



RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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

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**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

by Diane Church

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 COVID-19.

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 term.

"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 said.

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 one lane is open.

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 calculation.

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

"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, An-

derson 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, Anderson said.

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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★ *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, Jensen 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 year.

★ *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 businesses.

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

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 conversation and listen to one another.”

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

“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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*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

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.

\*\*\*

See you next week.

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

## Buck for BOE

To the Editor:

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 we need to be elected to our Board of Ed.

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

**Christine Aloia – East Hampton**

## Elect Adults, Not Circus Clowns

To Portland Voters:

You deserve to have great candidates running for office: candidates that talk about the issues and their solution to governing for all.

I am deeply saddened by the circus atmosphere of recent days.

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 game.

# Bulletin Board

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.

"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 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](mailto:bulletin@glcitizen.com).



**Powerful Panthers... 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 U13 Girls Panthers. Back row are Coach Jess Ferrigno, Evy Koutsofavas, McKenzie Watkins, Reagan Beeler, Hannah Ferrigno, Kayleigh Engle, Delaney Walsh, Alexa Smith and Coach Mary Smith. Front row are Leah Butterfield, Reagan Reid, Bridget Walsh, Maddy Ives, Allie Field, Amalia Baird and Cadence Hlasyszyn. Missing: Ashleen Walsh.**

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

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 faculty 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

**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

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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 Muskatalo – 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 20-year 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 her involvement.

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**

To the Editor:

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 two years.

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 agenda.

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 can-

didate 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 fries 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:

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 needs.

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. yerbabuena) 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

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 constituents 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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★ *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, Nov. 2.

Respectfully,  
Board of Finance  
Town of Andover

**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 individual.
  - 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 resources.
  - Brave – he faces difficult decisions head on and does what is right despite what others might be doing or saying.
  - Clean – he keeps his mind and body fit. He holds a master's in public administration and is physically fit.
  - 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

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**

To the Editor:

I am proud to support my friend Christina Tamaro-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 professionalism.

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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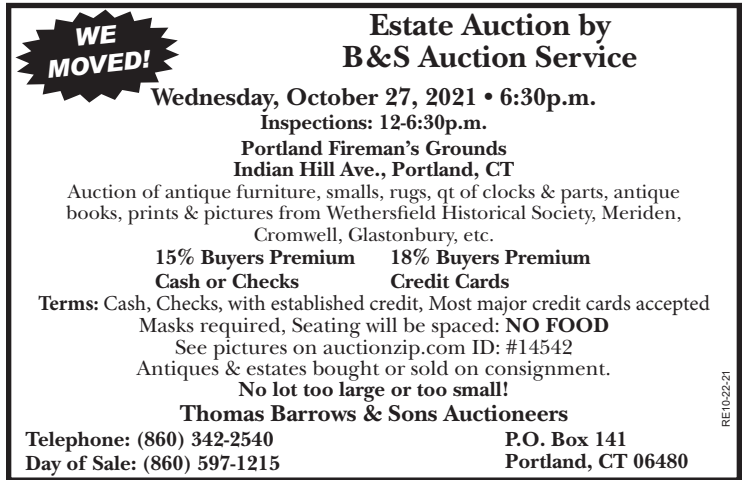
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**Kevin Reich for Town Council**

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 Chair 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, Nov. 2.

**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 there.

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

primaries.  
In my career I have worked for municipalities in finance and administration. I have witnessed firsthand 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 protect

*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 Tiffany 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 community-focused 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 finance.

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 chair.

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 four-term 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 and 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 Republican-controlled 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 said.

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,

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 co-ordinator 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.

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 names."

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

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."

## Trunk or Treat

All are invited to join the Hebron Parks and Recreation Department for a night of trunk-or-treating, 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.

## 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 claudia-riley@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/towncenterprojectinc.

## 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 mergon-c165@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, Oct. 30.

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

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.

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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](mailto:csc@colchesterct.gov), or visit [www.colchesterct.gov/senior-center](http://www.colchesterct.gov/senior-center).

