

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

Volume 45, Number 44

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November 12, 2021



Blue Ribbon Bees...The Welch family of Marlborough won Best Group Costume at the Lions' annual Masquerade 5K Oct. 31. The Welches were the Bumblebee family.

Referendum Next Week On New Senior Center

by Diane Church

Just two weeks after Election Day, Colchester residents will head back to the polls next Tuesday, Nov. 16 – this time to decide the fate of a new proposed senior center in town.

At a town meeting last week, residents voted overwhelmingly – 149 to 1 – to send the \$9.5 million project to referendum. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Nov. 16 at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue.

If the project passes, construction is expected to start around next March and take 12 months. As long as it stays on schedule, senior citizens will have their long-awaited brand-new senior center in spring 2023.

"We were talking about this 20 years ago," state Rep. Brian Smith (D-48), a longtime resident who has previously served on the boards of selectmen and finance, said at the meeting, before the vote to send the project to referendum. He stressed he was speaking as a private citizen. "We said we would do it when the time was right. Now we have to decide to bring it to a vote. General welfare is collective welfare for all in town. If we can't do this, we're doing a disservice to the community."

Plans show a 14,650-sq. ft. senior center between Town Hall and Congregation Ahavath Achim on Lebanon Avenue. It would have a half dozen dedicated rooms for activities such as art, fitness and billiards; a kitchen, smaller rooms for offices and storage, and two large multi-purpose rooms with doors leading to a covered patio. The parking lot will be accessible from Norwich Avenue and Lebanon Avenue.

The senior center will be open for commu-

nity use for people of all ages weekdays after 4:30 p.m. and on weekends, for a fee. This will provide an additional revenue stream that can be used for building maintenance and give the community space for meetings, dinner, dances and other social functions, the town said.

Seniors at the meeting complained that the present senior center, located on Norwich Avenue, is too small, is no longer suitable for their purposes and has a leaky roof.

And, they noted, it wasn't designed to be a senior center, but rather a school. Resident Ron Goldstein said he remembers going to kindergarten there. Since then, he noted, local schools have been built and renovated with residents' approval.

"The seniors have always been there for the kids," he pointed out. "I'm very happy to support this project."

Resident Lorraine Spiegel said that while the \$9.5 million price tag is a lot of money, she feels the price of construction is not likely to go down. The current price is "the cheapest it will be," she said.

"By 2040 half of Colchester will be seniors," she added. "We're all going to be 55 someday,"

Smith – now speaking as a state representative – said he applied for a \$3 million bond from the state, but has not had a response yet.

"I don't have any control over when the State Bonding Commission decides," he said. "It's a matter of getting on the priority list. I put in a request and some other representatives are supporting it."

Former Senior Program Coordinator Irene
See Senior Center Referendum, page 26

Bransfield Looks Back on 18 Years in Office

by Jack Lakowsky

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield first took office in 2003. Her exit next week will mark the end of the longest serving leadership in Portland's history.

Republican Ryan Curley, the town clerk who won last week's election, will assume office on Nov. 16.

The *Rivereast* met with Bransfield, a Democrat, on Monday, their first in-person meeting in nearly two years.

"Right now, I'm feeling a little sad to be leaving," said Bransfield. "I love the job. But on the other hand, I'm very glad because I can get to things I've had on the backburner for a long time. I'm happy to begin a new chapter."

Her first nugget of wisdom to the new administration was always ask for help from someone who can help.

"I've always been comfortable doing that,

and it has paid dividends," she said.

Bransfield said she's retiring from a 24/7 job which very often must take precedent over personal life. The office can deal with literally life-and-death situations, like storms and floods and power outages.

"Emergencies happen any time of day or night," said Bransfield.

In her first few months of retirement, Bransfield plans to rest, take some time to enjoy the holiday season with family, catch up on some reading, bike, boat, learn Spanish – her son and his wife are bilingual – and reinvigorate her hobbies, including furniture refinishing and sewing.

Bransfield said she also wants to take part in more local charity and civic work, and to learn more about the Connecticut River, its ecology and potential as a focal point of the region.

The outgoing town chief also hinted she may have an inkling to pen a book, possibly a memoir, saying though she's never authored one, it's an idea that has fascinated her for some time.

When asked if she was done with politics, Bransfield said she never likes to say she's "done" with anything.

Legacy

"Something I'm proud of is leaving the town in good financial standing," Bransfield told the *Rivereast*.

She said she leaves the town's rainy-day fund much higher than what she inherited, and that under her leadership, the town's bond rating – essentially a credit score – went up to AA+.

"Having a good financial foundation is number one in terms of running a town," Bransfield

See Bransfield Looks Back, page 29

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Colchester • Colchester

Owner: Customers to Thank for Twin Barbershops' Success

by Jack Lakowsky

Rob Brown discovered his career by accident. He began cutting his own hair to save money when he was 19 or 20, while in college in Orlando, Fla.

Finding he had a knack for barbery, Brown moved back home in his thirties and earned his barber's license in 2012.

"I always wanted my own place," Brown told the *Rivereast*. "I worked at a place in Glastonbury for a few years, the went off on my own."

Brown opened his first shop, Robbie B's at 111 Loomis Road, in 2013, with a goal of serving both his hometown and being accessible to

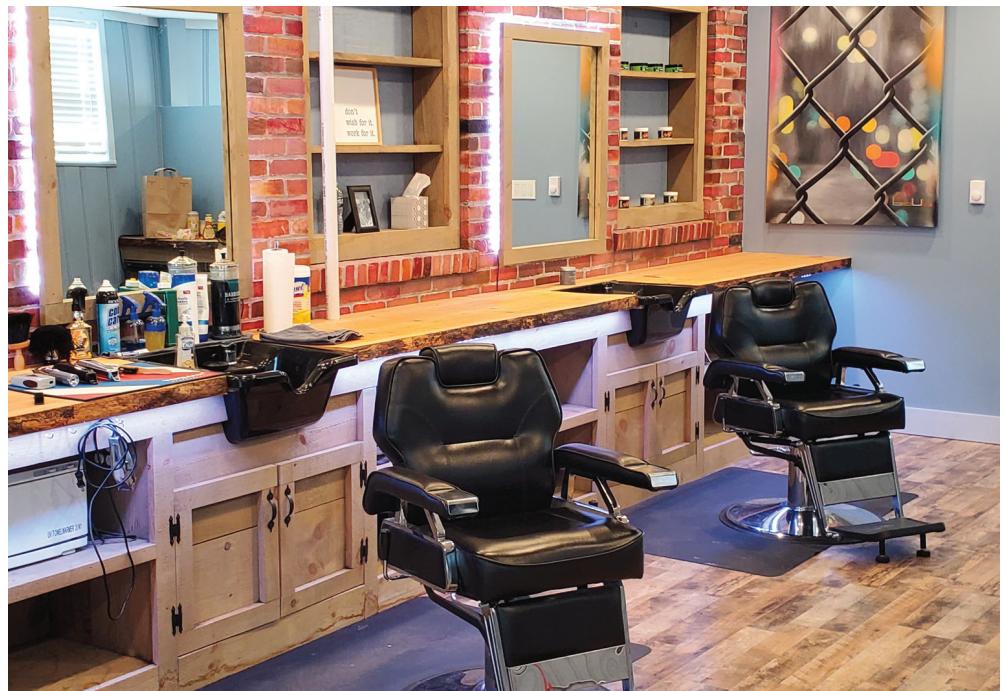
neighboring communities.

This location, in the Westchester section of town, is alongside Colchester meant to serve towns to the north and west, like Glastonbury, Moodus and Deep River.

In January, Brown opened his second location, Sanzone's, at 51 Hayward Avenue. This one, he said, is meant to draw customers from the east, Amston, Hebron, Willimantic, Salem and Norwich.

"I have deep family roots in Colchester," said Brown. "I remember playing on the town green, and I have a relative who taught at Bacon."

In addition to haircuts, Brown offers beard



Rob Brown, owner of two local barbershops, Sanzone's and Robbie B's, started his first shop in 2013, opening a second in January, both in Colchester. In the photo, chairs await heads to groom.

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trims, scalp and hot towel treatments, anything that helps with the grooming process. He offers discounts to military, fire, police and seniors.

He said he wants to foster an atmosphere with "room to breathe", with quiet ambience and beverages.

"Come in, relax, have some quiet," he said. "We're kid-friendly, we have snacks and [Sanzone's] is in front of a park, and near ice cream and other businesses."

Brown said his shop's attention to detail, competitive prices and meticulous dedication to customer satisfaction – never rushing anyone in the chair-is what sets it apart from the many shops in the area.

Brown opened his second location in the economic mire of the COVID-19 pandemic. Supply issues have plagued nearly every industry, and barbershops and salons are no exception.

However, Brown said he has weathered these issues.

"I've been buying materials pretty easily,

though I do know certain manufacturers in the industry haven't been able to keep up with demand," he said, adding he has experienced some longer wait times, but that his supplier has been "phenomenal."

Brown said his shops are thoroughly cleaned to help ensure employees and customers are comfortable stopping by during a time when stepping out of the home carries new risks.

Above all, Brown expressed thanks to his customers, some of whom have gone to him for the eight years he's worked in town.

"Thank you to my longtime supporters," said Brown. "The people who followed me since before I had my own shop, just a big thank you to you. I'm looking forward to continuing to grow in business and as a person."

Call Robbie B's at 860-861-9363, or Sanzone's at 860-508-2519, or look either up on Facebook.

More Colchester News, page 11



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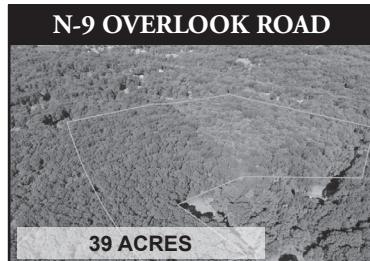
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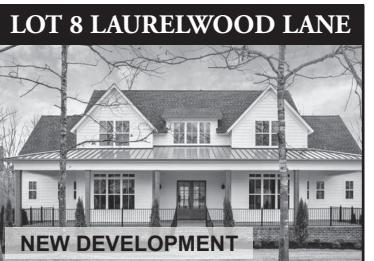
\$2,350,000 Glastonbury



\$946,000 Marlborough



\$745,000 Coventry



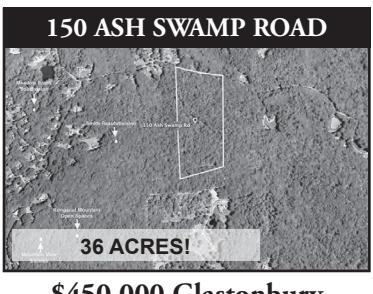
\$630,000 Vernon



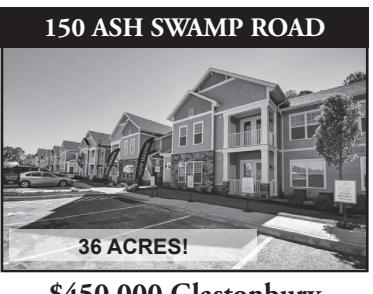
\$335,000 East Haddam



\$587,000 Marlborough



\$450,000 Glastonbury



\$450,000 Glastonbury



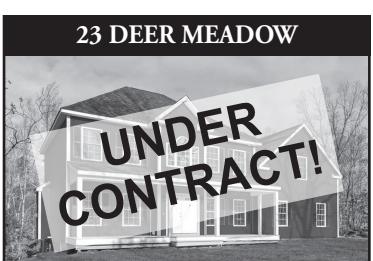
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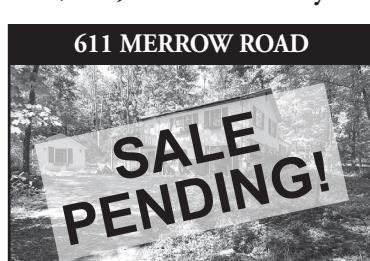


\$309,900 East Hampton



EXAMPLE OF PREVIOUS BUILD

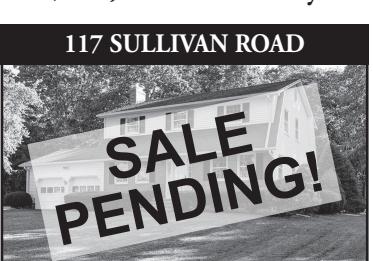
\$650,000 East Hampton



\$274,999 Coventry



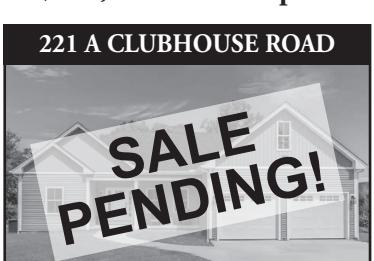
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From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

It seems like Election Day was just last week – probably because it was – but in Colchester, it's time to head back to the polls again.

There's a referendum next week on the proposed new senior center – and to be honest, I hope it passes.

Colchester is desperately in need of a new senior center. This should be evident to anyone who's even driven past – much less gone inside – the old, worn-down, undersized former Bacon Academy building the senior center currently calls home.

And the price, I feel, is right. \$9.5 million may seem overly steep, but it really isn't, not when you're constructing a new building that will be used by an ever-growing portion of the community (as selectman Rosemary Coyle notes in a letter to the editor this week, Colchester's Plan of Conservation and Development projects that by 2030, 40% of the town's population will be 55 or older).

That \$9.5 million could be even less, actually, as a \$3.1 million bond for the project is available. Alas, the state bonding commission isn't due to meet anytime soon, so it might be a while before the town knows about the bond – but I would say the odds are in the town's favor. Like I said, it's hard to argue the need. Recent surveys show more than 1,400 residents use at least some of the senior center's facilities. Shouldn't they have a new, larger, not-leaking place to visit?

Other towns certainly don't think so. There have been senior center upgrades in lots of nearby towns in recent years – towns with smaller populations than Colchester. It's time, and frankly, the seniors deserve it. There has been much spending in town in recent decades on new school projects – most recently the new and improved William J. Johnston Middle School – and it's quite honestly time for folks who have benefited from those buildings to return the favor.

It's time for a new senior center in Colchester. The townspeople deserve it – and I hope they get it.

I was happy to see the majority – seven of nine, to be exact – of the proposed charter changes in Marlborough passed at referendum. One I was particularly pleased about – switching to a town manager form of government from the current first selectman one.

I'm a big proponent of town managers in place of first selectpersons. It may have been fine decades ago, but everything associated in running a town is so complicated these days. I feel you need to have someone with the proper municipal management experience and education to do the job. Most of the current town managers or administrators have gone to school for this; it's quite literally their life's work.

When you elect a first selectman, you may get that background – but you may not. And frankly, I feel running a town is far too important and complicated of a job to leave up to someone who may not necessarily know what they're doing.

The great thing, also, about a town manager is they're appointed, not elected. That allows them to focus solely on the town, and not trying to please the electorate. They're still held accountable, of course, but to a Town Council or a Board of Selectmen. Removing politics from the equation can make for a simpler process.

It can also allow for a longer stay in the role of the head of the town, which is also a good thing. As much as I disagree with the whole "a town should be run like a business" thinking, one thing that's similar about the two is the value of institutional memory. It's tough to put a price tag on that. Town projects, particularly the more major ones, can be lengthy, laborious affairs – and it helps to have someone managing these projects who doesn't have to be brought up to speed every two or four years.

In short, congrats, Marlborough; moving to a town manager form of government is a good move. It's just the way to do things now, I feel.

See you next week.

Bulletin Board

Surveys indicate that two of the biggest strains on marriage or a relationship can be money and sex.

While I don't profess to be an expert, it has always seemed to me that when you're young you're too busy having sex to worry about money and when you're old (if things go right) you should be too busy counting your money to miss having sex, though with luck and the American pharmaceutical industry, it is quite possible you could end up with both.

In any case, I don't want to get too involved here in a personal discussion about sex or my personal finances because one makes my two grown sons—who apparently continue to believe they were delivered by storks—noticeably uncomfortable, and too much information on the other could lead them to protect their own interests and consign me to a nursing home with a limited dinner menu.

Money and sex aside, it is my experience that the biggest strains on marriage tend to be a little less...well...sexy. I've been considering the top few strains on my own marriage over the years and I've concluded that most of our arguments arise from conversations beginning with stuff like: "Where did you hide the fingernail clippers this time?"

Many if not most marriages begin with idealistic proclamations such as "I don't want to change you. I love you just the way you are" or "I don't care what daddy thinks." Hindsight indicates that a more honest statement would be, "I think I love you just the way you are and if this rock and roll thing doesn't work out, daddy says you can always get a real job or have a fatal accident."

Most of us have no idea going into these things that we could be subjected to years of torture by a spouse who leaves the mobile phone wherever her last phone call ended—which can include places as obscure as the vegetable crisper drawer in the refrigerator (under a bag of lettuce).

Most of us also do not take into account that one partner in a relationship (typically her) may mature more quickly than the other so that behavior once viewed as devil-may-care demonstrations of independence and individualism (such as attending all functions dressed like a refugee from northern Maine or stating, "It must be noon somewhere" before cracking open a beer for breakfast) start to become a sore point.

So my advice to those of you embarking on what you expect will be a lifelong relationship is to recognize that some change is inevitable and just because somebody lies around on the couch all day doesn't mean he's lazy. He could possibly have anemia or something and should be treated with kindness and consideration. You might also want to buy at least two sets of fingernail clippers.

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.



Frighteningly Fun... Cub Scout Pack 57 had a spooktacular time while gathering for their annual Trunk or Treat and Pumpkin Carving Event. Families decorated their cars and kids were able to play games and Trick or Treat. Pack 57 is chartered by the Congregational Church and accepts boys and girls in grades K-5. For more information, visit www.pack57easthampton.com.

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Thank You

To the Editor:

To the East Hampton Board of Education, Superintendent Smith, teachers, staff, students, and East Hampton community at large...thank you. Thank you for the opportunity to serve this past year, and thank you to the folks that cast a vote for the underdog. There was no doubt it was going to be an uphill battle. It was worth the climb! Congratulations to Christina, Michael, Josh, Salvatore, and Nancy on their election victories. Best wishes and good luck!

Justin Wagner – East Hampton

wealthy has the resources to get around any tax codes because some of the "wealthy" are members of Congress and they won't do anything to restrict their wealth. Large corporations always increase the cost of their products/services to cover any increase in taxes to them. It turns out to actually be another tax on the middle and lower classes.

On top of that inflation is currently at a 30-year high, another indirect tax on the little people.

Gary Gile – Andover

A Hearty Thank You

To Messers Biden, Blumenthal, and Courtney:

A hearty thanks to you all for our victory on Tuesday. People have seen your inaction, felt the frustration of your failed policies, your shallow photo ops, your false concern for the common man and good, your flaunting of \$450,000 per illegal entrant's family for their pain and

Corrections

The cover story "RHAM Turf Field Soundly Rejected," in last week's *Rivereast*, indicated the competition field at RHAM was built more than 29 years ago. It was actually built more than 15 years ago.

Also, the Aug. 27 issue published a notice detailing free/reduced-price school lunch information for the 2021-22 school year, but mistakenly reported the information was only applicable to area middle and high schools. The information actually applies to public school students in grades, pre-K through 12.

The *Rivereast* regrets the errors.

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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suffering. It is no wonder they want to come to America. They would make more money in a lump sum than most working families in years.

Your extended payouts also known as unemployment enticements which kept people on their couches instead of working. Staggering inflation that is stinging us at the gas pump and grocery store. We see it and sought change.

Your CRT, and pushing a convoluted view of this great nation's past. Your inability to make meaningful change that is going to affect the children of today and what is taught them in public/government school systems. Your silencing opposition and calling concerned parents "domestic terrorists" on lists generated by the FBI. And worse, your unwillingness to stand up for the U.S. Constitution guaranteeing us basic freedoms – speech in particular.

You made it all so obvious and so the urge to vote Republican overcame us. We did. We did in numbers. We did it because we are tired of seeing our values erode away. We did it because of our patriotic duty to this great country that you are scarring. We did it because they listened to us. We had a choice and exercised our patriotic duty and voted in numbers. We did it because we love America we knew, not the direction you are taking it.

Thank you again for all you did or didn't do to make us see that we still have the power to change and as an individual make a difference. Our votes counted!

Sincerely,

Alison Walck – East Hampton

Note: Walck is a newly elected member of the East Hampton Town Council, but is speaking as an individual.

Congrats, Republicans

To the Editor:

I want to extend my congratulations to the East Hampton Republicans for their success in the recent municipal elections. They now have the opportunity to implement their vision and policies. I look forward to the results of their collective efforts.

Although I was not successful in my bid for the Board of Finance as a Democrat, I want to extend my thanks and appreciation to the DTC for their support. Of most importance, I am humbled and comforted by those who cast their ballot for me. It is my belief that most gave their support because of my background, my accomplishments and the positive impact I would have delivered to our community, rather than just that I ran as a Democrat.

Now is the time to look forward to the holidays with our family and friends. Then, through the dark and cold days of winter will be the time to reflect upon the recent "I am the victim" election. As spring comes, our hope, direction and focus will become evident.

Kurt John Comisky – East Hampton

How to Make an Impact

To the Editor:

"A life is not important except in the impact it has on others" is a quote from the legendary Jackie Robinson, the man who broke baseball's color barrier in the late 1940s. Now, over 70 years later, Colchester voters have unique opportunity to make a profound impact on the lives of seniors in the present and for generations to come. During the past 20 months, both the young and old alike have experienced the consequences of isolation, confinement and lack of social interaction. Studies have proven the significant negative effects of these conditions on our emotional, physical and psychological health.

Although life is gradually continuing to return to more social interactions, for many seniors isolation will continue to be a daily obstacle to healthy living. With the construction of a new Colchester senior center, there will be countless opportunities to combat this isolation and seniors can grow older and stay healthy in a welcoming place in their home town. The new building design allows for safe, comfortable and accessible spaces for exercise and fitness, informal and educational programs, recreational interactions, health screenings, memory care, shared meals, camaraderie and fun. These activities will promote health and independence, enrich the lives of our seniors and improve the overall quality of life in our town.

As you vote in the Nov. 16 referendum, please consider the positive impact your yes vote will have on the lives of so many. Look to the future as you cast your vote. Thank you.

Madelyn Starkey – Colchester

Note: Starkey is an alternate member of the Senior Center Building Committee, but said she is speaking as an individual.

Race Debate

To the Editor:

A while back, in the "Letters to the Editor" section of this newspaper, Pamela Cyr-Long had written a series of letters that addressed promoting a discussion of issues of race in this culture.

I responded to her in an email. I told her about my experience with my second grade Sunday school teacher, Mrs. Timm. Mrs. Timm was the first Black person I had ever encountered as a little white boy. She had us force daffodils in pots for early blooms in March. I was enthralled! She taught us about the kindness of Jesus and his lessons, but I was more excited about the blooming daffodil. (I have long since become an atheist, but that does not mean I ever forgot Mrs. Timm's lesson plan about kindness and caring).

I asked Pamela if I she would mind if I wrote a response to her thoughts in the paper. She said she was always glad to hear another person's perspective.

The past months have introduced so much acrimonious debate about race issues that I barely know where to begin! A major one is the notion of "critical race theory." I believe that is simply the teaching of American history. To me, it is the withholding of critical cultural implications about how and why some people become advantaged over others. That must be discussed and analyzed. Apparently not in a K-12 curriculum, as that might make white kids feel "bad."

Jon Raddatz – East Hampton

Thank You

To the Editor:

Thank you to the Portland community who came out to vote on Tuesday. It was exciting to see the enthusiasm and energy. I am looking forward to being an active contributor for the many projects that we are working on, specifically the Facilities Steering committee to address our infrastructure needs as well as putting a plan in place to fix the high school track.

Please remember there are many opportunities to volunteer for Portland town committees. A list is on the Portland town website.

Again, thanks to everyone for their support.

**Dave Murphy
Portland Board of Education**

Thank You for Support

Dear Colchester Neighbors:

I wanted to take a minute to thank the people of Colchester for their support and engagement over the past two years I have proudly served as the first selectman. It has certainly been an interesting term! We worked hard to keep our town safe and even moved forward with a number of projects. There are some big things ready to happen in the immediate future, thanks to the ongoing work of the staff, so be on the lookout for news around Town growth and development. Work will begin on the fields, the Town Green, the Youth Center and the playground, to name a few of the projects. These are all possible because of work the team has been planning for a while. It will be wonderful to see them finally come to be.

Please continue to use your voice and hold people accountable for their actions. This is the key to democracy.

Sincerely,
**Mary Bylone
Colchester First Selectman**

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Look Forward to Serving

To the Editor:

Thank you to everyone who voted Tuesday, Nov. 2! It was awesome to see so many residents turn out to vote! I would like to thank all the candidates who ran from both parties. They volunteer their time and energy to help make our town better for everyone.

I would also like to thank Michelle M. Donahue and Ryan Curley for encouraging me to run. I appreciate your vote to elect me to the Board of Assessment Appeals and look forward to serving on this board as well as supporting all our elected officials for the residents of Portland.

