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Volume 45, Number 42 **Published by The Glastonbury Citizen**

October 22, 2021



Knights Exemplification... Belltown Council 6190 Knights of Columbus in East Hampton recently attended a Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree Exemplification held at St. Jerome Church in New Britain. Brother Sir Knight Philip Chasse advanced to the fourth degree, the highest degree of the order which focuses on patriotism. Pictured from left are Sir Knight Robert DeMarchi, new Fourth Degree member Sir Knight Philip Chasse, and Sir Knight Donald Gould - all from Belltown Council 6190.

Three Running for Colchester 1st Selectman

Democrat Mary Bylone is seeking a second term as Colchester's first selectman - though she's facing competition from not just one but two challengers.

Much of Bylone's first term as Colchester first selectman was dominated by responding to

Just a few months after she took office the pandemic swept into Connecticut, halting business, striking down thousands of residents and driving many others to stay home for months. But Bylone led the town through it. She credits her previous career in nursing management for helping her manage the crisis.

Now the Democrat is running for a second

"COVID took up a good chunk of my time," she said. "But I was able to maneuver through it. I broke the information down for people. I was doing two Facebook Live presentations a day at first. I wanted to communicate with residents and tell them what was going on.'

Bylone's official title was chief nursing officer and vice president for patient care services for the eastern region of Hartford Health Care. After a successful career that included speaking all over the country and writing articles about nursing leadership and patient safety, she retired and began looking for second act. She served as a healthcare consultant and spent three years running a pet-grooming business. But she felt there was something more she could do, so when she had the chance she ran for first selectman.

Despite COVID, Bylone managed to add two firefighters to the local fire department and get \$4.5 million for new equipment.

"Some of it was so old it belongs in a parade

or a museum, not being used to fight fires," she

But there is more she would like to do if she is elected for a second term. Using funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which Bylone said will give the town \$4.8 million, she would like to expand on the parks and recreation in the town, updating a playground and adding pickleball and tennis courts.

"Kids and seniors need things to do and places to go," she said. "I want to provide that."

She would also like to bring in manufacturing and housing, creating jobs for people and giving them a place to live.

'Colchester is a great community," Bylone said. "I ran because we can be more. I have the skills to take it to the next level."

Andreas Bisbikos, however, is hoping to prevent Bylone from winning a second term. Bisbikos, who currently serves on the Board of Finance, is the endorsed Republican candidate.

"My heart and soul belong to Colchester," he said. "My parents left Greece when I was 2 years old so that my sister and I could have better lives. They started Colchester Pizza for us. I don't want to see the town go down an unsustainable path."

The social studies teacher, who works in Windham, said that affordability is one of his main tenets.

"The town needs to be affordable to all," Bisbikos said. "If elected, I will try not to raise taxes. I will also conduct a top to bottom review of all town departments and see if we can find savings. We need 21st century solutions. I don't want to see long-terms residents forced out."

Transparency is another of his concerns.

See Colchester 1st Selectman Race, page 2

Andover Bridge Reopens – Sort Of

by Sloan Brewster

The Bunker Hill Bridge in Andover is open again, but only to passenger vehicles - and only

At a special meeting last week, the Board of Selectmen agreed to open the bridge with certain restrictions, including a six-ton weight limit and only one lane of traffic. Selectmen had been awaiting an inspection by the state Department of Transportation (DOT) before giving the go-ahead to reopen the bridge.

Town Administrator Eric Anderson informed the panel that the DOT inspector green-lighted the reopening.

The inspector basically said from his perspective it's in equivalent or better condition than the last time they inspected it, which was prior to all the flooding and the sinkhole occurrence," Anderson said. "He has no problem

with reopening."

He added that DOT was referring the bridge to its load calculation division so had not yet determined how much weight it could withstand and did not have a firm date for the load

Resident Dorothy Yeomans, speaking during the public comment portion of the virtual meeting, thanked the board for getting the bridge

"I just appreciate you working hard on the bridge," she said. "It means a lot to a lot of people who live on this side of the Hop River."

The bridge was closed in September after a sinkhole developed in the wake of pelting rain caused by Tropical Storm Ida. The rain left roads closed and caused flooding, which led to the gaping hole opening up on the bridge, Anderson said.

It was the third sinkhole that sprouted in the bridge in as many months.

Two sinkholes from flooding caused by Tropical Storm Elsa appeared in July, after which, the town completed a temporary fix on the bridge and opened one lane of traffic before the start of school.

Earlier in the month, the town repaired the latest hole using flowable fill concrete – a material that won't wash out. A weaker version of concrete, it doesn't contain big stones, Ander-

The same material was also used, he said

The fixes are temporary while the town works to get a new bridge to replace the approximately 60-year-old one.

See Andover Bridge, page 2

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Major Fire at Elmcrest Site.....pg 21

Regional

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Cover Story • Co

★ Andover Bridge cont. from page 1

For about a year the project has been in the design phase - but Anderson said last week the firm Close, Jenson and Miller is slated to have the preliminary designs completed by next month. He said he would then schedule a meeting for mid-November so townspeople can offer input.

Once DOT agrees on a proposed design, a structural engineer will complete final drawings, Anderson said.

"The hardest part is getting all the preliminary stuff done, which hopefully will be down in the next couple of weeks," he said.

Funding for the replacement is coming from a DOT Administered Design Program grant, through which the state matches the design costs, which Anderson said will save the town

\$80,000 toward the estimated \$400,000 price of the project. Last August, to reserve the funding, Anderson and selectmen committed to replace the bridge despite voters' previous rejection.

In 2017, after the town applied for a federal local bridge replacement grant, voters knocked down the expenditure at town meeting in a 31 to 7 vote, Anderson said.

Anderson said in the last two budget cycles, the town has set aside money and has \$280,000 toward the project.

He said the hope is the temporary fixes will last until construction of the replacement bridge begins, which he said he hopes will take place next spring but may not be until the following

★ Colchester 1st Selectman Race cont. from page 1

"People should have access to all the numbers," he said. "I would end illegal meetings and backroom deals. We need to tell people why we're voting a certain way."

Bisbikos also said there is software that makes all information covered under the Freedom of Information Act available to the public.

Another one of his goals is to help local busi-

"We should use the ARPA funds," he said. "That money should be going back to the com-

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munity. We could give households gift cards for local businesses."

He would also like to bring back the 57 Fest, improve the athletic fields and actively seek more businesses. But he has one item on his agenda that could be considered controversial. Like leaders in other towns, Bylone signed a document declaring racism a public health crisis. Bisbikos doesn't believe that is the case in town, but he believes it's worth talking about.

"There are places where racism is a problem, but Colchester is not one of them," he said. "I believe that dialogue between groups is valuable. It's time to have a conservation and listen to one another."

Meanwhile, Jeff Duigou is running as a writein choice. He is a licensed environmental and public health professional who wants to clean up local politics like he cleans up contaminated

"I'm a conservative and a Republican," he said. "I'm just not backed by the local Republicans."

Duigou said he believes in transparency and would, if elected, provide regular updates about what's going on a Town Hall.

He also wants accountability and for people to come together to solve problems.

"I would want to bring all the departments together to talk," he said. "We need to work together, and to be accountable to each other and the electorate."

As for the ARPA funds, Duigou hasn't made any decisions, but he is skeptical of some of his opponents' plans.

"We have to follow the rules," he said. "There are limits as to what you can spend it on. Every town will be audited and if it wasn't spent properly, they will have to pay it back."

Looking at the bigger picture, Duigou would like to see some changes in the election laws. Specifically, he would like have open primaries, which would benefit people like himself who are outside of the two-party system.

"If primaries were open, people like myself could go to the public and put ideas out," he said. "The two parties are getting extreme. People are not happy with either party.'

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 2.





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Margaret Wilcox



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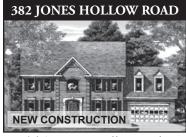
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From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

It's that time again, folks. Next week is the last issue before Election Day, so any political letters to the editor must be positive in nature. No attack letters – for the simple reason that any of the candidates being attacked wouldn't have time to defend themselves before Nov. 2 rolls along.

In this space last week, I warned everyone that this week's issue was the last one in which writers could go negative. And from the looks of the letters I got this week, plenty of you took me up on my offer. Hoo boy did you.

Not that I was surprised. This has been an ugly campaign season in some of our towns. There have been lots of personal attacks, attacks on friends and family members, and even the creation of a fake campaign website filled with almost nothing but attacks – and sometimes particularly childish ones at that.

I've gotten used to such nastiness on the national stage. But to see it on the local level, in these small, usually friendly towns.....it's just been disappointing. There's a letter this week from a resident saying that we're "better than that" – and I think we are. The ugly big-city politics shouldn't have a place in our pleasant, bucolic towns.

But, at least for the moment (I hope just for the moment), it seems to. And so there are attacks this week, which is fine; folks have next week to defend themselves if they wish. They just have to do so without attacking anyone else.

So, before you sit down to write that letter

Buck for BOE

I am writing this to urge my fellow neighbors to

vote for Michael Buck for Board of Ed. This town

needs parents like him to speak on behalf of our children. This is not a political debate, this comes down

to our children, and there is no one more qualified to

fight for our kids. It is time for a change and he is who

Christine Aloia – East Hampton

we need to be elected to our Board of Ed.

To the Editor:

to the editor, think of that old '40s song: accentuate the positive, and eliminate the negative

This is a very sweet tribute. The Colchester Democratic Town Committee has renamed its annual pasta dinner in honor of Dorothy Mrowka, the local DTC stalwart who passed away in April at the age of 78.

The meal will now be called simply "Dot's Pasta Dinner." This year's dinner will take place Sunday, Oct. 24, from 5-7 p.m., at the St. Joseph's Polish Society, 395 S. Main St. Guests will include Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz and other state and federal officials.

Tickets are \$20 each and can be purchased either at the door or at colchesterdemocrats. org under 'Donations.'

According to the DTC, Mrowka started this fundraising dinner many years ago, so naming it in her honor makes sense. Plus, like I said, it's a sweet move. My dealings with Mrowka were relatively few over the years – she was a longtime registrar of voters in Colchester, so I talked with her most often around election time – but I always found her to be pleasant and professional.

I know she was beloved by her fellow Democrats, so I'm not surprised to see the DTC honor her like this. And to be honest, I wouldn't be shocked if there were more honors and memorials in the future.

Elect Adults, Not Circus Clowns

office: candidates that talk about the issues and their

You deserve to have great candidates running for

I am deeply saddened by the circus atmosphere of

Using the "playbook" out of national politics, it

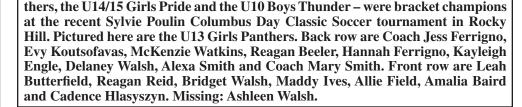
appears that "controversy where there is none", fake

news, whining and insulting are the name of the

See you next week.

To Portland Voters:

solution to governing for all.



Powerful Panthers... Three Colchester Soccer Club Travel teams - U13 Girls Pan-

Reader Forum • Reader

Please don't be fooled. Keep your eyes on the end goal which is to elect experienced, thoughtful and civil people to these offices.

This election is important, keep asking questions of the candidates and make your choices for who is best suited. Elections are not popularity contests, nor are they about who looks like a good choice!

My vote is for the Democrats who continue to impress me with their skills and abilities. Jim Tripp and the Democratic slate are just what Portland needs. Elect adults, not the circus clowns. Vote Row A – Democrats – all the way for Portland.

Not politics but moving Portland forward.

Meg Scata – Portland Note: Scata is a member of the Portland Board of Education, but said she is speaking as an individual.

Different Perspectives

To the Editor:

I have experienced while on BOS, that diversity of backgrounds among the members can make for a good board. As has been stated in some recent letters, in the past our BOS has had mostly unanimous votes. This has happened after good debate on issues with different perspectives shared by our members who come from different career backgrounds.

My belief is that the candidates mentioned above will offer those different backgrounds to the BOE. Murphy brings a business perspective with his education (BS and MBA in business administration and a manager at Stanley Tools). He also is a current member of the BOE and on the schools facility committee and building/grounds committee. Lavoy has a BA in public administration, is a six-year member of the BOE, with a career managing services for intellectu-

ally challenged individuals. He is on the personnel and policy committees. Benham is the new-comer, but equally qualified. She has a BS and a PHD in occupational therapy. She is currently the director of clinical education at Hartford Health Care at Home and on the faulty of occupational therapy at Quinnipiac University. She has previously served on the Ethics Commission and is a 25-year resident.

To me, the purpose of the BOE is to advise, set goals and standards, review fiscal operations, and help develop overall policies for a well-functioning school district. The everyday operations and carrying out the policies they set is the job of the superintendent and his staff. To this end I feel it a good mix to have members that aren't necessarily educators by profession, but rather professionals from different fields that hold public education near and dear to the community. To that end I endorse Dave Murphy, Tim Lavoy, and Stacy Benham.

Rick Sharr - Portland

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

Hard Choices

To the Editor:

The Town of Portland will indeed have to make hard choices in the coming future. The town water system has been neglected. In 1996, the town entered into a 30-year contract with the Metropolitan District of Hartford to provide Portland with filtered drinking water. Our Pay or Take contract, under which the Town of Portland must purchase 146 million gallons of water per year, coupled with the fact that the rate increases from MDC have amounted to a 83% increase in our water rates in the last six years, has left

Bulletin Board

Please join me in voting for him on Nov. 2.

You probably saw a highly excited William Shatner (Star Trek's legendary Captain Kirk) on television last week babbling on about the experience of a lifetime.

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

"What you have given me is the most profound experience," exclaimed Shatner in front of TV news cameras. "I hope I never recover from this. I hope that I can maintain what I feel now. I don't want to lose it."

You'd think he'd just experienced sex for the first time. I mean, the poor guy was positively giddy with gratitude.

But he wasn't Going on about sex. I mean. After all, the guy's 90 years old. Even a geriotric

But he wasn't. Going on about sex, I mean. After all, the guy's 90 years old. Even a geriatric Captain Kirk has got to have some limitations.

Actually, as I presume you know, the famed captain of the starship Enterprise was talking about a 10-minute flight into space and back aboard a space capsule launched by Amazon founder and billionaire Jeff Bezos. Shatner (who, incidentally, I think is a pretty cool dude) is now the oldest guy to have ventured into space, which is pretty impressive, though maybe not as impressive as if he actually had been expressing his appreciation for a highly charged romantic encounter at the age of 90. Bad visuals notwithstanding.

As for the rest of it, I will admit to being a little puzzled by the hype surrounding what is being billed in the media as "space tourism." The main attraction of this space shot, as I understand it, is to see the curvature of the earth and experience weightlessness for a couple of minutes. I mean, even the charter boat SS Minnow's ill-fated voyage to Gilligan's Island was billed as a three-hour tour and I'm sure it didn't cost anywhere near what Bezos is charging for a ticket for a 10-minute ride to space and back. Plus, with Gilligan, you might even see a dolphin or something.

As for price, one rich individual reportedly paid \$28 million for a seat on Bezos's first space shot earlier this year, though he subsequently gave the seat away, saying he couldn't make the trip himself due to a "scheduling conflict." I can't imagine what kind of "scheduling conflict" would cause you to walk away from \$28 million, but I bet there was a woman involved. (Probably the guy's mother, screaming at him over dinner, "What are you crazy?! You want to get yourself killed?! You moron! You're not going into space and that's final! Now go to your room and balance your damn checkbook!")

Personally, if I had \$28 million to toss into a black hole, I think I'd fill a swimming pool with 20 dollar bills and roll around in it all day drinking daiquiris and refusing to accept calls from needy relatives and charitable organizations seeking to save the world. I sure as hell wouldn't spend it to go blasting 66.5 miles into the sky and possibly get myself incinerated or imploded by G-forces or something. Even if my wife said it was okay. I mean, I don't even like to climb up on a ladder to clean my gutters.

As for "space tourism," as it's being referred to, I don't really get it. My idea of space tourism is the bar scene in the Star Wars movie where all these weird aliens are bouncing around playing kazoos and stuff and drinking exotic beverages and trying to pick each other up. As far as I know, none of these attractions are currently available on present-day space tour excursions. I don't believe they even serve peanuts.

That's the real deal breaker for me. I guess I could do without a bunch of drunken aliens, but I used to really look forward to those airline peanuts.

Jim Hallas

Rivereast Hours of Operation

The offices of the *Rivereast News Bulletin* and *Glastonbury Citizen*, located at 87 Nutmeg Lane, Glastonbury, are open Monday through Wednesday, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., and Thursday from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

The *Rivereast* can be reached any time via email at bulletin@glcitizen.com.

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

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

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RIVEREAST-

News Bulletin

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

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Glastonbury Citizen (USPS-219-360)

little funding for infrastructure. With rate increases projected to be 10%+ each year for the remainder of the contract (2026) Portland has no hope to afford the needed improvements and maintenance of our infrastructure.

The town is facing a crossroads, just as we did in 1996; to develop our own water additional water supply and make infrastructure improvements to become self-sufficient or having someone take over our water division and have no say in future rate structure. Thirty years ago we opted to go with the path of least resistance and the contract with MDC has put us in the predicament that we are in. I hope the town doesn't make the same mistake again and expect a different outcome. We can either clean up our own house or pay somebody to do it for us at a much higher cost!

I have been with the town over 48 years and have witnessed many decisions concerning the water department. Developing our own water supply and investing in our infrastructure is the correct decision to move the town into the future and enhance economic development. Jim Tripp has been working diligently to ensure we have the choice of self-sufficiency at the end of our MDC contract. The choice is yours.

For more information and history, see tinyurl. com/96b3y5s6.

David Kuzminski - Portland Note: Kuzminski is the technology coordinator for the Town of Portland, but is writing as an individual.

Buck for BOE!

To the Editor:

I am writing in strong support of Michael Buck. I have known Mike and his family for many years. He is a veteran, a police officer and a family man. He is dedicated in all that he does. Mike is approachable and easy to talk to. He will listen to all and make informed, reasonable decisions concerning our children and their best interests. He would make a valuable addition to the East Hampton Board of Education.

Please consider Mike Buck on Nov. 2nd! Elizabeth Giannelli - East Hampton

Manning for Board of Selectmen

To the Editor:

Shaun Manning has undoubtedly shown his commitment and dedication to the town of Portland through his many years of service on the Portland Volunteer Fire Department, running his family business and working with several other committees including the annual Kenny Fletcher Car Show, I believe his deep love for this town and his common sense thinking would be an asset to the Board of Selectmen.

Please join me in supporting Shaun Manning for a seat on the board.

> Thank you. Carla Muskatallo - Portland

Steinbrecher's the One

Dear Marlborough Neighbors:

Annie Steinbrecher is a rare balance of boundless enthusiasm and thoughtful deliberation. She is perfect for Marlborough's Board of Finance! As a 20year veteran of financial data analysis, she looks for facts and appreciates the need for fiscal responsibility. She will make Marlborough's budget sensible and fiscally stable.

As a financial data analyst, Annie works to ensure all data reporting is accurate, and ensures best practices are in place. She has an eye for detail and is meticulous in her study. She interacts directly with internal and external clients and colleagues for a Connecticut company of 50,000 employees. She works well with others to achieve a common goal. Marlborough BOF needs her!

As a 23-year resident of Marlborough and parent of two sons, Ms. Steinbrecher has been involved in serving our youth for 14 years via Cub and Boy Scouts of America. She helps organize and facilitate Boy Scout ceremonies throughout the ranks. Further, her donations of handcrafted masks to our seniors and food bank clients, provision of activity supplies for our seniors, and creation of an all-ages community art display at our art center is further evidence of

Ms. Steinbrecher is sensitive to our community's

changing and competing financial needs. She is a fiscal conservative rooted in facts with a balanced eye towards fulfilling our community wants. It is no easy task, but her strong analytical, problem solving, and coordination skills make Annie Steinbrecher up for the challenge of making and keeping Marlborough financially secure.

A concerned citizen. Donna Koropatkin - Marlborough

Marlborough Charter

To the Editor:

On Nov. 2, there will be nine questions on the Marlborough ballot regarding proposed changes to our town charter. The questions are quite lengthy and the proposed changes are very extensive.

It has been over 35 years since a thorough revision has been made to Marlborough's charter. There are many aspects of the charter, which need updating and I do support a change to 5 selectmen with a town manager, but there are other aspects of the proposed changes which I oppose.

But in the end, it is up to the voters of Marlborough to decide which changes are worthy of your support and which changes are not.

So prior to going to the polls, I strongly urge you to review these nine questions so that you will not be overwhelmed by seeing them for the first time when you go to the polls. The ballot is posted on the Marlborough town website. Please check it out so you will be able to make an informed decision which completing your ballot.

Ken Hjulstrom - Marlborough

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

Ringo for Treasurer

To the Editor:

My name is John Ringo and I'm running for treasurer. A resident and taxpayer for 44 years, I served on the Board of Finance for 16 years and treasurer for two years. My other volunteer service includes being the founder/music director/conductor of the Colchester Choir and Orchestra, a coach of boys and girls soccer, basketball, and baseball for 12 years, a member of the Police Retirement Board, and a member of superintendent and principal search committees. I've also assisted with the youth ministry at St. Andrew and Contemporary music at Colchester Federated Church.

In addition to being a member of the BOF, my financial experience also includes over thirty years in the financial services industry. During my tenure, I established an investment portfolio on behalf of the town that rendered a doubling of the rate of return (ROI). Responsible for fostering bank relationships in town. I have worked with four of Colchester's First Selectmen, two CFO's and many department heads over my 18 years of service.

My background is in the field of education being adjunct faculty at Franklin Academy since 2006 has been extremely rewarding since the school population is autistic. I have taught in public, Catholic and private schools. Most of my teaching experience has enabled me to work with students that face developmental challenges.

I would be honored to continue serving all of the people of Colchester. I encourage and welcome your support on Nov. 2.

John Ringo – Colchester

Colchester's Better than That

To the Editor:

Letters to the editor express opinions and we are all allowed our opinions. But, the political discourse in the nation has spiraled out of control. It is a shame that it is also callous in Colchester. Mudslinging may be a time-honored American political tradition, but it should not be a weapon in local politics. Local.

The candidates from either political party are our neighbors. Many of them are vying for offices that receive no compensation other than the satisfaction of serving their community. They all want to make a positive contribution. That they differ in their view of what constitutes "positive" is all that we should differentiate them by; all that should inform our vote. It is sad that, in addition to critiquing a candidate, some chose to also drag in their families. Shame on Colchester; you're better than that.

I will vote for Mary Bylone and the Democratic ticket because I favor their approach to local government. I do not agree with everything, but, on balance, I believe they offer the best choices to lead our town.

Leadership and experience matter. Subjective perceptions of style and motives should not.

John Barnowski - Colchester

Pete Brown for Town Council

I am very proud to announce that I will be running for the Town Council this fall. I have had the privilege of working as the chairman of the council for the last

The East Hampton Democrats have always had the best interest of all our residents in mind when we vote on an issue. On average our property taxes have increased by .69% since taking office. We had a zero increase in 2021 when the pandemic was at its height.

Over the last two years, the council has supported the Nine Point Plan as directed by the Lake Commission. We purchased Christopher Pond which is in the water shed area, as open space. Repairs to the high school baseball field, the track and the tennis courts have begun. We have developed a plan to address road repairs. A company has been hired to develop a plan to extend our public water system in the village center.

I am a retired state employee. I worked as the superintendent of the Connecticut Children's Place for 37 years. My compassion for children has influenced my desire for a school system that meets the needs of all our children.

I am asking for your vote so I, along with the Democratic team, can continue serving our hometown of East Hampton.

Pete Brown - East Hampton

An Excellent Candidate

To the Editor:

As a resident of East Hampton with grandchildren in the elementary grades, it is of utmost importance to me that our Board of Education consists of exceptional leaders who know and want what is best for the children and families of our town.

Christina Tammaro-Dzagan is an excellent candidate for our BOE because not only is she a mother of two children herself, she has also successfully balanced a full-time career in the health care training and learning field for over 11 years.

Christina is a lifelong East Hampton resident who is passionate about our community and committed to putting our children's needs at the center of her She is committed to education excellence and will

advocate for what is best for the children and families of East Hampton. This is why I believe Christina is an excellent candidate for the Board of Education position and proud to support her with my vote on Tuesday, Nov. 2

Antonia Canto Ferreira – East Hampton

Curley is the Right Choice

To the Editor:

I am writing to support Ryan Curley as first selectman for the town of Portland. Ryan's education and commitment to public service has already shown great value to the town of Portland. The upgrades in technology that Ryan has made since being elected as town clerk in 2015 shows his dedication to the residents of Portland.

Ryan's foresight to the infrastructure that Portland desperately needs will help bring in new business to fill our empty storefronts and help to sustain current business. Please join me on Nov. 2 in voting for Ryan Curly for Portland's first selectman.

> Sincerely. Warren Breece - Portland

Time for Change

To the Editor:

It's time for change. We need people who embrace power for the community and parental choice. Michael Buck is a veteran, law enforcement officer and father of two and is the ideal candidate. Let's stand behind Michael and get the change our BOE drastically needs.

Vote Buck for BOE!

Darin Aloia - East Hampton

Buck Cares

Dear Editor:

My family has known Michael Buck for six-plus years now. Michael is exactly what the town of East Hampton needs on their board. He is educated, has real world experience and is already held to hire standard than most.

Michael cares about the proper education of our children!

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Kaitlin Bernier - East Hampton

Our Children's Education

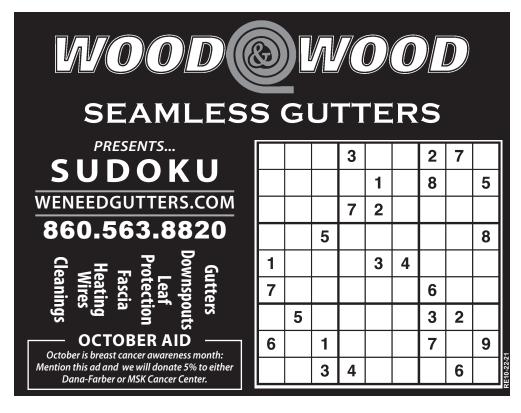
Dear East Hampton Neighbors:

My name is Paul Wisniewski and I am running for Board of Education in East Hampton. Service to the community has been ingrained in me from a young age, from volunteering at the fish frys at my mom's church as a kid, to being a volunteer firefighter/ EMT for 15 years in previous towns, rising to the rank of captain, volunteering as a coach in various rec leagues, to currently serving on the Clean Energy Task Force in town. Professionally I've been a pipefitter with UA Local 777 for 18 years, elected to the finance board from 2018 until this year, and elected to the executive board this year.

With three kids in grades K, 7 and 8, my goal is

See Letters, page 6





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★ Letters cont. from page 5

to keep education the best it can be in East Hampton for all children. I would ensure student-teacher ratio is at least maintained. I would like to pursue grants to upgrade the infrastructure of our schools at little or no cost to the taxpayers. Considering how important Chromebooks and technology has been for the last year and a half I will ensure this line item is not defunded in the budget again.

Please consider voting the democratic ticket for our children's education

Paul Wisniewski – East Hampton

Response to Smith

To the Editor:

A response to Edmund Smith's "Christ-Like Politician" letter from Oct. 8.

I would like to respond on two points: the first point that all Christians are sinners. Yes, you are correct! We Christians all freely admit it and pray regularly to Jesus for forgiveness of our sins. And like most Christians, who hope all human beings would be with Christ in Heaven after this world comes to an end, I will be praying for Mr. Smith's soul.

On the second point, that Mr. Carter is more Christ-like than Jesus: no one can be more like another individual than that person. And certainly, no human being that ever lived, or will live, can come close to being like Christ. We Christians try our best to emulate him by following his commands, mostly "to love one another." May God forgive you and bless you, Mr. Smith.

William Desrosiers - Andover

Living in Colchester

To the Editor

I have lived and worked in Connecticut for the majority of my 58+ years, but I'm a newer resident to the Town of Colchester. My first impression of Colchester has been an idyllic one; to me, Colchester has the perfect bucolic small town feel with close urbanite connections. While I still hold this impression, I think Colchester has room to improve both socially and economically.

Being a retired local businessman has afforded me the freedom to become more involved in town issues and the current election. Although I am a registered Democrat, after living in Colchester for the last few years I have chosen to support Andreas Bisbikos for Colchester first selectman because I believe he is better qualified to move Colchester in a more positive direction both socially and economically.

I was surprised to learn Colchester ranks in the top 25 percent of the highest mill rates for Connecticut municipalities and that this mill rate is increasing again after a year that has been financially challeng-

ing for many Colchester households. I agree with Andreas that this is not the appropriate time to demand more money from residents, especially for municipal salaries, when so many residents saw their own salaries substantially decrease. Most Connecticut employers are having to do more with less in order to be sustainable, and Colchester needs to foster that principle as well.

I believe Andreas Bisbikos has a viable plan to take Colchester in a better direction, and because he is capable of competently communicating with citizens in a way that effectively promotes collaboration, I believe he can bring that plan to fruition. Most importantly, I know I can believe Andreas Bisbikos, and that is why I will be voting for him this Nov. 2.

Andrew Day - Colchester

Puts Children First

To the Editor:

Angela Colantonio puts the kids of Marlborough first. As a pediatric nurse and mother, the wellbeing (health, social, emotional and educational needs) of children matter deeply to her. She has devoted her life to helping children thrive.

She is a candidate for a seat on the Marlborough Board of Education. She possesses a commitment to the Marlborough community, she's a person who volunteers her time to better the community and a person with a global view of the needs of children. I support her candidacy and you should too.

Rylan Crowley - Marlborough

Supports Senior Center

To the Editor:

BOOKKEEPER

WANTED

Assistant to the Office Manager.

Must be good with phones and

customer contact.

Hours: Mon.-Wed. 8:45am - 3:15pm,

Thur. 8:45am - 2:30pm

If interested, please reply to Sandy

at the Glastonbury Citizen by email:

sandy@glcitizen.com

I write in support of the proposed senior center, which is the culmination of years of work engaging stakeholders, crossing over multiple municipal administrations and iterations of the boards of selectmen and finance. It started with a process involving members of the BOS, the BOF and Bacon Academy Board of Trustees working out an agreement by which the town purchased the current senior center from the Trustees to secure its continuing use as a senior center.

A study group was formed, including members of the Boards, to identify the current and future needs of the growing senior population in Colchester that could not be met in the current building. Students from Central Connecticut State University conducted a class project which helped visualize the spaces, interior and exterior, that would meet the identified

During this time, the property on Louis Lane became available and was purchased at a price favorable to the town, without impacting debt service or mill rate. The property expanded the Town Hall campus providing additional emergency access and shared use of space and providing for safe entrance and egress from the proposed center.

For the past two years, the Senior Center Building Committee has been working to develop the design and plan to build a senior center for now and the future. Working with an architectural firm and project management firm, the design and build costs have been determined. While a \$9.5M projected cost, including bonding, is not insignificant, it is reasonable for the building proposed. Importantly, it is affordable, as it fits within the town's long-standing debt service plan that is designed to manage capital projects in town without significant impacts on taxes in any given year.

Information about the project is available from the first selectman's office.

Please support this investment in Colchester and its citizens.

> Respectfully, Stan Soby - Colchester

Seeing Ears

Dear Editor:

Bats are not blind but, in addition to perfectly good eyesight, many kinds have natural sonar, called echolocation. The large Old World fruit bats, such as Austalia's flying fox (P. vampyrus), don't echolocate but rely on their large eyes and sense of smell to locate their colorful, fragrant meals. Pollinators and insect hunters, such as the lesser long-nosed bat (L. yerbabuenae) and the big brown bat (E. fuscus), do echolocate.

Over the years, humans have studied bio-sonar to aid in the development of man-made sonar. However, bat echolocation is far more sophisticated than anything developed through human technology. A bat can detect an insect as tiny as a mosquito while simultaneously avoiding objects, including your head: a bat won't get tangled in your hair.

In 2015, engineers at Virginia Tech took the first steps toward building a novel dynamic sonar system inspired by horseshoe bats that would be more efficient current human-made sonar arrays.

Horseshoe bats (R. hipposideros) are especially skilled at using sounds to sense their environment; they are able to cope with difficult sonar sensing environments much better than human technology can. Horseshoe bats emit ultrasound squeaks through their noses rather than their mouths, and they can switch between different ear configurations three times faster than a person can blink his/her eyes.

Motion picture technology revealed that the bats rapidly adjust their outer ear shapes to filter sounds according to frequency and direction and to suit different sensing tasks. Laser Doppler measurements revealed that the noses of horseshoe bats also change shape during echolocation, much like a megaphone whose walls are moving as the sound comes out.

Bats not only aid humans through pest control, pollination and seed dispersal, they are also key to the



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development of human technology. Just ask Leonardo da Vinci.

Next: Altruistic Vampire Bats.

Thank you, Maureen Heidtmann - East Hampton

Lavoy for BOE To the Editor:

The Portland public school system needs a BOE member like Tim Lavoy. After a rollercoaster year and half of starts and stops with hybrid learning, our small town needs the type of guidance and leadership Tim can offer.

Tim will bring a balance of all we need to continue to navigate the current situation as well as perspective to move the BOE forward. He has raised his family in Portland and understands the need to continue to improve the school system; for both the students and the teachers. Tim has the perspective we need to balance the current and future needs of the district with the needs and desires of the community.

Tim is knowledgeable and motivated to service his community. Tim will listen to constitutes perspectives and be a collaborative thought partner to the BOE. Tim has our vote on Tuesday, Nov. 2. Please join us and vote for Tim Lavoy.

Gary and Elizabeth Hurley – Portland

Supports Buck

To the Editor:

I am writing to express my support for Michael Buck's candidacy for the East Hampton Board of Education. I have known Mike for three years since our young children became friends, and it is clear to me how very much he cares about the education and health of all of our children. I greatly admire Mike's tireless efforts to educate himself and those around him about the effects that the COVID-19 mandates are having on our students, and his determination to make sure their education and mental health are being addressed to the same degree as their physical health.

As Mike has stated himself in a letter to this paper, he never saw himself as someone who would run for a town board position. The fact that he is willing to make this commitment so he can tell his children he did all he could to make a positive difference in their schools, truly demonstrates how far Mike will go and how hard he will fight for the best education for all of our children.

Please vote for Michael Buck for the East Hampton Board of Education.

Respectfully,

Natalie Hurt - East Hampton **Supports Zampano**

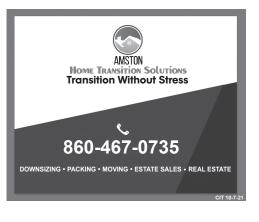
To the Editor:

We in Portland are very fortunate to have Ralph Zampano as a tireless volunteer working for us. Ralph is an experienced project manager and IT manager in his professional life but in his 27 years living here he has also managed to do so much to better the lives of Portland residents.

You may know of Ralph because he is the current deputy first selectman or you may know him for the pivotal role he played in bringing the new Route 17 Town Park to fruition. Did you also know that before and during construction of the park, Ralph served as the project manager without pay? He lent his time and professional expertise for free. Did you know that he served on the Parks and recreation committee for over 15 years? Did you know that he has coached youth sports in town for over almost 20 years (long after his own kids went off to college)? Did you know he has helped to run the K-2nd grade basketball program for over 10 years?

Did you know that while on the Board of Selectmen, Ralph serves on several sub-committees including the Water and Sewer Committee? He is the BOS representative on the BOE COVID-19 School Reopening Committee. He is liaison to the Parks and Rec committee, the Library Board, and the Economic Development Committee. His volunteerism doesn't stop there. Ralph is also a member of the Portland Exchange Club, Portland Lions Club, and the Brownstone Quorum.