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

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

**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. 22.

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

### Colchester Federated Church News

Colchester Federated Church is an Open and Affirming church located at 60 Main St. Pastor is the Rev. Lauren Lorincz. The church office is open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. The office can be reached at 860-537-5189 or [cfc06415@gmail.com](mailto:cfc06415@gmail.com).

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

Worship videos are at [www.colchesterfederatedchurch.org](http://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 company.

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 Corrado. 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 Theriaque had key tackles for losses. Elijah Antcil was 2-2 with points after kicks.



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### 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.

### Scarecrow Voting Info

Scarecrows are back on the Town Green, and voting is live via [bit.ly/22ndscarecrowvoting](http://bit.ly/22ndscarecrowvoting).

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 the first week of November.

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.

### 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](http://colchesterdemocrats.org) under 'Donations.'

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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.**

### 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](http://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 placed in the Election Drop Box, it must be deposited by the end of polls on Election Day.

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

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

### 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. deer, one.

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, two.

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

once each from East Hampton and Marlborough.

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](http://colchesterct.gov), click on 'departments' and select 'fire department.'

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

### New Play and Learn Group

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

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

To learn more or to register, visit [colchester3.jumbula.com/#/joyful-noises-fall](http://colchester3.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.

### 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](http://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](http://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.

### 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 Food

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

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

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

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

### 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 Stages."

Kristopher Sortwell, MSW, CBIS, Eastern Region Director of Education and Outreach, Alzheimer's Association Connecticut Chapter, will present the series via Zoom Mondays, Nov. 1, 8 and 15, at 6 p.m.

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

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




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### New Online Offering for Town Clerk

Cloud-based software provider Permutium 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 self-service option available to residents earlier this month.

"We have partnered with Permutium 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.

Permutium'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](http://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](mailto:youthservices@colchesterct.gov). Register for programs online at [www.colchesterct.gov/youth-social-services](http://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. Register online.

### 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, 2022.

Anyone interested should contact Coach Rob Corrado at [TMBA22@hotmail.com](mailto: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 district:

- 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 supportive community.

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**
  - 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.
- Grow**
  - 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.
- Sustain**
  - 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 maintained.
  - 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](mailto: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.

### 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](http://www.airlinetrails.toastmastersclubs.org).

### Thanksgiving Drive

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

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

### 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](mailto:RaffleTicketsNov2@gmail.com) to purchase tickets. Cash/Venmo accepted.



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**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 westcongchurch@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 COVID-19. The services are also available on Zoom; visit the church website at westchestercongregationalchurch.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 westcongchurch@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 persecutor. 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

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.

### 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.

### 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.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department/pages/kyles-smile-5k-road-race](http://www.colchesterct.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](http://tinyurl.com/cmlbookclub).

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

# Spiritual Healing

**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:**

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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](mailto: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

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](mailto:podskoch@comcast.net), or visit [www.facebook.com/chathamhistoricalsocietyCT](http://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](http://www.epocharts.org) to reserve a spot. Masks are required inside the Haunted House this year.

**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](http://cthope.com/events) for more information and to register for tickets.

For more information, email Mishael Deighton at [mdeighton@cthope.com](mailto:mdeighton@cthope.com).





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

OR 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 in-person services every Sunday at 10 a.m. For the fully vaccinated, mask wearing is not mandatory except when singing. Those not fully vaccinated should continue to wear masks and practice social distancing. All services can be accessed via Zoom by going to the website at cc-eh.org.

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

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

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

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

**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.

**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 case.

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 – and mailed them, not getting them from the

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. Curley 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 made an administrative error, then they should

make an effort to fix it and come into compliance.

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 Day.

"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 mutually-agreed-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 me."

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](mailto:zion.lutheran@snet.net) or visit [zionlutheranportland.org](http://zionlutheranportland.org).

## Police News

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

## 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 Pitruzzello 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.

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

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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

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 environment.

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," Rodgers said.

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 ser-

vices 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 pandemic.

