



RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

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Taking a Costumed Plunge... David Lewis (left) and David Joslin (right) came in costume for the annual Turkey Plunge in East Hampton. The event raised over \$16,000 for East Hampton Food Bank.

Criticism After Repeal Of Racism Proclamation

by Diane Church

Andreas Bisbikos was sworn in as Colchester first selectman on Monday, and immediately followed up on a campaign promise – but in the process stirred a controversy in town.

Bisbikos on Monday repealed a proclamation issued in July 2020 by his predecessor, Mary Bylone, declaring racism to be a “public health crisis” in town. Twenty other Connecticut municipalities – including New London and Glastonbury – have also made such proclamations.

When issuing the proclamation last year, Bylone stated that “declaring racism to be a public health crisis or emergency offers a clear path to intentionally acknowledging and addressing disparities and inequities.”

She added, “What we are trying to say with the proclamation is that we acknowledge that racism plays a part in access to health and other pieces like education and things that help us to be healthier people.”

Nevertheless, many in town objected to the proclamation, with then-selectman Taras Rudko telling Bylone last July that “you’re calling our town racist and I take offense to that.”

During Bisbikos’ campaign this summer, he vowed multiple times to do away with the proclamation, so Monday’s repeal was not entirely unexpected. But the fact that he did it unilaterally and on his very first day in office was not well received in Democratic circles.

“People have reached out to me. They are upset about it,” Bylone said this week. “I never said Colchester was racist. I said racism causes problems getting health care. There is racism and prejudice. We were trying to raise awareness that some people don’t have access to

health care because of it.”

Bylone had a career in the health care field as a nurse and administrator.

“People are denied services that are physical, mental and spiritual,” she said. “Then there’s the impact of COVID. People need equal access.”

Selectman Denise Turner, a lifelong Colchester resident and the only Black member of the board, was also disappointed with Bisbikos’ decision.

“I think he was a little hasty,” she said. “He decided to do it without consulting me. I’m the only person of color in the administration. It would have been nice to talk about it.”

Turner also thinks repealing the proclamation was bad for the town as well.

“This is divisive for us,” she said. “You have to have a discussion with the people it affects. When a bunch of white people say ‘racism does not exist’ you’re not getting the true facts.”

Turner said she experienced racism in the local schools when she was a child.

“In sixth grade, a boy called me the ‘n’ word,” she said. “I complained to the teacher. Then the boy denied it. The teacher didn’t do anything.”

Turner also recalled that “another teacher said Black people have smaller brains. Black children never got good grades in that class.”

Turner said the recent examples of racism she has seen in town were more subtle, such as people slamming a door in her face as she follows them into a building. She also recalled while standing in line, a white man in front of her moved his cell phone out of his back pocket,

See Criticism After Repeal, page 2

Hebron Gets First Female Eagle Scout

by Sloan Brewster

When growing up, Brynn Maleryn knew she wanted to be “the first female something” – and that “something” wound up being the first female Eagle Scout in Hebron.

The 16-year-old junior at RHAM High School said she was never exactly sure how she would break bounds for women, especially since “we’re everywhere now.”

But in 2018, the Boy Scouts of America opened to its organization girls and renamed itself BSA.

Shortly thereafter, in 2019, Brynn and two friends – Rachel Fournier, 15, and Linnea Carlson, 16 – founded BSA Troop 1028, the first female BSA troop in the town.

Since then, she has completed an Eagle Scout project and done a lot of other steps along the way.

Brynn said while she had been a Girl Scout,

the troop was starting to fall apart and the program wasn’t really for her. BSA, which her brothers were in, resonates more with her personality, she said.

“It’s a lot more outdoorsy,” she said. “I really like that – camping and stuff.”

She said she also enjoys when the boys’ troop, Troop 28, and the girls’ troop get together and go on trips and such.

Before Brynn could join the ranks of the 1,000 female Eagle Scouts that have been recognized in the country since 2018, she had to go through the ranks, Sam Izzarelli, Eagle Scout coordinator, said. That meant becoming a Tenderfoot Second Class and Tenderfoot first class and honing “skills that develop background,” such as camping, cooking, navigating, citizenship, fitness and first aid, he said.

From there, Brynn had to be ranked a Star

and then a Life Scout, he said. To do that, she had to complete service requirements and receive 21 merit badges, 13 of which were specifically required while the others could be of her choice.

“Brynn was very creative in being able to go out and find merit badge opportunities, especially during COVID,” Izzarelli said.

For her Eagle project, Brynn decided to build a stone fire pit and stage at St. Peter’s Preserve, a 22-acre property behind AHM Youth and Family Services on Pendleton Drive.

She completed the build on Saturday Oct. 2, the last major step on her path to becoming the first female Eagle Scout in Hebron.

The final, though smaller, step before Brynn is officially named an Eagle Scout is a board of review, which, according to Izzarelli, is pending.

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★ **Criticism After Repeal cont. from page 2**

which she interpreted as racist. “That was racism,” she said, “and that was last week.” Bisbikos replaced Bylone’s proclamation with one that went into effect on Tuesday. It states that the former proclamation was repealed because it “unfairly and falsely came to assert that ‘racism is a public health crisis affecting our town’ without facts or data to back it up.” He also said Bylone’s proclamation insinuated that the town is “one where racism has been allowed to cultivate to the point where it is deemed a public health crisis.” He said there have not been any reported hate crimes in Colchester for at least the past five years. But in his replacement proclamation Bisbikos also wrote that he and his administration

“believe racism has no place in Colchester,” and that he plans to “support diversity and inclusion in hiring practices, reaching out to diverse communities, ensuring that all employees get sensitivity training and meeting state goals for affordable housing.” The proclamation concludes with a quote from Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. “Judge a man not by the color of his skin but by the content of his character.” It says this will “extend to all races, ethnicities, religions, genders and sexualities.” Bisbikos could not be reached for in-depth comment for this story, though he told the RiverEast Tuesday the proclamation “speaks for itself.” The proclamation was posted on Bisbikos’ Facebook page, along with a couple of other

changes. He said he was reducing the first selectman’s salary from \$90,526 to \$80,000, where it will be frozen for two years. He also said that town hall meetings will be held in person starting Nov. 17 – though he added he is exploring having hybrid meetings. Reactions on Bisbikos’ Facebook page were mixed. Marianne Pascale thanked him. Bylone’s original proclamation “was an insult to the people of this town,” she wrote. “I have lived in many towns in different states and none compared to the kindness and sense of community here in Colchester.” Stephanie Armstrong, however, disagreed.

“I am EXTREMELY disappointed on the backwards proclamation erasing racism as a public health crisis,” she wrote. “The proclamation was not a solution, but acknowledging there is a problem is step one. Town by town, we can work together on this crisis. Educating the community would be very helpful. There are already people thinking the new proclamation means that Colchester is not racist. It’s much more complex than that. In fact, I see the new proclamation, and the reaction by many, as proof that racism is alive and well in Colchester.”



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★ *First Female Eagle Scout cont. from page 1*

ing. Brynn said she and her troop went to the preserve for a meeting at the old fire pit, which was actually a circle of small fire pits with a larger one in the center. She noticed it was not as safe as it could be and could use some work, she said.

A stage near the fire pit consisted of a pile of cinderblocks and was also unsafe, Izzarelli said.

Thinking it might be a good Eagle project, Brynn got contact info for the church from one of the troop leaders and reached out to the church to get the go-ahead to do the project.

A friend of the leader, who chooses to remain anonymous, donated masonry materials, including stones and concrete.

Throughout the project, Brynn acted as project manager, Izzarelli said. She met with scout leaders, church leadership, raised funds for materials that were not included with the masonry donations, designed the fire pit and stage, solicited volunteers to do the construction and oversaw the work.

Jessica Maleryn, Brynn's mother and Scout master, said Brynn's "natural leadership qualities" came into play on the project.

"She learned actually in real time you can't focus in at one time on one small aspect of your project," Jessica said. "You've got to go from piece to piece and keep giving direction."

The proud mother said Brynn made sure everything went smoothly on the site and that everyone got breaks when needed. She even jumped in to take over for the lead mason when it was time to give him a break and did the same for other volunteers as well.

"That's leadership, right?" Jessica said. "You give direction, you thank people, you motivate people and at the end of the day, if something isn't getting done, you've got to role your sleeves up and get it done. That's what Eagle projects are about."

Jessica, who said she "stayed more than an arms' length away" to give Brynn space, said Eagle projects offer good leadership experience and while there are adults on site, they can offer

advice but must take a back seat, allowing the scouts to do the work and make the decisions.

Brynn also learned more about masonry than she ever expected to, her mom said. She sat down with her father, Steven Maleryn, and made measurements to determine the size of stones to be cut, "which was tricky."

Brynn said her father then cut the stones to size.

Brynn's brother Ryan Maleryn, 19, who is also an Eagle Scout, said his sister's project was more complicated than his and that she put a lot of work into it.

Brynn's brother, Shaughn Maleryn, 21, is also an Eagle Scout, Jessica said. He revitalized Burrows Hill Cemetery and found a gravestone that folks had not known was there.

The Rev. Ron Kolanowski, pastor at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, said his daughter's Girl Scout troop, which is based in Storrs, used the fire pit area Sunday.

"It's vastly improved," he said. The Scouts learned how to light a fire, made hotdogs, s' mores and apple grilled cheese sandwiches and then went hiking, he said.

Kolanowski said the preserve and fire pit area is used by the community and that local Scouts help maintain it. During the Maple Fest, sometimes the trees on the preserve are tapped and the sap is boiled down to syrup at the fire pit to show child how it's done.

He said the church continues to seek out organizations who want to use the property.

Brynn said her troop has also used the fire pit. She said the girls sat around a fire there the first week of November.

Brynn said being the first female Eagle Scout in Hebron was "a big deal" and that she was excited about her accomplishment.

Jessica said Brynn was driven and has "always done what she wants to do, regardless of what society said she can do."

"She's the type of person that says I want to do this and this is what's going to happen," she said.

Izzarelli said Brynn's project was well-



Brynn Maleryn is the very first female Eagle Scout in Hebron. Her Eagle project was to build a stone fire pit and stage at St. Peter's Preserve, a 22-acre property behind AHM Youth and Family Services on Pendleton Drive.

planned and nicely done.

"She did a fantastic job, she is very laser focused," he said. "She's going to do great things and one of them is becoming our first female Eagle Scout in Hebron."

Izzarelli said Troop 1028 was "a really ener-

getic group of young ladies" and that the "door is open" to new members.

"If you enjoy the outdoors, learning skills this is a great place to do that," he said. "Scouts, it is different than most youth programs as they develop skills."

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From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Some more housekeeping news to lead off the column today. Just like last week's paper had an early deadline, next week's one does as well.

Due to Thanksgiving next Thursday, the Rivereast will publish a day early next week. That means all submitted copy - letters to the editor, event notices, church listings, press releases, etc. - must be in no later than noon Monday, Nov. 22. No exceptions will be made.

Likewise, the deadline for paid advertisements has been moved up a day as well. All paid ads must be in by 10 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 23.

Happy Thanksgiving from all of us at the Rivereast News Bulletin. Eat lots of turkey, watch lots of football - and most importantly, make lots of memories with family and friends.

As you'll see later on in this paper, the new Colchester Senior Center passed at referendum this week! I'm very happy to see that. It was a pretty decisive approval too. As I wrote last week, the seniors definitely deserve it - and the tax impact won't be that much.

Now, it's Andover's turn. Oh, I'm well aware there's nothing proposed, but talk about seniors that deserve one. They've basically been without a center since the Old Firehouse, plagued by mold, was shuttered a few years ago.

Speaking of Colchester, a FEMA Mobile Disaster Recovery Center opened recently in Norwich. The center is to help residents of

Colchester and other New London County towns affected by the remnants of Hurricane Ida.

Representatives from FEMA and the U.S. Small Business Administration are available at the center to explain disaster assistance programs, answer questions about FEMA letters and provide literature about repairs and rebuilding to make homes more disaster resistant.

The center is located at Norwich Fire Station, 10 N. Thames St., Norwich, and is open every Saturday until further notice, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Masks or face coverings are required.

FEMA said folks with homeowner's or renter's insurance should file a claim as soon as possible. By law, FEMA cannot duplicate benefits for losses covered by insurance. But if you are uninsured or underinsured, you may be eligible for federal assistance.

The fastest and easiest way to apply is by visiting DisasterAssistance.gov.

If it is not possible to apply online, call 800-621-3362 (TTY: 800-462-7585). The toll-free telephone lines operate from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m. ET, seven days a week. Be sure to have a general list of damages and losses, and your insurance policy information if you're insured.

Lastly, this is pretty nice for when you're making those post-Thanksgiving plans. The Holiday Light Fantasia, at Goodwin Park in Hartford, is back. I went through the light show several years ago, and it's a delight -

Editor's Desk continued on page 5



Honoring Veterans... RHAM Middle School recently held a Veterans Day ceremony to honor local servicemen and women - both veterans and active military. Science teacher Kristen Lynch helped organize the event, which was held last Friday, Nov. 13, and featured light food, desserts and drinks. Pictured from left are RHAM Middle School Vice Principal Carri-Ann Bell, Col. Sean M. Connolly, and RHAM seventh-grader Brendan Connolly.

Bulletin Board

It seems poor Joe Biden can't catch a break these days. But he can apparently break wind with considerable authority.