In short, wherever there is good being done in





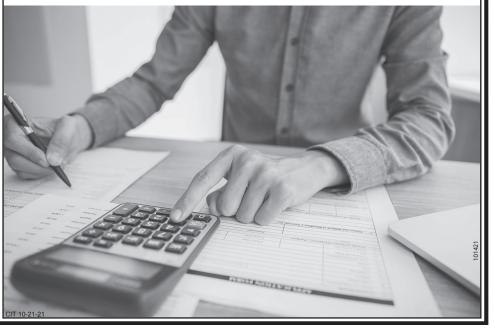
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Portland, Ralph has been involved or is involved. We need Ralph and the leadership he provides.

Sincerely.

Denise Schneider - Portland

To the Editor:

I will be supporting Michael Lastrina and Cynthia Roman for Portland Zoning Board of Appeals on

Lastrina/Roman ZBA

Mike Lastrina has been a member of the ZBA since 2016, bringing his knowledge from working in the public works department that has been an asset to the board. Mike has been actively working in committee to update zoning regulations to reduce the need for variances and has also attended an eight-hour training on Land Use laws in 2019.

Cynthia Roman is presently an alternate on the ZBA with a commitment to community service. Cynthia understands the responsibility in attending each meeting and basing decisions without bias, according to the legal definition in granting a variance.

Please join me in voting for Michael Lastrina and Cynthia Roman, Row A, on Nov. 2.

Rose Aletta - Portland

Note: Aletta is chair of the Portland Zoning Board of Appeals, but said she is writing as a member of the public.

Vote for an MVP

To the Editor:

In baseball, the most valuable player is the athlete who can contribute, to a high degree, his or her talent as a hitter, fielder, baserunner and teammate. In the upcoming election, Portland residents have an opportunity to choose a MVP (Most Valuable Person) in selectman Jim Tripp. He possesses a high quality of municipal knowledge, has a wide range of experiences and is a team player; I have seen this first-hand as a Board of Selectmen member.

Aside from being a selectman for over two terms, Jim is a liaison to both the Water & Sewer Commission and the Board of Education. He has served as a former Board of Education member and continues to serve as a community leader. His many roles as a volunteer include: President of the Brownstone Quorum, President of Portland's Lions club and Chairman of Portland's Sidewalk Committee. Jim can be found supporting the efforts of our Parks and Recreation Commission, assisting in food delivery during the current pandemic and staying engaged in the remediation of the brown field, adjacent to the Connecticut River. With Portland's expansive abutment, access to the Connecticut River has long been a goal of Portland's Conservation and Development Plan.

When it comes to saving tax dollars, Jim will be first to help reduce energy costs, through renewable initiatives; and to bring high quality water to Portland, at a reasonable price. So please join me in hitting a home run, with a vote for Jim Tripp and his teammates John Dillon, April Graves, Laurel Steinhauser and Ralph Zampano.

Lou Pear - Portland

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

Support Curley

To the Editor:

I have known Ryan Curley for over six years now. He is a man of great character. Whether it is through his work as Town Clerk, or through various events with the Portland Exchange Club, I have always known Ryan to excel. His energy and passion for Portland is self-evident. Having been born and raised in this town, I was elated to hear that he was running for first selectman. Portland is only going to get bigger, and this town needs a man looking forward to the next 10 years. Ryan is the only man to bring Portland into the 21st century.

As a college student, much of my work revolves around data science and computers and knowing what Ryan has done with modernizing the town clerk's office, I can only imagine what he can do as first selectman. Please join me in voting for Ryan Nov. 2.

Jack Welsh - Portland

Right Person for the Job

It is my distinguished pleasure and great honor to recommend Ryan Curley for first selectman. As a lifelong friend of more than 30 years, I have witnessed Ryan's determination, hard work and aptitude directly benefit the Portland community that he now

Many of our fondest childhood memories took place in Portland at Camp Ingersoll. It provided an idyllic setting for two young adventurous boys. Trips to the local Dairy Queen after hot summer days at camp unsurprisingly became a common occurrence. As we grew stronger in body and more adventurous in spirit, we would regularly traverse rugged terrain on mountain bikes through Meshomasic State Forest.

Upon entering our teenage years, Troop 2 of Portland developed and honed such skills as goal setting, hard work, accountability and time management. These skills paid dividends as we both attained the rank of Eagle Scout after completing Eagle Scout projects that benefited our communities.

During the summer of 2015, Ryan helped raise money and publicity for people in Connecticut fighting Parkinson's disease throughout my 3,404 mile Cycle Sea to Sea for PD journey. His extensive contacts within the community lended awareness of the journey and cause through the Rivereast News Bulletin and Middletown Press. His help did not end there as he played an integral role in coordinating and planning my culminating police escort across the Arrigoni Bridge. I owe this special moment to Ryan's hard work, vision and planning abilities. He has demonstrated his ability to work efficiently and effectively with numerous town employees toward

Ryan is the right person for the job since he brings experience, knowledge, vision and a love for the town of Portland. I am confident that Ryan will display these qualities of vision, determination, planning and hard work as Portland's first selectman.

Henry Prescott - Portland

Supports Stolfi

To the Editor:

It is a pleasure to write in support of incumbent Sue Stolfi's candidacy for the Marlborough Board of Education. Sue has raised her four children in Marlborough and serves on both the local and RHAM Boards of Education -- I have grown to know how important these roles are to her, because of her care and concern for children in our community.

A few years back, Sue recruited me to join the AHM Coalition for Healthy Empowered Community (CHEC) which strives to drive awareness of and create strategies to prevent underage drinking and prescription drug misuse, as well as illicit drug use. Sue chairs the CHEC group, and I have seen firsthand how passionate she is about keeping the children in our community healthy, safe and give them the best opportunities for a bright future. Sue, along with the AHM staff, has worked to build programs for children and the community that align with the mission of CHEC and keep kids safe.

But also, as chair of CHEC, I observe Sue's ability to work with others, drive consensus and accomplish goals - all of which are essential skills that will be very important to her continued success serving on the Marlborough Board of Education.

Sue brings six years of experience serving on both the local as well as the RHAM Board of Education. Please join me in supporting Sue Stolfi as a wellqualified and passionate incumbent for Marlborough Board of Education.

Sincerely,

Rob Picone - Marlborough

Buck for BOE

We write this letter today to show our support for Michael Buck, who is currently running for the Board of Education in East Hampton. His dedication and passion for making a difference in the community makes him an excellent candidate for this position. His decision-making is based on facts, not opinions. He believes in parental decision making which is slowly being taken away from us and he is not afraid to say what we are all thinking. Most importantly he will always have our kids best interest in mind.

East Hampton, please join us in voting for Michael Buck for the Board of Education!

Kyle and Iwona Doolittle - East Hampton

Your Voice Matters

Dear East Hampton Seniors:

Help be a part in shaping the future in this great town. Please take a few moments of your day to help the Commission on Aging conduct a community wide survey that will benefit seniors in East Hampton. We want to hear from you. Voice to us your thoughts on East Hampton's current housing structure and means of transportation. Fill out the survey using the link www.surveymonkey.com/r/older2021. Paper surveys are available at Stop & Shop, Town Hall, Library, and Senior Center.

The Senior Survey runs until 10/31. Don't miss out. Patricia Calderone

Member of the East Hampton **Commission on Aging**

Giannelli Hardworking, Caring

To the Editor:

In these trying times, the Board of Education needs a voice that will focus on the children. That voice belongs to Liz Giannelli. Her number one concern is a proper education for the children of Marlborough. She herself is a teacher and knows how the system works - the good and the bad. Liz is definitely well qualified for this position.

Liz is a hardworking, caring person who will serve our community well! She does not walk away from a challenge or adversity. Please consider voting to elect Liz for the Board of Ed!

Zina Planeta - Marlborough

Portland BOS

To the Editor:

This election year, the Portland Democrats have endorsed a diverse slate of candidates with new and familiar names, all with years of community service and leadership experience in town. This year, Row A will include six women and seven men representing the community. The following candidates are worthy of consideration for election to the Board of Select-

John Dillon is stepping up from the Board of Assessment Appeals and brings experience on the Wetlands commission and past service on the Portland Fair committee.

April Graves will be new to an elected seat but has leadership experience as President of the Portland Little League, founder of the Chatham Connection, and recent co-chair of the Portland Justice committee reporting to the BOS.

Laurel Steinhauser, presently on the Board of Education and co-chair of the Portland Library Board of Directors, will add her committee and budget experience with a seat on the BOS.

Ralph Zampano has served on the BOS since 2017, with prior years of community service on various sports committees in Portland and completed committee work for the new Strickland Park.

At the top of the Democratic ticket is Jim Tripp running for first selectman. Jim has also served on the BOS since 2017. He has will be making decisions that will affect Portland for decades, so we need qual-

ified BOS members with a history of commitment to Portland. These candidates have earned a seat on the BOS with their unwavering commitment to grow Portland in a positive direction.

Vote Row A on Nov 2 to keep Portland moving forward!

Sincerely,

Martha Taylor Dumas - Portland Trashy Deal

To the Editor:

It has been rumored that in the near future, the costs of household trash pick-up and disposal will be rising exponentially. This increased cost to the residents of all towns is worrisome. There will also be a fee that one pays based on the weight of the trash being removed.

How can we as a town decrease the impact of such an increase? Often times when costs go up, people decide to stash their trash on the roadside. Recycling too. Then there is a cost for its pick up by state or town employees. So what is one to do?

Reduce waste is a first step. That doesn't solve the problem though.

We need a good transfer station that is reasonably priced and able to take household waste and recycling. We need a means to get the waste to the transfer station for those who don't have a truck. We should provide scheduled "bulk pick-up" once a year, for a fee, as a service to our residents.

We as taxpayers pay hefty taxes to reside here and get very little bang for our buck. Maybe this state mandated change in trash pick-up fees is impetuous enough for the town to give more back to those who give through their wallets.

Sincerely, Alison Walck - East Hampton

Parental Rights

To the Editor:

Last school year, Superintendent Paul Smith did an excellent job maximizing in-person learning while maintaining health and safety. Unfortunately, he met opposition from several Democrats on the Board of Education. In the upcoming election, I will not vote for those who resisted the superintendent on this matter. Ask Portland and Colchester parents how they felt about their children attending in-person school far less days than our East Hampton kids. If not for support of the superintendent's plan by all Republicans on the board (and two Democrats), we would have been in the same boat here.

The above example illustrates that elections matter. Local elections and budget referendums are the primary levers of power we the people control. These are actually the ultimate levers of power - if we use them. As seen from news across the country, once a local school board is elected and the budget approved, it is very difficult for the public to influence it. Parents possess maximum leverage to assert their rights as the primary stakeholders in children's education two times a year - local elections and budget referendums. Attempting to influence decisions at meetings of already-elected officials has limited effectiveness, at best. Let's use the power granted us to maximum effect on Nov. 2.

David Arcidiacono - East Hampton

Senior Center To the Editor:

I would like to propose that those in Colchester who would prefer a community center rather than a senior center consider the following: Why not think of this as a first phase in moving toward a community center? The present proposal deliberately contains space for community use during afternoons, evenings, and weekends. To have a much larger facility in the future, the town might be able to acquire more land, preferably adjacent to the senior center so that the buildings could be incorporated into one facility. This might take time, but meanwhile residents would have access to the proposed building for meetings, activities, farmer/craft fairs, etc. Planning for this would consider the cost, and like the present senior center proposal, plan to have minimal impact on the mill rate.

I urge my fellow residents to vote 'yes' for the senior center to benefit all residents when it goes to referendum on Nov. 16.

Geraldine Transue - Colchester

Just What We Need

To the Editor:

I recently had the opportunity to spend some time with RHAM Board of Education candidates Maura Curran Baker, Claudia Riley and Heather Summerer. The enthusiasm and strength these three women exude is exactly what is needed for the RHAM Board

As a Hebron resident with two grandchildren currently at RHAM, and one headed there in the near future, I think it is imperative that we select the right people to represent the town of Hebron on the RHAM board. Many important issues will need to be tackled including the search for a new superintendent and continuing to allow in person learning safely. I have no doubt that these women will take their position seriously. They will not be afraid to speak up, roll up their sleeves and work collaboratively with other board members in the best interests of our students

It should be noted that all these women have experience working with people in Andover and Marlborough through sports, Girl Scouts and various other activities they partake in around our district so building on that foundation will not be a challenge for them. I am thoroughly impressed by how they carry themselves, how they actively listen and the passion they show when speaking about the community they

These candidates are top-notch and Hebron cannot

pass up the opportunity to put them on the RHAM Board of Education. I hope people in town agree and vote for these incredible women who have already established themselves as leaders and are ready to take the next steps as Board of Education members.

Vote Curran Baker, Riley and Summerer to better the future of our middle and high schools.

Kim Goldberg - Hebron

Supports Steinhauser

To the Editor

I am proud to support Laurel Steinhauser in her bid to the Portland Board of Selectman. Laurel has contributed her time and effort to our community at various levels on projects, the Board of Education and the Library Board of Directors. It has been working beside her on the Library Board of Directors that I have seen up close the qualities that would enhance the Board of Selectman.

Laurel has always been committed to a thriving Portland. She knows that it involves hard work, not only facing persistent issues, but also digging into the often tedious details of projects, contracts, grants, policies and budgets. Through her work she has gained an understanding of town operations and the interactions among the departments.

No matter the issues that arise or decisions to be made, Laurel brings a calm, thoughtful energy and a willingness to consider all angles and listen to all voices toward the health, growth and future of Port-

> Sincerely, Betsy Graziano - Portland

Note: Graziano is a member of the Portland Library Board of Directors, but is speaking as an individual.

Skorski for BOE

To the Editor:

Wes Skorski has served eight years on the Marlborough Board of Education and has consistently and reliably been the voice of reason and intelligence on the BOE. Wes is incredibly devoted and reliable. Despite no longer having children in the elementary school system (his youngest is moving on to middle school), Wes continues to faithfully work to better our school, town and community. He is an advocate for our children and is dedicated to assuring that Marlborough provides the best possible education while maintaining the health, safety and wellbeing of all.

During these difficult times, we all benefit from someone who is able to listen to others, hear both sides, maintain a level head, intelligently analyze information and respond in a well thought out manner. Wes, while always putting the children first, successfully does all of these things. I know first-hand what a great BOE member Wes is, as I served with him on the Marlborough Board of Education for several years. His passion for education, intelligence and professionalism always impressed me. This is the kind of leadership that our school and our town desperately need right now! Join me in voting for Wes Skorski for the Marlborough BOE!

Theresa Brysgel - Marlborough

Mercola

To the Editor:

Gary Gile calls himself a 'scientific methods'based researcher while pitching Dr. Joseph Mercola as his medical guru. Multiple Rivereast writers have disagreed with Gile, correctly calling Mercola a quack, charlatan and other spot-on characterizations. Gile dismisses them as "biased." His latest foot-inmouth statement takes the cake.

Implying that Dr. Fauci, world governments and mainstream medical professionals are bought and paid for by pharma, he then stated, "Dr. Mercola doesn't have any skin in the game." Anyone can Google Dr. Mercola and learn he retired in 2009 to devote time to his medical pseudoscience business. He employs dozens of internet-savvy persons to help him endlessly publish articles on Facebook, over 600 and climbing. He does not publish in medical journals, where all legitimate medical researchers publish. So why would Mercola abandon being a physician to start selling his own unproven medical remedies online? In a 2017 affidavit, Mercola revealed his net worth then exceeded \$100 million dollars. He has continued selling millions of dollars of unproven homeopathic treatments annually, to the dupes ignorant that American medical grifters have always parasitized us, going back to the 'snake-oil pitchmen with their horse drawn carts.

Mercola, a modern day entrepreneurial genius, takes inspiration from P.T.Barnum's "There's a sucker born every minute" and uses Facebook to beguile the 'Gile's of the world into forking over money for worthless balms. He has become richer than any legitimate physician could dream of.

So much for Gile's "no skin in the game" claim, and whose "research" began and ended fixated with Mercola's webpage. Gile is just another local shill for pseudoscience. Sadly, there have been many preventable COVID-19 deaths, with more to follow because Mercola and his hawkers continue delegitimizing science. Repugnantly, he has made himself a multimillionaire upon the pain and suffering of others.

Edmund Smith - Andover

Doesn't Support Turf Plan

To the Editor:

Recently the RHAM BOE and Regional School District No. 8 passed a resolution to appropriate \$3,560,000 for the installation of a new turf field, track, and lighting at RHAM High School, and to authorize the issuance of bonds and notes not to exceed that same amount. If the majority of voters in Andover, Hebron and Marlborough vote 'yes' on Nov. 2, the measure will pass, and the taxpayers of the three

See Letters, page 8

★ Story cont. from page 7

towns will be responsible for this debt. The members of the Andover Board of Finance would like to publicly state that although we support High School athletics and the benefits to the student population, we are not in favor of this expenditure.

Andover just finished a long and grueling budget season, and finally passed a budget with a zero increase for the fiscal year. Immediately following that, this RHAM proposal was announced during the summer months, when most of the tax-paying public is busy or vacationing. As stated in multiple town meetings, Andover has many items that need to be funded, and our budget is stretched to the limit. If the voters of Andover had wanted or approved spending more money, it would certainly be to address more pressing safety needs, bridge and culvert repairs, necessary road and tree work, supporting a town community center for its residents, and certainly any Andover Elementary School needs that are currently not funded.

We do not support this plan, which will strain our finances for the next ten years. We are also concerned the actual cost will be much higher due to the required maintenance and the machinery needed to take care of the new field. It is our recommendation that residents vote 'no' at the referendum on Tuesday,

> Respectfully, **Board of Finance** Town of Andover

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Voting for Ryan Curley

To the Editor:

I have known Ryan Curley as a Cub Scout, Boy Scout (earning the highest rank of Eagle Scout) and now an accomplished adult.

As one of his former scout leaders, Ryan continually reminds me of the Boy Scout oath: On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight. Ryan exemplifies this oath especially as an adult.

Scout Law has 12 tenets; all exemplify Ryan's

character and integrity.

· Trustworthy – he tells the truth, keeps his promises and is dependable.

· Loyal – he cares about his family, friends and others especially the Town of Portland.

Helpful – he is a dedicated volunteer.

· Friendly - he is a warm and welcoming indi-

· Courteous – he is polite, kind and caring. · Obedient - he obeys and follows the rules. He not afraid of making the tough decisions to uphold what is right, decent and honest.

Cheerful - he looks at the bright side of life working to help others.

Thrifty – he is not wasteful of any resources. He is cautious and thrifty with taxpayer and natural re-

· Brave - he faces difficult decisions head on and does what is right despite what others might be doing

· Clean - he keeps his mind and body fit. He holds a master's in public administration and is physically

· Reverent – he respects the beliefs of others and is respectful to all.

Ryan is not afraid to do what is moral and legal and to stand his ground to defend what is right. That is just what Portland needs to move us forward into a better and secure future.

Please join me in voting for Ryan Curley for first selectman on Nov. 2.

Dan Varricchio - Portland

Great Schools Benefit Hebron

Dear Hebron Friends and Neighbors:

There are many amenities that bring people to Hebron, from our beautiful trails to our small-town charm. Another key reason people move to town is for our incredible schools.

Although I am running to be your selectperson, I want to use this letter to express how important our great schools are and how they benefit our town. Our schools directly result in new families moving to Hebron. I know this from speaking with our Democratic

slate of candidates as well as with other residents I've met while knocking doors in the community.

During the pandemic, town staff and elected officials stepped up, going above and beyond to keep the town healthy, safe and moving forward. This is also true of the Hebron Board of Education, which has maintained a steadfast commitment to keeping students safely in school while following the science. That is why I hope you will consider voting for my colleagues, chairwoman Heather Petit and Nicole Matthews, when you head to the polls on Nov. 2. Their tireless commitment to the safety of our children and a keen focus on retaining teachers and staff benefits our local families and the town as a whole.

If elected, I will take a holistic approach to the types of decisions we make when it comes to attracting new families and businesses to town. That is why I am proud to support our schools.

Most sincerely. Tiffany V. Thiele Candidate, Hebron Board of Selectmen

Senior Center Budget

Colchester Residents:

During Colchester's AARP 'Meet the Candidates' Zoom meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 5 (available on the town website), I asked Andreas Bisbikos - who, at the Aug. 18 meeting, proposed a 2% reduction to the town's departments (unless they had already made a voluntary reduction) - if he foresaw any further cuts to the senior center budget.

His response was that the deduction was actually 1.2%, which meant a small decrease of approximately \$500. The Aug. 25, 2021 proposed budget reflects a 2% reduction.

My concern is that the following figures, from the Aug. 25 2021 budget reductions, indicate a \$707 reduction, not his stated \$500:

Senior Services Contractual Temp Payroll/FICA & Retirement Contractual Temp Payroll/FICA & Retirement - Office coverage/Substitute bus driver coverage \$707.

This \$700 cut means reduction of staff that are needed to deliver services to our seniors. Every dollar

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of funding is critical for running our senior center, and cuts like this limit critical services, so even a difference of \$200 matters.

Any programming for the senior center is not funded by the town and only funded through the fundraising at the center.

Linda Pasternak - Colchester

Carini for Curley

To the Editor:

I have lived in Portland since 1973 and I have also been a small business owner here in town for almost 30 years. During this time, I have seen little progress regarding economic development. I believe that Ryan Curley is the person to make the necessary changes that this town needs to ensure its future success.

Ryan understands the needs of residents and business owners alike. I have known Ryan's family for many years and have gotten to know Ryan as well. He not only has the education but also the experience to lead Portland into the future and bring about the necessary change we need.

Please join me in supporting Ryan this November. Wayne Carini - Portland

Intelligent, Hard-Working, Honest

I am proud to support my friend Christina Tammaro-Dzagan as a candidate for the East Hampton Board of Education. I have known Christina and her family for over a decade, in which she has always shown to be an intelligent, hard-working, and honest person. The type of person you can always count on for absolute honesty in any situation.

As a true friend and a neighbor, there is nothing Christina would not do for someone. She is the first person I would reach out to if I needed support, advice, or a helping hand. She doesn't judge, nor disrespect others' opinions and will listen to and discuss both sides to every situation.

I am so impressed with Christina's interest in serving on the Board of Education for our wonderful town. I have seen firsthand Christina's compassion towards others in our community as well as her commitment to a high-quality education for the children of East Hampton.

I hope you join me in voting for a new name on the ballot this November.

Donata Barber - East Hampton

Sousa Cares Deeply

To the Editor

I'm grateful that my longtime friend, neighbor and fellow community volunteer, Dave Sousa, is running to serve on Hebron's Planning and Zoning Commission. I have known Dave for over 38 years, and can vouch for his honesty, integrity, intelligence and pro-

His background is in planning, community development, and landscape architecture, so he has the technical knowledge and expertise to serve on the P&Z Commission. But beyond that, he is passionate about making communities more vibrant, walkable, environmentally friendly, and diverse.

As co-chair of the Hebron Coalition on Diversity and Equity (or CoDE), I have seen Dave's ability to listen and learn, to absorb data and information, and apply it to move a project forward. He is both thoughtful and practical - desiring to make real change happen. He cares deeply about Hebron; he loves all that it has to offer - and also sees ways to make it even better!

Hebron is fortunate the Dave is in a place in his career and life that he can devote the time necessary to serve on Planning and Zoning. We will be greatly served by his contributions.

Donna Jolly - Hebron

Supports Reich

To the Editor:

I support Kevin Reich's reelection to the East Hampton Town Council.

Kevin is a dedicated community member. He was a teacher and assistant superintendent of schools for 41 years. He serves in leadership roles on civic organizations including the Middlesex County United Way, East Hampton Rotary Club and has been chairperson of Flags Over East Hampton. He cares about our town and works with others to make it better.

As a councilperson, Kevin worked over the last eight years to meet our town's needs and face its challenges. He works with his fellow council members (regardless of party) for the benefit of our residents. He respects and considers other's points of view in forming his positions on issues.

During his latest term on the Town Council, Kevin and the Democratic majority acted to keep our community and children safe, continue town services, and maintain and improve town infrastructure and facilities in a fiscally responsible way. Kevin supported policies that funded our police department and reinstated an officer, maintained fire equipment, added four teaching positions for our schools, and provided the technology that made it possible for children to learn through the pandemic. Further, the 2021-22 budget passed unanimously with the support of Republicans on the Town Council.

Importantly, Kevin supports the substantive and responsible Democrat platform which addresses important issues our town faces including securing state funding for a needed public water system, diversifying our grand list, investing in our schools to ensure educational excellence and opportunities for our children, supporting public safety and health and creating immediate and long-term capital budgets and plans for our town's infrastructure needs.

For responsible leadership and for a brighter future for East Hampton, vote for Kevin Reich for Town Council and for the other Democratic candidates.

Brian Corvo - East Hampton



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Kevin Reich for Town Council

To the Editor:

My name is Duane J. Reich and I have been a resident of East Hampton for seven years. I am writing to ask for support in voting for my brother, Kevin M. Reich, for the position of Town Council. He has served on the council for the past eight years and he has been totally devoted to this. I can tell you that he puts his whole heart and love into this position.

He is a devoted brother and a tremendous dad to his son, Matthew. He took such excellent care of our parents in their final years and he assisted me when I became ill with advanced renal disease and during my successful renal transplant. He devoted his entire educational administrative career to East Hampton and local residents are still reminding me of his complete loyalty to East Hampton.

He has served the community as educator, central office administrator, chairperson of the Cemetery Board, finance board of St. Patrick Parish, president of East Hampton Rotary, Assistant Governor in Rotary District 7980, Campaign Cahir of Middlesex County United Way, and chairperson of the Flags over East Hampton Committee. Recently, he has assisted the seniors residing in the East Hampton Housing Authority with their change over to Comcast. He has indicated a strong interest in expanding housing for seniors and in providing more reasonable internet access for them.

I can tell you that he's honest, devoted, and aims to improve the quality of life in beautiful East Hampton. I am urging you to vote for him on Election Day,

Yours sincerely, Duane J. Reich – East Hampton

Voting for Tripp

To the Editor:

I am writing on behalf of my good friend Jim Tripp's run for Portland's first selectman. I'm not supporting him because he's my friend, but rather because he has experience with managing budgets the size of Portland's, directing large groups, and negotiating contracts. He led volunteers to build our beautiful Riverfront Park and was integral in delivering the new Recreation Complex. We previously worked together on the Parks & Recreation Commission and now on the Board of Selectmen for four years. His talent with working with people and delivering on goals is exceptional.

Jim chairs our bipartisan BOS Water & Sewer Committee. We have worked together on this committee to address the skyrocketing MDC rates. We have begun work on finding a new water source so it is in place in 2025 when the MDC contract expires in 2026. I would like to go on about Jim, but I really feel the need to address concerns we have with regards to what is being said about our water issue.

We are hearing that the other party is telling people that the Democrats are too late to solve the issue. First, this is a b-partisan problem to solve. Second, work is already in progress. Now a recent editorial implied selling the water system. The committee and the town do not believe that selling the system is a cost-effective solution and this has been explained by the committee on numerous occasions. RTC chairman Lavoy, you, and your team, should do your homework and be more educated before speaking to residents.

Jim will ensure that we utilize our \$250k state grant to have a new water source in place for 2026. Please vote for Jim Tripp and our great team on Nov 2 by voting Row A.

Ralph Zampano – Portland

Note: Zampano is deputy first selectman in Portland, but said he is speaking as an individual.

Wisdom When Most Needed

To the Editor:

My name is Scott Slater, and my family and I moved to East Hampton in 2012 when we heard what a good school system East Hampton had. I have always been happy with the education my daughter has received. She is now a freshman in college, and we owe it to East Hampton schools for helping us get

Last year, when the pandemic lockdowns began, I had friends and colleagues who lived and worked in places where school stopped entirely! There was a mad scramble to issue laptops and other technologies in order to pivot to an online learning model. Kids getting ready for their next big step lost weeks, if not months of important educational time. In East Hampton, our students had no such interruption; this is because we issue Chromebooks to our middle and high school students. Democrats were instrumental in keeping computers in our school budget, and that allowed our kids to adapt much more quickly to at home and hybrid learning.

The wisdom to include education technology when we needed it most is the reason that the Democrats have my vote to continue to make smart decisions with our tax dollars.

Sincerely, Scott Slater – East Hampton

Ryan for Portland

To the Editor:

I will be honored to vote for Ryan Curley for first selectman and the Republican slate of amazing candidates.

Ryan has served Portland for six years as town clerk as well as two terms on the Board of Selectmen. Thank you, Ryan for a decade of elected public service for our community!

As town clerk, Ryan, working closely with both the Democratic and Republican registrars of voters, has successfully overseen five balloted events – including presidential, gubernatorial and municipal elections, along with several budget referendums and

mimorios

In my career I have worked for municipalities in finance and administration. I have witnessed first-hand the demands and requirements of being a first selectman. This is not a 9-to-5, punch-in and punch-out position. Being a first selectman requires that you are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year to serve the citizens that elected you. Ryan is committed to this responsibility to serve the citizens of Portland as first selectman.

We are in the final weeks of the municipal election; the town clerk and registrars of voters have the legal responsibility to ensure the election process is conducted properly. In this leadership role, Ryan may be called upon to make tough decisions to ensure the process is followed – that is his job, the one he took an oath to do (twice) as our town clerk. I am confident that he will do that with integrity, just as he will when he is our newly-elected first selectman.

Being a leader is not always an easy task. It means making tough decisions and doing what is lawful and correct. Dwight Eisenhower stated that "The supreme quality of leadership is integrity." Ryan embodies this.

Please join me in voting Row B on Election Day.

Cindy Varricchio – Portland

Supports Thiele

To the Editor:

Over the last three years, I have had the privilege of getting to know Tiffany V. Thiele. I say privilege because it is not often in life that you meet a woman of her caliber, willing to do so much for the town she lives in. She has emerged as a leader and has earned the respect of her fellow colleagues. Over the last three years, she has worked hard to create a positive environment within the Democratic Town Committee, encouraging new members with fresh perspectives, as well as providing an outlet for those already committed to the Democratic Town Committee.

Tiffany has the passion, knowledge and drive of a true leader and she encompasses real democratic values that we hold so close. She is an example for all of us. Accordingly, the 2021 Election Committee asked her to run for to be a member of the Board of Selectmen. As a member of the Election Committee, I stand firm in that decision and I truly could not think of anyone else who I would want to represent us during these unprecedented times. Tiffany will bring her keen listening skills to the table. She is strong and capable. She will not bend nor break under pressure. In fact, her tact in handling difficult situations continues to impress me. Time and time again, she is the one we

go to for advice and direction.

For all these reasons, I am proud to say I am voting for Tiffany V. Thiele for Board of Selectmen, and I hope you will join me as well. Once she is elected, I am proud to say I will stand by and support her as she embarks on her journey to do what is right for the people of Hebron.

Sincerely, Erin Bussiere – Hebron

Memorial Day Parade 2021

to the Editor

As a member of the Memorial Day Parade Committee for several years, I would like to correct some misinformation regarding the reason there was no Memorial Day Parade this year.

The parade group is made up of veterans of the three veterans' organizations in town that gather to plan and stage this event. It is not a part of the town nor controlled by any other municipal organization. The 2021 Memorial Day Parade was canceled by the committee due to prevailing health concerns for both the veteran population and concerns for marchers and parade audience. Any statements by others to the contrary are not accurate.

Alphonse Letendre – Colchester

Note: Letendre is a member of the Colchester Memorial Day Committee, but said he is speaking as an individual.

Money, it's a Hit

To the Editor:

At recent Hebron BOS meetings we heard again of low water reserves in the center of town and a suggestion was made to drill a well near Amston Lake and pump the water up to town thus covering the new, greater demand for water. Cost unknown.

That a special roof for the library was needed and the quote came in at just under \$500k.

We heard more about the DPW's need for an updated facility. The 2019 quote being around \$9 million. There was more pushing to develop our watershed with the Village Square complex which we later read, in the paper, comes in at an estimated \$25 million.

A well-presented request for an Astroturf/athletics field to be installed at RHAM High School was also heard. The project was roughly quoted at \$3 million and would raise residents' taxes by \$50 a month.

In recent years we spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on creating John Horton Blvd and \$600k on 88 acres of wet/watershed farm land, we may or may not be able to build on. There is also outside talk of

the town's septic lines needing an overhaul.

If \$3 million of Astroturf ups each household's taxes by \$50 a month, what are we looking at for all the rest? Would our taxes then go up another \$400, or more, monthly? Where will all that money come from? And if this watershed land, like Burnt Hill, proves unsuitable for industrial development, then what?

With all these expenses piling up in Hebron, we need to pump the brakes and prioritize expenses to be sure we are making well thought out choices. No home owner wants to be hit with higher property taxes or contaminated ground water.

Jean Tulimieri – Amston

Barella for BOE

To the Editor:

Kerri Barella is a knowledgeable candidate running for Marlborough's Board of Education. She has countless years of experience as a special education teacher and understands the importance of the parent-teacher connections that are vital to the success of today's students. Kerri has demonstrated solid leadership through the local MOMS Club and continues to step up whenever a need arises because she knows what it means to be a team player.

One of the qualities that make her such a great leader is her ability to listen to all sides of an issue and make all voices feel heard. She always acts with the best interest of kids at the heart of every decision she makes. With multiple children in the school system, she can relate to parents that want a top notch education for their kids. Her experience and degrees within the education field make her a knowledgeable candidate that can speak to programs and strategies that will help Marlborough's test scores continue to improve. As a parent myself, I am excited to support a candidate that isn't afraid to speak up for our children and give them the best educational opportunities possible.

Amy Kuhrt Educator, Parent, Marlborough Resident

An Experienced Leader

To the Editor:

On Nov. 2, Colchester will have a choice to elect our first selectman. For me, there's only one choice: Mary Bylone. Mary's an experienced leader who makes good decisions based on the facts and information presented to her.

Mary fought to add two firefighter/EMT positions to the fire department during the pandemic to pro-

See Letters, page 16





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Control of Finance Board Up for Grabs

by Sloan Brewster

Currently comprised of three Republicans and two Democrats, four candidates are vying for the three seats open on Hebron's finance board. Voters will be able to cast ballots for up to three of the candidates.

Democratic Town Committee Chair Tiffanv Thiele is crossing her fingers for the two Democrats on the ballot.

"If our two Democratic candidates win, our party would gain control of the Board of Finance," she said. "We are proud of two candidates, as they would bring a wealth of expertise and commitment to service to the board."

Republican Town Committee Chair Amanda Veneziano said Republicans were focused on putting qualified, experienced and communityfocused candidates on the Republican slate for every office.

"Our Board of Finance candidates are just that," she said. "The past two years have brought challenges at every level and the Republican leadership on the Board of Finance served with distinction. Our campaign will highlight this and we trust the voters will make the connection and reelect Republican leadership.'

The Republicans

Diane Del Rosso, 59, is hoping to retain the seat she has held for the last four years.

She said working on the board aligns with her education and experience.

A manager in Eversource's energy efficiency group, which oversees residential programs, Del Rosso previously worked for more than 25 years in finance, accounting and operational management, with the bulk of the work taking place at a large non-profit focused on higher education fi-

Del Rosso said she is running because towns need knowledgeable people willing to volunteer and work in consort with town employees to keep everything running smoothly.

'We have many wonderful people volunteering their time to work on everyone's behalf," Del Rosso said. "I thank all my colleagues who continue to work to make Hebron a really wonderful place to live."

Del Rosso said she has lived in Hebron nearly 30 years and wants to give back to the community. She said her style is collaborative and inclusive and she wants to make informed, fact-based decisions for the community.

"I've learned a lot about how our Board of Finance helps serve our beautiful town," she said. "That experience, coupled with my professional experience, will continue to help me navigate the work of the Board of Finance.'

