eight will be open until Oct. 31.

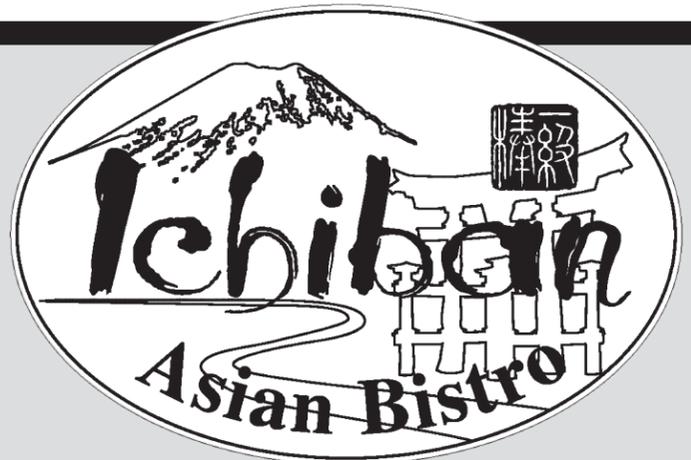
Those interested can register at www.Colchesterbasketball.org.

Medium to Visit

St. Joseph's Polish Club, 395 S. Main Street, is once again hosting medium Rebecca Anne Locicero, on Saturday, Oct. 16, from 6:45-9 p.m.

Tickets are \$30 per person and on sale now. Stop by the club today, Friday, from 4-9 p.m., or Saturday starting at noon, to purchase your tickets.

Guests must be seated by 6:45 p.m. the night of the show, so that it can start on time.



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Absentee Ballots Available for Election

The Colchester town clerk's office has absentee ballots for Nov. 2 municipal election available from now through Nov. 1.

For an application for a ballot, go to tinyurl.com/95nwmkb. You must be a current Colchester voter at the time of the application. After the town clerk's office receives the completed application, you will be given an absentee ballot to fill out. People who apply in person can fill out the ballot at that time or take it with you to return within the specified period.

There are multiple ways to deliver a fully filled-out ballot and enclosed envelopes. If delivered in person, it must be delivered to the town clerk no later than the Monday, Nov. 1,

at 4:30 p.m.; if delivered in person by a family member or qualified designee, it must reach the town clerk's office by the end of polls on Election Day; if delivered by mail it must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. Election Day; and if placed in the Election Drop Box, it must be deposited by the end of polls on Election Day.

A qualified designee includes: a person caring for you because of your illness, including but not limited to a licensed physician or a registered practical nurse; a police officer in Colchester; or a registrar of voters or deputy registrar of voters in Colchester.

For more information, call the town clerk's office at 860-537-7215.

New Play and Learn Group

The Collaborative for Colchester's Children (C3) is offering a new outdoor play and learn group, Baby and Me, for children up to age two with their caregiver, on Mondays at 1 p.m. at Ruby and Elizabeth Cohen Woodlands.

The program will provide families with socially-distanced activities including music, finger plays, rhymes and gentle movement.

To learn more or to register, visit colchester3.jumbula.com/#/joyful-noises-fall.

Scouting For Food

Scouting for Food (SFF) is the local area's Boy Scout Troop and Cub Packs food collection drive to help Colchester's needy families.

The Colchester Scouts will distribute yellow plastic bags for the collection of non-perishable food donations to Colchester homes on Oct. 30. There will be a listing of items that can be donated on or in each bag.

Collection of donations done by the Scouts will be the following Saturday, Nov. 6, from 9 a.m.-noon. All non-perishable items should be put outside before 9 a.m. next to mailboxes or in a place where Boy Scouts passing by on the street will see the donated items.

Scouting For Food items collected will be brought directly to the Colchester Food Bank.

CYSS News and Notes

Colchester Youth and Social Services has announced the following. For full program descriptions or more information, contact CYSS at 860-537-7255 or youthservices@colchesterct.gov. Register for programs online at www.colchesterct.gov/youth-social-services.

Half Day Hooray: For children in grades K-5 during professional development shortened days. Half Day Hooray takes place right at the child's school and includes STEAM-related performances, hands-on activities, take-home crafts and more. Each session is \$10. Register online. The programs are: Dec. 10: Holiday Hooplah; Jan. 14: Winter Wonderland; Feb. 18: Funky February; March 24: March Madness; May 27: Last Blast.

Youth Center Activities: Drop-In: 2-4 p.m. Mondays for grades 7-8, and Wednesdays for grade six. This is a free program for middle school students. During Drop-In, kids can have a snack, read/do homework, play pool, air hockey, video games or basketball, work on crafts, and more. Students will receive instructions for online registration at their first visit; they must be registered online to attend again.

Youth Voices: Tuesdays, 2-4 p.m., for grades 6 or 7. This group will advocate for others, pro-

vide community service, and mentor younger children. Sign up online.

After School Crew: Tuesdays through Dec. 7, 3:15-4:30 p.m., for boys in grades 4 and 5. This free group will give boys a chance to make friends and build social skills with different activities. The group will be transported to the Youth Center by the van right after school each day that the group takes place.

Girls Circle: Thursdays through Dec. 16, 2-4 p.m., for girls in grades 6 and 7. This free program uses a small group setting where girls can make new friends while using discussion and interactive games.

Youth Action Council: Thursdays, 2:15-4 p.m., for grades 7-12. As a member of the council, students will have the opportunity to engage with town leaders, travel to regional conferences, create activities for teens, and more. Register online.

Tag Sale Oct. 16

Westchester Congregational Church will hold a Tag Sale Saturday, Oct. 16, from 8 a.m.-noon, at the parsonage located at 95 Cemetery Rd. (across the street from the church) in the Westchester section of town.

For more information, email westcongchurch@gmail.com.

St. Andrew Ladies Guild Fundraiser

The St. Andrew Ladies Guild is sponsoring a fundraiser of Lyman Orchard berry pies and Granny's Pie Factory cream pies, as well as Otis Spunkmeyer cookies. The fundraiser will run through Oct. 19.

Curbside pickup will be Tuesday, Nov. 2, from 6-8 p.m., at the back of St. Andrew Church Parish Hall, 128 Norwich Ave.

To order, go to tinyurl.com/f2wjtnf. All proceeds fund the Guild's annual high school and college scholarships.

Cragin Book Club to Meet

The Cragin Book Club will meet Monday, Oct. 25 at 6 p.m., at Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave.

This month, participants will read *Dear Child* by Romy Hausmann. Copies are available for checkout at the Adult Circulation Desk. For updates on the program, sign up at tinyurl.com/cmlbookclub.

The program is free and open to the public. For more information, call the library at 860-537-7200.

Abundant Life Church News & Notes

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

Sunday Services: Sunday School is at 9:30 a.m. and the main service is at 10:30 a.m. There is also Children's Church available for ages 4-11. All are welcome.

The main service is also broadcast live each week on Facebook. Visit www.facebook.com/groups/abundantlifeCT or look for the church on Facebook. For more information, call the church.

Power of Prayer: If in need of prayer, call the church to be placed on the prayer list. You may also ask about the various days and times the prayer groups meet and come at that time.

Stars, Socks & Stripes

Bacon Academy senior Sam Blumberger is collecting new packages or pairs of socks for his "Stars, Socks & Stripes" sock donation drive, which will run until Friday, Nov. 5.

Blumberger will donate the socks to the American Legion, with the goal of helping to keep area veterans warm during the winter.

Donations will be collected at Bacon Academy, Cragin Memorial Library and Town Hall.

Fall Market Vendor Fair
Colchester Federated Church will host a Fall Market Vendor Fair Saturday, Oct. 16, from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m., at the church, 60 Main St. There will be crafts, vendors, food trucks and more.

Ahavath Achim News
Congregation Ahavath Achim, 84 Lebanon Ave., has announced the following schedule:
Friday night service, 6:30 p.m., Zoom; Shabbat morning 10 a.m. hybrid service; Tuesday, Talmud class, 6:30 p.m., and Kabbalah class, 8 p.m. on Zoom.
For more information, call 860-537-2809. Office hours are 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday; 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Tuesday; 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday; and 9 a.m.-noon Friday.

CT Bearcats Seeks Players
The CT Bearcats of Colchester and East Had-dam is seeking 9U players for the spring/summer baseball season. To be eligible, players cannot turn 10 years old until after May 1, 2022.
Anyone interested should contact Coach Rob Corrado at TMBA22@hotmail.com.

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Colchester Professor Receives Prestigious Honor

by **Josh Howard**

Peter Siver, a longtime resident of Colchester, was awarded the Phycological Society of America's Award of Excellence, the highest honor bestowed by the organization.

Siver, a professor of botany and environmental studies at Connecticut College, received the career achievement award which honors scientists with a sustained scholarly activity, including teaching and service, who have had a major impact on the field of phycology.

"It's a great honor, especially being from a small liberal arts college," said Siver, who has been as professor at Connecticut College and lived in Colchester since 1990. "Most of the people that receive this award are at large universities with larger facilities to do research."

Siver added that the award has been referred to as the 'Hall of Fame' for the scientific community.

Since its inception in 1996, Siver is one of only 43 people worldwide to receive the esteemed honor.

"You have to be nominated for the award and in my case it's someone that has worked closely with me since 1990," added Siver, who was nominated

by longtime colleague Anne-Marie Lizarralde.

Lizarralde wrote in her nomination, "I am a graduate of Connecticut College and have been able to work with Professor Siver in a variety of roles since 1990, funded solely through his research grant. I have also witnessed him and his wife raise two daughters, one now a clinical research Association and the other a high school teacher. I have witnessed his work ethic, his devotion to his family, students and the profession, and his never-ending passion for algae."

Siver's incredible work ethic can be traced back to his parents who persevered through World War II before raising Siver and his siblings in New York. His father was a WWII veteran.

When Siver first started his undergraduate at SUNY-Binghamton he was more interested in Zoology before shifting to environmental studies after taking a course with mentor George Schumacher. That is when he discovered his true passion for plants and all things algae-related.

He was first published in the Journal of Phycology in 1977 and has since published over 150 articles in peer-reviewed journals, along with having his work featured on the covers of 12 journal publications and currently has 31 continuous

years of funding from the National Science Foundation for algae work.

Siver has taught over 200 courses all over the world, including China, Portugal, Argentina and Russian.

The well-traveled Siver even has six algae named in his honor, including three diatoms, two synurophytes, and one chrysophyte.

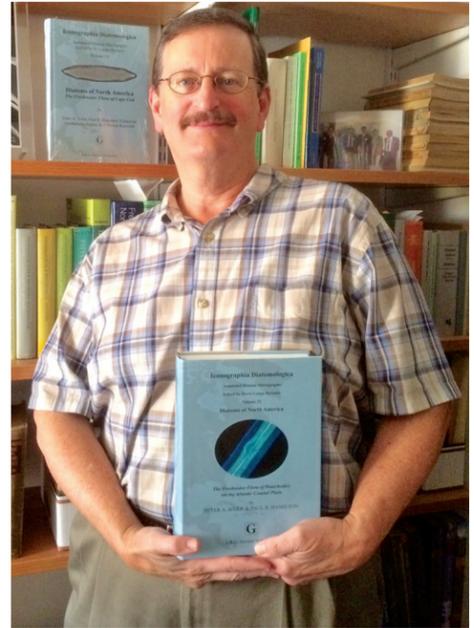
"I was always interested in outdoors, mostly interested in lakes. I spent a lot of time around lakes as a kid," Siver said of his passion for the outdoors, which turned into a career that has spanned six decades.

His research has taken up a lot of nights and weekends, but his time away from work is spent with his wife, Regina, and his two daughters, Michaela and Emma. He said the three have provided him "endless support over the years."

In his downtime, he enjoys anything outdoors, including fishing, hiking, and most recently kayaking. He is also a member of the Glastonbury Ukulele Club.

Because of COVID-19 precautions, there wasn't an in-person presentation for Siver's honor. However, there was a virtual presentation where he was able to speak and present slides, recognizing those that have inspired him along the way; including family, students, mentors, and colleagues.

"This is a wonderful honor and one I will always treasure," stated Siver.



Colchester's Peter Siver holds his book **Diatoms of North America: The Freshwater Flora of Waterbodies on the Atlantic Coastal Plain**, which he co-authored with Paul Hamilton. The book won a Prescott Award.

Poetry Contest for Children

The Colchester Garden Club is inviting area students in grades K-9 to share their nature experiences, thoughts and knowledge about birds by creating an original poem for the National Garden Clubs, Inc. Poetry Contest. This year's poetry contest theme is "Sing with the Song Birds – Exploring the Glory of Nature."

Flyers and entry forms may be picked up at the Cragin Memorial Library Children's Circulation Desk or requested by email from colchestergardenclub@yahoo.com. Contest deadline is Dec. 1, with awards and recognition being made in spring 2022.

Contest Rules: All entries must be typed and titled. On the back of the entry, affix the Colchester Garden Club Entry Form which includes name, address, age, grade and school of participant and sponsoring garden club and

state garden club name information. All entries become the property of National Garden Clubs, Inc. Poems do not have to rhyme; poems may be traditional verse, acrostics, blank verse, cinquains, diamond poems, limerick or Haiku.

Scale of Points: 100 Total. Title - 10 points; Content - 40 points; Creativity - 30 points; Style - 20 points.

In January, Connecticut state winners will move to the northeast regional judging. Only regional winners will be considered in the judging for national winners. All of the national winning entries will be compiled into a booklet that will be made available to the winners.

For more information, contact Colchester Garden Club at colchestergardenclub@yahoo.com or call 860-267-4471.

C3 Play & Learn Groups

The Collaborative for Colchester's Children (C3) has announced the return of outdoor Play and Learn Groups at Ruby and Elizabeth Cohen Woodlands.

This class, for children up to 5 years old with a caregiver, will feature a variety of outdoor, physically distanced activities that include stories, songs, music and movement games, and more.

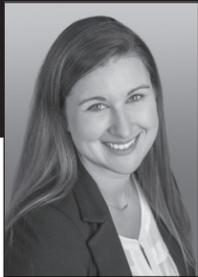
For more information and to register, go to ColchesterC3.org

Thanksgiving Drive

Rotary Foundation and Liberty Bank is again holding a Thanksgiving meal drive to help needy families in the Colchester community.

The foundation and Liberty Bank are joining forces with more than 40 Rotary clubs to supply a turkey and all the fixings for our neighbors in need. You can help by purchasing paper turkey legs at Noel's and Westchester markets or by making a donation at any Liberty Bank branch. Liberty Bank's foundation will add 25 cents for every dollar you give.

Manchester OBGYN Associates Welcomes Dr. Lydia Lormand



Lydia Lormand, DO, FACOG, is a board-certified physician specializing in obstetrics and gynecology. She completed her ObGyn residency at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, Massachusetts, after earning her Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from New York College of Osteopathic Medicine, and her

Bachelor of Science degree from Binghamton University. As a resident, she received the Practicing the Art of Medicine Award, which is given to the chief resident who displays a strong ability to integrate the foundation of evidence-based medicine with clinical intuition, empathy, and compassion.

As a women's healthcare provider, Dr. Lormand's mission is to provide comprehensive healthcare to women through puberty, the reproductive years and menopause, and to make women feel comfortable and try to take away the fear and anxiety that can associated with ObGyn care. In her spare time, Dr. Lormand enjoys reading murder mysteries, traveling, scuba diving, playing volleyball and spinning.

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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 office is open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. The office can be reached at 860-537-5189 or cfc06415@gmail.com.

Worship services are Sunday mornings at 9 a.m.; masks required. For those wishing to worship from home, the service will be broadcast via Facebook Live each Sunday at 9 a.m.

Worship videos are at www.colchesterfederatedchurch.org under the Worship & Sermons tab. Updated information is also on the church's Facebook page.

Sunday School: Sunday School is held during worship from September through June. Children in grades pre-K through 8 are welcome. The nursery is located just off the sanctuary. Visit the church website to register youth for Sunday School.

Twelve-Step Meetings: AA meets in the church library Monday-Wednesday and Friday at noon and Thursday at 10 a.m., and at 7:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. On Saturdays at 9:30 a.m., Al-Anon meets in the Jerusalem Room and AA meets in the Stage Room.

Boy Scout Troop 72: Meetings are held in the Stage Room every Monday at 7 p.m.

Fire Calls

From Oct. 3-9, the Colchester Hayward Fire Department responded to 46 calls: of those, 38 were emergency medical calls, six were fire/fire related calls, and two were motor vehicle crashes. Calls included:

Fire: fire alarm, one; CO call, two; smoke investigation, one.

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

CHFD provided mutual aid four times last week – once to East Haddam and three times to Hebron. It received mutual aid five times –

three times from Gardner Lake and once each from East Haddam and Hebron.

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.

DTC Holding Raffle

The Colchester Democratic Town Committee is holding a raffle, with the grand prize being a \$200 gift card. Second and third prizes will each be \$50 gift cards.

Cost is \$5 per ticket, and the drawing will take place Sunday, Oct. 24, at 6 p.m., at the Dot Mrowka Pasta Dinner. Proceeds benefit the 2021 Colchester Democratic candidates. Email RaffleTicketsNov2@gmail.com to purchase tickets. Cash/Venmo accepted.

Commission on Aging Presents Alzheimer's Association for Caregivers

November is National Family Caregivers Month and, in partnership with the Colchester Senior Center, the Commission on Aging invites all to a three-part series entitled "Living with Alzheimer's: For Caregivers: Early Stages."

Kristopher Sortwell, MSW, CBIS, Eastern Region Director of Education and Outreach, Alzheimer's Association Connecticut Chapter, will present the series via Zoom Mondays, Nov. 1, 8

and 15, at 6 p.m.

This series is designed to provide practical answers to the questions that arise in the early stage. Learn what you can do to cope with the changes that come with an early-stage diagnosis.

Call the Colchester Senior Center for the Zoom link at 860-537-3911.

Christian Life Chapel News

Christian Life Chapel, located at 392 S. Main St., holds worship in-person at 10 a.m. Sundays. Follow the church on Facebook for the livestream.

For more information, call Pastor Don Rivers – the church's bi-vocational pastor, who also serves as president for "Racing with Jesus Inc." – at 860-398-9119 or visit christianlifechapel.org.

Senior Trip to Chicken Restaurant, Casino

Colchester Senior Center is organizing a trip to Wright's Chicken Farm in Rhode Island, followed by a stop at Twin River Casino, on Thursday, March 24, 2022, departing at 10:15 a.m.

At Wright's, dine on home-cooked baked chicken, pasta with homemade sauce, signature French fries, and salad with Wright's family recipe dressing. Spend the afternoon at Twin River Casino with over 4,000 slot machines and live table games.

Cost is \$92 per person, and space is limited. Reservations should be made in person at the senior center, 95 Norwich Ave., and are available to members of the Colchester Senior Center on a first-come, first-served basis.

Call the senior center at 860-537-3911 for more information.

Police News

10/5: State police said Xavier Alexander Jones, 24, of New London, and Patricia A Olson, 76, of 268 S. Main St., were involved in a minor two-vehicle crash on Old Hartford Road. According to police, Jones was traveling in the southbound lane and initiating a left hand turn into Performance Tire and Lube when Olson attempted to pass on the left and struck Jones' vehicle from behind. Olson was transported to Marlborough Hospital for minor injuries.

10/7: State police said Michael B. Coleman, 46, of Hartford, was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol/drugs.

Toastmasters Meet Biweekly

All are invited to practice their public speaking with the Air Line Trail Toastmasters, Chapter 6976, which meets via Zoom on the second and fourth Thursday of the month from 6:30-8 p.m.

Contact Tom Moreno at 860-917-7472 for more information, or visit www.airlinetrails.toastmastersclubs.org.

St. Andrew's Guild Offers Travel Opportunities

St. Andrew's Guild is continuing to offer trips to support many various programs. Cruising has reopened and the Jan. 20-31, 2022, cruise to the southern Caribbean cruise has very limited cabins.

The second cruise St. Andrew's Guild is offering is a 16-day cruise Sept. 3-18, 2022 visiting Norway, Iceland and Greenland. You will be transported to Boston to fly to Copenhagen where you will board a Royal Caribbean ship and tour the countries outlined. Cost of the trip starts at \$2,999; this includes your flight.

Cruise ships have spent hours updating their HVAC systems and continually evaluate protocols and health standards, the Guild said. To learn more about the various protocols, call Donna at Friendship Tours at 800-243-1630.

For an itinerary of the cruise, call Cathy Rusi at 860-887-9621 or Barbara Gozzo at 860-537-0179.

Ukrainian Catholic Church News

All are invited to worship each week at St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, 178 Linwood Ave. The church offers Eastern Rite Divine services. Church doors are open for Divine Liturgy on Saturdays at 4 p.m. and Sundays at 9 a.m.; the Sunday service is bilingual.

For more information, call the church at 860-537-2069.



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- Donate to organizations, campaigns and initiatives who are committed to racial justice.

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East Hampton • East Hampton

Paul's and Sandy's Too Celebrates Golden Anniversary

by Jack Lakowsky

The Town of East Hampton, similar to many New England communities, is unofficially organized into several villages, including Cobalt and Middle Haddam.

Perhaps, were one inclined, they could make a case to add Pumpkintown to East Hampton's roster of boroughs.

The attraction, an autumnally themed village at Paul's and Sandy's Too, a prominent local business that last week celebrated 50 years, has reopened this year, having been closed in 2020 due to the pandemic.

Pumpkintown is headed by the Honorable Mayor Leroy Butternut, according to Paul Peszynski, the store's founder. Although Butternut was unavailable for comment, Peszynski and his grandson, Steven Kelley, were, and both spoke to the *Rivereast* on Tuesday.

Kelley organized the event. Kelley lives in Orlando and works for Disney, flying home to celebrate with his family.

"It was a beautiful day," Kelley said, adding he thinks close to 100 people showed up to last Thursday's celebration, attended by local officials, business owners and customers.

Prior to the event, the store published its history in the *Rivereast*.

Peszynski started selling fruits and vegetables when he was a teenager of 16, along with his father. Eventually, he saved up enough to buy a truck.

During the store's first year, it was opened in July and closed on Labor Day, making just enough to get by.

The storefront was upgraded in 1970, and Peszynski and his wife Sandy, who has since passed away, sold toys, sporting goods and miscellany.

Peszynski told the *Rivereast* tough competition necessitated pivoting the business. He

added this is how the store has survived everything from recessions to the ongoing pandemic; dynamism, weaving around competition to sell products no one nearby was offering.

Peszynski has since stepped away from the helm. His children now run the show. He said currently, the bulk of the store's revenue comes from its greenhouse, which contains hundreds of thousands of dollars in inventory.

Flower sales were so successful when they started, the store eventually expanded again and built greenhouses to grow their own stock.

It was around this time that "Paul's" became "Paul's & Sandy's Too".

As the story goes, they were having a new sign made for the store and Paul, as a joke, asked the sign maker to put a little tag at the end that said, "and Sandy's Too". Customer response, which was typically "It's about time!", couldn't be ignored. In 1988, the name was legally changed, giving Sandy her rightful equal billing.

The store's story wouldn't be complete without Pumpkintown. What started as two pumpkinheads in 1990 has since grown to a full village of 60, running for six weeks in the fall.

The attraction is quite well known. Peszynski said it put East Hampton on the map, having since its founding interviewed with national news outlets such as the Associated Press.

Pumpkintown draws thousands each year. A portion of proceeds raised through admissions goes to the Sandy Peszynski Breast Cancer Foundation. To date, the foundation has raised \$500,000.

Kelley said the store is also a big contributor to the local VFW.

Peszynski said he had the idea for Pumpkintown about 30 years ago, on a trip to Vermont with Sandy.

"We happened on a farm stand way out in the woods somewhere, and they had these pumpkin-headed figures," the founder said. "It stopped us in our tracks. I said, 'Look at these critters! I'm taking this idea home.'"

Two or three years later, Pumpkintown was founded.

Peszynski said he wanted Pumpkintown to look brand new and fresh every year, not letting it fall into shabbiness like some other fall attractions.

"Every figure has a name and a face," he said. "Each pumpkin is the exact same size and shape as the first ones were 30 years ago. That to me is the secret of Pumpkintown's success; we didn't get lazy with it."

Kelley said the celebration will continue with a commemorative yardstick giveaway for the Christmas season.

Kelley, growing up around a family business and now working for a multinational powerhouse conglomerate, said success in either are-

na requires a similar skill; continuing to evolve with customer trends.

He added that, since the pandemic, the store has "blossomed." People, spending more time at home, have invested in beautifying their property.

"We're continuing to meet the changing needs of consumers," Kelley said.