That, at least, is the claim in the British media following the president's much-hyped visit to the COP26 summit on climate change in Glasgow, Scotland, earlier this month. That would be the same summit where cameras caught Mr. Biden dozing off during a round of interminable speeches about the scientific nuts and bolts of climate change.

Since most of those speeches apparently failed to include visual stimulus in the form of photos of cute polar bears and rampaging typhoons, I'm prepared to give the president a pass for falling asleep as one of those "there but for the grace of God" things. However, the subsequent display of presidential flatulence is quite another matter, having raised quite a stink in the overseas press, after being broken by the Daily Mail, a widely read (if not widely respected) "middle market" tabloid. A few headlines from various outlets:

- *Camilla Parker Bowles keeps talking about Biden fart at COP26
*A member of the Royal Family claims Joe Biden allegedly had a "long fart" at climate summit

*U.K. Press says President Joe Biden Farted Audibly While Chatting to Duchess
Personally, I would have gone with something like, "President Biden Blows Away Duchess at Global Climate Summit," or "Biden Creates Big Stink at International Gathering," or maybe "Biden Clears Room but Not the Air at Summit," but, as usual, nobody asked me for my admittedly immature input.

Anyway, according to the British press (and I quote), it appears that President Biden "let out a long, loud fart while speaking with the Duchess of Cornwall at the COP26 summit." The Duchess of Cornwall, as you may or may not know, is Camilla Parker Bowles, former mistress, now wife, of Prince Charles.

It is my understanding that if you found it necessary to loudly break wind in front of royalty (and the Queen, who is said to be hard of hearing, was not immediately available), you'd probably want to do it in front of the Duchess, who reportedly has a rather earthy sense of humor and clearly knows her way around the nether regions of a horse.

Alas, it seems that in this case Camilla's reputation for earthiness has backfired, so to speak. She "hasn't stopped talking about" the 78-year-old's "long fart," according to press reports. "It was long and loud and impossible to ignore," according to one source.

"It sounded like a motorboat going down the Thames without a muffler," said a royal spokesman who asked not to be identified. "Or a piston-driven airplane hurtling toward earth in a death dive. There was no way you were going to blame this assault on the senses on the royal family's dog." The spokesman went on to say that the Queen dissolved into hysterics upon learning of the incident. "She hasn't laughed that hard since Princess Di's funeral," he remarked.

Okay, I made up all the stuff in the preceding paragraph, which is not to say it might not be true.

What is true, is that President Biden's personal contribution to global warming follows on the heels of his promise at the Glasgow summit that the U.S. will (according to The New York Times, because I couldn't stay awake through all that boring stuff either) "heavily regulate methane, a potent greenhouse gas that spews from oil and natural gas operations and can warm the atmosphere 80 times as fast as carbon dioxide in the short term." (The Times, which in the past has blamed global methane issues on flatulent cows, did not reference the now undeniable contribution of aging American politicians to the methane problem in its most recent article.)

For his part, President Biden called the agreement between 100 nations to bring methane emissions under control a "game-changing commitment" and insisted the new efforts will help create jobs in the field of "methane detection."

No word on whether or not the Duchess of Cornwall might be interested in one of the highly coveted methane detection jobs, but I'm thinking probably not.

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.

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Thanks for Your Support

To the Editor:

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the voters of Portland who took time from their busy schedules for cast your ballots for me last Tuesday. During the campaign season, I enjoyed getting out and meeting many people in town and listening to your concerns. We can all agree that Portland is facing some major decisions in the coming months. I am honored to serve as a member of the Board of Selectmen for the next two years and will work hard to make decisions that benefit our wonderful town and all of our residents. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any concerns or questions.

Thank you for your support, John Dillon, Portland Board of Selectmen

The Cult of Trump

To the Editor:

The cult of Trump, in an autocratic mode, attacks 19 Senate and 13 House Republicans for supporting a bi-partisan infrastructure bill.

The GOP has been under attack from within by successive waves of those who do not want to legislate, but only to obstruct progress for everyday Americans. The Tea Party, the Freedom Caucus and others frustrated Speaker Boehner when the GOP held the House. Now these groups seek to destroy 13 Republican House members and 19 Republican Senators who voted for this infrastructure bill.

Let us hope that bi-partisanship has returned and that this is our future, not a future dictated by an authoritarian cult of Trump followers.

Ed Gyllenhammer - Portland

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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Marlborough Cares

To the Editor:
With great admiration I write to commend the Marlborough election officials and workers. The Marlborough recount showed a fidelity to the process we hold dear. Our election officials in a demonstration of non-partisanship spent tedious hours going through each of the nearly 2,000 ballots on Tuesday, Nov. 9, to complete a recount for the Board of Education involving a difference of some 18 votes. The outcome did not change but the process shows that our voting system is fair and complete. Registrars Ann Kilby and Dorothy Denniss each represent the best in our community as do the election workers who worked from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day, Nov. 2, and then came back to complete the work by participating in the recount Nov. 9. It is with this sense of shared dedication that the Marlborough community needs to see the path forward.

This election cycle, no negative campaigning went on. Candidate positions on issues of concern were aired. We share with so many Connecticut communities a mutual kind concern for all segments of our population, strong support for good schools, a value placed on a healthy environment, and a caring support system for those in need.

Recently Marlborough has welcomed many new residents including families and retirees. The quality of life offered here is highly desired. As we change and grow it is important to keep in mind our shared values and our welcoming attitude.

The only thing that never changes is change

itself. Let us go forward through the continuing challenges and struggles that change brings, respecting one another, listening to one another and dealing with issues for the benefit of all. We have a strong foundation as witnessed by our dedicated election workers.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Dunn Greco – Marlborough

Note: Greco is chair of the Marlborough Democratic Town Committee, but said she is speaking as an individual.

Ready to Work for You

To the Editor:
Thank you to all of the Colchester voters that came out and voted for me to serve as a member of the Board of Education! I am honored and humbled by the overwhelming support you have given me. On Monday I was officially sworn in and I look forward serving our community. I am excited to be working with a great group of volunteers and I appreciate the opportunity to work for the children of our town.

With gratitude,
Rosemary Gignac
Colchester Board of Education

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
Colchester Board of Assessment Appeals

The True Racists

To the Editor:
Scott Sauyet's and Edmund Smith's letters present a surprisingly unusual dichotomy. Sauyet unintentionally rails against meritocracy while Smith questions its diminishment. Sauyet claims CRT is not in our schools while Smith demonstrates it is and serves as a major policy-making factor.

People who see everything through the prism of skin color are the true racists, and don't want

to allow the divisiveness it engenders to dissipate. They thrive, and accumulate their political power by generating discord among our people by framing them as victims or oppressors – solely on the basis of their skin color.

Despite the inferior quality of our educational system Smith alluded towards, what student hasn't learned about America's original sins of slavery, segregation, and racial discrimination? But, undoubtedly, not many of them have learned all of these abominations were perpetrated by Democrats. And how does continuously pulling the scabs from these wounds help to heal them? The answer is that Democrats don't want to heal them but want to continue using them as political tools.

This critical race theory bigotry has been around for years. But since Obama, it's been percolating and given credence to contaminate our society. If you posit absurd stereotypical assumptions about anyone strictly on the basis of their skin color, then you are a freaking racist. Don't accuse others of that when that is what you are! Don't stupidly point to the past as your evidence, when you are evidence of racism right now!

Smith pointed out the contradictions in applying meritocracy to sports vs. academics. While meritocracy is regarded as warranted in sports, it's derided as racism in academics. Shouldn't the real focus be on encouraging minorities to reorder their priorities regarding academics rather than eliminating the programs they're unwilling or unqualified to participate in?

Sam Prentice – Andover

A Grateful Thank You

To the Editor:
As a result of missing the early deadline, my 'thank you' letter did not run last week. Although belated, please accept my humble, heartfelt thanks to the voters of Hebron for re-electing me to Hebron's Planning and Zoning Commission. It is a privilege and an honor to serve you and I thank you for giving me the opportunity!

I also wish to thank and congratulate all the newly-elected members to all boards and commissions. Your willingness to give of your time and energy is a testament to your dedication to the town. The best of luck to you as you begin your work on your respective boards. Never hesitate to reach out to other commissions and encourage free and open communication among all boards. We are all resources to each other in fulfilling a common goal – serving the citizens of Hebron.

Many thanks to departing commissioners who selflessly gave their time and energies over the years to serve. You will be missed. Please continue to attend public hearings. Your wealth

of experience provides good guidance as the Town moves forward into the future.

Likewise, thank you to all who stepped forward to run for board and commission seats. Please continue to step forward—there are many opportunities and your help is always appreciated and makes a difference.

A grateful 'thank you' as well to Amanda Veneziano whose organization, help and guidance was invaluable and greatly appreciated. Thank you as well to the entire Republican team who worked so hard planning and executing the campaign.

Finally, many thanks to the *Rivereast* for patiently weathering the onslaught of letters the campaign season always brings. We all appreciate the forum to reach out to the citizens of our community. Thank you for providing it.

Sincerely,
Natalie A. Wood
Hebron Planning & Zoning Commission

Credible Sources Needed

To the Editor:
I applaud Gary Gile for sharing links on his topics. But he shouldn't expect us to take them seriously. First is tinyurl.com/fauci-non-truth, which points to a tweet from Rand Paul. As Paul has no relevant credentials and has been publicly feuding with Fauci, he's not a credible source, but let's follow further:

Paul merely retweets Richard H. Ebright, with a snide I-told-you-so aside. Ebright is a more credible source, with actual scientific credentials and a reputation as a fierce critic of bio-weapons research. He claims a letter from the National Institute of Health (NIH) shows that grantee EcoHealth attempted to make a bat coronavirus more dangerous to humans (known as "gain of function"). The letter (<http://link.sauyet.com/nih>) is only two pages, easily readable. In fact, it says the exact opposite. I have no idea why Ebright misrepresents this, but Rand Paul and Gary Gile seizing upon it as evidence only demonstrates people's inability or unwillingness to read.

The next link points to a news aggregator reposting material from *The Washington Examiner*. This right-wing site has a credibility problem (<https://mediabiasfactcheck.com/washington-examiner>). But the biggest issue is that this is an opinion piece, not a news article. It's not evidence for anything, except perhaps ineptness

See Letters, page 27

Early Deadline

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, next week's *Rivereast* will publish a day early – and the deadlines have been adjusted accordingly.

All written copy for next week – such as letters to the editor, event notices, church listings, press releases, etc. – **must** be submitted by **noon Monday, Nov. 22**. No exceptions will be made.

Also, all paid advertisements for next week's issue **must** be in by **10 a.m. Tuesday, Nov 23**.

Thanks in advance for your cooperation – and happy Thanksgiving from all of us at the *Rivereast News Bulletin*.

Editor's Desk continued from page 4

very impressive.

This year's show will open Thanksgiving night, Nov. 25, and will feature a collection of more than one million lights situated along a nearly two-mile drive through Goodwin Park, located at 1130 Maple Ave. on the Hartford/Wethersfield line. There will be over 200 individual displays, celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah, New Year's, and Three Kings Day.

The light show runs Thursdays-Sundays through Jan. 2, 2022, from 5-10 p.m. each night. Cost is \$16 per car when purchased online, or \$20 at the gate. Proceeds benefit the Channel 3 Kids Camp – and, new this year, there will be a "Find Flurry the Dog" contest. Guests are encouraged to help us find the pooch among the lighted displays for a

chance to win a week of camp for a child.

"Holiday Light Fantasia is our single largest fundraiser of the year, and we are so excited to bring some holiday cheer to the community along with a handful of new displays this year," said David Meizels, executive director of the Channel 3 Kids Camp. "There is no better way to kick off the season than to join us while supporting the camp's mission of providing year-round opportunities to children and families across the state."

For more on the spectacular light show – really, I can't recommend it enough – and to purchase tickets, visit holidaylightfantasia.org.

See you next week.

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OTT11-4-21



Holiday Village at ReStore will feature a wide range of holiday decorations, including 25th Anniversary Middlesex Habitat for Humanity ornaments by Woodbury Pewter and an exclusive candle by Get Lit Candle & Co. The pop-up shop, featured inside Cromwell ReStore, will run through December 31, 2021. All proceeds from Holiday Village at ReStore will support the work Middlesex Habitat for Humanity is doing in the community.

Cromwell ReStore Located @ Cross Roads Plaza
34 Shunpike Road, Cromwell, CT 06416

Holiday décor donations are still being accepted at the ReStore Cromwell Wed - Sat, 11 am - 2 pm. Donation pick-up service is available for large items. For questions or to schedule a pick-up, call 860.398.6488.

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RE11-19-21

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REG11-18-20

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OTT11-18-21

Marlborough • Marlborough

Local Wrestler Wins Gold Medal at Pan-Am Championship

by Josh Howard

Marlborough's Jackson Heslin, a freshman at Xavier High School in Middletown, won a gold medal in freestyle and a silver medal in Greco-Roman to help the United States win a team championship at the Under-15 Pan American Championships in Oaxtepec, Mexico.

Heslin, who wrestles at 114 pounds (56 kilograms), won seven of his eight matches, defeating Mexico's David Martinez Gomez in the freestyle championship match to capture the gold on Oct 22.

"It was pretty cool. I knew I earned it. The month before I was training really hard," said Heslin, who was one of nine Americans to win gold in freestyle at the Pan-Am games.