**William Donahue, Member-Elect
Portland Board of Assessment Appeals**

We Need a New Center

To the Editor:

My name is Jackie Fontaine. I am 82 years old and I was affected by COVID-19. I was not able to shop, etc. Without the senior center and Patty Watts, I don't know what I would have done. I gave up my car and the senior center has provided transportation for me. The staff is wonderful. Meals-on-Wheels has been a great help.

We need and deserve a new center. I hope we get a chance to build a new one. The schools have been remodeled. We seniors need the same consideration. We have worked all our lives and given so much. Thank you for listening.

Jacqueline Fontaine – Colchester

Tide is Turning

To the Editor:

With the results of the elections in Marlborough, Colchester, Hebron and East Hampton all resulting in definitive victories for candidates on their Republican tickets, it would appear that the tide is turning. Some may refer to it as a "Red Wave." Other locations across the country show signs of such a wave as well, such as the recent gubernatorial elections in Virginia and the close race in New Jersey, coupled with other elections this year across the country.

We can speculate about what has spurred these Republican wins, but it would appear that voters are displeased with what is going on in Washington with one party controlling the White House and both the House and Senate as well as concerns about the goings on in Hartford, which also under single party control.

The true test will be what happens in the November 2022 mid-term elections. Will there be a continuation of a Red Wave resulting in a tsunami of change washing over Washington? Will we see a shift in the Connecticut State Capitol, which has been predominantly under the control of one party for the last four decades?

I suppose we will find out in a year from now, but all indications are that change is in the wind.

I congratulate those who won the trust of the voters of Marlborough and our neighboring communities and I trust that they will conduct themselves in a manner worthy of the faith the voters have placed in them.

Now on to 2022.

Ken Hjulstrom – Marlborough

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

Thank You

To the Editor:

I would like to thank everyone who came out to vote on Nov. 2 it was nice to see such a great turnout. I would especially like to thank my wife Teri who sacrificed many weekends allow me to go out and campaign. I look forward to working with Ryan and the rest of the Board of Selectmen to work on key issues with the water issue being my main goal.

Thank you again,

Shaun P. Manning, Member-Elect

Portland Board of Selectmen

Partnership for Portland

To the Editor:

We sincerely thank Portland voters for the trust you have placed in Ryan and our team on Election Day. We are humbled by your support. Overall voter participation was very high for a municipal election, at about 55% of registered voters. This is a testament to the tremendous engagement of a very attentive and involved Portland citizenry. This outcome is the result of a tremendous team effort, and we thank everyone who played a role.

Our candidates are excited to move forward with the critical work of supporting both our school district and our town into the future. We look forward to working alongside our partners, the citizenry and Democrats who were also elected. As elected officials our priority is the best interests of our schools and town. There is much to be done over the coming years and we will accomplish much by working as a team, in a partnership for progress. We are a team for all of Portland.

I want to take this moment to thank Jim Tripp and his team for their commitment to our community. We know what it takes to run a campaign and know that they worked very hard. We hope members of their team who did not gain elective office will continue their tireless volunteer work and commitment to positive outcomes for Portland. With the election behind us it's time to unite as a community and work

See Letters, page 6

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★ Letters cont. from page 5

together as we move Portland forward.

On Nov. 16, Ryan and all the newly elected and reelected officials will be sworn in. This is the official start of our partnership for progress. Thanks again to the voters of Portland for putting your trust in us. We are committed to demonstrating the good stewardship you expect and deserve.

Sincerely,
Tim Lavoy, Chair
Portland Republican Town Committee

Support New Senior Center

To the Editor:

On Tuesday, Nov. 16, Colchester will hold a referendum on building a new senior center. If passed, it will be located on Lebanon Avenue on land already owned by the town. The project will cost (at most) \$9.5 million. This cost could be offset by grants and other funds.

I moved to Colchester in 1961 and taught in the old Bacon Academy the last year it was used as a high school. The town was in the process of building a new high school because the old building could no longer hold the number of students enrolled in grades 9-12. Since that time, Colchester has built other school buildings, a firehouse (also badly needed), installed sewers in the town center, built a town hall, established a police department, bonded much-needed fire and EMT equipment. All this was done to improve the quality of life in our town.

Now we have a proposal to improve our infrastructure for the growing senior population – a population that already has 1,400 people that use the existing, inadequate facility in various degrees. The senior population is growing and needs a new facility badly.

There are those who say they're for seniors but this project costs too much. Some say they're for seniors but the facility should be located elsewhere. Others say this proposal is too big. A person can always come up with a reason for now doing something no matter how much it should be done. This project is important to the senior citizens of our town. This project is important to the future welfare of our town.

As a community, the senior population needs our support. I hope you will join me in support of Colchester's senior by voting "yes" for the Senior Center project on Nov. 16. The vote will take place at Town Hall from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

John F. Malsbenden – Colchester

Spend, Spend, Spend

To the Editor:

I read in a Hartford newspaper Saturday morning that our two senators have a solution to curb gun violence. We need to spend more money. Isn't that what we did a few years ago? If it didn't work then why would it work now? Our politicians' answers for all our problems is to spend, spend, spend. This "solution to gun violence" is part of Biden's \$1.75 trillion spending plan, along with funding all our illegal immigrants.

Anyone with any sense should be looking at why these "gun violence" crimes are occurring and how to stop them from being committed in the first place. Let's take a look at our "penalties" for committing violent crimes. We don't have any effective penalties! You kill someone

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and your penalty is being sent to a "resort" with free room and board, free meals, free heat, sports, free TV, free healthcare, free dental, free lawyers and free phone calls. How about an automatic death penalty within 30 days of conviction with no delay tactics such as lengthy drawn-out appeals by tax-payer provided attorneys. All criminals should be locked up in cages and fed only bread and water. None of the free mentioned "benefits." No taxpayer-funded doctors, etc.

If we implemented those above suggested penalties I believe we would have a drastic reduction in not only gun violence but in all crimes. In my opinion that would greatly reduce crime without the spending.

Frank Blume – Colchester

Angry Republicans

To the Editor:

Colin McNamara has the audacity to call elected Board of Education members "cowards" when they can't weather the heat from aggressive protesting parents showing up at BOE meetings. BOE men and women, elected fair and square, volunteering large amounts of their time and energy, were given the job of making the best educational decisions they could, by majority vote. McNamara mocked our country's cherished reliance on voting, calling it "virtue signaling." He called voters "good boys and girls," implying they were naive children who "love posting pictures of themselves wearing (I voted stickers) on social media". He even implies America is now Stalin's USSR.

Nationwide we are witnessing a minority of the public, almost always conservative Republicans, shouting out, threatening, and even presumptuously voting themselves in at one meeting to try reseating themselves as new board members. These are offshoots and local chapters of the Jan. 6 mob that attacked the Capitol to overturn President Biden's election. To these ilk, elections are meaningless, at the national and now local town levels, unless they are in charge.

That Marlborough and Hebron elected nearly clean slates of Republicans to oversee their towns, I say good luck to you all. Likely their boards will not have to endure loud and aggressive Democrats showing up at their meetings, spewing vitriol or spreading rumors. Well, one of your own, Colin McNamara, did invite the public to show up with "passion" and discuss "uncomfortable topics", so maybe you will get a taste of it.

You learn a lot about modern day Republicans by their flags: "F—k Biden," "Don't Tread On Me," "Rambo Trump" shirtless with machine gun. They now come armed and ready to shoot those that dare challenge them. Like jogger Ahmaud Arbery or Kyle Rittenhouse's three victims.

Edmund Smith – Andover

It's Time

To the Editor:

I am writing in favor of the proposed senior center!

I am going to vote 'yes' on Nov. 16 and honestly you should too!! The seniors/all members of this community will benefit from a new center! I was at the referendum meeting Thursday night and listened to all who spoke passionately about this and I wish more people were in attendance!

Senior centers serve as a gateway to the nation's aging network – connecting older adults to vital community services that can help them stay healthy and independent! Which will keep us around for many more years to enjoy the senior center and to be able to financially contribute!

Every one of us has someone older or elderly that we care about so let's get out and vote 'yes' on Nov. 16!

Catherine Ryan – Colchester
Private Citizen and Senior

What Are You Thinking?

Dear Editor:

I would like to ask the collective townspeople of Colchester: What are you thinking? We had a strong and capable leader through one of the town's most trying times in the history of Colchester. She ushered us safely through unprecedented restrictions and health concerns, while keeping us informed and aware of the social services available. It's difficult to fathom why, after the laughable campaign and poor CBA debate performance by her opponent.

Instead Colchester was plastered with signs. Signs everywhere with no platform other than making Colchester Great Again. Yes, there are uncanny similarities with a social studies teacher and a grifter millionaire. They both stoked sexism, racism, and the trusty battle cry of the GOP: Empty Promises.

This cretin has offered every town sports league new field, lights, turf, etc., with ARPA funds – to buy votes. He blatantly advertises \$100 gift card bribes to homeowners with the same funds, promised the senior center to be built with those same funds, and to ensure Memorial Day is celebrated with no excuses. I'm not sure how else one can interpret a mailer going to homes promising to rescind a proclamation on ending racism in Colchester. He sent the entire town a spam text with a video of a Ghostbuster supporting him the weekend before the election.

This is at minimum laughable, nonsense, and at most very concerning. He proved he couldn't match Mary intellectually at the CBA debate, so he ran ads without talking – just showing a (I kid you not) him driving a DeLorean to town hall a la *Back to the Future*.

What have you done?

Respectfully,
Sarah Butterfield – Colchester

Thanks for Contributions

To the Editor:

Thank you to the many generous voters at the Bacon Academy polling location. Because of your support on Election Day, student volunteers successfully raised funds for Project Graduation. The mission of Project Graduation is to provide safe and healthy graduation events for all graduating seniors at Bacon Academy. Thank you for your contributions!

Susan Curry – Colchester

Thank You! Thank You!

To the Registered Voters of Colchester:

I, Karen Godbout, would like to thank each and every one of you for taking time to vote for me to join the Board of Assessment Appeals team.

Each vote is precious and whether you came to the polls or sent in your absentee ballot, I consider it a privilege to serve. Our team is very excited and couldn't be more pleased with the outcome of this election cycle.

Thanks again,
Karen Godbout, Member-Elect
Colchester Board of Education

CT Senate Democrats Cartoon

To the Editor:

On Thursday, Oct. 21, the official Twitter account of Connecticut Senate Democrats shared a cartoon comparing parents angry with their school board to horror movie villains. The cartoon depicts a woman encountering a group of famous horror movie killers like Pennywise the Dancing Clown, Freddy Krueger and Jason Voorhees, asking them, "Going trick-or-treating?" They reply, "Going to a school board meeting." You may find this at: <https://www.foxnews.com/media/connecticut-democrats-share-cartoon-comparing-parents-angry-at-school-boards-to-horror-villains>.

The following day, finding it hard to believe that Connecticut Senate Democrats would publish such a disgraceful attack on parents' rights to speak out about their children's education, I attempted to contact Norm Needleman, my state senator. I filled out a form on his website, described my concern and requested a response. Not having received a response of any kind, on Oct. 29, I again attempted to contact Mr. Needleman by again filling out the form on his website and requesting a response.

As of this writing, I have not had any response from Mr. Needleman. I can only conclude that this disgusting cartoon was indeed authorized by Connecticut Senate Democrats and that Mr. Needleman sees no need to explain or apologize to his constituents. Hopefully, his constituents will remember when he comes up for reelection.

Douglas Sargent – Portland

Unbalanced Story

To the Editor:

Mr. Jack Lakowsky wrote an article for Rivereast "Efficacy of Lake Treatments in Doubt".

Unfortunately, balanced reporting is not apparent. Mr. Lakowsky extensively quotes Ms. Kenyon as the "contractor studying Lake Pocotopaug" yet fails to present any information or views from Mr. John Tucci, owner of EverBlue Lakes. Mr. Lakowsky mentioned the costs associated with the aeration and BioBlast, yet fails to point out Ms. Kenyon continues to enjoy an annual \$35,000 per year fee, collected yearly from the town for the last 7+ years.

While Ms. Kenyon has been "studying" the lake for the last seven years, the lake has continued to suffer due to a lack of concrete action on her part. Mr. Tucci, based on his experience, brought a concrete plan of action that the Town Council, Lake Commission and homeowners agreed to and 2020 resulted in a remarkable positive impact in water quality.

Unfortunately, Ms. Kenyon is on record as opposing aeration, continues to deride the aeration and BioBlast as ineffective, and attempts to lay blame for the increased algae blooms on EverBlue. Most recently at the 10/26 Town Hall meeting, Ms. Kenyon dismissed the Lake Commission members as an inexperienced group that needed to be "trained."

Ms. Kenyon continues to offer generic solutions to the lake's problems, and advocates "dealing with the watershed first," despite the Lake Commission's two-part strategy of both preventive (watershed) and remediation (aeration). With all the supposed expertise that Ms. Kenyon claims to possess, it would seem that she should be working harder and cooperatively to find solutions, rather than casting dispersion on experienced group(s) who are actively seeking and offering detailed solutions.

When Town Council member Reich asked if the work had actually done harm to the lake, Ms. Kenyon said "she didn't know..." Keep "studying" ... that seems to help.

Bob Yenker – East Hampton

Sincere Appreciation

To the Residents of Portland:

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your vote, allowing me to serve Portland on the Board of Education. I would also like to extend my gratitude and respect for all candidates who ran for an elected position. I think the high voter turnout last Tuesday was indicative of the high caliber of candidates eager to serve our town. I will be new to the board and I cannot promise I will never make a mistake. I hold your trust in the highest regard and I will do my best to be well prepared and thoughtful with each decision. Each challenge faced brings an opportunity for learning and growth.

I am confident that by working together, we can maximize student outcomes, support our teachers and staff, and ensure our facilities meet our needs for the future. I promise to approach the work ahead from a place of curiosity, respect and collaboration.

Sincerely,
Stacey Benham, Member-Elect
Portland Board of Education

Thank You Portland

To the Editor:

I would like to sincerely thank the voters of Portland for the trust that you placed in me and my team on Election Day. We are humbled by your support. This past election could not have been more of a team effort, and I would like to thank everyone that played a role in our success. I would also like to thank Jim Tripp and his team for running a great campaign. With the election now behind us it's time to come together as a community as we all work to move Portland forward.

On Nov. 16, I will be sworn in as Portland's next first selectman and I cannot wait to get to work on your behalf.

Ryan J. Curley – Portland

New Center is Vital

To the Editor:

As a resident of Colchester for 16 years, I became familiar with the senior center programs about five years ago. I have participated in several programs and taken advantage of the many services that are provided.

Earlier this year, I was able to receive the COVID-19 vaccine at clinics that were coordinated by the center staff. The clinics were very well organized and over 200 individuals were

See Letters, page 27

Regional • Regional

Standout Athletes of the Week

Here are the Rivereast Standout Athletes of the Week for the week of Nov. 1-7.

Shawn Laverty: Portland High School (Cross Country): Laverty just finished up an incredible season on the cross country trail. The senior placed second at the Shoreline Conference (SLC) championships as the Highlanders placed second overall as a team at the SLC finals on Oct. 23.

"It was a pretty unreal feeling," Laverty said. "I went into the race knowing I could do well and be up in the front. I was only aiming for the top 10, so coming in second was pretty shocking. I definitely exceeded my own expectations, as did our team placing. I knew that our team was a strong competitor in the Shoreline this year. With Portland being one of the smallest schools in the conference, I'd say that being the runner-up team this year was one of our most impressive showings. I'm proud of my team for

sticking through the toughness of the race and being able to show up with the same energy that has carried us to our other victories this season."

The senior went on to place 10th overall at the Class S championships at Wickham Park in Manchester, improving her time from the conference finals, running a 21:49. Laverty capped her high school cross country career by running a personal-best 21:04 at the State Open at Wickham Park last Friday, Nov. 5.

"This season has been incredible," Laverty added, "When I first started cross country, I would've never dreamed of being where I am with running today. My freshman year, I didn't make the varsity team that competed at states and even just last year, I narrowly missed making the All-Shoreline second team. Now, I'm an All-State athlete and was able to compete at the State Open with the best of the best."

"My accomplishments surely haven't been handed to me, and there's been a lot of time,

sweat, and tears that have gone into my training," Laverty continued. "But throughout the whole process, my team, family, and coaches always had my back. My junior and senior year, I began to realize the importance of the team aspect of cross country. I stopped counting the seconds on my time, and instead started counting the number of points I would score. Each race I went to the line knowing that I had a talented group of girls behind me, and I wasn't going to let them down. The bonds, memories, and experiences that cross country has brought me have been invaluable, and I'd say that being a part of such an amazing program has been more rewarding than anything I've done on my own."

Kaylee Gravel: East Hampton High School (Cross Country): Gravel finished in second place at the Class S state championships, running a 20:22 at Wickham Park on Nov. 1. Gravel finished just moments behind winner Chloe Poula of Woodland and led a group of Bell-

ringer runners that placed second overall as a team. Kaitlyn Ireland (10th), Savannah Garcia (12th), Annin Daley (18th), Camryn Sprague (19th), Madison Gay (53rd) rounded out the East Hampton squad.

Lauren Feige: RHAM High School (Volleyball): Feige dished out 30 assists (averaging over 10 assists per set) in a sweep of New Britain in the opening round of the Central Connecticut Conference tournament last Monday, Nov. 1. The following day, the junior setter then had a season-high 46 assists in a five-set loss to Simsbury in the second round.

Skylar Gustavsen: Bacon Academy (Soccer): Gustavsen was named an Eastern Connecticut Conference all-star after wrapping up an incredible regular season. The senior was a main scoring threat for the Bobcats, registering multiple goals in several games this season, including a 5-goal explosion in an 8-0 win over New London last month.

Volunteers Sought for Tax-Aide Program

For many years, the senior centers in Colchester, Hebron, Marlborough, Columbia, East Hampton and East Haddam have hosted the AARP Tax-Aide Program, which provides free income tax preparation services for residents of these towns and surrounding communities.

Organizers of the program are looking for people to join the Tax-Aide volunteer team. You don't need to be an accountant or tax professional; volunteers come from a variety of backgrounds. Training and support are provided.

To volunteer, go to aarpfoundation.org/taxaidevolunteer or call 1-888-AARP-NOW (888-227-7669). If you'd like additional information before signing up, call your local senior center to be connected with a local Tax-Aide volunteer.

♦ Happenings ♦

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Beach Day... Seventeen seniors joined headed down to Madison on a beautiful Thursday morning recently. Waverly Senior Center administrator Lynn Tracey led a walk and talk while others shared stories and reminisced about their favorite memories along the shoreline. After photos were taken on the beach, the seniors had lunch at Lenny and Joe's in Clinton.



Pictured are the Knights of Columbus Soccer Eastern Regional Challenge winners. For the boys, Jude Matterfis, 9, of Portland; Daniel Peterson, 10, of East Hampton; Chad Gatto, 11, of Portland; and Ryan McGrew, 13, of Portland. For the girls, Alivia Peterson, 11, of East Hampton.

Soccer Regional Winners

The Freestone Council 7 Knights of Columbus held its annual youth Soccer Challenge Sept. 11 at the new Portland Recreational Complex. Top finishers were Jude Matterfis, age 9; Andrew Fischer, 10; Lucas Bolstridge, 11; Mason Fournier, 12; and Ryan McGrew, 13.

On Oct. 9, the Knights' regional round, sponsored by the Belltown Council 6190, took place at East Hampton Middle School. Three Portland top scorers from this event, Jude Matterfis,

Chad Gatto and Ryan McGrew, along with two East Hampton winners, Daniel Peterson and Alivia Peterson, are advancing to the state finals being held In Wallingford later this month.

The Soccer Challenge is a place-kicking competition open to all players, both girls and boys, from ages 9 to 14. The event is sponsored by Knights of Columbus local councils throughout the country.



Joshua Abbott of Portland is once again collecting donations to help place wreaths on veterans' graves at the annual Wreaths Across America ceremony in November.

Local Teen Celebrates Wreaths Across America

Wreaths Across America was formed in 2007 as an annual tradition to lay wreaths on veterans' graves during the Christmas holiday throughout the United States. Joshua Abbott, 13, of Portland, son of Al and Heidi Abbott, has taken this mission to heart and has been participating in it since 2015.

Joshua is asking for residents to help with the fundraiser. He has created an official Wreaths Across America fundraising site on Facebook called Joshua's Mission, and folks can sponsor a wreath to be placed at the State Veterans Cemetery in Middletown on the National Wreath-Laying Day, Saturday, Dec. 18.

Wreaths can be purchased for \$15 each, or if you sponsor two for \$30 you get the third one free. You can purchase online or by mailing a check, made out to Wreaths Across America, to: Joshua's Mission, 50 Fairview St., Portland, CT 06480. Deadline is Nov. 27.

Used Book Sale at Library

The Friends of Portland Library group has puzzles and DVDs as well as fiction, romance, teen and children's used books in the Second-Hand Prose Bookshop at the library, 20 Freestone Ave., during regular library hours. Books are 50 cents for paperbacks and children's books, \$1 for trade paperbacks and \$2 for hardcover. DVDs are 50 cents each disc and puzzles are \$2 unless marked otherwise.

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

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

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

Thanksgiving Meal Baskets Available

Chatham Children's Connection, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in Portland whose mission is to provide all youth within the community the opportunity to participate in positive and family fun events at no cost, is sponsoring its second annual Thanksgiving basket drive.

A limited number of baskets are still available for families in need within Portland, on a first-come, first-served basis. To sign up for a basket, email agraves@chathamcc.org.

Also, the organization is currently accepting monetary donations to help it to serve as many families as possible. To donate, send a check to: Chatham Children's Connection, P.O. Box 462, Portland, CT 06480. Venmo payments can be accepted at Chatham_CC.

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Highlanders Deal Panthers First Loss

by Josh Howard

Sometimes revenge is a dish best served in a tournament.

Portland girls' soccer had two chances at revenge in the recent Shoreline Conference (SLC) tourney and capitalized on both opportunities.

The Highlanders defeated Cromwell 1-0 at Cromwell High School last Monday (Nov. 1) in the semifinals of the SLC, handing the Panthers their first loss of the season and avenging a 1-0 loss at Portland High on Oct. 14.

Sophomore Camryn DiMauro hammered home the game's only goal after receiving a perfectly placed pass from senior Kendra Scheps to break a scoreless tie in the 76th minute, sending the Highlanders to the SLC championship game.

It was a duplicate feat for DiMauro's, who also tallied the game winning goal in the opening round of the conference tourney.

"She had the game-winner against Coginchaug a couple of days ago, so it's her second game-winner in the last couple of days," Portland head coach Joseph Santavenere said. "She got in the right position and it was a great cross from Kendra and she just buried it. It was an unbelievable goal."

Cromwell entered the game without a loss, finishing the regular season 10-0-6. The tournament defeat was a new experience for the young Panthers.

"Our problem is finishing. We struggle to finish and in games like this that hurts because one mistake can cost us the game," said Cromwell head coach Marcelo Caetano.

Caetano received another incredible performance from his keeper, Lily Kenney, who made 13 saves. Prior to the Portland game, Kenney had shutout a dozen opponents this fall.

"Lily can only make so many saves and our defense can only hold for so long. Credit to #2 [DiMauro]; she was the best player on the field outside of our goalie and she made us pay," added Caetano.

Caetano further praised his keeper, saying, "Lily is a fantastic athlete and great kid. She's a

Portland Library News & Notes

Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave., is open, with no appointments needed. Wireless is available. Registration required for the following programs unless noted. Masks required for those over the age of 2. For more info and full program descriptions, visit www.portlandlibraryct.org or call 860-342-6770. The library is also on Facebook and Instagram.

Hours: Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The library is closing for Thanksgiving on Wednesday, Nov. 24, at 5 p.m., and it will be closed Thursday, Nov. 25, and Friday, Nov. 26. The library will reopen on Saturday, Nov. 27, for normal hours.

Curbside Delivery of requested items continues; call the library, or reserve items online and you will receive a notice or call when your materials are available.

Youth Programs: Winter Online Storytimes: A take-home craft will be available each week for anyone interested. Registration required. A Zoom link will be sent each week in advance of the program. **Preschool Storytime**, for ages 3-5, will be Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. through Dec. 21; no session Nov. 23. **Toddlers and Tots**, for ages 0-2, will be Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. through Dec. 22; no session Nov. 24.

Happy Di-November: Kids can visit the library or tune into the library website and social media channels all month to see what mischief and mayhem the library's newly-hatched dinosaurs have been up to each week. Also all month, there will be prehistoric crafts, activities and a scavenger hunt. Ask at the reference desk for information on the local dinosaur fossils that can be found at the library and get your picture taken with some life-size dinosaur cutouts.

Concert to Benefit Food Bank

Trinity Episcopal Church, located at 345 Main St., will host a "Vital Connections Through Music" concert Sunday, Nov. 21, at 4 p.m., to benefit Portland Food Bank.