"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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# 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 teams.

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 off-season 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 teams.

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 said.

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 championship.

“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.”

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## 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 programs.

**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.

## 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, Andover, CT). For more information, call the church office at 860-742-7696, email andoverctchurch@gmail.com or visit www.andoverctchurch.org.

**Worship and Lunch:** After worship, fellowship is back. This week, there will be Autumn Lunch.

**Everyday Power Inspiration:** Tuesdays, 11:15 a.m. This is a time of encouraging one another.

**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

Nov. 3.

**Foodshare Van:** Comes to the church every other Wednesday from 9-9:30 a.m.; next date is Oct. 27.

**Prayer Requests:** Need prayer? Contact the church and leave a message.

**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. Seating is limited.

## 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.

## YFS Halloween Events

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 rights.

**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.

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## 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 Community Room  
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 question:

“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 the appropriation?”

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.

Carol Lee  
Andover Town Clerk

1TB 10/22

Email your classified line ads to [sandy@glcitizen.com](mailto:sandy@glcitizen.com) & call 860.633.4691 to pay with your credit card.

## 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.

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Senior Center News and Notes

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

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

The Food Bank is located at 3 Willhenger 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; Meals-on-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 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; Meals-on-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; quilting, 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, non-partisan 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 library.

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

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)

up with the Cragin, East Hampton, and Welles-Turner libraries for a virtual author talk series. Deborah Copaken (author of Ladyparts, Shut-terbabe 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 modern-day 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.

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.

Historical Society News

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

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

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

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Lions to Raffle Generator
The Marlborough Lions Club is raffling off an 8,000-watt Generac portable generator with a retail value of \$1,100. The generator has features such as a pushbutton electric start with trickle charger, hours counter and 120V/240V outlets.
The winner of the raffle will also receive the services of an electrician to install a circuit breaker panel interlock and the cabling needed to hook up the generator with a value not to exceed \$1,000. Raffle tickets are only \$20 each. The drawing will take place during the Lions' Fall Masquerade 5K on Oct. 31. Ticket sales will continue until that event.
For tickets, call Lions President Megan Lloyd at 413-687-5537, Secretary Ken Hjulstrom at 860-490-9116 or Treasurer Jean-Paul Bolduc at 860-798-2054.

2022 Medicare Annual Enrollment
This is the Time to Make Changes for 2022!
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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.

### Congregational Church News & Notes

Sunday in-person worship at the Congregational Church of Marlborough, United Church of Christ, 35 South Main St., is at 10 a.m. Churchgoers are asked to wear a mask. The worship service is also livestreamed at [mcc.marlconchurch.org](http://mcc.marlconchurch.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 Sunday.

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

**Second Blessings Thrift Shop:** Open Satur-

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](http://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.MarIGOP.com](http://www.MarIGOP.com) for more information on the Republican candidates.

### Nearly 100 at Republican Meet-and-Greet

The Marlborough Republicans held a Meet-and-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.MarIGOP.com](http://www.MarIGOP.com) and at the Marlborough RTC Facebook page.

### Parks and Rec Programs

Marlborough Parks and Recreation has announced the following. For full descriptions or to register, visit [marlboroughct.recdesk.com](http://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. Students 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 28-inch 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](http://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-residents.

**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.

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period, I am that clear choice.

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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 excellence 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**

**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 me.

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 [gop-portlandct.com](http://gop-portlandct.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](mailto:bulletin@glcitizen.com). Please include your full name and town of residence. A phone number must be provided (not for publication).

RHAM • 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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 at 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

#### 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 Statutes 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 Revenue.