Although a venerable success, the store, like so many right now, faces challenges.

"Supply is definitely a big issue," Kelley said. "Shipping and manufacturing costs are through the roof, even for domestic items."

Kelley said the state's increasing minimum wage won't likely affect Paul's and Sandy's, explaining employees have always been paid more than minimum wage.

"I am 83 years old," Peszynski said. "I started the store when I was 33 and started in business at the same location when I was 16. If you and your family do something for almost 70 years, you better be a success."

Senior Center News & Notes

East Hampton Senior Center, 105 Main St., is open. All participants are asked to register for a program before entering the center; register online at myactivecenter.com. For full program descriptions or more information, call 860-267-4426, email seniorcenter@easthamptonct.gov, or visit www.easthamptonct.gov/east-hampton-senior-center. Senior center hours are Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Note: Masks are required for all participants, regardless of vaccination status.

Lunches: The Community Renewal Team is serving meals at the center Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Call the center to reserve a meal or sign up online through MyActiveCenter.com. One must be 60 or older to register. Reservations for the next day's meal must be made before 11 a.m. the day before. Masks are required; however, once you have your meal and are seated you can take off your mask. Meals are funded through a federal grant and the meals are free, but a \$3 donation is requested to help cover costs the grant does not. No one registered will be denied a meal due to lack of a donation.

Weekly Activities: Registration is required for all of the following; to do so, contact the center. **Quilting Group:** Mondays, 9 a.m. **Mexican Train Dominoes:** Mondays, 9:30 a.m. **Bible Study:** Tuesdays, 1 p.m. **Bingo:** Tuesdays,

1-2 p.m., in person and via Zoom. **Setback:** Thursdays 1:15-3:15 p.m. **Mahjongg:** Fridays, 10 a.m.-noon. **Textile Group:** Fridays at 1:30 p.m.

Wii Bowling: Tuesdays, Nov. 16 and 30, 10 a.m. Register online.

Writing Our Lives to Open Our Hearts: Thursdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m., or every other Wednesday (next date Oct. 27), at 9:30 a.m. Meet outside, weather permitting. In case of inclement weather, it will be inside, with masks recommended. Register online.

Meet the Superintendent: Monday, Oct. 18, 1-1:30 p.m., at the senior center. Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith will offer an update on what's happening in the town's public schools. Pre-registration requested.

Connecticare Presentation: Tuesday, Oct. 19, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Beverly Goodrich will present the program options. Pre-registration requested.

Lunch and a Movie: Tuesday, Oct. 26, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Bring your own lunch and be ready to give your review. The movie to be discussed is *Poms* with Diane Keaton. Pre-registration required.

Volunteer Shopping: The center has instituted a shopping program where a volunteer will shop for you. Call in your list to 860-267-4426 or email it to Jewing@easthampton.gov. List must include name, address, phone number and email if you have one, along with a complete shopping list. The shopper will call you before the drop off to let you know the cost of the groceries. You can write out a check for the amount, payable to the Town of East Hampton. The volunteer will drop off the groceries at your door and pick up the check in a pre-arranged designated spot.

Trips: Goodspeed-Lunch and a Show: See *A Grand Night for Singing*, a celebration of Rodgers & Hammerstein, on Nov. 4 at noon. Drive yourself for lunch at the Gelston House and the Goodspeed show. Cost is \$98, due Oct. 5, and checks are to be made payable to the Town of East Hampton. The center will accept payments Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Dining and a Cabaret Show: At the Newport Playhouse Wednesday, Dec. 8, to see the new comedic farce *A Christmas for Carol*. There will be a staff-served buffet with a variety of hot entrees, salads and more. Cost is \$129/person. Payments will be accepted at the center on Tuesdays and Thursdays, or by a pre-arranged appointment time.

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Juvenile Arrested for Firearm, Pot Possession

by Jack Lakowsky

A 17-year-old male from Glastonbury was arrested by East Hampton police last week, alleged to have been in possession of a half-pound of marijuana and a firearm with its serial numbers ground off.

The male is charged with second-degree reckless endangerment, alteration of a firearm, carrying a pistol without a permit and possession of cannabis, and was arrested at Sears Park.

East Hampton Police Chief Dennis Woessner told the *Rivereast* the alleged gun offenses are felony charges.

Although he could not yet speak to this specific case, he said in general, people in legal possession of a gun don't typically grind away serial numbers.

Woessner said the gun was a Glock model, a .43 caliber 9-millimeter.

Woessner was not aware if the juvenile has a history of similar behavior.

The juvenile has been released to the custody of a parent, according to police.

The person charged was alleged to have been with two other individuals, who were not charged, both males.

Police were alerted by a burglar alarm in the pavilion at Sears Park. Investigation revealed three males were in the park, and one



A Glastonbury youth faces multiples charges after he was found in possession of a half-pound of marijuana and a firearm with its serial numbers ground off, police said.

had entered an unlocked bathroom, triggering the alarm.

One of the males experienced a medical emergency, according to the police department's report. Woessner described the complaint of illness as vague, the person simply saying they weren't feeling well. he was transported to Middlesex Hospital.

Congregational Church News & Notes

The Congregational Church of East Hampton, UCC, located at 59 Main St., holds in-person services every Sunday at 10 a.m. For the fully vaccinated, mask wearing is not mandatory except when singing. Those not fully vaccinated should continue to wear masks and practice social distancing. All services can be accessed via Zoom by going to the website at cc-eh.org.

The Teen Youth Group will next meet Friday, Oct. 22, from 6:30-7:30 p.m., for pumpkin

carving and a Halloween Dessert Buffet. Students in grades 6-12 are welcome.

The Sunday School classes will have a Halloween workshop Oct. 31.

For more information about CCEH and its activities, visit cc-eh.org or call the church office at 860-267-4959 during office hours, Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. In case of pastoral emergencies, Rev. Jim Latimer can be reached at 610-568-2480.

East Hampton Library News & Notes

East Hampton Public Library, 105 Main St., has announced the following. To register, or for full program descriptions, call 860-267-6621 or visit easthamptonpubliclibrary.org.

Library Hours: The library is open in the summer Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Thursday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Masks are required at town facilities – including the library – for people ages 3 and up.

Children's Programs: DIY Days: Saturday, Oct. 16, 2 p.m., for grades 2-8. This month, create your own scratch-and-sniff watercolor paint. Space is limited; reservations required by visiting easthamptonpubliclibrary.org. As this is an indoor program, masks are required for patrons 3 and up.

Slithery, Slimy, and Creepy Creatures: Saturday, Oct. 16, 3 p.m. Presented by the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center. In-person, on the library patio.

Stories and Songs Outside: Wednesday, Oct. 20, 10:15 a.m., for ages 18 months-5 years. This story time program for children and their caregivers is held in-person, outdoors at Sears Park by Lake Pocotopaug. No registration required; just drop in.

Preschool Musical Adventures: Wednesdays, 4 p.m. This activity is live and in person. Dance, sing, listen to stories, and make musical instruments. This program is intended for children ages 3-6 and will take place in the community room at the library. Participants will be required to wear a mask. Register for each week separately.

Teen Programs: Dungeons and Dragons: For grades 8-12. Wednesdays, Oct. 27, Nov. 10 and Nov. 24, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. each day, in person at the library. No previous playing experience required and all supplies will be provided.

CommuniTea Oct. 16

The Middle Haddam Public Library, 2 Knowles Rd., is hosting the next CommuniTea Saturday, Oct. 16, at 10:30 a.m. There will be biscuits, tea (and coffee).

All are invited to drink some tea, take out a book, and look at the art.

Middle School Advisory Board: Tuesday, Oct. 26, 5 p.m. This is a group of teens who come together to plan and create events and programs they'd like to see at the library. All students in grades 6-8 are welcome.

Adult Programs: Investigating Paranormal Activity: Tuesday, Oct. 26, 7 p.m., in person at the library. The Eastern Connecticut Paranormal Society will revisit real paranormal case studies from across New England.

Book Club: Tuesday, Oct. 19, at 6:30 p.m., and Thursday, Oct. 21, at 2 p.m. The club will discuss author Ellen Feldman's newest novel, *The Living and the Lost*.

Fall Author Series: Tuesday, Nov. 16, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom. Deborah Copaken, the *New York Times* best-selling author of *Shutterbabe*, *The Red Book* and *Ladyparts*, will talk about her works. Books will be on sale for cash or check to benefit the Friends of the East Hampton Public Library. The November meeting of the **Book Club** will be on *Ladyparts*; the club will meet Thursday, Nov. 18, at 2 p.m., and Tuesday, Nov. 23, at 6:30 p.m.

Sports Boosters Fundraising Game

All are invited to join the East Hampton High School Sports Boosters at the Hartford Athletic game Friday, Oct. 22, at 7 p.m., at Dillon Stadium, Hartford.

Tickets are \$17.99 each, and a portion of the proceeds from each ticket will be donated to the Boosters. To purchase tickets, go to <https://fevo.me/ehssports>.

Democratic Candidates Meet-and-Greets

The East Hampton Democratic candidates running for local office will meet voters at two events next week.

The Democrats will gather at Robert's Lake-House, 81 N. Main St., on Monday, Oct. 18, at 5 p.m., and then at Dexter's Tunes, Tales and Ales, 91 Main St., on Friday, Oct. 22, from 4:30-7 p.m.

All are invited to meet the candidates and ask questions on matters of importance.

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East Hampton • East Hampton

Fall Author Series Lineup

Cragin Memorial Library of Colchester, East Hampton Public Library, Richmond Memorial Library of Marlborough and Welles-Turner Memorial Library of Glastonbury announce their virtual Fall Author Series lineup. *New York Times* best-selling author Deborah Copaken will speak live on Zoom on Tuesday, Nov. 16, at 6:30 p.m. Copaken is the author of *Shutterbabe*, *The Red Book* and the recently-released *Ladyparts*. She was a writer on the Netflix show *Emily in Paris* and her life was portrayed on the episode "When Cupid is a Prying Journalist" in the Amazon

series *Modern Love*. Native Connecticut author Juliet Grames will speak live on Zoom Tuesday, Dec. 8, at 6:30 p.m. Grames is the author of the *The Seven or Eight Deaths of Stella Fortuna*, her first novel. A book editor, she has spent the last decade at Soho Press, where she is associate publisher and curator of the Soho Crime imprint. Register for these author events on the East Hampton Public Library website, at EastHamptonPublicLibrary.org, or by calling the library at 860-267-6621.

Parks and Rec. News

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

Paint Night with Miss Amy: Saturday, Oct. 16, 4-5:30 p.m., at the Sears Park pavilion. At this family-friendly paint party, learn how to paint a Halloween Spooky Cat. Dress up in your Halloween costume to be entered in an art kit giveaway at the end of the program. Cost: \$25.

Trunk or Treat Halloween Fun: Thursday, Oct. 28, 5:30-7 p.m. (rain date Friday, Oct. 29), at Center School. Register to host a trick or treat stop at your vehicle, or register your child to be a trick-or-treater. For East Hampton residents only. Donations of candy or money are encouraged. Vehicle hosts should provide at least a few large bags of candy to hand out; if you run out, Parks and Rec. will refill your supply. If you would like to register to host a vehicle with a company name, call Parks and Rec.

Ghost Run: This 18th annual event, a certified half-marathon, will take place Saturday, Nov. 6, from 7:45 a.m.-1 p.m., at Center School. Cost is \$45 per individual or \$90 for a relay team.

Youth Basketball: Registration is now open for the 2022 season. Registration deadline is Nov. 19 and practices/games will start in late December/early January. Program information: Grade 1 Basketball is a clinic format program

that is limited to 16 participants; it will run 8:30-9:30 a.m. Saturdays, Jan. 8-March 5, at Memorial School. Cost is \$80.

Grade 2 and 3 Basketball: Teams will meet Saturdays starting Jan. 8 at Memorial School, and run eight games; practices will start one to two weeks before this, depending on signups. Teams will practice once a week for 45 minutes and have a game on Saturdays (game times depend on how many teams we have in each league). Teams will be boys and girls separately, or co-ed depending on signup numbers.

Grade 4 and 5 Basketball and Grades 6-8 Basketball: Teams will meet Saturdays starting Jan. 8 at Memorial School, East Hampton Middle School or East Hampton High School, and run eight games; practices will start one to two weeks before this, depending on signups. Teams will practice once a week for 45 minutes and have a game on Saturdays (game times depend on how many teams are in each league). Teams will be boys and girls separately, or co-ed depending on signup numbers.

Cost for grades 2-8 is \$120 per player. All leagues need coaches; contact Parks and Rec. if interested. Coaches will receive one free registration.

Wolfpack Game: Saturday, Feb. 26, 7 p.m., at the XL Center. Cost is \$18/ticket.

Plunge or Pledge to Support Food Bank

On Saturday, Nov. 13, the East Hampton/Marlborough Rotary Club will sponsor the 12th annual Turkey Plunge at Sears Park. Registration begins at 9 a.m., followed by plunging at 10 a.m. This is an annual tradition in East Hampton where folks of all ages come together to take a "dip" into the chilly November waters of Lake Pocotopaug, to help support the food bank. As always, costumes are encouraged.

Liberty Bank will match 25% of all donations collected on the day of the plunge. This is part of the annual Liberty Bank Turkey Drive.

This year the plungers will have the option of plunging in person or doing a virtual "dip" and sending their plunge video to the Turkey Plunge. All unvaccinated attendees are encouraged to wear facemasks and practice social distancing. Supporters are welcome to watch the plunge in person or view on the East Hampton Turkey Plunge Facebook page.

For more information or to donate online, visit tiny.cc/turkeyplunge or call/text the Turkey Plunge Hotline at 860-670-1143.

Beginner Bellringer Preschool

East Hampton High School's Beginner Bellringer Preschool Program is taking applications for the 2021-22 school year. Parents can access the preschool application by visiting tinyurl.com/beginnerbellringer or by contacting Kasey Tortora at 860-365-4030 ext. 1300 or ktortora@easthamptonct.org

All applications must be received by Nov. 30. Sessions will have 12 students three afternoons per week: Wednesdays, noon-2 p.m. and Thursdays and Fridays, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Sessions are open to 3- to 5-year-olds; in some cases, older 2-year-old children will be accepted.

The preschool program will begin in January and end in May. Cost is \$200 per student. Enrollment is limited and on a first-come, first-served basis. All children must be toilet-trained. Preschoolers must present completed documentation of a current physical and adequate immunizations before the start of the program. A religious exemption form is available upon request.

Turkey Dinner

The Ladies Aid of Haddam Neck Congregational Church will hold a take-out turkey dinner Saturday Oct. 30 starting at 5 p.m., at the Haddam Neck Congregational Church, 408 Quarry Hill Rd., Haddam Neck.

The meal will feature turkey with all the trimmings, as well as apple cider and dessert. Cost is \$15/person.

For information, call Franky Dallas at 860-267-4513 or Melissa Pionzio at 860-993-5311.

Police News

9/21: Steven Pinto, 29, of Manchester, was arrested and charged with sixth-degree larceny, East Hampton Police said.

9/29: Katelyn Burgum, 29, of Moodus, was arrested and charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, police said.

9/30: Ashley Pare, 32, of Salem, was arrested and charged with speeding, engaging police in pursuit, failure to drive right and operating an unregistered vehicle, police said.

Also, from Sept. 27-Oct. 3, officers responded to one motor vehicle crash, 13 medical calls and seven alarms, and made 36 traffic stops, police said.

Lions Club Scholarship Raffle

The East Hampton Lions Club is conducting a raffle to support its annual scholarship program. The club offers four \$1,000 awards to East Hampton graduating students.

The raffle offers a \$2,021 grand prize. There are also two first prizes of \$221, two second prizes of \$121 and two third prizes of \$51. Also, the first-, second- and third-prize winners are re-entered for grand prize drawing.

The drawing will be at the Lions Club picnic pavilion, 62 North Main St., at 2:21 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21. Winners need not be present.

For information or tickets call Lion Tom Denman 860-519-4951 or 860-267-4512.

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. Pastor is the Rev. Tom Cowger. The message series is based on Philippians.

Puppet Ministry: Each Sunday, the church's Puppet Ministry features Digger the Dog and friends from Farmer M's Red Barn to help Cowger explain the message topic.

Bible Study: The Zoom Bible study – held every other Thursday from 7-8:30 p.m. – will resume this month.

Office Info: The office can be reached at 860-267-2336; hours are Monday-Friday, 12:30-4:30 p.m. The church website is at www.hncovenantchurch.org.

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Tim's Tips

Tim Feegel, Service Manager

Don't be fooled by the beautiful foliage and cool air of fall, winter is coming! Along with football and the holidays come rain, snow and ice – all of which pose risks to drivers. Don't wait until the first freeze to think about your car, act now. One of the best ways to combat these weather risks is by making sure your tires are prepared. At the end of the day, they are all that keeps your car off the road.

Here are a few tips to get your tires in shape to handle any weather conditions you may face in the coming months:

Monitor Tire Pressure: Because the air in your tires is gas, it contracts as the temperature drops. Unless you're storing your car in a temperature-controlled garage, your tires will deflate. Goodyear measured this at a rate of about one pound per square inch of pressure for every 10 degrees the temperature drops. A loss of tire pressure can sacrifice traction and handling, which are both crucial in poor weather. So regularly check tire pressure making sure it stays within the recommended range of your vehicle's owner's manual.

Check Tire Tread: Tire tread is vitally important in helping tires grip the road effectively. If tread is too low, resistance to hydroplaning in the rain and traction in the snow is significantly reduced. It's easy to measure. All you need is a quarter. Insert the coin into the tread groove and if you can see the top of Washington's head your tires are worn out and should be changed. Additionally, many tires have a tread wear indicator molded into the tire that becomes flush with the wheel when tread is low.

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East Hampton • East Hampton

Lake View Cemetery History Walk

The East Hampton Parks and Recreation is organizing a walking tour of Lake View Cemetery on Sat., Oct. 23, at 1 p.m. as part of its "Explore East Hampton" monthly series of walks. The walk will be led by Kevin J. Tulumieri, a historian and researcher at Nathan Liverant and Son Antiques in Colchester. Tulumieri has published numerous articles on the subject of American antiques of the 18th century as well as his research on Venture Smith's unique 1805 gravestone and its carver, John Isham of East Haddam. The tour of the cemetery will include the Civil War brownstone monument to Jason H. Barton, who was wounded at the battle of Antietam. Barton reenlisted, and was wounded

again at Petersburg, Va., which led to his death in August 1864 at the age of just 25. Tulumieri and members of the Chatham Historical Society will share many stories about the people who "reside" there. The walk will take approximately one hour and will begin by driving through the cemetery entrance on Summit Street, off Route 66 and near the CVS store. Heavy rain will cancel the walk. For more information about upcoming walks or the Chatham Historical Society, contact Marty Podskoch, coordinator of the "Explore East Hampton" walks, at 860-267-2442 or podskoch@comcast.net, or visit www.facebook.com/chathamhistoricalsocietyCT.

Republican Candidate Meet-and-Greet

The East Hampton Republican Town Committee of East Hampton invites folks to meet the candidates running in the November election on Sunday, Oct. 24, from 3-5 p.m., at Markham Meadows Campground at 9 Markham Road. All are invited to learn more about the candidates and hear the issues about which they are passionate, ask questions and enjoy open discussion. This is a family event with a basket raffle, refreshments, and more. Contact Debbie Demers at debdemersehct@gmail.com or Mel Philhower at melphilhower@yahoo.com for more information

Oktoberfest/Family Day

The CT Draft Horse Rescue (CDHR) will hold Oktoberfest/Family Fun Day Sunday, Oct. 17, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., rain or shine, at Autumn Ridge 113 Chestnut Hill Rd, East Hampton CT 06424. Admission is free. CDHR is celebrating its 10th anniversary. Folks can meet CDHR's horses, and there will also be raffles, games, a kids' zone, face painting, and more. For more information, visit www.ctdraftrescue.org or www.facebook.com/ctdraftrescue. CDHR is a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving the lives of neglected or abused draft horses as well as draft horses headed to slaughter.

Haunted House and Zombie Hayride

The students of Epoch Arts are once again performing in the annual Haunted House and Hayride, to be held Friday and Saturday, Oct. 22, 23, 29 and 30, from 7-10 p.m. each night, at Epoch, 27 Skinner St. This year's theme is *Into the Void* and the Epoch zombies will be back to scare folks on the hayride. Guests can also visit the Haunted House, Abandoned Abyss, the Bottomless Bog or the Cosmic Chaos room. Online reservations are required; visit www.epocharts.org to reserve a spot. Masks are required inside the Haunted House this year.

Local Artist's Work on Display

Local artist Rita Gibbons currently has her work on display at Middle Haddam Public Library, 2 Knowles Rd. Her work will be on display until Nov. 6.

Helping Hands Re-Opening

Helping Hands is open the first and third Saturdays of each month, beginning Oct. 16. Helping Hands offers free clothing, household items, toys, books etc. to anyone in need. Anyone wishing to shop must sign up via email or phone for one of the three half-hour time slots: 9-9:30 a.m., 9:45-10:15 a.m., or 10:30-11 a.m. Walk-ins will only be accepted if there is room. Each person will be allowed two shopping bags which they must bring with them. Following the procedures of other local businesses, masks are highly recommended but not required at this time except for children 12 and under. Children will be allowed; however, they must remain with their parents at all times while inside Helping Hands. If you wish to shop, call 860-918-0784 or email jholm225@sbcglobal.net starting the Sunday before Helping Hands is open. Donations are only accepted on the Saturday Helping Hands is open, from 9-11 a.m., and on the Thursday before it is open, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Helping Hands is located at 27 Skinner St.

Dean's List

East Hampton residents Emily Balda and Sarah Balda made the spring 2021 Dean's List at Seton Hall University in South Orange, N.J.

Incorrect Ad

In an East Hampton political advertisement that ran in last week's Rivereast, the names of the Board of Finance and the Board of Education candidates were transposed. The correct version of the ad appears below.

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Town Council



From left: Tim Feegel, Eric Peterson, Alison Walck, Mark Philhower & Brandon Goff

Board of Finance



From left: Alannah Coshow, Russell Bonaccorso, Bridget McLennan & Rich Brown

Board of Education



From left: Mike Buck, Josh Piteo, Sal Nucifora & Christina Tammaro-Dzagan

East Hampton • East Hampton



New Town Hall Art Display... The East Hampton Art Association has announced artist Sharon Paddock will have her work on display at Town Hall throughout October. Paddock is a self-taught artist who likes to work in many mediums. She has won awards for her works in watercolor, pastels, oils and acrylics. Her oil portraits of Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Jefferson and Portland First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield hang in Portland Town Hall. She has had a pastel portrait of Kofi Annan, past Secretary-General of the United Nations, hang at the Slater Museum in Norwich. She also enjoys landscape paintings and abstracts. Paddock is a retired postal worker who now enjoys cooking on her food truck, "Musterdogs," located under the bridge in Portland. Shown here is one of her paintings, featuring the Arrigoni Bridge.

KofC Spaghetti Supper

The Knights of Columbus Belltown Council 6190 at St. Patrick Church, 47 E. High St., will sponsor its semi-annual spaghetti and meatball dinner Friday, Oct. 22, from 4:30-7:30 p.m., at the church parish center, located at 47 East High St.

Take-out and dine-in meals will be offered. Meal prices are \$12 for adults and \$11 for seniors. Children 5 and under eat for free. The meal will include a salad, bread, dessert (provided by the St. Patrick Guild), coffee, tea, soda, water and punch drinks. Proceeds will support local charitable programs. Raffle prizes will be offered as well.

The Knights of Columbus will also collect non-perishable food items for the East Hampton Food Bank.

Contact Jim Radavich at 860-319-9288 or jradavich@yahoo.com for more information.

Special Session for Voter Registrars

The East Hampton registrars of voters will be in session Tuesday, Oct. 26, between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m., at the registrars of voters' office at Town Hall, 1 Community Drive.

This session is for anyone not yet registered to vote. To check registration status, go to <https://tinyurl.com/w7ctr95c>. For information, call the office of the registrars at 860-267-6720 on Tuesdays between 11 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Youth Football Recap

The East Hampton Hawks youth football squads were in action last weekend. Here is how they fared:

A Squad: Lost to Ellington, 44-28, in Springfield, Mass. The Hawks took on another undefeated team and kept it close thanks to a rushing touchdown by John Haley, and long touchdown receptions by Bryson Milton, Evan Wagner, and Caleb Wagner. Tyler Crumb and Ben Romero were able to return to the Hawks lineup after missing games with injuries. The 2-2 Hawks get another shot at the 4-0 Ellington Roadrunners this Sunday in Ellington as they end a four-game road trip. The Hawks finish the regular season at home Oct. 24 and 31 at 11 a.m., and Nov. 6 at 8 p.m., all at EHMS.