New York singer-songwriter Sarah Browne will perform. Browne uses her music to spread awareness about Friedreich's Ataxia, a rare genetic disease that took the life of her cousin.

Suggested donation is \$15. The church is handicapped-accessible. All COVID-19 guidelines will be followed. Call 860-342-0458 for more information, or email trinitychurchportland@gmail.com.

gamer and once the game starts she turns it on."

Santavenere also called Kenney "outstanding" and credited the opposing goalie with keeping her cool after making a pair of crucial saves in the second half; stopping a direct penalty kick from Kendall Prince and sliding to stop a close range shot from Mia Quesnel.

A defensive breakdown allowed the Highlanders to squeeze a rare goal by Kenney and on the other side of the field Portland's senior goalie Hannah Brunk sent back every shot that came her way.

"We knew they like to play a kick and go game because they have fast forwards and strikers, so we knew going into it we had to be really strong defensively and then if we got that lead we dropped more people back to shut them down," stated Brunk. "We didn't want another overtime game."

Brunk also faced pressure in the second half, particularly over the final three minutes when Cromwell tried desperately to get the equalizer. However, Brunk and a defensive unit led by senior captain Giuliana Discenza stymied every attempt.

"Heading into [the tournament] the two teams we lost two in conference were Coginchaug and Cromwell, so this week was lined up perfectly," added Brunk, referring to back-to-back losses in mid-October, "We just wanted it. Like our team said 'we beat them when it counted'."

Santavenere said the regular season conference losses motivated his squad, "It was a tough week but they didn't get down. They are playing really hard and leaving it all on the field. They've come along the last couple games; it's been a team effort. I'm proud of the whole team."

The Highlanders advanced to the SLC championship where they would fall to Morgan 2-1 on Nov. 5. The team's season came to an end in the first round of the Class S finals, losing to Coventry 2-1 on penalty kicks on Nov. 8.

For Cromwell, it's a team blended with youth and experience, led by senior captains Bella Barber, Amira Abdelghany, Erin Sokolowski



Portland's #8 Lillian Carroll competes with Cromwell's #7 Alyssa Bonelli for the ball during the Shoreline Conference semifinals. The Highlanders would win 1-0 at CHS.

and Devon Riggio (who was injured for the Portland game).

Caetano said the team has their sights set on bigger accomplishments, "This loss will hopefully meld us and since our youth is the base of our team they needed this. It might be premature to say this, but what happens the rest of the

year should help us the next two or three years."

The Panthers shook off the conference loss to Portland and won their opening round Class M game, defeating Wolcott 3-0 on Nov. 8. Liv Lustiani, Audrey Dana, and Cameryn Hickey each scored in the Panthers tourney victory.

Second-Hand Prose Book Shop

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

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

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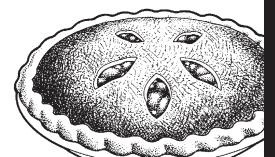
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Senior Center News & Notes

The Waverly Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave., is open Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., and Friday, 8 a.m.-noon. For more information or to register, call 860-342-6760.

Collections Sought: If you have a small collection you'd like to display in the secured showcase at the center, call the office to be placed on the list.

Wii Bowling: Check the monthly calendar for specific days and time.

Qigong Lunch & Learn with Lisa Gibson: Tuesday, Nov. 16, 11:45 a.m. Suggested donation is \$5 for the lunch. There will also be a Zoom session that day at 6 p.m., which you may watch from the center if you do not have Zoom.

Free Live Music – Jam Session: Tuesdays, Nov. 16 and 30, beginning at 6:45 p.m.

Third Thursdays: Starts Nov. 18. Every third Thursday of the month will be an "open" performance for any artist who would like to play a tune or share poetry or a dance routine. On Nov. 18, the center will offer a Thankful Light Dinner option for \$5. If you choose not to eat, the music fee is \$2 to listen.

Tech-Talk with Kevin: Friday, Nov. 19, 10:15 a.m. Learn about internet safety and avoiding the scammers.

Van Trips: On Friday, Nov. 19, there will be a nature and birding walk, departing the center at 9 a.m. Sign up whether you are driving yourself or using the van. The parking area is located at 69 Smith St. in East Hampton. Bring water and a walking stick if you have one.

The van will also travel to Chester to Market

Youth Soccer Recap

Two of the Portland Soccer Club teams were in action the weekend of Oct. 30-31. Here is how they fared:

Portland Earthquake U9: Lost 3-1 to Canton. Benjamin Martinez's first half goal came off an assist from Sean Fitzgibbons. Zack Anderson had a solid showing in goal. The team has one more league game and a few friendlies finish off the 2021 season.

Red Crush U11: Lost an away game to Hartford 8-3, played on a field that had all the players slipping and sliding to keep their feet. Both teams scored a goal in the first two minutes of action, but 6 unanswered Hartford goals in the next 15 minutes had the Red Crush in a deep hole. After the teams switched sides at the half, the Red Crush capitalized on having the better portion of the field to control play and maintain pressure in their offensive half. Tyler Fournier's second goal of the game on a powerful shot and Luke Lawrence's consistent pressure in the box that forced a Hartford own goal ensured a competitive final 30 minutes of action. Cooper Vardon's goal-keeping proved to be a difference maker in the second-half, while Logan Desmarais' defensive presence and Mason Richey's speed and energy helped the Red Crush neutralize Hartford's counterattacks to hold them to one second-half goal.

COVID-19 Booster Shot Clinic

Chatham Health will hold a COVID-19 Moderna and Johnson & Johnson booster shot clinic at the Waverly Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave., on Wednesday, Nov. 17, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

The clinic is for ages 65+ and those 18-64 years of age who are at high risk of severe COVID-19. Call 860-342-6760 to schedule your time slot. Bring your vaccination card to the clinic.

Preseason Basketball Clinic for Grades 4-6

Current Portland High School senior Jake Thompson and some other varsity members of the PHS basketball team will hold a pre-season basketball clinic next week for boys in Grades 4, 5 and 6.

Whether you're a Portland Travel player or do Parks & Recreation, you're invited. The clinic for grades 4 and 5 will be held at Portland Middle School Tuesday, Nov. 16, from 6:30-8 p.m., and grade 6 will be Wednesday, Nov. 17, also from 6:30-8 p.m.

There's a per player suggested donation of \$10, and 100% of all proceeds will be donated to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation as part of Thompson's capstone project for school. Cash will be accepted at the door; however, Thompson has also created a fundraising page with JDRF and donations can be made there which are tax-deductible. For online donations, go to www2.jdrf.org and then search for "Jake's Portland Jr. Highlander Hoop Fest."

37 for lunch on Thursday, Nov. 18, departing the center at 11:15 a.m. Transportation fee is \$5. Registration required.

Weekly Schedule: Mondays: Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; Bingo, 1-3 p.m.; **Tuesdays:** Bears on a Journey, 9:30-11 a.m. – making fleece teddy bears for cancer patients; Watercolor Lessons: 9:30 a.m.-noon – email bivenne@yahoo.com to register; Coupons for Troops, 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m. – cutting coupons for local military families; Stretch & Flex: 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. – seated exercise using small hand weights; setback, 1-3 p.m.; **Wednesdays:** Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; SyncCize Exercise, 10:15-11 a.m.; line and ballroom dance lessons, 10:30 a.m.; Social Duplicate Bridge, 12:30-4 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month; **Thursdays:** Knit & Stitch, 10-11:30 a.m.; Mahjongg, 12:30-4 p.m.; Scrabble, 1-4 p.m.; **Fridays:** Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Medical Rides: The center provides seniors and disabled with rides to the doctor. Cost is \$5/person round trip. Two-week notice requested. Masks required.

Crafting with Tracy: Monday, Nov. 22, 10 a.m. Learn to make a holiday craft. Registration required.

Foot Care: Tuesday, Nov. 23. Fee is \$35, cash or check. Call the center for an appointment.

Free Hearing Screening: Tuesday, Dec. 14, 11 a.m., with Virginia Duclos of All Ears in Portland. No registration necessary.

Cans-4-A-Cause: Drop off washed cans and bottles in a bin in the rear parking lot of the center. For details or to volunteer, email Jeff Myjak at jmyjakjeff@gmail.com.

Valley View Preschool Screening

Valley View School in Portland will conduct a preschool screening Friday, Nov. 19, to identify children ages 3-4 years who are eligible to receive special education services.

During the screening, children will meet with members of Valley View's preschool team and participate in a variety of activities. These activities assess different developmental areas including cognition, communication, fine and gross motor skills and social interaction. During this time, the parent/caregiver will meet with another member of the team to discuss the child's adaptive and personal social skills. Following the screening, parents/caregivers will receive a letter stating the child's results.

In order for a child to attend Valley View's preschool program, they must participate in the screening process. Peer role models are determined on a year-to-year basis.

For more information and to schedule an appointment, call Valley View at 860-342-3131.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

All are invited to an in-person Thanksgiving service Sunday, Nov. 21, at 7 p.m., at First Congregational Church, 554 Main St. Masks are required.

The church will uplift the work of the Portland Refugee Resettlement Committee. Worshippers are asked to bring nonperishable food items for the Portland Food Bank. More information will be forthcoming about the service.

Knights Collecting Coats

The Freestone Council 7 Knights of Columbus is once again collecting new winter coats for kids, as well as used adult coats to be donated to the Portland Food Bank.

For Coats for Kids, Mark Creighton, Grand Knight of local Council 7, announced the council will, for the eighth consecutive year, match dollar for dollar, up to \$500, cash contributions made to the program.

The contribution of funds is made possible from the proceeds of the recently-held Knights of Columbus Car Show. A special monetary donation box will be set up in the Day Chapel/Cry Room at the Church of Saint Mary for the "Coats for Kids" Fund Drive. Donations for New Coats for Kids can also be sent to K of C Council 7, Box 7, Portland, CT 06480

Also, the Knights are sponsoring their Adult Used Coat Collection. Ruth Maio, director of Portland Food Bank, has requested the local Knights once again sponsor this coat drive. Creighton said the Knights are looking for "winter coats, hats, gloves and scarves for adults. Portland is a town with a heart."

Donations of used adult coats can be placed in a large receptacle in the Chapel/Cry Room at the Church of Saint Mary, 45 Freestone Ave.

Parks and Rec. News & Notes

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

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

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

Art Enrichment Programs with Abrakadoodle: The next wave of programs begin the week of Nov. 22. Check the Parks and Rec. website for details. There will be programs

for three different age groups: 20-36 months, Ages 3-5, and ages 5-14.

Volunteer Coaches Needed: Parks and Rec. is currently looking for volunteer coaches for the upcoming basketball season. Contact the Parks and Rec. office if interested, by emailing infoley@portlandct.org, adionne@portlandct.org or calling 860-342-6757.

Recreation Basketball: Check the Parks and Rec. website for information on the upcoming Rec. Basketball program.

Adult Drop-In Volleyball: Wednesday evenings at Gildersleeve School, 565 Main St. Competitive Play is 5-6:30 p.m., and Non-Competitive Play is 6:30-8 p.m. Participants may enter the building through the side doors nearest to the gym; a sign should be posted. Create an account at portland.recdesk.com to receive program information via email blast. Note: All participants are required to wear masks during play.

Zumba: Wednesdays through Dec. 22 (started Oct. 27; no class Nov. 24), 6-7 p.m., at Valley View School gym. Fee: \$64 for the eight-week session/\$10 drop-in.

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

Turkey Shoots

Portland Fish and Game Club will hold its annual Turkey Shoots Sundays, Nov. 14 and 21, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., right across from the Exchange Club Fairgrounds.

There is a Super bird every week. The cost is \$3 for one shot or two for \$5. Food and drink will be available.

Vocal Chords Holiday Concert

The Portland-based Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords will present its annual holiday concert, "Joy to the World," on Sunday, Dec. 12, at 2 p.m., at Portland High School, 95 High St.

The 80-member chorus and six-piece band will perform such holiday classics as "The Little Drummer Boy," "O Holy Night" and, of course, "Joy to the World." For the classical lovers in the audience, the Vocal Chords will sing selections from Vivaldi's "Gloria" and Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus." This year, the Chords will be joined by Portland High School's Advanced Choir, under the direction of Samuel Tucker.

Tickets \$20 and can be purchased from any member or by calling Joyce at 860-342-3120 or Diane at 860-347-2787. For more information, go to vocalchords20.org or look for the group on Facebook.

Trinity Episcopal Church News

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

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

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

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

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

Grace and Mercy Church News

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

First Congregational Church News

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

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

Nov. 14 is Generosity Sunday, when the church will dedicate the stewardship pledges for the coming year. The stewardship theme is "300 Years of Growing, Giving and Serving." The Rev. Jane Hawken's sermon is titled, "Like a Tree." Under Kasha Breau's direction, the choir will sing "Like a Tree Beside the Waters" by James F.D. Martin and Roy Hopp.

First Congregational Church of Portland is a member of the United Church of Christ, and is an open and affirming congregation, welcoming everyone.

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

Colchester • Colchester



Think Pink... The Bacon Academy girls' soccer team recently held a pink sock fundraiser for breast cancer awareness and to raise money for the "Sandy Peszynski Breast Cancer Foundation. To show their support, they wore pink socks to every game in the month of October. The girls in their socks are shown here.

Trip to See Jesus Christ Superstar

Colchester Senior Center members and their adult guests will see the musical *Jesus Christ Superstar* at the Thomaston Opera House Sunday, April 3, 2022. There will be a pre-show lunch at the Black Rock Tavern and a reserved orchestra seat for the show.

Cost is \$107/person, payable by cash or check to the Colchester Senior Center on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration is required and can be done by visiting the senior center.

Call 860-537-3911 for more information.

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.

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.

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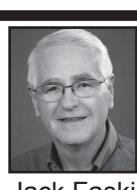
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Running for Kyle... Over 150 runners braved the rain on Saturday, Oct. 30, to run in the Kyle's Smile 5K in Colchester. The race was in honor of Kyle Ashley, who passed away in 2018 from osteosarcoma at the age of 7. Proceeds from the race will be used to help purchase new playground equipment and a memorial at the RecPlex in Kyle's memory.

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.; 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.

Senior Center Trip to NYC

All can join the Colchester Senior Center Monday, May 9, 2022, for a day trip to New York City.

Bus departs at 7 a.m. Start your day at the 9/11 Museum, which serves as the country's principal institution concerned with the events of Sept. 11, 2001. You will have time to view both the museum and the twin reflecting pools. Spend some time in the afternoon at Chelsea Market for lunch on your own. Ascend to the top of the World Trade Center.

Return in Colchester will be approximately 9:15 p.m. Cost is \$130/person, payable by cash or check to the Colchester Senior Center. Registration is required and on a first-come, first-served basis, and can be done by visiting the senior center. Call the senior center office at 860-537-3911 for more information.

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*. 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: See and hear the Boston Pops on Old Cape Cod, cruise Hyannis Harbor and visit the 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. Price starts at \$2,999, and includes air transportation to Copenhagen. 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.

Physical Therapy Helps...

by Kirsti Stennett, P.T.



AQUATIC THERAPY TO PREVENT INJURY

Aquatic therapy, sometimes referred to as hydrotherapy, is often used to treat injuries sustained from athletics, accidents or after orthopedic surgeries. Water exercises can also be used to prevent injury by strengthening the body against the turbulence of the water. Whether you are an athlete or just a very active person, if your performance of daily activities and circumstances leave you vulnerable to injuries, water therapy sessions can help you avoid injury, improving your muscle strength and joint elasticity. Repetitive weight bearing motions from athletic endeavors can wear down joints. The use of aquatic therapy, even for young players, can help reduce overuse injuries. Aquatics can offer a low impact option for repetitive lower extremity training and yield better results in recovering from intense work outs.

Patients recovering from injury, trauma or surgery, who need to restore mobility and strength may have difficulty overcoming the forces of gravity. Despite the best attempts to "unload" the affected joints, ligaments, muscles or discs of the body with land-based rehabilitation exercises, (even in recumbent positions, graded tilt table type of activities) some patients can't quite tolerate the stresses imposed in land-based regimens. For those patient-clients, aquatic therapy can be a helpful modality to remobilize and restrengthen the body. Remember, you have the right to choose where you receive care, where it is convenient and the most comprehensive. ECRC-Physical Therapy "Experience you can trust to get results."

P.S. ECRC Physical Therapy runs their Aquatic Therapy Program at Bubbles to Butterfly Aquatic Center in Occum led by Penny Allyn, PT. For over 25 years Penny has led individuals in restoring their health using her expertise to guide patients to use water exercise to restore their health.

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RE11-12-21

Colchester • Colchester

Bylone Holds Final 'Community Conversation' with Seniors

by Diane Church

Monday morning, outgoing First Selectman Mary Bylone held her final Community Conversation at the Colchester Senior Center Monday morning – but it won't be her last visit.

Bylone, who lost her reelection bid to Republican Andreas Bisbikos last week, said she plans to visit the center often, since she herself is a senior citizen.

"Now that I'm retired again, I can come in and participate in some programs," she said.

Bylone brought her large black Newfoundland, Stitch, with her, as she often does on her visits to the center. The dog is a therapy dog, so it sat quietly as the seniors gathered around to pet the patient pooch.

Bylone gave seniors an update on various projects in town, starting with the improvements on the Town Green.

"We got a \$394,000 state grant a few years ago," she said. "The Historic District Commission has helped plan the improvements. The gazebo is in bad shape so it will be repaired. We will have underground wiring which will provide power for vendors at events on the green without those little posts that get run over."

Plans include an improved walking path, benches and lighting. Bylone said the idea was to cover the path with a smooth surface that would make it easier for walkers and wheelchairs, but the commission was against it, so it will remain as is.

The improvements are scheduled to start in the spring.

Powder Puff Game Monday

All are invited to watch the Bacon Academy senior girls and junior girls battle it out in the annual Powder Puff football game. The game will take place on Monday, Nov. 15, at 6 p.m., at the Cougar Field, under the lights. Cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students.

The concessions stand will be open.

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Tuesday 7:00 - 3:30

Wednesday 7:00 - 5:00

CLOSED Thanksgiving Day & Friday

Saturday 7:00 - 3:30

Sunday 7:00 - 1:00

Happy Thanksgiving!

Sidewalks are also on the way for Lebanon Avenue.

"A lot of people who live at North Woods (a large retirement community for active adults age 55 and up) have said they like to walk from home to downtown, so we are putting in sidewalks," Bylone said. The sidewalk will also connect to the Rail Trail spur that starts at the former train station. Curbs will be lower at the crosswalks for those who use wheelchairs and walkers.

That is also expected to start in the spring.

Things are also moving along for the former Jack's Chevrolet. The abandoned car dealership, long considered an eyesore, has been cleaned up, Bylone said. Rick Sharr, his wife and Bob Gagnon, who own the building, paid to dig out and remove contaminated soil from decades of oil changes and other work. The water has been tested and is clean. The building may be reused or it could be torn down.

The former Tony's Junkyard near the transfer station was also cleaned up. A developer, who

Sing-Along Christmas Concert

The St. Andrew Choir will present a one-hour "Christmas Sing-Along" concert at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester, on Sunday, Dec. 5 (snow date: Sunday, Dec. 12), at noon.

The concert is free but seating is limited; only 300 tickets available. Current COVID-19 protocols will be in place, as per the Chatham Health District. Hot cocoa and Christmas treats will be sold after the concert to benefit Cub Scout Pack 13. Canned/boxed food items for the local food bank will also be accepted.

For tickets, contact Terry Phillips at 860-608-0130. Tickets will also be available after all Masses on Nov. 20/21 and 27/28, as long as tickets are available.

Check the church website for updates and weather delay information, at www.guardianangelsparishofcolchester.org.

Bylone said she didn't want to name, had all the old rusted cars and trailers removed. A 240,000-sq. ft. indoor marijuana growing facility has been proposed for the site but the Planning and Zoning Commission has not approved it yet.

"There are a few of these already in Connecticut," Bylone said. "Out West there are a lot more."

There are a couple of other projects that have been discussed. Bylone said she talked to someone who wants to tap the old town landfill, which was closed and capped years ago, to use the methane to power a fuel cell. She also heard that someone is interested in buying the closed Citizens Bank building next to the senior center.

Bylone also reflected on the COVID-19 pandemic that dominated much of her term in office.

"When it started we put together a long-term planning committee," she said. "We found that 75 percent of the people we contacted said it didn't hurt them financially. Their number one concern was mental health."

The senior center was closed for over a year but services were retained when possible. By-

lone did Facebook Live presentations twice a day to stay in touch with her constituents as the pandemic set in.

"I never worked harder," she said. "I never thought I could use my background as a nurse in my role as first selectman. I was able to distill the information out there and present it in a way that people could understand."

Although she did run for a second term, Bylone is now accepting her defeat and said she now believes it is for the best. She said she cut out the *Rivereast* article entitled "Bisbikos Bests Bylone in Colchester" that ran Nov. 5 and hung it on the wall of her office, apparently to remind herself of the downside of politics.

"I didn't do this for me," she told the seniors. "I was retired. I was enjoying my dogs, sipping coffee in the morning, not putting pants on. I did this for you."

And now that it's over, she's done with politics, Bylone said.

"I will never run for political office again," she said. "I loved meeting people, but I didn't like being a politician."

Dot Mrowka Pasta Dinner

All are invited to join the Colchester Democratic Town Committee for its annual pasta dinner in honor of Dorothy Mrowka Sunday, Nov. 14, from 5-7 p.m., at St. Joseph's Polish Society, 395 S. Main St.

This dinner has been renamed Dot's Pasta Dinner in her honor as she began this annual fundraiser many years ago. Our honored guests will include state and federal officials. Tickets are \$20 each and can be purchased either at the door or at colchester-democrats.org under "donations."

Fire Calls

From Oct. 31-Nov. 6, the Colchester Hayward Fire Department responded to 55 calls: 39 emergency medical calls, 13 fire/fire-related calls, and three motor vehicle crashes. Calls included:

Fire: fire alarm, seven; service call, one; electrical fire, one; CO call, one; transformer fire, one; smoke investigation, one.

Crashes: one single-truck rollover and two single-car crashes.

Medical: sick person, four; fall injury, 11; cardiac distress, five; mental disorder, one; difficulty breathing, three; lift assist, one; back pain, one; injured person, three; unconscious, two; stroke, two; abdominal pain, one; medical alarm, one; seizure, one; alcohol disorder, one.

CHFD provided mutual aid twice last week, both to East Haddam, and received it once, from Gardner Lake.

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

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

Sing with a Children's Choir for Christmas

The St. Andrew Young People's Choir and Orchestra invites young people of the community to sing or play an instrument with them on Christmas Eve at the 4 p.m. Mass. Children in grades K-12 are invited, regardless of whether they are members of St Andrew Church.

All rehearsals will be held in the St Andrew Parish Hall, 128 Norwich Ave. Rehearsals are from 5:45-6:45 p.m. the following Wednesdays: Nov. 17, Dec. 1, Dec. 8, Dec. 15 and Dec. 22.

For more information, please contact Colleen Puscas at colleenpuscas@gmail.com or Kerry Filloromo Hochdorfer at jkfilloromo@sbcglobal.net.

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RE11-221

Colchester • Colchester

Goodwill Opens Donation Center in Town

by Diane Church

Those who shop at thrift stores know the joy of finding just the right item, whether they knew they needed it or not, for much less than the retail price.

But to satisfy the many bargain-hunters who pass through their doors, the stores need a steady stream of merchandise. And the people who donate their like new or gently used things need a way to do so quickly and easily. Now Goodwill, a major player in the field of charitable thrift shops, has made donating that much easier for area residents with a donation center.

John Reza is in charge of the donation center, which is located at 176 Linwood Ave., in a small strip mall next to Stop & Shop. He collects the donated items, going right out to the vehicle if necessary to get them, and brings them inside. On one side of the room are large blue bins for clothing, blankets, linens and other fabric items. Books have their own large bin. On the other side are shelves of smaller gray bins for different types of merchandise. Electronics, dishes, plush toys, lamps and all the things people no

longer need but are still in good shape find their way into the correct bins, thanks to Reza.

"Sometimes people come in here who are hurting," he said. "For example, their father died and they have some of his stuff that they want to pass on to someone else and not just throw it away. It helps them heal. That's one of the characteristics of our mission."

Marcus Notz, Reza's supervisor, said there is hardly anything Goodwill won't take. He and Reza recalled that one time, when they were at the donation center in Norwich, a man brought it 100 8-track tapes. A collector came in and bought the entire load, paying \$1 for each.

"Goodwill keeps 14.6 billion tons out of landfills every year," said Notz. He stressed that many benefit from Goodwill: the shopper gets a bargain; the donor knows that they are helping the environment by not throwing their stuff into the landfills – and can also get a receipt and claim a tax deduction; and Goodwill gets money to pay for the things they do that help the community, which now include job training for the mentally challenged and classes in job skills, in-

cluding computer skills, for all job seekers.

"Everybody wins," he said.