Heslin won all four of his freestyle matches during his gold medal march and defeated three opponents in the Greco-Roman tournament to capture the silver.

"The wrestling style was different and none of them spoke English, so it was different not understanding what they were saying," added Heslin, who prefers freestyle to Greco-Roman a.k.a. "folkstyle."

The now-15-year-old earned a spot in the Pan Am games after winning Nationals at the United States of America World Team Trials, which took place in Wisconsin in April.

At Nationals he won the Greco-Roman and placed fifth in freestyle, showcasing an ability to wrestle both ways effectively.

His father, Matt Heslin, said his son's development as a wrestler has been swift.

"It's an exciting time for him," he said. "He went from being a kid that competed just around this area to being a real competitor on the national level and now on the world level. It's been a tremendous increase in talent."

A fire to the family's home in 2017 may have spurred the development of the promising wrestler. The family's dog, Teddy, caused a fire by jumping up on the stove while the family was away. Miraculously, Teddy was rescued but the fire destroyed the home, causing the Heslin family to rebuild from the ground up.

After the incident, Jackson developed a life motto that "everything happens for a reason" and, because the family was displaced, they were able to travel for wrestling tournaments.

"Every opportunity we had we'd hit the road. We spent a lot of time with his teammates and other dads in hotel rooms," added Matt Heslin, "We were with the most successful people and [Jackson] was losing a lot."

Jackson called the house fire "a restart for the family" and said that the wrestling losses toughened him up and made him train harder, even though he admits he doesn't always love

the training.

"When I lose I kind of turn the switch on and start wrestling well. I want to let it all out," he said.

Next is a new challenge for the first-year high schooler, who will be wrestling for the reigning champion Falcons from Middletown. Xavier will be looking to defend their title after winning the Class L championship in February 2020.

Jackson said he looks forward to the venture, saying "I've grown up with all of them my whole life and I've always looked up to high school wrestlers. It will be cool going to school with my teammates."

The high school wrestling season starts later this month, with practices beginning Nov. 29. Last year, wrestling was on hiatus because of COVID-19 restrictions, but this season full competition, including postseason tournaments, are scheduled.

"I'm definitely going to have a lot of nerves for the first couple of duals and tournaments because I have never experienced any of that before. I'll be nervous but I think I'll have that switch turn on," Jackson said. "I have good practice partners and my coaches are super good and also wrestling everyday will help. I think it will turn out pretty well."

If the last couple of years are any indication,



Jackson Heslin

this winter will be just another stepping stone for the gold medal grappler.

"No other kid in the country did what I did in my weight and only ten others did it for my age," Jackson said of his most recent accomplishment, "Even if I don't stick with wrestling, it's cool knowing what I accomplished."

Parks and Rec Programs

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

Youth Programs: Acrylic Landscape 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 Wednesdays 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.

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: Amy Gallatin, singer-songwriter-guitarist Gail Wade; and multi-instrumentalist Peggy Harvey.

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. 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.



Helping Out in Hartford... High school teens from St. John Fisher spent a recent Sunday morning delivering household items to families in Hartford transitioning out of homelessness into secure housing. The teens volunteered with A Hand Up, which is a program with Journey Home, a nonprofit in Hartford dedicated to ending homelessness. A Hand Up accepts gently used household items, including furniture, linens, dishes, lamps, pots, pans and small appliances, and with the help of volunteers delivers them to clients who have secured stable housing. The teen volunteers and their parents helped two families turn their apartments into homes. Logan Kolakowski, a member of the 10th grade Confirmation Class at St. John Fisher, stated, "It was eye-opening and made me appreciate what I have. It was great to see the people's reaction to what we were helping them with." For more information on St. John Fisher Church, visit www.stjchurch.org. For more information on A Hand Up, visit journeyhomect.org/projects/ahandup.

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Marlborough • Marlborough

Officer Talks with Seniors About Crime Prevention

by Diane Church

The recent carjacking, robbery and abduction of a woman in the Big Y parking lot has worried a lot of people, especially the local senior citizens.

This led Officer Jay Kehoe, Director of Public Safety for the Marlborough Police Department, to go to the Marlborough Senior Center to talk to seniors about situational awareness and crime prevention.

The discussion was wide-ranging, from sta-

tistics about police and civilian encounters to advice on securing a home. One of his first pieces of advice was about self-defense items that some people carry, from pepper spray to guns.

“Your self-defense item has to be in your hand,” he said. “It’s not going to do you any good at the bottom of your bag.”

Kehoe has been a police officer since 1979. He taught at the Police Academy for 30 years and has worked in Marlborough for 17 years.

The best way to protect your property, Kehoe said, is to get a dog. Dogs bark to alert their owners when intruders enter the home and may even attack an intruder. He also discussed how outdoor lighting should focus on doors and windows rather than the lawn, and on the value of having security cameras.

Alarms, however, are not as useful, since 99 percent of calls are false alarms, he advised.

In fact, Kehoe said, false alarms are one of the most common ways that police meet citizens, second only to traffic stops.

Metal doors, deadbolt locks and “Charlie bars” on sliding glass doors are other items

Kehoe recommends. He also said smaller valuables can be stashed in the pockets of a jacket hanging in a closet, but reminded folks to remove them when taking the jacket out. Police can also go to a person’s home and perform a security survey, advising them of more ways to improve safety at home.

He also touched on juvenile crime, especially the skyrocketing rate of auto theft.

“They started just breaking into cars, then stealing cars, then breaking into homes to steal cars. New laws now prohibit car chases due to the danger they pose, but police can still use stop sticks (devices that deflate tires when a vehicle drives over them),” Kehoe said.

Changing the age of juveniles from 16 to 18 some years ago did not help, he added.

“There was a kid in Hartford who was caught with stolen cars 13 times,” he said. “The day he turned 18 he stopped because then he could be arrested.”

Marlborough police decided to reduce car theft by stationing police at highway on-ramps after midnight, Kehoe said. If a vehicle tries to

get on the highway with three or more people inside, it automatically gets stopped.

As for being safe away from home, Kehoe said people should park near doors where they will be seen by security cameras, always tell someone where they are going and when they expect to return and be vigilant.

The woman who was abducted from the Big Y parking lot had just pulled into the lot to clean up some iced coffee she spilled in her vehicle. She was accosted, then assaulted, carjacked, abducted, forced to withdraw cash from an ATM and left in Berlin with a broken leg. The suspects, who remain at large, were seen circling the parking lot for 35 minutes in their car before deciding she was to be their victim.

However, Kehoe feels that Marlborough is safe. The town has four police officers, one of which is the local resident state trooper. The town relies on state police for various services, such as lockup.

“I call this town Mayberry because it’s small, but we have the same problems as other towns,” he said. “Just less of them.”

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.

The Lions will also collect donations of non-perishable food items during the blood drive, to benefit Marlborough Food Bank.

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.

Book Discussion to Raise Afghani Awareness

Marlborough Outreach, a volunteer, non-partisan civic group, is hosting a book discussion via Zoom Tuesday, Dec. 7, at 7 p.m., to raise awareness for Afghan refugees. IRIS.org (Integrated Refugee and 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. Copies of the book can also be found at Marlborough’s Richmond Memorial Library. For a link to the Zoom meeting, or for more information, email Andrea at Marlboroughoutreach@gmail.com.

Collecting for Thanksgiving

Marlborough Food Bank is joining forces with Liberty Bank and the Rotary Club to supply Thanksgiving turkeys and goods for neighbors in need.

Simply visit the town’s Liberty Bank branch, located at 26 East Hampton Rd., and make a donation to the Liberty Bank/Rotary Club Thanksgiving Drive. Donations will be matched 25 cents for every \$1 contributed.

Marlborough Food Bank is staffed solely by volunteers, and all of its fundraising efforts are crucial to maintaining the pantry, Food Bank organizers said.

For more information, visit www.foodbankofmarlborough.com.

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Thanks in advance for your cooperation – and happy Thanksgiving from all of us at the *Rivereast News Bulletin*.

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Congregational Church News & Notes

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

Sunday, Nov. 21 is Colonial Sunday. Parishioners will be able to participate in a typical Service of Publik Worship as was done in Marlborough and many other New England Congregational churches in colonial times. Colonial dress is optional, but feel free to “dress for the occasion.” The worship service will be led by the Rev. Bob Faulhaber.

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 and December

‘Peace on Earth,’ ‘Be Kind’ Signs Available

Marlborough Lions Club has “Be Kind” and “Peace on Earth” signs available for \$10 each. The signs can be purchased by calling Marlborough Lions Club President Megan Lloyd at 413-687-5537 or Lion Club Treasurer Jean Paul Bolduc at 860-798-2054.

ber 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 will hold a Holiday Extravaganza Thanksgiving weekend Friday, Nov. 26 from noon to 3 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 27 from 9 a.m. to noon. Light refreshments will be served, along with a free drawing. The shop will feature many new and vintage treasures for decorating, gift-giving, and entertaining. For more information, call the church office.

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.

Food Bank to Benefit in Big Y Bag Program

Marlborough Food Bank is the benefiting nonprofit in the Big Y Community Bag Program for November. For every \$2.50 reusable Community Bag purchased at the Marlborough Big Y this month, the store 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.



Raffle Winner... Mike Mancini of Marlborough was the winner of an 8,000-watt Generac portable generator at the Lions’ recent raffle. The generator had features such as an easy pushbutton electric start, hours counter and 120V/240V outlets. Mancini will also receive the services of an electrician to install a circuit breaker panel interlock and the cabling needed to hook up the generator. The drawing took place following the Lions’ Fall Masquerade 5K on Oct. 31. For more information on the Lions, call club president Megan Lloyd at 413-687-5537.

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Richmond Library News & Notes

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

Building and Curbside Hours: Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-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. The series will wrap up Tuesday, Dec. 8, at 6:30 p.m., when native Connecticut author Juliet Grames will speak live on Zoom. Grames is the author of *The Seven or Eight Deaths of Stella Fortuna*, her first novel. Email the library to register.

Chocolate 101: Tuesday, Nov. 30, 6:30 p.m. In this indoor program, Kim Larkin from Classic Creations 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.

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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. 22: 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Not Just Quilting, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Medicare and You, 10 a.m.; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: chicken piccata, rice pilaf, Prince William blend vegetables, 100% whole wheat bread, fresh fruit; Meals-on-Wheels, 12:30 p.m.; Bingo, 1-3 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 23: 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; setback or cards of your choice, 1-3 p.m.; Planning Commission, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 24: Grocery Shopping, 9 a.m.-noon; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: peach-glazed pork loin, baked beans, zucchini, corn muffin loaf, fresh fruit; Sophisticated Ladies (Tap Dancing), 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 25 and Friday, Nov. 26: Senior center closed for Thanksgiving.

St. John Fisher Church News & Notes

St. John Fisher Roman Catholic Church is located at 30 Jones Hollow Rd. Pastor is the Rev. Thomas J. Sas, John McKaig is deacon emeritus and the pastoral assistant is Holly Bangham. The church office can be reached at 860-295-0001; hours are Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. People are asked to call before heading over or connect via the phone or email at stjohfisher30@yahoo.com.

COVID-19 Protocol: For the fully vaccinated, masks are optional. For the unvaccinated, masks are required. Call the office for more information.

Weekend Mass: 4 p.m. Saturday and 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday. All are welcome.

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

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

Community Outreach and Service: Food drives are held the second full weekend of each

month for Marlborough Food Bank; you may also bring food or household donations directly to the Marlborough Food Bank Monday and Tuesday mornings. Sandwich-making and collection continues on the last Thursday of the month for St. Vincent de Paul in Middletown. Seasonal outreach to include the Community Garden to benefit the Marlborough Food Bank and various giving programs to support area organizations continue. Other scheduled service opportunities can be found on the church website, www.stjfisher.org.

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

Andover • Andover



A special Santa Mailbox will be delivered to Andover Public Library by two of the big guy's elves, Jingle and Jangle, on Monday, Nov. 22.

Special Santa Mailbox to be Delivered

A special Santa Mailbox will be delivered to Andover Public Library on Route 6 just in time to receive letters to Santa Claus from Andover children.

The mailbox will be delivered to the library by two of Santa's special elves, Jingle and Jangle, on Monday, Nov. 22. The mailbox and letters will be taken back to the North Pole Saturday, Dec. 18, where Santa will read and answer

all the letters.

All letters should contain a return name and address to ensure a speedy response.

The mailbox is being sponsored by the Andover Friends of the Library. For more information about their visit please contact Dianne Grenier at 860-742-3033 or via e-mail at Deardianne@comcast.net.

Vendors Sought for Christmas Fair

Andover Congregational Church, 359 Route 6 in Andover, is taking applications for craft vendors who wish to have a booth at its Christmas Fair on Saturday, Dec. 4, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Each booth consists of one table and two chairs, which are provided. Booths are \$20, payable in advance. Leave a message at the church office, 860-742-7696 for an application. First consideration will be given to handmade crafts.

YAH Christmas Party

Andover Young at Heart will hold its Christmas Party Wednesday, Dec. 1, at 12:30 p.m., at Georgina's Restaurant in Bolton. Tony Susi will provide entertainment. For reservations, call 860-742-9947.