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](http://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 – 12:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Scott Clayton  
Public Utilities Administrator

3TB 9/24, 10/8, 10/22



# EMPLOYMENT

**East Hampton Public Schools  
Job Opportunity**

Part time 1st & 2nd shift substitute custodian position  
Qualifications: Proof of Covid-19 Vaccination or a medical or religious exemption.  
To see additional job description/ apply online please visit: <https://www.applitrack.com/easthampton/onlineapp/>  
To obtain further information contact:  
Steven Fontanella Facilities Director East Hampton, CT 06424 (860) 365-4000 X 2  
sfontanella@easthamptonct.org 4TB 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/22

**Substitute Nurses Needed**

The Columbia School District (H.W. Porter School) is seeking substitute nurses. Qualified candidates must hold a valid Registered Nursing License. H.W. Porter School is a PK-8 school. Please forward a resume, certification, 2 current letters of reference and proof of COVID 19 vaccination or medical/religious exemption to bmorey@hwporter.org. Anticipated hours are 8:15 until 3:30.  
Please email resumes and applications to: [bmorey@hwporter.org](mailto:bmorey@hwporter.org)  
For additional information visit our website at: <https://columbiapublicschools.org/>

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P.O. Box 777, Colchester, CT 06415, Attn: Geri or email to [geririsley@comcast.net](mailto:geririsley@comcast.net)

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Marlborough Elementary School is seeking candidates for a long-term substitute assignment for an anticipated elementary teacher position opening. An approximate start date is December 20, 2021 and the position is expected to run through the end of the school year. Please send a letter of interest, resume, copy of teaching certification, transcripts and three letters of recommendation to Dr. Holly Hageman, Superintendent, Marlborough School District, 25 School Drive, Marlborough, CT 06447 or email to [cmonte@marlborough.k12.ct.us](mailto:cmonte@marlborough.k12.ct.us). Application forms can be found on our school website at [www.marlborough.k12.ct.us](http://www.marlborough.k12.ct.us). Employment Opportunities, or call 860.295.6236. EOE

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**Job Description:** Our Company is currently seeking skilled production workers to carry out various tasks in our warehouse. The ideal candidates will be timely and reliable, have excellent work ethic and will be capable of following procedure with little to no supervision. The applicants will be responsible for operating production equipment, trimming products as they finish and reporting any issues with product or equipment to their immediate supervisor. All responsible, reliable applicants are encouraged to apply. We offer paid time off and insurance benefits after a 60-day probation period. First shift (7AM-3:30PM) and second shift (3:30PM-12AM) available.  
**Company Description:** ProMold Plastics specializes in custom injection molding and mold making. We have been in business since 1967 serving the Medical, Electronic, Automotive, Industrial and Consumer Industries. Our mission is to be a valuable asset to our customers and remain customer focused by continually improving our communication through training and employee development.

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[promoldplastics.com/general-application/](http://promoldplastics.com/general-application/)

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# TRUCKLOAD SALE



All Sale Items Are While Supplies Last - We Will Custom Cut And Bulk Wrap All Primals