When the bins start getting full, a truck takes the items to Norwich, where they are cleaned, repaired if necessary and sent out the Goodwill stores in the region. Notz said items that don't sell after a certain length of time are donated, either to local charities or overseas organizations, or recycled.

Reza, Notz, and Notz's wife Mica, are big-time thrift store fans. They extoll the virtues of "slow fashion." Marcus Notz said that millennials make up the largest percentage of their customers because they are concerned about sus-

tainability. Mica Notz said she sometimes goes out with her daughter on a Saturday and they spend the day going from one Goodwill to another. She also likes to buy books at Goodwill, read them, donate them back and buy more.

Now that there is a donation center in town, could a Goodwill store be far behind? Marcus Notz said it's possible.

"So far the community has been very supportive of us," he said. "If there is enough demand for it, we will consider putting a store in Colchester."

The donation center is open daily from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Youth Football Recap

On Oct. 31, the Colchester Cougars youth football squads played Stafford away and on Nov. 7, they played Enfield at home. Here is how they fared:

D Squad: The squad finished the regular season with a league-best 6-1-1 record, beating Enfield Sunday 12-7. The game was very competitive but the Cougars were able to make adjustments offensively and defensively to overcome Enfield's quick score at the start of the second half. Instead of listing names the Cougars D-Squad would like to say "Family" which has become the team's motto.

C Squad: After a tough loss to Stafford, the Cougars played an astonishing game against the Enfield Ramblers at home. Although the C Squad fell to Enfield 19-15, all would agree that the game certainly made history due to the unstoppable spirit and effort of this incredible team. Returning from injury, Runningback, Karter Bernier led the offense. Quarterback Niko Ibrahim was a force the entire game with multiple carries and an amazing pass play to

Keegan King. King, along with Drew Browning, was also essential for the Cougar defense, keeping the score tight. This small, close-knit team has grown and worked together towards a common goal since July. They are ready to enter the post-season and show all they have learned.

B Squad: Won vs. Stafford, 54-31, and also won vs. Enfield, 35-6. The Cougars' offense was led by the running attack of Edward Gignac, Luke "smash" Sands, Noah Garvie, Dominic Helm and Vinny Arrigoni. On defense, the Cougars were led by Sam Collozo, James Wissler, Jacob Hashem, Chance Markovitz, Cody Obryon and Carter "Hot Sauce" Hebert.

A Squad: Lost to Enfield, 43-14. Brevin Gonzales completed some great passes and carried the ball well for the Cougars. Skyler Jadcak and Tyler McLaughlin made it difficult for Enfield to run up the middle. Josh Cady and Cam Taskey had some good pass breakups on defense.

The week before, against Stafford, Colchester won a close game in the closing minutes, 22-14. Joey Gignac had a pair of touchdown runs. Julian Dean and Skip Coogan led the blocking on the left side. Caden King and Harrison Bilotti had key plays on defense down the stretch which turned into turnovers. Elijah Antil made two kicks for extra points, which put the game out of reach.

Abundant Life Church News & Notes

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

Sunday Services: Sunday School is at 9:30 a.m. and the main service is at 10:30 a.m. There is also Children's Church available for ages 4-11. All are welcome. The main service is also broadcast live each week on Facebook. Visit www.facebook.com/groups/abundantlifeCT or look for the church on Facebook. For more information, call the church.

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

Frosty Firehouse

The Colchester Hayward Fire Company Auxiliary will hold its 45th Frosty Firehouse Craft Fair on Saturday, Nov. 13, from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., at the Main Firehouse, 52 Old Hartford Rd.

There will be the traditional Frosty Kitchen menu, home-baked goods will be offered, and area artisans and crafters will fill the Firehouse Bay area, selling their wares. All are also invited to get a candy cane from Santa starting at 11:30 a.m. and peruse Frosty's Prize Table.

Turkey Table Crafts at Cragin

There will be Turkey Table Crafts at Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave., on Monday, Nov. 15. All ages are invited to drop in at any time that day to make autumnal place cards and decorations.

For more information about current library services, visit www.craginlibrary.org, or call the library at 860-537-5752.

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Auditions Coming for *Young Frankenstein*

production must attend auditions just for the choreographed routine.

Roles are available for adults and teens (grade 9 and above).

For more information, contact Wallis Johnson at 860-267-1023 or Laura Brown at 860-305-8605, or email backstage@colchestercommunitytheatre.com. Driving and rehearsal location directions and additional information regarding the musical may be found on the "Directions" page.

CCT will follow all CDC guidelines during auditions and a proof of vaccination will be required as in alignment with many theater companies. All staff will be vaccinated and masks will be required.

Show dates for this production are Feb. 18, 19 and 20, 2022. Anyone who is unable to attend the auditions on the above dates must contact CCT before Nov. 8 to make other arrangements.

Senior Center Trip to Botanical Gardens

The Colchester Senior Center is offering a trip to the New York Botanical Gardens on Wednesday, April 20, 2022.

The day will start in Little Italy, featuring lunch at Ann & Tony's Restaurant (choose from Chicken Marsala, Veal Parmigiana or Eggplant Parmigiana, with salad, dessert and coffee or tea), then a trip to the gardens, to explore over 50 collections that are located throughout the 250 acres.

Bus will depart at 7 a.m. and return at 8:30 p.m. Cost is \$129/person and space is limited. Reservations must be made in person and are available to members of the Colchester Senior Center on a first-come, first-served basis. Call 860-537-3911 for more information.

Ukrainian Catholic Church News

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

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

Christmas Fair

The Angels and Snowflakes Christmas Fair will be held Saturday, Nov. 13, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., at St. Andrew Church 128 Norwich Ave.

There will be baked goods, handmade items, quilts, Christmas items, gently-used religious items, a raffle, and works by local crafters.

For more information, call Barbara Gozzo at 860-208-4121.



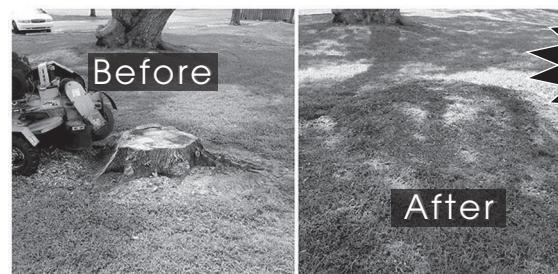
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Senior Center News & Notes

Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave., has announced the following. For full descriptions, call 860-537-3911, email csc@colchesterct.gov, or visit www.colchesterct.gov.senior-center. Items marked with a (Z) are held via Zoom.

Monday, Nov. 15: 9 a.m., Making Memories, Exercise with Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign; 12:30 p.m., Mah Jongg; 1 p.m., Bridge; 6 p.m., Alzheimer's Association Caregiver Series Part 3 (Z).

Tuesday, Nov. 16: 6 a.m.-8 p.m., referendum for new senior center – and 8 a.m.-3 p.m., bus rides to polls; 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m., Book Club; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle; 1:30 p.m., Bingo.

Wednesday, Nov. 17: 9 a.m., Walking Group meet-up at the Air Line Trail in Amston; 9 a.m., Making Memories Program; 10 a.m., Adult Coloring, Sit & Be Fit; 11 a.m., A Thankful Thanksgiving Special; 1:30 p.m., Line Dancing; 7 p.m., AARP – Clean Cooking Thanksgiving Harvest (Z).

Thursday, Nov. 18: 9 a.m., Exercise w/ Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Wii Bowling; 10:30 a.m., Shopping Trip departs to Waterford; 11 a.m., Yoga; noon, Chair Massage by appointment; 12:30 p.m., Dominoes; 1 p.m., Knit & Crochet.

Friday, Nov. 19: 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit, Card-Making Workshop; 11 a.m., yoga; 1:30 p.m., Choral Group, Ruth's Baby Shower; no Bingo today.

Upcoming Programs: Alzheimer's Association Caregivers Zoom Series: Monday, Nov.

15, 6 p.m., via Zoom. November is National Family Caregivers Month, and the Colchester Commission on Aging invites all to a 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. Call the center for the Zoom links for these presentations.

Take Home a Gnome Craft: Monday, Nov. 22, 1 p.m. Materials fee for this class is \$15. Please register by Nov. 15.

Step By Step Painting: Thanksgiving Pumpkins: Tuesday, Nov. 23, 10 a.m. Materials fee for this class is \$15, or bring your own paint and canvas and join for free. Registration is required.

Latke Prep for Hanukkah: Tuesday, Nov. 30, 10 a.m. Make homemade potato latkes, in preparation for the Hanukkah party. If you would like to help out, register by Nov. 26.

Hanukkah Party: Wednesday, Dec. 1, 1 p.m. Learn about the history and tradition of the Festival of Lights with Rabbi Ken Alter from Ahavath Achim Synagogue and enjoy traditional potato latkes. Open to people of all faiths. Pre-register by Friday, Dec. 20.

Bloomin' 4 Good Program: This is a program from Stop & Shop that works to fight hunger in local communities. For the month of November, Colchester Senior Center Meals-on-Wheels has been selected to receive a \$1 donation for every \$10.99 Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet (with the red circle sticker) sold at the store located at 99 Linwood Avenue, Colchester.

Colchester Federated Church News

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

Worship services are Sundays at 9 a.m.; masks required. For those wishing to worship from home, the service will be broadcast via Facebook Live each Sunday at 9 a.m. Worship videos are at www.colchesterfederatedchurch.org under the Worship & Sermons tab. Updated information is also on the church's Facebook page.

Sunday School: Sunday School is held during worship from September through June. Children in grades pre-K through 8 are wel-

come. 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.

Upcoming Fundraiser: The church will have its annual Holly Fair Saturday, Nov. 13, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. All are invited to shop at the variety of booths and get lunch to-go from the Holly Café.

Robotics Team Seeking Members

The Robocats First Robotics Competition Team 1699 is rebuilding – and is seeking all Colchester high school students interested in engineering, programming, electronics, and/or general mechanics.

No experience needed. Check out Robocats1699.org for more information and, if interested, email FRCteam1699@gmail.com.

Youth Basketball Registration Closes Soon

Time is running out for students in grades 1 through high school to register for the Recreation program offered by Colchester Youth Basketball.

Registration closes Nov. 13, and can be done at www.colchesterbasketball.org. Registration for the Travel program has already ended.

Westchester Church News

Westchester Congregational Church, 98 Cemetery Rd., holds worship 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 westchestercongchurch.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.

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Colchester Cares recently made a monetary donation to the Rotary Foundation to support the purchase of food to fill the annual Thanksgiving baskets. At left is Kim Talarczyk of Colchester Cares presenting a check to Bonnie Johnson of the Rotary Foundation.

Rotary, Bank Hold Thanksgiving Drive

Rotary Foundation and Liberty Bank are continuing to hold their Thanksgiving meal drive to help needy families in the Colchester community.

The foundation and Liberty Bank are seeking to supply turkey dinners for needy families in the community. People can purchase paper turkey legs at Noel's and Westchester markets or at Lib-

erty Bank. Liberty Bank will donate another 25 cents for every dollar received from the turkey leg purchase, to add support to this community effort.

Residents can also adopt a family by mailing a check to Rotary Foundation, P.O. Box 775, Colchester, CT 06415.

CYSS News and Notes

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

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.

Urban Air: Wednesday, Nov. 24, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., for grades 6-10. Fee: \$37. Spend the day at Urban Air in Orange, featuring bumper cars, laser tag, a trampoline park and more. Pizza lunch and jump socks are included in the fee.

Half Day Hooray: For children in grades K-5. On 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. Schedule is: Dec. 10: Holiday Hoopla; 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.

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Raptors Top Plainville

The RHAM High School football team had a dramatic come-from-behind 25-21 victory over the Plainville Blue Devils on Saturday, Oct. 30, during Homecoming Weekend. Here is how the team fared:

Each team started off struggling to move the ball in the wet conditions. RHAM would struggle all day trying to move the ball through the air. Conversely, Plainville would find success in the air and on their fourth offensive series would cash in on a 33-yard touchdown pass, making it 7-0. RHAM would fight back, as Max Nylen moved through a huge pile of defenders and came out on the other side and ran 50 yards for a touchdown. The extra point attempt failed, leaving Plainville ahead 7-6. Later in the second quarter, Plainville scored again, making it 14-6. But RHAM's Gino Deliseo, Keller Griffin, Nick Pace, Mike Marques, Nylen and Jake Nichols all had outstanding plays defensively during the first half to keep the game close.

In the second half, RHAM's first possession saw the passing game come back, and then Nylen exploded around the right side behind blocks by Colton Bass and Tommy Puetzer for a 25-yard touchdown to cut the deficit to 14-12.

AHM Online Holiday Auction Drawing Near

The time is drawing closer to kick off the 2021 AHM Online Holiday Auction. This year's auction will benefit AHM programs and services for children, teens, young adults, families and seniors. The online bidding will start on Nov. 17 and will end Dec. 1.

This year's auction will feature Cape Cod and Newport vacation packages, sports, dining, and entertainment packages, artwork by local artists, children's gifts, firewood, a Connecticut Teachers retirement consultation, gifts for wine

Early in the fourth quarter, after a RHAM turnover, Plainville connected and went up 21-12. Facing a two-score deficit, RHAM needed to move quickly. It took only three plays for Nylen to score his third touchdown of the game, as he went in behind Owen Riley and Keller Griffin blocking for a 52-yard touchdown. Then, after a strong RHAM defensive effort, highlighted by a Boden Landers sack, Nylen would go back to the right side behind Bass, Puetzer and Logan Topulos from 30 yards out for his fourth touchdown of the game to finish off Plainville for good. Keller Griffin would recover a fumble to seal the game.

Nylen had an absolutely incredible performance, rushing 19 times for 206 yards and four touchdowns and an interception on defense.

As for the RHAM second half defense, Ben Weers played well in the secondary, knocking down multiple passes on critical plays. Landers and Deliseo had strong games from the defensive line, Owen Riley played well on both defense and special teams, Jake Nichols and Nick Pace shut down any running play Plainville attempted, and Logan Topulos had a touchdown-saving tackle.

and coffee lovers, a one-of-a-kind hand built wooden canoe, and more. Other holiday gifts for children and adults are being added daily. If interested in donating a new item or serving as a business sponsor for the auction, visit ahmyouth.org/fundraisers-events/holiday-auction.

For more information, or to select an item to donate from the gift registry, contact Joel Rosenberg at joelr@ahmyouth.org or call 860-228-9488.

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Artwork on Display... Tom Swimm, who recently relocated to East Hampton from Laguna Beach, Calif., will have his artwork included in the Artopia exhibit at Epoch Arts, 27 Skinner St. Three of his original oil paintings have been accepted along with work from 20 other artists that will be featured at the event to be held this Sunday, Nov. 14, beginning at 1 p.m. In addition to the art exhibit, there will be music, art demonstrations, food vendors and craft artisans. Free to the public. For more information, visit epocharts.org. One of Swimm's original oil paintings, "Comstock in Spring," is shown here.

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; those not fully vaccinated should continue to wear masks and practice social distancing. All are encouraged to wear a mask when indoors at the church. All services can be accessed via Zoom by going to the website at cc-eh.org.

Nursery care is available during Sunday services for children under 3 years old.

On Saturday, Dec. 4, the church will have a drive-up, take-out dinner.

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.

Christmas Fair

The Ladies Aid Society of the Second Congregational Church of Middle Haddam will hold its annual Christmas Fair Saturday, Dec. 4, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., in the lower level of the church, located at 52 Middle Haddam Rd., Middle Haddam.

Featured will be paintings by Heidi House, who has offered them all for 50% off the price marked on the paintings. They will be hanging on the walls, so folks should inquire for more information and to see them up close.

There also will be baked goods, crafts, gifts, silent auction and white elephant sale, vintage antiques, tools, and the Ladies Society's Famous Peanuts. Those looking for the Rada Cutlery that we have been selling at our previous Fairs will have a large selection to choose from so be sure and check it out.

For the hungry, lunch items will be sandwiches, desserts, doughnuts, coffee and tea.

The church is handicapped-accessible.

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First Responders Team Up for Food Bank

Once again, East Hampton's first responders are joining forces this weekend to support the East Hampton Food Bank with their annual pre-holidays "Stuff-A-Truck"/"Stuff-A-Cruiser" events at Stop & Shop, 11 East High St.

On Sunday, Nov. 13, East Hampton police officers and volunteer firefighters will collect donations of non-perishable food items of all varieties as well as toiletries and other suitable items that can help the Food Bank serve its clients through the cold months ahead. Cash and

gift card donations are also welcome, as staff members utilize those resources to purchase needed items for the Food Bank that are not typically stocked through tangible donations.

On Sunday, Nov. 14, members of the East Hampton Ambulance Association will collect the same types of items. Both events will be held from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

East Hampton Food Bank has been experiencing a substantial increase in requests for its services over the past 18 months, due to the pandemic, organizers said.

TANGO2 Disease Auction and Banquet

Tickets are still available for the TANGO2 Research Foundation's third auction and banquet at St. Clements Castle in Portland on Sunday, Nov. 14. Tickets for the banquet are \$85, and include a three-course meal and live music.

New this year: folks can bid for auction items online. Online auction bidding opens Sunday, Nov. 7, at 5 p.m. Some of the auction items include an electric bike, travel (African Safari, getaways to New England, Caribbean, Mexico, Charleston), boat and train rides, themed baskets, sports and theater tickets, dozens of gift cards, and more.

For banquet tickets or to bid on auction items, visit www.biddingforgood.com/TANGO2Research. Registration is required for bidding.

Proceeds from the Nov. 14 event will be used to help increase research, spread awareness of the disease, and provide information and support to families.

TANGO2 is a rare genetic disorder that was only discovered in 2016. Symptoms first appear as children reach 12 months and they face many health challenges including life-threatening abnormal heart rhythms, metabolic crises, issues with intellectual and developmental delays, loss of motor and cognitive skills, seizures, and more. It is progressive and there currently is no treatment or cure.

For more information, to get involved, or to make a donation, visit www.tango2research.org.

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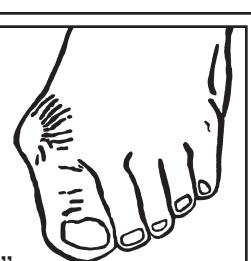
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by George M. Mantikas, DMD



IS CHARCOAL A NO GO?

Charcoal is a trend that seems to be hitting every category of beauty, from face masks to foot scrubs. But does it really make a difference in your toothpaste? Activated charcoal is made from substances like wood and coconut shells, and although it can be found in almost every brand of toothpaste, there is no reliable evidence that it can remove stains beneath the enamel of your teeth. Its rough texture does help remove surface stains, but it is aggressively abrasive for a product that is supposed to be used twice a day. It may actually wear down your enamel, making your teeth more vulnerable to stains and causing them to appear yellow.

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Tempers Bristle in PZC Meeting

by Jack Lakowsky

A new version of a controversial application for a Main Street zone change was discussed in a meeting of East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC), and talks got a little prickly.

Earlier this year, owners of the Citgo gas station and convenience store at the corner of Main Street and Route 16 attempted to change the store's zoning from residential to commercial.

Atlantis Marketing, represented in the meeting by East Haddam-based attorney Scott Jezek and company manager Jack Belowich, seek to expand the gas station with a larger building and additional pumps.

Hundreds of residents opposed the change. A major point of contention was the historic building neighboring the property, which owners proposed to raze.

According to zoning official Jeremy DeCarli, the commission is not obligated to hear applications that failed or were denied in the past year, unless the application is substantially different.

A few months ago, the commission voted 4-3 to approve the zone change. However, because a large percentage of residents within a certain radius of the store petitioned against the change, the application needed supermajority approval, and so failed.

A major difference of the new application, according to Jezek, is that the company no longer seeks to bulldoze the historic building. Instead, the company would leave it alone.

The proposed new building is also smaller, albeit slightly. Jezek said before, about 4,000 sq. ft. were proposed, now about 3,900.

Jezek said the building is suited for non-residential use.

"If someone came along and wanted to restore it, they could use it," Jezek told PZC.

Jezek did not explain specific plans. Commissioner Angelus Tammaro pointed out the building might just continue to dilapidate.

DeCarli told the Rivereast the company plans to reroof the building, though does not have plans for the interior. The company has owned the structure for about a year.

There are also two residential properties on the parcel, one on Route 16 and the other on Main. The one on 16 would be removed, and the occupied building at 157 Main left alone.

Ultimately, the commission voted 5-2 to set the public hearing for Jan. 5, with members Tammaro and Roy Gauthier dissenting.

Gauthier said though the application's concept plan has changed, Atlantis is still seeking the same zone change.

DeCarli pointed out that if the commission turned the application away, Atlantis could refile in January, as that will mark a year since their previous application was entered.

DeCarli went on to say he is "uncomfortable" with the town's policy dealing with applications submitted within a one-year period, and that he doubts it would "hold up in court."

The ordinance is vague, saying the commission is "not required" to hear repeat applica-

tions within the same 12-month period unless there are substantial differences. DeCarli said it's largely left to the judgement of the commission.

Tammaro said he didn't think it was fair to schedule a hearing in the winter season, reasoning last year, the pandemic peaked in the cold months, and that inclement weather could also disrupt resident participation.

Tammaro went on to say he expects people to again respond to this application, possibly visiting their neighbors. It was after this statement things grew a little heated.

Jezek, apparently irritated, said Tammaro cannot assume the future, and that nothing in town ordinances allows action based on the possibility of poor weather.

Jezek and Tammaro entered into a confrontational exchange until Ray Zatorski, PZC chair, cut it off.

In a follow-up chat, DeCarli emphasized that this is a first step in what could be a lengthy process with many opportunities for input. Right now, only a zone change is being considered, with a conceptual, "rough" plan that will be reviewed and discussed multiple times.

East Hampton Library News & Notes

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

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

Children's Programs: Stories and Songs Outside: For ages 18 months-5 years, and their caregivers. Held at Sears Park Wednesday, Nov. 17, at 10:15 a.m. There will be stories, songs and interaction with other families in the community. Siblings welcome. No registration required; just drop in.

Teen Programs: Dungeons and Dragons: For grades 8-12. Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2:30-4:30 p.m., at the library. No previous playing experience required and all supplies will be provided.

Take and Make November: For grades 6-12. Scheduled pickup: Tuesday, Nov. 16, 10 a.m. This month, make miniature notebooks. Supplies are limited.

Teen Advisory Board: Wednesday, Nov. 17, 6 p.m. This is a group of teens who come

together to plan and create events and programs they want to see at the library. All students in grades 9-12 are welcome. Teen Advisory Board requires a monthly commitment and participation.

Middle School Advisory Board: Tuesday, Nov. 30, 5 p.m. Just like the Teen Advisory Board, only for grades 6-8. Requires a monthly commitment and participation.

Adult Programs: Take and Make November – Adult: Scheduled pickup: Tuesday, Nov. 16, 10 a.m. This month, make miniature notebooks. Supplies are limited.

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

Adult Craft 'n Chat: Saturday, Nov. 20, 1 p.m. Bring a project to work on or show off what you've recently finished. All crafts and hobbies welcome.

Applications Sought for Poet Laureate

The Town of East Hampton and the East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission are accepting applicants for the position of East Hampton's Poet Laureate.

Information sheets are available at the East Hampton Public Library, the town manager's office at Town Hall and Dexter's Tunes, Tales and Ales in the East Hampton Village Center.

Details on how to apply and what is required of the position are on the info sheets. Deadline to apply is Nov. 18 to arts@easthamptonct.org or to the town manager's office.



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Murder, Art, History Fuel Local Author's New Novel

by Jack Lakowsky

Conjure a mental image of the writer at work. You may envision a baggy-eyed recluse punching away at a keyboard, at risk of pulverization by a falling tower of books, ignoring the three-day old bowl of cereal rotting on their desk.

If you do, you'd be mischaracterizing Belltown author Jack Matthews whose new novel, *Arte Perdida* – a "saga of art, love, greed, revenge, and murder" – recently went to print. Matthews traveled to Germany, Spain, the Azores and Canada to research the book.

This array of lands is incorporated into the narrative of Matthews' meticulously researched mystery, a tangled web with a fulcrum of the author's hometown, Mattapoisett, Mass.

The sleepy harbor town is perturbed; body parts start showing up in places where body parts shouldn't be.

Local police are confounded. They commission a disabled Vietnam veteran to aid the investigation, which spans from Nazi Germany to Newfoundland. The protagonist uncovers a decades-old scheme of revenge and murder.

Wanting to include a dynamic and interesting female character, Matthews wrote the hero a girlfriend, a psychologist who also begins to investigate the dismemberment.

It is Matthews' first novel and took close to a decade to write.

The novel opens during the bombing of Berlin in World War II. Matthews said during the attack, priceless works of art were sealed in a bunker for protection.

In the novel, 11 works never make it – stolen. Matthews visited the Kaiser Friedrich Museum in Germany's capital to ensure accuracy. This is emblematic of his dedication to painstaking research.

Matthews visited each of the novel's settings, incorporating local culture and real locations. In Newfoundland, for example, he learned people eat the tongues of cods, an element he folded into the work.