Senior Citizen News & Notes

The following have been announced for Andover seniors, veterans and disabled. To attend any event, call senior coordinator Cathy Palazzi 860-916-6122 to register. Transportation available for all events, as well as shopping on Tuesdays, Foodshare/food pantry rides on Wednesday, and lunches on Fridays. For all YAH events, call Judy Knox at 860-643-6824; for all movie information, call Sue Schmidt at 860-604-1057; and for all trip information, call Georgia O'Brien at 860-742-9947.

Willimantic Shopping: Tuesday, Nov. 23. Masks required on bus and in stores.

Masks: Must now be worn at the town hall community room for all events. Only those who have been vaccinated should attend senior programs.

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.

More Andover News on page 26

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COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Clinic

A town-wide COVID-19 booster shot clinic will take place Monday, Nov. 29, from 2-5 p.m., at the Andover Elementary School gym. Both Moderna and Pfizer booster shots will be available.

All those 65 and older or those with underlying medical issues, who have had their previous vaccination shots, may make an appointment by going to tinyurl.com/4mvvbkcy.

If unable to register and need help, call Cathy Palazzi, senior coordinator, at 860-916-6122, or Roberta Dougherty, municipal agent, at 860-742-7305.

Call Palazzi for a ride. Registrations are mandatory.

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East Hampton • East Hampton

Turkey Plunge Fills Up Food Bank

by Josh Howard

The 12th annual Turkey Plunge was a huge success, raising \$16,513 for the East Hampton Food Bank.

Nearly 100 plungers, many in festive costumes, took to the shores of Lake Pocotopaug at Sears Park on Nov. 12 to brave the chilly waters on a mild, sunny Saturday morning.

For the first 11 years of the event, the Crean Family organized the festivities and ran the annual operation.

In 2010, Tom Crean originally had an idea to raise money for people in need around the world and his wife, Alexis Crean, discovered a need locally, "We live here with this beautiful lake and we thought how we can help. We thought we'd get a couple friends and jump in the lake and make about \$1,000 and donate it to the East Hampton Food Bank. That first year we raised over \$11,000."

The Crean daughters, Gabriella and Caroline, have participated in the event every year. The sisters said submerging in the cold waters of the lake never gets any easier.

"Mentally we are more prepared, but physically it's a shock every time," said Gabriella.

Caroline added, "You sweat it a little bit every time, but the spirit and adrenaline of everyone around you keeps you moving and going."

The Creans were again participants this year but passed the leadership baton to the East Hampton Rotary, who took the reins and, along with the help of the Interact Club from East Hampton High School, put on one of the most successful events to date.

"The Creans had done it for 11 years and they were ready to step back and we wanted to step up," said East Hampton's Alan Hurst of Rotary

International, "We hope that we can hand it off to the Interact Club next year and have one of the seniors take it on as their Capstone Project. It'd be nice to see every year that a new student does it and keeps it involved in the community and gets more people involved."

EHHS Interact Club President Sarah Johnson said the club jumped at the opportunity to get involved, "I've been going to the Turkey Plunge since I was little so it's exciting to be able to help out and raise money for the food bank."

Over 20 Interact Club members, along with a dozen of their middle school counterparts, members of the Early Act club, volunteered at the event and many participated.

During the height of the event the Creans said they had as many as 210 plungers, and they said that on average they have around 100 each year, with the exception of last year when they had a hybrid plunge because of the pandemic. Those that didn't make the plunge at Sears Park could send in virtual videos to be viewed online.

This year 96 people took the plunge, raising \$13,211 in donations with Liberty Bank matching 25% of the donations for the gaudy grand total, all benefitting the Belltown community.

Awards and trophies were given out for best in show. The Littlest Gobbler Award went to 7-year-old Olivia Burgan. The Most Spirited Individual went to Ashley Wolff and her son, Hunter. The Best Costume went to Abby Kieran. The Most Spirited Team was Team Drumstick. The Top Turkey (the highest fundraiser) went to the Papagiannopoulos family.

The Crean family also received The Founder's Trophy for their 11 years of services and dedication to the event.



For the first time since the event's inception, the Crean family – from left, Alexis, Tom, Gabriella and Caroline – didn't helm the Turkey Plunge this year, as they passed the baton to the East Hampton Rotary. The Creans, however did show up for the fundraiser and took a dip in the chilly Lake Pocotopaug.

Resident Graduates

Michele DeSanti of East Hampton graduated in August 2020 from Emporia State University in Emporia, Kan.

DeSanti earned a Master of Science degree in health, physical education and recreation.

Town Hall Featured Artist

The artwork of Joyce Senesac is featured at the East Hampton Town Hall this month.

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

East Hampton Hawks Recap

The East Hampton Hawks' A Squad youth football team wrapped up its season Saturday, Nov. 6, and played in the first round of the playoffs last Sunday, Nov. 14 – and both were winning affairs.

The A Squad wrapped up its regular season with a 38-12 win against WPTP Nov. 6, in the first-ever night game under the lights at East Hampton Middle School. The Hawks came out strong with touchdowns by John Haley, Bryson Milton and Evan Wagner on the offensive side of the ball, and added a defensive touchdown when Tyler Crumb was able to intercept a WPTP pass and bring it back for the score. The rest of the defense including Garrett Sharpe, Davion Smith, Noah Mokrzycki, Jaykob Mazuronis, Byron Franklin, Gunnar Green, Danny Green, Austin Brennan, James Harris, Ben Romero, Lucas Richards, Caleb Wagner, Victor Bryant, and Eryk Mitkiewicz stood strong al-

lowing only two touchdowns and had several key tackles. The Hawks finished the regular season 5-3, which was good for the third seed in the NCFL playoffs.

Then, on Sunday, Nov. 14, the A squad took on No. 6 seed RHAM in the first round of the NCFL playoffs, and won, 22-6. The Hawks defense came up big with an interception by Evan Wagner and a fumble recovery by Caleb Wagner. Davion Smith, Noah Mokrzycki and Jimmy Harris also helped the Hawks defense with key tackles in the RHAM backfield keeping their offense at bay, and keeping the Rams off the scoreboard until the fourth quarter. The Hawks offense got two touchdowns from John Haley and one from Bryson Milton to help secure the win.

The Hawks will take on the No. 2 seed Enfield Ramblers this Sunday, Nov. 21, at 11:30 a.m., in Colchester at 116 Old Hartford Rd.

Police News

11/3: Alfred Paradis, 41, of 68 Childs Rd., was issued a summons for traveling unreasonably fast and operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, East Hampton Police said.

11/8: Melissa Pandolfi, 39, of Middletown, was issued a summons for misuse of a marker plate, police said.

11/13: Daniel Scarlett, 27, of 12 Balaban Rd., Colchester, was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle while under suspension, police said.

Also, from Nov. 1-14, officers responded to seven motor vehicle crashes, 29 medical calls, 10 alarms, and made 41 traffic stops, police said.

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. Church school is now meeting in the parish hall. Children attending will prepare for participation in the Christmas pageant.

Noon Eucharist will be conducted in the church on Wednesdays during Advent (Dec. 1, 8, 15 and 22).

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.

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.

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.

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.

Teen Friday: Friday, Dec. 10, 3:30 p.m., in person at the library. For grades 6-12.

Teen Advisory Board: Wednesday, Dec. 15,

6 p.m. Teens in grades 9-12 are invited to provide input to expand the library's YA/Teen collection and offer other tips on events and programs. Teen Advisory Board requires a monthly commitment and participation.

Adult Program: 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.

Fall Author Series: Juliet Grames: Tuesday, Dec. 7, via Zoom. Grames is the author of *The Seven or Eight Deaths of Stella Fortuna*. Books will be on sale for cash or check to benefit the Friends of the East Hampton Public Library.

Book Club: Tuesday, Dec. 14, 6:30 p.m., or Thursday, Dec. 16, 2 p.m. The club will read and discuss Juliet Grames' *The Seven or Eight Deaths of Stella Fortuna*, following the author's visit on Dec. 7. Register for Tuesday evening or Thursday afternoon.

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East Hampton • East Hampton

Library Director Moving on to Lead Statewide Consortium

by Jack Lakowsky

"The last five years have been incredible."

Though she has accomplished much in her time as director of the East Hampton Public Library, Ellen Paul summed up her experience with that simple sentence.

"The whole town has been so supportive of me and my family," Paul told the *Rivereast* on Monday. "I love coming to work in the same town I live in."

Paul said for the past several years, she has woken up thinking about how to make the library better and, by extension, the whole town.

Paul has accepted a position as executive director of the Connecticut Library Consortium, a membership collaborative serving more than 800 public and school libraries across Connecticut. The consortium is based in Middletown.

"Now I can take the passion I've had for East Hampton and apply it on a statewide scale," Paul said, adding a belief she holds is "our communities, our states, our country would be so much better off if more people put down the remote and picked up a book."

Paul said to be able to influence change across Connecticut, to have a platform to increase the public's awareness of the services their community libraries offer, was "just an incredible opportunity."

"This position gives me a voice to advocate for all libraries, to raise awareness about the amazing benefits of libraries," continued Paul. "Even though I love East Hampton, I can't turn this down."

Paul added she wants to help libraries recover from and see through the rest of the pandemic, zeroing in on recuperating budgets cut as COVID-19 continues to take its economic toll.

Paul said taking the new job feels bittersweet. She's going from a small town to a massive agency, from a five-minute commute to one that crosses the Arrigoni Bridge and from a job intimately involved with the public to one a bit less visible.

Paul's last day will be Nov. 30.

Town Manager David Cox said on Tuesday that he will consult with the library directors board on appointing an interim administrator.

"The library has done extraordinary work since Ellen came to us," Cox said. "That's really a testament to her leadership and the team she has made. The community has been well served by them over the years. We're definitely going to miss her."

Amy Ordonez, chair of the library's board of directors, also said Paul will be missed.

"She was really instrumental in so many ways, launching initiatives and great programs like Candy Land and the holiday raffle," said Ordonez. "We're going to miss her so much, she's a rising star. She transformed the library from something underused to a warm, welcoming, vibrant asset to the community."

Paul said incorporating the library as a thriving and active member of the Village Center was a major goal when she started.

Under Paul's leadership, the library has broken and rebroken its own records. Last fiscal year, the library recorded 100,000 borrows – a first. When Paul took charge, the library was giving out about 66,000 items per year.

Enrollment in the library's summer reading program also reached new heights this year, drawing 650 participants.

Earlier this year, Paul petitioned the Town Council to do away with library fines-which it did.

An estimated 3,300 took part in the library's town-wide game of Candy Land in the summer, which was covered by a bevy of TV news stations. Paul said Candy Land was her crowning achievement as director.

In late 2019, Paul distributed a survey gauging the town's wants and needs for the library's future, a document she has since used to guide aesthetic improvements and programing.

Paul credited her staff and the library's patrons for these accomplishments, saying none of it would've been possible without them.



Ellen Paul, who has overseen record-breaking checkout numbers and program participation, is leaving East Hampton Public Library for a new and prominent position as executive director of the Connecticut Library Consortium.

"Every day is different, we get asked new questions and find new things for people," Paul said. "I've loved that. I've loved watching kids grow up. I've only been here five years, and I've seen babies go from in utero to walking and now starting school. I love knowing their names, their parents' names. I'll miss that."

Ambulance Volunteers Sought

The East Hampton Ambulance Association responded to 101 calls during October 2021 and is on track to have more calls this year than in 2020 – and the association is looking for additional members to ensure it can continue to provide emergency medical service to the residents of East Hampton and Haddam Neck.

Certified EMTs should be 18 years old. Training is available for those without certification, with a \$600 scholarship toward training costs. There are stipends for additional hours and a town sponsored Stipend for full members. You do not need to live in East Hampton, but you must be in town during your scheduled shifts. Flexible shifts are

available.

This can be the start of a career in the medical field; EHAA alumni include doctors, physical assistants, nurses, paramedics and more.

The ambulance association has a modern building with internet/cable, kitchen, sleeping quarters, showers, washer/dryer and more. Members range from college students to retired individuals. 911 emergency calls only; no interfacility transfers.

EHAA is a private, non-fire-based organization that relies on insurance billing, and is not town-funded. Contact the association for more information, at info@ehems.org or 860-267-9679.

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.

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.

Fall Author Series to Wrap Up

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.

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

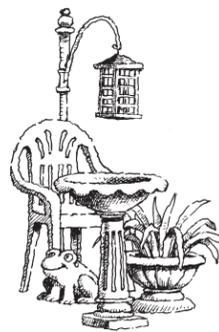
Register on the East Hampton Public Library website, at EastHamptonPublicLibrary.org, or by calling the library at 860-267-6621.

Turkey Shoot Sunday

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.



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East Hampton • East Hampton

New Year Will Bring New Pastor for Church

by Jack Lakowsky

The Rev. Aimee McCarthy is slated to minister the East Hampton Congregational Church on Feb. 1, 2022, assuming a permanent post to replace the Rev. Tom Kennedy, who retired a few years ago.

The church has had an interim pastor for about two years.

McCarthy is currently pastor for the First Congregational Church of Spencer, Mass.

“The church in East Hampton is amazing. They’re just really great,” McCarthy told the *RiverEast* on Tuesday. “They want to be active in town, which is amazing.”

McCarthy and her school-age daughter will soon move to Belltown. She said she joined the Let’s Talk East Hampton Facebook forum to learn a bit more about the town, saying she recently saw a heartwarming post about a person with disabilities getting a job at the local Stop & Shop.

“I’m so excited to join a town that enjoys

helping each other,” McCarthy said.