B Squad: Lost to Plainfield, 44-7. Defense was led by Axl Rostosky, Essio Giovanelli, Connor Hill, Logan Supinski, Danielle Riley, Mathias Bueno, Derek Guiliano, Joey Guiliano,

Colton Burgin, Jordan Hinton, Julian Faden, Kayleigh Philbrick, Nathan Philbrick and Trevor Philbrick. Colton Burgin had some key tackles stopping the Panther running game. Essio Giovanelli also played an outstanding defensive game. Connor Hill had a great run scoring the Hawks only touchdown of the game with Logan Supinski running the quarterback draw for the extra point. Joey Guiliano and Essio Giovanelli had great runs but came up short of scoring. Hawks are in Ellington Sunday.

D Squad: Put up a fight on Sunday against Plainfield, with Brody Pinney scoring six touchdowns and running over 200 yards. Blake Hebler and Kaoas Ames kept pressure on the quarterback all game with 2 sacks each. Wyatt Tomkus had big blocks on the line, making holes for the backs to pick up needed yardage.

Drug Take-Back Day to Return

East Hampton Prevention Partnership and East Hampton Police will hold the next Prescription Drug Take-Back Day Saturday, Oct. 23, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Town Hall. All are invited to safely, and anonymously, return all unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medications.

Accepted items include: prescription medications, prescription patches, over-the-counter medications, vitamins, free samples, and medications for pets.

Items that won't be accepted include: thermometers, hydrogen peroxide, inhalers, aerosol cans, needles (sharps), medications from businesses or clinics, and ointments, lotions or liquids.

For more information, contact Courtney Widrick at 860-267-4468 ext. 3227 or cwidrick@easthamptonct.gov.

Take-Out Chicken Dinner

The Congregational Church of East Hampton, located at 59 Main St., will hold a take-out dinner Saturday, Oct. 23, from 5-6:30 p.m.

The menu will include herb-roasted chicken breast with stuffing, seasoned roasted potatoes, mixed harvest vegetables, Caesar salad, homemade rolls and homemade seasonal pie. Cost will be \$14, cash or check.

Pre-order by calling the church office Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-noon, at 860-267-4959 or Lisa at 860-918-1170. All orders must be in by Saturday at noon.



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Portland • Portland

Town Wins National Traffic Safety Award

by Jack Lakowsky

Town officials in a ceremony last week accepted an Honorable Mention in the 2021 National Roadway Safety Awards, a biennial award of the U.S. Department of Transportation recognizing roadway safety achievements.

Portland was the only town in Connecticut named, and was awarded alongside much larger entities, including the Florida Department of Transportation, which has a 2021-'22 budget of \$10.3 billion, according to the *AASHTO Journal*.

The federal DOT cited the work of the town public works department, headed by Bob Shea, and the local grassroots Complete Streets group.

This year's ceremony was held virtually due to the pandemic. Normally, it's held in Washington. U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg addressed attendees.

DOT's release reads Portland was dealing with excessive speeds, broken or incomplete sidewalks, and few outdoor walking trails.

To deal with this Complete Streets was formed, which worked with local officials including the Air Line Trail Committee, the Board of Selectmen, Shea, and First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield, to write, adopt and implement a Complete Streets Policy.

Bransfield complimented all involved, espe-

cially Shea and Complete Streets chair Kathy Heron.

According to the release, speeding in town has reduced-though it is still an issue, Bransfield told the *Rivereast* on Tuesday-, two miles of sidewalks have been reconstructed, and a new local trail has been used by 3,000 users.

"Being a town of under 10,000, this is a huge honor," said Bransfield. "This shows we have a comprehensive program, not a hit-and-run."

Bransfield said since Complete Streets was started in 2016, the grassroots group has worked with town public works staff to enhance and improve safety.

"It shows the dollars we've invested, state and local taxes, as well as the sweat equity we've put into it, are paying off," the first selectwoman continued.

In 2016, a state grant funded the designing and engineering of Portland's portion of the Air Line Trail, about 2.5 miles of the 111-mile route, and was completed in 2018. Since that time, hiking has gone up by 3,000 users per week, according to town information.

In 2018, a bond was issued to fund repairs to two miles of sidewalks, and a half-mile of road rebuild. These were completed last year, when the town also received a \$500,000 connectivity grant to fund more enhancements.

Bransfield said this money will fund work connecting sideroads to Route 66. Also, it will soon aid the walkability of an underserved area on the south side of 66, one that has no sidewalks, but 100 children who would benefit from a direct connector to school.

Bransfield said she expects this work to go out to bid come winter. The grant covers "shovels in the ground," while the town will pay for oversight and engineering.

Bransfield estimated the work to cost about \$600,000, with around a \$93,000 contribution from the town.

In another effort at reducing speeding, the town recently installed digital speed reader

signs. Bransfield said speeding reduced with these, and their success led to the University of Connecticut awarding the town two more.

Bransfield said she is looking into installing these on Main Street and needs to learn more about the rules surrounding this proposal.

In addition, the town wants to build new bus shelters to strengthen transportation equity.

Bransfield said Shea attends road safety seminars run by state DOT and UConn. Complete Streets' and public works' activities were found to be great models, and so Shea was asked to present at these seminars where public works officials from all over the state gather to learn.

The selectwoman said Shea's reports show a reduction in car v. car and car v. pedestrian accidents in town. As a result of these successes, the Connecticut Training & Technical Assistance Center, or the T2 Center, at UConn has invited Shea to sit on its commission, a seat of statewide influence.

T2, funded by the Federal High Administration and state DOT, says its mission is to foster a safe, efficient, and environmentally sound transportation system by teaching the transportation workforce in Connecticut.

An interview with Shea could not be arranged before deadline.

St. Mary Basket Raffle Sunday

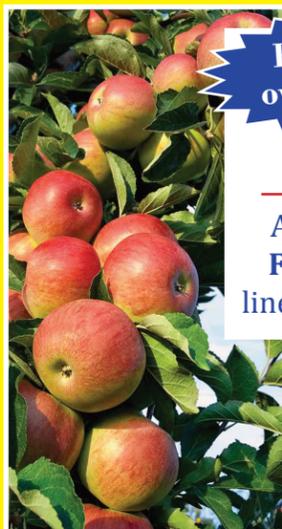
The Ladies Guild of St. Mary Church will hold its Bountiful Basket Raffle Saturday, Oct. 16, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., and after all Masses this weekend, in the church hall. The grand door prize is a combination of different gift cards.

This is the Guild's major fundraiser this year and proceeds will be directed to help with the renovation of the Rev. John Antonelle's office in the rectory.

For more information, contact Guild President Marilyn McGrath at 860-342-1137 or wmcgrath42@comcast.net.

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RE10-15-21

Portland • Portland

Knights of Columbus Raffle

The Freestone Council Knights of Columbus has a variety of items available at its “Oil Can” (teacup) Raffle, and Silent Auction. There will be three days for the opportunity to participate in this charity competition. Raffle items will be displayed, and tickets can be purchased at St. Mary Church Hall beginning on Friday, Oct. 22, at the Knights’ Dinner and Cruise Night, and continue Saturday, Oct. 23, and Sunday, Oct. 24.

The silent auction items include a certified replica of Joey Logano’s racing helmet, 100 gallons of home heating oil, and a commercial Keurig K-1500 coffee maker. In addition, there will be electronic items and collections of wines.

The Oil Can Teacup items are as follows: Set of eight bocce balls, handmade 42”x48” afghan, “Pure Haven” probiotic skin care products, wooden tabletop foosball, two \$100 restaurant gift cards, \$25 gift card, \$50 gift card, gift certificate for 18 holes greens fees & shared carts for party of 4 at Portland Golf Club, 1:24 Scale Die-Cast #22 Car and autographed hero card, Pennzoil #22 Team Penske hat and autographed hero card, three sets of Joey Logano adult shirts and autographs, three Joey Logano racing NASCAR authentic model cars, with tote bag and autographed hero card, Joey Logano XXL child shirt and autographed hero card and two collectible model cars, “Hot Wheels” #22 Car In autographed package and autographed hero card; Joey Logano sign, tabletop fan, Fiskars grass trimmer, picnic backpack for four, wood bee-

hive, \$25 Starbucks gift card, and \$50 Shoprite and Subway gift cards.

To purchase tickets, stop by the St. Mary Church hall at 43 Freestone Ave. on Friday, Oct. 22, from 3-8 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 23, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Sunday, Oct. 24, from 8 a.m.-noon. The drawings will be held at noon Sunday, Oct. 24.

Sidewalk Replacement Info

The Public Works Department has announced the final phase of its town sidewalk project – the Fairview Street/East Main Street Sidewalk Replacement – will begin this month.

Sidewalks will be replaced from Foley Road east to High Street, including a small section of East Main Street IFO # 39 & 43. A full-length sidewalk including improvements to driveway aprons and curbing will be installed.

Note: while construction is underway there will be debris and uneven ground. The area that has been marked “closed” should be avoided at all times. You may also see extra vehicles and contractors in this area between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. Pedestrians walking in these areas will be guided through the area by the contractor.

Motorists are asked to use caution when driving on Fairview and East Main streets, or crossing into any roads or driveways.

For more information, call Public Works at 860-342-6733.

Trinity Concert Series to Benefit Food Bank

Trinity Episcopal Church is hosting two more concerts this fall in its “Vital Connections Through Music” series, to benefit Portland Food Bank. The concerts will be at 4 p.m. Sundays, Oct. 17 and Nov. 21. Doors open at 3:30 p.m. There is a suggested donation of \$15 for each show. All proceeds benefit Portland Food Bank.

This Sunday, Oct. 17, will feature Ash and Eric L’Esperance and their collaborative indie-folk project, The Promise is Hope. The two’s sound draws from the well of the roots music tradition. For more information, visit www.thepromiseishope.com.

On Nov. 21, Sarah Browne will perform. A singer-songwriter based in New York, Browne uses her music to spread awareness about Friedrich’s Ataxia, a rare genetic disease that took the life of her cousin.

Trinity Church is located at 345 Main St. The church is handicapped-accessible. All COVID-19 guidelines will be followed.



Ash and Eric L’Esperance, and their collaborative indie-folk project, The Promise is Hope, will perform at the next “Vital Connections Through Music” concert this Sunday, Oct. 17, at 4 p.m., at Trinity Episcopal Church.

Call the church office for more information at 860-342-0458 or email trinitychurchportlandct@gmail.com.

First Church Time Capsule Ceremony

The First Congregational Church of Portland invites the community to attend its Time Capsule Ceremony Saturday, Oct. 23, at the church, 554 Main St. The event will be held at 10 a.m. at the southwest corner of the church with parking in the back.

This is one part of the church’s weekend-long planned events to celebrate their 300th Anniversary. Refreshments will be served and the book *The History of The First Congregational Church of Portland* and the church’s unique 300th anniversary pewter ornament will be available for sale.

The Time Capsule will contain a variety of

items including bulletins, newsletters, documents, photos, and of course masks and “I got my shot” pin. All the items that are placed in the capsule will give future generations a glimpse of what life was like in Portland during this historic year. It will also include a copy of a 300th Proclamation from the Town of Portland presented that day by First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield.

A plaque attached to an historic piece of brownstone will mark the burial area. The brownstone was donated to the church by Darlene Rice and Dean Soucy of Brownstone Quarry View Company.



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RE10-15-21

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RE10-15-21



Welcome Back To Church
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The day we’ve all been waiting for has finally arrived!
 Christ Episcopal Church in Middle Haddam has returned to in-person worship on Sundays at 10:00 am.

Please join us in celebrating Holy Eucharist (Bread only) as well as meeting and greeting old and new friends, celebrating birthdays, anniversaries and other milestones we have achieved.

After the service, we will have an extended outdoor coffee hour, weather permitting, with lots of goodies to munch on.

We look forward to seeing you!

Christ Episcopal Church
 located at the corner of Route 151 & Long Hill Road
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RE10-15-21

Medicare Made Clear

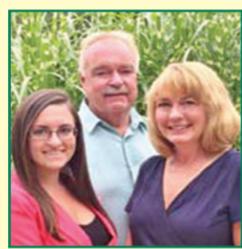
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Show Car Cruise Night

On Friday, Oct. 22, the St. Mary Church parking lot on Freestone Avenue will be filled with cruise show cars, as the Freestone Council Knights of Columbus attempts to – finally – hold its Cruise Night. The popular cruise night had been postponed twice this year, due to inclement weather.

Cruise show cars will be welcomed beginning at 3 p.m. with the aid of Knight attendants. There is no admission fee, and free goodies bags will be gifted to the first 75 show cars to arrive. Attendees without show cars will also be assisted with parking.

The car show is dedicated to the memory of Sal “Tootie” Pitruzzello. A special T-shirt featuring Tootie’s image with his restored 1946 fire truck will be available.

Tootie, as he was affectionately called by friends and family, was a lifelong Portland resident. He became a member of the Portland Vol-

unteer Fire Department, Company 2 in 1953. Over the years he served as assistant chief, department training officer, and treasurer. He was a 60-year member of the Knights of Columbus, and a ready participant and volunteer at various Knights of Columbus events.

Portland Volunteer Fire Department Chief Robert Shea and his crew will bring Engine 4, a 1947 Mack fire truck lovingly restored by Tootie and his fellow firefighters, for all to see. “We are very proud of Tootie’s 60 years’ service to our town,” Shea said. “In 2014 Sal was inducted into the CT Firefighters Hall of Fame.”

Grand Knight Mark Creighton said, “Due to COVID and the rainouts, we are hoping this evening will generate a portion of the funds the Knights use to continue to support the scholarship programs, and the other worthy and needed activities in our community.”

Absentee Ballot Information

As was the case in 2020, folks can vote in this November’s election either in-person at the polls or by absentee ballot. Unregistered voters can register at voterregistration.ct.gov.

All registered voters must submit an absentee ballot application in order to receive an absentee ballot. The state will not mail out applications to every registered voter as it did in 2020.

To receive an absentee ballot application, either: print out an application online at www.portlandct.org/town-clerk; stop by the town clerk’s office at Town Hall, 33 East Main St., during regular business hours and fill out an application in person; or call the town clerk at 860-342-6743 to have an application mailed.

Folks can drop off their completed application in the Official Ballot Drop Box, located at Town Hall, or mail them to: Portland Town Clerk, 33 East Main St., P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480.

Once the completed application is received,

the town clerk will begin to prepare your ballot for mailing.

Completed ballots can then be placed in the official ballot drop box, or mailed to the town clerk at the above address. All returned ballots must be received no later than 8 p.m. Nov. 2.

For those who choose to vote in person, the absentee ballot process is not necessary. Polls will be open on Election Day, Nov. 2, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m., at Portland Middle School, 93 High St.

Grace and Mercy News

Grace and Mercy Family Ministries Church, 13 Waverly Ave., has announced a modified Sunday worship service schedule. Through August, the Sunday morning worship service will begin at 10 a.m.

Zion Lutheran Church News

Zion Lutheran Church, located at 183 William St., will kick off its new year of Sunday School and Confirmation classes on Sunday, Oct. 3, at 9 a.m., with a special youth-oriented church service by Pastor Sara Stall-Ryan. Registration and a meet-and-greet activity will follow. All interested families are invited.

Sunday School and Confirmation classes will be held on the first and third Sunday of each month, from 10:15-11 a.m. in person or, if circumstances necessitate, online via email. Confirmation classes might take place at alternate times during the month to best accommodate the schedules of older students as well as the pastor.

There are many special things planned for this year’s curriculum of Christian instruction, the church said. To register your child, call the church at 860-342-2860, or for more information, call Sylvia LeShane, Sunday School Director, at 860-342-0658.

Zion Lutheran Church holds Sunday worship services with Holy Communion in-person at 9 a.m. each week. The church follows CDC recommendations with masks required for all throughout the church. Vaccinated participants may remove their masks once they are seated.

For those who prefer virtual services, a recording of the service will be posted on You-

Tube by 9 a.m. the following Monday morning.

The community is welcome to participate in all worship services and special events.

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

Trinity Episcopal Church News

Trinity Episcopal Church, located at 345 Main St., invites the community to celebrate each week. Worship is indoors at 9:30 a.m. Sunday School is back in session and is held during each Sunday’s church service.

Children ages 4-12, baptized and unbaptized, are welcome to attend Church School. Lessons and activities are aimed at encouraging the children to think outside of themselves and about the community at large.

Masks are required for all, vaccinated and unvaccinated, while inside the church. More information is at trinitychurchportlandct.org.

The church is open for prayer and meditation on Fridays from 2-4 p.m.

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

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YFS Halloween Happenings

Portland Youth and Family Services has announced the following Halloween-related pieces of news:

There's still time to sign up for the **Haunted Light Trail**. YFS said it's been seeing a lot of houses with spooky and festive decorations up. Get your name on the map and show off your own. Email or call Jesse at YFS at 860-342-6758 or jrevicki@portlandct.org to sign up.

There's a week to go before the **Howl-o-ween** dog costume parade at 11:30am on Saturday, Oct. 23 at the Town Green. Register your dog for this free event by going to www.portlandct.org/youth-services and clicking on the

Halloween banner.

Also on Saturday, Oct. 23, **Portland's Little Pumpkins** will be on display. Bring your kids down to the Town Green from 12:30pm to 3:00pm for crafts, spooky stories, and some treats. The costume parade begins at 2 p.m.

Town businesses are welcome to set up a table or tent and join YFS on the Town Green on the 23rd. Advertise, hand out merchandise, samples or treats.

Both events on the 23rd are free, but YFS is asking for donations to a local food bank.

For more information, visit www.portlandct.org/youth-services.

Little League News

The Portland 10U Bombers went 2-0 during the week of Sept. 27, winning two games against a tough Guilford Green opponent.

On Thursday night, Sept. 30, the Bombers won a close 6-5 game. Guilford took an early 5-0 lead in the first inning, but Portland chipped away at their lead with hits from Evan Warner, Ray Vicino and Timmy Bolstridge. Evan Warner started on the mound for the Bombers, Timmy Bolstridge came in to strike out six of seven batters faced, and Andrew Fischer closed the game out striking out all six batters.

On Saturday, Oct. 1, the Portland Bombers took an early 7-0 lead and were able to hold on to beat Guilford Green 8-3. Jackson Hungerford toed the rubber for the Bombers, allowing two runs in two innings. Andrew Fischer came in as relief, giving up only one run in the last three innings. Evan Warner, Ray Vicino, Jackson Hungerford, and Andrew Fischer all had hits for Portland. Aaron Bailey, Jaxon Figueroa, Declan Kelly, Patrick Reilly, Andrew Fischer, Timmy Bolstridge and Ray Vicino all had RBIs for the Bombers.

Senior Center News & Notes

The Waverly Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave., is open for weekly daytime activities. Hours are Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., and Friday, 8 a.m.-noon. Unless noted, the following programs are being offered at the center. To register, call 860-342-6760.

Bingo: Mondays, 1-4 p.m.

Line Dancing & Ballroom Dance: A new class will be starting Wednesday, Oct. 13, at 10:30 a.m. Joel Silvestro will be the instructor. The class is free during October, then going forward it will be \$4 per class.

Van Trip: All are invited to take a trip in the senior van to see the lights and vote on their favorite display in town on Friday, Oct. 29, at 6 p.m. Seating is limited; call the center to register.

Flu Clinic: The Chatham Health District will hold a Flu Clinic in the Mary Lou Rice Room at the Senior Center on Tuesday, Oct. 19, from 10 a.m.-noon. Call the center to schedule an appointment.

Cans-4-A-Cause: Cans and bottles for this project may be dropped off at the center Monday-Thursday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the side entrance at the top of the steps. For more information, call the center or email Jeff directly at myjakjeff@gmail.com. Be sure to wash out the cans/bottles and please do not leave more than two bags per person per day.

Collections Sought: Do you possess a small collection that you would like to consider displaying in the secured showcase at the Waverly Center? Call the office to be placed on the list, and enjoy a month of your own display.

Free Belly Dancing Demo! Gia Khalsa will be at the center Monday, Oct. 25, at 3 p.m., for a free Belly Dancing Class demonstration. Register in advance.

Line Dancing and Ballroom Dance: Held at the center Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. with instructor Joel Silvestro. The class is free during October, then going forward it will be \$4 per class.

Second-Hand Prose Book Shop

The Friends of the Portland Library group has a large assortment of puzzles, DVDs and cookbooks, as well as fiction, romance, teen and children's used books, in the Second-Hand Prose Bookshop at the Portland Library during regular library hours. Books are 50 cents for paperbacks and children's books, \$1 for trade paperbacks and \$2 for hardcover. DVDs are 50 cents each disc and puzzles are \$2 unless marked otherwise.

FPL also has "I Love CT Libraries" reusable bags on sale for \$1 each. See a sample at the front desk and purchase them from the library staff.

All proceeds benefit programs funded by the Friends, such as the library's Museum Pass Program, children and adult programs, and the library's DVD collection.

Based on the COVID-19 safety guidelines provided to the library by the Chatham Health District, the FPL Executive Board has canceled the 2021 Fall Book Sale previously scheduled for October.

Visit www.friendsofportlandlibraryct.org for more information or email questions to friendsoftheportlandlibrary@gmail.com.

Methodist Church News

Portland United Methodist Church, located at 381 Main St., holds in-person worship Sundays at 9 a.m. All are invited. Masks required for those not fully vaccinated.

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Portland Library News & Notes

Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave., is open, with no appointments needed. Wireless is available. Registration required for the following programs unless noted. For more info and full program descriptions, visit www.portlandlibraryct.org or call 860-342-6770. The library is also on Facebook and Instagram.

Hours: Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Info for Patrons: The library welcomes visitors. No appointments are needed. Masks for those over the age of 2 and social distancing are required. Computers and wireless access in the building are available to walk-ins and by appointment. Wireless access is also available on the library grounds. "Curbside Delivery" of requested items continues; call the library, or reserve items online and you will receive a notice or call when your materials are available.

Howl-o-ween: Saturday, Oct. 23; rain date Oct. 31. The library is a partner in this year's activities, as well as Senior Services, Parks & Recreation and Portland Youth and Family Services. Find more information in this newspaper or at www.portlandct.org/youth-services.

Youth Programs: New StoryWalk: Follow the storyboards along the library's sidewalk near the playscape to read *Lola at the Library* and then visit the library to sign up for your own library card.

Fall Storytimes: Weekly storytimes will be held outdoors by the gazebo on the Town Green. Registration is required. In case of inclement weather, the program will be canceled and participants will be notified. Program dates are: Preschool Storytime (ages 3-5), Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. through Oct. 26; Toddlers and Tots (ages 0-2), Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. through Oct. 27.

Family Halloween Storytime: Wednesday, Oct. 27, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom. Costumes encouraged. Craft kits will be available for pickup before the program and a Zoom link will be sent

before the event. Registration is required and space is limited.

Upcycled Crafts: For grades K-5. Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. through Oct. 28, via Zoom. Save those bottles, jars and toilet paper rolls, as they'll be turned into creative "upcycled" projects in this virtual program. Most materials will be supplied each week and can be picked up in advance of the program. Registration is required.

Murder Mystery for Teens: Totally Rad '80s Prom Gone Bad: Friday, Oct. 29, 3:30 p.m. It's March 10, 1988, and the Tracy High School prom theme is "A Night to Remember." This will surely be a night to remember as Sally Spirit, a popular cheerleader, has been murdered on the football field. Read the case notes, listen to the witness statements, learn about the suspects and see if you can figure out who committed this grisly crime. This in-person event will be held in the large meeting room. Space is limited and registration is required.

Adult Programs: Book Clubs: Mystery Lovers Book Club: Tuesday, Oct. 19, 1 p.m. *All the Devils are Here* by Louise Penny will be discussed. **T.A.B.:** Thursday, Nov. 4, 1 p.m. *Commonwealth* by Ann Patchett will be discussed. Books are now available at the library.

Medicare Follow-Up Session: Tuesday, Oct. 19, 6:30 p.m., in the Mary Flood Room. In this session, Ben Coleman from American Senior Benefits will answer questions and clarify the ins-and-outs of Medicare.

Portland Forum: Thursday, Oct. 28, at 7 p.m., at the library. The first title will be the book and film *A Most Beautiful Thing: The True Story of America's First All-Black High School Rowing Team* by Arshay Cooper. Copies of the book are available at the library. The film can be viewed by Amazon Prime members or on NBC's Peacock streaming service.