"That's why it took eight years," Matthews told the *Rivereast*. "I was very careful. I've read it so many times I have it memorized. I always

told my beta readers 'Don't be kind. Be brutal. If something doesn't work, tell me so I can fix it.'

Matthews also made sure the book was thoroughly vetted, edited and proofread, saying seven editors worked on the book before it published, including a retired police detective and Vietnam vet to make sure his protagonist was honestly written.

Honesty, Matthews said, is the key to writing a book that readers don't hurl across the room. He said readers are smart and critical and will detect a fraudulent, lazy piece in a heartbeat.

"If someone is reading something that makes no sense, they won't finish the book," he said. "Do your homework and your research, make it interesting, put in some surprises."

Retirement from a professorship at Goodwin University in East Hartford afforded Matthews time to write the novel, an extremely time-consuming undertaking.

"I write early in the morning," Matthews said, "before I get involved in my busy schedule."

Matthews also helps others with their work, currently helping a friend write their own novel, dispensing lessons like, "Characters generally have three motivations; acquisition of something, relief of something, or revenge for something."

To aspiring authors, Matthews advises sitting down daily.

"Whether you write for a half-hour or 8 hours, try to write something every day," he said. "Even if it's just making notes or a bulleted list."

Writing for Matthews is a transcendent experience; he said that when he's in the throes of creation, he is transported to the scene he's trying to craft.

Penning descriptive, stimulating prose is Matthews' goal, saying he doesn't want the reader to be an arms-length from the story, but to feel as they're involved in the action, to smell and see and taste what the characters experience.

A way of ramping up tension and keeping those pages turning, he said, is to instill red



Jack Matthews of East Hampton recently published a globetrotting murder mystery novel, with art, love, crime, intrigue and mystery coalescing in a small Massachusetts community.

herrings, a little misdirection and lots of unexpected paths.

He said writing has been a lifelong desire, but that no ideas presented themselves. Until, that is, he was walking the shore of his hometown, and the idea for *Arte Perdida* bloomed.

Of his influences, Matthews said he loves the terse-yet-lyrical style of Ernest Hemingway, and that one of his favorite books is Ken Follett's *Pillars of the Earth*, another being Jim Fergus's *One Thousand White Women*.

Apparently planning to be prolific, Matthews said he has five novels queued, including sequels to *Perdida*.

One is set in the Everglades in Florida where, Matthews said, some archeologists believe an ancient pyramid is buried. In his planned novel, Indigenous peoples seek to protect the landmark-presumed real in the story while politicians seek to monetize it.

Another is an anthology of holiday-based

short stories.

Matthews shared some reviews of his novel with the *Rivereast*. "I read it in three days, love the decades-long journey, it's suspenseful and entertaining, clever and enjoyable."

One reader finished the book in two days, calling it engrossing, and would be a great summer read.

"The book grabbed me right away," said a third reviewer.

To get in touch with Matthews and order a copy, email belltownpress@gmail.com.

On Friday, Nov. 19, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., Matthews will have a book signing at Robert's Lakehouse, 81 N. Main Street. Copies will be available.

Matthews said it won't be a formal book talk, but a casual chat. Can't make that date? Matthews said he eats breakfast daily at Sweet Jean's Café, 13 Main St.

Fall Author Series Lineup

Cragin Memorial Library of Colchester, East Hampton Public Library, Richmond Memorial Library of Marlborough and Welles-Turner Memorial Library of Glastonbury are jointly holding a virtual Fall Author Series lineup.

New York Times best-selling author Deborah Copaken will speak live on Zoom on Tuesday, Nov. 16, at 6:30 p.m. Copaken is the author of *Shutterbabe*, *The Red Book* and the recently-released *Ladyparts*.

Native Connecticut author Juliet Grames will speak live on Zoom Tuesday, Dec. 8, at 6:30 p.m. Grames is the author of the *The Seven or Eight Deaths of Stella Fortuna*, her first novel.

Register on the East Hampton Public Library website, at EastHamptonPublicLibrary.org, or by calling the library at 860-267-6621.

Turkey Shoot

Belltown Sportsman's Club will hold a Turkey Shoot Sunday, Nov. 21, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., on the club grounds off of Tartia Road, which is off of Route 16. (Follow the signs.)

Bring your own shotgun or one will be provided. Gauge is 20 and 12. The club will supply the shells. Cost is \$3 a shot.

Refreshments will be available. For more information, call Kurly at 860-638-7221.

Town Hall Featured Artist

The artwork of Joyce Senesac will be featured at the East Hampton Town Hall during November.

Senesac works primarily in watercolors. She has taught classes in the medium and is a past president of the Art Guild of Middletown.

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East Hampton's Starr Shoots to Storrs

by Josh Howard

East Hampton High School's senior track star Jessica Starr has committed to the University of Connecticut, making her announcement Oct. 27.

"I am extremely excited to announce my commitment to continue running track and further my education at the University of Connecticut. I couldn't be more thankful to those who have supported me throughout this whole process," stated Starr, who will major in political science with a minor in psychology.

It's been a productive and eye-opening couple of years for Starr, who couldn't have envisioned running at a Division I level when she first entered high school.

"The girl I was freshman year is not the girl that I am now. My freshman year I started track just to have that experience and I never really thought I would get the opportunity that I have now," Starr said, "I worked pretty hard and when I saw my times start to hit the recruiting standards it was pretty amazing."

Starr's junior year was nothing short of spectacular. She broke the Class S state re-

cord in the 300-meter hurdles, running a personal- and class-best 44.84, to win the event and helped the Bellringers win a state championship. She went on to top her own mark, running a 44.35 at the State Open the following week.

Her 300m time qualified her for The Outdoor Championships at the University of Oregon where she ran against the best hurdlers in the country.

It was in Eugene, Ore., when she first met UConn's hurdling coach Erica Ferguson.

"I went up to introduce myself and I don't think I would have gotten to where I am with UConn if I never did that," Starr said. "That's why it was so great to go to Nationals because I was given that opportunity to introduce myself."

After visiting some other colleges, Starr narrowed her choices to the state's largest university and Bryant University. Ultimately it came down to being able to stay close to home, yet travel the country with the Huskies.

"I'll have that opportunity to go places like Texas, Arkansas, and these big places like LSU. That is something that I never thought I'd have the opportunity to do," said Starr. "I had an of-

ficial visit with UConn and I connected with the girls, every single one of them, and both my family and I connected really well with the coaches."

At Storrs, she'll be joining forces again with 2020 East Hampton graduate Danielle Adams who is currently running track for the Huskies after also starring on last's spring state championship team at EHHS.

Normally Starr, who is the senior class president at EHHS, runs cross country in the fall but decided against it this year, instead focusing on personal training and building strength for the indoor and outdoor track & field season and beyond.

This spring, the Bellringers will aim to defend their state title and Starr believes the team has the tools to make another run.

"I never thought what happened last year was possible, so I don't know what this season will bring and that's very exciting," stated Starr. "We lost a couple girls last year and it was hard losing those girls, but I think we have some potential with the girls coming in. I think we'll have to work hard but we are all willing to put in the work."



East Hampton senior Jessica Starr has committed to run track at the University of Connecticut.

Parks and Rec. News

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

Youth Basketball: Registration is now open for the 2022 season. Registration deadline is Nov. 19 and practices/games will start in late December/early January. Grade 1 basketball is a clinic format, limited to 16 participants; it will run 8:30-9:30 a.m. Saturdays, Jan. 8-March 5, at Memorial School. Grades 2 and 3 will meet Saturdays starting Jan. 8 at Memorial School, and run eight games; practices will start one to two weeks before this, depending on signups. Teams will be boys and girls separately, or co-ed depending on signup numbers.

Cost for grade 1 is \$80/player, and for grades 2-8 is \$120/player. All leagues need coaches; contact Parks and Rec. if interested. Coaches will receive one free registration.

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

Lions Club Scholarship Raffle

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

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

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

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

Bethlehem Lutheran Church News

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church holds live in-person services Sundays at 10:15 a.m. All are welcome. Enter via the front door and ushers will assist you.

For those not ready to attend in person, the livestream link will be at the church's Facebook page, at www.facebook.com/BethlehemEH.

Beginner Bellringer Preschool

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

All applications must be received by Nov. 30.

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

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

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Cross Country Season Continues for Select Few

Jocelyn Gustavson, an eighth-grade student/athlete, who ran on the East Hampton Middle School cross country team, decided to participate as an individual runner at the 2021 CT Middle School State XC Championship which was held Saturday, Nov. 6, at Wickham Park in Manchester. The participants were broken into two categories (A/B) and then from towns/schools (East/West of the river). Jocelyn ran in the "B East" race along with 246 other girls, and she finished in 4th place, earning a medal, with a time of 11:47. When comparing her time, she also beat all of the other girls (240) from the "B West" race.

Andrew Hawk, eighth grade student/ath-

lete, Brett Gustavson and Brendan Kissance, sixth grade student/athletes who ran on the EHMS Cross Country team also continued their season by participating in the Ghost Run which is a half marathon on Saturday, Nov. 6.

The boys took the top three placements in the "13 and under" race, with Andrew taking 1st place with a time of 1 hour, 40 minutes and 20 seconds, Brett taking second place with a time of 1 hour, 40 minutes and 21 seconds and Brendan taking third place with a time of 1 hour and 54 minutes.

Congratulations to Jocelyn, Andrew, Brett and Brendan for continuing their cross country seasons and making us all proud.

EHACC Accepting Capstone Grant Applications

The East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission (EHACC) is accepting applications from East Hampton High School juniors and seniors for a \$200 grant to support an annual East Hampton High School Capstone Project.

Applicants will be invited to present their Capstone project idea to commission members

during an agreed upon commission meeting.

Deadline to apply is Feb. 1. Applications are available at www.artsforeasthamptonct.org and can be submitted to arts@easthamptonct.org or can be mailed/dropped off at the town manager's office at East Hampton Town Hall, 1 Community Drive.

Lions Seeking Nominations

For the past 12 years, the Lions of eastern Connecticut have hosted the Humanitarian Banquet, where local Lions clubs honor residents of their town. The heroes are honored at a banquet at Saint Clements Castle with some family, friends and their Lions club that nominated them.

The East Hampton Lions are asking the public to submit one-page nomination letters on whom they would like the Lions to consider for this year's honor. The nominee has to be a non-Lion, must either live or work in East Hampton and be available to attend the banquet on Jan. 22, 2022. The letters should be sent to East Hampton Lions, P.O. Box 153, East Hampton, CT 06424.

Nominations should be submitted by Nov. 30.

For more information, contact Lions President Mary Krogh at 860-977-5760 or govmary23c@aol.com.

Plunge or Pledge to Support Food Bank

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

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

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

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

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Senior Center News & Notes

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

Lunches: Served at the center to ages 60 and up on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Call the center to reserve a meal or sign up online. Reservations for the next day's meal are due by 11 a.m. the day before. Masks are required; however, once you have your meal and are seated you can take off your mask. Meals are free, though a \$3 donation is requested.

Weekly Activities: Registration is required for all of the following; to do so, contact the center. **Quilting Group:** Mondays, 9 a.m. **Mexican Train Dominoes:** Mondays, 9:30 a.m. **Bible Study:** Tuesdays, 1 p.m. **Bingo:** Tuesdays, 1-2 p.m., in person and via Zoom. **Setback:** Thursdays 1:15-3:15 p.m. **Mahjongg:** Fridays, 10 a.m.-noon. **Textile Group:** Fridays at 1:30 p.m.

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

Writing Our Lives to Open Our Hearts: Thursdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m., or every other Wednesday (next date Nov. 24), at 9:30 a.m. Meet outside, weather permitting. In case of inclement weather, it will be inside, with masks recommended. Register online.

Art with Karen: Sunday, Nov. 14, 2-4 p.m. Karen Williams will take people through beginner steps of creating an acrylic painting. Cost is \$5 for supplies. Call to register. Pay instructor the day of the event.

Yoga with Kitch: Wednesdays, Nov. 17-Jan. 10, 11:40 a.m.-12:40 p.m., in person at Town

Hall and also virtual via Zoom. Register online. The 10-week session is \$20. Payment may be mailed or dropped off at the senior center; make check payable to the Town of East Hampton.

Creative Crafts – No-Bake Rustic Clay Tags/Ornaments: Wednesday, Nov. 17, 1 p.m. Registration required.

Open Enrollment Medicare: Friday, Nov. 19; appointments available from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. There will be CHOICES volunteers available to review and compare Medicare plans. Call the senior center for more information and to make an appointment.

COVID-19 Booster Clinic: The Moderna or J&J booster will be available to ages 65+ Monday, Nov. 29, from 9 a.m.-noon, at Town Hall, sponsored by the Chatham Health District. Appointments are necessary; call the senior center to schedule and receive more information, at 860-267-4426.

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

Trip: Dining and a Cabaret Show: At the Newport Playhouse Wednesday, Dec. 8. Now partnering with Johnny's Restaurant to present the world premiere of *The Newport Playhouse Holiday Cabaret Spectacular*. This extended cabaret will feature show and holiday tunes, glitz, glamour and more, along with a freshly-prepared buffet. There are a few seats left for purchase. Cost is \$129/person. Payments will be accepted at the center on Tuesdays and Thursdays, or by a pre-arranged appointment time.

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President-elect Tom Portelance of the East Hampton Rotary Club awards Jason Gardiner with a Bevin Bell after his Eagle Scout presentation to the club.

Scout Awarded Bell

The East Hampton Rotary Club recently awarded Jason Gardiner with a Bevin Bell after his Eagle Scout presentation to the club.

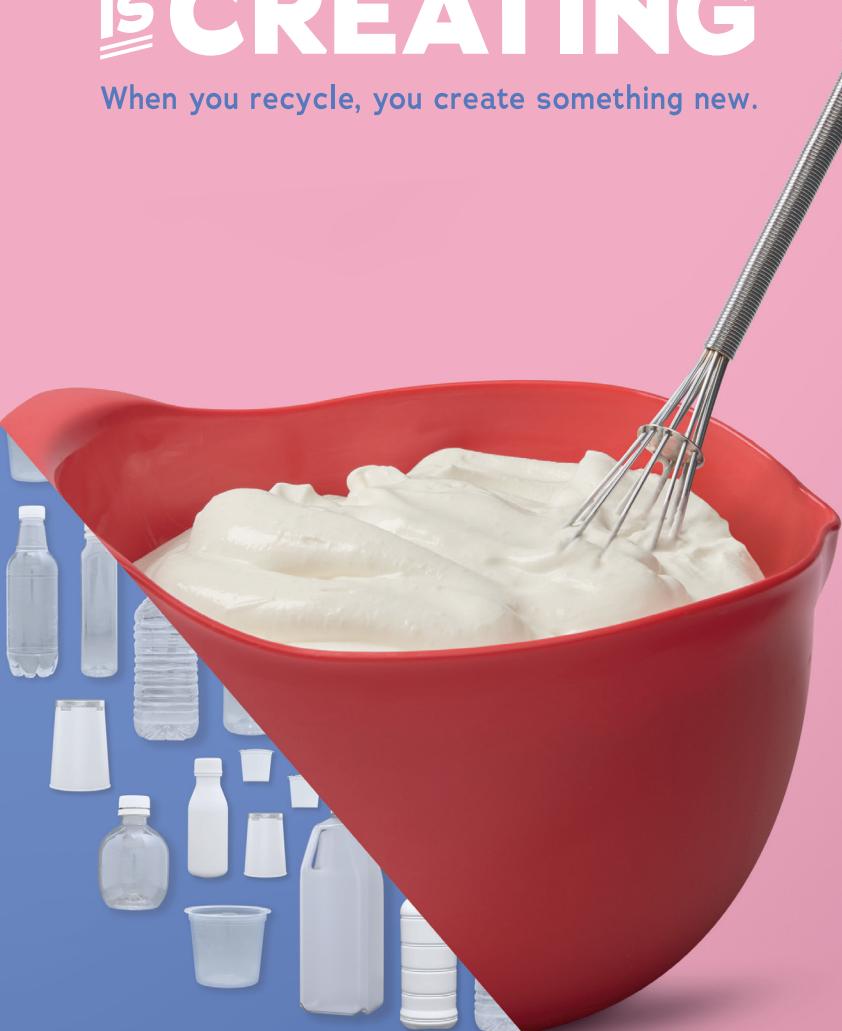
Gardiner is an Eagle Scout candidate and is putting historic signs on the Air Line Trail at the Rapallo Viaduct, the Cobalt Train Station and the Lyman Viaduct. These signs show the history and importance of the structures for the

enjoyment of the walkers. Because some of the structures are on the Registry of Historic Places, approval by the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection was needed.

The project was partially funded by the East Hampton Rotary Club. Gardiner is a senior at East Hampton High School and the son of Pam and Kyle Gardiner.

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Helping Hands Re-Opens

Helping Hands is open the first and third Saturdays of each month, offering free clothing, household items, toys, books etc. to anyone in need. Anyone wishing to shop must sign up via email or phone for one of the three half-hour time slots: 9:30 a.m., 9:45-10:15 a.m., or 10:30-11 a.m. Walk-ins will only be accepted if there is room.

Each person will be allowed two shopping bags which they must bring with them. Masks are recommended but not required at this time except for children 12 and under. Children

will be allowed; however, they must remain with their parents at all times while inside Helping Hands.

If you wish to shop, call 860-918-0784 or email jholm225@sbcglobal.net starting the Sunday before Helping Hands is open. Donations are only accepted on the Saturday Helping Hands is open, from 9-11 a.m., and on the Thursday before it is open, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Helping Hands is located at 27 Skinner St.

Haddam Neck Covenant Church News

Haddam Neck Covenant Church, located at 17 Haddam Neck Rd., invites all to Sunday worship at 9 a.m., online at www.facebook.com/Haddam-Neck-Covenant-Church or in person. Pastor is the Rev. Tom Cowger. The message series is based on Philippians. Refreshments are served after the service.

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

Operation Christmas Child: This mission project of Samaritan's Purse delivers shoeboxes filled with school supplies, toys and hygiene items to children around the world who live in

difficult circumstances. The church is seeking community participation. Boxes are available in the church office and need to be returned by Nov. 14.

Bible Study: The Zoom Bible Study meets every other Thursday from 7-8:15 p.m. The next Study will be Nov. 18. This is an interactive study of compassion as seen in Jesus. Contact the church office for the study guide and Zoom link.

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

Christ Episcopal Church Info

Christ Episcopal Church, 66 Middle Haddam Rd., Middle Haddam, holds Sunday services at 10 a.m. each week, both in person and via Zoom. Sunday school is currently on pause.

The Rev. Ann Perrott is priest-in-charge, the Rev. Joanne Neel-Richard oversees the children's ministry, and Stuart Duncan is the music director. For more information or if in need of pastoral assistance, call 860-267-0287 or visit www.christchurchmiddlehaddam.com.

Middle Haddam Library News

Middle Haddam Public Library, 2 Knowles Rd., has announced the following three items of interest. For more information, call the library at 860-267-9093.

CommuniTea: Saturday, Nov. 13, at 10:30 a.m. There will be biscuits, tea (and coffee too). Bring a friend or just yourself, drink some tea, take out a book, and look at the newly-installed art.

Skulls, Wings and Crowns - The Grave-stone Carvers of Eastern Connecticut: Tuesday, Nov. 16, 7 p.m., at the library and via Zoom. Local historian Kevin J. Tulumieri will explore the world of 17th and 18th century gravestones and gravestone carvers of eastern Connecticut. The presentation will feature images of a wide variety of gravestones showcasing the individualized styles of several makers. Space is limited; register in person or by emailing MiddleHaddamLibrary@gmail.com.

Artwork on Display: The art of Kristen Walsh will be on display at the library starting Saturday, Nov. 13.

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The Glastonbury Citizen and Riviera News Bulletin will make every effort to see that all advertising copy is correctly printed. The publisher assumes no liability or financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertising, but will reprint, without charge, that part of an advertisement in which an error may occur, provided that a claim is made within 5 days of publication. The liability of the publisher on account of errors in or omissions from any advertisement will in no way exceed the amount of the charge for the space occupied by the item in error, and then only for the first incorrect insertion. Also, the publisher takes no responsibility for statements or claims made in any advertisement, and will upon request, reveal the name and address of the person or persons responsible for placing any display advertisement, political or otherwise, except for "blind" box ads. The Glastonbury Citizen Inc. reserves the right to reject advertisements which it deems unsuitable for its publications. Every effort will be made to verify the legitimacy and propriety of all ads for the protection of our readers. The Citizen will take requests for specific placement of ads and will try to accommodate everyone's requests. The Citizen cannot guarantee specific placement.

Hebron • H

Preschool Screening

The Hebron Board of Education, through the Hebron Early Childhood Center Program at Gilead Hill School, will hold a screening Wednesday, Dec. 8, for children that reside in Hebron and are 3 or 4 years old by the time of the screening.

The screening will be held differently this school year due to the ongoing pandemic. The Board of Education will send home an age-appropriate questionnaire for parents/guardians to fill out about their child. The questions

are in areas of speech, language, cognitive, and motor development. Parents will then receive information which will assist in fostering their child's growth if needed.

If interested in having your child screened, call the office of the director of educational services at Hebron Public Schools at 860-228-2577 to request an ASQ-3 questionnaire.

After Dec. 8, the next screenings will be March 2 and May 11, 2022.

The Worship Center News & Notes

The Worship Center, a non-denominational Christian church, holds services and programs at 99 Marjorie Circle (unless noted). For more information and full program descriptions, visit theworshipcenterct.org and click on the 'events/calendar' link, or call 860-228-4442.

Worship: Sundays at 10 a.m., indoors. Services are also broadcast on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TheWorshipCenterConnecticut and on YouTube; go to tinyurl.com/yby64wph to access.

Second Wednesday Overcomers Bible Study: 7 p.m. each week, virtually. Call the church office for details on how to join.

Praise and Prayer Night: Held at the fire pit every third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.

Youth Group: For grades 6-12. Meets every other Sunday after the service. Email theworshipcenter.hebron@gmail.com for meeting details.

One-to-One Confidential Christian Care: If in need of help, call the church office.

Hebron • Hebron

New Town Planner Hits the Ground Running

by Sloan Brewster

Hebron's new town planner is celebrating his one-month anniversary this week.

Patrick Gallagher took over as director of planning and development on Oct. 4. He replaces Michael O'Leary, who retired in February after spending nearly 26 years in the position.

"This is my one-month anniversary this week," Gallagher said in a phone call last Monday.

In the role, Gallagher will oversee land use and development processes in town, working with the Planning & Zoning and Economic Development commissions, the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Open Space and Land Acquisition Committee.

A resident of West Hartford, Gallagher has a master's degree in geographic science from the University of Connecticut. In 2012, he took a position with the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments in Waterbury, a position that brought the New York state native to Connecticut.

He spent the past seven years as a planning consultant working on planning programs in municipalities in the state.

While he enjoyed the consulting gig, it was missing an aspect of the work that he enjoyed, Gallagher said. Namely, implementation.

Consultants plan specific projects, he said. Towns then take the ideas and put them to work.

Gallagher, who is a certified in planning by the American Institute of Certified Planners, said he wants to be part of both planning and development.

His father was also a town planner and Gallagher said he has always been interested in the development and conservation sides of planning. He said geography and planning share commonalities.

Lions Winter Storage Returns

The Hebron Lions are offering Winter Storage again for 2021-22. Storage is available for automobiles, trucks, motorcycles, boats, motor homes and travel trailers, in exhibit and livestock buildings from November until April on the Hebron Lions Fairgrounds 347 Gilead Rd.

Move-in started Nov. 6 and will continue this Saturday, Nov. 13, from 9 a.m.-noon. Anyone requesting storage after Nov. 13 should call 860-942-2527 to set an appointment.



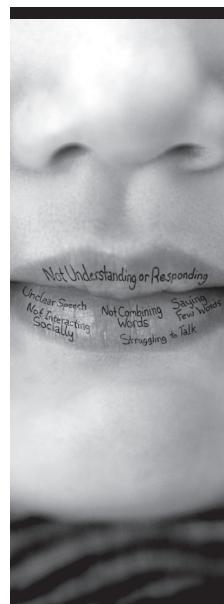
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gin in 2022 and a long-term goal of the town to get shared parking will be realized with a parking lot behind the buildings, Gallagher said. It will allow folks to get some bread or pastries at Flour Girl and then walk to their next destination.

As far as projects he is planning for the near future, Gallagher pointed to the remediation of the Turshen Mill, an old factory at 459 Church St.

In June, the town was awarded a \$650,490 brownfield grant from the state Department of Economic and Community Development [DECD] to help remediate contamination on the site, Tierney said.

Ben Oliver, owner of McCarthy Concrete and the architectural firm BOAD LLC, and a partner in Square Peg Restaurant in Glastonbury, owns the old mill and plans to develop a pub or brewery there, Tierney said.

"That will be a very exciting project to clean that up and get that site back to use," Gallagher said.