100% Pure Beef No Additives

**Whole Beef Tenderloins**

Consists of Filet Mignon Steak & Roast

**\$9.88** /lb.

4 - 6 lb. Average

100% Pure Beef No Additives

**90% Ex-Lean Ground Beef**

Not Further Processed

**\$3.98** /lb.

Sold in 9 - 10 lb Bags

100% Pure Beef No Additives

**Whole Boneless Angus Rib Eyes**

Consists of Rib Eye Steak & Roast

**\$8.95** /lb.

16 - 20 lb. Average

100% Pure Beef No Additives

**Whole Bone-In Angus Prime Rib**

Consists of Prime Rib Steak & Roast

**\$7.98** /lb.

18 - 22 lb. Average

100% Pure Pork No Additives

**Whole Boneless Pork Loins**

Boneless Pork Chops & Roast

**\$1.98** /lb.

8 - 10 lb. Average

100% Pure Pork No Additives

**Whole Bone-In Pork Loins**

Bone In Pork Chops & Roasts

**\$1.77** /lb.

14-20 lb. Average

100% Pure Beef No Additives

**Whole New York Strips**

New York Strip Steaks & Roasts

**\$7.75** /lb.

16 - 20 lb. Average

100% Pure Beef No Additives

**Whole Short Loins of Beef**

Consists of Porterhouse Steak

**\$6.98**

20 - 25 lb. Average

100% Pure Pork No Additives

**Fresh Genuine Spareribs**

Consists of Spareribs & Riblets

**\$2.68** /lb.

10 - 12 lb. Average

100% Pure Beef No Additives

**Whole Prime Top Sirloins**

PRIME Prime Angus Top Sirloin Steak

**\$6.98** /lb.

12 - 14 lb. Average

100% Pure Beef No Additives

**Whole Beef Eye Rounds**

Consists of Rib Eye Steak & Roast

**\$4.85** /lb.

5 - 8 lb. Average

100% Pure Beef No Additives

**Whole Boneless Top Sirloins**

Boneless Sirloin Steak & Roast

**\$4.82**

14 - 19 lb. Average

100% Pure Pork No Additives

**Whole Pork Tenderloins**

Bob's Family Deals

**\$2.98** /lb.

100% Pure Pork No Additives

**Country Style Pork Spareribs**

Bob's Family Deals

**\$1.98** /lb.

Fresh Grade A All Natural

**Boneless Chicken Breast**

Bob's Family Deals

**\$2.68** /lb.

Sold In 10lb Bags

100% Pure Beef No Additives

**Shoulder London Broil Steak**

Bob's Family Deals

**\$4.98**

100% Pure Beef No Additives

**Whole Beef Sirloin Tips**

Consists of Sirloin Tip Steak & Roast

**\$4.98** /lb.

8 - 10 lb. Average

100% Pure Beef No Additives

**Whole Top Round**

Consists of Top Round Steak & Roast

**\$4.45** /lb.

20 - 25 lb. Average

100% Pure Beef No Additives

**Whole Bottom Rounds**

Consists of Cube Steak Round Stew

**\$4.77** /lb.

12 - 16 lb Average

Fresh Grade "a" All Natural

**Chicken Drumsticks**

Sold In a 40lb Box.

**\$26.85** /40 lb.

Also Sold in 10lb Bag \$1.18 /lb

Fresh All Natural

**Chicken Leg Quarters**

Sold In a 40lb Box.

**\$24.88** / 40 lb

Also Sold in 10lb Bags 98¢ /lb

Fresh Grade A All Natural

**Chicken Tenders**

Bob's Family Deals

**\$3.98** /lb.

Sold in 5lb Bags

Fresh Grade A All Natural

**Boneless Chicken Thighs**

**\$3.68** /lb.

Sold in 5lb Packages

Oyster Bay

**Jumbo E-Z Peel Shrimp 16-20 Count 2 lb Bag**

**\$13.98** 2 lb.

**Jamestown 1 lb Bacon 3/\$9.97**

Lesser Amounts 3.69 /lb

**Deutschmacher & Kayem 2.5 lb Natural Casing Franks \$12.98**

Fresh Grade "a" All Natural

**Chicken Thighs**

Sold In a 40lb Box.

Not Further Processed

**\$36.97** /40 lb.

Also Sold in 10lb Bag \$1.28 /lb.

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**Bob's Super Bundle \$199.99**

- 3 Lbs. Beef Chuck Pot Roast 100% Pure Beef No Additives
- 8 Lbs. 90% Ex-Lean Ground Beef 100% Pure Beef No Additives
- 8 Lbs. Beef Chuck London Broil Steak 100% Pure Beef No Additives
- 4 Lbs. Country Ribs 100% Pure Pork No Additives
- 8 Lbs. Center Cut Pork Chops 100% Pure Pork No Additives
- 4 Lbs. Beef Chuck Stew Meat 100% Pure Beef No Additives
- 10 Lbs. Boneless Skinless Chicken Breast Fresh Grade A All Natural
- 10 Lbs. Chicken Drumsticks Fresh Grade A All Natural
- 10 Lbs. Chicken Thighs Bone In Fresh Grade A All Natural
- 3 Lbs. 3 - 1 lb Packages Of Bacon

Please Order 1 Day Ahead Available After 12 Noon

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