Knifty Knitters: Saturdays 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. This is a weekly knitting circle where people gather to knit while sharing ideas and tips. All are welcome – including beginners.

Parks and Rec. News & Notes

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

Tai Chi for Long Life with Ken Zaborowski: At Riverfront Park. Wednesday class meets through Nov. 17, from 9:30-10:15 a.m., and Saturday class meets through Nov. 20, from 10:30-11:15 a.m. Call Parks and Rec. if interested in drop-in registration on either day. Both classes may transition to virtual classes using Zoom if the weather gets too cold.

Kids Blast: Parks and Rec. is taking applications for this afterschool program for Portland kids in grades K-6. The program is based at Brownstone Intermediate School. Applications are at portland.recdesk.com. For more, call Andy Dionne at 860-342-6757.

GG Leagues: Parks and Rec. is offering esports. Participants will Portland and face off with competitors from surrounding towns. There are leagues for *Fortnite*, *Rocket League*, *Super Smash Bros.* and more. Check the Parks and Rec. website for more information.

Zumba: Wednesdays, Oct. 27-Dec. 22 (no

class Nov. 24), 6-7 p.m., at Valley View School gym. Fee: \$64 for the eight-week session/\$10 drop-in.

Virtual Paint Nights: Monthly virtual paint nights with Abrakadoodle. The first is from 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 14. Register online for \$25. All supplies included.

Quick Start Tennis: Mondays, Oct. 18-Nov. 22, at the Portland High School tennis courts. For more details, contact Parks and Rec.

"Come on Over" – 18th Annual 5K Run/2.1 Mile Walk: This year's event will take place at Riverfront Park on Oct. 30. For more information, or to register, check the Parks and Rec. website.

Costume Parades Coming

On Saturday Oct. 23, at 11 a.m., Portland Youth & Family Services will hold a Howl-o-ween Pet Costume Parade on the Town Green by the gazebo. This will be followed at 12:30 p.m. by the Portland's Little Pumpkins youth costume parade and pumpkin decorating, also on the Town Green.

For more information, call YFS at 860-342-6758.

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Knights' Take-Out Dinner is Back

The Freestone Council Knights of Columbus will provide a takeout pasta dinner Friday, Oct. 22, beginning at 4 p.m., to help fund the charitable works the Knights provide for the community.

Meals include pasta with the Knights' signature sauce, meatballs, salad and roll for \$10. Drive to the front of St. Mary Church to pick up your dinners between 4 and 7 p.m. As this will also be a Dinner and Cruise Night event, a Knight will be out front by the school entrance to take your order and deliver it to your car.

If you prefer, you can join the Knights in the Hall for dinner, conversation, a beverage, dessert and five raffle tickets to place into the raffle baskets of preferred displayed gifts. The cost of the "upgraded dinner" ticket will be \$15 for adults and \$7.50 for children.

No pre-order is necessary for this monthly dinner. On the day of the meal, the chefs will be available at 860-342-2713 for any questions.

For home delivery of your dinner, call John McNickle at 860-342-1415.

First Congregational Church News

First Congregational Church of Portland, located at 554 Main St., is open for in-person worship and church school Sundays at 10 a.m. Masks and social distancing required.

In addition, the Sunday worship service is livestreamed on the church's YouTube channel, First Church of Portland CT, and a recording is also available for those who wish to worship at a later time.

On Sunday, Oct. 17, the 10 a.m. worship service will include the dedication of the 2021-22 Confirmation Class. The Rev. Jane Hawken will preach a sermon titled, "The Wisdom Project."

First Congregational Church of Portland is a member of the United Church of Christ, and is an open and affirming congregation, welcoming everyone. The church is celebrating its 300th anniversary this year.

The church is a member of the United Church of Christ, and is an open and affirming congregation, welcoming everyone. To join church mailing lists (both email and regular mail), email first.church.pct@sbcglobal.net or call 860-342-3244. For more info, look for the church on Facebook at The First Congregational Church of Portland, or visit www.firstchurch-portlandct.org.

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Marlborough's Health Care Associates Celebrates 30 Years

by Josh Howard

Health Care Associates, located at 7 Dickson Rd. in Marlborough, is celebrating 30 years of service.

Founded in Marlborough in 1991, the local business is dedicated to providing simple solutions to the complex and confusing world of Medicare by providing Medicare supplements, prescription drug plans, and Medicare Advantage plans.

It's a family business, founded by Barry Goodwill. Goodwill, an avid UConn Huskies fan, runs the business with his wife, Donna Goodwill, and daughter, Jacquelyn Goodwill-Parylak.

Donna Goodwill believes the family aspect and providing a personal touch is the key to the company's longevity, "We live in town, our kids went to school in town, they've seen our name, and now they know our daughter is here. It's a good piece of mind knowing that someone will always be here for them."

In the early '90s, Barry Goodwill discovered a need for helping people choose the correct insurance plans and slowly built up a following.

Thirty years later, the company is still providing the same superior service, focusing on clients' specific needs. They have been directly involved in the development of over 4,000 satisfied Connecticut Medicare beneficiaries.

"I definitely enjoy working here; I feel like I make a difference to the clients who come in confused about Medicare and their choices," said Jacquelyn Goodwill-Parylak, who joined the family business eight years ago after receiving her degree in business administration with a marketing concentration from Bryant University. "We are able to speak with them about their options, of which there are many, and they are able to walk out confident in their decision, and they feel like they know what they are doing. It always makes me happy to hear someone say 'wow, I actually understand this now.'"

The company's primary goal is to ensure the satisfaction of their clients, assisting them in navigating through the complex world of Medicare to find the ideal insurance plan.

"We take the time to find out who their doctors are, what kind of medications they take, and we get a good feel for what their needs are and for what plans they need," Donna Goodwill said. "They know they can contact us throughout the year if their health changes and if they are planning on moving out of state and we can help them find another agent."

Over the 30 years, the health care industry has change but the service that HCH provides has remained the same.

"I think there have been minor changes with Medicare, but there certainly is a lot more options now," added Donna Goodwill. "These companies all have several different plans to choose from within each company, so it's overwhelming for a lot of people when they sit down and try and choose a plan."

The company makes sure to take everything into account, making sure its clients get into the correct health plan that fits both their health and financial needs. They say the comfort level of the clients is a top priority.

"We don't want to have them change their doctors, because a lot have been seeing the same doctors for several years," Donna Goodwill continued. "We go over all their medications with them and with Medicare you're not locked into these plans for more than a year, so you always have the option to change these plans if their health needs have changed. It seems pretty daunting but there are so many great plans out there with Medicare that are very affordable. We also help them with Medicare savings, which is



From left are Donna Goodwill, Barry Goodwill and Jacqueline Goodwill-Parylak of Health Care Associates in Marlborough. The business turns 30 this year.

an income-based program that the state offers, so we can help them out with that at no cost. We don't change anything for our service, so that's comforting."

The mother of three, who enjoys entertaining, cooking and gardening, added, "We're not pushing one plan over another, we are licensed with almost all the plans that are available in Connect-

icut, so I think that's a piece of mind as well."

To contact Health Care Associates, call 860-295-9350 or visit their website medicareinfo-ct.com for more information or to book an appointment. The office is open Monday-Friday, and Saturday by appointment only.

After 30 years and thousands of satisfied clients, the team at HCA is ready to help.

Senior Center News and Notes

Marlborough Senior Center, 17 School Dr., is open for activities. Call 860-295-6209 for the center's hours and more information. The senior center has announced the following:

Transportation: Transportation to the senior center, shopping, medical and non-medical appointments will be offered each day from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., with a 36-hour advance reservation. Masks are required as well as appropriate distancing.

The **Food Bank** is located at 3 Wilhenger Drive (860-295-6008) and is open every Tuesday from 10 a.m.-noon and 3:30-5:30 p.m. It is open to qualified residents in need of food. Transportation for seniors and/or physically challenged individuals is available; call the senior center if needed.

Monday, Oct. 18: Assistance, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Not Just Quilting, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: hamburger with broth on multi-grain burger bun, sliced tomatoes/leaf lettuce, ketchup, mustard, relish, potato salad, fresh orange;

Meals-on-Wheels, 12:30 p.m.; Bingo, 1-3p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 19: Setback or cards of your choice; assistance, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Dog Obedience Class, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 20: Grocery Shopping, 9 a.m.-noon; Not Just Quilting, 10 a.m.; Assistance, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: orange juice, butter-crumbed pollock, mashed potatoes, spinach/tartar sauce, 100% whole wheat bread, wholegrain fruit bar; Sophisticated Ladies (Tap Dancing), 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 21: Tai Chi with Linda, 10:30 a.m.; assistance, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.; Meals-on-Wheels, noon.

Friday, Oct. 22: Not Just Quilting, 10 a.m.; assistance, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: boneless chicken with gravy, sweet potatoes, garden-blend vegetables, 12-grain bread, fresh fruit; Quilting, 1-4 p.m.

Absentee Ballots Available

Absentee ballots are available in the Marlborough town clerk's office at Town Hall during regular business hours. They can also be mailed to registered voters who have completed and returned a valid absentee ballot application.

Reminder: For this municipal election, one must request the absentee ballot application; it will not be automatically mailed like last year.

Those who choose not to vote by absentee ballot are reminded they can vote at the polls at Marlborough Elementary School, 25 School Drive, on Election Day, Nov. 2, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m.

For more information, call Lauren or Martha in the town clerk's office at 860-295-6206.

Republican Candidates Meet-and-Greet

The Marlborough Republicans will hold a Meet-and-Greet "Brisket BBQ" Sunday, Oct. 17, from noon-4 p.m. The Meet-and-Greet will be held at Frank's Live Bait at 19 West Rd. (just east of Exit 12).

This is an opportunity for Marlborough's voters to meet with the Republican candidates running for office in the Nov. 2 municipal elections. All are invited, regardless of political affiliation.

For more information, call RTC Chairman Liz Gorgoglione at 860-966-0050 or visit the www.MarlGOP.com.

ADVERTISERS

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Congregational Church News & Notes

Sunday in-person worship at the Congregational Church of Marlborough, United Church of Christ, 35 South Main St., is at 10 a.m. Churchgoers are asked to wear a mask. The worship service is also livestreamed at mcc.marlconchurch.org for those unable to attend in person.

Oct. 17: Worship will be led by Pastor Bob Faulhaber.

Mission Support in October: Will go to the York Correctional Resettlement Program. Donations to missions or for any other giving may be sent to the church at P.O. Box 57, Marlborough, CT 06447 or placed in an offering box on a Sunday.

AA: Meets downstairs in the Great Hall Wednesdays with two meetings, noon and 7:30 p.m.

Republican Campaign Signs Available

The Marlborough Republican Town Committee has campaign signs available and will deliver them to anyone who would like to place them on their property. For signs, call Ken Hjulstrom at 860-490-9116.

Voters can also visit www.MarlGOP.com for more information on the Republican candidates.

Lions to Raffle Generator

The Marlborough Lions Club is raffling off an 8,000-watt Generac portable generator with a retail value of \$1,100. The generator has features such as a pushbutton electric start with trickle charger, hours counter and 120V/240V outlets.

The winner of the raffle will also receive the services of an electrician to install a circuit breaker panel interlock and the cabling needed to hook up the generator with a value not to exceed \$1,000. Raffle tickets are only \$20 each. The drawing will take place during the Lions' Fall Masquerade 5K on Oct. 31. Ticket sales will continue until that event.

For tickets, call Lions President Megan Lloyd at 413-687-5537, Secretary Ken Hjulstrom at 860-490-9116 or Treasurer Jean-Paul Bolduc at 860-798-2054.

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Richmond Library News & Notes

Richmond Memorial Library, located at 15 School Drive, has reopened its building to the public, but curbside pickup is still being offered. For more information and full program descriptions – and to inquire about available curbside printing services – call the library at 860-295-6210 or visit richmondlibrary.info.

Building and Curbside Hours: Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The **book drop** is open for returns. Overdue fines are not accruing at this time.

Meeting Room: The library meeting room has reopened to the public. Stop by the library to check availability and fill out a preregistration user agreement form.

'25 Days of Cheer' Donation Request: The library's annual "25 Days of Cheer" Holiday Silent Auction is scheduled to be held Oct. 29-Nov. 29. Organizers are currently seeking donations from the community for the library's largest fundraiser. All are welcome to donate a gift

certificate – whether you're a hair stylist, manicurist, dog groomer, massage therapist, carpenter, painter, landscaper or handyman. Auction organizers said they would also appreciate gift baskets or gift cards to local stores or restaurants. Anyone who contributes (unless done anonymously) will be thanked on the library website and sponsorship flyer in addition to having their name (or business name) displayed during the auction. If interested in contributing to the auction, email Library Director Aubrey Muscaro at amuscaro@richmondlibrary.info or call 860-295-6211. Donated items must be received by Oct. 25. All proceeds from the holiday silent auction go directly to the library and community.

Tiny Terror-iums Take and Make: For families, teens and children over age 3. The library will supply a container and all the supplies needed to create a Halloween display. Available while supplies last.

St. John Fisher Church News & Notes

St. John Fisher Roman Catholic Church is located at 30 Jones Hollow Rd. Pastor is the Rev. Thomas J. Sas, Pastor, John McKaig is deacon emeritus and the pastoral assistant is Holly Bangham. The church office can be reached at 860-295-0001; hours are Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. People are asked to call before heading over or connect via the phone.

Weekend Masses: 4 p.m. Saturday and 8:30 and 10:30 am Sunday. All are welcome. Masks are required, and there is an area for those who prefer to continue to be socially distant. Call the office for more information.

Weekday Mass: Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m. Masks required.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Sundays, 4-4:45 p.m. Masks required.

Community Outreach and Service: Food

drives are held the second full weekend of each month for Marlborough Food Bank; you may also bring food or household donations directly to the Marlborough Food Bank Monday and Tuesday mornings. Sandwich-making and collection continues on the last Thursday of the month for St. Vincent de Paul in Middletown. Also, the Community Garden to benefit Marlborough Food Bank is underway. Other service opportunities are scheduled monthly; see the church website for details.

Other Programs and Offerings: For more information on such programs as adult or child faith formation, youth group, RCIA or Knights of Columbus, call the office, visit the church website, or look for the church on Facebook (Saint John Fisher Roman Catholic Church) or Twitter (@StJohnFisher_CT).

Lions to Hold 'Masquerade 5K'

The Marlborough Lions Club will hold its annual Masquerade 5K Road Race Sunday Oct. 31, starting promptly at 10:30 a.m. This 5K will feature runners in costume and will follow the same course around Lake Terramuggus as the Lions' Memorial Day weekend race. The race will utilize electronic timing with computerized race results and the course is now a certified 5K.

Entry fee is \$20 for pre-registration by Oct. 16 and \$25 thereafter. Shirts will be provided to those who pre-register by Oct. 16. There is also a \$50 package price for families participating in the race. Due to COVID-19 issues there will not be any same day registrations and all runners need to be registered by the day before the race. Runners will start near the entrance to

Blish Park on Park Road and will proceed on a course which circles Lake Terramuggus.

The Lions Club supports programs that address various issues including blindness, drug abuse prevention and diabetes awareness in addition to supporting local organizations such as the Marlborough Food and Fuel Banks.

To register or for more information, call Lion Tom Reiser at 860-295-8374 or Jean Paul Bolduc at 860-295-9150. Email Tom Reiser at TGReiser@comcast.net. Registration forms are also available in Marlborough and at various other locations including Liberty Bank and you can also register online at www.plattsys.com or www.hitekracing.com/calendar.

Special Voter Registration Session

The Marlborough registrars of voters will hold a voter registration session Tuesday, Oct. 26, from 8:30 a.m.-8 p.m., at Town Hall, 26 N. Main St., for those seeking to vote in the Nov. 2 election.

After Tuesday, Oct. 26, people can register up until 5 p.m. Nov. 1 if: they turned 18 between Oct. 27 and Nov. 1; became a naturalized citizen between Oct. 27 and Nov. 1; moved into Marlborough between Oct. 27 and Nov. 1; or are an active service member, former service

member who has been discharged within the calendar year, or any person who has been out of the country.

Voting Registration Deadlines: All registrations (mail in, online and through the DMV and AAA) must be received or postmarked by Oct. 26.

Election Day Registration will be held Nov. 2 (Election Day) at Town Hall, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Proof of residence in Marlborough is required. Election Day registration requires that in order to cast a ballot on Election Day, the applicant must be registered to vote no later than 8 p.m. Applicants, who continue to be in line at 8 p.m. will not be able to participate in this election.

For more information, call the registrars' office at 860-295-6166.

Marlborough Author Releases New Poetry Book

by Josh Howard

Local resident Jackie Killelea has released a new book, *Times and Triumphs*, a collection of poetry focusing on nature and everyday life.

This is Killelea's second publication, following up her debut book *Soulful Sentiments*, written in 2019 and also featuring poetry.

"I've always loved to write poetry and after my first book I thought why not continue on with it," said Killelea, who was inspired to write the latest project in the fall of 2020. "When I go outside, I start to write. I was really enjoying myself at the time and I've always loved nature."

Killelea added that she learned a lot about the publication process after writing her first book. Her latest poetry collection was composed during the pandemic.

She used the troubling time to find a beacon of light, "That inspired me. Everything was really dark at the time and just being outdoors was helpful. Life seemed simpler at the time. I really wanted to bring more positivity to people and just to brighten their day, even if it was for just for a moment."

"A lot of it is very positive, but there were some days I might not have been feeling so great so that is reflected in there," she said of her poetry. "But overall readers can expect nature-based and human experience-based poetry which revolves around thinking in general and societies beliefs."

Times and Triumphs, along with her first publication, are available on Amazon. The books are included with Kindle Unlimited or can be purchased in paperback for \$10. Currently, both have received unanimous five-star reviews.

In her dedication, Killelea recognized those who helped her along the way, "This book is dedicated to my family and friend, who have supported me in all of my endeavors. Thank you for believing in me."

At a young age, Killelea had a passion for poetry which grew as a student at RHAM High School thanks to her English teacher, Andrea Barton.



Marlborough resident Jackie Killelea has a new poetry book, *Times and Triumphs*, available on Amazon.

"She just really allowed the flow of expression and encouraged everyone in the class to follow our word and how to express them," said Killelea.

The 2020 RHAM graduate is currently a sophomore at Middlesex Community College, pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree, while she continues to writing, currently focusing on a potential novel.

When she isn't writing, the local poet is working with her hands; sculpting, painting, and making jewelry.

Killelea wants readers to feel compelled and look inside themselves as they relate to the written words and compare the poetry to events and feelings in their own lives, adding, "I would like them not to feel alone in their thoughts. A lot of the poems are based off my own experiences and I want people to know that no matter what they are going through they are not alone and others have experienced what they are experiencing, and they can live in the moment."

Youth Soccer Recap

The Portland U10 boys' soccer team Thunder Force hosted East Hampton last Sunday, Oct. 10, and won, 4-2.

Portland's Theo Arnold and Leo Dean made their debuts as team goalkeepers. East Hampton took an early lead with a quick goal to begin the match and found themselves ahead 2-0 at half-time. In the second half, Portland started to find some success with the ball in the visitor's half of the field. Easton Yardis scored a goal with a low shot that slipped through the keeper's

hands. Arnold tied the score 2-2 after finding himself with the ball alone in front of the goal. Portland later took the lead after an East Hampton own goal. With a few minutes remaining in the match, Jonah King received a pass in the box from a teammate and scored the game's final goal, making it 4-2.

Portland's Landon Richey and Timothy Bolstridge were the recipients of the team's Heart and Hustle awards.

See more Marlborough News, page 28

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Obituaries

East Hampton

Mary Elizabeth McCarthy

Mary Elizabeth (Sinnott) McCarthy, "Micardo," 88, of East Hampton passed away Wednesday, Oct. 6, at home, surrounded by her loving family.



She was born Sept. 16, 1933, in Keeseville, N.Y., a daughter of the late George Barber Sr. and Fannie (McCarroll) Barber. She worked in the water department and payroll department for the City of Springfield for many years before she retired.

She is survived by her loving husband, James Daniel McCarthy of East Hampton; one daughter, Susie Nye and her husband Scott of East Hampton; her children by marriage, James McCarthy Jr. of Northampton, Mass., Candace (McCarthy) Bergeron of Montgomery, Ala., and Timothy McCarthy of Newburg, Pa.; four grandchildren, Meagan Gates, Michael Lignar, Nathan Nye and Emma Nye; and two great-grandchildren, Kaiden Gates and Sadie Lignar. She also leaves her beloved feline friend, Bat the Cat, who will miss her dearly.

Mary is predeceased by her son, John Sinnott, and her siblings, Charles, George Jr. and Katie Barber.

A memorial Mass will be held in St Stanislaus Basilica at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 16.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to ASPCA.org.

The Grise Funeral Home is entrusted with arrangements. For online condolences, please visit www.GriseFH.com.

Portland

Kevin Donsbough

Kevin Mitchell Donsbough, 58, of Portland, passed away peacefully Friday, Oct. 1, at Saint Francis Hospital in Hartford with his loving family at his bedside. He was born in Middletown April 18, 1963. Kevin attended Middletown High School where he created lifelong friendships as a member of the football team and the Alpha Omega Theta (AOT) fraternity.



Kevin was employed by Connecticut Propane and Petroleum (CPP) for 20 years, where he became part of their extended family. Kevin was a friend to all and would do anything for others without hesitation. He was kind and caring to anyone that knew him. Kevin lived life at his own pace and always had the love and support of his family whenever he needed them. He enjoyed fishing, the outdoors and had an extraordinary love of animals – especially his dog Hunter, whom he adored.

Kevin is survived by his siblings, Karen (Dale) Etheridge, Michael (Cynthia) Donsbough, Laurie (Peter) Johnson, twin sister Wendy (David) Labieniec, David (Sharon) Donsbough, his nieces and nephews; Shannon Russell, Shaun Etheridge, Kelley Etheridge, Ashley Etheridge, Christie Donsbough, Lindsey Dorsey, Amanda Morton, Bryan Field, Michael Field, Brandie Lewis, Lauren Johnson, David Donsbough Jr., Nicole Donsbough, Brianna Donsbough, Devin

Donsbough; and many cousins and relatives.

He was predeceased by his mother, Virginia Gallagher Donsbough, and his father, Donald Donsbough; his loving maternal grandmother, "Nannie" Adelaide Pratley Gallagher, and grandfather, George C. Gallagher. Kevin is also survived by his extended Gjonbalaj family – brothers Billy, Tony and Jimmy.

Kevin will be remembered at a private burial service at Indian Hill Cemetery in Middletown, with arrangements made by Biega Funeral Home.

Donations may be made in Kevin's name to the Connecticut Humane Society at 701 Russell Rd. in Newington, or online at give.cthumane.org.

Marlborough

Tom and Marilyn Murphy

Celebration of Life

All are invited to a Celebration of Life ceremony for Tom and Marilyn Murphy of Marlborough on Saturday, Oct. 23, at 1:30 p.m., at the American Legion, Route 66, Marlborough.

Hebron

Dana L. Billings

Dana L. Billings, 75, of Hebron, passed away Wednesday, Sept. 22, at Yale Smilow New Haven Hospital, after a two-month battle with lymphoma. Born March 9, 1946, in Stonington, Maine, he was the son of Elmer and Helene (Burns) Billings.



When Dana was 22, he met the love of his life, Diane Buyak, at a dance. The couple married June 28, 1969, and shared 53 years of marriage together. They originally lived in Hartford, and eventually, they moved to Hebron in 1998.

For 39 years, he worked at the Travelers Insurance Company while also acting as the pastor and an elder for the Community of Christ Church in East Windsor. He was an avid outdoorsman who loved gardening, hunting, clamming, and working on outdoor projects. He was a true jack of all trades who could fix or build anything. In his younger years, he learned the craft of making a stained-glass lamp shade and built a tandem kayak and two whizzer motor-bikes.

During retirement, he spent most of his time helping his children with various projects and vacationing in Mexico, where he enjoyed the beach and food. He also had a great passion for helping others and will always be remembered for his loving and helpful nature. As a pastor, he loved his parishioners as an extension of his own family and always volunteered his time at the soup kitchen to help others in need.

He is survived by his wife, Diane Billings; son, Christian (Terri) Billings; daughter, Stacey (Hugo) Brugnolo; sister, Karen (Jim) Stickelmaier; grandchildren, Hunter and Abby Billings and Gabriel and Lorenzo Brugnolo; and numerous other extended family and friends.