A practice range being built at Blackledge Country Club, on West Street, is also underway, Gallagher said.

When the plan was first broached in April, it was controversial and O'Leary said then that there were eight hours of public hearings on the matter over three nights.

The neighbors and country owners have since come to an agreement and the plan is moving forward, Tierney said.



Patrick Gallagher started in as Hebron's town planner one month ago, and has been getting acclimated with the town while working on local planning projects.

"They got behind the project instead of against it," Tierney said of the neighbors.

Tierney said Gallagher was doing well so far.

"He hit the ground running," he said. "It's busy. I told him it would be busy."

Donations Sought for Book Sale

The Friends of Douglas Library group is accepting donations of used books in good condition for its next conditions-permitting book sale, which will take place Saturday, Nov. 20, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., in the community room of the library, located at 22 Main St.

Fiction, science-fiction, mysteries, romances, non-fiction, and children's books are requested. CDs and DVDs are also welcome. Do not donate VHS tapes, encyclopedias, magazines or *Reader's Digest* condensed books. All donated items should be in good condition, not mildewed, moldy, dirty or torn.

At the Nov. 20 sale, due to COVID-19 restrictions limiting the number of people in the building at one time, the Friends will offer its \$5 per bag sale for an extra hour, from 1-3 p.m. There will also be holiday and gift items for purchase.

Proceeds from the sale are used to purchase new material for the library, museum passes, equipment, as well as to pay for children's and adult programs. Donations can be dropped off anytime in the white donation bin to the right of the main parking lot entrance. For assistance with large donations, call the Friends ahead of time, at 860-228-9312, ext. 312.

Due to COVID-19, the upcoming book sale may be set up differently than previous sales. The tables will be spaced farther apart, and one-way directional arrows will be placed to encourage social distancing. Per the Chatham Health District's requirements, the Friends may be required to limit the number of occupants in the room at one time, and everyone is required to wear a facial mask. People are encouraged to keep 6 feet apart from each other.

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Senior Center News & Notes

Russell Mercier Senior Center has announced the following. For more information and full program descriptions, call the senior center at 860-228-1700. The senior center newsletter is also online at tinyurl.com/3xfm862d. Registration is required for all programs; to do so, call the center. Until further notice, masks are required for all, even the vaccinated.

All Levels Yoga Class: Mondays and Wednesdays, Nov. 15-Dec. 8 (no class Nov. 24), 10:15-11:15 a.m., taught by Maureen O'Brien. The seven-class session is \$21. To join, call the center.

Fire Department Annual Thanksgiving Dinner for Seniors: Sunday, Nov. 21, for Hebron and Amston residents 60 years and over. The Hebron Fire Department will prepare a traditional turkey dinner and dessert, pack it in microwaveable containers, and deliver it to your door between 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Registration required by noon Friday, Nov. 12, by calling the center.

RHAM Bingo: Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2:30-4 p.m., run by RHAM National Honor Society students. The games are free; prizes are awarded. Registration required.

Medicare Annual Open Enrollment: Runs through Dec. 7. Director Sharon Garrard and social worker Tanya Coles-Dailey are certified CHOICES Counselors and can help people evaluate options for Medicare health and drug coverage for 2022. Call the senior center to make an appointment.

SAL Grinders to Go

The Sons of the American Legion will sell footlong grinders with a bag of chips for \$10 each Saturday, Nov. 20, from noon-2 p.m.

Advanced orders are recommended. Email park1969@comcast.net or call 860-402-0904 to order your choice of ham, turkey or Italian combo, with optional provolone or American cheese, tomato, lettuce, onions and choice of condiments – mayo, mustard and oil.

Pick up at the American Legion, 18 Main St., with drive-thru service to your car. Have cash or check made out to SAL Squadron 95. There will be extra grinders available for drive-ups until sold out.

SAL members are sons of veterans, with the mission to support the American Legion.

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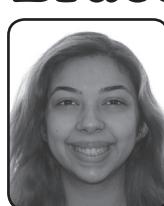
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Lights in Motion Volunteer Opportunities

The Hebron Lions are working on their newest event, Lions Lights in Motion. This event will begin Thanksgiving night and run until New Year's Day, on Thursdays through Sundays from 4-9 p.m. Volunteers are sought to help put the event together.

Lights in Motion will feature more than one million lights digitally synchronized to music on the Hebron Lions Fairgrounds. Discounted presale tickets are available at www.LionsLightsinMotion.org. Net proceeds will be donated to various children's charities, such as Connecticut Children's Medical Center, Hole in the Wall Gang Camp, Wishes on Wheels Connecticut, and Camp Rising Sun.

The Hebron Lions are seeking additional volunteers to help assist the elves in pixel

pushing. Pixel pushing can be done by anyone 8 years and older, and are an opportunity for any students that are seeking volunteer hours for school. Work parties for pixel pushing are Wednesdays from 5-7 p.m., Thursdays from 6-9 p.m., and Saturdays from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

If interested in volunteering, show up at these times or feel free to email Volunteer@LionsLightsinMotion.org for more information. Those that volunteer will be entered in a drawing for Amazon gift cards.

For more information on the Lions or upcoming volunteer opportunities, contact the Hebron Lions at volunteers@hebronharvest-fair.org.

Douglas Library News & Notes

Douglas Library, located at 22 Main St., has announced the following. For more info and full program descriptions, and to register, call the library at 860-228-9312 or visit www.douglaslibrary.org.

Friday Films: Fridays at 1 p.m. Upcoming schedule: Nov 12, *Black Widow* (rated PG-13); Dec. 3, *Free Guy* (PG-13); Dec. 10, *Respect* (PG-13); Dec. 17, *Cinderella* (PG). Bottled water and individually wrapped snacks provided.

'In the Spirit' Book Discussion: Wednesday, Nov. 17, 7 p.m., at the American Legion, next door to the library. This month, read *The Seven or Eight Deaths of Stella Fortuna* by Juliet Gomes. Copies of the book will be available for checkout at the library's adult circulation desk. Must be 21 or over to attend.

Holiday Closings: The library will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 25 and 26, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Holiday Fabric Star: Learn to fold your own fabric star – no needles required – Tuesday, Dec. 7, virtually, at 6:30 p.m. Fabric and instructions provided by local craft instructor Dawn Zillich – The Stitching Coach. Registration is required with a valid email and space is limited.

Christ Lutheran News & Notes

ession.

Caring Shepherds: Caring Shepherds will have an Open Pantry Saturday, Dec. 11, at 9 a.m.; call the church at 860-494-0431 if you will attend. Also, those in need of supplies for Thanksgiving should call Caring Shepherds at 860-494-0431; the ministry will fill limited orders for those in need. Caring Shepherds will be back in Willimantic Saturdays, Nov. 20 and Dec. 18, handing out hygiene kits, Bibles and food at 11 a.m., at 877 Main St. in Willimantic.

Early Childhood Center: Open to all faiths, the center offers childcare, preschool and before/after school educational opportunities in a Christian environment. For more information, call 860-228-5134. The center is now accepting new enrollments; call for availability. Laura Kraft is director.

More Info: For more information, call 860-228-1152 or visit www.CLCHebon.org or facebook.com/CLCHebon.

Free CPR Classes

The Hebron Fire Department (44 Main St.) will offer free American Heart Association Heartsaver CPR classes for those who live/work in Hebron at 7 p.m. Wednesdays, Dec. 15, Jan. 19, Feb. 16, or March 16.

Call Donna at 860-228-3022 ext. 162 to reserve a seat. Classes are first-come, first-served.

St. Peter's News & Notes

St. Peter's Episcopal Church, located at 30 Church St., holds Sunday services of Holy Eucharist at 8 and 10 a.m. The town and St. Peter's Vestry strongly recommend wearing masks. Coffee Hour follows each service.

Balancing Class: Mondays at 10 a.m. Cost is \$5.

Meetings and Events: Vestry meetings held in person the third Thursdays of the month at 7 p.m.; Buildings and Grounds Committee: first Wednesdays, 7 p.m.; Virtual Coffee Hours: Every Wednesday at 10 a.m.

Outreach: Food Donations: Items for various local food pantries can be placed in the brown donation box outside Phelps Hall. **Prayer Shawl Ministry:** This knitting group provides shawls to those parishioners suffering bereavement or illness. Contact the church for more info.

For more information, visit stpetershebron.com, search for St. Peter's Hebron on Facebook, or contact the church office at 860-228-3244 or office@stpetershebron.com.

Hebron • Hebron

Gilead Congregational Church News

Gilead Congregational Church, an Open and Affirming Congregation located at 672 Gilead St., has announced the following. For more info, visit gileadchurchucc.org, email gcc@gileadchurch.net, or call 860-228-3077.

Sunday Worship: Sundays at 10 a.m., indoors at the church, followed by Coffee Hour at 11. Safety protocols are listed on the church website. Services are livestreamed, on YouTube at www.bit.ly/GileadChurchUCC and on Facebook at tinyurl.com/GileadChurchUCC.

Upcoming Events: Sunday, Nov. 14: 11 a.m., Women's Fellowship Holiday Gift Sale; Tuesday, Nov. 16: 7 p.m. AA Meeting; Wednesday, Nov. 17: 7 p.m., Church Council, Choir Practice (in the sanctuary); Thursday, Nov. 18: 7 p.m., Holy Cow survey results for committees and board members.

Bible Study on Zoom: Mondays at 9 a.m., via Zoom, led by the Rev. Bob Woodward. See the Zoom link in the eNews or contact the church office at GCC@gileadchurch.com. All are invited; come when you can.

Book Group: Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Garden of Remembrance. It is recommended that participants bring a chair or blanket to sit on. Contact the church office with any questions.

Fellowship Activities: Coffee Hour has returned; all are welcome each Sunday following the service for coffee and treats. The Cornhole Tournament slated for Friday, Nov. 12, has been postponed, and will be rescheduled. The Faith and Film series will kick off Friday, Nov. 12, with a potluck at 6 p.m., followed by a meaningful film. An All-Church Advent Celebration will be held following worship service Sunday, Dec.

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., through Nov. 21.

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



Look Who's 80!.. Kathy MacBryde is turning 80 – and Butterball's Greenleaf Café, 47 Main St., is throwing her a big blowout bash to celebrate! All are invited Saturday, Nov. 13, at 7 p.m., for food, drinks, and karaoke. In lieu of gifts, donations to the Hebron Food Bank will be accepted in MacBryde's honor. Non-perishable food or monetary donations welcome. For more information, call Butterball's at 860-228-8148.

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5. All are welcome to make evergreen swags, Christmas crafts (for adults and children), and have some goodies.

Pies for HELO: See Amy Destine to sign up for a holiday pie. Proceeds go toward supporting those in Haiti.

Liturgist Sign-Up: Parishioners are asked to consider signing up to be a liturgist on Sundays. See Ginny Miller for more information.

Fall Work Day: Saturday, Nov. 13, from 9 a.m.-noon; rain date is Saturday, Nov. 20. Bring your work gloves, rakes, and leaf blowers. Refreshments will be provided.

Angel Tags: Look for the Angel Tag tree on Sunday, Nov. 14; pick a tag, and register with our volunteer so that we can keep track of who has selected which tag. All gifts will need to be dropped off at the sanctuary (bin by the Angel Tree), or to the office, no later than Dec. 5, to allow enough time to deliver gifts to the children

Christmas Flowers: Throughout November, order forms will be available on Sundays in the worship bulletin. All orders are needed no later than Dec. 5.

Holiday Cookie Swap is Back: All goodies should be labeled and dropped off to the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, Dec. 11, between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. The Cookie Swap will be the following day, Sunday, Dec. 12, after Worship Service.

Women's Fellowship Selling Holiday Gifts: All are invited to stop by the Women's Fellowship table on Nov. 14, 21 and 28 and check out the knives for sale along with the church cookbook.

Church of the Holy Family News

Masses are celebrated at The Church of The Holy Family, 185 Church St. (Route 85), as follows: weekend Masses are on Saturday at 5 p.m. and on Sunday at 9:30 a.m.; weekday Masses are on Tuesday at 7 p.m. and on Thursday at 6:30 a.m. The church highly recommends that masks be worn by those attending Mass.

Visit holyfamilyhebron.org for more information. The church office can be reached at 860-228-0096.

Church Collecting for Homeless Shelter: The church collects items for the Windham Region No Freeze Hospitality Center, which provides assistance to homeless adults. The shelter opened for overnight stays on Nov. 1. Critical needs are: men's socks for shoe size up to 13 (no other sizes needed); men's sweatpants (L, XL); men's pullover sweatshirts and hoodies (L, XL,); knit boxer shorts (L, XL, 2XL); paper towels; toilet paper; and shower shoes (flip flops; great need). Place donations of goods in the designated collection box next to the church's Cry Room. Place large quantities of donations in the Cry Room. For more information, call Monica or John McKerracher at 860-228-4211.

Community Thanksgiving Service

All are invited to a Community Thanksgiving Service Sunday, Nov. 21, at 7 p.m., at Church of the Holy Family, 185 Church St. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, music will be provided by a church musician.

Masking will be required indoors for all attending. An offering will be received which will go to Hebron Interfaith Human Services.

United Brethren Synagogue, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Church of the Holy Family and Gilead Congregational Church will participate in the service, and other congregations will be invited.



Guest Preacher... St. Peter's hosted a special guest preacher on Sunday, Nov. 7. Bishop Jim Curry spoke about a ministry he is shepherding in our state called Swords to Plowshares. The name is taken from Isaiah 2:4 when the prophet says, "God shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore." Curry presented a garden trowel to the church, made from guns received in the gun buybacks in New Haven. Curry also brought his forge to the church and after the service parishioners were able to participate in creating heart necklaces from the barrels of confiscated rifles and shotguns. The garden tools and necklaces are available via the ministry website: S2PNortheast.org. Curry is shown here with Donna Gray, a deacon at St. Peter's.

St. Peter's Roast Pork Tenderloin Dinner

St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 30 Church St. (Route 85), will hold its next monthly community dinner Saturday, Nov. 13, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. or until sold out. The menu will include roast pork tenderloin, pork gravy, applesauce, roasted potatoes, butternut squash, rolls and assorted desserts. Cost is \$14.

This is a take-out-only dinner with no pre-orders or reservations; first-come, first-served.

Servers will come to your car, take your order and dessert choice, and return to your car to place them in the back seat or trunk. You will not get out of your car.

As part of the St. Peter's outreach programs, a portion of the proceeds each meal sold will go to the Colchester Food Bank.

For more information, call 860-228-3244 or visit www.StPetersHebron.com.

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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. **Assistance** is offered each day from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

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

Monday, Nov. 15: 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Not Just Quilting, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Mark Macrina – Medicare and You, 10:30 a.m.; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: kielbasa and cheese pierogies with caramelized onions, Capri-blend vegetables, 100% whole wheat bread, fresh

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

Tuesday, Nov. 16: 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; setback or cards of your choice, 1-3 p.m.; Planning Commission, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 17: Grocery Shopping, 9 a.m.-noon; Not Just Quilting, 9 a.m.; "Situation of Awareness and Crime Prevention" with Officer Jay Kehoe, director of public safety, 9:30-11:30 a.m.; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: meatloaf/onion gravy, seasoned diced potatoes, broccoli florets, 100% whole wheat bread, fresh fruit; Sophisticated Ladies (Tap Dancing), 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 18: 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.; Tai Chi with Linda, 10:30 a.m.; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; quilling, 1-4 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 19: Not Just Quilting, 10 a.m.; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: baked fish with lemon dill butter, parslied boiled potatoes, yellow squash, whole grain white bread, peaches.

Lions Hold Masquerade 5K

The Marlborough Lions held their annual Masquerade 5K Oct. 31 with 80 runners turning out, many of whom were dressed in costume for the event.

This event's first-place male and female runners were William Sanders of Marlborough and Linda Spooner from Sturbridge, Mass. Sanders completed the course in 16 minutes and 45 seconds while Spooner completed her run in 19 minutes and 28 seconds. There were also awards for various costume categories including Best Group, Funniest, Scariest and Best Overall Costume.

Costume winners included: Scariest Costume Cruella DeVil (Sarah O'Keefe and her dalmatian) of Marlborough, Best Group was the Bumblebee family (The Welches) of Marlborough, Funniest Costume was Avocado Toast (The Spooner family) of Sturbridge and the Overall Costume winner was Forrest Gump (William Sanders) of Marlborough.

Following the race, the Lions presented medal-

Red Cross Blood Drive

The Marlborough Lions Club is sponsoring a Red Cross Blood Drive Thursday, Dec. 2, from 1-6 p.m., at the Marlborough Senior Center on School Drive.

The Red Cross is hoping to fill around 45 slots for appointments. To schedule an appointment in advance, go to www.redcrossblood.org or visit www.redcrossblood.org/give.html donation-time.

For more information on this event or to learn more about joining the Lions, call secretary Ken Hjulstrom at 860-490-9116 or chairman Megan Lloyd at 413-687-5537.

Food Bank to Benefit in Big Y Bag Program

Marlborough Food Bank has been selected by local Big Y store leadership as the benefiting non-profit in the Community Bag Program for the month of November. For every \$2.50 reusable Community Bag purchased at the store in November, Big Y will send a \$1 donation to the food bank.

Marlborough Food Bank is an all-volunteer organization that provides food assistance and clothing to individuals in need in the local community. Learn more at foodbankofmarlborough.wordpress.com.



Julia Marcin Weds Conner Rago

Julia Marcin, daughter of John and Jeanine Marcin of Marlborough, and Conner Anthony Rago, son of Richard and Tara Rago of Yonkers, N.Y., were married Friday, July 2.

The wedding was held at St. Stanislaus Roman Catholic Church in New Haven, with the Rev. Frank Gilbert presiding.

Given in marriage by her father, the bride was attended by Dr. Genna Marcin Roemer, her sister, as matron of honor. The best man was Thomas Nastu, close friend of the groom. Ushers were John and Joseph Marcin, brothers of the bride.

Immediately following the nuptials, the wedding reception was celebrated at the historic Gillette Castle. During their honeymoon, the couple enjoyed a trip to Niagara Falls and surrounding New York state sights.

The bride is a 2014 honors graduate of Mercy High School in Middletown. In 2018, she earned her Bachelor of Science degree in business with concentrations in finance and international business from the Gabelli School of Business at Fordham University, New York. She is currently a senior associate at Raytheon Technologies working in corporate strategy.

The groom, is a 2013 honors graduate of Salesian High School in New Rochelle, New York. In 2017, he graduated from Fordham University, New York, earning a Bachelor of Art degree in history with a focus on economic development. In 2019, Mr. Rago, completed his Master of Arts degree in special education with emphasis on history. He currently teaches high school physics and history at the Henderson School.

The couple now resides in Boston.

Thanksgiving Dinner for Veterans

American Legion Post 197 will accept orders for takeout-only Thanksgiving dinner for all veterans/seniors. Date for pick-up is Sunday, Nov. 21, from 1-3 p.m. People can pick up their dinner at the Legion post, 128 East Hampton Rd. (Route 66) in Marlborough.

Due to COVID-19, all dinners are take-out-only. Reservations are required; call 860-295-7810 to place an order. Order deadline is Thursday, Nov. 18.

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Book Discussion to Raise Afghani Awareness

Marlborough Outreach, a volunteer, nonpartisan civic group, is hosting a book discussion via Zoom Tuesday, Dec. 7, at 7 p.m., to raise awareness for Afghan refugees. IRIS.org (Integrated Refugee and Immigration 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. Passarlay is now an activist and advocate for refugee children in Europe.

All are invited to read this book and join this discussion. The eBook and audiobook can be found for free on the Hoopla app. For a link to the Zoom meeting, or for more information, email Andrea at Marlboroughoutreach@gmail.com.

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New Columbarium Placed in Cemetery

by Diane Church

There is a new option in town for those who have had the bodies of their departed loved ones cremated, but want them in the cemetery. A columbarium has been placed in Marlboro Cemetery. It can house the cremains of up to 128 people.

The columbarium has been in the discussion phases for a couple of years, but it kicked into high gear last year when the town hired Christopher Passera to work in the public works department. He had just left his position as cemetery sexton in Manchester, a post he held for 26 years.

"The first selectman was very interested in my background," he said. "He said they had been looking into a columbarium for quite some time and my background would be appreciated, even though Manchester didn't have a columbarium. So I proceeded to take on the challenge. I got a lot of support from many people, especially the first selectman and (sexton) Vi Schwarzman."

The first decision was a size. They decided on the one with 64 niches, 32 on each side. Each niche can hold the cremains of two people, so a husband and wife can be together. Each niche will have a door with each occupant's name(s), date(s) of birth and date(s) of death.

Passera and Assistant Sexton Holly Marrero went to visit Elm-Cap Industries in West Hart-

ford, which manufactures burial vaults, cremation urns and related items. They had one in stock and it was recently placed in the cemetery, on the right not far from the entrance.

The structure was paid for by the cemetery commission and the town. It cost a little more than \$20,000 said Passera, who did not want to give the exact figure.

The cost of interment has not been decided yet, but the higher niches will command more money than the lower ones. Interment in the columbarium will be less expensive than the traditional burial of the urn.

Besides being cost-effective, Passera sees columbariums as a smart solution to the lack of space in cemeteries, a problem expected to only get worse if traditional burial remains the norm. The entire structure only takes up a 10 by 3-foot space. By contrast a single traditional burial plot measures ten by four feet.

There are tentative plans to put in a small patio and benches in front of the columbarium. If the columbarium proves popular a second one could also be installed.

Passera enjoyed the experience and was grateful that his supervisor could arrange his schedule so he could work on getting the columbarium.

"This was new," he said. "This was fun. Now I can call myself a columbarium expert."

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.-4 p.m.

Fall Author Series: The library has teamed up with the Cragin, East Hampton, and Welles-Turner libraries for a virtual author talk series. Deborah Copaken (author of *Ladyparts*, *Shutterbabe* and *The Red Book*) will talk over Zoom Tuesday, Nov. 16, at 6:30 p.m. Email the library to register.

Henry Chapman Mercer: A Legacy Built in Concrete: Tuesday, Nov. 16, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom. Located in Doylestown, Bucks County, Pa., the Mercer Museum and Fonthill Castle are two historic castles that celebrate the life and legacy of Henry Chapman Mercer (1856-1930), an

Chocolate 101: Tuesday, Nov. 30, 6:30 p.m. In this indoor program, Kim Larkin from Klassic Kreations Workshops will introduce the history of chocolate, play chocolate trivia, and teach people how to make chocolate creations with her tempering machine. There is a maximum of 20 adult and teen participants. Social distancing practices must be followed and masks must be worn indoors unless taste-testing your samples. Email the library to register.

Hot Flashes to Perform at Arts Center

The musical group The Hot Flashes will perform at Marlborough Arts Center, 231 N. Main St., on Friday, Nov. 19, at 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 7 p.m.

This trio of three female vocalists feature vocal harmonies and jazzy acoustic stylings. The Flashes are: Amy Gallatin, who has performed throughout North America and overseas; award-winning singer-songwriter-guitarist Gail Wade; and multi-instrumentalist Peggy Harvey, founding member of the legendary bluegrass group Traver Hollow.

Backed by mandolinist JD Williams, Dobro veteran Roger Williams, both from Gallatin's band Stillwaters, and bassist John Urbanik, the instrumentalization also includes the occasional clawhammer banjo.

Admission at the door is \$15 per person. All are welcome, but for this performance masks and a proof of vaccination are required, as one of the performers is immuno-compromised. Chairs will be set up for social distancing. There will be no food or drink. The Arts Center is handicapped-accessible and there is ample parking.



Christopher Passera stands next to the new columbarium in Marlboro Cemetery. He was in charge of the project.

Parks and Rec Programs

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

Youth Programs: Acrylic Landscape Painting

Painting: For grades 4-6. Wednesdays, 3:30-5 p.m., Dec. 1-22, at Marlborough Elementary School. Students will be guided through the 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.

Netto Indoor Soccer

For grades 5-6. Games will begin week of Jan. 10. Games will be played after school Mondays and Wednes-

days in the MES gym. Fee is \$75 and participants will receive a T-shirt.

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 Volleyball: Thursdays, 8-10 p.m., at MES. Cost is \$5 per week; drop in.

Pilates/Barre: Tuesdays through Nov. 30, 6-6:45 p.m. There is a \$15/week fee to drop in. Class instruction is virtual or in person and provided by Janice Flanagan.

Driveway Reflective Number Signs: Signs cost \$35. Each vertical sign is double-sided 8"x24" with 4" numbers on blue highway reflective metal. Order forms are online and at Town Hall.

Congregational Church News & Notes

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

Sunday, Nov. 14 is Veterans Sunday, when all who have served in the United States armed forces are honored. Cards of thanks, made by the Sunday school children, and other items will be given to all veterans in attendance. The service will be led by Senior Pastor Bob Faulhaber. Later that day, the Senior High Youth Group and others will prepare a meal, deliver, and serve it to clients at St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen in Middletown.

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.