According to Del Rosso, key issues facing the board are: balancing multiple competing priorities including maintaining town services, educating children and maintaining infrastructure. Elementary schools need new roofs, the Public Works Department needs a new facility, the high school needs a new field and the volunteer fire department will soon need new trucks in the coming future, she said.

In addition, projects and budgets for RHAM are paid for by the three towns and approved by voters, she said. The local boards of selectmen and finance hold no control over what comes before voters.

In August, Del Rosso said, Hebron selectmen reviewed the work completed over the past 12 years on the Public Works Facility building project and RHAM's multi-use turf field project.

Funding for the turf field will be a question on the ballot in November and the public works facility will go to referendum in May of next year.

Michael McCormack, 54, is also vying to keep his seat. An attorney at O'Sullivan McCormack Jensen & Bliss PC in Glastonbury, he was appointed to the board to fill a vacancy in January 2020. Prior to that, he was elected two times to the Zoning Board of Appeals and served as

McCormack said he feels his experience as a lawyer, as well as his time on the finance board and other boards and committees in town, provides him with "the background to continue to provide valuable input to the Board of Finance and serve the best interests of the residents of Hebron as we move forward in the future."

McCormack said his experience on the board and as a shareholder at his own law firm as well as his prior service on his church's finance committee, the State Insurance and Risk Management Board and the Connecticut Commission Medicolegal Investigations Board give him tools "to work with others in an effort to achieve goals that are best for the residents of Hebron.'

A resident of Hebron for 27 years, McCor-

mack said he has volunteered in various ways and is committed to continue working with town staff, fellow board members and other boards "to deliver quality services and a great place to live to Hebron residents while prudently managing expenses and taxes."

'Meaningful contributions" he marks as his contributions to the finance board include working to pass two budgets that resulted in no tax increases for Hebron residents and the recent creation of an account for surplus funds from the previous fiscal year. Once in the account, the money can be approved for use by the Board of Education for educational purposes, he said.

According to McCormack, key issues facing the board include continuing to support "our excellent education system and funding other services and projects that help make Hebron a wonderful community in which to live and work, while controlling taxes with prudent management of revenue, expenses and capital projects."

'There are capital projects that are likely to arise in the future which will require research and careful consideration, and management of the town's debt service is always important," he said.

The Democrats

Amy Dunnells, 41, is hoping to win a seat.

The owner of Financify, a firm that offers accounting, bookkeeping, and financial advisory services for small businesses, this would be her first term on a board or commission.

Dunnells said she is "a forward-looking candidate" who is eager to work hard for the future success of Hebron and looks forward to bringing her "extensive experience to ensure the town's resources are used efficiently.'

"I feel my financial background and investment in Hebron's future success will be a great benefit to the taxpayers in town," she said. "My family and I are looking forward to residing in Hebron for a long time and it is important to me that our community empowers future generations to succeed."

Dunnells said she was approached by the DTC about running for the board and saw an opportunity to give back to the community. She said it is a way to get involved on a greater level to ensure the town's continued success and is running to bring taxpayers more understanding and transparency about how "their hard-earned dollars are spent."

Dunnells said if she is elected she would like to continue investing in schools and educational programs.

'Creating fiscally responsible budgets that serve all residents in Hebron is very important to me," she said. "Working together on the board to pursue successful economic development opportunities will be beneficial in ensuring that Hebron remains an affordable place for all residents and an attractive one for new businesses.'

Malcolm Leichter, 69, is looking to retain the seat he has held on the board for 16 years, including as chair and vice chair.

Leichter retired as a school business manager after 16 years, was service manager at the IBM Corporation for 14 years and tech education teacher at Manchester Public Schools for eight years.

A longtime resident of Hebron and a fourterm member of finance board, Leichter said he believes he is "in tune with most residents and their desire to see Hebron grow and prosper."

He said he has managed multimillion dollar budgets in the public and the private sector and is "objective and driven by the data."

"I vote for what I believe is best for the entire town and not for the most vocal faction," Leichter said. "In order to do that one must be a good listener. I spent many years in the private sector listening to my employees and understanding the facts before making a decision."

Leichter also served for 12 years on the Capital Improvement Committee and was chair and vice-chair, six years on the Open space land Acquisition Committee, five years on the Public Building Committee, and was a member of the Charter Revision Commission from 2018 to 2019 an served as vice chairman.

Leichter said he is running "to maintain the financial strength of Hebron, continue the focus on tax rates and honest budgets, to move Hebron ahead in terms of major projects as they become affordable [and] to maintain Hebron as a country town where it is a great place to raise a family.

Key issues he hopes to address if elected include making it affordable for seniors to stay in town, funding that maintains "an excellent education system for our young people," reduced state and federal funding and streamlining the town by sharing services with other towns.

"I believe that it is very difficult for much of our senior population to continue to own a home in Hebron," Leichter said.

He said the basic program for deferring taxes is town is offered to seniors with the lowest level of income while many other towns offer more robust tax abatement programs that help seniors stay in their homes, and "remain as great resources to our young children" and maintain their dignity.

"I will continue to fight for more efficient Tax abatement programs that lead to better twilight years for our seniors," Leichter said.

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 2. Polls will be open from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. at Hebron Elementary School, 92 Church St.







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Residents Slam Choosing 'Party Over Person'

by Sloan Brewster

Hebron's Board of Selectmen, in spite of vocal pleas from residents, appointed a Republican to an empty seat on the Board of Education.

The seat was vacated by Republican Keith Petit, who resigned in August citing a conflict of interest deriving from a new position with the Connecticut Teacher's Retirement Board.

At a lengthy meeting on Oct. 7, selectmen voted along party lines to put Republican Alex Crawford in the spot.

The three Republicans on the Republicancontrolled board voted to appoint Crawford to the seat while the two Democrats voted against, saying they favored appointing Democrat Ethan Heinan.

While stressing they were impressed with both candidates, the Republicans - Daniel Larson, Gail Richmond and Peter Kasper - said they felt compelled to select the Republican because it is a midterm replacement to fill a slot previously occupied by a Republican.

"I struggle a little bit with this, because my bias is to support the original intent of the voting public when it comes to replacing an elected official midterm, regardless of party," Kasper

Richmond and Larson, who is the board chair, said much the same thing.

"I think we owe it to the voters," Larson said. Democrats Marc Rubera and John Collins,

Hebron Mill Site Tour

The Hebron Historical Society is offering a chance to tour the Hope Valley/Reidy Hill mill site Saturday, Oct. 23, at 1 p.m. Rain date is Oct. 24.

This site has been extensively documented and researchers will share their knowledge with participants. The tour is on private property and attendance is limited.

Donation is \$10 per adult will be collected at old Hope Valley Church, 21 Reidy Hill Rd., where tours will start.

Contact Sue at 860-368-7463 or mergonci65@comcast.net with your preferred time and number of attendees.

Evening with Joe Courtney

The Hebron Democratic Town Committee invites everyone to an evening with Congressman Joe Courtney at Blackledge Country Club, located at 180 West St., from 6-9 p.m. Saturday,

Donation of \$40 per person includes admission to the event, appetizers from the Blackledge kitchen, and some trivia. Cash bar will be

Visit Hebrondems.com to get your tickets. Donations go towards funding local elections.

Burrows Hill Paving

The Town of Hebron Public Works Department will conduct pavement maintenance on Burrows Hill Road the week of Oct. 25. Public Works said it expects lengthy construction delays and advises motorists to use an alternate route.

For more information, call Public Works at 860-228-2871.

however, pointed to Heinan's long list of qualifications in the education field, including training superintendents, and said the board should put the best man in the job, regardless of party.

Rubera said he was not even aware of the candidates' affiliations and that it should only matter how qualified an individual was.

"As most everybody knows, from my past feelings about everything, party doesn't matter a lick," he said. "The best-qualified individual for this is obviously, Ethan."

Collins said putting a Democrat in the seat would not "change the balance of the board.

"Ethan, he brings some incredible strength so I'm going to vote for him," Collins said.

Heinan, who along with Crawford, gave his background and answered questions from selectmen, is an associate professor of educational leadership at Central Connecticut State University, served as department chair, is coordinator of the sixth year program, which, he said, prepares school leaders, and teaches in the educational doctorate program.

In fact, he said, Schools Superintendent Thomas Baird is a former student of his, as are three administrators at RHAM.

Trunk or Treat

All are invited to join the Hebron Parks and Recreation Department for a night of trunk-ortreating, pumpkin-decorating, music, bounce houses, hot chocolate, wagon rides and more, on Friday, Oct. 29, from 4:30-6:30 p.m., at Burnt Hill Park. The event is free.

Decorated vehicles needed. Call 860-530-1281 to register a decorated car, and come prepared with enough candy for approximately 300 people.

Turkey Shoot at Fish and Game Club

Skungamaug Fish and Game Club, located at 423 Jones St., Amston, will hold Turkey Shoots each Sunday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., from Oct. 24-Nov. 21.

The shoots are open to the public. Refreshments available. Trap shooting also available. Bring your own equipment or use the club's.

Crawford, on the other hand, said he comes from "a very strong lineage of family educators" but chose a career in life insurance and is a vice president of underwriting for a large carrier where he manages several employees, including actuaries, medical underwriters and financial, underwriters, which, he said, requires collaboration and teamwork.

Both men said their wives are teachers and they have children in the Hebron school system.

While both candidates came with endorsements from their respective town committees, Heinan also received support from residents in the form of letters read into the record by Donna Lanza, director of administrative services.

In her letter, resident Erin Bussiere pleaded with the board to eschew party.

She recalled a recent board meeting at which, she said, selectmen said they prided themselves on being bipartisan and looking out for the best interest of the town.

'Well, today, I challenge the board to show that their actions back up their words," she wrote. "I implore the board to consider each of these men as individuals and base their vote on credentials, not the R or the D next to their

Bussiere pointed to Heinan's 23-year background in education and his "numerous leadership roles" and said "his resume speaks for

Nicole Matthews, who is running for a term on the education board in the upcoming election, offered her support for Heinan citing his list of credentials and calling him "a proven leader" who "is widely published in his field."

"I'm asking our selectpersons to see what a truly amazing asset he will be to Hebron public schools, and to appoint him as a member," Matthews wrote.

Richmond said it was rare to have two qualified individuals looking to volunteer for a board.

'This is probably the hardest decision that I've ever had to make on this board," Larson said, adding to Heinan, "I hope that you're not a stranger.

At the end of the meeting, during public comments, Tiffany Thiele, Democratic Town Committee Chair and a candidate for the Board of Selectmen in the upcoming election, expressed disappointment in the decision to appoint Crawford over Heinan.

Thiele, echoing a statement made earlier in the meeting by Collins, said she has supported Republicans in the past.

"I was proud to vote for Keith as a person, not for the party because I knew that Keith cared very deeply about our children" she said. "Just a few weeks ago, this board talked about how it was committed to bipartisanship. And I think tonight was, unfortunately, an example of party over person, so I find that disappointing.'

Harvest Moon Festival Coming

The Town Center Project Inc. will host the third annual Harvest Moon Festival along Main Street (Route 66) Saturday, Oct. 23, from 3-7 p.m.

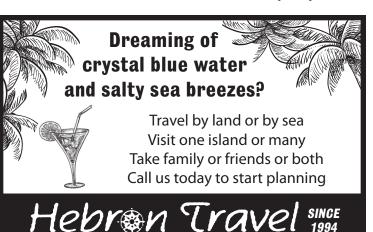
There will be live music, food trucks, artisans, a pumpkin-carving contest, an appearance by CT Ghost Investigation, crafts and games, and more, all organized by TTCP volunteers. The festival will also feature the Haunted Library, sponsored by Douglas Library; Dog Trot, sponsored by Hebron Veterinary Hospital; an Apple Pie Bake-Off, sponsored by The Flour Girl Café; and a Corn Hole Tournament, sponsored by Hebron Democrats. Alyson's Dance Troupe will also be on site performing.

Trick-or-Treat Participants Sought: TTCP is looking for individuals, non-profits, local companies, school and sports booster clubs to sign up and participate in trick-or-treating along Main

Street (Route 66) at the festival. Trick-or-treating takes place on the north side only, and starts at 5:30 pm. For more information contact TTCP's trick-or-treating coordinator directly at claudiariley@comcast.net.

Pumpkin-Carving Contest: To participate in the contest, bring your carved jack-o-lantern early to be displayed on the Pumpkin Tower, or later to help line the sidewalks. Pumpkins must be registered by 6:30 p.m. to be eligible for judging. Prizes range from \$100 for first place to various gift cards for second and third.

TTCP is an all-volunteer driven non-profit organization devoted to "reinventing the heart of Hebron." For more information on the festival, visit thetowncenterproject.org and follow TTCP on Facebook at facebook.com/towncenterpro-



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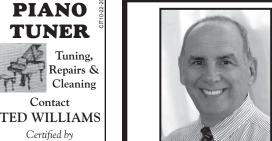
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Senior Center News & Notes

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-

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, butg 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.

Halloween Pizza Party and Costume Con-

test: 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.

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.

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@

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.

Ladies Guild 2022 Trips

Saint Andrew's Ladies Guild is planning several trips for the group and has opened the reservations to the community. Trips for 2022 are:

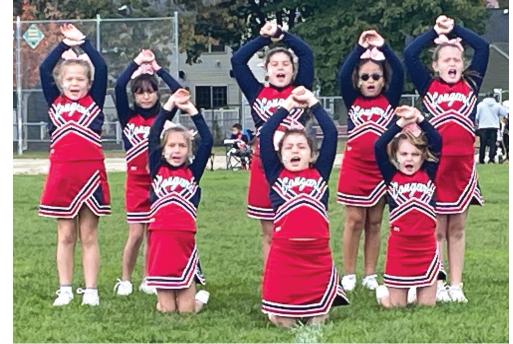
May 11-13: See Sight and Sounds Theatre's new show, David. The trip includes transportation, two nights' hotel, two breakfasts, two dinners, sightseeing and admissions per itinerary, including a ride on the Strasburg Railroad and visiting an actual Amish home. Cost is \$585/ person double.

Aug. 14-15: Boston Pops on Old Cape Cod. Enjoy the music of the Boston Pops featuring Keith Lockhart and a celebrity guest conductor, enjoy cruising Hyannis Harbor and visit JFK

Museum. Cost is \$409/person double, and includes transportation, hotel, one breakfast, one dinner, sightseeing and admissions.

Sept. 3-18: Trans-Atlantic Cruise, visiting Copenhagen, Norway, Iceland, Greenland. You will be transported to Boston and fly to Copenhagen where you will board a Royal Caribbean ship to enjoy your trip of a lifetime. Cost starts at \$2,999, including your flight. Travelers must follow the protocols set-in-place by the travel

For more information, call Barbara Gozzo at 860-537-0179 or Cathy Russi at 860-887-9621.



The Colchester Cougars' C Squad beat Springfield last weekend, by a score of 19-6. Pictured are the C Squad's cheerleaders. From left, back row, are Molly Busceto, Lily Cote, Chloe Welikson, Skyler Jones, Madison Raulukaitis; front row, Kaylee Krol. Kaya Struzik, Grace Wissler.

Youth Football Recap

The Colchester Cougars youth football squads were in action last weekend. The B, C and D squads played Springfield, while the A Squad faced Stafford. Here is how they fared:

D Squad: Tied. The Cougars fought hard and went into double overtime against the Longhorns. The Offense was led by Jude Billiott, Maverick Bernier and Ty Corraro. Sam Gorman and Cam Brodeur played strong on defense. As the D squad is instructional, no score was kept.

C Squad: Won, 19-6. Touchdowns were scored by Niko Ibrahim and TJ Garvie. The offensive line was paramount in blocking and clearing the way for Cougar scores. Casey Donat and Brady Bigelow added some great runs, helping the Cougars to gain yard after yard on the Longhorns. Despite having only 11 players, the entire squad came together on defense, stopping Springfield in their tracks. The C- Squad plays next on 10/31 at Stafford.

B Squad: Won, 34-6. The Cougars traveled to Springfield, Mass., for the first time ever. The running attack was led by Edward Gignac, Dominic Helm, Noah Garvie, Luke Sands, Vinny Arrigoni and Charlie Gorman. The line play of James Wissler, Lily Anderson, Adam Bigelow and Ryan Browning was key in securing the Cougar victory. On defense, the Cougars held Springfield to zero points until the last second by the fierce play of Alan Marshall, Max "bday boy" Sands, Jordan Darvas, Cody Obryon, Jameson Grant and Jacob Hashem. Special teams were highlighted when Chance "Bubba" Markovitz kicked the first extra point of the season.

A Squad: Lost, 26-16. Despite the hard running of Joey Gignac, and Riddick Burroughs, the Cougars weren't able to get ahead of Stafford's defense. Skip Coogan, Julian Dean, and MJ Therriaque had key tackles for losses. Elijah Anctil was 2-2 with points after kicks.

Scarecrow Voting Info

voting is live via bit.ly/22ndscarecrowvoting.

Scarecrows are back on the Town Green, and

This event is cohosted by the Colchester

Business Association and Colchester Parks and

Recreation, and is in its 22nd year. People can

cast their votes for funniest, scariest, and most

imaginative scarecrow. Voting will run through

Oct. 31, and the winners will be announced in

If you can't make it on the green to see the

scarecrows in person, all entries are available for viewing in a gallery at the link above.

the first week of November.

Critical Race Theory and Catholic Teaching

What is critical race theory (CRT)? All are invited on Thursday, Nov. 4, at 7 p.m., at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave. Deacon Michael Puscas will conduct an interactive session which will explore and discuss the CRT theory and the teachings of the Catholic Church as it relates to people's everyday lives.

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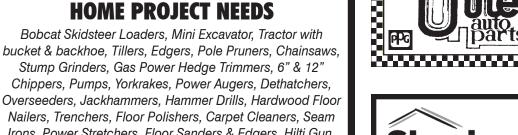
Pasta Dinner in Honor of Mrowka

All are invited to join the Colchester Democratic Town Committee for its annual pasta dinner, renamed in honor of the late Dorothy Mrowka, on Sunday, Oct. 24, from 5-7 p.m., at the St. Joseph's Polish Society, 395 S. Main St.

This dinner has been renamed Dot's Pasta Dinner, as Mrowka began this annual fundraiser many years ago. Mrowka, a longtime Democratic registrar of voters in town and also heavily involved with the DTC and the Federation of Democratic Women, passed away in April at the age of 78.

Guests at Sunday's pasta dinner will include Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz and other state and federal dignitaries. Tickets are \$20 each and can be purchased either at the door or at colchesterdemocrats.org under 'Dona-

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Champs!... Three Colchester Soccer Club Travel teams - U13 Girls Panthers, the U14/15 Girls Pride and the U10 Boys Thunder – were bracket champions at the recent Sylvie Poulin Columbus Day Classic Soccer tournament in Rocky Hill. Pictured here are the U14/15 Girls Pride. From left are, top row, Abby Stillwell, Skyelyn Schoen-Rene, Makenna Diodato, Alannah Baehr, Madison Levasseur, Lanie McIlduff, Alyssa Blanchette, Lily Koziol and Leyia Hall; bottom row, Abby Daniewicz, Delaney Smith, Ana Koonankeil, Ashlyn Perra, Aubrey Nosal.

National Drug Take-Back Day

Colchester Youth and Social Services and the Colchester Police will host the next local iteration of the National Drug Take-Back Day this Saturday, Oct. 23, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave.

There will be prescription drug lock boxes and bags, as well as information for safe medication storage and disposal.

The National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is designed to help folks safely and anonymously dispose of expired or unwanted prescription drugs, and stop them from falling into the hands of family and friends.

Scouting for FoodScouting 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.

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Alzheimer's Program 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 Stag-

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 diagno-

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

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/95nwmskb. 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 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 placing 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.

Fire Calls

From Oct. 10-16, the Colchester Hayward Fire Department responded to 41 calls: 34 emergency medical calls, three fire/fire-related calls, and four motor vehicle crashes. Calls included:

Fire: outside fire, one; service calls, two. Crashes: single-car, one; two-car, two; car vs.

Medical: sick person, three; fall injury, three; cardiac distress, six; mental disorder, two; difficulty breathing, five; back pain, one; injured person, two; unconscious, four; bleeding, one; alcohol disorder, one; stroke, two; overdose,

CHFD provided mutual aid twice, once each to Marlborough and Hebron. It received mutual aid four times - twice from Gardner Lake and

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 colchesterc3.jumbula.com/#/joyful-noises-fall.

Ahavath Achim News

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

Friday night service, 6:30 p.m., Zoom; Shabbat morning hybrid service, 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.

once each from East Hampton and Marlbor-

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

Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for Harrington Court

The Greater Norwich Area Chamber of Commerce invites all to a ribbon-cutting ceremony of Complete Care - Harrington Court, 59 Harrington Court, on Friday, Oct. 29, from 8-9 a.m.

Abundant Life Church

Abundant Life Church, a Christ-follower church that believes 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.



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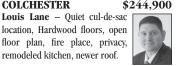


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Colchester • Colch

New Online Offering for Town Clerk

Cloud-based software provider Permitium and the Colchester town clerk's office has announced the office is now utilizing VitalDirector, an online solution that offers the citizens of Colchester the ability to manage the processing, payment, and issuance of birth, death and marriage certificates online.

Town Clerk Gayle Furman made the selfservice option available to residents earlier this

"We have partnered with Permitium to give the Town of Colchester a fast, easy, and affordable way for our citizens to request certified copies of birth, death, and marriage certificates online," Furman said. "The ordering process with VitalDirector ensures statute compliance, accelerates turnaround time, increases security, automates, tracks, organizes, and streamlines vital record ordering for applicants in the Town of Colchester.

Permitium's managing partner, Matt Solomon, said, "I am excited to announce the partnership with the Town of Colchester. I admire the pivot that Gayle made by recognizing the recent demand for their citizens to have the ability to order vital records online. The solution allows citizens to initiate the request for vital records through a common interface for walk-in and online application submissions. VitalDirector aligns with their priority of keeping their staff and citizens safe while providing the best service possible."

Visit the town clerk's page at www.colchesterct.gov for more information.

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 and Wednesdays, for grades 6-8. 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.

After School Adventures: Tuesdays, 2-4 p.m., through the end of the school year. Grades 6-8 are invited to the Youth Center after school for fun activities and even some trips.

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. Regis-

CT Bearcats **Seeks Players**

The CT Bearcats of Colchester and East Haddam is seeking 9U players for the spring/ summer baseball season. To be eligible, players cannot turn 10 years old until after May 1,

Anyone interested should contact Coach Rob Corraro at TMBA22@hotmail.com.

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.

From the Superintendent's Desk...
Shortly after adopting our mission statement in 2019, "We create innovative thinkers for a dynamic world," we established several key concepts which were central to our vision for the

- All students are able to think deeply and generate ideas and/or solutions in response to challenging, authentic problems; and
- All students grow academically, socially, and emotionally because of a safe and support-

On Oct. 12, the Board of Education endorsed a draft of the school year 2022-23 budget priorities. The focus of strengthen, grow and sustain, central to the budget priorities, continues to advance our vision for the district. The 2022-23 budget priorities are:

- -- Strengthen the district's intervention program personnel, data support, and time.
- -- Continue to be the pride of the community by leading the region in outstanding and innovative instruction that engages students and the community as a whole.
- Enhance the district's capacity to address the social, emotional, and physical needs of our students.
- -- Build and create a funding plan for long-term facilities projects to address the significant
- needs of district buildings. -- Review and implement a human resources data management and work efficiencies plan.
- Plan for end of grant funding for preschool and intervention personnel.
- Plan for Education Cost Sharing funding reduction in the 2023-2024 budget.
- Continue to fund current intervention strategies, personnel, professional development, and meeting time.
- Continue to implement long-range and sustainable school safety and security plan with additional needs identified in the capital improvement plan.
- -- Continue to fund existing facility needs to ensure our buildings are appropriately main-

-- Continue to fund the long-range and sustainable technology plan.

Many of the priorities listed above have been funded through ESSER and ARPA funding and will continue to be for the next two years. We will continue to provide updates on the budget process over the coming months. The public can provide input at our regular meetings, budget workshops, and through email at budget@colchesterct.org.

Jeffrey E. Burt **Superintendent, Colchester Public Schools**

Youth Basketball Registration Open

Registration is open for students in grades one through high school to participate in the recreation or travel basketball programs offered by Colchester Youth Basketball.

Registration for the travel basketball program closes Oct. 31, and registration for the recreation basketball program closes Nov. 13.

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.

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.

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.





NEWS BULLETIN • October 22, 2021

Colchester • Colch



The Thunder Rolls... Three Colchester Soccer Club Travel teams – U13 Girls Panthers, the U14/15 Girls Pride and the U10 Boys Thunder – were bracket champions at the recent Sylvie Poulin Columbus Day Classic Soccer tournament in Rocky Hill. Pictured here are the U10 Boys Thunder. From left are, back row, Coach Jay Perra, Ryder Michaud, Zachary Martino, Jake Ward, Coach Mike Christoff, Zachary Marshall, Declan Gorreck; front row, Calvin Rossman, Cooper Perra, Camden Christoff, Christian Ingalla, Max Reinholtz.

Last Regular Voter Registration Session

On Tuesday, Oct. 26, there will be voter registration from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave. This is the last day to register to vote in the Nov. 2 municipal election.

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.

Westchester Church Snowflake Bazaar

Westchester Congregational Church will host its annual Snowflake Bazaar at Markham Meadows Campground at 9 Markham Rd. in East Hampton from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 6.

The "Cookies by the Pound" table will be back, as will the luncheon menu with full safety precautions in place. Fifteen vendors will be there as well as raffles, crafts and more.

For more information, email west congchurch @ gmail.com.

Westchester Church News

Westchester Congregational Church, 98 Cemetery Rd., has lifted most COVID-19 restrictions for in-person worship services on Sundays at 10 a.m. Masks are not required for those who are fully vaccinated against COV-ID-19. The services are also available on Zoom; visit the church website at westchestercong-church.org for login information.

The church has a small white wooden Blessings Box in its lower parking lot, with non-perishable food items and other items. All are welcome to give or take a few items.

For more information, email westcong-church@gmail.com, visit the church website, or call 860-267-6711.

New England's Other Witch Hunt

On Sunday, Oct. 24, at 4 p.m., the Colchester Historical Society is sponsoring a Zoom presentation by state historian Walt Woodward, entitled "New England's Other Witch Hunt."

Everyone knows about the witch hunt at Salem, Mass., in 1692. But not all know that in the years before Salem, Connecticut was New England's fiercest witch prosecutor. The first person hanged for witchcraft in New England came from Windsor, and every single person indicted for witchcraft in Connecticut in its early years was convicted and hanged.

Woodward brings this story to life in a lecture that begins with the Protestant Reformation and traces its history all the way through the Hartford Witch hunt of the 1660s – a nightmare of

Special Info Session on Senior Center

The Colchester Senior Center will hold a special session for the residents of Ponemah Village to talk about the proposed new senior center on Monday, Oct. 25, at 1:30 p.m.

All are invited to meet with members of the Senior Center Building Committee and learn about this project.

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

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.

For rules and more information, contact the Colchester Garden Club at colchestergardenclub@yahoo.com or call 860-267-4471. trials and executions that preceded Salem by a generation. He also shows how Connecticut Gov. John Winthrop Jr. and his friend the Rev. Gershom Bulkeley intervened to transform Connecticut from New England's most aggressive witch hunter to a colony that completely ended executions for witchcraft 30 years before they even began at Salem.

Along the way, Woodward answers all those questions you've wondered about the early witch hunts and explains why almost everyone in the 1600s believed that witchcraft was very real, and terribly dangerous.

For a link to the Zoom presentation, email mail@colchesterhistory.org.

Kyle's Smile Memorial 5K

A 5K race will be held Saturday, Oct. 30, to honor the memory of Kyle Ashley. Proceeds raised from the race will help support purchasing new playground equipment at the Colchester RecPlex.

The race will begin at 10 a.m. at Town Hall, rain or shine. To register and learn more about Kyle's Smile, visit www.col-chesterct.gov/recreation-department/pages/kyles-smile-5k-road-race.

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.



Spiritual Healing is a Recovery Group designed for those who need help with ANY life-controlling issues.

We meet 7:00 p.m. every Monday at:

Abundant Life Church

85 Skinner Road, Colchester, CT 06415 (860) 537-3082 www.abundantlifect.com







★ Letters cont. from page 9

vide the citizens of Colchester with the protection and service we need. To do that, the Board of Finance removed everything else from the town budget. She also supported and advocated for the Fire Apparatus replacement that was passed by the town. Two important decisions for Colchester.

This year, Mary put in her budget \$214,973 for funding for playground equipment, field irrigation (also removed last year), fixing the basketball court, new roof on the youth center, and roof on the RecPlex pavilion. While these items raised the bottom line of the budget, it was the right thing to do and bring attention to the town's ignored needs. Even though these items were removed from the budget, they will be funded with ARPA dollars. Mary is a leader willing to make the right and tough decisions for Colchester.

Mary brings experience and qualifications to this position. If Colchester were hiring a town manager, what are the qualifications we would be seeking? Mary's qualifications: two years on the job overseeing a multi-million-dollar town budget and over 20 administrative departments; retired regional vice president for patient care services and chief nursing officer supervising over 1,800 people; former small business owner; former member, Colchester Board of Education; and active member of the Colchester Lions Club, Business Association, Garden Club, Land Trust and Historical Society.

The choice is clear. Vote for Mary Bylone and the Democratic team on Row A.

Rosemary Coyle - Colchester Note: Coyle is a member of the Colchester Board of Selectmen, but said she is speaking as an indi-

Refreshing

To the Editor:

It's refreshing to see new candidates, along with our incumbent candidates, who are excited to represent the residents of East Hampton! It is encouraging to see new faces with fresh ideas, willing to step up and serve.

As our town continues to grow, we need to embrace change while we continue to balance our town's needs and wants, protect our community through public safety investments, and ensure that parents' concerns regarding mandates are heard.

We cannot settle for the 'same ole same.' It's time to vote for fresh and collaborative ideas! Vote Row B on Nov. 2!

> Deborah A. Cunningham – East Hampton **Candidate for Board of Assessment Appeals**

Opportunity and Risk

Dear Colchester Residents:

Comfortex

about

We are at a critical juncture for the future of our small town. As we reach the other side of this pandemic, there are opportunities and risks that our Board of Finance must meet.

Federal grant funds are a chance to invest in our community without burdening local taxpayers. However, these funds are temporary. BOF needs to make sure our long term capital plan remains sustainable after these funds are used. We must balance our budget. Rainy day funds cannot sustain the budget forever. Next year, the town will start receiving over \$400K in new revenue from Bloom Energy. First, this revenue must be used to reduce reliance on the unassigned fund balance.

We have an opportunity to escape this pandemic with improved town services, improved public safety with our fire department, improved town facilities, and increasing economic development. Thanks to efforts led by First Selectman Mary Bylone, Colchester will leave the pandemic better than we entered it. We would squander these accomplishments if we fail to budget responsibly.

Going forward, we can strategically deploy federal funds and use targeted town funds to support initiatives that we know our critical: improving economic development, building a new Senior Center, improving our RecPlex, preserving open space, and supporting our schools. However, we will need to balance these against budgetary constraints and the need to keep taxes affordable for residents of all income levels and ages.

Balance is the mission of the Board of Finance. As a member, I have fought for balance for my two years on the BOF and I will continue that fight if elected to continue serving on Nov. 2. Please consider casting your vote for Bernard Dennler III for Board of Finance, on Nov. 2.

Bernard Dennler III - Colchester **Running for BAA**

To the Editor:

My name is Koreen Ryan and I am running for the town of Marlborough Board of Assessment Appeals (BAA). I have been a Marlborough resident for more than 30 years and am very much looking forward to serving the town on this board. I have spent my adult life here in Marlborough, raising two children with my husband and have been in the mortgage business since graduating with a BS in economics. We are currently in our 18th year of owning our mortgage company in Marlborough.

As a local mortgage broker/owner and real estate agent I have exposure to many of the types of appeals brought before the board. I have the financial background and experience to fairly decide issues that come before the board. If elected I promise to be diligent and conscientious during my term on the BAA and looking forward to working with the other members of the Board to ensure that our residents will

have their tax assessment appeals fairly considered. Please vote on Nov. 2 and I would appreciate your

vote for me on the Board of Assessment Appeals. Koreen Ryan - Marlborough

American Independent Party

A reminder to the voters of Portland: Four or five issues ago I told of President Biden's blunder on the Keystone Pipeline shutdown. I also said it may not help now but to complete, it may help down the road "insurance." The barrel is now over \$80. Gas is \$3.25 per gallon. And, fuel oil is up; I don't know the price - call your dealer.

Now we have Mr. Tripp, another outsider, on how he's going to fix our water problem, which has been seen coming for many years. (Blinders on?) Mrs. Bransfield has been busy with her "projects" - the town park (with huge cost overruns) and sidewalk fixes (with no civil engineer), which left me with water coming both on my front walk and driveway (which can turn to ice when it's cold), both of which Mrs. Bransfield refutes; no one ever used the word 'refute' to me in my whole life, except this "outsider"

Voters of Portland - make up your own mind and don't listen to the "dribble."

I hope you people enjoyed my "banner" for six weeks; that's all the time I could get.

A veteran and lifelong resident ready to serve

Lambros Lambrinides - Portland

P.S. Look at your recent water bill and send a note to Mrs. Bransfield and maybe a note to Mr. Tripp.

Stolfi for BOE

To the Editor:

Custom Window Treatments

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On Nov. 2, I ask the voters of Marlborough to support Susan Stolfi, my mother, for reelection to the Marlborough Board of Education. My mom has been a part of both the RHAM and Marlborough BOE for the past six years now. She was inspired to join the BOE team to help support our community's voices, wants and needs using her skills of understanding and leadership.

My mom is an extremely hard worker who has been working for the same financial banking company for the past 23 years, showing her loyalty and reliability through her work. My mom has always instilled in my siblings and me to always do the right thing and to carry ourselves with kindness and honesty. She works through every scenario in life looking to do the right thing. One thing that is special about my mother is that she is an amazing listener; before forming her own opinion and implementing decisions she first listens to others. On the Board of Education, her first priority is always the children.

My mother, Susan Stolfi, is exactly what this town deserves. She is a passionate, caring, honest, and reliable person who will always work her hardest to create a positive impact on the Marlborough Board of Education for our young learners. Please join me on Tuesday, Nov. 2, and vote for Susan Stolfi for the local Board of Education.

Caterina Stolfi - Marlborough

Picking Plourde

To the Editor:

I am writing as a private citizen to endorse and encourage other residents of Marlborough to consider supporting Jeffrey Plourde for Marlborough Board of Finance in November 2021. Having known Jeff as a neighbor and friend since 2017. I believe he would be a great asset to the board of finance. Having previously served on the Board of Finance myself. I know Jeff has the right mix of collaborative skill, attention to detail and strong desire to do what is best for the citizens of Marlborough to be a highly impactful member of the team.

Over the past years as his neighbor, I've witnessed Jeff to be a person who values family, hard work and commitment to his neighbors. In addition to being the kind of board member that will be able to effectively collaborate and compromise, Jeff brings with him professional credentials and experience that will serve him well on the board. His more than 14 years of professional experience across revenue and regulatory competencies will bring a wealth of experience that will add great value to the work of the board.

The most important attributes of a Board of Finance member are the ability to quickly grasp financial and related data, combined with the ability to listen to and work with others. Jeff will excel in both areas. I encourage you to vote Plourde for Board of Finance in November 2021.

Scott Fleeher - Marlborough

Note: Fleeher is director of emergency management for Marlborough, but said he is writing as an individual.