A visitation was held Tuesday, Sept. 28, at the Aurora McCarthy Funeral Home, followed by a chapel service at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial donations be made in Dana's memory to the Community of Christ Church or the Lymphoma Research Foundation. A special thank you is given to Dr. Huntington, Dr. Matera and Dr. Foss, as well as all the others who took care of Dana during his time at Yale hospital.

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

East Hampton

Philip A. Simcik

Philip A. Simcik, 66, of New Britain, died of natural causes at his home in New Britain Wednesday, June 23. Born in New Britain Nov. 10, 1954, he was the son of the late John & Mary Simcik.



In his youth, his family moved to Berlin, and then to East Hampton where he was a resident from the late 1960s to 1990s. He was an avid waterskiier and enjoyed living at his home on Lake Pocotopaug.

Philip was employed as an insurance adjuster prior to his disability. He enjoyed gardening, attending daily Mass at St. Paul's Church in Kensington, and he especially enjoyed being with his family on holidays and special occasions. He had a friendly nature and enjoyed conversation. Philip was also a tremendous help to his mother in her later years.

He is survived by his brother, John Simcik, of Southington; a sister and brother-in-law, Marsha and Robert Tallard of Newington; a sister and brother-in-law, Gail and William Embacher of East Hampton; and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brother, Paul Simcik.

Burial will be privately held.

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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.

Youth Programs: Mad Science – Eureka: For grades 1-6. Mondays, 3:15 – 4:15, Oct. 18-Dec. 13, at Marlborough Elementary School. Students explore famous inventors such as Leonardo Da Vinci, Ben Franklin, Thomas Edison and Archimedes. Kids get a science project to take home each week. Fee: \$135/ residents, \$140/non-residents.

Pumpkin Decorating Contest: For ages 4-13. Prizes will be awarded in the following categories: Scariest pumpkin, Funniest pumpkin, Most original pumpkin. Design your pumpkins and bring them to the Recreation Department. Please provide name and contact information with pumpkin. Pumpkins can be dropped off between Monday, Oct. 25 and Wednesday, Oct. 27.

Historical Society News

The Marlborough Historical Society has issued the following pieces of news:

Cemetery Walk: The fourth annual Cemetery Walk will be held Thursday, Oct. 28, and Saturday, Oct. 30, at 6 p.m. both nights. All are invited to learn about the lives and deaths of many past residents via walks through Century Cemetery and Marlboro Cemetery. Registration is free, and can be done by either email (mhs@marlboroughhistory.org) or by calling Romano Ghirlanda at 860-916-4031. Bring a flashlight if you can, and dress warmly. Each walk will begin at the Richmond Memorial Library parking lot.

Map Available: The Bicentennial Map depicting many items of Marlborough's history is now available for purchase at www.marlboroughhistory.org/store for \$7. Payment can also be made via check; send to Marlborough Historical Society, P.O. Box 351, Marlborough, CT 06447. The map was made exclusively for the Marlborough Historical Society in 1975-76 by its then-president, Larry Oglesby, and illustrator W. Nystrom. Size is 18.5 x 12.5.

Colchester

Sherman Paul Newton

Sherman Paul Newton, 73, of Colchester, passed away Monday, Oct. 4, at Middlesex Hospital. Born March 25, 1948, in Waterville, Maine, he was a son of the late Sherman C. Newton and Florence (Grivois) Newton.

Sherman was a resident at the Caring Community Group Home in Colchester for over 30 years. He was a sweet and gentle soul who was always very affectionate. Anyone who knew Sherman would tell you what amazing heartfelt hugs he would give. He always had a twinkle in his eye and a smile that could light up a room. He was also known for being a bit of a prankster; his favorite prank to pull on people would be to offer them something in his hand, and the moment they said 'thank you' he would pull the item back and laugh deeply.

He is survived by his extended family at the Caring Community Group Home in Colchester; his sisters, Jeannette Bunnell, Doris Mathieu and Phyllis Sehl; his brother, William Bouford; and numerous other extended family and friends.

Calling hours were held Tuesday, Oct. 12, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Burial was private.

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

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Reader Forum • Reader Forum

★ Letters cont. from page 7

approving annual budgets and when considering expenditures.

The Board of Finance members need to be committed to protecting our interests and I am confident that Michael and Jeff will do just that, but first they need your support on Election Day.

So, on November 2nd please join me in voting for Michael Nastri and Jeff Plourde for election to the Marlborough Board of Finance.

Ken Hjulstrom – Marlborough

Note: Hjulstrom is a member of the Marlborough Board of Finance, but said he is writing as an individual.

Debate Recording Available

Dear Colchester Residents:

Unfortunately, there may not be an opportunity for Colchester voters to see the First Selectman candidates debate publicly because it doesn't look like an open dialogue at Bacon Academy is going to happen.

The CBA debate was an excellent opportunity for business owners to learn more about the differences between Mary Bylone and her opponent. The 30-minute debate was recorded in full and shows a stark contrast between the two. It is worth watching.

It's important that voters learn as much as they can about their choices by seeing the candidates in action. The CBA debates recordings may be your only chance.

Log onto marybylone.com and find the tab called "Debates." The debate is there in its entirety.

You'll be glad you took the time to see your options before you vote on Nov. 2.

Best,

Monica Swyden – Colchester

Party of Political Arsonists

To the Editor:

Ed Kozlowski's pithy attempt to mock climate change, Dr. Fauci, COVID, mask wearing, and even the Sandy Hook massacre should come as no surprise to anyone. This type of clatter from the MAGA crowd often peddles in subversion and fear. They have convinced themselves that mask mandates infringe upon their freedoms, and an insurrection on Jan. 6th to overthrow the government, was patriotic. These paranoid misfits cling to fantasies that Trump somehow won the election, and frequently forewarn of an impending civil war.

In case anyone hasn't noticed, this is a party of political arsonists, who subscribe to radical notions that coalesce around anti-government, anti-intellectual, and anti-science extremism. They are united against paying our debts, voting rights, fair taxation, organized labor, universal healthcare and improving infrastructure. This misguided culture subscribes to unrealistic expectations the U.S. can support the world's highest medical costs and largest military, with tax rates among the lowest in history. These 80 million voters believe American virtues like taking care of our environment; the poor, the sick and the elderly are part of a global socialist agenda. They oppose living wages, the right to choose, reasonable gun legislation and alleviating the impacts of climate change.

When we combine a do-nothing Republican Congress, with the modern version of the village idiot, the result is a marriage of deceptive tactics and failed policies. The simple fact is, Trumpism is not a deal breaker for Republicans, and what this represents is an historic failure of one of the world's great political parties. Unfortunately, Republicans have become incapable of governing. They're unwilling to protect our democracy from the nihilism of Trump psychopaths, who care more about maintaining their own power than helping mankind.

Joe Stevens – Hebron

Endorsing Curley

To the Editor:

Since serving as a first selectman in Portland for six years, I have remained out of the fray of local politics. The candidacy of Ryan Curley has piqued my interest and is compelling to me to get involved. After talking with him I am pleased to endorse him as First Selectman.

Some say Ryan lacks the experience. That is not true. He has served as a selectman. He has served as our town clerk for six years witnessing the day-to-day operation and decision-making of our local government. He recently graduated with a Master of Public Administration degree. We are fortunate to have someone that qualified interested in serving.

Ryan was born and raised in Portland and is proud of his heritage. The Curley family have a long and well-respected reputation in Portland. Ryan is a great listener to people and will use his leadership skills to make Portland a great town to live in and raise a family.

**Terri Larson
Former First Selectman of Portland**

Facts on RHAM Turf Project

To the Editor:

Just like anything in life, there are positive reasons to support the RHAM turf/track project.

Improved safety, provides a consistent and uniform playing surface, minimizes game and practice cancellations due to inclement weather, early and late season play, avoids having to purchase and develop additional land to accommodate current field demands, lower maintenance cost, no mowing, striping, aeration or topdressing, reduces water usage by 360,000 gallons annually, added sports programming and participation, enhances recreation opportunities for residents of all ages, attracts families to the area looking for first class academics and athletic programming and facilities.

This project is not just about turf, it also includes a new eight-lane track with LED lights which will

benefit the students, youth sports programs and RHAM communities it serves and was unanimously approved by the RBOE.

With respect to the number of injuries on turf fields vs. natural grass fields, the data supports that turf has reduced injuries compared to compacted natural grass fields by 50 percent and is a primary reason why so many other school districts in the same conference as RHAM have installed synthetic turf fields at their facilities.

These districts are: Avon, Berlin, Bloomfield, Bristol Central, Bristol Eastern, Buckley, Conard, E.O Smith, East Hartford, Enfield, Farmington, Glastonbury, Hall, Hartford Public, Maloney, Manchester, Middletown, New Britain, Newington, Plainville, Platt, Rocky Hill, Rockville, Simsbury, South Windsor, Southington, Tolland, Wethersfield and Windsor. Lewis Mills, East Catholic and Northwest Catholic are the only schools that currently do not have a synthetic turf field.

So, why did 29 school districts in the same Conference as RHAM switch from natural grass and invest in synthetic turf? Because the data supported turf was safe for the athletes and brought economic benefits to their communities.

Joe O'Connor – Hebron

Note: Joe O'Connor is a member of the RHAM Board of Education, but said he is speaking as an individual.

Holden for BOE

To the Editor:

Our local Board of Education needs members that will strive for the best for our students and teachers. Anna Holden is a candidate that will do just this. She is a former teacher, current small business owner, and mom, and she is ready to bring that background to the Board of Education. With a bachelor's degree in environmental science and a master's degree in teaching, she has taught science education and will help ensure that our Marlborough students have an education rooted in science and evidenced based curriculum. Additionally, with two children currently attending Marlborough Elementary School, she has a vested interest in ensuring the success of our already outstanding school system.

For these reasons, Anna has my vote for MES Board of Education! Come meet her and other Democratic-endorsed candidates Oct. 20 at 7 p.m. at Chateau le Gari.

Jack Fidler – Marlborough

Senior Survey

Dear East Hampton Seniors:

Are you financially able to remain in East Hampton during your retired years? What would an ideal apartment or home for you contain? How do you usually get around town for shopping, visiting, errands, etc.?

These are sample questions included in the Senior Survey. This is your opportunity to have your voice heard so please fill out the survey before Oct. 31.

**Carol McLaughlin
Member of East Hampton
Commission on Aging**

Good Sense Shines Through

To the Editor:

After 30 years of engagement in community and economic development, I have reached a point in life where good sense shines through.

Compare these plans for Portland's economic future: <https://www.jimtrippforportland.com/economic-development> <https://www.curleyforportland.com/economicdevelopment>

I like Jim Tripp's sensibility but you be the judge. Most importantly, vote!

Elwin Guild – Portland

BAA Candidate

To the Editor:

Hello!

My name is Deborah Cunningham and I am running for Board of Assessment Appeals as a Republican candidate. I have lived in East Hampton proudly since 1987 and currently semi-retired business systems analyst in the Property and Casualty Insurance Industry. I have had the privilege of serving as Past President of the Belltown Garden Club and on the Board of Directors of the East Hampton Volunteer Ambulance Association. However, I wanted to do more to serve our community and to give back in a larger capacity.

Republicans believe in small town America, local control over all of our issues, parental choice, and more importantly keeping an eye always on prudent spending. This is why I decided to accept the nomination for this position. I hope I can count on your vote on Nov. 2nd!

Thank you!

Deborah Cunningham – East Hampton

Supporting Ryan Curley

To the Editor:

As a departing member of the BOS, former local business owner, and longtime resident I have the pleasure of knowing both candidates for first selectman well. While I can't say anything bad about either, I will say I disagree with a previous letter saying to the effect that Ryan lacks substance. Ryan is a lifelong resident and a great example of the good young people growing up in Portland. As a young man starting his career he could easily have moved on to another town or state, but he chose to remain in Portland and get involved in the community.

I feel Ryan's higher education and previous employment do qualify him well for the office of first selectman, which basically is the CEO of our community. Besides a degree in accounting, he has a master's degree in Public Administration. He has hands-

on accounting experience, corporate experience, and municipal government experience, having served on the BOS and as current town clerk. He is fiscally conservative and socially progressive. Ryan understands and is ready to deal with the issues facing our Town. He understands our water and sewer issues and that they are the top priority of a new administration. He understands the important work of our school facilities committee, and the redevelopment of our Riverfront, along with creating a healthy environment for new businesses to come to town and help create a broader tax base.

Fortunately for Portland there are many good people running for office. Whatever your affiliation is remember extreme partisanship creates a dysfunctional government. We need Democrats and Republicans in positions of government to work together. We need both sides represented on our boards and commissions. I feel Ryan is capable and ready for this job.

Rick Sharr – Portland

Note: Sharr is a member of the Portland Board of Selectmen, but said he is writing as an individual.

Just What Town Needs

To the Editor:

Mike Buck is just what the town of East Hampton needs on the Board of Education. Someone who believes in the American way, American rights, and American education!

As a true patriot who has served his country both in the military and as a current law enforcement officer, Mike displays every characteristic that we need on our Board of Education. Mike has young children of his own in the school system so what happens daily in the schools effects his family.

After lengthy conversations with Mike, I have determined that his reasonableness is what we need for the children in our small town. Reasonableness and the belief in facts, science and parental choice lead me to put my faith in his ability to do what's right for my children and all children of East Hampton Schools.

Mike Buck for Board of Education!

Douglas Bernier – East Hampton

Murphy for Portland BOE

To the Editor:

I have known Dave Murphy for more than 15 years. He is a fiscal conservative, experienced planner and a problem solver. Dave's experience on the Board of Education is an asset Portland can't afford to lose. His strong work ethic and vast knowledge of town government are essential in making wise decisions for the BOE.

Dave is the right choice for the taxpayers as well as the children of Portland. To keep our school system moving in the right direction I will be voting for Dave Murphy on Nov. 2.

Jim Nesci – Portland

Continue MES Excellence

To the Editor:

Marlborough Elementary School has a reputation as an exceptional school and an integral part of our town. As members of the MES Board of Education, Wes Skorski, Angela Colantonio and Anna Holden will provide the dedication, knowledge and passion necessary for our outstanding school staff to be able to continue to provide a quality education to our children.

Wes Skorski is a small business owner and currently serves as chair of the Board of Education. He brings to the role a calm demeanor and knowledgeable, informed perspective that will continue to guide the board to excellence. Angela Colantonio is a mother of two MES students and a pediatric nurse. She is a member of the MVD Women's Auxiliary executive board. She is dedicated and open minded and is invested in the wellbeing of our town. Anna Holden is a mother of two MES students and a professional photographer. She serves on the Marlborough Nature Trails and Sidewalk Commission and the Hebron Coalition for Diversity and Equity. With a background in science education, she brings an understanding of and passion for providing a quality education to the children of Marlborough.

Next month, vote for Wes Skorski, Angela Colantonio and Anna Holden – all with proven records of community service – for the Board of Education and support the continued excellence of Marlborough Elementary School.

Pam Chudzik – Marlborough

Truly About Portland

To the Editor:

Portland is my hometown. Generations of my family have lived, worked, and played here. My husband and I made Portland our home and are expecting our first child here.

Jim Tripp has worked tirelessly for Portland over the past two decades. Jim's proven dedication to our town is evident in his work on BOE, BOS, Brownstone Quorum, Lions Club and more. He listens to others with an open-mind and has a record of bridging gaps to generate solutions. He will be an excellent first selectman.

John Dillon, April Graves, Laurel Steinhauser and Ralph Zampano are running for Board of Selectmen. I truly admire these people. Together, they've been at the forefront of some of our town's biggest improvement projects and have championed issues to empower the most vulnerable in our community. They know our town's history well and care even more about its future.

I am honored to be a Board of Education candidate alongside Sharon Peters, Kim Nagy-Maruschock, and Barry Rodgers. I am confident in our ability to serve because of our experience and expertise. Sharon chairs BOE and is an attorney who worked with

youth in the court system. Kim is a special education teacher of nearly 20 years and coordinates an early intervention program. Barry has served the community in areas of equity, solidarity, and positive youth development.

I am a licensed master social worker, Youth Services administrator, and have specialized training in various youth related issues. These are not special interests to us; we know youth are most successful when their needs are attended to as a whole person. I hope my son grows up under leaders who love Portland, represent everyone, possess the skills to promote positive outcomes, and who support our school system and community.

Join me in voting Row A on Nov. 2.

**Kindly,
Katelynn Puorro
Candidate, Portland Board of Education**

The Guy We Need

To the Editor:

Michael Buck is a great man, great father, and a born leader. He won't allow politics or "the flavor of the month" topics to alter what's best for our children's education. He has risked his life for our country and our great state.

Michael Buck is the guy we need to serve our town and make the right decisions for our children.

Samuel Cruz – East Hampton

Reelect Mary Bylone

To the Editor:

M – Motivated: By a deep commitment to public service and the town of Colchester.

A – Accomplished: As past vice president of Hartford Health Nursing – and national speaker – this career experience helped her lead Colchester through the pandemic with information, clarity, and decisive leadership.

R – Ready: On day one of her second term to tackle Colchester's challenges.

Y – Youth: Commitment to youth services, new recreation, and open space programs.

B – Business: Oversaw 87 new businesses opening in town with plans for more economic development and a coherent town plan.

Y – Yes: To championing and supporting the building of the new senior center.

L – Leading: In public safety with new projects for the fire and police departments.

O – Open: Accessible, accountable, transparent, and frequent communication with citizens, in person, online – on Facebook Live.

N – New Funds: Access over \$4 million American Rescue Plan Funds for Colchester infrastructure and other projects.

E – Excel: Collaborate with Board of Education to advance the quality of Colchester schools and preparation for work force.

Sheila Horvitz – Colchester

We Can Do Better

To the Editor:

In the Oct. 8 edition of *Rivereast*, there appeared a letter to the editor, in which the writer appears to declare himself to be God and a secular humanist. In the letter, he references President Carter and states, "Who in some ways even exceeds Jesus." The writer goes on to declare President Carter to be, "the most Christ-like politician to ever grace our American government." I am sure that President Carter would be disgusted by this narrative. One can only wonder where a secular humanist, or anyone, gets off determining who exceeds Jesus or who is the most Christ-like.

I am concerned about the depths to which political discussion in the U.S. has sunken. The lack of consideration for opposing opinions. The lack of basic human respect. The time has come to bring sanity back into politics. We can do better.

Douglas Sargent – Portland

Curley for Portland

Dear Portland Community:

I have known Ryan Curley for many years and without question he always wants our town government focused on what's right for Portland, which is the essence of his mantra "It's about Portland, not Politics."

Ryan's approach is based in common sense, what are the true needs for the community, and how to balance those needs with the tax paying residents in mind. A prime example is the unsafe and unusable high school track. One of Ryan's first goals is to find a way to get that high school track issue resolved, in the most efficient and least costly way. This is not a new issue; most in town leadership have known the HS track was in disrepair for many years and worsening each year. The Democratic first selectwoman, who drives where capital expenses will go along with the Democratically controlled Board of Selectmen, chose to not address, or put a plan into place to resolve this. All we heard is "we can't."

Ryan Curley's leadership style is "what can we do to make this happen," not "we can't."

I look forward to working with Ryan as we embark on putting a plan in place to address the significant capital needs of our school system that have been overlooked for many years.

I ask for your support and vote on Nov. 2nd, not for only myself and Ryan, but our entire Republican team.

Now is the time for new leadership.

**Dave Murphy
Candidate, Portland Board of Education**

Note: Murphy is a member of the Portland Board of Education but said he is speaking as an individual.

See Story, page 30

★ *Letters cont. from page 29*

Why Question This Now?

To the Editor:

At the Oct. 6 Board of Finance meeting the discussion began on the proposed new Senior Center to be approved and advanced to the selectman's meeting then to a town meeting for a vote by Colchester residents.

Some members of the board questioned the operating expenses of the proposed senior center as the reason for wanting the possible referendum removed. Although both fire equipment and WJMS were also sent to referendum, their operating costs were not questioned by the BOF and they advanced to the Board of Selectmen which puts them on the agenda for a town meeting and town vote.

It seems odd to me that the senior center advancement was singled out and removed from a possible referendum at the 11th hour. The committee created while Art Shilosky was First selectman was charged with designing a future senior center – not to factor in the operating costs of the center.

Is this a tactic to stall the vote on the senior center? Why question this now, when a delay of the center can only lead to higher costs of building the center as materials and contractor expenses will likely only go up over time?

Please take the time to listen to the Oct. 6 meeting. All BOF meetings are recorded and can be accessed by the public.

Don't let the plans for a better Colchester Senior Center be delayed any longer.

Linda Pasternak – Colchester

Craft Fair a Huge Success

To the Editor:

Quarry View, a historic Brownstone Park in Portland, would like to thank everyone that came out to our Artistic Craft Fair on Sept. 18.

We are so grateful to the 50+ vendors that signed up, arrived on time, sold amazing items and left without a trace of impact on the park that day.

Being a historical park and 501(c)3 nonprofit we are grateful for their contributions to the raffle as each vendor donated something to help the park along. Quarry View operates solely on donations. People were waiting at the gate to get in and the steady stream of shoppers was wonderful all the way through till 4 pm. Many first timers to our park were able to enjoy a walk on the beautiful trails and take in the waterfalls, scenery and overall energy the park brings to each visitor. To those that volunteered their time: We could not have done this without you! You are what Quarry View is all about; the bringing together of strangers to a common area of beauty and enjoyment.

Our plan is to have another craft fair fund raiser like this in the spring so we look forward to another successful day of fantastic artists, crafters and visitors.

**Thank you so very much,
Darlene Rice and Dean Soucy
Quarry View Historic Park**

Who I'm Voting For

To the Editor:

For first selectman, I support Andreas Bisbikos without a doubt, due to his experience and performance on the Board of Finance and Economic Development Commission. His passion is to keep taxes low so Colchester can remain an affordable town to live in and be active in inviting new businesses into our beautiful town. I could not support Ms. Bylone based strongly on her performance in her first two years as first selectman. She started with controversy and continued the same leadership style right to today.

As far as the Board of Selectmen, I feel that Taras Rudko for sure and Jason LaChapelle would be better selectman than all of the others running, and for the Board of Finance either John Thomas or Tim Vaillancourt would be the best choices I am recommending.

**Sincerely,
Steven A. Schuster – Colchester**

Candidates for Town Council

To the Editor:

East Hampton Democratic Council candidates Pete Brown, Kevin Reich, Barbara Moore, Derek Johnson and me, Dean Markham, deserve your serious consideration and vote for reelection on Nov. 2. Compiling an exceptional record of accomplishments during the past two years, a few highlights include fulfilling important goals of the Lake Pocotopaug 9-Element Restoration Plan including the strategic acquisition of Christopher Pond.

A complete list of accomplishments will be fully explored and discussed over the next few weeks, but a couple important points to consider. This team's leadership, unlike its predecessors, fully involved the minority members in discussions on all issues. This inclusiveness resulted in nearly every Council vote during this term being unanimous. We Democrats ran on a platform of transparency. When the governor's executive orders shut down certain functions such as our annual budget referendum in 2020, the council, then charged with the exclusive task to draft and approve the budget, held the first ever council budget workshop, as well as two public hearings, open to all via Zoom.

The council took advantage of an extended timeline to complete that budget, obtaining the most accurate information possible. Approved (6-1), it had a zero mill increase, yet preserved four critical teaching positions, fully funded technology and enabled our students to immediately attend virtual classrooms. Our system, recognized for its foresight, never skipped a beat. Many communities sought to defund police departments in that tumultuous year. We restored a long

vacant officer's position and an adult/child librarian as well. Our library increased circulation during the pandemic and has been recognized nationally for its innovative programming.

This year, both the Board of Finance and the Town Council unanimously adopted the budget and the first referendum approved it as well. That is almost unheard of, but characteristic of our record of inclusion and accomplishment.

**Dean Markham, Member
East Hampton Town Council**

Barrella for BOE

To the Editor:

I am writing this in support of Kerri Barrella, candidate for Marlborough Board of Education. I have known Kerri for almost five years. We met when our children were in pre-K together at Marlborough Elementary School. As long as I have known her, Kerri has actively supported the school and is committed to making Marlborough a great place to live. As current president of the MOMS Club, Marlborough chapter, Kerri has done many things to benefit the children in Marlborough most recently, raising the funds to buy the picnic tables for the fresh air classroom at MES.

Kerri is a dedicated mother and a former teacher. Her background in education along with her care for our community would make her a great addition to the Marlborough Board of Education.