McCarthy has a master’s from Boston University’s School of Theology, as well as an undergraduate degree in lighting and set design. Her first career was as a scenic carpenter, having worked for the Boston Ballet and ESPN.

McCarthy was called to ministry when she started a job as an education director at the Second Congregational Church of Attleboro, Mass., eventually moving to her current congregation in Spencer, a town of comparable size to East Hampton.

In Spencer, McCarthy improved the church’s outreach, introducing a free food pantry and a little library, resources that have seen extensive use during the pandemic.

Of serving during the pandemic, McCarthy said, “Ughh,” and that surviving the pandemic is probably the greatest achievement of her career so far. She said she’s proud to minister in a world she feels is “a little lost.”

“It made ministry think out of the box, about

how to be hands-on yet not hands-on,” said McCarthy.

Peter Strickland, church deacon chair of the church’s soon-to-be-dissolved Pastoral Search Committee, said after a lengthy search process, McCarthy was picked for being “forward-looking and very bright.”

“She brings new directions,” said Strickland. “Like all other churches, loss of members is a big deal for us. Trying to grow the church is our goal, and we think she can help us do that.”

Strickland said finding a new pastor is no easy task. He said a church must look inward about what it wants to accomplish, to change or not change.

The committee unanimously approved bringing McCarthy on, according to Strickland.

McCarthy said to grow the congregation—namely adding some younger members—she wants to increase the church’s social media presence, as well as host more group activities, like fellowship renewals or social campfires.

In her spare time, McCarthy enjoys playing underwater rugby – sadly not a thing in East Hampton – crocheting, knitting, getting outside to hike or boat, and cheer on her daughter at softball, basketball and cross country.



East Hampton Congregational Church will welcome the Rev. Aimee McCarthy as its minister in February. Right now, McCarthy is a minister in Massachusetts. The church’s search committee said it chose McCarthy for her forward-looking approach.

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.

The Youth Group will next meet Friday, Nov. 19, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. All youth, grades 6-12, are welcome.

On Saturday, Dec. 4, from 5-6:30 p.m., the church will have a drive-up, take-out dinner. Call the church for price information.

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.

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.

Bible Study: The Zoom Bible Study meets every other Thursday from 7-8:15 p.m. The next Study will be Dec. 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.

Holiday CDHR Open House

All are invited to the annual Holiday Open House at Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue Saturday, Dec. 4, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., at 113 Chestnut Hill Rd., East Hampton. Meet the horses of CDHR and take a photo with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Admission is free.

Donations for the horses are welcome, including: Horseshoer’s Secret Hoof Conditioner, Himalayan Salt Brick Lick for Horses (6-8 Lbs), Horse Mane and Tail Detangler, SWAT Fly Repellent Ointment, or gift certificates (Anderson Feed, Shagbark, Tractor Supply). Find the complete wish list at www.ctdraftrescue.org/wish-list.

CDHR is a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving the lives of neglected or abused draft horses as well as draft horses headed to slaughter. For more information, volunteer opportunities, or to donate, visit www.ctdraftrescue.org or www.facebook.com/ctdraftrescue.

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: 9-9:30 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.

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.

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 sign-ups. Teams will be boys and girls separately, or co-ed depending on signup numbers. Grades 4 and 5 and grades 6-8 will meet Saturdays starting Jan. 8 at Memorial School, East Hampton Middle School or East Hampton High School, and run eight games; practices will start one to two weeks before this, depending on signups. Teams will 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.

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 senior-center@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: Tuesday, 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.

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.

Movie Theater at the Senior Center: Monday, Nov. 29, 1:30 p.m. *The Starling* will be viewed. Snacks provided. Pre-registration required.

Movie Club: Tuesday, Nov. 30, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Meet in person or via Zoom and discuss *The Starling*. Bring your own lunch. Pre-registration required.

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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East Hampton • East Hampton

Teachers Request Staff, Supplies in First Budget Talk

by Jack Lakowsky

Teachers and administrators in a Nov. 8 East Hampton Board of Education meeting made cases for items they felt needed inclusion in the upcoming 2022-23 district budget, requests which included teachers, paraprofessionals and STEM resources.

At this point, all budget items are tentative. Superintendent of schools Paul Smith said he will make a budget recommendation at the board's first January meeting. A document must be sent to the town by March 1.

Pleas were made to a school board that has a new Republican majority – a political party that, traditionally, prefers frugality.

Chris Briggs, a technology education teacher who recently started in East Hampton after teaching in Middletown for a decade, called for

an increase in funds for his department at the middle school.

Briggs said he is asking for a significant increase, essentially going from spending \$2.90 per student to \$9.50.

"Over the last several years, [middle school tech-ed] has been just computer-based," said Briggs. "Students sit at computer and do some coding, which is good, but there needs to be a more hands-on component to their learning."

Briggs said for many students, bringing in more tactile learning will aid learners in other classes, especially math and science.

"It can open eyes to new careers," Briggs added.

Briggs is asking for 3D printers to be used for middle schoolers.

Briggs also said to teach aerodynamics, students currently use paper planes, an example of equipment needing an upgrade.

Toni Fleeher, head of the high school science department, along with Joe Ochtterski, a science teacher, advocated to add one more teacher to be shared between the science and math teams.

Ochtterski said this would restore a position cut in the 2018-19 year and would help the departments offer college-level courses the school currently cannot.

Adding a teacher would align the school with state initiatives to make college level courses more accessible at the high school level, teachers said.

Fleeher said the state wants rigor in school courses, a standard that's challenging to meet without another staffer.

Sherry Banack, high school math teacher, advocated for updated statistics books. She said students are reading books from 1991—over a decade before the district's oldest learners were born.

Banack said kids can't understand the books' severely outdated references.

Third-grade Memorial school teacher Alisa Hennessey requested the reinstatement of a third-grade teaching position.

Hennessey said right now, class sizes range from 23-25 students. Last year, they said, that number averaged between 19 and 21.

"We're expecting enrollment to rise, especially with more vaccinations," Hennessey said.

High school principal Eric Verner and district special education director Rodney Mosier appealed for additional psychological and social support staff.

"Prior to COVID, there was already an increased need here," said Verner.

Mosier requested an assistant certified special behavior analyst, saying more students

need behavior help and intervention, particularly students with special needs.

"We've seen an increase in needs over the years," Mosier said, adding more students are dealing with trauma-based difficulties, an issue aggravated by the pandemic.

"The goal is to have a program for more kids in-district rather than outplacement," said Mosier.

Mosier said specifically, students with autism need more support.

Mosier went on to ask for four intervention specialists, as there are students who need one-on-one support throughout the day.

Lastly, Mosier named two social workers, again citing the increase in students with traumatic experiences.

"Our social workers, therapists and mental health staff are stretched thin," Mosier said. He said one of the district's mental health specialists is shared between three of the schools.

Mary Clark, the district's curriculum director, called for restocking the district's libraries, especially at the younger schools. She said many books have outdated content, are deteriorated and, due to the clumsiness of youngsters, "unloved," and needing replacement.

Clark echoed the teachers and administrators who spoke, asking for a boost in staffing.

A new request she named was a business teacher at the high school. The school has a business class instructor, but the course is in-demand.

Clark said she's hoping to add a position that, along with teaching classes, would oversee internship programs.

"Kids who leave high school and choose to pursue employment rather than college would get career readiness skills," Clark said. "This gives them an opportunity to explore careers."

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.

Drive-Up Take-Out Dinner

The Congregational Church of East Hampton, located at 59 Main St., will hold a Take-Out Dinner on Saturday, Dec. 4, from 5-6:30 p.m. The menu will include baked ham, scalloped potatoes, coleslaw, corn muffin and brownie.

Cost will be \$14, cash or check made out to CCEH. Pre-order by calling the church office Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-noon, at 860-267-4959 or Lisa at 860-918-1170. All orders must be in by Saturday, Dec. 4, at noon.



Tis the Season... Customers at Paul's & Sandy's Too, 93 E. High St., can listen to the sounds of *The Mistle-Tunes* while they shop. The duo will perform from 10 a.m.-noon on Nov. 26 and 27, as well as on Dec. 4 and 5. This vocal duo, comprised of Kathleen Genovese and Christine Walsh, performs a wide range of holiday favorites, including as "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree," "Santa Baby," "Let it Snow," "Winter Wonderland," "Mele Kalikimaka," "Cool Yule," "You're a Mean One Mr. Grinch" and more. Also, on Sunday, Nov. 28, from 10 a.m.-noon, holiday music performed by Mike Blancaflor on vibraphone and Chip Fenney on saxophone. For more information, call Paul & Sandy's Too at 860-267-0143.



On Dec. 3 and 4, Epoch Arts will perform an original student-written production, *The Poet's Gift* – a play that incorporates shadow puppetry as well as live puppets portrayed by the cast members. Pictured are cast members Evangeline Hale, Zackary Howland and Alicia Colegrove and, sitting as puppets, Skye Peck and Tristan Hale

'The Poet's Gift' – an Original Epoch Arts Play

Next month, Epoch Arts will perform an original student-written production, *The Poet's Gift*. The play is loosely based on the book *A Gift Bear for the King* by Carl Meming.

The book is about a young bear cub who volunteered to go to the King as a bear-gift. He was admonished not to stop along the way, though he has adventures and stops quite often. The cast adapted the story into a one-act play, creating more characters and looking closely at a variety of problems within a community. In *The Poet's Gift*, a young poet offers his poetry as a gift for the Queen. As he travels to her court, he encounters a community with great needs, all as

a result of a distant queen who makes senseless policies. Offering himself to help the community, the Poet changes his poem, arrives late to her majesty's party and following strict policy, is thrown in jail.

The play incorporates shadow puppetry as well as live puppets portrayed by the cast members.

The Poet's Gift will be performed Friday, Dec. 3, and Saturday, Dec. 4, at 7 p.m., at Epoch, located at 27 Skinner St. Admission \$12. Reserve tickets by emailing elizabeth@epocharts.org. For more information, visit www.epocharts.org.



Cornhole Champs... Paul Apostalon and Utey Parekh were the winners of the East Hampton High School Baseball Cornhole Tournament held on Saturday, Nov. 6, defeating opponents Randy Myers and Ray Smith in the finals.

Beloved Deacon Remembered

by Diane Church

Memories and condolences poured in from some of the many people touched by the sudden passing of Deacon Michael Puscas, who died unexpectedly on Nov. 7.

Ironically, the morning of his death, Puscas delivered a homily about the importance of being ready for death whenever God calls.

The deacon expired after a fitness swim, according to his obituary from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Norwich. A few hours earlier he told the congregation at Guardian Angels Parish- St. Andrew Church, "At one point we will be called out of this life by the author of life, but we don't want to talk about it... We're all a little afraid."

The diocese addressed the situation with a bit of scripture and quoted the Book of Matthew 24:36: "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of Heaven, nor the son, but the Father only."

Those who shared their memories focused on the deacon's kindness and generosity Puscas helped others in many ways, whether performing in a play, making furniture or giving material and spiritual comfort to the needy.

"Deacon Michael is arguably the most gift-

ed person I ever met," Steve O'Connor wrote on Puscas' tribute wall. "His thoughtful and prayerful sermons, the humble way he shared his talents, and just the way he carried himself were an example to all who knew him. Not many of us make such a positive difference in the world. Take comfort in the fact that our parish, our community, and our world are a better place because of his life."

Puscas was born and raised in Aurora, Ill. He earned his Master's degree in Instructional Technology and a Doctorate degree in Education. He worked as a Special Agent with the U.S. Secret Service, protecting presidents. After that Puscas went on to the electric industry; he was Standards Compliance Manager for ISO-New England in Holyoke, Mass.

"Although we worked in different parts of the same company his was always a welcoming and friendly face to pass in the hallway," wrote John Ehlers. "I am sorry to learn of his untimely passing and send most sincere condolences to his family. His was a life well-lived."

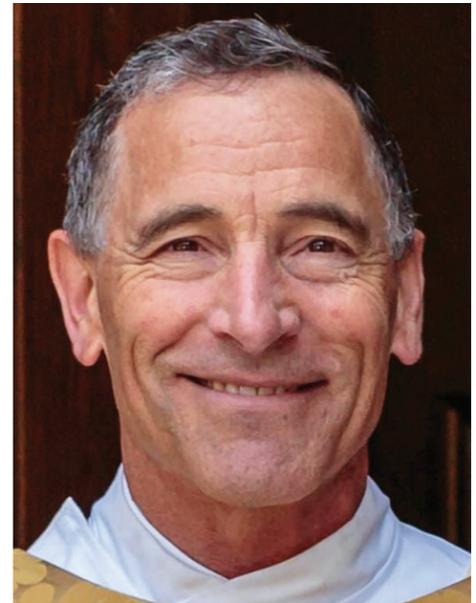
Puscas married Colleen Metternich in 1979 and began a family. They moved to Colchester in the early 1990s and joined St. Andrew Church. Puscas was a brother with the local

Knights of Columbus Council 6107 and was active with the ACTS Men's Retreat movement. He served as a lector and Eucharistic Minister. When he felt a call to ordained ministry, Puscas began his theological studies at Holy Apostles Seminary in Cromwell and his journey toward Diaconate.