Appalling

Dear Portland Residents:

This past week our community witnessed an ugly situation unfold on social media. The Republican Town Committee chair, Tim Lavoy, and town clerk and Republican first selectman candidate, Ryan Curley, led a coordinated attack against the Portland Democrats for distributing absentee ballot applications - a legal and common practice done by Republican and Democratic town committees across the

The Democratic Town Committee made a goodfaith effort to help voters who might be unable to get to the polls be able to cast their vote. We adhered to guidelines provided by the secretary of the state's office, forwarded to us in an email from the town clerk on Oct. 7.

We want to assure voters who have already submitted or plan to submit an absentee ballot application that Mr. Curley is required by law to honor it and send you your ballot. Your vote is valid and will

It is deeply concerning that instead of following proper procedure to address his concern, our town clerk's first move was to contact the chair of his own political party and coordinate a politically-motivated attack for his own personal political gain. Given his obvious conflict of interest, Mr. Curley should recuse himself. The people of Portland deserve to know that our votes are being carefully counted. How can we be assured of this when our town clerk's actions over the last week lead us to believe we cannot trust his integrity or his ability to remain impartial in executing his job?

The Republicans are attacking votes by mail just like Donald Trump did for over a year. It is appalling to see the local GOP enact the same divisive, dangerous tactics in Portland.

Sincerely, Brian O'Connor, Chair **Portland Democratic Town Committee**

Public Debates are Important

To the Editor:

I was disappointed to hear that the debate at Bacon Academy between incumbent Marv Bylone and Andreas Bisbikos was canceled! Mr. Bisbikos canceled for reasons only he knows!

As an educator who has said that he managed 1.000 students, a remarkable achievement in itself, should know the importance of students participating in government and that this would have been a valuable learning experience for students in our community! After all, they are our future!!

Mr.Bisbikos has stated that he believes in transparency! Well, here was his opportunity to do so!

Concerned Citizen.

Catherine Ryan - Colchester

Going with Giannelli

To the Editor

We have had the pleasure of knowing Liz Giannelli for the past two years. Liz genuinely cares about our community and the children she teaches. Her dedication to the improvement of everyone she interacts with is admirable. Liz has had over ten years of teaching, she has a great understanding and knowledge of the importance of education. She has taken the time to form fundraisers with the MOMS Club of Marlborough to not only raise money for our community but to help bring our community together.

Marlborough needs someone who listens, understands, and continues to fight for not only our community but for our children. Liz's dedication for learning and growing is remarkable. We will be voting for Liz as well because "a vote for Liz is a vote for our children's future."

Alyssa Durbin and Daniel Cavanna Marlborough

Supports Fraulino

To the Editor:

As we all begin to consider the candidates running for our local offices, I believe it is most important to consider the values that we want in our representatives and how those values will impact the future of our towns. Specifically, in choosing a candidate for the RHAM Board of Education, I am looking for someone who has our children's best interests in mind and can objectively consider all sides when making decisions that affect them.

As a newcomer to local politics, I believe Carey Fraulino would be an excellent addition to this board. I first met Carey while she was helping in my son's kindergarten classroom several years ago. It was there that I was first able to see how invested she is in the growth and development of our children. She has shown kindness, fairness and honesty in her interactions with my children. I have seen how she encourages them to speak openly, yet respectfully, about their experiences and to be brave enough to share their point of view. I have also seen firsthand the evidence that she has taught these values to her own children by how they treat others. I have also seen how she will go to bat to make sure her children are being heard and treated fairly in the school system.

In my conversations with Carey, she is respectful of my opinions, even if they differ from her own viewpoint. She remains engaged, open-minded and asks the appropriate questions needed to understand different points of view. She is conscientious, honest and capable. These qualities are what I believe will make her a valuable member of the Board of Educa-

> Sincerely Jennifer Williams - Marlborough

Support Bylone for First Selectman

At every turn of this pandemic, Mary Bylone relied on her nursing skills and years of experience as a health care professional to make sure families and seniors had the support they needed and keep our businesses open. As first selectman, Mary put the infrastructure in place for Colchester's long-term recovery and success

- · Colchester is one of only a few towns in the state with a Long Term Recovery Committee;
- Many new business entities opened in the first half of 2021;
- · Mary continues to meet with businesses and find solutions that ensure their success, and safety of patrons and staff:
 - · Mary continues to bring more COVID-19 vac-

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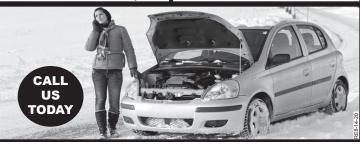




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cination and testing clinics to town;

- Mary restructured Food Bank services to meet needs of struggling citizens;
- Mary updated computer operating systems in the Town Hall to maintain productivity during the pan-
- Mary is using ARPA funds to improve the recreation fields and playground

Please vote for Mary Bylone on Nov. 2

Michael Hayes - Colchester Note: Hayes is a member of the Colchester Board of Finance, but said he is speaking as an individual.

Backing Barella

To the Editor:

I am writing in support of Kerri Barella for the Marlborough Board of Education. Our school system is one of the top reasons families move to our town. It is important to have individuals dedicated to our children and their education.

In the six years that I've known Kerri, she has volunteered for multiple board positions in the MOMS Club of Marlborough, as well as been on the Marlborough Elementary School (MES) Advisory Council and the MES Reopening Committee. She successfully handled anything that was thrown at her. Kerri's background in educational as well as special education would be an asset to this board. Listening and giving practical feedback are two of her many strengths.

I am confident that Kerri's knowledge, passion and dedication would benefit the Marlborough Board of Education, our school and our children.

Chervl Benedetto Marlborough Resident and Parent

Clean Up Politics

To the Editor:

As a licensed environmental/public health professional for 30 years, working to clean up the environment for the state of Connecticut, cities and municipalities, NGOs, and 100s of private sector businesses, it's time to clean up local politics. Both parties spread disinformation and pander to gain votes. I'm a selffunded campaign and I'm not asking the hard-working people of Colchester for one cent to fund my campaign...not during a pandemic, like the two-party candidates. I am a conservative businessman running for office to manage this town like a business which the town residents deserve.

Unlike my opponents, I've been a taxpaying resident for 35 years and have not seen much in the way of "Tradition Meeting Tomorrow," nor are there plans by the two candidates to do so in a significant way. We need fiscally-sustainable growth in this town to secure our future. Not pandering over issues that will leave us behind compared to other municipalities of similar demographics and population.

I look forward to your vote as a write-in candidate for first selectman on Nov. 2. Colchester First! Visit my campaign at www.facebook.com/jeffduigoucolchesterfirst.

Respectfully, Jeff Duigou – Colchester **Candidate for First Selectman**

Team Marlborough

To the Editor:

I'm writing to ask for your support for the best team for the Marlborough Board of Education. The team consists of Anna Holden, Angela Colantonio and myself, Wes Skorski. All three of us are dedicated parents who believe deeply that education must not only include math, reading, writing, art, and science but must also inspire passion and cultivate empathy for others. We also believe in science and the safety of our entire community.

I've been on the BOE for eight years and most recently as chairperson. My experience on the board tells me that Anna and Angela's education, beliefs and background would be a great addition to the board and keep our school the center of excellence

> Sincerely. Wes Skorski – Marlborough

We Need To Talk...

Note: Skorski is current chair of the Marlborough Board of Education, but said is writing as a citizen.

It's Personal

To the Editor:

one has had an extensive career in nu ing. Anyone who has had to endure a hospital stay or trip to the ER understands that a high level of care and compassion by nursing staff is essential to keeping a patient calm and getting on the road to recovery.

People who enter the field of nursing possess within them something that calls them to a life of serving others. They believe they can be instrumental in helping someone feel better physically and emotionally during a medical event.

Mary brings the same genuine concern for others she held during her long nursing career to her job as First Selectman. Nearly every day she receives calls and messages from people with concerns, someone going through a difficult situation, and folks who just have a question and need a simple answer. She takes the time to listen to their words and provide clarity, support and valuable information. Mary cares about all of Colchester's residents. She is passionate about the health and happiness of our community.

I have worked closely with Mary for the past year and have been able to see her big heart in action. Whether she is bringing her dog Stitch to meet members at the senior center, talking with her youngest constituents, or addressing a concern from someone on the Town Hall staff, Mary uses her experience as a manager, teacher, caregiver, parent and grandparent in all her interactions. She is warm and approachable and will always take the time to make sure everyone feels that they are getting the help they need.

Please get out and vote to reelect Mary Bylone as Colchester's first selectman on Nov. 2.

Thank you, Stacey Kilgus - Colchester

Make the Right Choice

The Colchester Republicans for Board of Education team was grateful for the opportunities given by the CBA and AARP to meet with the community. At the AARP forum we were fortunate to have been asked a very important question regarding one of our platform issues. We have some wonderful and caring teachers and administrators in our town!

We know teachers have academic freedom; however, academic freedom is not an excuse for crossing the line by subjecting students to one set of political beliefs. This fails to create a well-rounded and open minded individual. At the same time, it erodes the trust parents have placed in their child's teachers. We believe this issue needs to be addressed. Parents have been vocal regarding this concern. We would like to see a conversation begin with administrators and edu-

This is one of many reasons we all decided to come together and run for the four positions open on the Colchester Board of Education. We as a team would like to see educators focus on basic curriculum and when faced with political issues, if necessary, give both sides equal representation and let our children think for themselves, have discussions amongst themselves and come to their own conclusions.

We don't believe any parent's concerns should ever be dismissed, especially by a Board of Education member. It is important to have members on the Board of Education who are invested in our school system. Donna and Margo are parents with children in our school system. Alex is a current educator with firsthand knowledge of our graduates' needs. Rosemary is a recent graduate with first-hand knowledge of our schools and new, fresh ideas.

Please vote Row B on Nov. 2.

Alex Oliphant, Donna Antonacci, Margo Gignac, and Rosemary Gignac **Candidates for the Colchester Board of Education**

Quockerwodger

Attention Colchester Voters:

Please remember what kind of government we had before Mary Bylone became our first selectman; that was a government which was not acting in the constituent's best interest. Do you want that again?

Fear is a tool. It is a tactic of the ex-president and his nearly entire political party. Threaten voters with that poison word, "taxes." Then, accuse the opposition of misbehavior after the accuser has already done that very misbehavior. We have seen that before, haven't we? Hate immigrants, promote fear of them, but of two of one's three wives were immigrants? Promote that hating of "the other" to constituents so that there is cohesion under that candidate.

Flag and sign waving by so-called R "patriots" who have absconded with, kidnapped, appropriated, the United States flag as their of thereby saying you are not patriotic because you do not ascribe to their way. They have made it seem as though other political parties cannot use our flag for campaign purposes. Notice the campaign lawn signs around town? Those in blue and white are Mary's campaign, and those in red, white, and blue are the R party. Interesting huh?

Quockerwodger: (Noun) A wooden puppet controlled by strings. The term quockerwodger, although referring to a wooden toy figure which jerks its limbs about when pulled by a string, has been supplemented with a political meaning. A pseudo-politician, one whose strings of action are pulled by someone else. Will we have that again?

To learn more about the two first selectman candidates, view the Q&A video on YouTube here: youtu. be/1H-8RL99vQs.

Tricia Heldmann - Colchester

Go Big and Go Home

When my husband and I purchased our home in in 2017, we weren't planning to stay. We thought this was a pit stop, and chose based on resale value.

After a few years, Marlborough grew on us. We've fallen in love with the small-town charm, and decided this should be our family's home. We've decided to set down roots.

Once I've set my mind on something I really dive in. When I helped start a theater company I worked until it was voted 'Best Theater in R.I.' When I wanted to handle my own finances, I became a licensed financial advisor. When I wanted to be my own handy-gal, I spent years volunteering for Habitat for Humanity, apprenticed on projects, and became a registered home improvement contractor.

Now we've decided to stay in Marlborough, and I am getting involved in our town! I am a candidate for the Zoning Commission, and I am excited to offer my large range of knowledge and dedication to the town I have grown to love.

They say 'Go Big or Go Home.' I'm diving in and 'Going Big' for Marlborough. Vote for me on Nov 2,

and I promise I'll give you the best I have to offer.

Jillian LaCaresse – Marlborough

Vote for Buck

To the Editor:

We encourage all East Hampton voters to get out and vote for Mike Buck for Board of Education.

If there is one thing we know about Mike Buck, it's that he wants what is best for his children and the children of this town. He isn't concerned about a political agenda. He simply cares about the well-being of our children and their future. Facts and common sense go hand-in-hand for Mike and that's exactly what we need.

We look forward to supporting Mike Buck on Nov.

Kim and Jim Thurston - East Hampton

Get a Backbone

To the Editor:

A note to Senator Murphy:

Get a backbone and stop following your crowd! Forcing people through "mandates" (actually, people are ignorant to follow mandates since mandates are not laws, rather just suggestions, and you should not lose your job because you did not follow a mandate) to take the needle is wrong and irresponsible.

Regarding the southern USA border crisis. Are you afraid to speak out about how bad and how dangerous it is to the American people?

What about the tragic Afghan retreat and surrender? That was and still is a major disaster.

Regarding this \$3.5 trillion "infrastructure" bill which provides very little funds for actual infrastructure. Are you OK with all of the "pork barrel" money to line the pockets of special interest groups?

What about that criminal Fauci and all the lies he has told Congress? He and the media have done more to destroy the USA than any foreign power could ever hope to accomplish. I should not have left out the three Democrats – Biden, Pelosi and Schiff – who are in it with the "Great Reset," "Build Back Better" and "Green New Deal" crowd.

Do you not care that the USA is falling apart by dividing the vaxxers and non-vaxxers, whites and

non-whites, and rich and non-rich? "Come on man," get a backbone and speak out about what, in your heart, you know what is happen-

ing and the direction the USA is going in is wrong! I thought the new regime promised to bring our country together after taking office and you have done nothing but tear us apart more.

Finally, about this so-called Jan. 6 "insurrection." It was no "insurrection," just a few dumb stupid people and a corrupt media that made it out to be worse than the events in Portland and other major cities.

Gary Gile - Andover

Chasing Glastonbury, Losing Portland!

To the Editor:

I have lived in Portland most of the last 40 years, and over the last 20 Democratically-held years, it never ceases to amaze me when our politicians propose projects because Glastonbury has done it. Portland is not Glastonbury! They attached a \$6 million water park to a \$4 million needed town upgrade bill because it never would have been voted in if proposed alone. Now, it is a nice park but it wasn't needed. What is needed is a total revamp of our water delivery system, which is rapidly falling apart. I think we need water more than we need a water park, which is now costing us a bunch in water \$. That park also gave us more ball fields than the town has teams!!!!!!

We need a party that will address needs. Being proud that we have nice sidewalks when we can't get water to our kitchen sinks is not where I think our priorities should be. Let me say, that I like Jim Tripp, but after watching the Democratic Party chase the Glastonbury dream for 20 years, we need Ryan Curley and a more conservative direction!! We need function over "pretty"

Bob Wildermuth - Portland

Fair Housing Thank You

To the Editor:

An informative virtual program, Fair Housing Matters: Affordable Home Ownership, was held on Zoom on Wednesday, Oct. 13. This event was co-sponsored by Portland Social Justice Coalition (PSJC)

Portland Library, and the Town of Portland. The Fair Housing Committee, which planned this event, would like to thank everyone who contributed.

Ron Thomas, deputy director of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM), was an excellent moderator. Kevin Kurian and Emily DiSalvo from Desegregate CT shared updates from their coalition and offered opportunities for residents to get involved. Patrick Farley with Statewide Premier Properties offered advice about the home-buying process and resources from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Sarah Bird, Executive Director of Middlesex Habitat for Humanity, shared about Habitat and their work providing "a hand up, not a hand out," by building and rehabbing homes with the combined labor of volunteers and homeowners. Portland residents Naji Chester-Payne and Denise Leavy described their experiences searching for an affordable home in Portland, and spoke about the importance of staying in the community, where they have planted their roots and which helps their children to thrive.

We are grateful to all of our speakers who volunteered their time to participate in this conversation. We were pleased that many community members joined to hear the discussion. The video record-

See Letters, page 29

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Wisniewski has received an endorsement from

the Eastern Connecticut Area Labor Federation,

and said in his union role, he oversees a multi-

Union labor must be done on time and on bud-

million dollar budget.

East Hampton • East Hampton

Get to Know Your School Board Candidates

by Jack Lakowsky

With five seats up for reelection on East Hampton's education board, control of the board, currently led by Democrats, is in the balance.

There are six Democrats, two Republicans and one unaffiliated on the board at this time; four of the Democratic seats are opening up in November, as is the seat currently occupied by an unaffiliated member; the two Republicans seated have terms ending in 2023.

Of the ten candidates vying for seats in the election, one is unaffiliated, four are Republicans and four are Democrats.

Unaffiliated

Justin Wagner, the only unaffiliated candidate running to retain his seat on the East Hampton Board of Education, said his involvement with the board, which began with an appointment last October, is to maintain the district's high-quality education.

Wagner has lived in town for 16 years and has children in the district. He has been the fire marshal of East Hartford for 25 years.

Wagner said to him, public service and working with the community come naturally.

"I never listen to just one side," Wagner said. Wagner being unaffiliated and having never belonged to a party, he feels he can assume the role of a moderator on the school board. This eschewing of partisanship, Wagner said, is why he feels he should be elected.

Wagner called "the elephant in the room" school boards across the nation becoming arenas for debate and clamor over school mask mandates.

"If officials say masks should be worn by kids, and that staff should be vaccinated, I trust those professionals have given it a tremendous amount of thought," said Wagner. "East Hartford schools are not experts in fire drills, so they come to me to know what's required."

The Republicans

If newcomer Sal Nucifora, Republican candidate, won the seat and discussed the above with Wagner, the two may disagree.

Nucifora is an engineer, has been a member of the Chatham Historical Society since 2006, is currently vice chair of the local Republican Town Committee, and has been in town for al-

"Masks are a distraction, especially to the younger kids," Nucifora told the *Rivereast*.

Nucifora said teachers should "get at least one shot" of the COVID-19 vaccine. Nucifora also said if a teacher wanted masking in their classroom, he would "go along with that."

Although he acknowledged the state has thus far made decisions as to masks in schools, making the debate moot for now, he said East Hampton, and other towns, should make dissent known to the state.

"The extreme would be suing the state, but I don't see a reason do to that at this point," Nu-

Nucifora was also inspired to run to ensure kids learn without distraction, saying if a student is "unruly", they should be grouped with other unruly learners, albeit in a way that doesn't stig-

Nucifora also wants to make sure schools aren't spending money frivolously.

Michael Buck, a Republican candidate who works as a state trooper and was an investigator in the Air Force for six years and served two deployments in Iraq, also agreed debating mask or vaccine mandates at the local level is, at this point, moot.

However, Buck said he believes control over these decisions will eventually be passed to

"I'm not taking a 'mask' or 'no mask' stance," said Buck. "I believe in choice. You're the parent, you decide."

Buck said he never wanted to run for public office, but he felt compelled by current events

"There are lots of things, but the COVID measures are definitely part of it," Buck said.

Buck said information outside the mainstream media indicates most measures are unneeded because "we are not losing kids to COVID."

According to USA Today, about 5 million of the 45 million COVID-19 cases reported since the pandemic's start were children. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, children were between zero and .25% of all COVID-19

According to the CDC, about 600 children have died of COVID-19 since March 2020.

Buck said, according to studies and journals he's read, measures have not been sensible.

Buck said if elected, he'd also want to focus on student mental health, feeling the Chatham Health District has neglected this.

"I want to get these across," Buck said. "I'm a parent and have a finger on the pulse for issues surrounding our learners, and am well-versed in making tough choices. I have the right motivation and, I wish I didn't, but I feel the drive."

Like many parents and officials, Republican candidate Josh Piteo is concerned about the quality of remote learning which members of both parties agree is not the best experience for students.

"I think the board needs to do more to make sure it hasn't hurt their learning process, especially the younger ones," Piteo said.

Piteo has previously served on the school and finance board, as well as the Town Council, and spent nine years as treasurer of the State Commission on Children. He said this means he "knows the issues back and front" and has dealt with large budgets.

He said in his time on the school board, the district had "higher scores and lower budgets."

Piteo said he wants masks not to be needed in schools, and that although he believes in the efficacy and necessity of vaccines, he doesn't think they should be mandated.

Christina Tammaro-Dzagan, a Republican running for the first time, who creates training materials for adult learners with Cigna, said her experience in her job helped her see what did and didn't work with remote learning.

Tammaro-Dzagan said the current board's communications about remote learning were in-

She said at one point, it was expected kids would go back full time, then "in a last-minute vote" the board decided on hybrid learning.

"A parent spoke at that meeting and asked what right the board had to take learning away from kids," Tammaro-Dzagan said. "I really empathized with that."

Tammaro-Dzagan said she also takes issue with current student quarantining measures, saying they discriminate against unvaccinated students, and that vaccine mandates are unnec-

When asked if, hypothetically, school boards were allowed to decide what measures to take against the pandemic, and if a majority of the school community stated they support masks and/or vaccine mandates, Tammaro-Dzagan would say "the be careful of mandates", that one mandate can lead to another that may be adverse.

The Democrats

Nancy Kohler, an incumbent Democrat, like Wagner joined the board in 2020, filling a vacant seat right before the pandemic struck. This will be her first run.

Kohler said to use as a platform resistance to mask or vaccine mandates shows a "lack of understanding of the process.

"At this point, it's moot," Kohler said. "[Going against the state] has ramifications in terms of money and law. I understand where people come from, no one enjoys masks, but I feel the most important thing, with my kids included, is having these kids in school."

Kohler said no form of learning, remote or inperson, is ideal during a pandemic, but that the state and the board have made the best decisions for the kids.

Kohler, who was a teacher for six years said some candidates on the other side misconceive the board's role.

"We're a group, one collective body, that can't go in and snap its fingers," Kohler said. "We develop policy, goals and the budget, and make sure resources are used wisely.'

Kohler said anyone expecting to come into the board expecting to make "sweeping changes" right away is unrealistic.

Overall, Kohler said her experience as both a mother and teacher give her a perspective allowing her to meet people in the middle.

Paul Wisniewski, Democratic newcomer, is a pipefitter with the local plumbers and pipefitters union, who also served three years on the finance board of the union and now sits on the executive board; a 15-year volunteer firefighter and youth sports coach; member of the local Clean Energy Task Force, and said he wants to serve his community in a new way.

get, Wisniewski said, which will give him an advantage in planning future school budgets. Wisniewski said his kids, and the importance of education, inspired him to run. He said he wants to have a say in important school matters, exampling that, two years ago, the Republican-majority Town Council eliminated the district's Chromebook funding.

The Democratic-majority council has since restored Chromebook funding which, Wisniewski said, proved indispensable during the pandemic, saying he wants to advocate for budget items he feels shouldn't be cut.

Wisniewski said he admires how the district and school superintendent Paul Smith handled the switching between remote, hybrid, and inperson learning.

"I know of districts that took four weeks to get that together," he said, "East Hampton did it in a weekend.'

Wisniewski said he knows of issues people have with "masks and stuff," but that he doesn't feel this is a position one can run on.

"It's a waste of energy, they need to educate themselves on what we can control," Wisniewski said, going on to say this a stance of a loud minority

Amanda Amtmanis, Democratic incumbent who's been on the board for four years and teachers in Middletown, said Paul Smith's administration and the board do well balancing the need for quality education and staying within the bounds of a reasonable budget.

Amtmanis said, in a time of partisan rankling, the board has maintained a focus on students, not letting ideological differences stand in the way.

She said people move to East Hampton to enroll in its high-quality schools, adding that the board has been conservative in its budgets. The narrative of "schools vs. town" should be dispelled, she said.

Amtmanis said too much cutting just kicks issues down the road, and that a willingness to address issues is why she feels the board has been

Democratic newcomer Sarah Strange did not return the Rivereast's requests for an interview.

The town election will be held Nov. 2, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at East Hampton Middle School, 19 Childs Rd.

Belltown Garden Club to Meet

The Belltown Garden Club of East Hampton will hold its next monthly meeting Monday, Oct. 25, at 6:30 p.m., in the Community Room of the East Hampton Public Library, 105 Main St.

Featured speaker will be Fern Martin who will talk about the proper maintenance of garden tools. He will demonstrate the repair and sharpening of the various tools that many use on a regular basis - such as clippers, pruners, axes, shovels, etc. Folks should bring a garden tool and a sharpener if they have one. The presentation will be followed by a time of fellowship and refreshments, and then a brief business meeting.

The East Hampton Belltown Garden Club is a member of Federated Garden Clubs of CT and National Garden Clubs. For more information about the club and its activities, call president JoAnn Hewitt at 860-267-4129.



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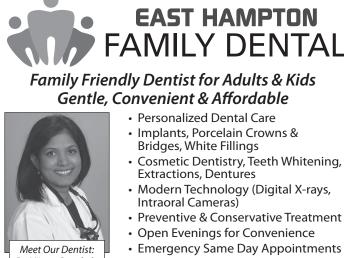
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Police News

10/3: Kathleen Banning, 50, of 1 Old Coach Rd., was issued a summons for operating an unregistered motor vehicle, using a cell phone while operating a motor vehicle and misuse of a marker plate, East Hampton Police said.

10/5: Joseph Bramanti, 60, of 3 Ola Ave., was arrested and charged with driving under the influence, police said.

10/8: Alfred Paradis, 40, of 68 Childs Rd., was issued a summons for failure to obey a stop sign, operating an unregistered motor vehicle, misuse of a marker plate and operating a motor vehicle without insurance, police said.

Also, from Oct. 4-10, officers responded to four motor vehicle crashes, 18 medical calls and six alarms, and made 33 traffic stops, police said.

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.

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/ehhssports.

Drug Take-Back Day Tomorrow

East Hampton Prevention Partnership and East Hampton Police will hold the next Prescription Drug Take-Back Day Saturday, Oct. 23, from 10 a.m.-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.

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.

Lake View Cemetery History Walk

The East Hampton Parks and Recreation is organizing a walking tour of Lake View Cemetery on Saturday, 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. Tulimieri. a historian and researcher at Nathan Liverant and Son Antiques in Colchester. He 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

Hope Church Trunk-or-Treat

Hope Church in East Hampton is hosting a free Trunk-or-Treat event Saturday, Oct. 30, from 3-5 p.m. Visit cthope.com/events for more information and to register for tickets.

For more information, email Mishael Deighton at mdeighton@cthope.com.

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.

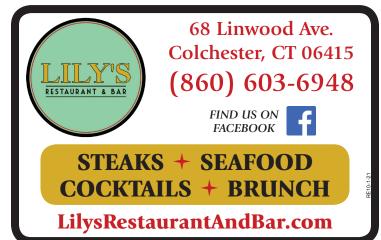
Haunted House and Zombie Hayride

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.











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Survey of East Hampton Older A<u>dults' Needs</u>

I BOOlieve it's time to complete your Senior Survey – the deadline is Sunday, October 31!!





Are you age 65 or older? We want to hear from you!

Fill out your survey online by Sunday, Oct. 31 using the link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/older2021

use this QR code by pointing cellphone camera at it to open the survey





Your Voice Matters!

Residents can get personal assistance using SurveyMonkey at East Hampton Senior Center and Library during regular business hours and at Town Hall Youth & Family Services Office on Tuesdays 9:30am-12:30pm and 3:30pm-5:30pm and Thursdays 9:30am-12:30pm. (Residents of Chatham Acres and Bellwood Court can get their SurveyMonkey help onsite).

Paper surveys are available at East Hampton Stop & Shop, Senior Center, Library, Town Hall Town Clerk's Office & the Post Office. You can return them there after completion.

ALL INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES ARE CONFIDENTIAL!

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Congregational Church News & Notes

The Congregational Church of East Hampton, UCC, located at 59 Main St., holds inperson 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-

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.

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.

EHMS B-Ball, Cheerleading Tryouts

East Hampton Middle School student/athletes interested in trying out for the boys' basketball, girls' basketball or cheerleading teams can register online through FamilyID.com. Athletes must have had a physical within a 13-month period in order to try out.

Deadline for registration is Monday, Nov. 8. For more information, call EHMS athletic director Michael Mercaldi at 860-463-6837.

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.

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.

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

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Nov. 2 ~ Row B

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Friction Over Absentee Ballot Application Mailing

by Jack Lakowsky

Portland Republican Town Committee Chair Tim Lavoy and Republican Town Clerk Ryan Curley, also a candidate for first selectman, are alleging the head of the Democratic Town Committee mishandled a mass absentee ballot application mailing.

The Republicans said between 1,100 and 1,300 applications were sent out.

Brian O'Connor, chair of the Democratic Town Committee (DTC), said he did in fact mail out ballot applications, not ballots themselves, to registered Democrats who voted absentee in the 2020 election.

O'Connor said he followed proper procedure, and that the only notification he's heard of possible impropriety was from an "attack" by Lavoy, and that Curley has not reached out to attempt to rectify a possible issue.

Curley, in his report to state election authorities, said he had told Democrats about the requirements, but was told he was wrong by Democrats.

State election law requires that any mailing of more than five absentee applications be registered with the town's clerk, Curley in this

The statute also requires that mass-mailed absentee applications must be obtained from the town clerk, for tracking purposes.

Curley said he received from the DTC an email saying the committee planned to mail the applications, and that he had assumed it meant going door-to-door and handing them out.

Curley, and it should be emphasized he was speaking in his role as clerk, said DTC printed out its own applications – available to all voters

clerk's office as required.

O'Connor said the DTC did print its own applications, but followed the guidance from the secretary of state's office that was sent to town committees by Curley.

Curley provided the Rivereast with the checklist the state secretary sent, as well as the full statute.

It can be observed the state's checklist does not fully articulate the statute.

"You and any person you ask to distribute applications must register with the [clerk] before distributing more than five [applications]," reads the checklist.

"Pursuant to the [act], no individual is allowed to [mail more than five applications] without first registering with and receiving the applications from the [clerk of the town]," reads the full statute.

When presented with this information, O'Connor said he does not feel there was an oversight.

Those who mass-mail applications must also provide the clerk with a list containing information about who received the applications, either as soon as possible or before election day. Curlev said he hasn't received this information yet, though DTC is still in the clear in this matter.

O'Connor, and Democratic first selectman candidate Jim Tripp, have called for Curley to recuse himself from working as clerk in this election.

O'Connor said Lavoy and Curley are playing politics with this issue.

Tripp said the mailing was a good-faith effort to get people to vote. Tripp said if Democrats make an effort to fix it and come into compli-

Tripp told the Rivereast his chief concern is that, when issues like this happen, there are protocols officials, such as a town clerk, must follow, and says Curley or another election official should have notified Democrats, not the head of the Republican Town Committee through what Tripp called attacks.

Curley said the integrity of the election will be upheld, and that the town clerk does not count votes, and does not handle ballots. He stressed every ballot sent to the town will be counted.

"I take my job seriously," Curley said, adding elections enforcement officials back him up.

Curley said the flux of absentee applications has slammed his office.

Lavoy told the Rivereast he would soon file a complaint with the State Elections Enforcement Commission.

Tripp Invites Curley to Conversation

With less than two weeks until Election Day, Democratic First Selectman candidate Jim Tripp has reached out to Republican candidate Ryan Curley to invite him to join in a Town Hall-style conversation with the Portland community.

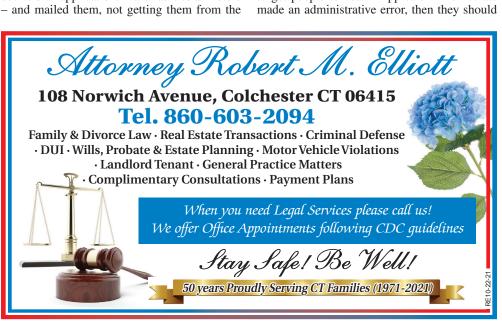
Tripp announced in a video on Facebook that he would hold the event on Zoom on Tuesday, Oct. 26, at 7 p.m., one week before Election

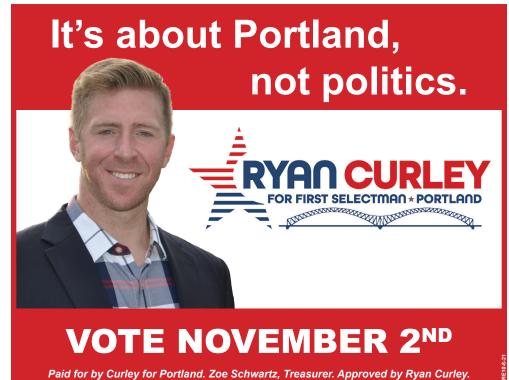
"The voters of Portland deserve to hear from both first selectman candidates before they cast their ballots," Tripp said. "In the coming years, we will face some big decisions as a community. This election will determine how we face those challenges and how we keep Portland moving forward, and voters deserve to know

what they're voting for." Regarding the format for the Town Hall conversation, Tripp indicated he was willing to work with Curley to arrive at a mutuallyagreed-upon format.

"Mr. Curley can bring his questions, I can bring mine, and the community is welcome to bring theirs as well," said Tripp. "Let's talk about the issues that are important to the town of Portland. I truly hope Mr. Curley will join

The link to join the Zoom will be posted on Tripp's Facebook page at facebook.com/ jimtrippforportland and shared on town social media pages, as well as posted on his website at www.jimtrippforportland.com.







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Major Fire Reported at Former Elmcrest Site

by Jack Lakowsky

Portland fire crews responded early Wednesday morning to a structure fire at the former Elmcrest property on Marlborough Street

According to an email sent to the *Rivereast* by First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield, fire chief Bob Shea reported early this morning that the fire would soon be controlled, and had started burning around 4 a.m.

Shea said crews arrived to heavy flames, and access to the fire was difficult as it was in the back of the property. He said the state and Portland fire marshals are investigating.

As of this morning, there were no reports of injury. The intersection of Main and Marlborough Street was blocked, and detours were set up. Traffic was held up for a few hours, Shea said.

Firefighters from Middletown assisted, and

the Westfield Fire Department covered the local station.

According to the town, none of the structures regarded as historic were affected. Shea said the fire burned at the back of the property.

Shea told the *Rivereast* he met with the property owner and the developer planning to revitalize the property with a mixed-use development.

Shea said he has encouraged the site's principals to speed up demolition of the neglected, long-abandoned buildings, which would reduce risk of further fires. Shea said the site has been a concern for 20 years.

He said the site sees vagrancy and is full of hazards.

Shea said principals have been receptive, but that progress needs to hasten.

Zion Lutheran Church News

Zion Lutheran Church, located at 183 William St., invites all to worship. Sara Stall-Ryan is pastor.

Sunday worship services with Holy Communion are held in-person at 9 a.m. The church continues to follow 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 is posted on YouTube by 9 a.m. the following Monday morning.

Sunday School and confirmation classes are back in session, on the first and third Sundays 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. 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.

Adult Bible Study is also underway and will continue on the second and fourth Sundays in October, November, January and February. The focus of this study will be season one of the series *The Chosen*, using the book *What Does It Mean to Be Chosen?* The book will be used as a guide for biblical study, reflection and conversation about faith. Participants will be asked to view the episode at home prior to the day of study. The cost for the study guide is \$15.

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.

Police News

10/16: Milton Buchanan, 63, of Hartford, was charged with failure to appear, Portland Police said.

Portland Republican BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES



From left to right—David Murphy, Stacey Benham and Timothy Lavoy

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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.

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 Volunteer Fire Department, Company 2 in 1953, and he was a 60-year member of the Knights of Columbus.

Portland Volunteer Fire Department Chief Robert Shea and his crew will bring Engine 4, a 1947 Mack fire truck restored by Pitruzello and his fellow firefighters.

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.



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!

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Meet the School Board Hopefuls

by Jack Lakowsky

Just about every Board of Education candidate, Republican or Democrat, incumbent or newcomer, said they're motivated to run for the body by a desire to give back to the town through one of its most valuable resources, students.