Farrel Sena – Marlborough

Vote on Charter Revision

To the Editor:

On Nov. 2, the registered voters of Marlborough will have an opportunity to vote on nine proposed changes to Marlborough's town charter as recommended by Marlborough's Charter Revision Commission (CRC) and approved by Marlborough's Board of Selectmen (BOS) on July 20. The commission's final report to the BOS concluded a 16-month long effort reviewing the current 1985 town charter for changes and addressed two specific charges given to the Commission by the Board of Selectmen to evaluate: (1) the Number of Board of Selectmen and (2) Examination of Alternate Forms of Government. The comprehensive report explaining all of the recommended charter changes are available on the town website at www.marlbroughct.net to view or download over the internet. Print copies can be obtained upon request from the town clerk. Marlborough residents are encouraged to review the final report and come out to vote on Nov. 2.

The Charter Revision ballot questions, if approved by Marlborough's registered voters, will incorporate a variety of changes to the town charter, designed to improve the overall effectiveness and efficiency of running the town and will ensure the charter remains relevant and in step with the people it serves.

Robert Ragusa – Marlborough

Note: Ragusa is the former chair of the Marlborough Charter Revision Commission, but is speaking as an individual resident of Marlborough.

Columbus Day Evolves

To the Editor:

Columbus Day becomes Indigenous Peoples Day. Some Italian-Americans feel slighted, but the evidence shows Columbus brought death, disease and destruction to Caribbean Taino. Connecticut has removed his and Captain John Mason's statues, the latter because he attacked and massacred hundreds of Pequots in their Mystic fort. The Pequot Museum tells the horrible story.

Some liberal thinkers, pushing political correctness, assume Western whites were invading monsters and Indigenous peoples peacefully minding their own business. This ignores pre-colonial history. For example, the Pequots invaded Connecticut, conquering the native Nehantics who ruled southern Connecticut. Surviving Nehantics were split into Eastern and Western tribes. The Narragansetts of Rhode Island frequently warred with the new Pequots, calling them the "destroyers". Political strife within the Pequots eventually led to Uncas taking his group, now calling themselves Mohegans, to live in the Norwich area. They regularly skirmished with Sassacus's Pequots. Small wonder then that a large force of Narragansetts, Mohegans and Nehantics joined Captain Mason in his attack upon the Pequot fort. The history of 'tribalism' throughout the world is just as sordid a compilation of conquest, torture, raping, enslavement, and horror as Western civilization has produced. Tribalism itself allowed small numbers of Westerners to conquer the Americas. There were always plenty of willing natives helping whites defeat their tribal enemies. The ruling 'power' tribes made too many enemies and too few allies among their indigenous neighbors.

Italian-Americans might erect statues of Enrico Fermi or Guglielmo Marconi, great scientists who came to America. Connecticut might replace Mason's statues with John Ledyard, whose adventures and explorations predated and eclipsed Lewis and Clarke's expedition.

Lastly, history proves tribalism inferior to nationalism. If human civilization is to survive, we must evolve further, adopting a science-based, democratic, 'One World' government; with conquest and wars banished, and politicians advancing scientific consensus.

Edmund Smith – Andover

E-Mail Letters

Letter writers are encouraged to email their letters of 300 words or less to bulletin@glcitizen.com. Letters submitted without a contact phone number will not be published.

Second Term, Please

To the Editor:

I am a 29-year resident of Hebron, whose two adult children went through local schools. My education and background are in finance and operational management with an undergraduate degree in business – accounting and a graduate degree in business management.

I am running for a second term for the Board of Finance because of my strong commitment to give back to the Hebron community in a meaningful way. I am dedicated to working with the Board of Finance group members and I have served as liaison to the Hebron Board of Education with a goal to have clear communication between the groups and to have a balanced approach to serve all constituents in the community.

Your town representatives are volunteers, so please support us by coming to Hebron Elementary School on Nov. 2 and vote, and please vote for me!

**Thank you,
Diane Del Rosso – Hebron**

Golf Classic Thanks

To the Editor:

The Golf Committee members of the recently held Marlborough Golf Classic, sponsored by the Marlborough Congregational Church, thanks the following businesses for their support: Ace Hardware, Angie's Pizza, Axelrod Tire, Belltown Motors, Big Y, Carter Cares, Chris Cote Golf, Colchester Veterinary Hospital, Connecticut Propane & Petroleum, Chris Cote Golf Shop, Country Roads Wine and Spirits, DaVinci Pizzeria, Dunkin, Doug's Barber & Styling, E.A. Quinn Landscaping, East Hampton Auto, Fen-Again's, Frito Lay, Fromage, Gano's Power Equipment, Georgina's, Gina Marie's, Hartford Honda, Hathaway Financial Group, HealthCare Associates, It's So Ranuncul, Jessica's Garden and Lobster Shack, John Gagnon's Pet Resort, Loco Pero, Marlborough Pizza, Marlborough Plastics, Mulryan Funeral Home, NAPA East Hampton, Paul's and Sandy's Too, QLettering, Rivereast Dental Group, Roberts Lakehouse, Sadler's Ordinary, Spencer Funeral Home, Three Felas Pizza, Village Green Pizza, Zina's Cucina.

Thank you also to the individual tee sponsors and others who made donations and to Blackledge Country Club for their donations and assistance in arranging for the tournament. The Committee especially thanks the 79 players for their participation and finally to members and friends of the Church who helped as luncheon servers, registrars, hawkers, shoppers, go-fers and more!

The goal of the 2021 classic of raising funds for outreach and local programs as well as for the care and maintenance of the historic 1842 church building was met and we thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

**Edi Dole, Bob Faulhaber,
Stacy Henrikson, Don Perillo,
Scott Reid, John Rowley,
Rick Seifert, Denise Seifert,
Marion Spaulding, Sally Zakszewski,
Larry Zarrella, Rebecca Weller
2021 Golf Committee Members**

Voice for Our Schools

Dear Portland Residents:

It has been the greatest honor to serve my community on the Board of Education, particularly as we have had to face the challenges of keeping our students and staff safe during a global pandemic. While I love serving on the BOE, I am running for the Board of Selectmen because one of the biggest challenges facing our community moving forward is how to address our school facility needs.

Last year, the Board of Education commissioned a report that indicated our schools require about \$28 million in improvements over the next 5-10 years. Our community needs its leaders to think strategically about how we move forward, while balancing population changes over time, our fiscal responsibility to taxpayers to spend money wisely, and the needs of Portland students. Our children deserve a learning environment that is safe, efficient, and up to date, and we need voices on the BOS who will support making the necessary investments in and improvements to our schools. I have been a strong advocate for our schools on the BOE and I am confident I can be the strong advocate for our schools that we need on the BOS.

In Portland, as in any town, the health of our community is tied directly to the health of our school system. I have knocked on so many doors where parents with toddlers at their knees have shared that they moved to Portland because of our excellent schools. Investing in our schools, investing in our sidewalks, parks, library, and town services, makes our town desirable, makes Portland a place where young families want to live, and will keep our community strong and vibrant well into the future.

I ask for your vote on Nov. 2 so I can be a voice for our schools on the Board of Selectmen.

**Laurel Steinhauser
Candidate for the Portland Board of Selectmen**

A Better Future

To the Editor:

My wife Katelynn and I love Portland; our parents grew up here, Katelynn grew up here, we are expecting our first child who will grow up and attend school here, because of this we are deeply invested in seeing it become the best town possible. Katelynn is doing her part by running for the Board of Education. She has dedicated her life to social work, earning multiple degrees, licensure and experiences in a field dedicated to empowering others and improving outcomes at both individual and systemic levels. She will make a profound difference in the lives of the students and

parents of this town.

My contribution to the community is more of a behind the scenes role. Besides being my wife's biggest supporter, I'm also supporting those people I truly believe will make Portland a better place. People like Jim Tripp who is running for First Selectman, who embodies experience, leadership, and results. People like John Dillion, Laurel Steinhauser, April Graves and Ralph Zampano who are all running for the Board of Selectmen. I've had the pleasure to get to know these individuals and observe how they work. They aren't running for status, they aren't trying to grow their individual brand, they are running because they deeply care about their families, friends, and neighbors. They have dedicated their time and energy toward listening to the people of Portland, identifying problems, and brainstorming solutions to fix them. They want to bring this town into a better future and ensure it's a place that we can all be proud of; a place our kids or grandkids can grow up and succeed in. I couldn't be prouder to support them and the entire Democratic slate on Nov. 2. I urge you all to do the same.

**With Gratitude,
Anthony Puorro – Portland**

Working Together Brings Success

To the Editor:

I am very pleased to be a candidate for the East Hampton Town Council. The past two years, I have had the privilege of working cooperatively with Pete Brown, Dean Markham, Barbara Moore, Derek Johnson, Tim Feegel and Mark Philhower. Together as a team we have successfully reinstated four teaching positions, reinstated an adult/children's librarian position, reinstated a police officer, supported efforts to improve the quality of Lake Pocotopaug, made much-needed improvements to the high school athletic fields and provided technology so our students could work remotely at home during the pandemic.

Like many communities, as well as at the state level and basically nonexistent at the federal level, my fellow council members and I demonstrated that by working cooperatively we can improve the quality of life for our residents and the community we call home and love so much.

Our ability to work cooperatively across the aisle and be able to keep the tax increase to a minimum has allowed East Hampton to continue to move forward during these difficult times.

I know you have a choice and I respect that. I am hopeful you will on Nov. 2 remember all that we have accomplished and afford me and my fellow council members an opportunity to continue to serve you.

Kevin M. Reich – East Hampton

Deeply Concerned

Dear Colchester Voters:

I write this letter with deep concern for our Colchester community, its citizens, and how we protect the integrity and responsibility of being an elected official. Being on the Board of Selectmen (BOS) for these past many years has been about public service, making good decisions based on facts, and always weighing the financial cost and the benefit. I have worked across party lines to make good decisions and do what is in the best interest of Colchester.

I have run many times and have never been involved in an election with so much misinformation, twisting of the facts, and hurtful behavior by candidates of the other party. There are personal attacks, not only on our candidates, but on those associated with our campaign. All of us sometimes face personal life challenges but is it the right thing to do for someone running for the BOS or BOF to focus on life's challenges from years ago rather than why they are running or their positions on the issues important to Colchester citizens. It not only hurts those individuals but their family members as well.

As elected officials we have a responsibility to not be Democrats or Republicans but individuals who can represent all citizens of our town. The citizens of Colchester deserve elected officials who believe in public service, focus on the issues, and can make decisions in the best interest of all of us. Let's get back to that because Colchester deserves no less.

**Sincerely,
Rosemary Coyle – Colchester**

Note: Coyle is a member of the Colchester Board of Selectmen but said she is speaking as an individual.

Supports Maruschock

To the Editor:

I am writing in support of Kim Nagy Maruschock for Portland Board of Education. Kim holds a bachelor's degree for general education at UConn, a master's degree for special education from CCSU and a Leadership Sixth Year degree from CCSU. Over the past 20 years Kim has worked as a special education teacher and program coordinator in Cromwell with responsibilities that include staffing, budgets, grant management and policy writing to provide the best education for each student.

When elected, Kim will be the only practicing educational professional on the BOE, which will bring a practical approach to the board that will benefit the educational needs of the students with the knowledge of the budgetary process.

As a member of the community Kim has been a board member of the Portland Little league, an outspoken advocate at BOE meetings and at BOS meetings as an animal advocate. Kim and her husband Scott have three children, presently enrolled in Portland Public schools and lead by example the importance of community. Kim has earned my confidence that she is ready and qualified to take on the challenges the BOE will be addressing over the next few years.

Please join me in voting for Kim Nagy Maruschock on Nov. 2.

Don Roy – Portland

Reader Forum • Reader Forum

We All Serve

To the Editor:

My name is Ted Turner and I am running for Board of Finance in November. I am currently serving on this board as a Democrat and would like to continue serving. Your vote for me is very special and I will make decisions keeping the voters in mind.

I am a lifelong resident of East Hampton and love this town! I attended East Hampton schools. I am a proud Vietnam vet and am happy to be the service officer at the VFW. I spend time helping our vets with benefits so their day-to-day life is happier. I served as post commander for two years.

I presently serve as a member of the Economic Development Commission and am a past president of the Old Home Day Committee, where I served as a member for 25 years.

Please consider a vote for me on Nov. 2!

**With thanks,
Ted Turner – East Hampton**

Seeking Election

To the East Hampton Residents:

My name is Brandon Goff and I am seeking election to the East Hampton Town Council as a Republican. As an East Hampton native and homeowner with deep family roots, a 2014 East Hampton High School graduate and a current Brownstone Redevelopment Agency member, I have a lot of pride in our community. That's why my fiancée and I moved back here after my active duty tour on the Submarine USS Maine out in Washington State.

Experience does not always mean you are good at what you do, and in our town it just means it has been the same candidates running leaving us with limited choices. My focus is to provide more transparency and communication with our departments and committees to create better plans for their needed expenditures. Reach out to experienced grant writers that know how to receive funds without raising taxes, and provide support to promote businesses and growth in our town.

I plan on providing more progress in the repair and redevelopment in our infrastructure like the towns Company 1 Firehouse and of our historical Brownstone buildings in the Main Street area. Making our town safe with effective equipment, busy with business and affordable to live in is why I am running and ask for your vote.

**Sincerely,
Brandon Goff**

East Hampton Town Council Candidate

Running for RHAM Board

Dear Editor:

My name is Maura Curran Baker, and I am running for the RHAM Board of Education. I have lived in Hebron since 2002. My husband and I have two children that attended the Hebron and RHAM schools, one in college and one at RHAM High School.

My family has been active in school, sports, music, Scouts and church activities in Hebron. I was a longtime Girl Scout leader and am a member of the Church of the Holy Family. In addition, I have worked as an actuary at Travelers Insurance for 26 years. My passion for education and community activities, combined with my background in business and as a working mother, will help me continue the important work of the Board of Education for our local school system.

As a prospective member of the RHAM Board of Education, I advocate for following relevant health recommendations like masking to make sure our students continue in-person learning full-time and for ensuring respectful discussion of issues relating to our schools. I am interested in issues relating to inclusion of all students in RHAM's excellent education and activities. My years as a working mother interacting with the Hebron and RHAM school systems position me well to advocate for the best possible education and opportunities for all students and for ensuring that school decisions work well for all families. I am honored to run for the Board of Education and for the opportunity to work on behalf of RHAM's students, teachers and staff, as well as the taxpayers, to further our excellent school system.

Please vote on Nov. 2, and please consider voting for me and my Hebron Democrat co-candidates!

Maura Curran Baker – Hebron

Colchester's Election

To the Editor:

In three weeks, we will have a referendum of sorts to determine our first selectman. I say referendum because the goal is to select someone based on their qualifications, not popularity.

If Colchester was selecting a town manager, the job would be advertised, resumes collected and graded. A board would ask a set of prepared questions to each candidate and the answers graded, the most points being the first choice.

Applying the same intent, Mr. Bisbikos would fail to earn an interview. He has only six years' experience serving on the Economic Development Committee, most meetings canceled for lack of an agenda. Another six years disrupting our Board of Finance, admittedly the "most" conservative member cutting money for parks, fields, streets, buildings, etc. I don't remember a line of applicants to the BOF six years ago; his experience at that time: two years of teaching social studies. No mortgage, no family budget, nothing but college. I thought I knew everything when I was 25 years old!

Opposing is Ms. Bylone, a polarizing person with decades of experience creating and administering budgets, leading an 1,800-person nursing department. Hartford Healthcare has sure grown over the past 25 years! Her municipal experience is outweighed by her professional skills rescuing us during a worldwide pandemic; unpopular to us all were confining isolation, mask wearing and recommended washing

everything! Twice-daily video updates, many free testing stations conveniently in town and finally local vaccination clinics. How many Colchester lives have been saved?

She, without question, is the best choice for Colchester to continue moving forward. Please vote on Nov. 2 for Mary Bylone, first selectman, and her team of dedicated and qualified candidates!

**Ron Silberman
Concerned Colchester Citizen**

Independent for Jim

To the Editor:

As one of Portland's many registered – but unaffiliated – voters, I pride myself on voting for candidates whom I believe will do the best job for Portland, not necessarily the candidate a party endorses. At the local level, we need to be hyper-focused on results to help our small town that has limited resources. This year, Portland has two good candidates to continue the great work that has been done. As each major party has argued, both Ryan Curley and Jim Tripp have expertise to draw on that qualifies them for the position of first selectman. I have met both candidates and I like both of them personally.

However, I have been fortunate to witness Jim Tripp's commitment to this town up close over several years while our kids went through middle and high school together. It was not enough for Jim to just go and cheer on his kids, which he did countless times. He also volunteered in nearly everything possible – whether it was building sets for class plays, chaperoning cross-country camping trips, or volunteering to assist with band functions. Jim never did any of these as a photo-op, or for any kind of endorsement, but to make sure our kids had the best experience possible. Jim's volunteerism seems to be endless, and his leadership has proven to be extremely effective with the Brownstone Quorum, the Lions Club, and official town business.

While I do not doubt Ryan Curley's commitment to this town, for me Jim Tripp has proven his values, and proven that he will not stop working across political parties to make Portland a better place tomorrow. Please join me in supporting Jim Tripp for First Selectman.

Dave Berthiaume – Portland

Professionalism

Dear Colchester Residents:

Nov. 2nd's election is just weeks away and the ugliness of local politics is at its sad peak. It doesn't have to be that way.

While serving on the Board of Finance, I have always tried to remember that while we may disagree with each other, we are all neighbors sharing this Colchester community. Our local government can only be successful when we work together to seek common ground. Principles are important...not everything is up for compromise...but respect for each other is important too.

I work in municipal government for a small neighboring town where I hear from residents across the political, economic, and social spectrum every day. I work hard for every one of them, because that's my job – and I love doing it. I bring that professional mindset to our Colchester Board of Finance.

While campaigning, I have heard from many of you about the issues affecting our community. We've had some great conversations - some where we agreed and others where we disagreed. My promise to every voter has been that even when we don't agree, I will listen to you, try to understand your position, and keep in mind how my actions on BOF affect all residents, not just those in one political corner.

If you've seen our Board of Finance meetings in the last two years, then you know I have progressive values but that I am fiscally very moderate when it comes to town government. Balance is key. If you believe your elected officials need to act with professionalism, integrity, and respect, then on Nov. 2, vote for me, Bernard Dennler III, for Board of Finance.

Bernard Dennler III – Colchester

Support for Giannelli

To the Editor:

I am writing in strong support for Liz Gianelli's candidacy for Marlborough Board of Education. She is a tireless activist, a community helper, and a breath of fresh air. One of the things I admire about Liz is the enormous energy and passion she brings to anything involving quality education. She values and portrays all ideals required to be of service to any great organization. Liz encourages open dialogue, keeps an open mind, and can see all viewpoints before coming to an educated decision. As a parent of young school-aged children herself, I think she will be especially sensitive to the matters of parents in this community.

In addition, her professional background as an educator and her knowledge in this area make her equally sensitive to the interests of school staff. Her personality and experience perfectly encompass a much-needed balance of advocacy, all while providing the best education choices for our school.

If elected, I believe Liz will be a leader committed to serving all students and staff inclusively and equitably. She is optimistic about the future and is ready to roll up her sleeves for the students and the families in the town she loves.

Jasmin LeBlanc – Marlborough

A Dud, A Coward

Attention Colchester Voters:

Have you watched the videos from the Colchester Business Association (CBA) of the First Selectman Candidate Q&A at the Polish Club on Sept. 5? If you haven't, you owe it to yourself to watch them and get informed. You can find the video on Mary Bylone's site: <https://marybylone.com/debates/> or, if you prefer, on YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1H-8RL99vQs>.

com/watch?v=1H-8RL99vQs.

Mary spoke extemporaneously, very intelligently, was very well organized and prepared. Her opponent, OTOH, was a dud, needing to read from a clipboard for anything he said, seemed totally unprepared, and spoke not very convincingly. Is it any wonder why he has weaseled out of the proposed formal debate at Bacon Academy for a much wider audience? Is he afraid of being exposed as a coward, immature, deficient in governing knowledge and knows Mary will run circles around him? His lacking of evidence, giving generalities, has cheated the Young Democrats and Young Republicans from a chance to participate and learn about democracy and government in formal debate. Is it because he has no governing experience, qualifications, leadership skills, and none of the experience that Mary has? What is Mary's opponent afraid of? Is he afraid he will be exposed as weak, sniveling little twit who is rude, and viciously attacks Mary?

Tricia Heldmann – Colchester

Why Just Democrats?

To the Editor:

Gary, you're going to have to reply a little louder next time; I'm having trouble reading your letter over Don Denley yelling about the governor and saying it's "time for the Democrats to start abiding by this revered document."

I checked over my scrapbooked letter to find my spelling mistake, the "s" after your last name, I must have gotten a different edition of the *Riverast News Bulletin*; I referenced your last name three times and did not find an "s". I scrapbook only my letters, I don't have the spare time to scrapbook anyone else's.

Mr. Denley, why just the Democrats? Why not the American Republican Party? The America First Party? The Proletarian Party of America? And The Rent is Too Damn High Party. All real historical parties, the last one formed in 2005. Why do you absolve the Green, Libertarian, other parties and the Republican Party (how dare I suggest Republicans abide by it as well) from abiding by this revered document?

I do have reverence for the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, and the Constitution of the United States. I swore an oath to the Constitution when I joined the Marine Corps. I would hope that everyone regardless of individual particulars would read these documents.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Eric Manning – Andover**

Thank You, Mom & Dad

Dear Colchester Residents:

Upon joining the race for First Selectman, my parents and their family business have been subject to vile and unsubstantiated assertions by those who wish to hurt me through them. As a political candidate, I understand the risks of playing in the sandbox – but I am disappointed that the first selectman won't condemn her supporters nor that the write-in candidate won't stop spreading false claims.

My parents have been a bedrock of this community for 34 years. They came to the United States in order for my sister and me to live a better life. They established their business, Colchester Pizza, and have proudly served the community. We didn't come from money; we were poor. My parents taught my sister and me the values of hard work and determination. They taught us the importance of family, tradition, and community. Memories of my dad taking to me Hartford Whalers games and my mom prepping me to be the fifth grade geography bee champion are ones I'll never forget.

"Coach Biz" is what my dad was called when he was guiding the Bacon Academy women's soccer team to division titles. Everyone loved my dad. My mom was a para at the schools and was involved in a variety of community-based events. She is a sweet person with a big heart. Together they have contributed to countless causes. They have never hurt anyone nor have they ever broken any law. Yet, a certain state representative claiming to "like" my family is encouraging a candidate who is spreading untruths.

No matter what is said about my family, nothing will break our love for this community.

**Sincerely,
Andreas Bisbikos
Colchester First Selectman Candidate**

Would Be Stellar Addition

To the Editor:

We are so lucky to have such a wonderful candidate running for the Board of Education here in Marlborough. Kerri Barella would be a stellar addition to our board of Education. I have known Kerri for 6+ years and in that time, she has become very involved in her children's education as well as the education of all the children of Marlborough.

Kerri is an experienced special education teacher with great knowledge of how the system works, and what students need in order to be successful in school. She also has worked to get her BCBA to be able to assist the school districts with those students who need extra behavioral support. Kerri is involved in Marlborough Elementary school and has sat on the Parent Advisory Committee, The Reopening Committee, as well as being involved on a classroom level volunteering her time. Kerri's background in teaching is an excellent asset when it comes to making decisions that will be the best for guiding the education of the children in Marlborough. She is passionate about making sure the education the students receive is top-notch.

Kerri is very involved in MOMS Club of Marlborough as well; she is currently the president and has sat on the board for several years. She is an asset to MOMS Club and helps to ensure the club runs well. Kerri works well with all people and is always open to everyone's opinions. She listens and really thinks about what people have to say. She takes their opin-

ions to heart and makes decisions based on the facts. She is levelheaded and a good decision maker. She thrives under pressure and makes sure that before decisions are made all sides of the argument has been discussed.

Kerri Barella will make sure that what is best for the students of Marlborough is reflected in the decisions that are made by the Board of Education.

Megan Tracey – Marlborough

Excited to Help

To the Editor:

As a 38-year-long resident of Hebron, I care deeply about the town, its people, and its beautiful landscape. I have been fortunate to serve on various town committees and organizations including the Hebron Greater Together Community Fund Advisory Committee, the Hebron Coalition for Diversity and Equity, the Town Center Project, the Democratic Town Committee, Hebron Troop 28, and the Gilead and Hebron Elementary Schools Building Committee.