Puscas was ordained as The Rev. Deacon Michael Puscas in the Byzantine Catholic Eastern Rite at the Cathedral of St. Patrick in Norwich in 2005. He served with faculties in the Romanian Catholic Eparchy and the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy as well as the Roman Catholic Diocese of Norwich. His parish assignments included the Guardian Angels Parish, which includes St. Andrew Church and St. Francis of Assisi Church in Lebanon; and St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church. He participated in healing and prison ministries, went on three mercy trips to Haiti and hosted spiritual workshops. The deacon was also an accomplished, self-taught woodworker, often building furniture from scratch. On mission trips to Haiti, he worked on one-room houses and other structures benefiting the Haitian Health Foundation and the greater community of Jeremie, Haiti.

Carmen and Raymond Nuqui shared this sentiment: "We will always remember Michael as the dad who will fly across the Atlantic Ocean with his drill and his tools in his suitcase in order to help build a fence, build and hang a spice rack, smooth out a countertop for the Toole's apartment. Distance did not matter to him... May Michael be dancing in the heavens today."

Puscas enjoyed acting and singing with both the Colchester Community and East Lyme Regional Theaters, as well as in St. Andrew's annual Passion Play.



Michael Puscas

He leaves behind his wife, four children, eight grandchildren, and nieces, nephews, extended family, friends and faithful.

"The precious gift of Michael was being with him in a crowded room and knowing you were the only one there in his eyes," said Terry Ryan. "He read your eyes, studied your face and always, always knew the exactly best thing to say. While we all will painfully miss his physical presence, we all carry within us all his teachable moments ultimately leading us to Him where he awaits with open arms in one of our many custom-built rooms."

Project Grad Calendar Fundraiser

Bacon Academy Project Graduation is selling raffle tickets for its December Calendar fundraiser, with prizes being awarded each day.

Total donated items value over \$1,000 and include gift cards to local businesses, gift baskets, cash prizes, golf outings, holiday items and local artisan creations. Due to the response to this fundraiser, some days include more than one winner, so that raffle ticket holders have more than 31 chances to win.

Raffle tickets cost \$10 and can be purchased by cash or check. Project Graduation volunteers will also sell raffle tickets outside Noel's Market on Sundays, Nov. 21 and 29, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. each day.

Tickets can also be purchased online using PayPal at www.baconacademyprojectgrad.org on the Current FUNdraisers page, or through Venmo @mghath425. Purchases must include raffle ticket holder's name, address, email, and

phone. Checks can also be mailed to: BAPG, P.O. Box 393, Colchester, CT 06415; include the buyer's name, email and phone.

The calendar with a list of available prizes can be viewed at the Project Graduation website.

The mission of Bacon Academy Project Graduation is to enhance drug- and alcohol-free awareness by providing safe and healthy graduation events for all graduating seniors of Bacon Academy. Project Graduation's most critical event is a graduation night party that keeps seniors together and off the roads.

All Project Graduation events and initiatives to benefit BA seniors are entirely paid for through the fundraising efforts and contributions of Bacon Academy parents, students, businesses and community members. No tax dollars are ever used. For more information, go to www.baconacademyprojectgrad.org.

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Recount Leads to Same Results

by Diane Church

Moderator Gregg LaPage, the registrars of voters, their deputies and other poll workers spent five hours Nov. 10 recounting the ballots cast in the Nov. 2 election, but in the end it changed nothing.

Taras Rudko still got fewer votes than any of the other candidates for the Board of Selectman, which means he is no longer on the board.

According to the recount figures, Republican newcomer Debbie Bates led the field with 2,813 votes, followed by Democrat incumbents Denise Turner with 2,631 and Rosemary Coyle with 2,579, then Jason LaChapelle came in with 2,572. Rudko trailed with 2,532.

Before the recount, Rudko and LaChapelle, who are both Republicans, were separated by just 22 votes. LaPage explained that if two candidates for the same office are separated by less than one half of one percent of the total votes, a recount must be held. Since 4,352 votes were cast, one half of one percent is 21.75 votes. That's very close, but not quite 22. So just to be sure, election officials called the state.

That led to some confusion.

"We got conflicting responses for the Secretary of State's office," said Democrat Registrar of Voters Karen Romero.

Meanwhile, Rudko was eager for a recount. When he got no answer from the town, he

called the state.

"I asked and then I had to assert myself," he said. "The registrars should have known better."

Rudko suspected that perhaps the votes had not been tallied correctly. He thought he should have won back his seat.

"Over the past two years I was the only selectman who pointed out concerns and told the constituents," he said. "I posted on Facebook and wrote letters to the editor of the newspaper. There were many issues that no one knew about before. I believe I let the public know what was going on and why they should be concerned. I like to think that my educating constituents led to the red sweep," he added, referring to the fact that all the other Republicans who ran in the Nov. 2 election won.

Former First Selectman Mary Bylone, a Democrat, thought differently of Rudko.

"Maybe he lost because of his personal attacks on people and their families at public meetings," she said.

So in the end, the recount was held, just one day after Marlborough held a recount for a board of education seat. But there seems to be no love lost between the two Republicans who were vying for the same seat in Colchester.

"Losing Taras is pretty massive," said LaChapelle. "I'm happy I won but a little less happy because we're losing Taras."

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. 22: 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 in Hebron; 1 p.m., Take Home a Gnome craft workshop.

Tuesday, Nov. 23: 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 10 a.m., Step by Step Painting; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle; 1:30 p.m., Bingo; 7 p.m., SCBC meeting (Z).

Wednesday, Nov. 24: 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; 1:30 p.m., Line Dancing.

Thursday, Nov. 25 and Friday, Nov. 26:

Closed for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Upcoming Programs: 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, Nov. 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 Ave.



Court of Honor... Scout BSA Troop 109 held its fall Court of Honor at Westchester Congregational Church in Colchester on Oct. 26. Despite COVID-19 restrictions, the Scouts have completed many activities, including a week at summer camp. The Scouts pictured earned rank advancements. From left are, Cody Friberg, Second Class; Theodore Gupta, Tenderfoot; Nicholas Gupta, Tenderfoot; DJ Rancourt, Scout; Quintin Henley, Second Class. Troop 109 meets Tuesday evenings at the church, located at 98 Cemetery Rd. Visit troop109ct.org for more information.

Holiday Concert for Colchester Choir and Orchestra

Colchester's Holiday Homecoming Celebration will take place Saturday, Dec. 4, at 6:30 p.m., at 611 Norwich Ave.

This event will feature festive holiday songs performed by the Colchester Choir and Orchestra at Bacon Academy auditorium on Saturday, Dec. 4, at 6:30 p.m. This is CCO's first concert since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, and is a lead-in to the 20th anniversary concert in March 2022 (details coming soon).

The concert makes an end to that day's Holiday Homecoming Celebration, which starts on the Town Green with a visit from Santa. The concert is free, though donations are welcome. Check CCO's website or Facebook page for concert updates, including COVID-19 protocols (masks required), and more information about joining the choir or orchestra. The CCO website is at www.colchesterchoirorchestra.org.

Tag Sale and Mini Bazaar

On Saturday, Nov. 20, from 8 a.m.-noon, Westchester Congregational Church will host a Tag Sale at the parsonage, located at 95 Cemetery Rd., and a Mini Bazaar across the street in the church meeting hall.

The Mini Bazaar will offer crafts, door prize items, quick breads/muffins to go or to enjoy while shopping.

Email westcongchurch@gmail.com for more information.

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.

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The Colchester Cougars beat RHAM 38-7 in the first round of the playoffs last weekend.

Youth Football Recap

Two of the Colchester Cougars youth football squads were in the first round of the playoffs last weekend. Here's how they fared:

C Squad: Beat Ellington, 20-7. The offense was led by Karter Bernier who had over 200 rushing yards and a touchdown. TJ Garvie and Keegan King each contributed a touchdown for the Cougars. King also had a game-changing interception that led the Cougars to victory.

B Squad: Won 38-7 over RHAM. The Cougars scored on runs by Dominic Helm, Noah Garvie, Edward Gignac and Ryan Browning. Extra points were punched in by Noah Garvie and Kobe Wyman. The defense held the Rams with the fierce play of Chance Markovtiz, Alan Marshall, Jacob Hashem, Lilly Anderson and an interception by Adam "The Mullet" Bigelow.

Seniors to Get Their Center

by Diane Church

A jubilant crowd of senior citizens left town hall Tuesday night after a referendum for a new senior center passes at a wide margin.

Votes on the question were split with 1421 for and 851 against the proposal.

"I've been working on this since I got elected to the board of selectmen in 2007," said Selectman Rosemary Coyle. "I can't tell you how wonderful I feel. The seniors will have a lovely new place."

Coyle added that on evenings and weekends the building will be available to the greater community, including BSA and girl scouts, the Lions Club and others.

"It's going to attract people and businesses," she said.

The senior center will be open for community use for people of all ages weekdays after 4:30 p.m. and on weekends, for a fee.

The new \$9.5 million building will measure 14,650 square feet and be built between town hall and Congregation Ahavath Achim on Lebanon Avenue. It will have half a 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 seniors have been trying to get a new senior center for more than two decades. The current senior center is over a century old and is showing its age.

Laurie Callus said the windows in the building have not been washed in ten years because they could fall out if touched.

"It needs a new roof, there are these little old toilets probably from when they had kindergarten in there and the wall near the air conditioner is so rotted that if you leaned on it you would land on your ass outside," she said.

First selectman Andreas Bisbikos also arrived to hear the results. He said he is trying to get a state grant for \$3.1 million to help pay for building.

"This is a good step not only for the seniors but for the general community," said Geraldine Transue, a member of the commission on aging and the senior center building committee. "We can use the large rooms for craft festivals, health clinics, winter farmers markets. It will serve so many people."

Pet Food Drive

Presents for Paws is hosting its 14th annual Holiday Shelter Food Drive Saturday, Dec. 11, to collect items for local animal shelters. There is a local drop-off location at John Gagnon's Pet Resort, 227 Upton Rd., Colchester, and Shagbark Lumber - 21 Mt. Parnassus Rd, East Haddam.

Items needed: Purina dog food (wet/dry, unopened), cat/kitten food (wet/dry, any brand, unopened), cat/dog treats (no rawhide), and cat litter. Monetary donations are also welcome; they are tax-deductible and 100% of donations

go to help shelter animals. The event will take place rain or shine.

Presents for Paws is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization located in East Haddam that collects and distributes supplies to area shelters, rescues, and municipal pounds. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/presentsforpaws501c or www.presentsforpaws.org.

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.

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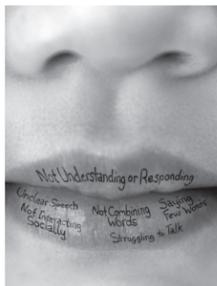
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Thanksgiving Drive Wrapping Up... Rotary Foundation and Liberty Bank are making one final push in their Thanksgiving meal drive to help needy families in the Colchester community. The foundation and bank are raising money to provide turkey and all the Thanksgiving fixin's for 150 local families in need. Turkey legs can be purchased at Noel's and Westchester markets, or people can make a donation at their local Liberty Bank branch by Nov. 19.

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 welcome. The nursery is located just off the sanctuary. Visit the church website to register youth for Sunday School.

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

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

CBA Gearing Up for Holiday Auction

The Colchester Business Association (CBA) will hold its holiday auction Tuesday, Dec. 7 – and this year the event is open to the public.

Items for the auction are donated by member and local businesses, and range from bottles of wine to large gift baskets, gift cards, tickets to events, etc. This year the CBA is opening the event to the public and are also asking for donations for the auction. Early donations will be posted immediately on the CBA Facebook page.

To register, sign up at bit.ly/CBAHolidayAuction. Cost this year is \$20/person, and includes appetizers from local Colchester businesses, attendance at the event, and a paddle for the auction. The silent auction starts at 5:30 p.m., appetizers at 6, and live auction starts at 7.

All proceeds from the auction and dinner are split between Santa's Anonymous, the Colchester Food and Fuel Bank, and the CBA Scholarship Fund.

Registrations will be accepted until Nov. 30.

New Book at Storywalk

A new book, *We're Going on a Leaf Hunt* by Steve Metzger, has been posted at the StoryWalk at Ruby & Elizabeth Cohen Woodlands, 96 MacDonald Rd.

A StoryWalk combines physical activity with reading as the pages of the book are transformed into signs on a trail inviting children and their caregivers to read as they move along the path.

The StoryWalk is free and open to all, provided by Cragin Memorial Library, Colchester Garden Club, Colchester Land Trust, Colchester Wildlife Habitat and the Collaborative for Colchester's Children.

Girl Scouts Collecting Non-Food Items

Beginning Nov. 27, Colchester Girl Scout Troop 63152 will collect personal care items to donate to Colchester Food Bank.

The collection of the items will run through Saturday, Dec. 11. Items may be dropped off at 398 Cabin Rd. or 59 Park Ave. Collection bins will be available near the driveways for donations.

Suggested new items include toilet paper, paper towels, toothpaste/brushes, shampoo/conditioner, facial tissue, hand sanitizers, hand soap, deodorant, body wash, disinfecting wipes, disposable razors, moisturizing lotion, feminine hygiene products, and any additional non-food items.

For more information, contact Troop co-leader Terry Phillips at 860-608-0130.

Soccer Registration Open

Online registration for the Colchester Soccer Club's 2022 Recreation Division indoor season is now open. Register by Nov. 30 by visiting www.colchestersoccer.org. Log in to your account (or create a new account) and the available programs will show under your listed participants.