There are both veterans and newcomers on both slates. Dave Murphy, a Republican, has served on the board for six years while Barry Rodgers, a Democratic challenger involved in many local civic groups, has not run for office before.

In fact, all Democrats but Sharon Peters, current school board chair seeking reelection, are new to political campaigning.

A first-time runner on the right is Stacey Benham, a 25-year resident who's had two daughters graduate the school system.

"I'm getting involved to give back to the kids," Benham told the Rivereast. "My kids succeeded in Portland schools."

Benham said she can "bridge the gap" between the board and the "everyday" taxpayer, and that as a healthcare professional, she has experience dealing with the challenges of the pandemic. She serves as Chair of the Education Committee for the Connecticut Association of Healthcare at Home

"I'm a new candidate and I recognize that, and I need to learn and become familiar with all the types of challenges that lay ahead," Benham said. "I don't pretend to have all the answers, but I'm a collaborator."

Benham said for subcommittee work, she would want to dive into curriculum if she wins, believing Portland parents don't have a "great way to see what's being taught." Benham did not specify if she has particular concerns, but that material should be accessible so parents can talk to schools about it if need be.

Coincidentally, in a school board meeting after Benham's interview, the district's curriculum administrator, Eric Martin, said he'd be making curriculum more transparent for parents.

Benham said that the board has done a "great job" handling the pandemic, believing it does what's in the best interest of kids and teachers.

Board chair Sharon Peters has been in this post since 2018, having been elected in 2016. She also served on the Board of Selectman in the 2000s. She has been an attorney for nearly 30 years, running her own law firm, working with children and families in juvenile courts.

Peters described her role as more of a guide than a conductor, saying no matter what party has however many seats, it's most important the board works as a whole.

The high school track is unusable. When asked why this wasn't addressed sooner, Peters said the board has been evaluating and considering the track for a number of years and has requested funding in the past. She said it never would have been an easy, or cheap, fix.

Peters said these types of large expenditures are going to be topics discussed in meetings of the district's Facilities Steering Committee,

which is tasked with formulating a multiyear strategy for dealing with the district's substantial infrastructure problems, estimated to cost \$28 million over the next decade.

Peters said she is most proud of the schools' work addressing and advocating for social equity and justice. A committee of the schools was formed this year to investigate disparities at each school, then take corrective action. This was done in response to a survey wherein students said they experienced racism.

Republican incumbent Tim Lavoy, also chair of the local Republican committee, said Peters has performed well as board chair, and is an improvement over the previous chair.

Lavoy did go on to criticize board Democrats, saying they weigh the interests of teachers unions too heavily, that the board exists to better student experience, not serve a "special interest group.'

Teachers are our lifeblood," Lavoy continued. "But we're there to advocate for students. Let the superintendent run the schools, not impose yourself on them because you got a call from a union member not feeling valued."

The Rivereast asked Peters about this claim.

"I can't come up with anything in memory about what that'd be about," she said. "The board tries to balance, and does a good job balancing, the interests of different stakeholders, making sure we're providing the best education we can.'

Lavoy worked for the state Department of Developmental Services for many years, spending the last 12 years working with families of special needs kids. In this role, he headed a team of between 100 and 120.

He's been on the board for six years, working on the personnel and policy committees.

"Educating kids is the most valuable thing we do on a local level," Lavoy said.

Although Democratic candidate Barry Rodgers has lived in Portland for more than 20 years, with a son in the local middle school, his civic involvement ranges from vice president of the Brownstone PTO, member of the solidarity

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committee and the Portland Social Justice Coalition, as well as the Chatham Children's Connection.

Rodgers named school security and bullying as focuses of his.

'Safety needs to be first priority, especially during the pandemic," Rodgers said.

Rodgers said he wants to review the district's bullying policy, and that dealing with bullying is essential to a more equitable, inclusive envi-

As to why he's running, Rodgers said it's a move he's contemplated a long time.

"I believe I bring to the table honesty and a willingness to work with anyone on anything,"

If he is elected, Rodgers, who is Black, would add a perspective inaccessible to the all-white board, better able to empathize with the experiences of Black students.

"I don't look at color as a factor," Rodgers said. "Everyone's a human being, if the board can work together, things will get done.'

As a union representative, Kim Nagy-Marushock has been on ballots before, but always ran unopposed.

The Democratic challenger is a 20-year preschool special ed teacher, and a coordinator of five classrooms with "diverse needs and backgrounds.'

Nagy-Marushock committed to making sure special needs students feel included and represented in all board decisions if she wins.

"On the [Democratic Town Committee], there are very supportive and encouraging members that really pushed me forward," Nagy-Marushock said of why she chose to run.

Nagy-Marushock said her administrative degree and career background give her confidence to serve on the board. She has three kids in Portland High School.

Katelynn Puorro, Democratic newcomer and licensed master social worker, has worked in public service for five years in the youth services department in Cromwell. She graduated Portland schools in 2007.

"I bring to the table my experience as a mental health professional," Puorro said.

Puorro said students should be treated as a whole person, not just as a learners, adding her motivation to run is her unborn child, wanting to help make the district the best it can be for her child, and all in the district.

Republican incumbent Dave Murphy filled a board vacancy six years ago, then won in 2017, and has been a member since.

Murphy said like the rest of the board, his focus is on students, but that there could be more focus on operations and facilities. Murphy said the previous superintendent agreed facilities issues are not the bailiwicks of most school chiefs

Murphy said the superintendent has done an "incredible" job guiding schools through the

"With students having Chromebooks, we were able to switch to remote learning," Murphy said, adding the board and the schools agreed in-person learning was the best option for kids, regardless of pandemic-mitigation strategies, such as masking and social distancing.

"With mask breaks, it was manageable," Murphy said.

Murphy said he agrees with the state's mandated vaccination of all school staff. Staff who opt out of a vaccine must get tested and submit results weekly.

"I grew up with vaccines for measles, mumps and rubella," said Murphy, adding its fair to do what's possible to prevent COVID-19 spread.

'You don't wanna give it to someone and have them in the hospital," Murphy said.

The 2021 Portland election will be open Nov. 2 from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Portland Middle School, 93 High St. For election information, including on absentee ballots, call the town clerk's office at 860-342-6743.



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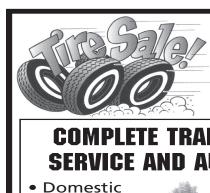


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Candidates: Everyone on Both Sides Qualified

by Jack Lakowsky

Throughout the past few weeks, the *Rivereast* has made an effort to reach out to each and every candidate running for the boards of education and selectmen in the upcoming town election

Although town Democrats and Republicans disagree on several issues and both made cases as to why voters should choose their slate, candidates on both side, including the two major party runners for first selectman, said no matter who wins. Portland wins.

Dems and GOP members both complimented their opponents as able and qualified.

Many of the candidates work together in some capacity, an almost unavoidable circumstance of working, living, and volunteering in a small town

For example, Mike Hernandez and April Graves, respectively Republican and Democratic candidates for the select board, work together at a nonprofit Graves founded, the Chatham Children's Connection. They also volunteer alongside each other in local sports.

The *Rivereast* asked each candidate a few basic introductory questions – why they're running, what they want to change or maintain – as well as questions more tailored to town issues, including rising water prices.

Board of Selectmen

In both the races for selectmen and school board, several faces new to running a campaign have joined the fray.

Though Democratic candidate **April Graves** is new to running for elected office, she's involved in many civic efforts. She's been president of the local Little League, is currently secretary of the Brownfields Redevelopment Group, and founded and runs the Chatham Children's Connection.

"You should vote for me because I always put community first," Graves told the *Rivereast*.

Along with tackling water and sewer affordability by finding a local town-owned source, Graves, who is currently chair of the town Solidarity Committee, committed to taking a look at the town's hiring practices.

Graves wants to ensure town employment opportunities are equitably marketed, and also wants to review how positions are communicated, especially given a majority of Portland town workers are white.

"I want to take barriers into account," Graves continued.

Another first-time select board candidate with a long list of civic involvement is **Bobby Hetrick**, a Republican. He said he's a third-generation product of Portland, graduating Portland High School in 1993.

Hetrick has served as a local firefighter, and was a corrections officer for 15 years. His local civic work includes the Inland/Wetlands Commission for years, as well as two years on the zoning commission.

As a member of the Capital Improvements commission, Hetrick views each town depart-

ment's two- to three-year plan of anticipated needs, and so has foreknowledge of funding requests to come.

"Being in town for so long and raising my son here, I've seen all the towns around us flourishing with development, bringing in new taxes," Hetrick said, adding, "nothing major is going on here."

Hetrick said business development helps lower homeowners' property taxes. Hetrick said businesses are discouraged by the town's projected water prices, so developing a sustainable water source, not from the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC), the town's current supplier which has spiked prices in recent years.

The MDC contract is up in 2026.

In addition to development, Hetrick said he has preservation in mind as well, saying he thinks it a good idea when farms, for whatever reason, fall into town hands and are preserved.

Mike Pelton, Hetrick's fellow Republican and an incumbent candidate for selectman, who also served a few terms on the Board of Education, said the current select board, headed by outgoing Democratic First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield, who has been town chief for nearly 20 years, has worked very well together.

Pelton was complimentary of Bransfield's performance as selectwoman, and of the board's work over the past few years.

In fact, throughout the past two years, Portland selectman have voted unanimously on all but one decision.

In September, there was a 4-3 split on party lines over making a zoning commission alternate a full member. Currently, there are no Republican members of the zoning board, made entirely of Democrats and unaffiliated.

The alternate was chosen over Hetrick, also an alternate.

Pelton said, although the vote itself is not one of huge consequence and that the chosen person was qualified, he wished there had been more of a discussion. He added that still, this disagreement is nothing compared to the partisan bickering at the federal level- a political stalemate Pelton said he wants to stay out of Portland.

"We need to focus on local issues," Pelton said.

One thing Pelton wants to focus on is encouraging civic involvement in town proceedings.

Pelton said he hopes his work has earned votes, and that he feels he has much more to give to the town.

Like Hetrick, Democratic candidate for Portland selectmen **John Dillon** is a lifelong Portland resident. He has served on inland/wetlands, and was Vice President of the Portland Fair Association. He is chair of the Board of Assessment Appeals.

Dillon said he was among those who worked to revive the fair about 20 years ago.

Dillon said the timing was right for him to run, with his kids having grown.

"I always felt it was important to give back to

the town," Dillon told the *Rivereast*. "I'm happy with the progress the town has made, proud of our National Blue Ribbon schools and our riverfront development."

Dillon said, should he be elected, a focus of his will be figuring how to attract young families to Portland.

"I believe that for a small town like Portland we really need to sustain and grow young families to call Portland home," Dillon said, adding the town needs to do what it can do to facilitate adding affordable dwellings to its housing stock.

Dillon said the complexity here is finding out where to develop in a small town that has used up most of its developable land.

Dillon was also complimentary of the current board, saying it hasn't played politics, but put the town first.

Locals have probably seen Democratic select board candidate **Laurel Steinhauser**'s name on several ballots in the past. She's been on the school board for three years, serving on the policy, personnel, and renewable energy subcommittees.

Steinhauser has also served on the Library Board of Directors for four years, and is currently cochair of that body.

Steinhauser has been an active member of the Democratic Town Committee for several years.

Of her civic involvement, Steinhauser said she's "very proud." She said she's especially happy with the school board's work on making Portland schools a more equitable, culturally knowledgeable and sensitive environment.

"That's something I've been pushing since joining [the school board]," Steinhauser said.

Another accomplishment of the board Steinhauser listed was expanding summer learning opportunities for students who needed to recover learning lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic's disruptions. She said overall, she's quite pleased with how the board has handled the pandemic.

A platform of Republicans, including first selectman candidate Ryan Curley, is that the town is ready for a change after nearly two decades of Democratic leadership.

Steinhauser said she disagrees, and that Portland voters don't just want "change for change's sake.

"The town, with Susan Bransfield at the helm, has had a lot of successes," Steinhauser said. "Look at the purchase of brownfield parcels, the potential at Brainerd Place, bringing new businesses to town, new parks, our excellent schools."

Steinhauser said the candidate at the top of her side of the ballot, Democratic first selectman candidate Jim Tripp, as a current board member, has worked on these strides for several years, and will be able to hit the ground running if elected.

"It wasn't an easy decision," Steinhauser said. "I made the choice to run for board of selectman because one of our biggest challenges will be addressing school facilities needs."

This past year, an audit discovered schools have significant infrastructure needs. In response, superintendent Charles Britton launched a committee to study and make decisions on the district's building needs for the next 10-15 years.

"Our kids deserve a learning environment that is efficient and up-to-date," Steinhauser

Like Graves, Steinhauser wants to enhance equity, specifically by ensuring the town's volunteer commissions and boards have a diverse range of voices.

Republican selectperson candidate **Shaun Manning** also mentioned improving school infrastructure, naming the lack of HVAC systems in the elementary schools as a priority to be

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fixed. Schools have had to send students home due to excessive heat.

Manning runs a local construction company, Manning Home Builders.

A firefighter for nearly 40 years, Manning said a focus of his will be advocating for local emergency response and public works personnel. He said focus on capital needs must be revitalized.

"I will work to bring long-term funding for fire department apparatus," Manning said.

Manning also said he feels adding public works vehicles to capital needs more robust attention.

"You don't wanna have to pull money lastminute," Manning said, adding that setting money aside in advance of, for example, police vehicle replacements, will prevent eleventhhour decision making.

Manning said he'd like to try and get local

business owners to do more to their aging buildings. He said making changes to the town's fee schedule -a cost of starting a business- could encourage development.

Manning added that the town's water and sewer pricing problems should've been addressed 10 years prior to the contract's expiration, not five.

Mike Hernandez, Republican incumbent running for a second select term, said his greatest accomplishment on the board, and something he feels is an accolade for the board overall, is working across party lines in a time when bitter partisanship is the norm.

"I think Susan ran a pretty good ship," Hernandez said.

Hernandez was among the several candidates who said as far as good candidates go, Portland is spoiled for choice.

Hernandez has been commander of the local VFW and vice president and treasurer of Chatham Children's Connection. He's a veteran of the U.S. Navy, having served in the Persian Gulf War for three years, and the proud father of a seven-year-old daughter.

Hernandez pointed out that, given Bransfield's departure and that selectmen Lou Pear and Rick Sharr have opted not to run again, this election could seat an almost entirely new board.

Like most of the other candidates on both sides, Hernandez's priority is finding a sustainable water sourcing arrangement for the town, saying once that's done, attracting businesses will be easier.

Incumbent Democrat and current Deputy First Selectman **Ralph Zampano**, said getting away from MDC is his major focus. He said, back in the 90s, when the current contract was ratified, increases were included and were normal for about 15 years.

Then, after new regulations changed how MDC manages product and began revamping its infrastructure, it increased rates on users.

"We certainly have a lot of priorities, but finding a solution to water is critical to current, and future, development," Zampano said.

Zampano serves on the select board's water and sewer subcommittee alongside Tripp and outgoing Republican Sharr.

Zampano has been involved in local civic service for nearly 30 years, spending 12 years on the parks and rec commission, eventually becoming chair. He was first elected as a selectman in 2017.

As deputy first selectman, Zampano would take the reins of town should Bransfield be indisposed for any reason. In fact, when CO-VID-19 first struck last March, Bransfield was away, and Zampano had to take charge, coordinating with town administrators.

Zampano is the board's liaison to the town's economic development commission. In this role, and should he win reelection, Zampano committed to making sure the town's economic development opportunities are equitably marketed.

"I'd be willing to review our practices and make sure we market to a diverse audience," Zampano said. "I could reach out to the planning department and make sure minority businesses are getting a chance."

Zampano said he worked hard to help get the Portland Recreational Complex built. Zampano is also a member of the Brownstone Quorom, and helps with events at Riverfront Park, saying credit for these goes largely to Democratic First Selectman candidate Jim Tripp.

The 2021 Portland election will be open Nov. 2 from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. at Portland Middle School, 93 High St. For election information, including on absentee ballots, call the town clerk's office at 860-342-6743.

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Portland Linebackers Leading Panthers Football

by Josh Howard

All great defensive football teams have linebackers that can stop the run and play the pass effectively while creating chaos for opposing

The Cromwell/Portland football team has that luxury this season.

Portland High seniors Owen Brunk and Teddy Williams are manning the middle for the Panthers, teaming with junior Ryan Rozich to form one of the fiercest linebacking trios in the state.

"We felt like we were the best when we were sophomores and Ryan was a freshman," Brunk said. "The guys on the team, they push me every day. Even when it gets difficult guys like Teddy will push me. We push each other.'

Brunk was an All-State linebacker as a sophomore in the fall of 2019 and was ready to repeat that performance in 2020, but the pandemic had other plans that included the cancellation of full-contact high school football in the state of Connecticut.

Williams recalled the difficult time.

"We missed out on our junior year, which is a big year, and we've just been working all offseason to get prepared for it," he said. "We were ready when we got the chance."

The three linebackers, along with quarterback Cole Brisson, are captaining a Panthers team that through four games are undefeated, including a 49-0 statement victory over North Branford last Saturday.

Brunk intercepted two passes, returning one for a touchdown, and Williams had a sack, forced fumble, and fumble recovery in the lopsided win.

Brisson led the offense with four touchdown passes, two to Ben Fagan, and running back Alex Hair – also a Portland High student – ran for 133 and two touchdowns on only 10 carries.

The team started the season with wins over Morgan (36-8), Haddam-Killingworth (41-3), and Valley Regional/Old Lyme (21-6).

Rozich, who attends Cromwell High School, said the team couldn't wait to get back on the field after last fall's disappointment, "We came out ready to play and it's showed on the field. We put in a ton of work in the offseason to get ready and we're just having fun."

Since the team wasn't able to compete last fall, the linebackers focused their attention on getting bigger, stronger, and faster in the weight room, training with former Penn State standout linebacker Jarvis Miller at Athlete Training Institute in Cromwell.

"We were able to learn from him. We knew there wasn't many guys that were doing what we are doing," Brunk said of the top-notch training. "We knew what we were doing was different. Not many guys train like we do in the offseason."

Williams has seen a night and day difference in his performance thanks to the professional and extensive training, "Two years ago I was average at best and then I got in the weight room and I work out with these guys, and I come back 100 times better."

Brunk and Williams do most of their damage on the defensive side, each averaging eight tackles per game, and they also double as offensive threats.

Brunk is a bruising running back, scoring a pair of touchdowns on the ground through the first four games.

Williams starts at receiver, leading the team in receptions (16) and receiving touchdowns (4), and handles some kicking duties on special

The versatile Williams doesn't mind the double and sometimes triple duties.

"I love being the guy that everyone can look at and know that I can get something done," he

Panthers head coach Randell Bennett heaped praise his linebackers, calling them "unstoppable," adding, "When the linemen see that kind of speed moving in front of them it's almost like an unfair advantage."

The production and success on the field is a combination of tireless work in the weight and film rooms, mixed with a natural chemistry. Brunk and Williams are just as close off the field as they are on it.

"My freshman and sophomore year I thought our team was close, but it's nothing compared to this team now," said Brunk. "We not only work out together in the offseason but we also



Portland High School seniors Teddy Williams (left) and Owen Brunk (right) are leading a Panthers football team that has won all four games this season.

hang out together. We created a bond that when we are on the field everything is easier."

"It's awesome," Williams added. "I know that if I make a mistake, those two have my back and they'll make the play. It allows me to go 100% and fly around out there."

After playing three of four on the road, the Cromwell/Portland football co-op enters a three-game home stretch. The Panthers will welcome Old Saybrook/Westbrook (10/22, 6 p.m.), Granby/Canton (10/29, 6 p.m.), and CREC co-op (11/5, 6:30 p.m.) to Pierson Park in Cromwell over the next three weeks.

Portland and Cromwell are normally rivals in sports, but not on the football field where the towns are united in a quest for a state champi-

"We knew the potential we had this year," said Brunk. "Every day in practice we are working and we have so many guys that can play at a high level. First team, second team, and we have guys on the third team that can step up and play varsity football."

Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover

Senior Citizen News & Notes

The following have been announced for Andover seniors, veterans and disabled. To attend any event, call senior coordinator Cathy Palazzi 860-916-6122 to register. Transportation available for all events, as well as shopping on Tuesdays, Foodshare/food pantry rides on Wednesday, and lunches on Fridays. For all YAH events, call Judy Knox at 860-643-6824; for all movie information, call Sue Schmidt at 860-604-1057; and for all trip information, call Georgia O'Brien at 860-742-9947.

Masks: Must now be worn at the town hall community room for all events. Only those who have been vaccinated should attend senior pro-

Senior Luncheons: Fridays through Oct. 22,

at noon, at the Town Hall Gazebo. Mark Hand will talk about changes in Medicare, Medicaid, Extra Help, and all insurance plans for 2022. Halloween will be celebrated with treats. Call Palazzi for reservations or a ride. Lunch will be inside if too cold.

Rides to all town events, town meetings, referendums, or board meetings and all medical appointments available by calling Palazzi. All seniors, veterans, disabled are welcome. If you have a caregiver, they may come with you. Masks must be worn. The next voting day will be Tuesday, Nov. 2, when there will be a vote on the RHAM Turf Field question

Food Deliveries: If you need a food delivery, let Palazzi know.

YFS Halloween Events

Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover

Portland Youth & Family Services, along with Senior Services, Portland Library, Parks & Recreation, and Economic Development will sponsor two Halloween events this year.

The Haunted Light Trail: Residents and businesses that decorate can have their names added to a map of decorated locations where people can vote on their favorites and the houses and businesses can win prizes and bragging

Howl-o-Ween, Little Pumpkins: On Saturday, Oct. 23, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., on the Town Green, Howl-o-Ween, a Portland dog costume parade, and Portland's Little Pumpkins, a youth costume parade will take place. The dog parade starts at 11:30 a.m.; only Portland dogs 6 months or older are invited and pre-registration is required. The youth parade starts at 2 p.m. and all ages are welcome. Crafts, spooky stores, and refreshments will be available. Town businesses are encouraged to set up a table or tent and participate in the event.

For more information, to participate or to register your dog for Howl-o-Ween, call YFS at 860-342-6758 or visit www.portlandct.org/ youth-services.

Congregational Church News

Andover Congregational Church, UCC, located at 359 Route 6, invites all ages to worship Sundays at 10 a.m. Sunday School is provided. The service also streams live on the church's Facebook page (First Congregational Church, church office at 860-742-7696, email andoverctchurch@gmail.com or visit www.andover-

Worhip and Lunch: After worship, fellowship is back. This week, there will be Autumn

Everyday Power Inspiration: Tuesdays, 11:15 a.m. This is a time of encouraging one

Food Pantry: Mondays from 5-7 p.m. Bring your own bags. Masks not required for the fully vaccinated. The senior pantry is open every other Wednesday from 9-9:30 a.m.; next date is

Absentee Ballots for RHAM Referendum

There will be a referendum on Tuesday, Nov. 2, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m., in the Community Room of the Town Office Building, to vote on appropriating \$3,560,000 for a new turf field, track and lighting at RHAM High School.

Any Andover elector or taxpayer who will not be able to vote in person at the polls can obtain an absentee ballot from the town clerk's office, located at Town Hall, 17 School Rd.

Foodshare Van: Comes to the church every other Wednesday from 9-9:30 a.m.; next date is

Prayer Requests: Need prayer? Contact the e a messag

Sonshine Stampers: This group meets Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. at the church to make greeting cards. All are invited.

Fall Tag Sale: Saturday, Oct. 23, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Lunch will be available to purchase.

Thanksgiving Dinner on Thanksgiving Day: The church will have its annual Thanksgiving Dinner at 3 p.m. on Thanksgiving, for those who have nowhere to go or would just like to attend. Dine-in only. Call the church to make reservations. Clearly state your name, contact number and how many will be attending. Seat-

CPR Class

There will be a CPR class Monday, Oct. 25, from 7-9 p.m., at the Andover Fire Department, 11 School Rd.

Cost is \$20 and includes use of training materials, CPR for Adult, Child and Infant, AED training, Choking and two-year certification from the American Heart Association.

Registration is required; call Deputy Chief Mindy Hegener at 860-706-3074. Masks are required for the unvaccinated.

Ham and Bean Dinner

Andover Congregational Church, 359 Route 6, will hold a Ham and Bean Dinner Friday, Oct. 29, from 5-7 p.m. Cost is \$12. Take-out or eat-in.

Call the church at 860-742-7696 and leave a message to pre-order. Walk-ins are also welcome.

COVID-19 Booster Shot Clinic

A town-wide COVID-19 booster shot clinic, will be available to all residents, will take place Monday, Nov. 29, from 2-5 p.m., at the Andover Elementary School gym. Both Moderna and Pfizer booster shots will be available.

More details as soon as they are known will be published in the Rivereast. Put this date on your calendar and contact Cathy Palazzi with any questions at 860-916-6122 or for transportation. If you have not had any COVID-19 shots you may have them on that day.

Halloween Fun Event

The Andover Recreation Commission will hold a Halloween Fun Event on Saturday, Oct. 30, starting at 1 p.m.

Recreation Commission members will hand out bags of candy and treats. There will be a DJ for music and entertainment and several decorated trunks on site. The fire department and resident trooper will be there with treats too.

WARNING REFERENDUM VOTE Regional School District No. 8 **Town of Andover** November 2, 2021

A referendum vote of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in town meetings of the Town of Andover, Connecticut will be held in the Town of Andover at the following place: Andover Town Hall Communic

17 School Road Andover, Connecticut 06232 and simultaneously in Hebron and Marlborough, Connecticut on

Tuesday, November 2, 2021, between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. pursuant to Section 10-56 of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut, as amended, upon a resolution adopted by the Regional School District No. 8 Board of Education at a meeting held on August 23, 2021.

The resolution will be placed on the ballot labels as the following

"Shall Regional School District No. 8, comprised of the Towns of Hebron, Andover and Marlborough, appropriate \$3,560,000 for the installation of a new turf field, track and lighting at RHAM High School and authorize the issuance of bonds, notes or temporary notes in an amount not to exceed \$3,560,000 to finance

YES NO

Voters approving the resolution shall vote "Yes" and those opposing the resolution shall vote "No".

A copy of the full text of the resolution is on file and available for

public inspection at the Town Clerk's Office. Absentee ballots will be available from the Town Clerk's office Dated in Andover, Connecticut this 18 day of October, 2021.

Andover Town Clerk

Email your classified line ads to sandy@glcitizen.com & call 860.633.4691 to pay with your credit card.

Marlborough • Ma

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 distanc-

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.

Crime Prevention Class: On Tuesday, Oct. 26, from 9:30-11:30 a.m., Officer Jay Kehoe, director of public safety, will conduct a class at the senior center called "Situation of Awareness and Crime Prevention," for all seniors and concerned citizens.

Monday, Oct. 25: 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: orange juice, barbecue pulled pork, burger bun, potato salad, coleslaw, chocolate pudding; Mealson-Wheels, 12:30 p.m.; Bingo, 1-3p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 26: Assistance, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.;

Ladies Auxiliary Polish Dinner

To support its Scholarship Fund, the American Legion Marlborough Post 197 Ladies Auxiliary will hold a dine-in or take-out Polish dinner Friday, Oct. 29 from 3-6 p.m., at the Legion, 128 E. Hampton Rd. All proceeds will be donated to scholarship fund for a girl who is will graduate from RHAM High School in 2022.

Dinner will include "lazy man" pierogis, golumpki (stuffed cabbage), pickled beets, rye bread and butter, and dessert. Take-out is encouraged, as there will be a limited amount of seating at the club, with social distancing.

Those getting the food to go have the option to not get out of their cars. Servers will have masks and gloves when serving dinner. Make checks payable to the American Legion Post 197 – Ladies Auxiliary.

Advanced ticket sales only; reservations due by Wednesday, Oct. 27. Tickets are \$12 each for adults (\$8 for children) and are on sale at the bar during normal business hours: Monday-Saturday, 1-7 p.m.; and Sunday, noon-7 p.m. Call 860-306-8769 for reservations or questions.

8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; setback or cards of your choice, 1-3 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 27: 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; Mealson-Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: oven-fried chicken, baked beans, Capri-blend vegetables, corn muffin, mandarin oranges; Sophisticated Ladies (Tap Dancing), 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 28: Flu shots, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m.; assistance, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.; Tai Chi with Linda, 10:30 a.m.; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; quilling, 1-4 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 29: Not Just Quilting, 10 a.m.; assistance, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon, Menu: breaded flounder filet, mashed potatoes, peas and diced carrots, 100% whole wheat bread, fresh orange.

Book Discussion to Raise Afghani Awareness

Marlborough Outreach, a volunteer, nonpartisan civic group, is hosting a book discussion via Zoom Tuesday, Dec. 7, at 7 p.m., to raise awareness for Afghan refugees. IRIS.org (Integrated Refugee and Emigration Services), headquartered in New Haven, is now welcoming evacuated Afghan families to nearby towns in Connecticut.

The selected book, The Lightless Sky by Gulwali Passarlay, is a memoir of fortitude and survival of a 12-year-old boy's traumatic flight from Afghanistan to the West.

Gulwali is now an activist and advocate for refugee children in Europe. The eBook and audiobook can be found for free on Hoopla, which is an app available through most libraries.

All are invited to read this book and join this discussion. For a link to the Zoom meeting, or for more information, email Andrea at Marlboroughoutreach@gmail.com.

Cemetery Fall Clean-Up

The annual cemetery fall clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 6, at Marlboro Cemetery. Volunteers are invited to participate and are asked to meet at 9 a.m.

Residents are asked to remove any personal items and decorations prior to the clean-up. Any items found to be in violation of cemetery rules and regulations or a hindrance to maintenance will be removed. These items include shepherd hooks, glass objects, items hanging from trees and pots. For a complete listing, go to tinyurl. com/3eyze3xj.

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.

Spin the Halloween Prize Wheel: Kids can spin the Halloween Prize Wheel once per day through Oct. 30 to win a prize.

Fall Book Sale: Saturday, Oct. 23, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. All proceeds directly benefit the li-

Young Chefs Festive Fall Edition: Wednesday, Oct. 27, at 6 p.m., via Zoom, for kids ages 5 and above. Welcome back Food Explorers for a pumpkin cinnamon rolls baking program. Email the library to register.

Medicare Updates, Changes, and Benefits for 2021: This virtual program, held on Zoom Tuesday, Nov. 2, at 6 p.m., will explore the latest updates to Medicare, including the differences between original Medicare, Medicare supplements, Medicare Advantage and prescription drug plans. This event is being facilitated by Senior Health and Retirement Service, located in Clinton. Email richmondprograms@gmail.com to register.

Fall Author Series: The library has teamed

up with the Cragin, East Hampton, and Welles-Turner libraries for a virtual author talk series. Deborah Copaken (author of Ladyparts, Shutterbabe and The Red Book) will talk over Zoom Tuesday, Nov. 16, at 6:30 p.m. Email the library

to register. Henry Chapman Mercer: A Legacy Built in Concrete: Tuesday, Nov. 16, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom. Located in Doylestown, Bucks County, Pa., the Mercer Museum and Fonthill Castle are two historic castles that celebrate the life and legacy of Henry Chapman Mercer (1856-1930), an American archaeologist, anthropologist, ceramicist and scholar. The Nov. 16 Zoom program features film clips, historic archives and modernday images. Email richmondprograms@gmail. com to register.

'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.

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)

Lions to Raffle

Generator

The Marlborough Lions Club is raffling

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.

The Marlborough Historical Society has is-

sued the following pieces of news: Cemetery Walk: The fourth annual Cem-

Historical Society News

etery 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.



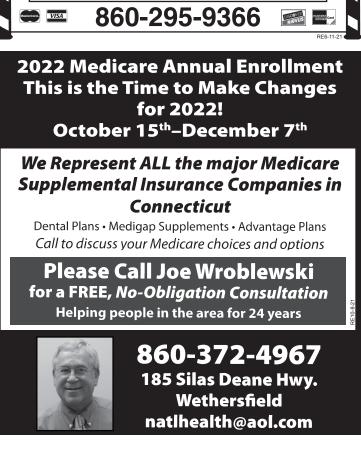
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off an 8,000-watt Generac portable generator with a retail value of \$1,100. The generator has features such as a pushbutton electric start with trickle charger, hours counter and 120V/240V outlets. The winner of the raffle will also receive the services 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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Lion Receives Melvin Jones Award

Marlborough Lions Club member Arnie Buckley was recently recognized by receiving the Lions' Melvin Jones Award.

Buckley has been a Lion for over 50 years and was involved in, and initiated, a number of Lions projects over the years - including the Marlborough Community Arts Festival, which was a big summer event at the lake. While Buckley didn't start the festival, he was instrumental in getting the Lions to run the biggest income-earner of the event, which was the "Hamburg and Hot Dog" truck, which also sold bratwurst. The Lions even had the beer concession for a few years.

This was an extremely successful fundraising event and Buckley worked the truck cooking and selling virtually all weekend for years, while working with his close friends Don Lack, Brad Kula and Brian Reynolds. He even got Bob Farley (a charter member of the club) and Rich Hartley to join in with the work. Over the years, Reynolds, Farley and Lack have passed away and Kula moved to East Hartford.

Most of the local philanthropic groups participated and had booths, including the two political parties. Quite a few participants sold various arts and crafts as well. The club was a bit larger back then, with around 30 very active members.

However, the Lions said one event that comes to mind, relative to Buckley, was, what was called Marlborough Days. Buckley and Lack brought in some historical recreation actors and props to the Marlborough Days event at the lake each year. One year in particular, Buckley brought in a Bonnie and Clyde reenactment troupe that recreated (including vintage automobiles) the final shootout between Bonnie and Clyde and the FBI. There were guns, gunfire, fake bullets hitting people with fake blood, dialogue, music – and of course, the cars.

One of the projects Buckley was most proud



Longtime Marlborough Lion Arnie Buckley recently received the Lions' Melvin Jones Award.

of was the construction of the old stone fireplace on the pavilion at the lake. He organized and ran that project, volunteering hundreds of man hours and resources to it. The Lions said Buckley was heartbroken when the town removed the stone fireplace and replaced it with the current fireplace.

Buckley also has many stories he could share about the pranks and good times the Lions all enjoyed years ago - from dressing up in costumes and marching in the town parades to mystery rides to just general friendships.

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: 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. Pumpkins will be displayed along the cemetery wall on School Street. For more information about this event call 860-295-6203.

Mad Science - Eureka: For grades 1-6, Mondays, 3:15-4:15 p.m., from Oct. 25-Dec. 13, at Marlborough Elementary School. Students can explore famous inventors such as Leonardo da Vinci, Ben Franklin, Thomas Edison and Archimedes. Kids get a science project to take home each week. Registration fee: \$135/ residents, \$140/non-residents.

Drawing Techniques: For grades 4-6. Wednesdays, 3:30-5 p.m., Oct. 27-Nov. 10, at MES. tudents will learn a variety of drawing techniques as well as experiment with various materials. The instructor will set up a variety of still life options. Students are invited to bring stuffed animals or other objects they wish to draw. All materials are provided. Fee: \$75/residents, \$80/non-residents.

Acrylic Landscape Painting: For grades 4-6. Wednesdays, 3:30-5 p.m., Dec. 1-22, at MES. Students will be guided through the

Wreath Sales Have Begun

Boy Scout Troop 39 in Marlborough has kicked off its annual wreath sales fundraiser. With free, contactless delivery to your home, the wreaths are fresh balsam, handmade in Maine and decorated by local Scouts with pine cones, berries and a red velvet bow. Available in two sizes: a 22-inch wreath for \$25, or a 28inch wreath for \$30.