As a nationally certified urban planner and licensed landscape architect, I have over 42 years of experience in urban planning and community development. I have focused my career on creating more livable, sustainable, and equitable communities. I now wish to apply my planning knowledge and skills to improve the town and to protect its valued natural resources. I particularly want to contribute to the improvement of Hebron Town Center to make the heart of Hebron more vibrant – socially, culturally, and economically. I am asking for your vote on the Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission. I look forward to working with other boards and commissions to make Hebron an even better place than the town that has given so much to me and my family.

Vote Sousa for Planning and Zoning. Thank you!

Dave Sousa – Hebron

Reelect Benson-Clarke

To the Editor:

I fully endorse Judy Benson-Clarke for reelection to the RHAM Board of Education. I know Judy personally, for I worked with Judy on the RHAM board for many years. Judy is a very dedicated person when it comes to education; she has been in the field of education for most of her adult life and has been employed in many important positions in education.

She is a mother, with two daughters, who she really adores and rightfully so, for Judy is a loving person to many. Judy believes in giving back and sharing the love and knowledge she has, and using her talents to benefit each and every student at RHAM, so each student receives the best possible education available.

I believe Judy to be a great addition to the RHAM board and that she should be reelected, for it would be a great loss to students if she was replaced by someone else. So I say, vote for Judy.

Thomas Tremont – Hebron

Barella for School Board

To the Editor:

I would like to endorse Kerri Barella for Marlborough's Board of Education. I feel that Kerri would give our district a strong perspective and voice with her background as a former educator, and her involvement in the town. I have worked with her for several years on the board for the Marlborough MOMS Club, and know firsthand her dedication and commitment to making our community better is unwavering. She is fair, understanding, and will advocate for all of our children.

Andrea Kelly – Marlborough

Kinney Road Common Sense

To the Editor:

I was glad to read other residents of Hebron standing up to oppose the proposed Public Works facility on Kinney Road. Mr. Carlson's letter last week offered 30 years of perspective on life in Hebron, as well as just plain common sense. I also live in Hebron for its rural charm and natural beauty. And I too question the idea of putting an industrial Public Works facility across the street from a successful and popular nature preserve.

Like Mr. Carlson, I enjoy walking the trails of the Raymond Brook Preserve and often come across turkeys, deer, rabbits, turtles and a wide variety of birds. I have even seen a bobcat running across the street from the preserve into the farm fields on the other side of Kinney Road. And every May it is a treat to see the snapping turtles come upstream from the Preserve's pond and lay their eggs in the sandy soil along the edge of Kinney Road. The snapping turtle is a protected species in Connecticut and it is important to keep their habitat safe. The effects of a Public Works facility and the heavy truck traffic in the area would certainly disperse many of the animals that call the area home.

And this doesn't even take into consideration the health of the watershed. Vast quantities of groundwater is funneled off the 17 Kinney Road area and into the Preserve's pond as it heads towards the Raymond Brook and the Raymond Brook Marsh Aquifer. The increased traffic, the proposed garage, a 2,000-ton salt shed and an industrial truck wash clearly poses a threat to this important water system.

For more information, maps and photos please visit Kinney Road Matters on Facebook.

**Sincerely,
Kevin J. Tulimieri – Amston**

Honored to Run

To the Editor:

I am honored to run for Regional School District 8 Board of Education with Maura Baker and Claudia Riley on the Democratic ticket in Hebron. I am running for the Board of Education because I believe we

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have a responsibility to contribute to our communities where we work and live. I have lived in Hebron for more than 20 years and have two children that are in the school district.

Hebron is facing a great deal of change in the coming years and there are several key issues that require the community's input. We will be hiring a new superintendent that will lead the middle and high school for years to come. We are still facing the health challenges as a result of the pandemic. As we return to some sort of normal, we must continue to keep our schools a safe place for our children to learn. The community is facing a decision on how to replace the existing and failing field that is used by football, soccer, lacrosse, cheerleading, track and field, pep band, dance team and residents, to name a few. It is a gathering space for the community and visitors from other towns.

There are many ideas and opinions on all of these topics. I am confident in my ability to listen and collaborate with people with diverse opinions that will result in a more inclusive and supportive community.

I encourage everyone to make a plan to get out and vote on Nov. 2. It is so important to have your voice heard. Municipal elections directly impact your household and your children. I ask for your support and I will do my best to represent the community equitably.

Heather Summerer – Hebron

Divide and Conquer

To the Editor:

Scientists and medical professionals often disagree on health issues. As long as they can continue in dialogue and openly study and review different opinions, they often discover the best direction to proceed on new and better cures for various illnesses.

Unfortunately, when one group refuses to openly consider other studies and results that just may be successful in being an optional cure, the scientific method no longer works.

I have mentioned before to follow the money to discover the reason why one group will dig in and promote only their point of view. Cases in point, ivermectin is more than just a horse de-wormer and hydroxychloroquin is more than a malaria drug. Unfortunately, drug companies can't make billions by supporting those drugs, whereas they can make billions selling a drug that has not been proven safe for humans.

One person stated that I made "unwarranted attacks on Dr. Fauci and by his reference to notorious quack Joseph Mercola." Everyone is entitled to their own biased opinion, just as I have my own biased opinions on a number of events. However, I try to keep an open mind and Dr. Mercola doesn't have any "skin in the game" as Fauci has in relation to the injections being pushed on the world to the point that governments are becoming dictatorships as opposed to remaining a free and open society.

To be clear, I did not vote for President Trump in 2016 because I did not know him and only knew of him through the little I read. I did not like his personality and his tweeting as president, yet I did vote for him in 2020 because I liked many of the results he achieved while president.

Bottom line, vote on results and not on personality.

Gary Gile – Andover

A Vote for Freedom

To the Editor:

As the campaign continues, I am often perplexed at what people focus on. I have never associated myself with either political party. Even when I was active duty military, I always registered as "Independent" because I saw good ideas on both sides of the aisle. I recently went "Republican" because the Democrats obviously no longer believe in American values. I have been described as an "incurable optimist" and have always believed most people have good intentions. Instead of focusing on minor errors in newspapers or on campaign signs, pay more attention to their actual content. I am just so confused at how anyone can not vote for things like "freedom" and "power to parents" over their own children.

I have also seen people say Republicans have "vowed" to get the mask mandates lifted from schools even though it is now mandated by the state and federal government. They associated this with deception and false promises. I truly wish this person would read more carefully because it just isn't true. The stance of "parental choice" when it comes to masking kids is just that...a stance. It means when the decisions hopefully come back to our local communities, we will stand for our rights as adults and parents to make decisions for our children. This same person actually cited that we would lose federal funding if we went against mask mandates and said our children would have "less." I don't know about you, but I believe less is more! If they don't have the best tablets but they are able to see each other smile, suffer less depression/anxiety and learn more effectively, then the feds can have their money!

**Michael Buck
Candidate for East Hampton
Board of Education**

Which Colantonio?!

Dear Marlborough Neighbors:

Yes, two! There are two Colantonios running in this election! Both dedicated frontline workers, both committed to community service, each Angela (BOE) and Eric (zoning) deserve your votes. Today, I'm writing about why we need Angela for the Marlborough Board of Education!

Angela, as a parent and pediatric nurse, makes tough choices every day as they relate to the well-being of children. She prioritizes children's safety and physical and emotional well-being in life. School

is our kids' daytime world so what they do and learn there is critical to their future. She knows developing a growth mindset is critical for every child's success. A professional in a challenging field, Mrs. Colantonio values solid curriculum and academic choices and developing a strong work ethic. She's motivated by passion for children, guided by facts, and makes decisions based on objective information. I trust her expertise as a nurse and experience with children to guide our schools through this historic medical challenge! Marlborough's BOE needs her!

During this time of high stress as an essential worker, Angela's commitment did not waver. Gentle heart in hand, responsibly masked, Angela continued her nursing and nurturing in the challenging hospital environment. She models courage, compassion, and well-reasoned actions for the benefit of others, their health, and well-being.

As a collaborator, Angela works well in groups and takes leadership roles. She listens and fiercely advocates for those without a voice. Our young people need such an advocate! Our BOE and MES community need Angela Colantonio on board!

**Encouraged citizen,
Donna Koropatkin – Marlborough**

Supports Tripp

To the Editor:

I first met Jim Tripp when he volunteered with the Brownstone Quorum more than 20 years ago and I am writing to support Jim Tripp for first selectman. Jim is an educated, experienced leader and tireless community volunteer. He is a knowledge gatherer, avid listener, problem-solver, and most importantly, a team leader – all the skills a job in municipal government requires. A first selectman must make the people of Portland the top priority, have the experience and ability to make government function, and be willing to work across the aisle. Portland faces many critical decisions over the next few years – establishing a new water supply, brownfield redevelopment, and infrastructure improvements to name a few. Jim is ready to step into the job on day one.

Please join me in supporting Jim Tripp on Nov. 2.

**Sincerely,
Bernadette Dillon – Portland**

Buck for Belltown BOE

To the Editor:

Mike Buck is an honorable, trustworthy, and committed individual devoted to his family and his country. He has spent a lifetime dedicated to service, demonstrated through his time in the U.S. Air Force and later in law enforcement.

Mike Buck has spent the last 20 years serving others and he wishes to continue to serve his community by joining the East Hampton Board of Education. He will act in the best interest of our children's education.

Joe Bennett – East Hampton

Likes Steinhauser, Graves

To the Editor:

I'm encouraging my Portland neighbors to support Laurel Steinhauser and April Graves to the Portland Board of Selectmen.

John F. Kennedy once asked, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." Ms. Steinhauser and Ms. Graves have consistently demonstrated this sentiment for Portland. Both have shown up and spoken out for people who may not be getting a fair deal.

My compliments to our current Portland Board of Selectmen for setting high bars of civility, competency, and thoughtful progress. Laurel and April would be wonderful contributors to those standards.

As always, my thanks to all candidates who have stepped up and are willing to serve as a public official.

**Regards,
Andy Bauer – Portland**

COVID-19

To the Editor:

From the start, anyone challenging the prevailing orthodoxy of the COVID-19 authorities has been accused of perpetuating misinformation harmful to people. The truth is exactly the opposite, as it usually is when dealing with progressives. The true misinformation being spread is that we will be protected from the virus by wearing masks, quarantining healthy people, and injecting ourselves with mRNA vaccines.

Most egregious is the fraudulent discrediting of the safety and effectiveness of therapeutics utilized for many decades in countering inflammation initiated by viral agents. COVID-19 is a bi-phasic illness initially starting as a viral infection, and then progressing after 7-10 days into an inflammatory stage where its most harmful effects occur. It's critical to address the illness in its early stages to prevent progression into the inflammatory stage. Results are extraordinary when accomplishing this.

Both hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) and ivermectin have demonstrated amazing success in preventing the illness from progressing to the inflammatory stage when administered soon after the onset of symptoms. Both of these inexpensive drugs, when used prophylactically, have demonstrated tremendous capacity to prevent contraction of the virus. African countries, long using HCQ prophylactically against malaria, have mere fractions of the COVID-19 death rates experienced in America.

Dr. Pierre Kory (pulmonologist at St. Luke's Medical Center) testified before the Senate and claimed that 30 recent studies since the end of August have proven the incredible efficacy of ivermectin both as a prophylactic and a therapeutic. He found it unconscionable that this ridiculously inexpensive drug wasn't already being widely utilized and distributed to Americans. One of India's largest states, follow-

ing widespread utilization of ivermectin, has all but eliminated COVID-19 despite its miniscule vaccination rate.

The CDC/FDA have provided nothing but falsehoods from the onset. Who knows if it's just financial or more nefarious?

Sam Prentice – Andover

They Were Only Words

To the Editor:

I have been living in Colchester now almost three years; I have to say it is a quaint little town with a tremendous amount of people who really care about their community, and this is why I am writing this.

I worked many years under Mary Bylone's management and saw myself how she treated individuals in the work place; her honesty, integrity and compassion was zero! Her words were genuine but they were only words; her actions spoke loudly about her character. "Colchester is kind" and needs true honesty and compassion, not just words, to keep our town growing in a positive environment.

Laurie Murphy – Colchester

Requesting Your Ideas

Dear Hebron Friends and Neighbors:

One of the main reasons I love knocking on doors is not just to meet your wonderful dogs and other furry friends, but to listen, which I believe is the number one priority of any candidate seeking local office.

By listening to you at your door, I learn something new. I learn about your hopes for the town; your concerns; your questions; and my priority is not to promise you an answer, but to promise you that I'll find one and share it with you. Transparency is the hallmark of a healthy government, and that is what I am committed to if I am elected selectperson.

As a former journalist, I pride myself on being a great listener as well as asking the tough questions to get answers. It's important to ask these questions civilly and respectfully, and that is something that I will bring to the board as well.

As we emerge from this pandemic, it is key that we have elected boards and officials guiding us back to a new normal. This means examining what has worked in the past and what can work differently in the future. Every business, town, and local government has this challenge ahead of them, and it is one that I am ready to tackle head-on. I'm ready to roll up my sleeves and do the work to make productive decisions that benefit the town of Hebron.

And, I pledge to listen. If elected, I will make myself available for drop-in sessions where I can hear your concerns and bring them back to the board.

I very much hope to earn your support on Nov. 2.

**Most sincerely,
Tiffany V. Thiele
Candidate for Hebron BOS**

Support Dennler and Chapman

To the Editor:

I support incumbent Bernie Dennler and endorsed candidate Scott Chapman for the six-year seats on the BOF in the upcoming election on Nov. 2. Bernie is a lifelong resident of Colchester and is currently the Colchester BOF vice chairman. Bernie works as the office manager to the first selectman in a neighboring municipality. He brings his municipal experience and training to help guide the Colchester BOF.

Scott is a veteran and has 17 years of experience as a financial advisor. He owns his own local business. Scott brings a commonsense approach to bringing a fiscally responsible budget forward while maintaining the lowest tax burden possible. He believes in analyzing spending and making decisions that will keep Colchester safe and continuing to move forward.

Please vote for Bernie Dennler and Scott Chapman on Nov. 2. They are two individuals dedicated to serving the people of Colchester.

Michael Hayes – Colchester
Note: Hayes is a member of the Colchester Board of Finance, but said he is writing as an individual.

Bylone and Bisbikos Debate

To the Editor:

Unfortunately, there may not be an opportunity to see the first selectman candidates' debate publicly because it doesn't look like an open dialogue at Bacon Academy is going to happen.

The CBA debate was an excellent chance for business owners to learn more about the difference between Mary Bylone and her opponent. The 30-minute debate was recorded in full and shows a stark contrast between the two. It is well worth watching.

It's important to note that voters learn as much as they can about their choices by seeing the candidates in action. The CBA debate recording may be your only chance. Log onto marybylone.com and find the tab called "Debates." The debate is there in its entirety. You'll be glad you took the time to see your options before you vote on Nov. 2.

Yvette Paradise-Dee – Colchester

Mary Bylone for First Selectman

To the Editor:

Mary Bylone, Colchester's first selectman for the last two years, has repeatedly demonstrated her leadership and commitment to Colchester's residents. Mary was in her role as first selectman for approximately four months when the COVID-19 pandemic impacted our state and Colchester. Mary's health and professional background immediately put her into a react and respond mode. Her daily updates through Facebook and other social media platforms assured Colchester residents that their health and lives were in her best interest. Residents were made aware of resources and assistance that were available to them. Throughout the last 23 months, Mary has repeatedly shown her strength and willingness to work tire-

lessly and diligently for the residents of this town. Her responsiveness and availability to all who want to approach her with questions, concerns or issues is remarkable. Mary is available to all who reach out to her. Her "I can assist and help" attitude is exemplary.

As chair of the Commission on Aging, I am appreciative of the many meetings that Mary has attended, always with an encouraging and positive attitude for our thoughts, concerns and questions. Her commitment to a new senior center as well as her support for our programs and activities is reinforcement of her demonstrated commitment to our senior population.

I wholeheartedly support Mary's re-election as First Selectman. Colchester's growth, economic development, continued improvement to roads and sidewalks, upgrades to recreation fields and the children's playground, beautification of our Town Green and the betterment of the lives and well-being of all residents of Colchester, can only be enhanced with Mary as our continued leader. Mary has my vote. I ask you to please add your vote to mine and vote for Mary Bylone for first selectman on Nov. 2, 2021.

Marge Mlodzinski – Colchester

Note: Mlodzinski is chairman of the Commission on Aging but said she is speaking as an individual.

Portland Ballot Clarification

To the Editor:

On Nov. 2, Portland residents will have an opportunity to vote for the new set of leaders for the town government. While on the campaign trail this year, it has come to our attention that there is some confusion on how the town's voting ballot is set up for the Board of Selectmen. This section of the ballot has four pairs of Democrat and Republican candidates. Some take it that they are supposed to select one person in each pair, as they may have done in the past. But that is not how the voting works. Voters can select up to any four of the eight candidates that they would like to see on the Board, regardless of what pairs they appear in. Then the top six vote-getters are elected. So, we are not just running against the person under our name on the ballot but in essence all other candidates.

We are calling this to your attention so there would be no confusion. Ralph and Mike P. are paired together, and you can vote for both, either or neither of us. Same applies for April and Michael H. We all appreciate and want to thank the residents for coming out and taking advantage of their right to vote.

**Ralph Zampano – Portland Deputy
First Selectman and Candidate
Michael Pelton – Portland Selectman
and Candidate**

**Michael Hernandez – Portland Selectman and
Candidate**

**April Graves - Candidate for
Portland's Board of Selectmen**

Note: Though Zampano, Pelton and Hernandez are members of the Portland Board of Selectmen, they stressed they are speaking as individuals.

Supports Bisbikos

To the Editor:

I served on the BOF alongside Andreas Bisbikos for the past five budget seasons. I am writing my letter of support for Andreas as first selectman. Andreas has a vision for our community that is specific, attainable and will move Colchester forward with financial strength, integrity. As a teacher & elected official Andreas has consistently demonstrated a high level of understanding complex municipal budgets, prioritizing fiscal responsibilities and crafting solutions in unresolved issues.

I greatly admire his vision for our town where I am confident his tenets – affordability, transparency, economic development and tradition – are achievable with his leadership. These tenets will drive the budgetary conversation by opening the doors to financial data we currently lack, mindful of what it financially takes to run the town while feeding forward momentum.

Our dedication as elected officials is rooted in doing the right thing, protecting the tax dollar and meeting the needs of our town with its ability to pay. I will remind that Mary asking for a 8.24% increase in spending, in a pandemic (resulting in a 5% increase) was outside any of those bounds. I feel voters understood this therefore 0% was passed. Our debates were labor intensive, non-visionary and far too difficult to get real information. I believe with Andreas as FS, a fiscally sound budget that will meet our towns needs while moving us forward can be expected.

Andreas further possesses experience dealing with not only local but regional and state legislation. He has a voice with other local leaders and has gained respect from the small business community understanding their challenges to operate in our town.

With enthusiasm I support Andreas for first selectman.

Andrea Migliaccio – Colchester

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

Skorski Has My Vote!

To the Editor:

Wes Skorski has my vote for Marlborough Board of Education. My confidence in Wes has nothing to do with which political party he belongs to or is supported by; it has to do with the positive traits that enable him to be an excellent Board of Education member.

Wes is currently chairperson of the Marlborough Board of Education. I have attended Board of Ed meetings, and Wes interacts respectfully with members to support policies and practices that will enhance the educational experience for all MES students. He is an independent thinker who is not driven by party politics, biases, or agendas. He is most con-

Reader Forum • Reader Forum

cerned about how he and fellow board members can help MES staff and administration attain all necessary resources in a fiscally-responsible manner.

I had the privilege of working alongside Wes and other volunteers to support the return of a world language program to the MES curriculum years ago. Wes listens to all sides of an issue. He values the expertise and guidance from MES administration and staff. He works diligently and ethically as a team member to accomplish tasks that support an excellent educational experience for MES students. He understands the importance of assuring that MES remains the top-notch elementary school that it has been for so long.

The most impressive traits that Wes possesses enable him to be a wonderful single father. He lost his wife Audrey after a brief illness in 2020. Wes has risen to the challenge of raising his children on his own with compassion, thoughtfulness, and dedication. These traits are ones he exhibits in all of his roles, including board member.

**Sincerely,
Lisa Seethaler – Marlborough**

Supports Holden

To the Editor:

I'm writing in support of Anna Holden's candidacy for Marlborough Elementary Board of Education. As a former science teacher and a mother of school aged children Anna will be a focused, motivated and compassionate BOE member. As a current member of another town committee, she has proven her commitment to working towards the best possible Marlborough.

I've always been impressed by how carefully Anna thinks about issues, both large and small, and when elected I know that she will make well informed, fact based decisions on all questions posed to the Board of Education. She has my full support.

Marin Ranta – Marlborough

The Best Candidates

To the Editor:

Together with Jim Tripp for first selectman, we are voting for Ralph Zampano, John Dillon, Laurel Steinhauer and April Graves for the Board of Selectmen. They are by far the best candidates for the Board of Selectmen, having volunteered and served the Town of Portland for many years.

Ralph Zampano is currently the Deputy First Selectman. He is a member of the Water/Sewer Subcommittee, liaison to the Portland Recreational Complex, Economic Development Commission, Parks & Rec Commission, Library Board and Long Range Capital Commission. He served as Chair of the Parks & Rec Commission from 2008-2017, and is a recipient of the Ralph Paley Spirit of Portland Award.

John Dillon is Chairman of the Board of Assessment Appeals, and has served on Inland Wetlands. He was an Assistant Scoutmaster, Vice President of the Portland Fair Association, St. Mary's Parish Council, and is a recipient of the Ralph Paley Spirit of Portland Award.

Laurel Steinhauer is on the Board of Education where she serves on the Policy and Personnel Committees and Conservation/Renewable Energy Task Force. Laurel is the co-chair of the Library Board of Directors. She is a lifelong Girl Scout, having earned the prestigious Gold Award.

April Graves is the chair of the Solidarity Committee and secretary of the Brownfields Redevelopment Focus Group. She is the president/founder of the Chatham Children's Connection, a former president of Portland Little League and former Secretary of the PTO.

As members of the Board of Selectmen they will be committed to developing a Portland-owned water source, fostering economic development, including the clean-up and redevelopment of the Brownfields Riverfront properties, and supporting the needs of our award-winning schools. They will continue to ensure quality police, fire and emergency services, public works, library, youth/senior/family services, parks and recreation. (www.portlandctdc.com/candidates, 860-398-9208)

**Sincerely,
Tom and Susan Bransfield – Portland**

Note: Though Susan Bransfield is currently Portland first selectwoman, she stressed she is writing this as an individual.

Move Portland Forward

To the Editor:

As co-chairperson of the Portland Library Board I have had the pleasure of working with both Laurel Steinhauer, as cochair, and Ralph Zampano, as the liaison from the Board of Selectmen.

Laurel has been heavily involved with the Board on projects including the recent library renovations, has been a part of the Donor Recognition Tree committee and was instrumental in developing and reviewing Library Board policy. She has been a vocal champion of the library at budget hearings, thoroughly researches issues and is always open to hearing all points of view. Laurel's experience on the Library Board as well as the Board of Education give her excellent qualifications to be on the Board of Selectmen.

Ralph Zampano's experience as a selectman and his involvement with the construction of the new park were invaluable during the library renovation project. His experience with all phases of the project was very helpful when we had problems or questions. Ralph is always ready to explain Library policy or plans when questions arose at Board of Selectmen meetings. He has always been a strong supporter of the library during budget deliberations.

In my tenure on the Library Board, but especially during our renovation project, it has become very

clear to me how much experience is a necessary asset for our town leaders. I hope you will join me in November to vote for Laurel, Ralph, Jim Tripp and the Democratic slate whose experience will continue to move Portland forward in a positive direction.

**Sincerely,
Margot Chapman – Portland**

Note: While Chapman is co-chair of the Portland Library Board, she stressed she is speaking as an individual.

RTC Team for Portland

To the Editor:

We offer a highly qualified, committed team for Portland's Board of Selectmen. Michael Hernandez, Shaun Manning, Mike Pelton, and Bobby Hetrick are the team Ryan Curley needs to move Portland into the future. The BOS is both the legislative body of the town and our Board of Finance. Our team is committed to progress and understands their roles; to promote public safety, maintain and improve our infrastructure, raise and allocate revenue, meeting both the town's long-term and short-term needs. They will promote smart growth, making Portland a more affordable, attractive community, with growing businesses, increased economic activity and an expanding tax base. A growing business base helps reduce the tax burden now upon homeowners and is a path benefiting our entire community.