Operation Christmas Tree: The church's charity and service team is sponsoring a Christmas collection for the Village of Families and Children in Hartford, which serves children from birth through high school. Items will be collected during worship on Nov. 28 and Dec. 5, or may be brought to the church before Nov. 28. Gift

cards in any amount to Walmart and Target are welcome and may be mailed to the church at P.O. Box 57, Marlborough 06447. Items especially needed are diapers for all ages, pull-ups, underwear (boys and girls), socks, pajamas, laundry detergent, deodorant and items for grooming and hygiene.

Mission Support in November 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.

Second Blessings Thrift Shop is open Fridays from noon-3 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-noon. Thanksgiving and fall are now featured, along with Christmas. Second Blessings accepts donations during shopping hours. The shop also sells through eBay at <https://bit.ly/MCCebay>.

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

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.



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★ Senior Center Referendum cont. from page 1

Watson listed some of the problems the center has.

"We can't get hot water in the winter," she said. "The kitchen is like an alleyway. Parking is insufficient. The building is over 100 years old. It should be replaced; we deserve it."

Tony Tarnowski, chairman of the Senior Center Building Committee, said the group worked on the plans for two years.

"There was a great turnout here tonight," he

said. "I think people will support it. The time has come."

As for the one 'no' vote last week's meeting, the lone opposition member did not give his name, but when approached by a group of senior women who wanted to know why he opposed it, he said, "I'm not against a new senior center. You deserve it. But a community center for all ages would serve the community better."

Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover • Andover

Community Fund Advisory Committee Looks to Fill Vacancy

The Andover Greater Together Community Fund Advisory Committee is accepting applications to fill two vacancies on the nine-member board. The new members will fill the remaining two-year term that will expire in October 2022. Any elected official is not eligible to serve on this committee.

The Andover Greater Together Advisory Committee is responsible for selecting and distributing the \$100,000 funds awarded by the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving to local non-profits to assist in projects that will help enhance and benefit the residents of Andover. In September, the community awarded five grants ranging from \$250 to \$6,000 to local organizations.

The Advisory Committee meets the first Thursday of each month at 5 p.m., via Zoom.

Applications to join the committee, and more information about the fund itself, are at www.hfg.org/andovercf. Applications are also available by emailing committee co-chair Dianne Grenier at deardianne@comcast.net.

Completed applications are due Dec. 1.

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Senior Citizen News & Notes

Masks required on the bus and in stores.

Thanksgiving Luncheon: Friday, Nov. 19, at noon, at Andover Pizza. Reservations are due Tuesday, Nov. 16. Transportation provided as needed. Contact Palazzi.

YAH Meeting: Wednesday, Nov. 17, at 12:30 p.m., at the Town Hall community room. For transportation, call Palazzi.

Rides to all town events, town meetings, referendums, or board meetings and all medical appointments available by calling Palazzi. All seniors, veterans and disabled are welcome. If you have a caregiver, they may come with you. Masks must be worn.

Food Deliveries: If you need a food delivery, let Palazzi know.

Congregational Church News

Nov. 17.

Foodshare Van: Comes to the church every other Wednesday from 9-9:30 a.m.; next date is Nov. 24.

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.

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.

Autumn Afternoon Tea

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: Lunch is provided each week after the morning worship.

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

Reader Forum • Reader Forum

★ Letters cont. from page 6

served. This is just one of the crucial services sponsored by the center.

I'm constantly amazed by the number of diverse programs and services offered at the senior center. These include transportation, health and wellness programs, safe driving classes, tax preparation, and AARP meetings, as well as different opportunities to participate in groups such as the garden club, book club, recreational card games, Wii bowling, dominoes and bingo.

All of these programs and services are important to the physical and mental well-being of those aged 55 and older. They provide these residents of Colchester a variety of opportunities for camaraderie and new learning experiences.

As the town has grown, so has this population. A new, larger center is vital and will ensure that Colchester can provide these meaningful services to many more individuals.

Sincerely,
Joan Evans Hunter – Colchester

Thank You

To the Editor:

I would like to thank all of the Portland residents who came out to vote on Nov. 2. It is great to have so many people who support and believe in us. Now it's time to get to work on the things the people want to see done in this town. Besides my running mates, I am looking forward to working with Ralph Zampano and John Dillion.

We need to secure our water source, replace aging infrastructure and expand our tax base. I encourage everyone to get involved in something in town. Join a town committee or board, coach one of our youth sports, or attend a meeting and share your ideas. This is our town and we should all be a part of it.

**Bobby Hetrick, Member-Elect
Portland Board of Selectmen**

Support the Town's Future

To the Editor:

Colchester has a proposed senior center project that will go to referendum Nov. 16.

Please support the proposed senior/community center by voting 'yes.' It will be a positive vote supporting the town's future. The present center has many size constraints and needs many areas that must be updated. This new building will be one that everyone who lives in Colchester will benefit from, now and in the future.

Support all the citizens of Colchester by voting 'yes.'

Nancy Nelson – Colchester

Car Wash Thanks

To the Editor:

Reed DelMastro of Boy Scout Troop 72 of Colchester would like to thank all the people who participated in the car washing fundraiser Sunday, Oct. 31. The Scouts met a number of generous supporters and wish to thank them for turning out in support of this project. We hope that we made your car cleaner through our efforts.

Donations that were collected will be used to improve the Red Trail at Cohen's Wood Park. Look for improvements to start in the near future.

Thank you again for your supporting Boy Scouting in Colchester.

**Boy Scout Troop 72
Colchester**

Amazing Accomplishment!

Dear News Bulletin Community Neighbors:

Something remarkable happened this week! Not just for Marlborough but for all of our surrounding communities, too. In fact, for our whole country! The infrastructure bill, discussed, outlined, and put forth by Biden in a June 2021 statement is bold and necessary. Since the Inauguration, and despite an attempted insurrection, these past nine months provided enough time for this beneficial and crucial-to-our-future bill to pass! I admit, it felt longer, but it was only nine months! It didn't happen without being messy. It didn't happen without bipartisan support. It happened because the involved politicians put America's needs first. Politicians worked for their constituents, they invested in us. How novel for many of them! But we are a sure bet! Americans will grab this opportunity with gusto and make our country soar like the eagles we are!

I excitedly look forward to the improvements all members of our society will benefit from: safer roads and bridges, efficient power grids,

and access to high-speed internet and clean water, a cleaner Earth, more and better paying jobs – this is a bill by and for the people! I'm thrilled at the magnitude of differences some folks will experience around our country. Some states are more needy than others, but we all can improve and do better with the allotted resources. Our dollars being used to improve the quality of our lives. A nice break from seeing only the wealthy add more to their stockpiles.

If our democracy is going to survive, Dems, Reps and Unaffiliated must work together in like fashion, again. Sure, there are distances between the parties – even within, but that's nothing we can't bridge. See what I did there?!"Bridge." LOL!

Next up, Build Back Better – let's get it done!
**Hopeful Marlborough Resident,
Donna Koropatkin**

Let's Do Better

To the Editor:

As chair of the Colchester Democrats, I want to congratulate the winners of both parties on their Nov. 2 victory. Thanks also to those who stepped up to serve, and the thousands of voters who cast a ballot and engaged in their community.

The Colchester Democrats were proud to maintain a positive, issue-based campaign. As an organization, our mail, social media, and personal outreach were largely about Colchester's future and the accomplishments of our team. Overwhelmingly, those conversations at the doors, at events, and on the phones commended our team for this approach. Despite the outcome, it was an approach we would not change.

Speaking as an individual, this election showed a political divisiveness that I have not seen before in my 30-plus years of political activism. This divisiveness was not limited to one party or one person, and seen across the state and country.

Healthy debate on issues, record, and experience is important to the electoral process. But personal, untruthful attacks have no place in my view. Our candidates, supporters, volunteers, and even students often experienced crude, vulgar language and visceral attacks on social media and in-person.

I am hopeful that the next few weeks will let us all pause and reflect that we are one community no matter our backgrounds, experiences and viewpoints. It is critical for our collective success as a country, state, and town to reflect kindness and tolerance for one another.

Equally as important, we need your voices. Step up for a board or commission, consider a run for office, join your local town committee or volunteer.

The only way we change the toxic political culture we are living in is to step up and stand up against it. I pledge to do better – will you?

**Thank you,
Michelle Gilman – Colchester**

Wrong Price, Plan and Place

To the Editor:

The latest Hebron Board of Selectmen meeting included a discussion on the economic responsibility of pursuing the construction of an elaborate \$9 million Public Works facility in light of the recent defeat of our \$1.2 million share of the RHAM turf referendum. If residents are not willing to approve that sum for the high school, why does the BOS believe a sum nine times higher for a massive new town garage would find approval? Especially when there are clearly other options available. I once again cite Hebron's 2014 Plan of Conservation and Development with its stated goal of building a maintenance garage and office for DPW on land reserved at Burnt Hill. This solution would clearly cost less than \$9 million and could have improved the working conditions for the town crews at least six years ago. The only problem appears to be that this solution does not fit with the extravagant architectural plans acquired by the town. So the BOS pushes on.

During this conversation, I was interested to hear a summary of the ongoing efforts to place the proposed DPW industrial facility at 17 Kinney Road. Imagine my surprise when I learned the Public Building Committee and the BOS are considering moving the DPW garage closer to Kinney Road, closer to sensitive wetlands and closer to the cherished Raymond Brook Nature Preserve!

For months myself, several residents and a member of the board itself have politely asked for consideration regarding the impact a massive industrial garage would have on the environment and our historic residential neighbor-

hood. After all this time and sincere effort, the town's response was to suggest the exact opposite of our expressed concerns. This revelation might have been disheartening if I was not so thoroughly convinced this is the wrong project in the wrong place.

**Sincerely,
Kevin J. Tulimieri – Amston**

development states that by 2030, 40% of Colchester's population will be 55 or older.

As of Nov. 8, 2021, the membership of the Senior Center is 1,461 members.

Absentee ballots are available in the town clerk's office through Monday, Nov. 15. The Nov. 16 referendum for the senior center will be held in Town Hall between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m.

**Sincerely,
Rosemary Coyle – Colchester**

Note: Coyle is a member of the Colchester Board of Selectmen but said she is speaking as an individual.

Hairspray

To the Editor:

Aging Rivereast gentlemen readers who still have some hair may relate to this.

The recent passing of Jerry "RemDog" Remy, veteran Red Sox second baseman and longtime TV game announcer, reminded of this conversation with fellow commentator Don Orsillo about a matter that had absolutely nothing to do with baseball.

The subject? Hairspray.

The discussion went on at length for a number of innings about how they keep their hair in place with hairspray; and that the need increases with age as hair thins, becomes wispier, and is annoyingly dislodged by the slightest whiff of air. They went so far as to speculate that more elderly men use hairspray than do their female counterparts.

**Peter Kushkowski
"Almost Heaven"
Portland**

Vote 'Yes' for Senior Center

To the Editor:

I have been a resident of Colchester for over 50 years and have watched Colchester grow and progress into a community with a rich history and improved services for the town. I have sadly watched failed efforts over the years to build a new senior center and that failure has put us behind so many other communities in Connecticut.

Seniors have contributed so much to Colchester's civic and cultural life over the years. They deserve our thanks, our respect, and our caring. A new senior center will invigorate their lives and the life of the town. Please vote yes on the November 16 Referendum.

Sheila Horvitz – Colchester

Humbled and Honored

To the Editor:

Thank you to the residents of Colchester who took the time to support me during the election process and for your vote on Election Day. I am very humbled and honored to serve on the Board of Selectmen over the next two-year term and look forward to serving our community. Working with the new and present board members to do what is right for the town which requires listening to all viewpoints, discussions, and building a consensus of what is good will be my focus.

I would like to thank my family, friends, and neighbors who have supported me when I made the decision to run. Over the past several months, I had the opportunity to meet many residents of our town whom I have shared conversations with. I would like to thank everyone who submitted letters to the editor on my behalf, placed a sign in your yard, and those who shared the news of my candidacy with their friends and family. Thank you so much as I am forever grateful for your trust in me.

**Debbie Bates, Member-Elect
Colchester Board of Selectmen**

Thanks for Reelection

To the Editor:

To the residents of Colchester, thank you for reelecting me to a second term on the Board of Selectmen. I am humbled and honored to be able to continue to serve in my community, and will continue to work to make the best decisions possible for moving Colchester forward.

**Sincere thanks,
Denise Turner, Member
Colchester Board of Selectmen**

Referendum Facts

To the Editor:

On Nov. 16, there will be a referendum on the new senior center. The following are some facts for your information:

- The design and size of the Senior Center was based on the Senior Center strategic plan.

- The Building Committee reduced the size of the building from over 12 designs presented by the architect.

- The architect presented the final design in January of 2021.

- The debt service analysis prepared by bond counsel lists the impact to the mill rate for the fire apparatus and the new senior center. The mill rate will increase in 2022 by 0.0, in 2023 by 0.08, in 2024 – 26 by 0.06 per year, and in 2027 there will be no increase. From 2028 on the mill rate impact decreases each year - 0.03, -0.04, -0.10, and so on.

- The building would be located behind Town Hall and next to the synagogue with its entrance from Lebanon Avenue.

- There are 70 proposed parking spaces and additional spaces on Town Hall property.

- The large meeting rooms connect to a commercial kitchen and outside patio and can accommodate up to 300 people.

- Colchester's Plan of Conservation and De-

Senior Center at Right Price

To the Editor:

Last week's town meeting voting to adjourn the senior center project to referendum voting on Tuesday, Nov. 16, was approved by a large margin of 149 to one. A huge endorsement that supports that the existing senior center needs to be replaced and now is the time for this community to make sure this happens next week.

The proposed cost of \$9.5 million appears to be the biggest hurdle for getting everyone in town to vote "yes" for the new senior center. The Senior Center Building Committee (SCBC) has spent enormous time developing an estimated costs for this building. This included an independent estimator and input from the architect/engineer firm and the team's project manager. The SCBC membership includes a professional estimator and individuals with 40 years of construction experience.

See Letters, page 30

Obituaries

Salem

Rita Theresa Grant



Rita Theresa Grant, 64, of Salem, passed away suddenly Saturday, Nov. 6, after a brief illness. Born Dec. 21, 1956, in Putnam; she was the daughter of Bernice Therrian and the late Reynald Gervais.

Rita grew up in Plainfield and Moosup, later moving to Norwich where she attended college and met her husband, Tim Grant. The couple married Dec. 12, 1987. Rita worked as financial manager at Mohegan Sun Casino. She helped open the property as a "day-oner," working there for 20 years before retiring.

She will always be remembered as a kind-hearted soul, who was the most generous and compassionate caretaker of both her family and friends. Those who had the privilege of knowing her would agree that she could best be described as a "mother to all." She was commonly referred to as a Saint by those close to her. Rita's gentleness and compassion will be forever missed, but her memory will live on in the hearts and minds of her family.

She is survived by her husband, Tim Grant of Salem; sons, Ryan, Eric and Tony; brothers, Harry "Mich" Lawson (Kim Mahoney), Tony (Lisa) Gervais, Michael (Patricia) Gervais; and sister, Zoe Lawson; as well as numerous other extended family and friends.

In addition to her father, she is predeceased by her son William "Willy" Ridgaway.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial donations be made to COPD Foundation by visiting COPDFoundation.org.

Care of private funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester. For online condolences, please visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Dorothy C. Haines

Dorothy C. Haines, 85, of East Hampton, wife of the late Warren Haines, passed away peacefully at Middlesex Hospital Wednesday Oct. 27. Born July 9, 1936, in Manchester, she was the daughter of the late Frederick and Doris (Olsen) Clayton.

After raising her children, Dorothy worked as a nurse until her retirement. She was an active member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in East Hampton for most of her life. She was a member of the East Hampton Historical Society, East Hampton Garden Club and Dorcas Circle.

She is survived by her son, Robert Haines and wife Michelle of Rockfall; daughters, Cheryl Kissinger of East Hampton, Karen Haines of Moodus; brother and sister-in-law, Richard and Elizabeth Haines; her nieces, Laurie and Susan; her three grandchildren, Stephanie Schwartz, Joshua Kissinger, Michael Haines; and her five great-grandchildren, Emery Schwartz, Audrey Schwartz, Bennet Kissinger, Luna Haines and Lily Haines.

Dorothy's family would like to thank the caregivers that helped Dorothy immensely, and the exceptional staff at By the River in Marlborough.

A private service will be held at Bethlehem

Lutheran Church in East Hampton and burial will be in the family plot in Rose Hill Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1 East High St., P.O. Box 31, East Hampton, CT 06424.

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

Hebron

Sherwood J. Holland



Sherwood J. Holland, affectionately known as "Woody" by friends and family, passed away Wednesday, Oct. 27, at the age of 82. Woody was born to the late Sherwood and Irene (Jacobs) Holland on Dec. 31, 1939, and grew up in Manchester.

After graduation from Manchester High School, he became a union construction foreman before he spent over 20 years working for The Central Connecticut Cooperative Farmers Association, driving big rigs all over New England and New York.

In his earlier years, Woody coached Bolton Youth Football and served as a town constable in Bolton. After retiring, he enjoyed spending time watching football, especially Tom Brady, and rooting on the Boston Red Sox with his wife. He also enjoyed cooking and gardening, watching NASCAR and spending time with his beloved grandchildren. He had a love for music which transcended many genres, with opera and country music being his favorites.

Woody was also known to be the man everyone turned to when they needed help. Although having no formal education, there was nothing he couldn't build, repair and make better. He will be missed as the friend that would do anything to help anyone.

Woody will be sorely missed by the love of his life, Felicia Holland, with whom he spent a wonderful 38 years; his son, Richard Pezzente; his daughter and son-in-law, Lisa and Tony Alfano; and his beloved grandsons, Michael and Evan Alfano and granddog Cooper. He also leaves behind his brother-in-law, John Michno.

A visitation was held Wednesday, Nov. 3, at the Aurora McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Burial took place privately, following the visitation.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Friends are invited to sign the online guest-book at www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Portland

Scott Edward Mitchell

Scott Edward Mitchell, 62, son of Alice Mitchell and the late Richard Mitchell of Portland, passed peacefully surrounded by family Tuesday, Sept. 28.

Scott is survived by his mother, Alice Mitchell of Portland; sister, Karen Rubistello, brother-in-law George and niece Katie of Lake Peekskill, N.Y.; his nephew, Joseph Mitchell and great nephew Mason of Westerly, R.I.

He was predeceased by his dear sister Robin in 2013.

Scott was a great son, brother, uncle and friend; a kind, unique, caring man so loved by his family. He also leaves his cousins, especially Lynne Mitchell of Port Au Persil, Quebec, and many local friends, especially his lifelong friend John Russo.

Contributions to The American Cancer Society are greatly appreciated.

Colchester

Richard Allyne Snyder



Richard Allyne Snyder, 90, of Colchester, passed away peacefully Tuesday, Nov. 2, after a typically active day: voting, going to the dentist and taking a walk on his favorite trail.

Richard was born in Oxford, Mass., on May 15, 1931, to the late Harriet (Marsh) and Fredrick Snyder. He was predeceased by siblings Shirley Snyder, Betty Stevens and Warren Snyder, and son-in-law Scott Mackler.

Richard was the beloved husband and dancing partner of Loraine (Stelmach) Snyder for nearly 62 years, lovingly caring for her until her death in 2017. Together they enjoyed summers in Cape Cod, the UConn Huskies, USS Bennington reunions, gardening and exercise.

Richard was a lifelong sports fan; he loved the UConn Huskies, the Giants and then Patriots, and his favorite, the Red Sox. At 6 a.m. on the morning after the 2004 World Series win, he arrived festooned with Sox garb and bearing T-shirts for everyone! Richard's love of sports was rooted in his childhood, and he was delighted when he and the 1949 undefeated Oxford High School boys' basketball team were inducted into the OHS Athletic Hall of Fame.

He was patriotic and loved parades and a straightforward rendering of the National Anthem. A proud crew member of the USS Bennington during the Korean War era, he served in the Navy and was on board on May 26, 1954, when an accidental explosion resulted in 103 fatalities.

Richard retired from Pratt & Whitney after 30 years, as a general foreman. Richard and Loraine were wonderful hosts as their house served as a gathering point for old friends and especially for the friends of their kids, who always seemed to land there after school or basketball games. Richard was the life of the party, and he could (and did) talk to anyone. He reveled in family gatherings as they joined from far and wide for Christmas, weddings, and yes, even funerals.

Richard's garden produced an abundance of green beans, zucchini, tomato, and zinnia. He was incessantly fit, rollerblading and biking, roof raking and rototilling well into his 80s! He was a good neighbor and cheerful over-talker. After becoming patriarch of the extended Snyder family following the deaths of his brother and brother-in-law two decades ago, he could always be counted on to "show up." He leaves many beloved cousins, nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews.

Richard was a loving father to Lynn Snyder Mackler (Michael Axe), Kurt Snyder (Kathleen), and Jane Snyder DeMaio (Paul). He set

an example of commitment and hard work and instilled a love of nature. He cherished his grandchildren, Kris Snyder (Jess), Alexander Mackler (Laura), Noah Snyder-Mackler (Kelsey Lucca), and Jackie and Aaron DeMaio. With Loraine, he cared for each one as babies, showered them with closets full of Hess trucks, and taught them all to love the beach, make drip castles, and body surf. His great-grandchildren Sam, Sadie, Sawyer and Bridget were a delight, bringing joy to his later years. He was looking forward to meeting his new great-granddaughter, who is due to arrive in January.

Richard's independence was facilitated by Claudia Maistrelis and Barbara Ryan, who lovingly kept him in line. We are grateful for their commitment and support. We would also like to thank the many friends, neighbors, and community members who befriended and supported Richard over the years. Richard, Richie, Dad, Grandpa, Great Grandpa Richie – you loved us dearly and that will sustain us now and forever.

A memorial service celebrating Richards's life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of donations or flowers, take a walk, plant a garden, talk to a stranger, or hit that next perfect wave.

Portland

Cyril Fowler

Cyril "Burt" Fowler from Portland, previously from Colchester and Cheshire, recently passed away.

Burt was born in New Haven to Cyril and Thelma Fowler on Sept. 20, 1940. He graduated from Cheshire Academy, Curry College, and The Gemology Institute of America. After graduating from The Gemology Institute of America, he entered the family business, Fowler Jewelers. Upon his retirement, he kept busy repairing watches and clocks, vegetable gardening, and hunting for "treasures" with Eileen, his wife of 56 years. He loved Cape Cod, the UConn women's basketball team, cars, pocket watches, and clocks. He enjoyed helping others in any capacity.

His greatest love was his family. Besides Eileen, he leaves his son Brett (Ann) of Cheshire and daughter Kristy (Barry) of Spring Hill, Tennessee. He was "E" to Ryan (Ashley), Owen (Heather), Alec (Cutie), and Hannah Fowler. He was "Poppy" to Eric and Reilly Robinson. Burt was predeceased by his great-granddaughter, Reagan Jean Fowler.

The family has received lovely notes from many people and the word most used to describe Burt was "kind." We ask that in his honor, please be kind to one another.

At his request, there were no services. Donations in his memory may be made to either The Portland Food Bank, P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480 or Cheshire Community Food Pantry, 175 Sandbank Rd., Cheshire, CT 06410.

Classifieds

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COUNCIL

Reader Forum • Reader Forum

★ Letters cont. from page 27

The senior center building being proposed is suited to meet the needs of the many senior center members participating every day Monday through Friday. The size and layout for this building went through many revisions, inputs from again experts in the field of constructing senior centers was critical in developing the proposed building presented for referendum on Tuesday.

This is the time to move this forward, the senior's here in town have waited many years for this to be approved. This SCBC has worked for many months to present this project, we did not just start this effort six months ago. The time is right, the town committees (finance and selectmen) have expected this project and the financial facts (e.g. low interest rates, costs go up over time) support approving this effort on Tuesday, Nov. 16.

Please vote on Tuesday. Thank you.

Kevin Hastings – Colchester

Note: Hastings is a member of the Senior Center Building Committee but said he is writing as an individual.

Thank You, Bus Drivers

To the Editor:

The Region 8 community has designated Friday, Nov. 12, as RHAM Bus Driver Appreciation Day, to publicly thank the drivers of all our busses and vans. We will be sharing signs of gratitude with the drivers on campus, but also want to publicly share our deep appreciation for this special part of the RHAM family.

The general public may not know that districts across the country, including our own, are faced with driver shortages. Our drivers wake up incredibly early, board hot and cold busses depending on the time of year, navigate the roads of our communities (sometimes in the dark), and endure challenges many cannot imagine - all the while ensuring that our students get to school safely. Many also work extra hours transporting our students to games and other extracurricular activities. They are an important part of the educational experience of our students and are often overlooked.

So, on behalf of administrators, teachers, parents, and students, we extend a heartfelt thank you to our bus and van drivers! You are appreciated, and we are grateful that you are part of our RHAM community.