This is the only troop-wide fundraiser conducted, with profits supporting the troop's campouts, equipment needs, service projects and activities throughout the year. Scouts cannot knock on doors this year, but they will take orders through Nov. 12. All are also asked to donate toward a wreath for Marlborough Food Bank families.

Place an order online or via mail at www. troop39wreaths.com. Credit cards are accepted online. For more information, call or text 860-295-3060. Wreath deliveries will begin Nov. 20 and conclude by Nov. 30.

techniques of landscape painting. Students can bring a photo of a landscape, or choose one. All materials provided. Students are encouraged to bring a snack. Fee: \$90/residents, \$95/non-

Horseback Riding Lessons: For ages 5 and up, English- or Western-style instruction. Lessons are private and one hour. Lesson days and times are flexible. Fee is four lessons for \$175/ residents, \$180/non-residents.

Adult Programs: Zumba: Tuesdays through Oct. 22, 7-8 p.m., at MES. There is a \$10 fee to drop in. Register on the Parks and Rec. website.

Driveway Reflective Number Signs: Signs cost \$35. Each vertical sign is double-sided 8"x24" with 4" numbers on blue highway reflective metal. Order forms are online and at Town Hall.

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.marlcongchurch. org for those unable to attend in person.

Oct. 24: Worship will be led by church member, singer and guitarist Steve Pozzato.

Sunday School is in-person for children ages 3 to grade 8 and all are welcome.

Faith Formation Study Group: Meets Thursdays, upstairs in the lounge, at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome.

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 Sun-

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

Second Blessings Thrift Shop: Open Satur-

Nearly 100 at Republican **Meet-and-Greet**

The Marlborough Republicans held a Meetand-Greet "Brisket BBQ" last Sunday. The Meet-and-Greet drew nearly 100 visitors who took advantage of the opportunity to meet with the Republican candidates running for office in the Nov. 2 municipal elections, while dining on the variety of foods at the barbecue.

Those who were unable to attend can learn more about the Republican candidates at the Marlborough RTC website at www.MarlGOP. com and at the Marlborough RTC Facebook days from 9 a.m.-noon. Halloween and fall are now featured along with name-brand jewelry and handbags, infants and children, cookware and more. Masks required. Second Blessings accepts donations during shopping hours. The shop sells year-round on eBay at bit.ly/MCCebay.

General Info: Worship services and programs are open to all. The church is an Open and Affirming faith community. For more information about the church or its programs, call the church office at 860-295-9050 or Pastor Bob Faulhaber's direct line at 860-295-0432.

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 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.

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Obituaries

Portland

Gerald J. Parisi

Gerald J. ("Jerry") Parisi, 86, of Portland, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family Sunday, Oct. 17.

Jerry was born Sept. 9, 1935, to Jeremiah and Grace (Fortin) Parisi in Middletown. After graduating from Middletown High School he received



his teaching degree from Central Connecticut State University (formerly "The Teachers College"). Jerry had a fulfilling 35-year teaching career where he taught in both the Middletown and Haddam school districts. He was beloved by his students and colleagues.

After retiring, Jerry enjoyed travelling with his wife, gardening, reading, doing crosswords, and spending time with his family.

Jerry was predeceased by his wife Sandra and his brother Paul. He is survived by his children Jeremy (partner Anne), Rosemary (Claude), and Laura (Manuel). In addition, he leaves behind six grandchildren (Sean, Stephen, Alex, Erika, Brandon, and Emma), close cousins, lifelong friends, sister-in-law, niece and nephew.

Jerry will be remembered by everyone for his wisdom, humor, and humble personality.

The family thanks Portland Care and Rehab for their compassionate care of Jerry. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research in Jerry's name.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Monday, Oct. 25, at 10 a.m., in St. Mary Church, Portland. Burial will be in the family plot in the Swedish Cemetery, Portland. There are no calling hours.

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

Colchester

Dominick P. Genna

Dominick P. Genna, 69, of Colchester, passed away Tuesday, Oct. 12. Born Jan. 3, 1952, in Queens, N.Y., he was a son of the late Salvatore and Cecilia (Carlucci) Genna.

In 1978 he married his wife, Elizabeth Foster; the couple settled in Queens, where they raised their two sons. For over 30 years, Dominick worked as a plumber at the Metropolitan Hospital in New York, until her retirement in 2006. In his spare time, he enjoyed tending to his garden, and spending time with his family.

He will be forever loved and remembered by his wife, Elizabeth Genna; sons, Dominick S. Genna and wife Missy Genna, and Michael Genna; brother, Carl Genna and wife Mary Genna; grandchildren, Maddie, Avery Rose and Layla Genna; and numerous other extended family and friends.

Callings hours were held Monday, Oct. 18, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, followed by a chapel service in the funeral home. Burial took place in the St. Joseph Cemetery, 815 Boswell Ave., Norwich.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial donations be made to the American Cancer Society (www.cancer.org).

Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. For online condolences, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

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East Hampton

Christine A. Castonguay

Christine A. Caston-guay, after a long courageous battle with ovarian cancer, died peacefully at Middlesex Hospice Sunday, Oct. 17. Born Feb. 3, 1971, to the late Fernand and Jacqueline Castonguay (Levesque), Christine was raised in Bristol.

She was a longtime res-



ident of East Hampton, an employee of the town of East Hampton in the Land Use Department and previously worked for the Chatham Health Department. Her boss, Planning and Zoning Official Jeremy DeCarli, was a mentor and trusted friend. Christine will be remembered for her kind words and infectious smile. She most enjoyed spending time with her beloved nieces Brynn and Caitlyn Castonguay Stone and had a true fascination and love for genealogy, which she shared with her cousin Charles Castonguay.

She is survived by her longtime partner and the love of her life, Michael Roy; her sister, Debra Castonguay Stone and her brother, Bernard Castonguay, both of Bristol; her nieces Brynn and Caitlyn Castonguay Stone and Mary and Gabrielle Castonguay; a very special uncle and aunt, Louis Castonguay and Rita Cyr of Bristol; and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Christine is predeceased by her parents and her brother Joseph Fernand Castonguay.

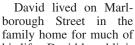
Her life and legacy will be honored in a ceremony at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., Saturday, Oct. 30, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Donations can be made in her honor to the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition.

Portland

David Norman Unikewicz

David Norman Unikewicz, "Dave," "Uke,"
"Bro," "Pops," "Cabbage," passed peacefully
Thursday, Oct. 7. David
was born on March 24,
1944 to John Francis
Unikewicz Sr. and Genowefa A. Gut.



his life. David loved living in Portland. It was often joked that David knew mostly everyone in town. He had a "Hey! How ya doin'?" for everyone! A few of the friends David could be found around town with are James Nursick, Timothy Barrett, and David Opuszynski. He was a proud member of the Portland Company 2 Volunteer Fire Department for 50 years. In addition to the volunteer fire department, David was a member of the fire department's drill team and traveled all over the east coast to march in various parades. David was also a member of the Company 2 softball team, where he was a pitcher.

David retired from Pratt and Whitney Aircraft in Middletown, where he worked in the materials department for 35 years.

How did David enjoy his retirement? Very well, thank you! David was super active with all his hobbies. David was an avid New York Mets fan and could be found watching them whenever he could! David loved fishing and would almost never miss an opening day at Salmon River. He also enjoyed going out on the boat deep-sea fishing with friends. Monday nights were cards nights at St. Francis Club (don't call him then!), and Fridays were setback. Any days in between, you could find him playing horseshoes. First playing with the firehouse league,

then at the campground league at Acorn Acres, and even in the Haddam/Killingworth leagues. Who did David play horseshoes and golf with? He played with longtime campground friends, Mark Bottion, Kevin Shields and Jimmy Weeks. They were the best of friends.

David spent 33 years at Acorn Acres campground with his family and friends. He could be found playing horseshoes, grilling good food, playing Tiger Woods Golf with his friends, and just being a general schmooze. David was the type of man who everyone loved and always stopped to talk to.

David is survived by his loving wife of 26 years, Elizabeth Unikewicz. He is also survived by his adoring daughter, Stacy Unikewicz Connor and son Kevin Stanley Unikewicz. David is also survived by his brother, Robert James Unikewicz Sr., and sister, Mary Carol (Unikewicz) Opalacz.

David was predeceased by his sister, Jean Marie (Unikewicz) Henry, and his brothers, Gerald Francis Unikewicz, John Joseph Unikewicz and Stanley Richard Unikewicz.

The funeral will be held today, Friday, Oct. 22, at 10 a.m., in St. Mary Church, Portland. Friends called at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, on Thursday, Oct. 21. Burial will be in St. Mary Cemetery, Portland, on Thursday, Oct. 28, at 11 a.m.

East Hampton

Lorraine Spakowski

Lorraine (Chadsey) Spakowski, 69, of East Hampton, beloved wife of Charles J. Spakowski Jr., passed away peacefully at her home Tuesday, Oct. 19. Born Dec. 5, 1951 in Middletown, she was the daughter of the late Edwin and Lillian (Hubbard) Chadsey. She was retired from Pratt & Whitney where she had worked as a materials handler.

Besides her husband, she is survived by her daughters, Dawn (Donald) Hanna, Theresa (Marty) Bogue; stepdaughter, Dawn Spakowski, stepsons, Joe Verlinde, Wayne (Tina) Spakowski; her brother, Mark (Cheryl) Chadsey; half-brothers, Michael and Thomas Arrigoni; grandchildren, Lauren, Stirling, Stasia, Mary, and Kimberly; her great-granddaughter Ellie and several other step-great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her stepfather, Thomas Arrigoni, and her brother, Edwin Chadsey Jr.

Funeral services will be private at the convenience of the family.

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

East Hampton

Rev. Alice Lester

The Rev. Alice (Palm) Lester, 74, transitioned to her next adventure Friday, Oct. 15, at home in East Hampton. Alice was born in Mount Kisco, N.Y., to Helge and Thelma (Campbell) Palm, moved to East Hampton as a child, and attended Bethlehem Lutheran Church with her family.

Alice was educated at East Hampton High School, Luther College, and Hartford Seminary. As a member of the Marlborough Congregational Church, she embraced such roles as Sunday School superintendent and church moderator among others.

When she was 57, Alice pursued her calling to ministry with the loving support of her children and church family. She attended Bangor Theological Seminary in Maine and graduated in 2009 with her bachelor's degree in religious studies and master's degree in divinity. She was ordained in 2011 and served first as the pastor for the Springfield Congregational Church, Springfield Maine, and then the First Congregational Church, Pittsfield Maine. Alice also

worked for Katahdin Friends, Inc., of Maine, continuing her calling to help as a direct support professional for special needs adults until she retired in May.

Along with her loving daughters Ellen and

Laura, Alice leaves Ellen's children, Steven, Kristina, and Tim; her heart's daughter Denise and her children Sabrina and Jake; and many dear friends and family in Connecticut, Maine, Minnesota and California.

The family would like to extend special thanks to Beacon Hospice and Marlborough Congregational Church Care Team.

A memorial service will be held at Marlborough Congregational Church Friday, Oct. 29, at 1 p.m., and a celebration of life will be held at Hammond Street Church in Bangor, Maine, at a future date.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to The CT Draft Horse Rescue, www.ctdraftrescue.org/donate.

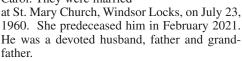
To leave online condolences, please visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

Vito N. Ignazio

Vito N. Ignazio, 83, of Colchester, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his family Saturday, Oct. 16. He was born Oct. 12, 1938, in Windsor Locks, son of the late Albert and Palmina (Recchia) Ignazio.

Vito was married for 60 years to his beloved wife Carol. They were married



Vito was a longtime resident of Colchester. Growing up in Windsor Locks, he worked for the family business, The Ignazio Florist and Greenhouses. After moving to Colchester, Vito worked for TLC Oil Company, Stroehmann Bakeries, Lincoln Oil and Forbes Petroleum. He was the founder and operator of his family-owned business, The Westchester Firewood Company.

Vito was very civic-minded and was active in his community. He served in the Connecticut Army National Guard 43rd Military Police. He also served as a Constable for the Town of Colchester and was a 20+ year member of the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Company. He was a former captain and helped to organize the annual Christmas tree and wreath sales. Prior to moving to Colchester, Vito was a member of the Windsor Locks Fire Department and played the bass drum in the Windsor Locks Fire Department Fife and Drum Corps. Vito was a member of the Belltown Antique Car Club and a past member of the Good Times Motoring Club. He enjoyed going for drives in his 1929 Model A and attending car shows and local parades.

In his retirement years, Vito enjoyed traveling, attending NASCAR races to support his son Chris and spending time with his wife, children, and grandchildren. Vito was one of the original members of the Dunkin' Gang and had his own chair reserved. He leaves behind his good friends at Dunkin'.

He is survived by two sons, Christopher Ignazio and his wife Diane of Colchester, and Scott Ignazio of Colchester and his companion Jo-Lynn McKinney of Waterford; three grandchildren, Shayne, Cassandra and Olivia Ignazio of Colchester; daughter-in-law, Stephanie Ignazio of Middletown; and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

In addition to his parents and his wife Carol, Vito was predeceased by his sister, Rosalie De-May; his twin brother, Roger Ignazio Sr.; and brother, Albert Ignazio Jr.

The family would like to extend their sincere gratitude to the nurses and staff of Middlesex Health Care at Home Hospice for the compassionate care Vito received.

Calling hours were held Thursday, Oct. 21, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A funeral service will take place today, Friday, Oct. 22, at 11 a.m., at Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home. Burial will take place in the New St. Andrew Cemetery on Gillette's Lane in Colchester.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 225 N. Michigan Ave., Fl. 17, Chicago, IL 60601; the Middlesex Health Care at Home Hospice Program, 21 Pleasant St., Middletown, CT 06457' or Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Company, 52 Old Hartford Road, Colchester, CT 06415.

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



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★ Letters cont. from page 17

ing will soon be available on the town and library websites and on the Coalition's social media page: facebook.com/portlandctsocialjustice. Valuable resources that were shared throughout the program will be compiled to offer an affordable home-ownership resource guide.

Anyone who wishes to learn more about PSJC or get involved can visit our Facebook page, or email us at portlandsocialjustice@gmail.com. Visit Portland Library online or in person to find assistance, answers, or referrals to reliable sources of information: www.portlandlibraryct.org.

With gratitude, Liz Hibino, Co-Founder Portland Social Justice Coalition and Janet Nocek, Director Portland Library

No Alternative Facts

To the Editor:

Again we have a letter comparing Anthony Fauci to Joseph Mercola. This is simply tedious. Mercola, we are told, has no "skin in the game" regarding vaccines, but Fauci does. Um, what?

Mercola sells alternative medicines. He makes his fortune from dietary supplements, tanning beds, juicers, and similar paraphernalia. Anti-vaxxers are his natural market. It's hard to imagine anyone with more skin in the game. (More info: letters.sauvet.com/#/ pages/mercola.) Fauci, by contrast, is a salaried government official with only his reputation at stake, one which would be enhanced by a rapid COVID-19 decline. To imagine Fauci benefits from some vast conspiracy to push unnecessary vaccines - and that Mercola is an uninterested bystander who happens to oppose vaccines - takes a degree of mental gymnastics impossible to fathom.

The problem in Gary Gile's letter goes deeper. He tells us, "Everyone is entitled to their own biased opinion." Sure. However, as Sen. Moynihan explained, "Everyone is entitled to his own opinion, but not his own facts." Feel free to believe that maple walnut ice cream is better than butter pecan: I won't judge... much. You can choose the Yankees over the Red Sox if your conscience allows. You're even free to imagine that trickle-down economics actually works; I mean, some people still buy that tooth fairy business.

But serious scientific studies demonstrate the efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines. Ninety-five percent of new cases happen in the unvaccinated 33% of the population. The unvaccinated are 11 times more likely to die from it than the vaccinated. These are facts, and easy to look up. That you saw something different in the-daily-right-wing-snow-job.com does not change this.

On matters of opinion, feel free to believe whatever you like. But when your ideas run against actual facts, please don't expect the world to change to suit your convenience.

> Sincerely. Scott Sauyet - Andover

Supports Philhower

Mark Philhower's determination to successfully correct the many wrongs in our building department has earned him my vote 10 times over.

For years, we who served in local government fielded complaints about a variety of problems stemming from that department. Whether contractors, proposed developers or private residents, the unresolved problems became overwhelming.

I am happy to say they have been resolved and an important town service has been restored. Thanks in great part to Mark for making that happen.

Ted Hintz Jr. - East Hampton

Well-Qualified Candidates To the Editor:

RHAM BOE candidates - Maura Curran Baker, Claudia Riley and Heather Summerer - are wellqualified to run for the RHAM BOE. Each of them has experience in various school activities and bring a diverse and well-rounded background that would help advance education in the RHAM schools. These three women would represent all students. They are what RHAM needs to build on its success.

The opposition does not have these same tials. One of the Republican candidates has presented a bio that is full of red flags and questionable assertions. I was shocked to see that the RTC would actually nominate this individual.

I invite you to read all the bios and judge for yourself which candidates have the students' bests interests at heart. My vote is for Maura, Claudia, and

Rob Mangiafico – Hebron

Set Course for Better Future

To the Editor:

The political rhetoric in Portland is at an all-time high! I believe this is because the stakes are so high. We as a community can set the course for a better future by electing Ryan Curley as first selectman.

Ryan has lived in Portland his entire life except for college. He returned home after college to settle down, buy a home, become active in the Lions Club. Exchange Club, as a two-term elected selectman and now on his second term as our town clerk

Ryan has shown true leadership. He is strong enough to take a stand, do what he believes is right and to take the criticism that comes along with it.

Ryan takes his responsibilities as town clerk very seriously. And as a result, he is taking a lot of heat for expressing his concerns regarding the mass mailing of hundreds of not-properly-registered absentee ballot applications. The correspondence to his office

by members of the Democratic Town Committee regarding distributing absentee ballot applications was somewhat misleading. They indicated that they were "planning to distribute more than five," such as is done when doing door-to-door campaigning. It is essential that mass mailings of ballots are registered with the town clerk's office to ensure they are numbered and the office is prepared with a sufficient of number of absentee ballots for every application received. That is his job!

Ryan has a master's in public administration. This education combined with his experience as an elected official for a decade and his dedication to our community make him the best person to lead our community into the future.

Ryan has my vote on Nov. 2.

Donna Nobile - Portland

History Repeats Itself...

This morning I heard a friend make the following statement: "We have to spend the money in our budget or else we won't get it again next year." I first heard that same statement by a teacher while in the seventh grade nearly 70 years ago. It didn't make any sense then and it doesn't make any sense now. That, my friends, is how irresponsible government works!

That means we must spend all our money (on things we don't need) in order to get the same amount to spend next year. If a candidate running for office states that he (or she) wants to have a zero tax increase that means they will likely have to reduce spending. This can only be done by eliminating waste and believe me there is plenty of waste in government! A good example of this is our ongoing, year after year, bridge repairs. I have witnessed nearly every day for the past six to eight weeks four to six trucks parked under an overpass. There are five or six employees, standing under the bridge conversing. Occasionally there may be one or two workers working. I mutter to myself, "Some politician must own this repair com-

If a candidate says he will reduce spending then give him a chance to prove himself. If he does not then don't support them when it comes time for re-

Frank Blume - Colchester

Support Jason LaChapelle

To the Editor:

As a property owner in Colchester, and as his mother, I am writing to offer my support for Jason LaChapelle's candidacy for the Board of Selectmen. I have little doubt in his ability to put Colchester on the correct path forward nor in his desire to do right by his neighbors. I'm not a very political person (he doesn't get that from me) so I don't want to talk about things I am not involved in. I can, however, talk about him as a person.

He's a little rough around the edges. He always has been. Truth be told, he wasn't the easiest child in the world. Jason has always been a little boisterous and outspoken. He's always been the one to ruffle a few feathers. I think that comes from being the younger brother. As a kid, and still today, he's been the one to question everything. As much as it annoyed me while he was growing up, I knew that would be a quality that would serve him well in life.

He's a very passionate person. From his time on the soccer field, to his career as a software engineer, it's been his passion that has led him to success. I see that passion in him for this town and this community.

If there's one thing I know, it's my son. His heart is in this race and in this town. He wants to do what's best for his community. He's raising his beautiful young family here. I can see the determination in him to make this town the best not just for them, but everyone here. There's no question for me that he will see that through to the end.

He has my full and unconditional support for the Board of Selectmen.

> Thank you. Cindy Albert - Colchester

Tripp's Impressive Record

A common phrase in political campaigns is to 'Hit the Ground Running!' I'm okay with the hyperbole, you want it known you're eager and enthusiastic. So I'll add one of my own: to slow down in order to

Jim Tripp would have only hit the ground running.

Beyond his Board of Education and Board of Selectmen service, Jim helped bring about Portland's Air Line Trail, Riverfront Park, and Route 17 Recreational Complex. These three destinations bring visitors and their revenue to our town.

That's just a part of his resume, and it's typical of the kind of vision and roll-up-your-sleeves, get-itdone leadership I want in a first selectman.

Regards, Andy Bauer - Portland

Choosing Coyle

To the Editor:

For the last several years, I have had the privilege and honor of working with Rosemary Coyle, who is seeking re-election to Colchester's Board of Selectmen. As Board of Selectmen liaison to the Long Term Recovery, Senior Center Building and American Rescue Plan committees. I see firsthand her dedication and commitment to working on behalf of Colchester residents. Her leadership, guidance and direction to committee members is exemplary often offering her professional and personal wisdom and advice. Rosemary continues to work tirelessly to make a new senior center a reality. Her passion and determination to continue to push this effort forward is evident by her drive, compassion and respect for all residents of

Rosemary is also the Board of Selectmen's liaison to the Commission on Aging. As chair of this commission, I see firsthand Rosemary's continued advocacy and active voice promoting programs and services on behalf of Colchester's seniors. She understands concerns and issues facing seniors and is determined to continue to address and meet head on challenges and obstacles many seniors face.

Rosemary has served the town of Colchester and residents on the Board of Education and currently on the Board of Selectmen. Rosemary's integrity, strong work ethic and "let's get it done" attitude are a few of the attributes I know and admire in Rosemary. I encourage you to vote for Rosemary Coyle for Colchester's Board of Selectmen on Nov. 2.

Marge Mlodzinski - Colchester Note: Mlodzinski is chairman of the Commission on Aging, but said she is speaking as an individual.

Wake Up, Connecticut

To the Editor:

According to a 2021 report from Truth in Accounting, Connecticut ranks last for fiscal health of the 50 states. Connecticut's financial state has been dreadful for years but significantly worsened by the pandemic. We now have the distinction of the highest taxpayer burden of \$62,500 per taxpayer. This is based on Connecticut's 2020 audited financial report.

Over the years, our elected officials have continued to make bad financial decisions that have left us with a \$79.6 billion debt. This is mainly due to unfunded retirement obligations and pension benefits.

The people of Connecticut have repeatedly elected Democratic leadership and our beautiful state has been going down the toilet for many years. By all means, if you're happy with our outlook for the future then keep electing them. However, if you would like to save our state from the freefall it's in, please open your mind to change. Don't just stick your head in the sand: do the research. Don't vote status quo; vote for policy, not party. It's not working.

Our beautiful America is also in serious trouble under the Democratic leadership in Washington. The media majority has not been truthfully reporting the news for years. Please wake up and help save our beautiful Connecticut and America before it's too

Bonnie Olivieri - East Hampton

Vote Row A

To the Editor:

Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 2, is almost here. There have been many letters to the editor in the local paper, mailers have been sent, videos and meetings recorded and phone calls made regarding all of the candidates. I have read the letters and the mailings. viewed the videos, attended the Board of Education and the Board of Finance meetings via Zoom, and I have also spoken with several business owners, parents, and seniors. After all this, there is no doubt that the best candidate for First Selectman is Mary Bylone.

Her leadership the past two years has helped Colchester move ahead in a very positive direction. New businesses have been welcomed, the fire department will be getting much-needed new equipment, the Rec. Dept. is upgrading the playground, the ball fields are being repaired and the long awaited Senior/ Community Center will go to a referendum within the next few weeks.

All of this has been accomplished in spite of the fact that Mary Bylone came into office as COVID-19 was turning our world upside down. Mary's sincere concern and compassion for the residents of Colchester has made this a better community. Please join me in voting for Mary Bylone and the entire Democratic slate on November 2. Vote Row A!

> Thank you, Goldie Liverant - Colchester

Keep RHAM Strong

Dear Marlborough Residents:
I am proud to endorse Dr. Judy Benson Clarke for the RHAM Board of Education. Growing up, my sister and I participated in excelled mathematics, the invention convention, science fairs, Future Problem Solvers and Russian language instruction as extracurricular activities. It was important to my mother that we be exposed to all areas of the curriculum and that we had strong skills in all areas so that we could follow whatever career path we chose

I am excited to say that I am a college senior at Bentley University and because of my Marlborough and RHAM education and support from home I already have my dream job at EY in Boston after col-

Keep RHAM strong. Reelect Dr. Judy Benson Clarke to the RHAM BOE.

Gabrielle Benson Clarke - Marlborough

Sousa Has My Vote

To the Editor:

I read in the Rivereast that only about 30% of voters come out for municipal elections, which always seems weird to me as the late, great Tip O'Neill observed, "All politics is local." Fortunately, in this upcoming election there is a candidate who is well worth your taking the time to come out and support: David Sousa.

It's with pleasure that I will enthusiastically vote for David, someone who is uniquely qualified for the Planning & Zoning position he seeks. In my 24 years In Hebron, I think David will probably be the most qualified person to ever fill that position.

Lay boards are always a mixed bag. Enthusiasm, love of community, desire to make a mark are all worthy reasons of the people who volunteer to serve. I won't get into the negative reasons some people run for office (greed, power-hungry, ego), but there are boards where actual knowledge of the issues and subject matter really counts - Board of Finance and Planning & Zoning are two such boards.

But qualification isn't enough; we've all seen what happens when a "qualified" candidate gets elected but can't work with others on the board. It's ineffective, destructive, and downright nasty. P&Z has been fortunate over the years in not attracting those can-

In David Sousa, Planning & Zoning will get a grown-up - someone who is smart, knowledgeable and knows how to work with others. He will join a board with able, hardworking Republicans and Democrats, all of whom are working for the betterment

David has my vote; I hope he has yours.

Judith Podell - Hebron

East Hampton Democrats' Future Goals

To the Editor:

The Town of East Hampton has an award-winning and highly recognized school district. Our goal is to continue to enhance educational excellence and opportunities in our schools. A highly qualified staff, well-maintained facilities and materials with up to date technology is essential for our children's suc-

We have and will continue to support the quality of Lake Pocotopaug. It is important that our community implements ecologically and economically sound solutions to improve our lake, consistent with the Nine Point Watershed Plan.

We will continue to present a budget that provides public safety and public health protections for our citizens, including timely COVID-19 updates and the continuation of a strong police department.

We support creating a capital budget that meets the immediate and future needs of our community, such as the newly formed committee on providing clean drinking water. We know that you have a choice on Tuesday, Nov.

2, and we respect that. Earning your vote is very important to us! Respectfully,

Barbara Moore, Chair **East Hampton Democratic Town Committee**

Voting for Tripp

To the Editor:

I am supporting Jim Tripp for Portland's first selectman. Jim has done an extensive amount of volunteer work in our town over the past 20 years and has been an elected member of the Board of Selectman for the past four years. He has volunteered his time to lead the Brownstone Quorum and the Lions Club, been a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Board of Education, and the Route 17 Park Building Committee. In his four years as a selectman, he has listened to Portland residents and their needs, and helped to implement improvements to our town, including new sidewalks and two bike routes. I believe Jim's effective volunteer work on key projects in town along with his four years on the Board of Selectmen make him ready to lead on day one.

When I was forming the Portland Complete Streets Group in 2014, I asked Jim to come to one of our meetings to share his experience working with another community group, the Brownstone Quorum. He was generous with his time and very interested in our work to make Portland's streets safer and use-

I will be voting for Jim Tripp on Nov. 2, and I encourage you to do so as well.

Kathy Herron - Portland

What is Veterans Day?

To the Editor:

Many people confuse Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Both holidays were established to recognize and honor the men and women who have worn the uniform of the United States Armed Forces. But Memorial Day, which is observed on the last Monday in May, was originally set aside as a day for remembering and honoring military personnel who died in the service of their country.

While those who died are also remembered on Veterans Day, which is observed on Nov. 11, Veterans Day is intended to thank and honor all those who served honorably in the military - in wartime or In fact, Veterans Day is largely to thank living Veterans for their service, to acknowledge that their contributions to our national security are appreciated, and to underscore the fact that all those who served have sacrificed and done their duty. Alphonse Letendre - Colchester

The Choice is Clear

Dear Editor:

On Nov. 2, Colchester voters will choose their leaders for critical boards that affect our children, seniors, and businesses.

In my view, the choice is clear to elect the Row A Community First team. Led by First Selectman Mary Bylone, the team is committed to balanced business growth and careful investment of your tax dollars including new federal recovery funds.

Together the Row A team will address learning gaps and mental health challenges that children may be experiencing post-COVID. Upgrades to our Rec Plex, including the basketball court, playground and fields are underway and will continue aggressively under Mary's leadership.

Unfortunately, the Republican Party has resorted to name-calling, distortions of the truth, and plain nastiness this year. I've been on the receiving end of this strategy along with my family, friends, and campaign volunteers.

While it is disturbing, we are resolute and commit-

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★ Letters cont. from page 29

ted to running a positive campaign about the issues you care about. Most important, our elected officials and candidates are committed to serving you and supporting your priorities no matter your party.

But we need your vote to achieve these goals and more. Please make a plan to vote on Nov. 2 or vote by absentee ballot now if you are concerned about COVID, will be out of town, are ill/disabled, or for other reasons.

Instructions on absentee voting may be found at colchesterdemocrats.org or the Town website. You can vote by mail or use the secure ballot box at Town Hall. Even better, the town clerk's office is open daily Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., with extended Thursday hours until 7 p.m. You can apply and vote all at the same time.

Thank you for exercising your right to vote and determining the future of our town.

Michelle Gilman, Chair **Colchester Democratic Town Committee**

Vote 'No' on RHAM Turf

To the Editor:

A \$3.5 million dollar request for new athletic fields at RHAM. Not that long ago, the taxpayers of the region spent many millions to build the "Taj Mahal" high school - very opulent in my opinion and the year after they build all-new athletic fields. Now this same Board of Education wants my Town of Andover taxpayers to contribute \$700,000 to fund this project. That amount of money would certainly build us a very nice senior/community center. We are the only town that doesn't have one; Bolton, Hebron, Colchester, Columbia, Marlborough and the list goes on - they all have very nice facilities. We in Andover have a plan. and that's it for now.

It never surprises me at the self-serving egocentric behavior of this group of people. I experienced firsthand this summer when Andover Elementary School board, PTA and parents bullied the Board of Finance into approving more spending - during a pandemic and declining enrollment. Thankfully the town at the full budget referendum voted no increase.

Where were the Oversight Committee and the Building Committee when the athletic fields were being "repurposed"? They're now claiming that they were poorly constructed.

This project needs to be rejected. It is hardly the time - with the current state of the economy, and the shaky leadership at both the state and federal level. It's a big ask and I say no way. Join me in defeating this boondoggle.

Don Denley - Andover

Change is Needed

I constantly hear complaints that Portland can and should be better. People tell me that they are looking for improvements and change. Well Portland now is your chance. On Nov. 2, you can sweep out the old and bring in the new!

On Nov. 2, you can change the course of Portland's history for the better and elect a young and vibrant person to be your first selectman. That person is Ryan Curley, a lifelong resident with the skills, energy and desire to guide us into a brighter future. Ryan recently earned his master's in public administration. No other candidate for office has obtained that degree or education. Ryan has been a full-time advocate for Portland for the past six years as town clerk. He has modernized the town clerk's office and has built upon the professionalism and standards set forth by our long-standing former Town Clerk Bernie Dillion. I am confident that as first selectman he will do the same on a larger scale to improve the quality of life for all Portland residents.

Ryan and the energetic slate of Republican candidates is ready to get to work for you the citizens of Portland. Do you want more of the same old, same old or do you want a bright future? I am voting for a bright future on Nov. 2.

John H. Anderson - Portland

Supports Benson Clarke

Dear Marlborough Voters:

I have grown up with a mother, Dr. Judy Benson Clarke, who helped foster a great love of learning and respect for education in me and all with whom she comes in contact.

My mother believes deeply in personal responsibility, a strong work ethic and in never giving up.

I have seen her put herself at personal cost to stand up for what is right for all kids.

Re-elect Dr. Judy Benson Clarke to the RHAM Board of Education.

Isabelle Benson Clarke - Marlborough

Stand Together

To the Editor:

Ego is the enemy. The government is dividing and conquering. We have to step up because if we don't, our kids will grow up without the same freedoms we did and that should bother everyone. Those who stand for freedom are being silenced. Many are seeing the light, but there are still some who are giving in to the agenda and the corrupt media while focusing on the wrong arguments. All of the issues people are arguing about are a distraction from the big picture. No matter your color, class, creed, condition, religion, sexual orientation or identity, vaccination status, or anti-/pro-mask beliefs, we are all Americans and we are allowed to think differently (for now).

The "R" next to my name doesn't mean anything to me, but if I had to redefine it, to me it would mean "realist" or "reasonableness." Enough of the divide. Enough of the fighting. Political parties should be a thing of the past at this point. I dream of people running for office on merit and message over finances. If you don't see the problem every time you fill up at a

gas station, try to buy groceries at the store, or try to do pretty much anything the way you did it before the beginning of this socialist movement, then you probably are the problem. For the rest of us, and that is a large majority, it is time to stand together.

I am speaking for myself and the many other veterans of foreign wars when I say I am starting to not recognize my country anymore. Our children are being masked with cloth that does not stop any virus while tens of thousands of people are attending sporting events and the so-called elite are partying with each other. We are all one team, one fight. Even if you don't have my six, I will always have yours. Don't wait until it is too late!

Michael Buck - East Hampton **Candidate for Board of Education**

Wake Up, People!

To the Editor:

Unglue your faces from your phone, stop asking "Alexa" and really open your eyes and ears, meaning - use your brain without any technical assistance!!! Look around you... what is happening in this country!!! I became a citizen, after living in this country for 30 years, and after listening to my parents tell me, over and over, what a great country this is, where you can speak your mind, practice your religion, and make your own decisions without getting shot on sight or condemned. Well, okay, not getting shot on sight is a little over the top, but think about it.

In the Declaration of Indpendence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." Liberty - defined in the Merriam-Webster dictionary: the state or condition of people who are able to act and speak freely; freedom - the power to do or choose what you want to: a political right.

Doesn't anyone out there that actually thinks for themselves agree that our freedom is being taken away? We are the ones that will make a difference, and we will keep on pursuing our beliefs, seek out the truth without getting condemned, and hopefully more people will listen.

Ĝary and Sam – I love you guys!!!

Pat Schmidt - East Hampton

Curley Is Portland's Future

To the Editor:

I proudly support Ryan Curley for first selectman of Portland, Ryan's experiences on the Board of Selectmen as well as his six years as our town clerk has given him tremendous insight. He understands how small town government works while also knowing what needs to change. Ryan is forward-looking and is dedicated to making our town thrive. As town clerk, he has updated our records and payment systems. As first selectman, he will fight to bring much needed businesses to town and expand Route 66 to its full potential.

As a small town, Ryan understands we cannot stay stagnant any longer. We need new, energized leadership that will bring dynamic ideas and problem solving skills to the job. He not only has the work experience for this position, he also has a master's degree in public administration. He's the kind of well-rounded, experienced and dedicated candidate we need to bring Portland forward!!