This program is available to players in pre-K-12th grade.

Contact Tim Daniels for more information at president@colchestersoccer.org.

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. Wednesdays, Dec. 1-22.

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

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Happy Days Are Here Again... The Portland Knights of Columbus Freestone Council 7 recently held a successful 'Cruise Night, Pasta Dinner & Raffle.' Many stopped by for food, fun and a chance at raffles – and, of course, to check out the classic cars.



Portland Carvers Strike Again... Portland resident Carla Muskatullo recently hosted a pumpkin-carving party at her residence, and afterwards the pumpkins – all but five of which were carved by Portland residents – were displayed on her front steps. Pictured from left are the works of Carla Muskatullo, Luka Augeri, John Muskatullo, Walter Squire, Jon Ives, Jake Boudreau, Evan Guillmette, Meghan and John Guillmette, Jake Strong, Alissa and Ben Ives, Cassie Bystrek, Erin Muskatullo, Alex Denoyelle, Matt Bystrek, Shannon Law, Tyler Day and Clara Guillmette.

Flamingo Fundraising Season is Here

All are invited to help support Portland High School Class of 2022 Project Graduation at its Flamingo Flocking Fundraiser. The fundraiser will run Nov. 20-Dec. 18. For a suggested donation of \$25, people can send a "Flock of Flamingos" to their friends and neighbors (must live in Portland). To order a flocking, email Alissa Brunk at Alissa.brunk@gmail.com, provide the name and address of the person you want flocked, along with the suggested donation of \$25 payable via Venmo (@PHSCT-ProjectGrad). Payment can also be made via check, made out to "PHS Project Graduation 2022," and sent

to: Project Graduation 2022, ATTN: Nicki Crawford, Portland High School, 95 High St., Portland, CT 06480. The recipient will then have the opportunity to choose the next house (by paying the suggested donation of \$25). The recipient is not required to make a donation. The flock will be moved to the next house after two days, regardless of donation. Proceeds benefit Project Graduation, an all-night drug- and alcohol-free party for PHS seniors th night of their graduation. For more information, email Alissa Brunk at Alissa.brunk@gmail.com.

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. On Sunday, Nov. 21, at 10 a.m., the church will hold its Thanksgiving Sunday service. In honor of the church's 300th anniversary, the Rev. Jane Hawken's sermon will have a historical focus and is titled "A Look at Congregational Worship in Early New England." Under Kasha Breau's direction, the Handbell Choir will play, and the choir will sing "Praise the Lord of Harvest" by D. Catherwood. First Church Nursery School has openings

in their preschool program. The 3-year-old program runs Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-11:30 a.m. and the 4-year-old program runs Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9-11:30 a.m. Contact Amy Jahnke at 860-342-1111 or 1stchurchnurseryschool@gmail.com for more information. First Congregational Church of Portland 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.

Trinity Episcopal Church News

Trinity Episcopal Church, located at 345 Main St., invites the community to celebrate each week. Worship is indoors at 9:30 a.m. Sunday School is back in session and is held during each Sunday's church service. Children ages 4-12, baptized and unbaptized, are welcome to attend Church School. Lessons and activities are aimed at encouraging the children to think outside of themselves and about the community at large. Masks are required for all, vaccinated and unvaccinated, while inside the church. More information is at trinitychurchportlandct.org. The church is open for prayer and meditation on Fridays from 2-4 p.m. For more information or to make an appointment with the Rev. Darryl Burke, email trinitychurchportlandct@gmail.com or call 860-342-0458.

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‘Students Must Be Able to Say Something’

by Jack Lakowsky

Portland Middle School Principal Chuck Hershon, at a Nov. 9 Portland school board meeting, introduced the Say Something Anonymous Reporting System, an encrypted reporting tool for students to report threats or indications of self-harm or violence.

“[The app] is monitored by support staff who around-the-clock can assess reports and respond in real time,” Hershon told the Portland Board of Education.

The app, which is free, is available for students to download. There’s also a hotline and a website for anonymous reporting.

Hershon said the tool was devised by Sandy Hook Promise, formed following a gunman’s mass-murder of 20 children and six teachers at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown in December 2012.

The nonprofit’s aim is to reduce violence in schools, gun or otherwise.

“Students must be able to say something when they feel unheard or threatened,” Hershon said.

The principal added that the school’s slogan for launching the app was “If you see something suspicious, say something specific,” feeling that the old “see something, say something” adage is too general and open to abuse.

A third-party source vets reports to determine their credibility, Hershon said.

“The old school anonymous reporting was a box in the office,” said Hershon, adding this had a visibility element negating anonymity.

The result, Hershon said, was that people became more concerned with who reported what, rather than what was reported.

Hershon said the app will empower kids to speak on behalf of themselves and others, expressing concerns without fear of retribution, going on to explain that kids don’t always have a trustworthy adult to report to, or at least don’t feel they do.

He said since the app went live a few weeks ago, a number of credible reports have come through. The principal credited the district’s mental health team, as many of the reports were

of issues already known.

“We can address issues like self-harm because of the bravery of kids,” Hershon said.

Students have trained on using the app, and on what are considered signs indicating abuse, self-harm, or threatening behavior.

Younger students have not been left out of the district’s recent efforts to enhance students’ tools of dealing with, and overcoming, life’s myriad struggles.

Brownstone Intermediate School Principal Allison Hine told the board students at her school had recently attended a presentation about social media safety.

The Say Something app follows a series of efforts to improve the district’s security and student safety this school year.

In a July school board meeting, district superintendent Charles Britton announced for the coming school year, schools will update security measures.

In an email at the time, Britton told the *Rivereast* this is not a response to a specific incident, adding that the schools are always looking at ways to improve security and safety.

The district’s past is not without notable violence, a fact noted by board member Lauren Christensen in last week’s meeting.

Before Columbine shocked and horrified the nation, a 13-year-old student armed with a semiautomatic pistol on Dec. 10, 1985, shot and killed a 36-year-old custodian named David Bengston, with two others wounded and one child held hostage.

Lauren Christensen said survivors of this shooting, which in an unrelated interview last year then-First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield described as one of the darkest moments in town history, still live in Portland.

Due to this experience, Christensen said she felt it could be valuable to include them in discussions of school security and safety.

Britton told the board schools will adopt Middletown’s school security model. A Middletown police detective audited the schools’ measures and has advised officials on improvements.

Britton said adopting the city’s model has cost the district nothing.

“[They’ve] given us hundreds of hours of time with no charge,” Britton said.

Britton described this change as a “regional response model.” In an emergency event, Middletown police would join Portland officers in their response.

Britton said armed security guards will not be part of this update, and that local police already have a presence in schools.

Schools introduced two new software products; one called Raptor, the other Navigate360 (Nav360).

Raptor is probably the most noticeable change for district parents and school visitors.

Raptor is a visitor check-in system, Britton said, that requires a driver’s license to be presented to and scanned by front office staff. The person’s license is then run through the state

police’s sex offender database.

If a person is flagged, they’re to leave school grounds

Everyone is required to get scanned, Britton said.

Britton told the *Rivereast* if a person is flagged, police may be called.

Raptor is a product of Raptor Technologies. According to the company’s website, its product screens instantly “every visitor, including contractors, guardians and volunteers [against] the most reliable and [current] U.S. sex offender databases in all 50 states.”

If an individual is deemed a risk, an alert goes out to administrators and security personnel, according to Raptor’s website.

Navigate360, Britton explained, is an app allowing real-time reporting of emergencies. Come next year, all Portland staff will have this app on their mobile devices.

Parks and Rec. News & Notes

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

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 nfoley@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.

Plan Now for Festival of Wreaths

The Portland Historical Society is planning its 10th annual Festival of Wreaths, “Jingle & Mingle,” for the weekend of Dec. 4 and 5.

With holiday decorations already in the stores, members and friends of the society are encouraged to keep their eyes open for “trinkets” that will make for a unique and special wreath for this year’s festival. Last year, over 30 wreaths were donated. Along with tabletop trees and centerpieces, the decoration can range from traditional to innovative, from sophisticated to child-like.

Individuals, families, businesses, clubs and organizations are invited to donate a deco-rated wreath for this “tea cup” style raffle. Wreaths can be real or artificial, can be a size and shape of your choice and can even be made from other materials — shells, pinecones, scrapbook papers, candies. It can have a theme, such as “Glistening Snow” or “For the Birds,” or be decorated to attract a particular audience, such as with Legos or unicorn items for the younger boys and girls or cookie cutters for the home baker. A gift card or certificate for a service can be attached as part of your decoration.

If you would like to participate but don’t have time to create a wreath, for a donation of \$30 a Historical Society “elf” will decorate one for you. Your name, business or organization will be listed as the donor. Email PortlandCThistory@gmail.com to make arrangements.

The festival will be open both days from

noon to 4 p.m. in the carriage house at 329 Main Street. All wreaths should be pre-registered by Thursday, Dec. 2. Watch *Rivereast* for more information.

All proceeds from this event will be used to further the society’s mission to preserve Portland’s history and to fund educational projects for the community. For more information, email PortlandCThistory@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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CT11-18-21

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CERT Gets in the Spirit... Members of Portland's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) participated in the town's recent Howl-o-ween Pet Costume Parade, held at the Waverly (Senior) Center. There were "Mother Goose," "Daddy Cow" holding "Chicken Little," and others to provide children with candy and laughs. For more information about CERT and how to join, call Wayne Martin at 860-965-6325. From right to left are Linda Martin, Wayne Martin, Susan Alyson Young, "Guess Who!?"- yep, Tim Dickerson, and Don Gouin, EMD.

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CT11-18-21

Turkey Shoot Sunday
 Portland Fish and Game Club will hold a Turkey Shoot Sunday, Nov. 21, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., right across from the Exchange Club Fairgrounds.
 The cost is \$3 for one shot or two for \$5. There will be a Super bird. Food and drink will be available.

Local Teen Celebrates Wreaths Across America
 Joshua Abbott, 13, of Portland, is again collecting donations for Wreaths Across America. Joshua 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.



Commended Student... Portland High School Principal Kathryn Lawson, left, announced last week that PHS senior Jack Turecek, right, has been named a Commended Student in the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program. She presented Turecek with a Letter of Commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), which conducts the program. Commended Students place among the top 50,000 students who entered the 2022 competition by taking the 2020 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

Town to Hold Leaf Pick-Up
 The Town of Portland Department of Public Works will conduct its annual leaf pickup beginning Monday, Nov. 29.
 Leaves must be placed in paper bags at the curb so as not to cause a sightline problem. Leaves must be out no later than Nov. 28. Plastic bags will not be picked up. Residents who do not place their leaves at the curb can bring them to the Transfer Station. Leaves not in paper bags must be emptied by the resident in an area at the transfer station designated by the attendant.
 Public Works requests that homeowners refrain from blowing or raking leaves into the roadway as blocking the storm drain inlets may cause flooding and create safety hazards.
 For more information, call Public Works at 860-342-6733.

St. Mary Church News
 St. Mary Roman Catholic Church is located at 45 Freestone Ave. The church office can be reached at 860-342-2328. Office hours are 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday. For more information, visit www.stmaryportlandct.org. Pastor is the Rev. John Antonelle.
Weekend Masses: 5 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sunday. The 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass is livestreamed each week; visit the parish website for more information.
Weekday Mass: Monday and Tuesday at 8 a.m., and Friday at 12:10 p.m.
Confession: Saturday at 4-4:45 p.m., or call Antonelle for an appointment.
Other Programs: For information on faith formation programs, baptisms, blessings of marriages, Knights of Columbus, the St. Mary Ladies Guild and more, call the church office.

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RE11-19-21

Portland • Portland

School Board Chair ‘Gavels’ Public Comment

by Jack Lakowsky

Chair of the normally copacetic Portland Board of Education Sharon Peters said at the end of the board’s meeting last week members could use a “refresher” on civil discourse after a disagreement over the “gaveling” of public comment.

Three residents stood to express concerns over comments written on the “Portland CT Community” Facebook page by board member Dave Murphy.

Peters told the first resident to speak, Diane Lopez, that the board meeting was not a proper venue to discuss the matter.

Two more residents and parents, Denise Schneider and Carla MacKay, got up to speak but had to keep their comments vague, unable to express exactly they had to say due to Peters’ disallowance.

Though Murphy has since deleted the comments, the *Rivereast* obtained screenshots.

MacKay wrote in the forum a post complimenting Portland Democrats on their work in the recent election.

“Great race to Jim Tripp,” MacKay wrote.

Responding to a comment on the post, Murphy said “that’s why [Tripp] lost big time,” and wrote that Tripp made negative comments about him.

The subsequent thread is lengthy with much back-and-forth, but it turned a bit contentious when Mackay said Murphy was “throwing

shade” and gloating.

Murphy replied saying Tripp ran a “sh—ty” race, and that in letters to the *Rivereast* Republicans were called “clowns and bullies,” telling MacKay to “wake up.”

Many in the thread, including Republicans, decried Murphy’s conduct, some saying, “win with grace” and that such comments are “not a good look.”

Resident Amanda Clark commented saying she found Murphy’s comments very negative, and not in the best interest of uniting the community in a post-election period, a time which can be tense.

In a follow-up call on Monday, Murphy told the *Rivereast* he has since posted an apology and acknowledged he made an impulsive comment in an inappropriate setting.