Sincerely,
Scott Leslie, Region 8
Superintendent of Schools
Mary Rose Meade,
RHAM Parent and Teacher

Voting for Senior Center

To the Editor:

I have been a resident of Colchester since 2001. I am not a senior and do not have relatives who are seniors in this town.

I am a parent of two children in the school system. I supported the WJJMS project. I supported the fire apparatus to update our badly outdated equipment and now I am proud to support the New Senior Center Project.

A community is a community because we support one another.

This is a fantastic proposal for a badly needed senior center which helps and serves hundreds and hundreds of seniors, their families and their caregivers. This is not charity. Our seniors have earned this service as contributing citizens of this town, some for more than 40 years.

The proposal involved hundreds of hours of work by volunteers, many of whom are subject matter experts. It involved architects and estimators hired by the town to perform the due diligence for what this project should cost.

Please look at the work done, consider what this community means to you, and decide for yourself.

I will vote 'yes' this Tuesday and I hope that you will join me.

Sincerely,
Vincent Rose – Colchester

Senior Center Project

To the Editor:

I worked as a program coordinator of the Colchester Senior Center in 2006-07, and still volunteer there. The building is 136 years old and has a parking lot that is inadequate, a roof that sometimes leaks when it rains, a kitchen is the size of a small alley, rooms with drafty windows that are too hot or cold, a ladies' room where the pipes might freeze in the toilet stall nearest the outside, and an erratic furnace that might not work during the night with it getting so cold the center has to shut down for the day.

We have the opportunity for a new building without incurring huge taxpayer expense. This project would add property taxes of \$13 per year which is only \$1.09 per month. Most people spend more on a cup of coffee every day. The project money is capped and will never be any less expensive than it is today.

Currently seniors and our youth get together in intergenerational programs and the community can use the new building after it closes for the day around 4 p.m. Perhaps the current senior center could become a community center. After all, our town veterans already have a meeting room there.

For those who say the Jack's Chevrolet location should have been used, why take a tax paying piece of property off tax rolls to replace it with a non-taxpaying town facility? We have no idea of the costs of environmental clean-up and reworking of the building.

When businesses and families look to move to our town, having good infrastructure like this is a plus. Elderly parents who come to live near their adult children attend the senior center. We should have a place for them that isn't rundown.

Please vote 'yes' on Nov. 16!
Irene Watson – Colchester

Sincerest Thanks

Dear Marlborough Community Members:

I want to express my sincerest thanks for electing me to the Board of Education. I am beyond excited and humbled to start this new role. Special thanks to the members of the RTC for your advice and teamwork. To Sue Stolfi, Kerri Barella, and Carey Fraulino: it was an honor working and waving beside you these last several weeks. I look forward to serving our community while upholding the value of education. Thank you again for your confidence in me!

Sincerely,
Liz Giannelli, Member-Elect
Marlborough Board of Education

Referendum Not Rushed

To the Editor:

There has been information being posted on social media recently asking why the Town of Colchester is rushing to a referendum for the new proposed senior center. In fact, nothing could be farther from the truth.

The Senior Center Building Committee completed its work and presented the current proposal, including costs to a combined meeting of the boards of selectmen and finance on Jan. 21 of this year. Since that meeting, the Planning and Zoning Commission gave conceptual approval of the project in April.

Additionally, the committee has made presentations to the Lions Club, Colchester Business Association, Northwoods Community, Colchester Commons, Colchester Cares, four presentations throughout the summer at the Senior Center, Knights of Columbus, Commission on Aging and others. In early August a four-page bulletin was mailed to every household in Colchester which gave a detailed description of what was being proposed.

Originally a referendum date of Sept. 23 was proposed, but when the committee and Board of Selectmen found out there was a possibility of obtaining \$3.1 million bond grant from the State Bonding Commission, it was decided to postpone the referendum to see if a grant was forthcoming. Because the Bonding Commission has not met and is not scheduled to meet soon, it was decided to move forward with the referendum.

The community is well aware of the project and no one has rushed this to referendum. The time has come to support this project and move it forward to benefit all of Colchester. Please vote 'yes' on Nov. 16.

**Anthony J. Tarnowski, LEED A.P.
Colchester**

Note: Tarnowski is chairman of the Senior Center Building Committee, but said he is speaking as an individual.

Age of Anti-Government

To the Editor:

The American experiment as we know it may be about finished, and every single Republican voter championed this ending. Despite voting for a racist, xenophobic, misogynistic president and his local sycophants, Republicans claimed they themselves are not bigots, seditionists or homophobic. However, these views are not deal-breakers for them either. It will take years before the sheen has worn off and Republicans realize the gravity of their choices. They will have to come to terms with the fact they killed

the golden goose, and they themselves voted the only people off the island who were raising alarms and trying to help them. We have entered the age of anti-enlightenment, where ignorance is glorified, and intelligence and science are demonized. It's hard to say exactly just how bad this is going to get, but the country needs to brace itself for a wave of tactics that appoint Republicans with a radicalized ideology, into government for perpetuity.

Too many Americans have been unwilling to protect democracy, under the hubris that fascism could never happen here. They have either shirked their responsibility or have fallen for the political shlock of race-baiting, fear-mongering, and propaganda. If you haven't noticed the deliberate attempts to undermine our election process, if you're not disturbed about mass shootings, and anti-vaccine madness or concerned about climate chaos. If you haven't taken the signs of a fascist insurrection infiltrating our republic seriously, and if you're not worried that in 3-4 years from now, democracy will look nothing like the America we grew up in, then you're simply not paying attention.

In the darkest hours that are yet to come, there may still be some hope. However, Americans must begin paying attention and wrestle the nation back from the childish narcissism, and radicalized ideology of the American right.

Joe Stevens – Hebron

Vote 'Yes' on Referendum

To the Editor:

I have recently become a person who is wanting to give an opinion on the supposedly "senior center" conversations.

Since my husband's death, I have lived in Colchester for the last 12 years. One of the reasons I decided to relocate here was my son-in-law's high opinion of Colchester including the construction of a new senior center, (which at the time was seriously being considered), but here we are, still awaiting the outcome of this matter.

I believe the older residents deserve the building of a new center. It will bring more residents together through the wonderful programs offered, a place to meet new people and a place to feel welcome at any time.

Please help make this a priority for the Colchester seniors and give us seniors something to look forward to in the near future by voting "Yes" at the upcoming referendum on November 16th.

Thank you,
Barbara Sanzo – Colchester

Heartfelt Thanks

To the Editor:

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all the people of Colchester who came out to vote on Nov. 2 regardless of political affiliation, and to those who supported my candidacy for the Board of Education.

I look forward to serving all students and parents of Colchester during my upcoming term. Furthermore, I eagerly await the opportunity to foster academic success for all students by strengthening the collaboration amongst parents, students, teachers, administrators, and Board of Education members. Together, I believe we can all influence the lives of all of Colchester's students for the better by ensuring they achieve their academic and professional life goals.

Again, my heartfelt thanks to all who voted and supported my candidacy for the Board of Education.

Very Respectfully,
Alex Oliphant, Member-Elect
Colchester Board of Education

Willy Nilly

To the Editor:

Yowza! Yowza! Stop the presses! Hebron's DPW garage will, again, be moving closer to Kinney Road.

Are we now looking for a dry spot on which to build in this notoriously wet property? Do the residents of Kinney Road have valid concerns about this parcel? Did we buy this infamous and always soggy piece of land prior to investing in a proper 'land use' evaluation?

Yowza! Yowza! Ring that bell. It's enough to make your head spin.

But have no fear, what seems like a loss is really an asset. Hebron now owns this land. Maybe we can donate it to Open Space and protect it from development for the rest of our lives (at least). Left undisturbed this watershed can continue to do the most important job on our planet, filter clean drinking water. Recently

we've told 'clean' food is an important part of life, and it is important. But without clean water, there is no food, much less life. Every living thing, on planet Earth, relies on clean, safe, water, be it salty ocean waters or fresh water rivers and streams.

Building on a watershed is disruptive, even with our best intentions of responsible, sustainable buildings. It disrupts the flow of ground waters, consumes much needed farmland, steals natural habitats, and even appears contrary to our Inlands/Wetlands regulations. It also requires a great deal of engineering, money and materials, all of which require energy. There is no way around it.

For decades scientists have been saying that the best way to save energy is to just use less, far less. Today's thinking is not, necessarily, to build new but to refurbish the old. And, as always, the best way to have clean drinking water is to defend your own water supplies.

Jean Tulimieri – Amston

Senior Center Referendum!

To the Editor:

I fully support the new Colchester Senior Center and excited to vote 'yes' on Tuesday, Nov. 16!

The referendum will be at Town Hall and the polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Seniors have waited a long time for this senior center and this is our opportunity to come through for them.

Plus, as was pointed out at the town meeting – we will all get to 55 years old at some point!

Please join me in voting 'yes' for the new senior center!

Regards,
Amy Domeika – Colchester

Thank You, Portland Voters

To the Editor:

My sincere appreciation to everyone who cast their vote for me in the past election. It is a pleasure and honor to represent the citizens of Portland on the Board of Assessment Appeals. Thank you all for your vote of confidence. I will do my best to hear all appeals with fairness.

Peter Castelli

Portland Board of Assessment Appeals

Humbled by Support

To the Editor:

I want to take a quick moment to thank the people of Colchester for electing me to the Board of Selectmen. The amount of support you've all shown me has been truly humbling. I'm not sure I ever expected to be here. I always knew I could win, but it's still a shock for me. I'm a young, loud and boisterous political outsider. I am not a member of the RTC. Who would have thought you all would have brought me here? I'm simply speechless. Thank you, so much. I really do have no words for the gratitude I feel for this and, as I'm sure you're all aware by now, it's not often I can't find words to say.

Beyond me, I want to congratulate all my Republican colleagues in their sweep of the ballot on Nov. 2. It was an incredible achievement, and it couldn't have been accomplished by a better group of people. Every single person on the Republican slate is just a fantastic human. I am so proud of all of them. I said it before, but I'll say it again – I am beyond honored to call each of them new friends. They worked so hard for this, and supported each other throughout this whole ordeal. It was unlike anything I had seen before.

I also want to congratulate my new colleagues on the BOS, Denise Turner and Rosemary Coyle. I look forward to working with them to put forth an agenda that serves only the people of Colchester. We have a short two years to prove our vision of affordability, accountability and transparency will work. I have no doubt that we will be successful. It won't be easy, but it will be worth it.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you!

**Jason LaChapelle, Member-Elect
Colchester Board of Selectmen**

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor (300 words or less) should be emailed to bulletin@glcitizen.com. Please include your full name and town of residence. A phone number must be provided (not for publication).

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A COPY OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MARLBOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE CEA MARLBOROUGH FOR THE JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2025 CONTRACT YEAR IS ON FILE IN THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE, TOWN HALL, NORTH MAIN STREET, MARLBOROUGH, CONNECTICUT.
DATED AT MARLBOROUGH, CONNECTICUT THIS 4th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2021.
LAUREN A. GRIFFIN
MARLBOROUGH TOWN CLERK

1TB 11/12

TOWN OF PORTLAND PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION

At the November 4, 2021 meeting, the following action was taken:
APPROVED A 35 DAY EXTENSION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING AND CONTINUED THE PUBLIC HEARING TO 12/2/21 FOR APPLICATION PZC #21-04: 1390 Main Street (northwest corner of Rte. 17 and Rte. 17A). Request for a Site Plan, Special Permit and Subdivision Review to construct a new 51,902 sq. ft. steel framed building. This all-inclusive facility will include a gun retail business, indoor range, gunsmithing, archery sales, services and range, etc. Application of Let Freedom Ring, LLC. Property of Gil Isle LLC. Assessor's Map 76, Lot 1. Zone RI. Western portion of site is located in Flood Plain Zone AE.
APPROVED APPLICATION #21-06: 56 Strong Avenue. Request for subdivision of house on .4 acre lot from farm with 33 acres with barns and garage. Applicant and property of Estate of Lucille G. Anderson, Nancy L. Anderson, Executrix. Assessor's Map 47, Lot 14. Zone R10.
APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS APPLICATION #21-07: 378 Cox Road. Map 78, Lot 21. Request for an 11 lot subdivision on a property containing wetlands. Application of Tom Briggs. Property of Synnott Properties, LLC. Zone RR/Forest Neighborhood Overlay Zone.
Dated at Portland, CT. this 5th day of November 2021
Robert Ellsworth, Chairman
Planning & Zoning Commission

1TB 11/12

CORRECTED LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

Notice is hereby given that the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency held a meeting at 6:30 p.m. on October 27, 2021 at the East Hampton Town Hall and via ZOOM to consider the following:

A. IW-21-022: Global 66, LLC, 265 West High Street – Site Plan Modification including new drive aisle and parking area, installation of culvert to carry existing drainage, installation of a retaining wall, and new drainage facilities within the Upland Review Area. Map 06/ Block 12/ Lot 9 – Continued to Next Meeting

B. IW-21-023: Christine Weidemer, 33 Bay Road – Repairs to Existing Seawall on Lake Pocotopaug and Installation of new drywall. Map 9A/ Block 70/ Lot 27 – Approved with Conditions

C. IW-21-024: Susan Woodson, 31 Bay Road – Repairs to Existing Seawall on Lake Pocotopaug. Map 91/ Block 70/ Lot 26 – Approved with Conditions

Jeffry M. Foran, Chairman

1TB 11/12

Legal Notice Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission

The Duly Authorized Agent of the Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission APPROVED the following application on November 4th, 2021:

•Application #WWC 21-24: Garrett Homes, LLC, 580 Lake Road- Subdivision of existing 2.65-acre lot to create a 1.24-acre lot for future construction of a retail building. Permit is for subdivision of land only. A portion of the property is within the 200-foot Upland Review Area of Cheney Brook.

The above decisions may be appealed to the Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission pursuant to Section 12.2 of the Town of Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations, available at www.andoverconnecticut.org. 1TB 11/12

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH

Notice is hereby given that a copy of the "PROFESSIONAL AGREEMENT" between the Regional School District No. 8 Board of Education and the RHAM Education Association is on file in the Town Clerks Office, Town Hall, North Main Street, Marlborough, Connecticut. The new contract is for the period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025.
DATED AT MARLBOROUGH, CONNECTICUT THIS 4th DAY OF November, 2021.

Lauren A. Griffin, Town Clerk
Town of Marlborough

1TB 11/12

LEGAL NOTICE MARLBOROUGH CONSERVATION COMMISSION NOTICE OF ACTION

The Marlborough Conservation Commission at its meeting of November 01 2021, took the following action:

APPLICATIONS APPROVED:

APPLICATION #13-21 – John & Siobhan Peng (Applicant/Property Owner) – 23 Lakeridge Dr – construction of 12' x 14' shed and attached 12' x 4' deck on lakefront property. The application is continued to November 1, 2021. A site walk is scheduled for October 25, 2021.

APPLICATION #14-21 – Jones Hollow Associates, LLC (Application/Property Owner) Lot 2 Riverside Estates Re-Subdivision – construction of driveway, residential house & septic system. The application is continued to November 1, 2021. A site walk is scheduled for October 25, 2021.

APPLICATION #15-21 – Paul & Jennifer Badeau (Applicant/Property Owner) – 51 Lakeridge Dr. – construction of 12' x 16' storage shed on lakefront property. The application is continued to November 1, 2021. A site walk is scheduled for October 25, 2021.

APPLICATION #16-21 – David Gates (Applicant/Property Owner), Keirstead Cir – construction of single family residence. Dated at Marlborough, CT this 04TH day of November, 2021.

MARLBOROUGH CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Yvonne Bolton, Chair

1TB 11/12

Invitation to Bid Regional School District 8 85 Wall Street Hebron, CT 06248 Athletic Trainer Services RFP No. 22-03 November 12, 2021

Regional School District 8 will receive sealed bids from qualified firms for Athletic Trainer Services.

Request for Proposal packets will be available on Friday, November 12, 2021 and may be obtained online at https://www.rhamschools.org/departments/business_office/r_f_p_bids as well as the State of Connecticut Department of Administrative Services website.

NO MANDATORY pre-proposal meeting will be required. Sealed Request for Proposals are due on Friday, December 17, 2021 at Central Office, Regional School District 8, 85 Wall Street, Hebron, CT 06248 no later than 1:45 PM. A public bid opening will take place at 2:00 PM, December 17, 2021.

Regional School District 8 reserves the right to amend or terminate the Request for Proposal; accept all or any part of a proposal; reject any or all proposals; waive any informalities or non-material deficiencies in a proposal; and award the contract to the firm that makes the proposal that is, in the opinion of Regional School District 8, in the best interest of the school community.

1TB 11/12

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A COPY OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MARLBOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE MARLBOROUGH ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION FOR THE JULY 1, 2022-JUNE 30, 2025 CONTRACT YEAR IS ON FILE IN THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE, TOWN HALL, NORTH MAIN STREET, MARLBOROUGH, CONNECTICUT.

DATED AT MARLBOROUGH, CONNECTICUT THIS 4th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2021.

LAUREN A. GRIFFIN
MARLBOROUGH TOWN CLERK

1TB 11/12

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

Notice is hereby given that the Portland Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, November 18, 2021 at a meeting to start at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom to consider the following:

PZC #21-08: 264 Freestone Avenue. Request for a Special Permit for shop for automotive vehicle customization and automotive vehicle resale. Application of John Ferruolo. Property of Global Freestone, LLC. Assessor's Map 20, Lot 179. Zone I. At this hearing interested persons may appear and be heard and written communications will be received. A copy of this application is available for public review in the Portland Land Use Department or on the Town of Portland Website: [www.portlandct.org](http://portlandct.org)

Dated at Portland, CT. this 3rd day of November 2021

Robert Ellsworth, Chairman

2TB 11/5, 11/12

ADVERTISERS

The Glastonbury Citizen and Rivereast News Bulletin will make every effort to see that all advertising copy is correctly printed. The publisher assumes no liability or financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertising, but will reprint, without charge, that part of an advertisement in which an error may occur, provided that a claim is made within 5 days of publication. The liability of the publisher on account of errors in or omissions from any advertisement will in no way exceed the amount of the charge for the space occupied by the item in error, and then only for the first incorrect insertion. Also, the publisher takes no responsibility for statements or claims made in any advertisement, and will upon request, reveal the name and address of the person or persons responsible for placing any display advertisement, political or otherwise, except for "blind" box ads. The Glastonbury Citizen Inc. reserves the right to reject advertisements which it deems unsuitable for its publications. Every effort will be made to verify the legitimacy and propriety of all ads for the protection of our readers. The Citizen will take requests for specific placement of ads and will try to accommodate everyone's requests. The Citizen cannot guarantee specific placement.

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P.O. Box 373
Glastonbury, CT 06033-0373

Citizen Deadline: Monday Noon
Bulletin Deadline: Wednesday Noon

Category (example: For Sale)

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Additional words: (20¢ per word):

Please Check One

- \$10.00 per week for 25 words or less in The Glastonbury Citizen; 20¢ for each additional word.
- \$9.00 per week for 25 words or less in The Rivereast News Bulletin; 20¢ for each additional word.
- \$18.00 per week combination rate; 20¢ for each additional word. for insertion in both The Glastonbury Citizen and The Rivereast News Bulletin.

Make checks payable to: The Glastonbury Citizen.

(We regret we cannot take ads over the phone or via email at this time.)

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REB-13-21

The Absolute BEST!! 1 Day NRA Pistol Course Sun., 10/17, 8AM – \$100 4 Openings Left! No NRA Computer Course required GROUPS OF 10 OR MORE ANYTIME WEEKENDS. Includes continental breakfast & lunch. Water & juice all day. Millstream Preserve Call (860) 295-9974 to register.

REB-24-21

EMPLOYMENT

MARLBOROUGH COUNTRY BAKERY SEEKS COUNTER HELP. Stop in for an application. Independence Drive, Marlborough

WORK OUTDOORS: Landscape Company in Glastonbury has a full-time position available. Starting pay \$18./hour. We work smarter not harder providing great service to residential properties in Glastonbury. You must be reliable, physically fit and ready to work 40 hours per week. 860-333-4549.

PAINTER WANTED - Must have experience and transportation. Please call Mike 860-608-8376

BUCKINGHAM CHURCH SEEKS AN OFFICE ADMIN. WITH EXPERIENCE in online marketing, newsletters, website maintenance, Microsoft Office & social media. PT (16 hours) can be partially remote. Email resume by 11/15 to buckinghamchurch16@gmail.com Attn: D. Sweet

GLASTONBURY CARPET HAS OPENINGS for friendly and helpful Sales Associates. Part-time positions, Tues. thru Saturday. No nights, no Sundays. Call 860-633-8832 or 860-338-0023

TREE CREW member wanted for establish tree company in Hebron. Immediate opening. call for details. 228-SAWS

CAREGIVER NEEDED- MS Patient (F) requires assistance with day to day activities, hooyer in use, will train. AM: SUN., PM: FRI, SAT, SUN. Please call (860) 342-2054. \$16.25 per hour

HIGHLY MOTIVATED ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT FOR MULTIPLE PROPERTIES with great customer service skills & ability to multitask needed for busy property management company. Proficient in Microsoft Word & Excel and Adobe PDF required. Immediate opening - pay dependent upon experience. Full benefit package including health, dental & life insurance. Email resume to eric@advanceco.net

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Our Children's Place
requires a caregiver for Older Infants. Full time permanent position 8:15-5:15 (1 yr commitment!) Educated, experienced & dependable to provide exceptional learning activities in a caring environment.

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or text 860-985-4534

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Physical Therapy is looking for a licensed Physical Therapist for our Hebron location. Competitive salary & benefits.

Please visit our website at pptsm.com to learn about our practice.

Resumes can be sent to hebron@pptsm.com

RE11-12-21

Office Technician

The Town of East Hampton is accepting applications for the full-time position of Office Technician for the Building and Land Use Department. This position provides technical and administrative support to the department. The Office Technician is responsible for performing a wide range of clerical, record-keeping, and data input. Attendance at evening meetings may be required. Knowledge of general office procedures, including scheduling appointments, maintaining department records, receiving, and responding to telephone calls and visitors, preparation and posting of meeting agendas, public notices, and assisting with building, mechanical, plumbing, etc., permits, as well as the ability to interpret rules, regulations, state statutes, local charter laws and ordinances. Strong communication, organizational and computer skills are required. \$25.13 per hour plus benefit package.

Please submit cover letter, resume, and an employment application by 11/24/2021, to the Town of East Hampton, Department of Human Resources, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424. www.easthamptonct.gov. EOE/AAM/F.

1TB 11/12



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Glastonbury Housing Authority, Glastonbury, CT

RE11-5-21

Holiday/Substitute/Weekend Attendant – Job Announcement

The Herbert T. Clark House, an Assisted Living and Senior Congregate Community within the Glastonbury Housing Authority, is seeking a compassionate and caring individual for our Holiday/Substitute/Weekend Attendant. This essential position serves as the first point of contact for residents needing assistance, ensures the safety of the building and interacts with emergency services and visitors. The position requires exceptional interpersonal skills, attention to detail and an interest in working with older adults. (Hourly Rate: \$14.57, time and ½ on holidays). For more information, please contact Dawn Hardwick, Administrative Assistant, (860-652-7623).

To obtain an application please visit www.glastha.org or go to our main office located at 25 Risley Road, Glastonbury, CT 06033 Deadline: Until filled AA/EOE.

CIT10-28-21

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\$15 to start
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<https://www.koco4kids.org/now-hiring>

RE11-5-21

koco4kids.org

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RE9-24-21

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RE11-12-21

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RE10-1-21

RE11-11-21

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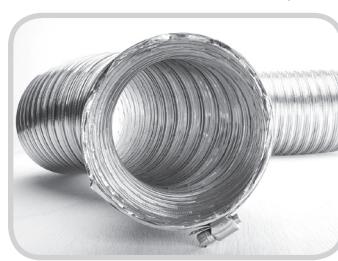
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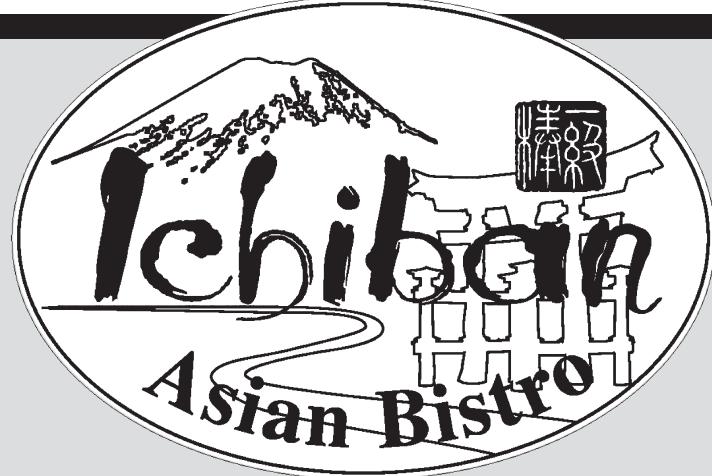
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