I'm a lifelong Portland resident who is extremely proud of her town. I raise my family here. As with most towns worth living in, there's room for improvement and I believe we need to place our votes for the person who is most capable of making this town all it can be.

Please join me in supporting and voting for Ryan Curley for first selectman on Nov. 2!!

Heather Hetrick - Portland

P&Z Democrats

To the Editor:

Municipal elections are just around the corner and we should all be researching the candidates in our towns. While the Planning and Zoning Commission is often overlooked, it plays a large part in Hebron's future landscape. The two Democratic candidates for P&Z also happen to be members of Hebron's own Coalition on Diversity and Equity. Both are dedicated to improving housing and employment opportunities while remaining sensitive to our ecology and the environmental impacts of development. In addition to each being a strong candidate in their own right, both are prepared to serve our town.

It goes without saying that anyone running for elected office should be inclined to attend meetings, yet one of the Republican candidates has missed an astounding 58% since 2017. While I'm sure many would join me in thanking Mr. Garner for his years of service to our town, it is time to elect folks who are available and willing to put in the time. Please consider supporting candidates who are determined to show up and work toward a more vibrant, prosperous and equitable Hebron. Vote Row A on Nov. 2.

Nicole Lotko - Amston

Friday Night Lights

To the Editor:

High school football is the most important sport for generating school spirit across the country. In 2018-19, according to equipment provider AAA State of Play, there were 1,006,013 kids who played high school football, making it the most popular sport

I'm a senior at Bacon Academy and don't play sports, but I have friends who do and I see how hard they work. I think our football field should have lights. Right now, their team can only have their home games during the daylight, usually Saturday morning or afternoons. There was a book and a TV

show called Friday Night Lights, and it's not a mystery why it was called that. Fans are more excited, there is more school spirit, and the players get more motivated and fired up about playing under the lights in front of a cheering crowd.

According to a story in The Day of New London, the Oct. 14 football game between New London and Ledyard drew approximately 2,000 fans at Ledyard, and Stonington athletic director Bryan Morrone said the Oct. 15 game between Stonington and Killingly drew over 2,220 fans. Killingly coach Chad Neal said his school had a similar crowd for its Sept. 24 home game against Lewis Mills. These games were all under the lights. Bacon doesn't draw nearly those

According to the Eastern Connecticut Conference, it has 14 schools with football programs. Only two -Bacon Academy and Woodstock Academy - do not have lights. Bacon is the only ECC football program that doesn't have either lights or a turf field. Sports Turf Managers Association and Light Poles Plus, both who work with schools to upgrade facilities, say a high school football field can be lighted for approximately \$200,000.

I know people probably don't want to pay for a turf complex now, but that would be the best solution if a grant can be found. Until then, though, I think our school and our town should move into this century like the rest of the ECC (well, except Woodstock but they have turf at least) and put up lights. The soccer and lacrosse teams would also benefit from this and our whole school would be excited about it.

Respectfully, Luke Banning - Colchester

School System is an Asset

The East Hampton school system is one of the assets that draw people to our town and make people want to remain in our community. While many schools in Connecticut are experiencing declining enrollment, East Hampton's remains steady. As some families move away, other families choose to come to our community, often citing our schools as a factor. With new homes under construction, we may even experience growth - in our schools and in our tax

Our superintendent, Paul Smith, has a comprehensive vision and plan. Under his leadership over the past six years, we have seen student growth across all levels in reading and writing, as well as a significant decrease in the number of students requiring out-ofdistrict placement in specialized programs (resulting in a significant cost savings). The focus has now turned to math, with the goal of achieving similar growth in preparing students to be college and career ready for opportunities in the growing fields of manufacturing and STEM.

The Board of Education budget process is lengthy, with much careful deliberation given to investing our limited resources wisely for the greatest return on investment. When we look at how East Hampton compares with surrounding communities, our student achievement ranks among the top, while our per-pupil expenditure is lower than many other communities. We are getting a good return on our investment. Anyone who has interest or concerns about the budget process can attend any of the meetings which take place on the second and fourth Monday of each month to listen and share concerns.

Amanda Amtmanis - East Hampton Note: Amtmanis is a current member of the East Hampton Board of Education running for reelection.

Support for Benson- Clarke

I am writing in support of Judy Benson Clarke for reelection to the RHAM Board of Education. Judy holds a doctorate in gifted education and special education and has served as a member of the RHAM Board of Education for the past 10 years. She has been board chair, secretary, and is currently board

Judy has lived in Marlborough for 22 years where she raised two daughters, both who attended RHAM Middle and High school and believes in keeping public education strong and in continuous improvement who has always brought a practical approach to the RHAM Board which has benefited the needs of the students and our communities.

Judy has a tremendous level of commitment and dedication who has put in countless hours of preparation during the difficult budget seasons, all while balancing the needs of the RHAM students, Staff, Administration and the taxpayers. She has been an advocate for excellent schools and facilities by supporting a strong Capital improvement Plan, investing in technology and infrastructure which has lead to making Andover, Marlborough and Hebron a desirable place to raise young families.

Judy has the experience and she has earned my confidence that she will continue to serve our District with integrity for her next four years. Please join me in voting for Judy Benson Clarke for RHAM BOE

Joe O'Connor - Hebron

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

Grateful for the Opportunity

Dear Colchester Residents:

I would like to introduce myself as the newest candidate running for Board of Education. I joined the team when a vacancy opened up and have been welcomed by a wonderful and supportive group of candidates led by Andreas Bisbikos. I am the youngest member of the team and I feel I have a lot to offer the students in our town by joining the Board of Education.

I am a recent graduate with current insight of the

school system. I will bring my fresh perspective and experience forward to work on bridging the gap between regular education and special education. My solid understanding of the needs and challenges in special education motivates me to open communication with the community and champion for students to self-advocate and build their self-confidence.

I am grateful to be running for the Board of Education with a solid team. The combined and diverse experience and the qualifications each of us will bring to the board will bring forth a refreshing outlook that will benefit all of the children of our town. The team to vote for includes myself, a young high spirited individual ready to fight for the best interest of your child; Alex, an experienced educator who is currently working in the educational system and understands the importance of getting back to grassroots education; and two moms, with children in the Colchester school system, Donna and Margo, who are both very involved with the children in our town and will advocate for your families. I would like to thank the residents of Colchester for the very warm welcome I have received in my campaign.

Colchester is truly a wonderful, caring community to be involved in.

Rosemary Gignac **Candidate for Colchester Board of Education**

Vaccines

To the Editor:

Mike Thompson personifies Andrew Breitbart's saying that inside every liberal is a totalitarian screaming to get out. He not only thinks providing vaccination status to enter venues such as restaurants is good, but should be required. He would gladly discriminate against anyone not thinking like him and segregate them from enjoying the same things he does.

These vaccines neither prevent contraction or transmission of the virus. The best they do is possibly reducing serious effects if the virus is contracted. But experiencing reduced symptoms, infected people are more likely to carry on as normal and spread the illness to others. Contrary to what is purported, vaccinated people are more dangerous for unvaccinated people than vice versa. If these vaccines are truly "effective and safe" why do vaccinated people care what others do?

Why the relentless push to force people to take something under the pretense they are dangerous if they don't? We're to believe that the protected need to be protected from the unprotected by forcing the unprotected to use the protection that didn't protect the protected! Does that logic make any sense?

Deborah Conrad is/was a physician assistant at United Memorial Medical Center in Rochester, N.Y. She's become a whistleblower because the adverse effects of the vaccines aren't being truthfully reported. In a community with a 50% vaccination rate, 90% of all hospital admissions were vaccinated people, many within 14 days of having taken the vaccine. She started fulfilling the legal requirement to file VAERS reports for her own and other's patients, but then was disciplined by hospital administrators and warned to cease reporting the myriad adverse effects she was observing.

Health professionals are required by law to report adverse effects from any vaccine. Why this purposeful intent to disregard that law?

Sam Prentice - Andover

Candidate for School Board

To the Editor:

If there is anything we've learned this year it's how critical parenting is to good learning in school. Parents have so much on their plates with rising prices at the grocery store, at the pump and just about evervwhere else but what our kids learn and how much it costs is of utmost importance. That's why I am a candidate for the Board of Education. As a past board member I know how important parents are. Traditional learning at a fair cost with the basics rigorously taught. We have to make sure our children's learning doesn't fall victim to the pandemic and that they, in fact, thrive.

> Josh Piteo - East Hampton **Candidate for Board of Education**

Proposed DPW Facility

To the Editor:

Recent letters by Hebron Selectman John Collins in regards to utilizing the existing Department of Public Works site on Old Colchester Road to construct a new facility fundamentally misconstrue the process and alternates that were considered while omitting to recognize very critical facts.

There are major reasons that the existing site is problematic. As stated in the Board of Selectmen's meeting of Aug. 19 and reiterated by this committee in a recent "letter" there is no logistical and safe ways to construct a new facility while the DPW's staff and town residents continue to use the site. The DPW and Transfer Station would have to be relocated to a temporary facility during construction. In 2015, the initial cost estimates for this undertaking would have been in the range of \$2 million. The other issue is that even with the addition of the two acres of useable Eversource property, there would be no future capability for expansion.

Regarding the Eversource property, they made it very clear that while the town only wanted the two acres of buildable land, they would only be willing to sell the entire 34-acre tract. This would not be an inexpensive purchase.

Selectman Collins makes reference to an "Original Proposal," "Alternates A and B." They were not proposed plans but conceptual ideas that were laid out to show placement of the building footprints required for a future DPW operation. Ultimately, all of these were formally abandoned as not being viable.

In addition to the problems identified above, there

are also multiple other issues that the design and planning professionals have cited in rejecting the reuse of the Old Colchester site. With the word limitation imposed on "letters," it is not possible to articulate them here. The Building Committee is willing to share them with residents who would want additional information.

Sincerely, The Hebron Public Building Committee Wayne Warwick, Chairman Richard Steiner, Mal Leichter, Dave Foster

Skorski for Marlborough

To the Editor:

I am writing in support of Wes Skorski for the Marlborough Board of Education. Wes is already an experienced member of the board, having served eight years; the majority of those years as either chair or vice chair of the board.

He has demonstrated his dedication to working in a bipartisan manner to ensure our children are offered a top-notch education while carefully monitoring the bottom line. He understands the fiscal needs and abilities of our community, and how to best utilize those to ensure the critical educational needs of our students are met. Wes has an extensive background in science, and draws on his entrepreneurial spirit to approach the issues presented to the board in a thoughtful, inclusive and open manner.

Wes has been active in helping navigate our school through the last year and a half of crisis. Please keep in mind while determining your vote that the Republican candidates are decidedly anti-mask, relying on questionable data to inform their decision making. I believe the school children of Marlborough deserve a board with values that cultivate the best learning environment for our students, including the most vulnerable. Wes will continue to advocate for all students and promote policies that keep our schools safe, open and thriving places for our children to learn.

I've known Wes and his amazing family for over 12 years, and appreciate his calm, intelligent demeanor. When I think of Wes, I think of community, not politics. If reelected, he will continue to manifest the traits of moderation and openness to benefit our town. Please vote for Wes Skorski for the Marlborough Board of Education.

Sincerely, Anne Amodeo – Marlborough

Supports Curley

To the Editor:

As you are aware, Ryan Curley is running for first selectman for the Town of Portland. Ryan is a lifelong resident of town, and I have known him since participating in the Boy Scouts as kids. Ryan reached the rank of Eagle Scout, something that is not an easy accomplishment. He learned leadership and service, while living the Scout Oath and Scout Law in his daily life. They say once an Eagle Scout, always an Eagle Scout. For Ryan this holds true. The principles taught by Scouting have served him well, and continue to do so after all these years. Having someone who lives by these principles will also serve the Town of Portland well, and will move us forward in the right direction as a community. Additionally, I think it is rare today for someone of the younger generation to stay in their hometown and play an important role in town government - currently serving as town clerk and previously as a member of the Board of Selectman. This certainly says something about Ryan's commitment to the people of Portland, today and in the future.

I hope you will join with me in supporting Ryan on Election Day.

Sincerely, Michael Tierney – Portland

Dedication and Commitment

To the Editor:

I am writing in support of my friend and neighbor Robb Fraulino, who is running for the Zoning Commission. Robb has lived in Marlborough these past seven years and lived in East Hampton prior to that. Growing up in small towns is part of what drives Robb's concern for our community and keeping the small-town feel, while managing the inevitable growth in Marlborough.

This past year, Robb has been a Zoning alternate. He is prepared for the necessary requirements for the job. Robb has proven his dedication and commitment to our community by serving in the U.S. Navy for the past 30 years while working as a senior test specialist at Eversource in Connecticut. I couldn't recommend anyone higher for this position.

Bill Smigel - Marlborough

Leichter for Board of Finance

To All Hebron Voters:

I am Malcolm (Mal) Leichter and I am a candidate for the Hebron Board of Finance.

I have been a member of the Board of Finance since 2006. Over that time, we have gone through many turbulent challenges. "The Great Recession" of 2007 and slow recovery, the years of people moving out of town, and most recently the COVID-19 pandemic.

During my terms I have worked diligently to maintain the services the town provides, keep our schools well-funded, maintaining town roads and buildings, and keeping taxes stable to maintain the value of your properties.

Ås a former school business manager, I know the importance of maintaining a great school system and how that affects everything else, from the value of our homes to the dollars we are able to invest in our infrastructure. Our great education system attracts new residents to Hebron.

As I complete my term Hebron maintains a AAA Bond Rating, and healthy reserve. We continue to

improve town facilities and, over the past few years, have been able to allow for tax rates to decrease.

We need to make Hebron affordable for our senior population! I have lobbied in the past for a more scalable tax system that allows financial relief to our seniors on a fixed income or those who have similar difficulties, a system that's greater than what we currently have. I will continue to push for that innovation which is currently used throughout other towns in Connecticut.

It has been a pleasure and an honor to have served the residents of Hebron over the past 16 years. I ask for your vote on Nov. 2nd and pledge to keep fighting for every member of our Hebron community!!!

> Sincerely, Mal Leichter – Amston

What's Their Actual Agenda?

To the Editor:

Why aren't two Republican Board of Education (BOE) candidates for Marlborough Elementary School (MES) publicly discussing their agenda presented at MES board meetings and in social media postings?

The MES BOE meeting minutes for 6/17/21 and 7/22/21 (see the town website) recorded their antimasking statements. These dates were before the election season. The same two candidates said nothing about these anti-mask positions in their comments to the BOE in 9/23/21, nor did they or their supporters in letters to the *Rivereast News* editor this fall. This was all after the electioneering began. The third candidate, an incumbent, has been quiet about anti-masking, though gave the two other candidates support on Facebook. Why the quiet stance? What is their actual agenda?

Children have died and do die from COVID-19. Children are living with long-haul COVID, where disabling conditions continue with no clear path to recovery. Now the Delta variant of COVID-19 heightens the dangers of COVID, placing our children at greater risk. Masks have been proven for decades and for this virus to help save lives. Anti-masking in schools is playing with children's lives.

There are, however, three MES board candidates who recognize the science. Their transparent agendas embrace educational excellence for all families and children. These exceptional candidates are Angela Colantonio, Anna Holden and Wes Skorski. Vote for them on the Democratic ticket. Thank you for listening.

Dave Porteous - Marlborough

The Turf Debate

To the Editor:

First of all, the cost of the turf project is not my issue. I think if we live in a community where we can afford the projected \$52 per household cost per year. I have other questions.

Why was the marketing firm Tall Timbers Marketing hired by the district and paid over \$7,000 for their services? What were the services they provided and is it ethical and legal for a school district to hire a marketing firm and involve them in a referendum issue?

I watch football, as many of you do. I have seen games at Soldier Field, Lambeau Field, L.A. Coliseum, Penn State and the Georgia all on grass. Why if turf fields are better would these organizations who pay a lot of money to players use a grass field versus turf?

I question how lights and a new track are necessary for a new safer turf field.

I love the reason presented that other schools in our conference have turf fields. This is an argument a 12-year-old would use when they ask their parents for a cell phone because all their friends have one.

I went up to the football field this weekend. I can't see any issue with the track, and I saw no big bare spots or mud spots on the field. Go up and look.

So why now? If you are a supporter, you have picked the right time. You are probably hoping for a low voter turnout and that a small group of supporters can carry the referendum. Good political decision-making.

I do encourage everyone to vote and make the results reflect the feelings of a large majority of the potential voters.

Tom Spitler – Hebron

One-Time Payment

To East Hampton Residents:

Our community will be receiving a one-time payment for COVID-19 from the federal government. It is important to understand we will not see this payment next year or the year after. How we use this money is very important. For example, we should pay down some of the town's debt, or possibly pay cash for one-time equipment or infrastructure projects to avoid more debt.

As a community we need to be wise when using windfalls like COVID-19 or tax sales by recognizing it's just a one-time boost to revenue that won't be there next year. Adding reoccurring expenses (like staff) with this money becomes the full burden on us the taxpayers going forward year after year when we don't have a windfall revenue boost.

Bridget McLennan – East Hampton Concerned Resident and Candidate for Board of Finance

Ready, Willing, Excited to Serve

Dear Editor:

My name is Amy Dunnells, and I am running for the Hebron Board of Finance. I have had the privilege of living in Hebron since 2016. My wife and I have two daughters currently attending Hebron Elementary School. My degree is in business administration with a minor in economics. I currently run my own business that provides accounting and financial advisory services to small businesses in a variety of

industries. My previous experience is primarily in the fields of accounting, taxation, mergers and acquisitions, and budgeting. I look forward to being able to bring my extensive business experience to the community as a member of the BOF and I am excited to get involved on a greater level to ensure Hebron's continued success.

My business and finance background together with a passion for wanting to give back to the community are my primary reasons for running. I am a forwardlooking candidate who is eager to work hard for the future success of Hebron. Providing taxpayers more understanding and transparency when it comes to how their hard-earned dollars are spent is important to me. In addition to representing the interests of all Hebron residents, I hope to be able to offer my extensive experience to ensure the town's resources are used efficiently. My family and I are looking forward to residing in Hebron for a long time and it is important to me that our community empowers future generations to succeed. I am fully invested in our community, and excited for the opportunity to offer my time, energy, and experience to the advancement of our great town.

Please make sure to get out and vote on Nov. 2 and please vote for me and my co-candidates in Row A!

Respectfully, Amy Dunnells – Hebron

Vote for Manning

To the Editor:

I urge voters in Portland to join me in voting for my brother Shaun P. Manning for the Board of Selectmen on Election Day, Nov. 2. Shaun was born and raised in Portland and is a lifelong Portland resident. He has demonstrated his commitment to our citizens serving as a fireman and EMT in the Portland Fire Department and as a member of the Brownstone Avenue Redevelopment Committee. Shaun is a local businessman continuing to operate the business founded by our father.

Shaun has devoted much time and effort to studying our town operations. He has spoken to many department heads to ascertain their strengths and weaknesses. We have talked often and I'm impressed by his vision for Portland. He will advocate for expanding our commercial tax base to help alleviate the tax burden we feel as residents. We are facing some heavy expenses to fund improvements to our aging infrastructure, developing a local water delivery system, and providing adequate funding of our schools and public safety departments.

His keystones of education, infrastructure, and public safety deserve to be our priority. We need to meet the educational needs of our students to insure their future success. Proper updating and maintenance of our roads, water and sewer systems will aid in expanding business development. Providing the proper training and safety equipment for our police and fire departments will ensure all citizens are safe and protected. Meeting these objectives will provide a strong vibrant community and encourage needed growth for all of Portland.

Shaun along with Ryan Curley and the rest of their team will provide Portland with strong leadership and growth!

Kimberly Hanna - Portland

No Turf

To the Editor:

As we go to vote this November in Region 8, we will be asked about funding a \$3.2M turf project. RHAM is definitely in need of a new field. But, is turf the right answer? The RHAM BOE says this is the cheaper alternative to natural grass and will require less maintenance and can be used more. The amount of maintenance on turf fields is far from none. It needs to be swept repeatedly to keep the infill from clumping. It needs constant inspections and TLC. Several times a year it must be treated with chemicals like scrub detergent, static conditioner and, depending on environments, herbicides and fungicides.

The most important part of this maintenance is the proper distribution and replacement of infill which is what provides the small amount of cushioning when a student athlete hits the ground. Unfortunately, this is why studies show that turf fields cause 58% more injuries than natural grass. The turf industry would have you believe their product is safer, by comparing it to compacted soil like that found in a baseball diamond. But when was the last time you saw a soccer game on that hard of a field? This increased chance of injury is why so many adult athletes and professional sports leagues refuse to play on artificial turf. When your body is worth millions, you make better choices about keeping it safe.

One Board of Education member suggested in last week's letter that keeping up with surrounding schools is reason enough to ignore any drawbacks. It's also telling that the schools responsible for their own finances (not public funds) were not swayed to turf.

We need to fix the field. But not with turf. More money and more injuries? No thanks; no turf. Vote

Keith Petit - Amston

Colchester Has Choice to Make

To the Editor:

On Nov. 2, Colchester has a choice to make to move forward. Do we select a leader with experience as first selectman who guided us through COVID-19 and had a previous career in management, or a candidate with no business or management experience? Do we select a candidate that works collaboratively to solve problems, empowers employees and fosters a good working environment in Town Hall; or do we select a candidate known to belittle town employees with accusations of wrongdoing, be it over his beloved transparency software, or misunderstandings

with the Superintendent or allegations cast at our police department? Being a leader is more than tossing out conspiracy theories or bullying opposing views on social media. It is looking for common solutions that bring people together to solve problems. This is what Mary Bylone has done to address the pandemic, add two firefighter/EMTs in a tight budget year, and get the new Fire Department Apparatus referendum passed for a much-needed upgrade to aging equipment. She has done nothing but advocate for our town and residents' needs.

Being a leader is about character. What kind of character do you show when a "secret" Political Action Committee you funded appears to be connected to a repulsive fake website against your opponent then you send letters of intent to sue to her and the town when it is mentioned? What kind of character do you show when you use veterans' pictures in a political flier without asking for their permission or you mount your giant campaign signs at a popular local business without consent? If you want to know what kind of leader he will be, watch him in the CBA debate at marybylone.com/debates. Then decide if he is fit to run this town.

Michael Egan - Colchester

Note: Egan is a member of the Colchester Board of Finance, but said he is writing as a citizen.

What is Leadership?

To the Editor:

Leadership is a skill that is learned over time and with experience. Mary Bylone is a true leader and she demonstrates that in many ways each and every day. While her opponent tries to paint her as dishonest and lacking transparency, she is a pillar of integrity, is truthful and transparent. Mary is a servant leader by nature, looking for ways to serve others and make our community a better place.

She is an excellent communicator. She demonstrated this during COVID-19 by holding Facebook Live presentations daily. Residents from other towns were tuning in to her Facebook Lives to get updates on what was happening in our region and to get facts. Her experience as a nurse and leading nurses were essential in leading our community through the worst of the pandemic and working closely with Chatham Health District. Not only is she able to communicate, she listens. She listens with an open mind, striving to understand all sides of a story, and always looking for a way to help.

A true leader is not someone who stands out in front telling others what to do, but is the person working alongside others, doing the hard work and doing the right thing even when it's not the most popular. Despite unending, baseless attacks, she remains upbeat and steadfastly focused on her job of helping bring out the best in Colchester. So, on Nov. 2, I hope that you join me in voting for a true leader: Mary Bylone for first selectman.

Heide Perham Executive Assistant to the First Selectman, Colchester

Note: Perham is the executive assistant to the Colchester First Selectman but said she is speaking as an individual.

Integrity is on the Ballot

To the Editor:

I am proud to be a candidate on the Democratic ticket for the Portland Board of Education. Each of the Democratic candidates for the Board of Education brings something different to the table – Kate Puorro as a mental health professional, Barry Rodgers a community activist and Kim Nagy-Maruschock an educator. The common denominator is our desire to ensure that the children of Portland have every educational opportunity and that their needs are met. We offer a depth of knowledge and expertise that will serve the district well. I am asking for your vote not just for myself but for all of the Democratic candidates on the ballot.

Integrity refers to the practice of being honest and conforming your behavior to reflect your moral and ethical values. Integrity is an important quality for every candidate to possess. The values and integrity of the Democratic candidates are reflected in the work we do supporting our community not just at election time but year in and year out. Our integrity is also evident in how we have conducted our campaign concentrating on what's important to the community. A person's integrity, or lack thereof, can be found not only in what they do and say but also in what they don't say or do. I ask for Portland voters to consider that when deciding who to support in the upcoming election

Sharon Peters Candidate and Current Chair, Portland Board of Education

Education and Community

To My Fellow East Hampton Residents:

When my husband and I moved to East Hampton 16 years ago, there were many qualities that drew us to this town. We were excited to make a home for ourselves, to start a family, and to raise our children in a town that had so much to offer, including what we saw as a solid school system. Fast forward 16 years and we are not only the proud parents of two East Hampton Public School students, but also proud members of this community.

Although I chose not to return to work as a classroom teacher after the birth of my children, I decided to use my knowledge and experience to retain my connection to the field of education through volunteering. Over the past 10 years as an active volunteer in the East Hampton schools, I have watched the system grow from a solid one to one of excellence. Implementation of programs such as The Teacher's College Readers' and Writers' Workshop model, de-

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velopment of our STARS special education program, expanded offering of STEM and advanced level courses, as well as an increased focus on social-emotional learning are just a few of the areas in which our schools have grown.

Our school system is a vital part of this community. And like anything with vitality, it needs to be nurtured, supported and given adequate resources to continue to grow. The East Hampton school district draws families and talented staff to our town, and most importantly, provides our children with an education that allows them to become future leaders and innovators. We need to invest responsibly and wisely in both our children and our community. Please help me to continue to support this effort with your vote on Nov. 2.

Nancy Kohler – East Hampton Note: Kohler is a current member of the East

Note: Kohler is a current member of the East Hampton Board of Education running for reelection.

Benson Clarke for BOE

To the Editor:

Please join me in voting to reelect Judy Benson Clarke for RHAM BOE. Judy is such a huge asset to the board. She has served on the BOE for 10 years and is currently the vice chairwoman. There is absolutely no one who has more experience and is better suited for this position. Judy has a doctorate in gifted education and special education and she has worked as a teacher, a principal and even a superintendent of schools. She is a mother of two remarkable young ladies, who attended school at RHAM, and she has seen firsthand the high-quality education that RHAM provides.

Judy works tirelessly to assure that RHAM will continue to provide this world class education to all of their students. Working as an educator herself, she stays abreast of all current issues and knows what is important to help RHAM to continue to improve.

Most importantly Judy is compassionate, she is a good listener, she is easy to talk to and she is always there to support students, staff and community members. She truly cares about the students and the RHAM community and is one of the most genuine people I have ever met. No one has worked harder than Judy to assure that our children receive the care, support and education they need and that our community benefits from having a strong school system.

Please join me in voting for Judy Benson Clarke for the RHAM Board!

Sincerely, Theresa Brysgel – Marlborough

Dedicated, Compassionate Candidates

To the Editor:

Please join me on Nov. 2 in voting for a slate of dedicated and compassionate candidates who will bring fresh ideas and a love of Hebron to our town's boards.

Democrats Maura Curran Baker, Claudia Riley, Heather Summerer (RHAM Board of Education; Heather Petit, Nikki Matthews (Hebron Board of Education); Tiffany V. Thiele (Board of Selectmen); Malcolm Leichter, Amy Dunnells (Board of Finance); Eric Lindquist, David Sousa (Planning & Zoning); and Carla Pomprowicz (Town Clerk) have what it takes to meet the needs of our increasingly diverse community.

These candidates care deeply about education, science, empathy, access, and the environment.

These candidates will make our town and schools vibrant, inclusive, and supportive places to live, learn,

and grow.

Make a plan for Nov. 2 and vote!

Thank you, Meg Clifton – Amston

Mirabal for Marlborough

To the Editor

I am Rob Mirabal, a husband, father and coach excited for the opportunity to serve the town of Marlborough through my candidacy for the Board of Finance. As a founding and current member of the Marlborough Greater Together Community Fund Advisory Committee, I have been fortunate to work alongside a diverse group of Marlborough residents designing and leading an inclusive process to identify and take action on the needs of our community. I am eager to listen to, learn from and represent all Marlborough residents by taking great care of the fiduciary responsibility the role of Board of Finance carries.

I've worked in the finance area of higher education for over 20 years and currently serve as the bursar and director of student accounts at Wesleyan University. I have been a volunteer firefighter (Yorktown Heights, N.Y.), MYAL basketball coach and currently coach CrossFit at Schedule II CrossFit, East Hampton.

Marlborough's financial health is vital to its continued growth and appeal, and is a reflection of its residents and leadership. Thank you for your support on Nov. 2.

Sincerely,
Rob Mirabal – Marlborough

Rob Mirabal – Marlborough

Seeking PZC Reelection

Dear Editor:

My name is Natalie Wood and I'm chairman of Hebron's Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC). I've introduced myself in prior letters because I'm running for reelection to the PZC this Nov. 2. I've lived in Hebron since 1997 and have served on the commission for over 20 years. I'm a business manager and commercial contracts negotiator for an IT company. I taught high school locally and practiced law in Simsbury and Glastonbury. A good deal of positive changes have occurred in Hebron and I am

proud that, with dedicated town staff and fellow Hebron residents willing to serve, I played a small part in that success.

Contrary to other towns who have hired contractors to draft the town's Plan of Conservation and Development, I have helped guide the commission to draft its own POCD and subsequent revisions. This document is a unique state-mandated 10-year plan for conservation, growth and development for the town and ours represents the combined talent and expertise of veteran commission members and town staff. The POCD played and continues to play a significant part in acquiring Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grants to fund such programs as the Façade Improvement Program, Sidewalks, Horton Boulevard, the Route 66/Horton Boulevard traffic light and many more initiatives.

With the help of town staff and a private contractor, Planimetrics, I helped to guide the Commission to complete a comprehensive refresh of Hebron's Zoning Regulations to make them easier to read, reference and use.

I look forward to the opportunity to continue to continue to serve the citizens of Hebron and I ask for your vote on Nov. 2 for me and for the entire slate of Republican candidates.

Respectfully, Natalie A. Wood – Hebron

Vote for Our Kids and Education To the Editor:

When it comes to voting in any election, there is nothing more important than voting for kids and education. That is why I am asking for your vote this election, not just for myself, but for others who value our children and our schools. During my time on the Board of Education, we worked to create a district advancement plan that continues and enhances excel-

lence in academics, the arts, and health and wellness. It is vital to our growth as a school district and community to ensure that this plan has the support and resources it needs to move forward.

We are so fortunate in Hebron to have the amazing and experienced faculty, staff and administration that we do, and they need our support. Our school system drives our economic development which is evidenced by the boom in enrollment this school year. We need people on the Board of Education and others, who value our educators, schools, and students. We do not need people who want to cut funding, programs, or services to bare bones, leaving our schools and ultimately our community vulnerable. We need board members on every town board who are there for the purpose of making the lives of people and children in our community better.

That is why I ask you to come out to vote on Nov. 2 for Nicole Matthews, Tiffany Thiele, myself and others who stand for what we believe in. Thank you so much

Heather Petit - Amston

Note: Petit is chair of the Hebron Board of Education but said she is speaking as an individual.

Tactics Say It All

To the Editor:

The tactics a campaign and its supporters employ say everything about the candidates on the ticket. Mistruths, negativity, distortion of facts, and vicious personal attacks are hallmark strategies of people who will do anything to win.

The Colchester Republican candidate for first selectman and two of his running mates for Board of Selectmen have resorted to these tactics throughout this entire campaign on various platforms. Online forums like social media are a favorite. I'm just a campaign volunteer and only yesterday, when debating Andreas Bisbikos' voting record (he said he'd supported town budget spending that he'd actually argued against), Taras Rudko called me a "liar" who's supporting a "loser." Last week, Jason LaChapelle delivered an onslaught of deeply personal attacks on me that were irrelevant to any campaign issues. When my children asked him to stop, he attacked them. The list goes on. The modus operandi is to scare people into not debating with them: Andreas endorses it

ing with them; Andreas endorses it.

Someone even purchased Mary Bylone's former campaign website address and makes denigrating comments about her on it. Whoever it was thought it funny to modify her logo into a defecating dog. Obviously, it is anonymous. It's also being investigated for connections to candidates.

Mary Bylone has run a clean campaign. She has the integrity to tell the truth no matter what. She doesn't believe in dirty tactics and hasn't used them. Neither have the Democratic candidates. This shows the leadership our town deserves.

The differences between the candidates' demeanor are clear in the CBA debate. Watch it entirely at marybylone.com/debates. Please make an informed choice when voting absentee (ballots are in the town clerk's office) or in person Nov. 2.

Sincerely, Monica Swyden – Colchester

Youth Mental Health Crisis

Yout the Editor

The force of the keyboard warriors has awoken as a result of the superintendent's update regarding the Board of Education meetings this past week. These warriors are outraged that anyone could be concerned about the mental health of our children when it's such a "tiny percentage" of kids who are impacted. A tiny percentage? Numerous resources, including the *Hartford Courant*, are reporting an overflowing emergency department at CCMC with eight hour wait times as a result of children needing mental and behavioral intervention. This is unprecedented.

But how dare we call attention to this? Perhaps we'd be better to pretend it isn't happening? Perhaps we should ignore the fact that suicide still leads as

a cause of death in children 5-14 per the CDC. Not COVID-19; suicide.

That seems to be what these keyboard warriors are suggesting. Mental health experts have historically related the constant disruption of a child's routine and structure to mental and behavioral health issues. This is not a new development. Asking our administration to investigate and simply consider how the current COVID-19 measures as a whole, collectively, impact our children's mental health experts is not dangerous simply because it goes against their narrative. This is a real problem that needs to be considered.

Not addressing this issue is negligence, and any adult willing to turn their head at the repercussions that the existing measures are having on the mental health of our youth is contributing to the problem.

lth of our youth is contributing to the problem.

Christina Tammaro-Dzagan – East Hampton

Candidate for Board of Education Effective BOE Member

To the Editor:

What makes an effective Board of Education member? An effective Board of Education member plays an important part in establishing a vision and goals for the district, establishing priorities, and reviewing the school's ability to achieve its goals. The Board of Education supervises the Superintendent of Schools, sets policy, adopts and oversees the annual budget, has oversight regarding personnel, approves curriculum, and manages the collective bargaining process for employees of the district.

For anyone wanting to be on a Board of Education, it's important to ask their "vision" for the school district. As a current Board of Education member for the Town of Colchester, I would like to prioritize engaging students in their education. How do we do this? We do this by locking into student interests and providing innovative individualized instruction. We also need to enhance the district's capacity to address the social, emotional, and physical needs of our students. We also do this by helping students to develop leadership skills, life skills and "self-determination" (a student's ability to be invested in their education by establishing meaningful goals and acting on those goals). We also recognize that each student has a circle of people in their lives. This "circle" supports each student to be successful.

I have practical ideas to enact this process of developing leadership skills and "self-determination." I've worked in the field of Social Services for forty years utilizing these principles.

Please see my candidate page on Facebook, "Joanne Rose for Board of Education." I hope I can earn your vote on Nov. 2nd. Thank you!

Joanne Rose Candidate for Colchester Board of Education

One World Under Science

To the Editor:

The year is 2050. It's been 22 years since the collapse of the United States....and all other nations. Out-of-control debt, societal division, supply chain collapse, and citizen pushback plunged most countries into a decade-long civil war. Out of those ashes a One World Government has emerged. It's a government not based on individual rights and private property but on collective good, communal ownership, and scientific consensus. Almost all the survivors have moved into the cities - as the countryside is full of brigands.