There was criticism in two of last week's letters to the editor, taking exception to comments made about tactics sometimes used by the BOS majority. They offered no substance, and there was a lot of deflecting bluster. Those interested need only look at some recent BOS activity. On Sept. 22, the majority seated people into vacant board/commission seats. Cast aside were longer-serving, minority party alternates who should've been advanced. The appointments were not, in accordance with past practice, discussed in advance with the minority members. Also, at that meeting a major new resolution was presented creating a new town board. The resolution was not offered for review or discussed in advance with minority members.

This new board will have a broad impact, with oversight and directive authority over critical development projects in town. Clearly this authority belongs with the new First Selectman and new BOS. I urge the current BOS on Oct. 20 to reject appointments to this board pending completion of a post-election review.

**Sincerely,
Tim Lavoy, Chair
Portland Republican Town Committee**

BOE Needs Giannelli

To the Editor:

The Marlborough Board of Education needs a person who is dedicated to our children's future, and that person is Liz Giannelli. She has resided in Marlborough for over a decade and is extremely dedicated to our community. When her name is heard or seen around town, the words that are associated are compassion, dedication and positivity.

Liz taught in Glastonbury Public Schools for many years and has a deep understanding of what our children need and deserve to be successful. Liz has done so much for our community and I know that everyone in this town has seen her incredible results. She turned a horrific incident from Big Y into a way for the community to show love and support. We need someone who will not only advocate for our children, but also be a role model for them.

Having children of my own who are and will attend MES, I know Liz Giannelli is the best choice for the Marlborough Board of Education and she has my vote!

Jamie DeCaro Smigel – Marlborough

Supports Skorski

To the Editor:

I first met Wes Skorski years ago during a community campaign to restore Spanish to the Marlborough Elementary School and was impressed by his passion for quality education and his dedication to our (then) cause. He then went on to run for the Marlborough Board of Education, where he has shown outstanding commitment and leadership, and is now chair.

A vote for Wes Skorski is a vote for continued excellence and quality education in Marlborough.

Jean Wilson – Marlborough
Note: Wilson is a member of RHAM Board of Education, but said she is speaking as an individual.

Shamelessly Biased

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter as a shamelessly biased proponent of Kimberley Nagy-Maruschock, who is running for the Board of Education in Portland. Despite my obvious favoritism, I can state without any reservation that she is extremely qualified to assist with all aspects of running an effective and inclusive district. Her wealth of experience as an educator and coordinator dealing with state and federal education law, budgeting, and insight into both regular and special education will be a great asset to the board and the students here in town.

I have watched her attain her master's degree in special education, as well as her sixth year degree in educational leadership, both of which she capitalizes on a daily basis in order to be the best teacher possible. Being a public school educator is her passion, it's not just a job.

Two to three hours of extra work a night that include an enormous amount of data entry, report writing, calling parents, collaborating with numerous state agencies, as well as many other important tasks that there simply isn't time for during a "typical" school day, is the norm not the exception. She

carries this amazing work ethic with her in whatever endeavor she undertakes. I'm sure the BOE will be no exception.

She certainly didn't become an educator for fame, accolades or the paycheck. She chose to do this because her personal philosophy is to give everything she can to make sure that the children she has under her care receive nothing but the very best she has to offer. The phrase "good enough" doesn't exist in her lexicon.

I am positive she will continue this "nose to the grindstone" approach to serving on the BOE if elected. Please consider voting for Kim on Nov. 2.

Scott Maruschock – Portland

Support Democratic Ticket

To the Editor:

I would like to take the opportunity to ask the residents of East Hampton to support the Democratic ticket in the upcoming elections on Nov. 2. As a member of the Board of Finance, I have worked with the members of the Town Council, Board of Education and Board of Finance during the last two years and found all members to act in a professional manner. We Democrats have listened to our residents and believe that the positions and actions that we have taken best reflect our residents needs and desires. Democrats have been supportive of increasing the tax base coupled with necessary and prudent spending, and will continue to follow that plan during the next two years. I ask for your support and vote for me, Robert (Bob to most people) Hein and my fellow Democrats.

**Thank You,
Bob Hein
Member and Candidate for
East Hampton Board of Finance**

Party of Big Ideas

To the Editor:

Do you want the party of big signs or the party of big ideas?

The Democratic candidate for first selectman, Jim Tripp, has my vote. He is sharing the big ideas about how he will lead this town over the next two years. He has talked about the issues, he has listened to voters and is ready to act when elected.

The Democratic slate of candidates for selectmen and the Board of Education are outstanding people, have strong skills, ability to listen and share their ideas. They all are ready on day one because they are committed to working together for everyone. It's not about politics; it's about who and what is good for Portland.

Please vote the Democratic ticket – Row A – and elect people who share their big Ideas, have experience and want to make Portland the best place to live.

Meg Scata – Portland
Note: Scata is a member of the Portland Board of Education, but said she is speaking as an individual.

Outrageously Inaccurate

To the Editor:

I am very disappointed by the outrageously inaccurate portrayal of Bernie Dennler by a very small group of individuals.

That said, this distraction makes perfect sense. Because labeling someone as extremist, even if it is shockingly incorrect, will distract some people from reality.

The truth is easy to see for anyone who has attended or listened to any of the Board of Finance meetings where Bernie Dennler has participated.

Bernie is competent, articulate, fair, courteous, and willing to listen. He actively works to build consensus to move the discussion forward in the best interests of the town of Colchester.

It seems like knowing this truth, Bernie might be a pretty hard person not to vote for.

I am proud to be supporting Bernie Dennler and the rest of the Colchester Democrats team so they can keep fighting for all the people of Colchester.

Vincent D. Rose – Colchester

These Lying Eyes

"The party told you to reject the evidence of your eyes and ears. It was their final and most essential command." - 1984

I know no one who has died of CV. My grandmother, who is in her mid-80s and very involved in her hometown for decades, knows no one who has died of CV. My family recently took a two week road trip around New England, camping out and meeting people from all over. We talked to many dozens and none of them knew a single person to die of CV. I'm part of a men's group (50 members)...between all of us we discovered only one CV death – that of a 94-year-old great aunt who had been in a nursing home for years.

I do know many people who have contracted CV, including myself. Everyone I know has made a full and complete recovery. A family member, whose wife was recently triple-vaccinated, and who is himself double vaccinated was diagnosed with CV on Monday. Many people I know who have been vaccinated have had adverse reactions within days of their shots. These include earring loss, vision loss, blood clots, large areas of subcutaneous bruising, migraines that last weeks, feelings of extreme illness lasting days, and two people I know who have died.

Looking at the CV outcomes from other countries that employ "alternative protocols," you can clearly see better results with less deaths compared to countries that have locked down, pushed mandates, and intubated.

The countries that have the highest vaccination numbers (Israel, Gibraltar) are currently experiencing more CV cases than ever before. In Israel you need three shots with a fourth already planned in order to

be considered "fully vaccinated."

What are you seeing?

What are you hearing?

Are you good at following orders?

Colin McNamara – Marlborough

Special Education Struggles

To the Editor:

As candidate for Board of Education, I have stood for getting political views out of our classrooms, fiscal responsibility and more use of the SRO in educating our youth.

Recently, several vocal parents have come to our team to discuss the conditions of the special education program which has compelled me to add this to my priorities. While this is Rosemary Gignac's primary reason for running on our team, I must join her. I was appalled to learn of the struggles some parents face just to get basic needs for their special education child. Repeated attempts to have children tested, requests for better communication or necessary equipment, and outright IEP (Individual Education Plan) violations are very disturbing and should not happen in any school with the most vulnerable of our youth.

This must not stand, and our team will take up this fight. We must win all four Board of Education seats to make a difference. Vote the Republican BOE team on November 2nd.

"The true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members." - Ghandhi

**Sincerely,
Donna Antonacci
Candidate for Colchester Board of Education**

Vote Colantonio

Dear Marlborough Neighbors:

The past 19 months have been an unprecedented time of stress, illness and isolation. As a frontline worker during this pandemic, I have seen firsthand the toll it has taken on both individuals and all of humanity. I write today as both a concerned pediatric nurse and also as a mother. I chose to run as a candidate for the Marlborough Board of Education for several reasons, a couple of which I will share here.

I strongly believe in science, facts and experience. I believe our children should remain masked until the experts say otherwise. As a nurse and fact-based individual, I understand that the experts have far more knowledge about this subject than the general public. When the experts have new information that changes their masking guidelines, then we should update our practice. After all, when we know better, we should do better.

I believe our children deserve the best education possible as their education will be a large part of the foundation for who they will become. Our children are growing up in a time like no other and need people on the Board who will stand up for them and be their voice. Being a nurse, I understand the need to advocate for those who are unable to speak for themselves.

In short, I pledge to be an advocate for science and education. I will stand up for our children and community and keep their best interests at heart.

**Humbly,
Angela Colantonio, Candidate
Marlborough Board of Education**

Dedicated, Experienced

To the Editor:

I endorse Dr. Judy Benson Clarke for the RHAM Board of Education. Judy has decades of experience working in public education and has served many years on the RHAM board.

Judy cares about all children, staff, families and community members. Her dedication and experience has served Marlborough well and Marlborough and the RHAM Community deserves another four years.

**Bob Clarke – Marlborough
Former Marlborough Board of
Education Member**

Playground Part II

Dear Colchester Residents:

I provided some background last week on the playground in our town. Let me give you a timeline and some additional details about the playground and other projects at the Rec Plex.

We will begin digging the trench for the irrigation main to the fields during October. This will allow us to get the irrigation installed to R1 and R2 by spring. We will be installing the remaining donated playground equipment over the next two weeks. We will submit the requests for approximately 8 additional pieces of equipment to the ARPA committee by mid-November. We had several manufacturers come out this past week and take measurements. We have requested a quote for the replacement of the tennis courts and the installation of several pickle ball courts and we are also getting information for the costs of a skate park and the repairs to the Splash Pad with some replacement of some of the water structures. The goal is to get these projects to the ARPA committee by the beginning of December and if approved for funding, work to begin late winter/early spring.

There is a committee of parents meeting with the director of recreation to determine the best choices for additional playground equipment. If you have ideas, please reach out as soon as possible. Decisions will need to be made pretty quickly so the project can be submitted for funding.

Most of the work should be able to be completed before the beginning of summer 2022. There are a few unknowns around contractor scheduling and equipment availability, and we will keep you posted with the updates as we get them. These changes will bring tremendous improvement and provide enjoy-

★ **Letters cont. from page 33**

ment to people of all ages for many years.

Check out my webpage at www.marybylone.com to learn more about my vision for Colchester.

**Sincerely,
Mary Bylone
Colchester First Selectman Candidate**

Water Costs

Dear Portland Residents:

As chairman of the BOS Water and Sewer Subcommittee, I along with selectmen Zampano and Sharr have studied these issues for the last 3 years.

The most immediate challenge we are facing is double-digit rate increases from MDC, effectively 45% over the last 4 years. MDC has indicated rates will continue to rise. After evaluation of various options, the best path forward is to develop our own water sources. It costs us an estimated \$100K per year to operate our well, which provides about 40% of the water we need. Per the 2021-22 budget, MDC costs are projected to be \$857K for the remainder of the required water. Implementing a Portland-owned source of water would shift our water costs toward \$300,000/year versus \$1,000,000/year if we stay with MDC. Even factoring in estimated infrastructure costs to implement new water sources, the cost advantages of implementing a town-owned water supply are evident. Our contract with MDC expires in 2026. We have four years to take control of our own destiny by implementing the \$250K DPH grant to find a Portland owned solution.

Getting control of our water costs must be the priority. I am concerned by some of the campaign rhetoric that seems intended to set the stage to argue for privatizing our water system. Having already evaluated various options, we know this would result in increased cost to water customers.

As first selectman I will focus on moving our water system to a more sustainable cost model. This is crucial to provide relief to folks already on the system, to provide financial resources to perform necessary infrastructure upgrades, and make it more attractive to expand the system in a way that promotes economic development.

For more information, visit www.jimtrippforportland.com.

**Jim Tripp
Candidate for Portland First Selectman**

Manning for Portland

To the Editor:

Portland citizens should be excited about the upcoming election which brings us the opportunity to cast our vote for Shaun Manning. As a candidate for the Board of Selectman, Shaun will bring fresh ideas and solutions to the issues facing the Town of Portland.

As a small business owner, Shaun has had interactions with many of our town departments and can identify opportunities to streamline processes for businesses and residents alike. He has been a member of our Volunteer Fire Department for decades and knows first-hand the challenges facing small town fire and police departments. As a lifelong resident, he has seen the increasing need to develop our commercial tax base in order to alleviate the tax burden on residents.

Shaun will be the voice for citizens concerned about our aging infrastructure, our public safety, and our education. Shaun will think out of the box and is not afraid to come at problems from a new and different angle. Don't tell him something can't be done that way unless you have all the reasons to back it up because he will question everything.

Shaun, partnering with Ryan Curley and his running mates, will give the citizens of Portland a chance to vote for candidates that have Portland's best interest in mind. They truly mean it when they tell you it is about Portland, not Politics.

**Sincerely,
Colleen Briggs – Portland**

Support Michael Nastri

To the Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to ask for your vote of support for Mike Nastri for the Marlborough Board of Finance. I have known him for years as a caring family man, who is active in the community, Boy Scouts and someone who really cares about Marlborough. He has been part of the Board of Finance as an alternate for the past two years where he gained the experience needed to be an effective member of the board. He has shown his strong commitment to supporting our school and our teachers, and the library, and I believe he would work with the other members of the Board of Finance to help our town make the right choices with the limited funding we have to work with.

Please join me in voting for Mike Nastri.

**Sincerely,
Michael Greenwald – Marlborough**

Government Before People

To the Editor:

What does a self-serving government look like? Look no further than the current administration of Colchester.

When Mary removed the OpenGov transparency software from the budget, not a single Democratic official objected. Numerous citizens asked for it to be returned to the budget and the implementation be completed. Democratic officials continue to ignore these requests.

When Mary started unethically paying out salary increases before the budget was passed, not a single

Democratic official objected. They claimed she had no choice and that a legal opinion demanded it. The legal opinion did not demand it. Quite the opposite, actually. True leaders stand up to grossly unethical policies, especially when they believe they have no choice, not defend them.

When the DTC failed to host a public caucus to give registered Democrats a say in who should represent them, not a single Democratic official objected. Why would they? They are part of the political insiders that got to decide for their constituents who would represent them. Included in that group are Board of Selectmen incumbents Denise Turner and Rosemary Coyle.

Because of state regulations on minority representation, they are both guaranteed their seats. No support needs to be earned and no vote can change it. They hand-selected themselves to remain in a position of power, the will of the people be damned. This is antithetical to everything "We the People" stands for. For the record, the RTC gave their constituents a voice. They hosted a public caucus that saw a historic number of voters participate.

No more power driven officials, political insiders holding the keys, or the erasure of citizen voices. The entire Republican slate is devoted to putting an end to this self-serving style of government and returning the power back to its rightful owners – the people.

Jason LaChapelle – Colchester

Zoning Commission Hopeful

To the Editor:

My name is Erik Stomberg, and I am running for Zoning Commission alternate. If elected, this would be my first public office, but I am eager to serve the town of Marlborough. As a steward of the town's zoning codes, I believe I can play a role in delivering economic growth through business development while preserving our town's character and natural treasures.

I grew up in nearby Colchester but have lived in Marlborough since 2013. I have always been impressed with how welcoming everyone we meet in town is. My two daughters attend RHAM Middle School, and my nephew is at MES. I have a bachelor's degree in computer science and engineering from UConn. For the last 15 years, I have worked delivering IT services at Travelers Insurance in Hartford, where I am fortunate enough to have a leadership role. In this position, I have learned that conflict is a natural part of problem solving, but that inclusive collaboration is effective at delivering solutions that work long term.

I have the privilege to campaign with a slate of diverse and professional Democrats. Through their leadership, dedication, and unique experiences, I am convinced we can improve the quality of life for everyone in our community. I ask for your vote on Nov. 2.

Erik Stomberg – Marlborough

Supports Steinhauser

To the Editor:

I am writing in support of Laurel Steinhauser in particular and the Democratic ticket in general. While Laurel has been running for a seat on the Portland Board of Selectpersons, she has been an engine behind the entire slate. She organizes canvassing and community contact activities. She recognizes, along with the entire team, the importance of talking to the voters in Portland.

What I want, as a citizen of Portland, are people who care about everything from education to parks to roads to water. We have that team with Laurel, who has been a dedicated Board of Education member and Jim Tripp who has been committed to every important issue for Portland.

Who is working for your kids and then your sidewalks and then your parks and then your water bill? The Democrats. Please vote for Laurel Steinhauser, Jim Tripp and the entire Democratic ticket in November. If you can't vote in person, please ask for and return an absentee ballot. Remember – every vote counts. Thank you.

Maureen O'Doherty – Portland

Purely Political Decision

To the Editor:

Last week, the Board of Selectmen appointed a new member to the Hebron BOE. While the seat was resigned by a Republican, both the Democratic and Republican Town Committees endorsed potential appointees (there are no rules regarding the political affiliation of an appointed board member).

The DTC was proud to present a candidate with over two decades of experience in education; who holds an MA in Teaching as well as a Ph.D. in Educational Policy. To say that he would have been an asset to the BOE is an understatement. The fact alone that a person with his extensive background was willing and eager to put it to use on our BOE is incredible. One could not imagine a better candidate nor overstate the absolute boon of having a board member with his level of knowledge. When the BOS began asking questions of the candidates, it became clear that the Democratic candidate was vastly more experienced and qualified than the RTC's. However, in a blatant and disheartening partisan move, and with no regard to the statements of the two Democratic members, the Republican-majority BOS took no consideration of qualifications and appointed 'their own'. They repeatedly referred to both candidates as being exceptionally qualified. This is patently untrue. With all due respect to the RTC candidate, he does not have a background in the field and, therefore, is not comparable in this arena.

This decision was made for purely political reasons and took no account of the actual qualifica-

tions of each person, nor their potential benefit to our schools. Appointing a Democrat would not have changed the board's political majority. The Republican BOS members should be ashamed of the disservice they have done to this town, its schools and – most importantly – the students, by passing up such an asset.

**Sincerely,
Nicole Matthews – Amston**

Jill of All Trades

To the Editor:

I am pleased to announce my candidacy for the Zoning Commission. I am a registered Home Improvement Contractor, and I am familiar with Connecticut's building code. I am also a licensed financial advisor, with nearly 10 years of experience as a small business consultant, helping businesses to flourish and develop the communities around them.

In my hometown I had the opportunity to rebuild an historic riverfront business district that faced problems with traffic, limited parking, and limited walking zones for pedestrians. Main Street was known as the place 'businesses went to die'. We found solutions to these issues while balancing the environmental needs of the river, and now that district is flourishing today. They continue to host monthly Ladies' Nights, small community festivals, and children's afterschool programs. It's become the destination of residents for date night strolls, meeting neighbors for coffee, and taking kids for ice cream.

I see many of the same issues facing Marlborough, and I'd like to offer my experience, optimism, and determination. I believe in small-town communities. I believe in supporting our neighbors. I am eager to steward Marlborough's zoning codes to support local business and balance the conservation of our beautiful town with responsible land use and development.

I love this town, and I intend to give my time and energy to supporting this community we all love. Please vote for me on Nov. 2. I look forward to representing you.

Jillian LaCresse – Marlborough

Support Deborah Bates

Dear Voters:

On Nov. 2, we will go to the polls to cast votes for candidates who best represent us and our visions for a prosperous community.

Local government has the largest impact on our quality of life, including infrastructure and services. It is imperative that we have local participation in this election to choose those who will work together by sharing ideas, debating differences and coming to consensus on critical issues.

With all that we have been through as a town, a state and as a nation this past almost two years we must have candidates who possess dedication, integrity and experience in working together to solve the immediate crises and move us forward together to achieve growth.

Deborah Bates, a candidate for Board of Selectmen, has shown that she is a person with a willingness to commit herself to working towards local issues that will move our town forward in a responsible way. Deborah, while speaking to voters this campaign season, has made it her goal to retain everything we love about our town while also considering the needs of our children, our seniors, our veterans and our most vulnerable citizens.

Deborah's work in finance and management of a Fortune 500 company has given her the skills and experience to work through issues, problem solve with a team and work hard to achieve these goals. As a 30-year resident of Colchester, Deborah and her husband have raised their family here. After volunteering in so many capacities over the years she finds it important to give back to our town by running to serve as a member of the Board of Selectmen.

Please consider supporting Deborah as she has those qualities which are a must to achieve success, to unite and to move Colchester forward.

Denise Mizla – Colchester

Note: Mizla is a member of the Colchester Board of Selectmen, but is speaking as an individual.

Endorsing Dennler

To the Editor:

I am endorsing my fellow Board of Finance member, Bernie Dennler, for election to the BOF. Bernie was appointed to fill a vacancy on the BOF in February of 2020 at the outset of the pandemic during an especially challenging budget season. Each week we learned more about its severity and its implications to our town. We needed to gauge the response from the Federal and State government on how all of this would affect the Town's needs, services, budget, and process.

Bernie was appointed and he jumped right in to assume his responsibilities and get the job done for the citizens of Colchester. There was no time for a learning curve for Bernie, he needed to quickly get up to speed and deal with the effects of how a global pandemic would impact the citizens of Colchester, the town and how the BOF should react.

Bernie was up to this task. His job working as assistant to the First Selectman in Lebanon was a great asset. He came to the numerous meetings prepared, worked with staff to understand needs, and to look for efficiencies. He worked collaboratively while still strongly supporting impactful programs and services. His resolve helped add the two much needed firefighter/EMTs to last year's budget, and his advocacy helped get the 2020 town budget approved in a 4-2 vote.

His collaboration and preparedness so impressed the Republican chairman that he supported Bernie to replace me when I stepped down from the vice chairman position. Bernie has worked collaboratively in this position and has gained praise from citizens during meetings from both sides of the political spectrum. He is an asset to our Board and this town. Please join me and vote for Bernie Dennler for BOF on Nov. 2.

**Thank you,
Mike Egan – Colchester**

Note: Egan is a member of the Colchester Board of Finance, but said he is speaking as an individual.

Vote Row A in Hebron

To the Editor:

The Hebron Democratic Town Committee did their due diligence in seeking out candidates who have shown their commitment to our town, time and time again. Candidates were chosen because they believe in science and keeping our kids safe while also keeping them in school. These candidates believe in equity and will represent all walks of life in our town and are comfortable starting conversations about doing the right thing. They stand up to be heard and will be the voice of others who cannot find that strength. They foster not only ideas, but solutions. They know the value in listening with respect to those that they serve.

The Democratic candidates are people you know. They are your neighbors and your friends. They are not running for selfish reasons; they are running because they possess the skills, energy and compassion to work hard for the people of our town. If you are ready to be inspired, vote Row A either via absentee ballot or in person at Hebron Elementary School on Tuesday, November 2nd. Local elections truly matter and each vote counts.

With your support, Tiffany Thiele, Heather Petit, Nicole Matthews, Claudia Riley, Maura Curran Baker, Heather Summerer, Amy Dunnells, Mal Leichter, Eric Lindquist, Dave Sousa and Carla Pomproicz will be elected, and Hebron can get back on the path of progress.

Erin Bussiere – Hebron

E-Mail Letters

Letter writers are encouraged to email their letters of 300 words or less to bulletin@glcitizen.com. Letters submitted without a contact phone number will not be published.

LEGALS**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON**

At the regular meeting of the East Hampton Town Council held Tuesday, October 12, 2021, an ordinance regarding Establishing a Moratorium on Certain Activities Related to Adult-Use Cannabis was adopted. The ordinance is available in the Office of the East Hampton Town Clerk, and shall take effect 20 days after publication.

EAST HAMPTON TOWN COUNCIL
James Brown, Chairman
Dean Markham, Vice Chairman
Tim Feegel
Derek Johnson
Barbara Moore
Mark Philhower
Kevin Reich

1TB 10/15

**LEGAL NOTICE OF ACTIONS
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
HEBRON, CONNECTICUT**

The Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission took the following actions at their meeting which was held on Tuesday, October 12, 2021, at 7:00 P.M., on the following:

1. **Petition 2021-13** – Subdivision Application of Blackledge West LLC requesting to subdivide a 3.52-acre parcel of land into three building lots, property located on the east side of West Street, approximately 700 feet north of Martin Road, application is filed under the provisions of the Hebron Subdivision Regulations, R-1 District. **Continued the Public Hearing to 11/9/21.** Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, this 13th day of October 2021.
Gerald Garfield, Secretary

1TB 10/15



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TREE CREW member wanted for establish tree company in Hebron. Immediate opening. call for details. 228-SAWS

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For additional information visit our website at: <https://columbiapublicschools.org/>

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