Life in the city is normal...or as normal as you'd expect. We don't own anything but our needs are met. While the politics of the past were crafted by historical documents and strong men we now rely on scientists to dictate how we can live. The decadence of the past has meant we must sacrifice so much just to survive. Most days the sky is completely grey, as drone planes spray artificial clouds to protect us from the sun's rays. Very few children are about, as we aren't allowed to conceive without permission and the birth lottery has very slim odds....but we are allowed birds, and I have parakeet named Pippin.

Few of us remember the taste of meat, as its consumption has been outlawed because of the carbon it produces. Instead we have lab grown meats made of soy, lentils, and gelatins. I think a lot of people are unhappy but people rarely object – and if you do, you are taken to the reprogramming camp...few return.

The scientists tell us that as long as we do as we are told we will get back to a "normal" existence, like the way people used to live before the wars. They say it could be as soon as 2100, so long as we stay distant, take our monthly vaccines, and wear our masks.

Colin McNamara - Marlborough

Choose Portland

Dear Portland Residents:

Should you ever decide to run for office, I strongly recommend doing it alongside a team as highly qualified, experienced, hard-working, kind, and full of integrity as mine is. I could not be prouder to be on a slate with Jim Tripp, John Dillon, April Graves and Ralph Zampano.

Jim, John, April and Ralph are, simply put, the best of the best. They are critical thinkers who can understand and solve complex problems. These are the folks I want working to address our water and school infrastructure challenges. They are community advocates, skilled at seeing the big picture and capable of considering issues from multiple perspectives. These are the folks I want creating our town budgets and our community priorities. They are collaborators who value transparency and good communication, with the ability to talk through disagreements in a civil way and arrive at a solution that works for all involved. These are the folks I want leading our town and setting the model for how local government should operate.

I was driving around Portland this morning looking at the leaves and reflecting on just how beautiful our town is. It struck me that we are in a moment

right now that holds so much potential. We have new businesses coming to town. Businesses are expanding. Infrastructure projects are underway. We have the opportunity to create something truly special with our riverfront, excellent schools, beautiful parks, a community that values its first responders and volunteers. Good leadership over the last two decades has set us on a path for success. We only need to choose it

On Nov. 2, I will be voting for Jim, John, April, Ralph and the rest of the Row A candidates. They are committed to keeping Portland moving forward. I hope you will join me.

Laurel Steinhauser Candidate for Portland Board of Selectmen

School Infrastructure

Dear Portland Residents:

One of the most important functions of local government is to educate our children. We are fortunate to live in a community that understands that a good school system is crucial to the long-term success of our community and strongly supports our schools. As first selectman, I will partner with the school administration and the Board of Education to support this crucial work.

As a member of the Board of Education, I saw firsthand the excellent work and dedication of the school administration and our teachers. I had the privilege of serving on the Policy committee where we reviewed and updated outdated BOE policies, some of which had not been updated since the 1990s. Through this work, I learned a tremendous amount about how the school district works and the state and federal policies that drive district actions. Because of my technical background, I worked with the director of curriculum and technology to help ensure our digital infrastructure was brought up to date and was a leading proponent of the one-to-one Chromebook initiative.

A significant question facing our community is how we will address aging school infrastructure. This includes both the long term needs of our buildings and the immediate need to replace our track. A recently appointed School Facilities Study Committee is evaluating current and future facility needs of the Portland schools and will report back to the Board of Education and Board of Selectmen with recommendations. All our students deserve access to an excellent education in facilities that our community can be proud of, buildings that are safe, efficient, up-to-date, and ready to support 21st century learning.

For more information, visit www.jimtrippforport-

Jim Tripp Candidate for Portland First Selectman

Concerns About Curley

To the Editor:

I am writing today to express my concerns for Ryan Curley's candidacy for first selectman. I have always really liked him, he is a very nice guy, and has been personally helpful to my family in his role as town clerk. All that said, I find that he has made some troubling choices during his campaign.

I struggle with his slogan of "It's About Portland, Not Politics," when two of the individuals on his ticket are not representative of Portland's values. Sean Manning is a climate change denier, he does not believe in masking for public health, and is overall not a very nice guy. His "Back to Basics" party was based on buzzwords and not any real policies or ideas on how to help Portland be a better place. I have real concern about his ability to make decisions.

Bob Hetrick has a reputation for being a bully on social media. All Bob has going for him, even according to his own bio, is being born and raised in town. He is a corrections officer by trade and has zero experience with managing budgets, working across the aisle with colleagues with different views, and making decisions that impact people not in a jail cell.

Ryan has made some really poor decisions recently, which show that he is out to win this election at all costs. He was willing to follow blindly behind his town party leader, and to call out individuals publicly on social media, rather than following the correct channels while working in his official capacity as town clerk.

I have no doubt that Jim Tripp and the entire Democratic slate will do a far better job leading our town into the future.

Lauren Christensen – Portland's

Note: Christensen is a member of Portland's Board of Education, but said she is writing as a private citizen.

The Affordability Candidate

Dear Colchester Residents:

According to the University of Michigan's Surveys of Consumers, "During the past five months consumers are more concerned about rising inflation and slower wage growth and their negative impact on their living standards." Rising food, gas and rent costs are hitting the budgets of low-to-middle-income Americans hard. Small businesses are also hurting. Colchester must remain affordable for everyone.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, many families saw a reduction in pay or job loss. Many seniors on fixed income were struggling to make ends meet. Inflation is currently running at a 13-year high at 5.4%. Food, energy, and shelter costs are rising rapidly. Filling up the car at the pump can cost a fortune. This new era of inflation will affect our town significantly. We cannot afford reckless spending. Now more than ever, this community needs to choose a First Selectman that has a history of crafting creative solutions to keep taxes low without cutting services. With six years of experience on the Board of Finance and the most fiscally conservative record during that

period, I am that clear choice.

Colchester cannot afford to gamble on the hope that the incumbent who advocated for a historic 5% tax increase will not repeat history. That massive tax increase coupled with the now-current inflation would have crippled many families. The loudest proponents of large tax increases are those who can afford them. We have too many citizens struggling. Colchester must remain affordable for all its citizens. Gentrification should not be the end game.

I love my hometown and as your next first selectman, your financial well-being will take priority. It is our responsibility to keep the best interests of all our citizens in our hearts and on our balance sheets.

Sincerely, Andreas Bisbikos Candidate for Colchester First Selectman

Stolfi for MES BOE

To the Editor:

I enthusiastically endorse Susan Stolfi for MES Board of Education, and ask that you vote for her. Sue for the past six years has supported, and safeguarded quality education for our children in Marlborough. She adheres to Einstein's notion, "What is right is not always popular and what is popular is not always right," ensuring that the right decisions are made for MES students.

Sue will bring her vision, expertise and dedication to MES. I know Sue cares deeply about the quality of education for all students, and she has advocated fairly and passionately for students, families, teachers, and administrators, whether it be in negotiating a new teachers' contract, reexamining the school calendar, addressing new curriculum requirements and changes, maintaining our schools' educational excelence under a strict fiscal regimen or selection a successor for superintendent. Sue is the person who has the experience and the dedication.

Please vote for Susan Stolfi Nov. 2. Thank you.

State Rep. Robin Green

R-55 To Marlborough

Note: The 55th Assembly District covers Andover, Bolton. Hebron and Marlborough.

Person, Not Just Policy

To the Editor:

It's about the person, not just the policy.

Nov. 2 – Election Day – is only two weeks away, and this campaign season has felt different from others. What feels different is that we are not only choosing who will be an effective leader, but a person that represents the value system and moral conduct we support and want promoted in our town. If you feel the values and morals candidates represent don't have a place in your vote, that your vote is focused only on policy and vision, that's simply not true.

I feel this weight, especially as a parent; I want leaders for our town that demonstrate self-control, inclusiveness, that lead with kindness, that do not feel they are the smartest person in the room but rather surround themselves with smart people, and value the diversity of opinions that provides. I want someone who listens to our community and does everything in their power to advocate for what is right, and not necessarily what is easy or popular.

Mary Bylone is this person. I trust her, I value her as a leader, and I know when tough decisions have to be made she listens to all sides, weighs all options, and makes the best decisions possible in that moment. I also respect the way she has run her campaign, as a professional, and with kindness. It takes tremendous inner strength to stand tall and silent while watching and listening to others berate, threaten, and demean everything you have worked for. This in itself demonstrates the leadership I want to see at the helm of our town

So, I will be voting Row A Nov. 2 for Mary Bylone and team, and I ask that you all come out to vote, and consider not just the policy, but the person.

Jessica Morozowich Colchester Parent

Read Between the Lines

To the Editor:

We are only a week and a half away from Election Day. The campaign season is simultaneously winding down and ramping up. There are signs all over our towns and candidates are working hard to earn your votes. Thanks to the internet, candidate information is readily accessible and it's a breeze to do our due diligence. Now more than ever, it is imperative that we do not just vote based on whatever affiliation we grew up with and with which we think we identify.

No longer are debates about issues with two sides. They are about reality vs. disinformation, science vs. conspiracy theories, education vs. propaganda. Make no mistake; today's Republican Party no longer espouses the values they touted in the past. When a candidate is put up for election, they do so with the support and validation of their party. When an endorsed candidate boasts 'American exceptionalism' and other coded language in their bio, they do so with the nod and wink of their town committee.

I am unbelievably proud of the slate that the DTC has put forward for this election season. Each candidate is running based on their innate desire to serve our community and via the inclination to *do the right thing* for our citizens, students, and those who may wish to live here in the future. There are no hidden agendas, no insidious intent, and no desire to undermine nor stonewall progress; just heart, grit, determination, and a desire to keep moving our town and schools into a bright future. Please check out the candidate bios on the RTC and DTC websites, and please take the time to read between the lines of what you see there.

In solidarity, Nicole Matthews – Amston

Choice is Crystal Clear

Dear Colchester:

The Republicans have put forth such an amazing slate of candidates this year. I am so proud and humbled to be part of this team. I didn't know much about any of them when I was nominated because I was a political outsider. However, as the campaign has moved forward, I've got to know them. Politics aside, the Republican slate is just a fantastic group of people. I am proud to call each and every one of them a friend.

They all care, so much, about Colchester. You all see it, but I get to see it up and close and personal. They're talking, every day, about their vision for Colchester, ideas to make our community better, and meeting with the citizens. I have never seen people so happy to knock on stranger's doors like I have with this team. They are eager to talk to, and learn from, the people of Colchester. It's been incredible to watch.

As I said, I was an outsider when all this started. That didn't matter. They have taken me in as if I have been there all along. We share the same vision for Colchester, so maybe it was easy for them, but I am still so appreciative of the support they've all shown

The Republican slate is a group of fiscally minded conservatives. We believe, fully, in Andreas' vision of Colchester – affordability, transparency, economic development, and tradition. We love this town, and that's something every candidate has made apparent to me over these past few months. We're also young, which is a rare, yet immensely valuable, quality in government. I could not think of a better group of people to keep an eye over Colchester than this team.

For me, the choice on Nov. 2 is crystal clear.

Jason LaChapelle

Candidate for Colchester Board of Selectmen

Town's Response to Pandemic

To the Editor:

The pandemic affected every community around the world. The town of Colchester, including First Selectwoman Bylone and Superintendent Burt, worked tirelessly and rose to the immense challenges posed by Covid-19.

The first selectwoman offered real time information on the status of COVID-19 during nightly Facebook Live events. On these events, she offered details regarding the status of the pandemic on the town, state, and world, and what needed to be accomplished as a community. I did not agree with every decision made; that would not have been possible. Too many hard decisions had to be made. Our local leader is strong and decisive, and I trusted her to make the best decisions for the town. When I reached out to her with questions, she responded quickly and with transparency.

The superintendent had to implement a completely different education protocol. Mr. Burt and Dr. Hewes hosted video events for parents to voice their opinions and concerns. The school listened and followed up on many parent requests. Personally, I reached out to Superintendent Burt to request a change in homeschooling policy, and within a few hours both he and Dr. Hewes, reached out to me to understand my requests. The BOE approved some of my requests to temporarily allow homeschooler access to school resources. I was impressed with how quickly I was given a response, considering the extra workload of educators.

The community members of Colchester should also feel proud of their response to this pandemic. With the guidance from our first selectwoman, neighbors made selfless choices; sheltered at home, wore masks, followed guidelines, and took logical precautions to protect themselves and others. Colchester residents also rallied to support local businesses. I am proud to be a member of this positive, caring community.

Jennifer Cox - Colchester

Absentee Ballot Applications

To the Editor:

You've likely seen comments about our decision to publicly share concerns regarding Portland DTC's mailing several hundred unsolicited absentee ballot applications (ABAs). Our public disclosure was met with a viciousness of attacks rarely seen. We could've quietly filed our complaint with the SEEC, but we made a choice for public disclosure. Now we stand accused of stirring up trouble and dividing the public. We respectfully ask you to keep your focus on the facts and truth, not the angry, distracting vitriol.

The DTC needed to merely follow the rules and guidelines provided to them. They needed to properly register their plan. This would have resulted in enumerated ABAs, an accurate list of current registered voters, knowledge of who has already voted, and who already had requested ABAs. Mailing addresses would've been updated and accurate. ABAs would not have been sent to wrong addresses and in at least one case to a deceased individual, causing great upset to a grieving widow. Instead, they want you to distract you with a debate over the meaning of the word 'registration'

By choosing their path the mass mailing included ABAs going to voters who had already voted by AB, or who had already applied for ABs. The result was sowing confusion, leaving voters questioning if their ABA had been invalidated, or not received. Voters who had already submitted a completed ABA were concerned if their ABA was invalid. This unnecessarily damages the public's confidence in our voting system.

This is what we mean with, 'It's about Portland, not politics'. Politics here was choosing to skirt the

proper process. They had a choice, and they chose poorly. Their focus of attacking the persons who disclosed their error means something. Please consider this on Nov. 2.

You can learn more about our candidates at gopportlandct.com.

Tim Lavoy, Chair Portland Republican Town Committee

Unethical Fake Website

To the Editor

The negative tactics of Colchester's Republican Party this year have been nothing short of astounding. Our Democratic candidates are often called losers and liars online and at the doors. Even our hardworking volunteers and supporters have endured harsh attacks on their families and personal lives.

Despite this, our Democratic team is committed to serving and moving Colchester forward because they love our town.

Certain tactics, however, are egregious and cannot be ignored. That's why John Malsbenden filed a state elections complaint against first selectman candidate Andreas Bisbikos and Selectman Taras Rudko last week. He did not take this action lightly, but knew that it was time to hold them accountable.

In the complaint, Mr. Malsbenden asked the state to review the Connecticut Conservative Foundation PAC's connection to an anonymous, vile, and illegal website against Mary Bylone. Andreas and Taras were the only contributors to the PAC when the website was created. PAC expenses appear to link to the Canadian companies that registered the domain name for the fake website. The state will now review the complaint for a ruling in the coming weeks.

After Mary spoke out on this issue, an attorney for Andreas filed letters of intent to sue her and our town. The Town of Colchester has already incurred legal expenses – your taxpayer money – to respond to this baseless threat.

Unfortunately, the Republicans have not run a campaign on the issues we care about. Instead, they have resorted to smear tactics, lawsuit threats, and alternate facts all in the public eye.

It is more critical than ever that we say "no" to this type of campaign. Please vote Mary Bylone and the Row A team to truly move Colchester forward and put our community first.

John Farrell - Colchester

Election Letters Reminder

It's that time again, folks. Next week is the last issue before Election Day, so any political letters to the editor must be positive in nature. No attack letters – for the simple reason that any of the candidates being attacked wouldn't have time to defend themselves before Nov. 2 rolls along. Letters to the Editor (300 words or less)should be emailed to bulletin@glcitizen. com. Please include your full name amd town of residence. A phone number must be provided (not for publication).

RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM

Tip-a-Musician Fundraiser

AHM Youth and Family Services invites all to its next Tip-a-Musician fundraiser on Saturday, Oct. 23, at the Flour Girl Café.

The event will feature the acoustic guitar and banjo of RHAM student Alexa Odoy from 11 a.m.-noon, followed by the acoustic pairing of One Part Harmony from noon-1 p.m.

All tips received will be donated to AHM Project Graduation for the RHAM High School Class of 2022, which is coordinated by AHM Youth & Family Services. For information about Project Graduation, visit ahmyouth.org and select Project Graduation from the menu, or contact AHM Prevention Coordinator Jenn Boehler at 860-228-9488 ext. 22 or jenniferb@ahmyouth.org.

More Tip-a-Musician events will be planned for the spring.

AHM Online Holiday Auction

For the second year, AHM Youth and Family Services' Fund Development Committee will host an online holiday auction, with the goal of raising \$8,000 to support mental health and social services for Andover, Columbia, Hebron and Marlborough children, teens, young adults and families

Online bidding starts Nov. 17 and ends Dec. 1. The auction will feature over 60 items, including vacation, entertainment, dining and sports packages, art work, children's gifts, and more. One of the featured items this year is going to be a one-of-a-kind wooden canoe built by board members and staff.

Community members, family and friends can donate a new item, a gift card, or sign on as business sponsor. All sponsors will be featured on the auction website until the end of the event.

Visit ahmyouth.org/fundraisers-events/holiday-auction to download an auction donor item or sponsor form. For more information, contact Joel Rosenberg at AHM, at 860-228-9488 or Joelr@ahmyouth.org.

Town of Portland

Legal notice is hereby given to the water and/or sewer usage customers of the Town of Portland that quarterly bills are due and payable October 15, 2021. Payments not made in full on or before November 15, 2021 will be subject to interest of 1.5% per month from the due date.

Failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the charge. Please contact the Water/Sewer department if you do not receive your bill at (860) 342-6735 or by email darce@portlandct.org
Please feel free to leave your payment in the drop box located to the right of the back door at Town Hall, which is located to the right of the part of the payment of the

33 East Main St., Portland, CT or by mail at the address listed below.
Town of Portland

Water/Sewer Dept. P.O. Box 71 Portland, CT 06480-0071 Cynthia L. Gotta, CCMC Town of Portland Collector of Revenue

3TB 10/8, 10/22, 11/5

AHM Health Matters Fall Workshops

AHM Youth and Family Services is holding registration for the following fall-themed Health Matters activities:

Gutta Art Workshop (teens), Nov. 2, 6-7:30 p.m.; Vision Board Workshop (all ages), Nov. 8, 5:30-6:30 p.m.; Yes Paste Art Workshop (teens) from 6-7:30 p.m.; Amaryllis Workshops, Nov. 18, 6:30-7:30 p.m., and Nov. 20, 10-10:45 a.m.

For class descriptions and to register, go to www.ahmyouth.org. COVID-19 safety protocols will be followed.

Safely Dispose of Unused Prescriptions

"National Take-Back Day" is Saturday, Oct. 23, and there will be a drop-off site at RHAM High School Saturday, Oct. 23, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Expired or unwanted prescription, over-thecounter medications and vitamin supplements must be in original containers; if name is on container please cross out. No needles or sharps will be accepted.

This service is free and anonymous. For more information, contact Jenn Boehler, prevention coordinator, at 860-228-9488 ext. 22 or jenniferb@ahmyouth.org.

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY ATTENTION SEWER USERS

Notice is hereby given to all property owners connected to the sewers in the Town of East Hampton that the sewer use payment is due and payable on October 1, 2021. East Hampton Sewer Use bills may now be paid in two equal installments; October 1 and April 1. The last day to pay the Sewer Use fee for the October 1, 2021 installment without a penalty is November 1, 2021. Property owners will not receive a second sewer use bill for the installment due on April 1, 2022. The October bill is a three-part form which includes the April installment.

Payments received November 2, 2021 and later, including payments postmarked November 2, 2021 and later, are considered past due and will be subject to an interest penalty of 1.50% per month. or a fraction thereof, 18% per annum, from the due date of the tax, as required by Connecticut General State Statues 12-130 and 146. The minimum interest charge is \$2 on each tax bill. A returned check fee is \$20. Payments legibly postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service on or before November 1, 2021 are considered on time regardless of when they are received by the Collector of

As owners of property, taxpayers are responsible to see that taxes are paid when due. Failure to have sent or received a bill does not exempt the taxpayer from payment of all taxes, interest charges and collection costs, as per Conn. Gen. Stat. 12-130 and 12-146. Interest is charged on all late payments. There are no exceptions. Please make checks payable to Town of East Hampton.

Payments may be mailed to Collector of Revenue, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424. Pay online by visiting our website at www.easthamptonct.gov Note: Your sewer account number is

required when making a payment online. Hours of collection are: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, Tuesday 8:00 am – 6:30 pm and Friday 8:00 am –

Respectively Submitted, Scott Clayton Public Utilities Administrator

3TB 9/24, 10/8, 10/22

COMMISSION

WETLANDS AGENT APPROVAL

Pursuant to the CGS Section 22a-42a (c)(2) the following application has been approved by the duly authorized agent of the

Conservation Commission of the Town of Colchester

Number: WA2021-380

Applicant: Mike Rogers

Jav Gigliotti

Location: 115 Windham Ave.

Activity: Shipping container w/in URA

MIDDLE HADDAM HISTORIC **DISTRICT COMMISSION MEETING** Thursday, October 28, 2021 6:30 pm at TOWN HALL **LEGAL NOTICE**

Public hearing will be held to consider the following: Application 557 for a Certificate of Appropriateness at 23 Knowles Road --- to repair and restore wrap-around porch. Included in the additional work after the removal of deteriorated decking and railings on the porch, will be to replace them in the identical style as original, and the windows in the vestibule, to replace them with double-hung windows identical to existing windows adjacent and above the vestibule --- for applicants Bryna Linett and Peter

The foregoing application is available for public review at the East Hampton Building Department. At this hearing interested persons may be heard and written communications will be received. Dated: October 20, 2021

Regina Starolis. MHHDC Clerk

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

Notice is hereby given that the Portland Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, November 4, 2021 at a meeting to start at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom to consider the following:

PZC #21-06: 56 Strongs Avenue. Request for Subdivision of house on .4 acre lot from farm with 33 acres with barns and garage. Applicant and property of Estate of Lucille G. Anderson Nancy L. Anderson, Executrix. Assessor's Map 47, Lot 14 Zone R10.

PZC #21-07: 378 Cox Road. Map 78, Lot 21. Request for an 11 lot subdivision on a property containing wetlands. Application of Tom Briggs. Property of Synnott Properties, LLC. Zone RR/ Forest Neighborhood Overlay Zone.

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

Dated at Portland, CT. this 18th day of October 2021 Robert Ellsworth, Chairman

2TB 10/22, 10/29

LEGAL NOTICE MARLBOROUGH CONSERVATION **COMMISSION** NOTICE OF ACTION

The Marlborough Conservation Commission at its meeting of October 18 2021, took the following action:

APPLICATIONS CONTINUED; SITE WALKS SCHEDULED

APPLICATION #13-21 – John & Siobhan Peng (Applicant/Prop erty Owner) – 23 Lakeridge Dr – construction of 12'x 14' shed and attached 12' x 4' deck on lakefront property. The application is continued to November 1, 2021. A site walk is scheduled for October 25, 2021.

APPLICATION #14-21 – Jones Hollow Associates, LLC (Application/ Property Owner) Lot 2 Riverside Estates Re-Subdivision - construction of driveway, residential house & septic system The application is continued to November 1, 2021. A site walk is scheduled for October 25, 2021.

APPI ICATION #15-21 - Paul & Jennifer Badeau (Applicant/ Property Owner) - 51 Lakeridge Dr. - construction of 12' x 16' storage shed on lakefront property. The application is continued to November 1, 2021. A site walk is scheduled for October 25,

APPLICATION #07-20 - Kevin Fries (Applicant/Owner), 51 Cheney Road, construction of building addition on lakefront property. A site walk is scheduled for October 25, 2021. Dated at Marlborough, CT this 20TH day of October, 2021. MARLBOROUGH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

LEGAL NOTICE MARLBOROUGH ZONING **BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF ACTION**

The Marlborough Zoning Board of Appeals at its meeting on Wednesday October 13, 2021 took the following action: APPLICATION DENIED WITHOUT PREJUDICE APPLICATION #ZBA-5-21 - Carlos & Erin DaCruz (applicant/ property owner) 181 Paper Mill Road - is seeking variance of Article Three A.1, Minimum Requirements, Article Three A.3 Conformity of Buildings & Land, Article Three A.5 Reduction of Lot Areas or Minimum Required Yards, Article Three A.9 Minimum Required Yards, Article Six A. 1 b Residential Parking and Garaging, in order to store a single recreation vehicle in the front yard were the Regulations require it to be stored to the rear of the principal residence. Alan Miller/ 7BA Chair

Dated at Marlborough, CT this 18th day of October.

LEGAL NOTICE MARLBOROUGH WATER POLLUTION **CONTROL AUTHORITY**

Notice is hereby given to all property owners connected to the sewers in the Town of Marlborough that a sewer usage charge is due in one installment on October 1, 2021. The last day to pay without interest is November 1, 2021. Interest for a late payment is 1.5 % per month reverting to the due date of October 1. Minimum interest is \$2.00. The usage charge set for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 is \$507.00 per EDU. Failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the fee or interest. Contact the tax office immediately if you do not receive a bill. Please make checks payable to MWPCA. Payments may be mailed to Tax Collector, PO Box 29, Marlborough, CT 06447. There is a lock box to the left of the door for check payments only. The tax office, located at 26 No Main Street, Marlborough. CT is open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Tuesdays 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Fridays 8:30

Barbara C. Murray, WPCA Collector

a m to 12 noon

LEGAL NOTICE MARLBOROUGH ZONING COMMISSION **PUBLIC HEARING** Marlborough Elementary School Cafeteria

(25 School Dr.) The Marlborough Zoning Commission will hold the following Public Hearing

Thursday, November 4, 2021 at 7:00 PM at 25 School Dr. (Marlborough Elementary School Cafeteria) APPLICATION #Z-15-21 Amendment to the Marlborough Zoning Regulations, Article Two Zones Section A, Amendment to Article Four

Definitions & New Article Ten J - Lake Terramuggus Watershed & Shoreline Overlay District, and adding a new overlay zone within the Lake Terramuggus watershed as shown on a map on file, for the purpose of regulating the cutting and retention of trees and other vegetation; the erection of docks, retaining walls, sheds, and other structures in proximity to the Lake; the application of chemicals; and other measures to protect the water quality of Lake Terramuggus and the property values around it.

APPLICATION #Z-16-21 OM Village, LLC (Applicant) - Amendment to Article 7A.F.E. Impervious Surface Coverage. The room capacity will be limited due to Social Distancing requirements and masks are mandatory for those who are attend in person. Written testimony will be received at the public hearing and written testimony can be sent to the Building / Land Use Department at Town Hall ahead of the public hearing. All testimony and application materials will be available to the public on the Town Website, www.Marlboroughct.net, under Minutes/Agendas then Agenda 2021 then Zoning Commission. Kevin Asklar, ZONING COMMISSION CHAIR 2TB 10/22, 10/29

LEGAL NOTICE GLOBAL SELF STORAGE 244 Middletown Ave. East Hampton, CT 860.267.6639

Will sell or otherwise dispose of such personal property on Saturday 10/30/21 at 8:00 AM Property previously owned by:

J Carlson J Crystal S Jordan

2TB 10/15, 10/22

LEGAL NOTICE MARLBOROUGH ZONING COMMISSION **NOTICE OF ACTION**

The Marlborough Zoning Commission at its meeting of October 7

APPLICATION CONTINUED: PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED: Application #7-15-21 Amendment to Article Two Zones Section A Amendment to Article Four Definitions, & New Article Ten J - Lake Terramuggus Watershed & Shoreline Overlay District Overlay District. A public hearing is continued to November 4, 2021. Application #Z-16-21 OM Village, LLC (Applicant) – Amendment to Article 7A.F.E. Impervious Surface Coverage. A public hearing is scheduled for November 4, 2021,

KEVIN ASKLAR, ZONING COMMISSION CHAIR Dated at Marlborough, CT this 18th day of October.

Wednesday, October 27, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. **Buck-Foreman Community Room,** 265 Main Street, Portland, CT 06480

LEGAL NOTICE of SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Pursuant to Section 503(g) of the Town Charter, a Special Town Meeting will be held by the Board of Selectmen on Wednesday, October 27, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. in the Buck-Foreman Community Room, 265 Main Street, Portland, CT for the following purpose BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Portland hereby approves the increase of \$6,400 in appropriations of line item #08-141-000-89100 Resource Recovery-Roll-Off Truck with Container and a decrease in appropriations to #08-141-000-89120 Town-Wide Improvements - Closing Costs and Financial Advisory by \$6,400.

Dated this 20th day of October 2021 Attest: Susan S. Bransfield, First Selectwoman

1TB 10/22

1TB 10/22

TOWN OF HEBRON SEWER USE LEGAL NOTICE

Sewer Use Bills are due and payable October 1, 2021 and may be paid through November 1, 2021 without penalties and interest Bills of \$510 are due in full. Bills exceeding \$510 may be paid in two equal installments, the first installment being due October 1 2021 and the second installment being due April 1, 2022 Payments must be postmarked or received no later than November 1, 2021 to be considered on time with no additional charges. Payments that are unpaid as of November 2, 2022, will be charged interest of 1.5% per month retroactive to October 1st per State Statute 12-146

To make payments by check, please make check payable to: Town of Hebron. Payments may be mailed to: Town of Hebron, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT 06248. If desired, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope for a receipt. There is a drop-off box attached to the Town Office Building located next to the entrance on the lower level, south side. In addition there is a box inside the building located in the hallway between the Tax and Assessor's Office. Payments left in the box after the close of business on November 2, 2020 will be considered late.

The Collector's office is located in the lower level of the Town Hall at 15 Gilead Street. Hours are Monday through Wednesday 8:00am to 4:00pm. Thursday 8:00am to 6:00pm, and Friday 8:00am to 1:00pm. Please note Monday - Thursday the office is closed for lunch from 12:30pm - 1:15pm Respectfully.

Revenue Collector

2TB 10/1, 10/22

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF ANDOVER REVENUE COLLECTOR'S NOTICE

To the property owners of the Town of Andover The second installment of the taxes listed on the October 1 2020 Grand List becomes due and payable to the Town of Ando ver on October 1, 2021. Payments must be postmarked, paid on line, or brought to Town Hall by November 1, 2021 to avoid an interest charge. Interest will be charged starting November 2, 2021 on all delinquent bills at a rate of 18% per year (11/2% per month) from the due date of July 1st, with a minimum charge of \$2 for each bill

View or pay taxes online at www.andoverct.org. Cash, check or money order payments are accepted at the Town Hall during business hours. Payments by check or money order may be mailed to the Tax Collector's office or placed in the drop box outside Town Hall. Office hours in October are Monday 8:15 pm – 7:00 pm and Tuesday– Thursday 8:15 am – 4:00 pm. The office will be closed on Monday, October 11, 2021 due to the federal holiday. Please refer to www.andoverct.org for updated office hours.

Failure to receive a tax bill will not invalidate the tax or any inter-

est which may, by State law, accrue.

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

Eileen Curtin, Tax Collector Town of Andover 17 School Road

Andover, CT 06232

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING ANTIQUES & OLD STUFF. Costume jewelry, pottery, bottles, crocks, jugs, toys/games, glassware, silver plated items, signs, typewriters, sewing machines, bar items, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, oil lamps, knives, hunting, fishing, military, Masonic, fire dept. and more. Donald Roy

PETS

DOG OBEDIENCE/AGILITY CLASSES starting soon. Offering: Agility, Puppy Kindergarten, Basic Manners/What Rescue Dogs Want/Need, CGC/Therapy. Over 20-years experience. Michelle Larson at PAWS-N-HEEL DTC, 860-267-6040. paws-n-

Absolute 1 Day NRA Pistol Course Date determined after 8 reservations

BEST!! No NRA Computer Course required \$100 GROUPS OF 10 OR MORE ANYTIME WEEKENDS. Includes continental breakfast & lunch. Water & juice all day. 5

Millstream Preserve Call (860) 295-9974 to register.

EMPLOYMENT

3-4 days/wk, includes every other weekend. Please call Christal at Greystone 860-342-2509

F/T busy Internal Medicine practice seeks experienced MA. Duties: Room patients, EKG's, spiros, vitals, phones, pre-certs. Located in Glastonbury. Email resume and cover letter to gildas2121@gmail.com

MIDDLETOWN RIGGING COMPANY LOOKING FOR FT OFFICE ASSISTANT with accounting experience and excellent communication skills Needed ASAP. Call Brad 860 347-0546

GLASTONBURY CARPET HAS OPENINGS for friendly and helpful Sales Associates Part-time positions, Tues. thru Saturday. No nights, no Sundays. Call 860-633-8832 or 860-338-

PART TIME CASHIER WANTED - Please apply in person, 1633 Portland Cobalt Road. \$13 to start. Portland Citgo and Self-storage 860-342-1020

Warehouse Packer M-F 10a-6p. Able to lift, bend and move 75lbs. Starts at \$15/hr, wages re-evaluated upon completion of training. 860-886-1884 Lebanon B+M Upholstery Supply

SKILLED CARPENTER WANTED FOR BUSY PROPERTY MANAGEMENT CO. Reliable transportation a must, well tooled carpenter, 3-5 years experience preferred. \$20.-\$25./per hour. Contact: JOHNV@ ADVANCECO.NET

WAITRESS NEEDED AT FLYNNS GRILL RESTAURANT. Apply in person or call Enda at (860)918-1788 SPIRITS IS LOOKING FOR FULL TIME LIQUOR STORE CLERK. Must be 18 years old to work. must be able to work evenings, nights, weekends. Stop in to apply. Located next to Stop & Shop.

SMALL ACCOUNTING FIRM SEEKS PART-TIME BOOKKEEPER. We are willing to train. Flexible schedule. Email us at theoffice@carollofinancial.com

TREE CREW member wanted for establish tree company in Hebron. Immediate opening. call for details. 228-SAWS

WAITSTAFF NEEDED ONE WEEKEND DAY A WEEK ASAP. Please come in and fill out an application at Eggs Up Restaurant

PAINTER WANTED - Must have experience and transportation Please call Mike 860-608-8376

MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN IN MANUAL WHEELCHAIR SEEKS COMPASSIONATE PCA for hygiene care. Part-time three evenings/week (Tuesdays, Thursdays, every other weekend). CNA/HHA experience helpful. 860-365-5661

EDUCATION: PARAEDUCATOR

Marlborough Elementary School is accepting applications for a Paraeducator for the 2021-22 school year. Please send a letter of interest, application, resume and references to Holly Hageman, Superintendent, Marlborough School District, 25 School Drive, Marlborough, CT 06447 or email to cmonte@marlborough.k12 ct.us. For application see website, www.marlborough.k12.ct.us (Employment Opportunities) or call 860.295.6236. EOE 1TB 10/22

Public Service Associate

The East Hampton Public Library seeks a part-time Public Service Associate with great technology skills and a passion for working with the public. Approximately 15-19 hours per week at \$16.90 per hour. Must be able to work one evening per week and one Saturday every three weeks.

Responsibilities include assisting patrons at the circulation desk, answering patron questions about technology, collection, and research, and providing superior customer service. Additional responsibilities may include planning and running library programs for children or teens. A great opportunity for library school students. Library experience and/or experience working with children or teens preferred. Strong communication, customer service and computer skills are essential.

Applicants should submit a cover letter, resume and employment application to the Town of East Hampton, Department of Human Resources, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424, or by email to Human Resources at Iseymour@easthamptonct.gov by 10/29/2021, or until filled. A job description and employment application may be found at www.easthamptonct.gov. www. easthamptonpubliclibrary.org. EOE/AA/M-F.

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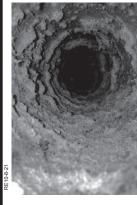
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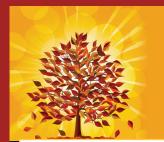
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