“I regret what I posted,” said Murphy. “It was not the right time or place for those comments. Jim Tripp has done good work.”

Murphy said he’d been feeling resentment toward Tripp after Tripp, at a community conversation earlier this year, said Murphy was opposed to repairing the high school track – a claim that, Murphy said, was simply not true.

Murphy said he consulted with district superintendent Charles Britton and with fellow board members about the matter and was told he did the right thing by apologizing and acknowledging a fault in conduct.

Lopez, told she could not speak to the issue directly, said in vague terms she found the incident very disappointing.

Schneider – who said she too posted comments she regrets – made a “plea for positivity” to the board.

“I hope our political bias doesn’t continue to affect how we treat each other,” said MacKay.

Discussion then switched from Murphy’s comments to how the board, specifically Peters, handled the public expressing displeasure. Peters was particularly criticized for “gaveling” the residents – even though she did not actually swing the small mallet.

Murphy was largely silent throughout the meeting.

Peters told residents to first reach out to Britton and proceed from there. She reasoned meetings must focus on issues affecting the district, not personal matters or disagreements.

Board member Lauren Christensen said she was uncomfortable with Peters’ gaveling.

“I have a concern about not allowing the public to speak fully. If people have a concern

about any of us, what is the channel to address that?” Christensen then went on to say the town elected the board, not Britton.

“I did not enjoy seeing a member of the public gaveled,” said Christensen. “I thought that was inappropriate.”

Member Meg Scata, apparently agreeing with Peters, said public comment is heard at the pleasure of the board.

“We do want [public comment],” said Scata. “There are other channels for information to be shared with the chair. We’re happy to listen to the public about matters concerning the board-safety, budget items.”

Scata continued, saying election or party issues are not under the board’s purview, that board meetings shouldn’t be partisan.

Peters brought up that the board has tentatively scheduled a retreat for Dec. 18. She added members will learn about civil discourse there.

The chair said the board needs a “refresher” on the topic.

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.

Resident on Swim Team

The men’s and women’s swimming teams at Eastern Connecticut State University are amid their fall 2021 seasons.

Among the student athletes is sophomore Kelly Schneider of Portland, who majors in biology. Schneider participates in the free and back strokes.

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.

Homemade Holidays: Thursdays at 3:30 p.m., Dec. 2-16, via Zoom, for grades K-5. Registration required for each program and space is limited.

Adult Programs: Portland Forum Book Discussion: Thursday, Dec. 2, 7 p.m. *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett will be discussed.

Book Clubs: Mystery Lovers Book Club: *The Twelve Clues of Christmas* by Rhys Bowen will be discussed Tuesday, Dec. 14, at 1 p.m.;

T.A.B. (Talk About Books): *Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk* by Kathleen Rooney will be discussed Thursday, Dec. 9, at 1 p.m. Copies of the books are available at the library. Also, the **First Thursday Night Book Club** will start meeting again Jan. 6 at 6 p.m. Call the library for more information.

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

Annual Tree-Lighting and Carol Sing

The annual Portland Tree Lighting and Carol Sing will take place Sunday, Dec. 5. The tree is located on the front lawn of Brownstone Intermediate School.

Plans are still being formed to make sure that Santa Claus will make a special appearance. The event is a kickoff to other town-wide events including a Parks and Recreation Holiday Light Trail, collection of unwrapped toys for children in our community by various organizations, Portland Historical Society Wreath Sale, plant sales by garden clubs, Chatham Children’s Connection “Photos with Santa,” and more.

Learn about more holiday events by visiting www.portlandct.org/youth-services. Call Jesse Revicki at 860-342-6758 for more information.



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Thirteen youth – and a few brave adults – took part in Gilead Congregational Church’s Homeless Awareness Night, held the weekend of Nov. 6-7.

Gilead Church Holds Homeless Awareness Night

After missing last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Gilead Congregational Church in Hebron held its 17th Homelessness Awareness Night the weekend of Nov. 6-7.

The goal of the program is to raise awareness of this issue in the community. Following a light dinner of soup and bread provided by the GCC Women’s Fellowship, 13 youth and a few brave adults slept outside in cardboard boxes in temperatures that dipped into the 30s.

The evening and overnight program included a discussion with Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen (DESK), a New Haven nonprofit organization that serves people who are experiencing homelessness or living in poverty by providing food assistance and services that promote

health, community and equity. DESK operates an evening meals program, offering a hot dinner and bagged lunches, as well as weekly Food Pantry and a Summer Kids Pantry program

The night also saw the youth making pies for Hebron Interfaith Human Services (HIHS); stuffing more than 3,000 envelopes for HIHS annual mailer; and decorating more than 40 Angel Tags for our church Christmas Gift program in partnership with the Connecticut Department of Children and Families.

The group then attended Sunday morning service together.

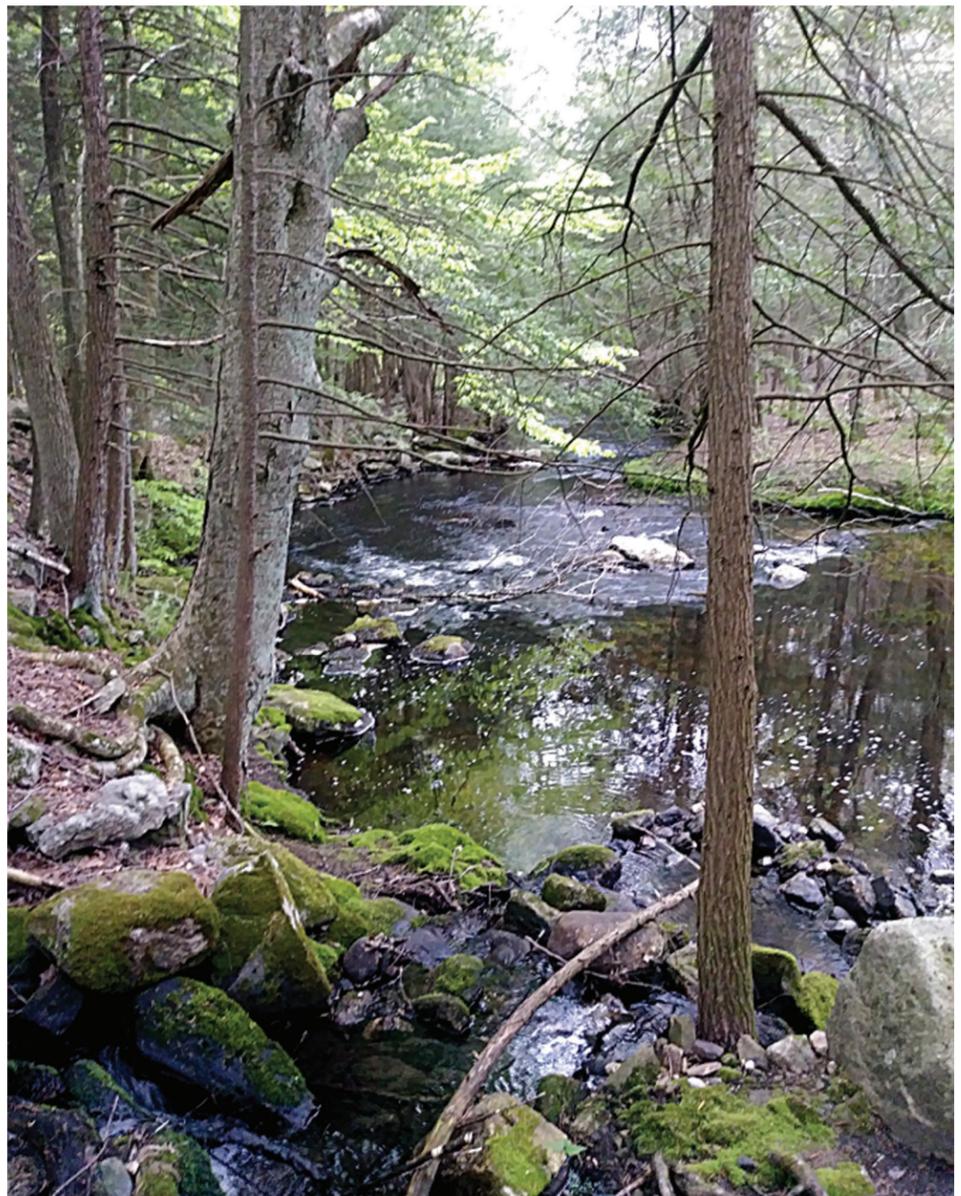
Preschool Screening

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.



Hey, Take a Hike!... All are invited to take a guided hike on newly marked trails and discover an open space preserve at 310 Old Colchester Rd., just north of the Air Line Trail and south of Northam Road, on Saturday, Nov. 20, at 10 a.m. Park either on the grassy area along the west side of Old Colchester Road (near yellow “caution-pedestrian” sign) or at the Air Line Trail designated parking. The hike will be led by Girl Scout Catherine Chester. The trail is an easy-to-moderate two miles round trip with some muddy spots, so hiking shoes are recommended. Allow 1.5 hours to enjoy this hike.

Grinders to Go

The Sons of the American Legion will sell footlong grinders with a bag of chips for \$10 each on Saturday, Nov. 20, from noon-2 p.m., at the American Legion, 18 Main St.,

Advance orders are recommended. Call Ron at 860-402-0904 to order choice of ham, turkey or Italian combo, with optional provolone or American cheese, tomato, lettuce, onions and choice of mayo, mustard, oil or vinegar.

There will be drive-thru service to your car. Have cash or check made out to SAL Squadron 95.

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

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. 21, 6:30 p.m., Youth Group meeting; Tuesday, Nov. 23, 7 p.m., AA Meeting; Wednesday, Nov. 23, 7 p.m., choir practice.

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. Pa-

rishioners are also sought to sign up to coordinate Coffee Hour on a given Sunday. An All-Church Advent Celebration will be held following worship service Sunday, Dec. 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.

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. 21 and 28 and check out the knives for sale along with the church cookbook.

RE12-21

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RE10-22-21

Andover • Andover

Pleasant Weather Sets Scene for Veterans Day Ceremony

by Sloan Brewster

A ceremony in honor of veterans was held at Andover's recently updated Monument Park.

Held in consort with Veterans Day celebrations the world over, the ceremony took place "on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month."

Approximately 50 people attended, according to guest speaker Gerry Wright,

Wright, a Vietnam War veteran, said he kept his speech brief, leaving most of the commentary to three Andover Elementary sixth grade students. He said the essays the students read included points he had planned to make and that he enjoyed letting them do the talking.

"They wrote some great essays," he said. "It was just nice to have them speak."

After the short ceremony people tried the new walkway around the Agent Orange monument that was installed in June, checking out the granite memorial.

"They just thought that was awesome," Wright said.

Town Administrator Eric Anderson said the town was happy to hold the ceremony at the park and that it was nice to see the projects to improve it coming together.

Besides the monument, which Wright designed and raised funds to purchase, the town has completed an electrical upgrade, added more lighting and installed a sprinkler system, Anderson said.

"I think it's coming out nicely," he said.

In addition, the town did some landscaping in front of the Museum of Andover History, which

is next door to the park, and installed decorative lighting, Anderson said. The town also planted a new tree that will be decorated each year for the holidays.

Wright is also working on getting new flagpoles for the park and on is having two more monuments built and installed there, a battlefield cross and a Prisoner of War, Missing in Action and Killed in Action (POW MIA KIA) monument.

Paula King, selectman, said Veterans Day was a beautiful November morning and that she was struck when Wright made a reference to Armistice Day, which marked the end of World War I and took place at 11 a.m. on Nov. 11, 1918.

"He said, 'It's the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month,'" she said. "That just put it into perspective."

Chairs lined the "beautifully newly redone" park and a bagpiper performed for attendees, King said. The Recreation Commission provided refreshments after the ceremony.

King, who regularly attends the annual ceremony, brought her elementary school aged children. While she and her husband are not veterans, she said it was important for them that their children understand the sacrifices veterans and their families have made.

She said they endeavor to teach the children to respect veterans because of those sacrifices and to understand the freedoms they have because of them.

"When they come to these events and they see the people that they're talking about it be-



Andover Elementary School teacher Lisa Hopkins gives Caden Spekardt a gift packet to present to a veteran at the school's recent Veterans Day ceremony. Caden's father, Michael Spekardt, one of the veterans at the ceremony, stands behind them watching.

comes more real for them," she said.

King said she and her husband have also taught the children to help veterans when they see them out and about and that on occasion they have bought a veteran a meal.

King said the students who gave readings were "three well-spoken young ladies, super smart." She said they put a great deal of thought into their essays and speeches and did a great job.

Andover Elementary School Principal John Briody said sixth-graders are given writing assignments in honor of veterans every year.

They can write about "what Veterans Day means to me" or "why we should thank a veteran," Briody said. Three students are chosen to read at the town ceremony and three read at the school's ceremony the day before.

The school has been holding an event the day before Veterans Day for 10 years, he said. This year 21 veterans attended. Students read their

essays and poetry, sang patriotic songs and presented the veterans with gifts including flowers, cards made by students and booklets of poems and essays written by the children.

The Andover Elementary School Parent Teachers Association provided refreshments for the veterans and their families and "they all enjoyed a nice reception after the ceremony," Briody said.

This year the event was held outside for the first time, he said.

"My hat's off to the principal at the Andover school [and] the teachers," Wright, who was among veterans at the school's ceremony, said. "The students did a great job on the essays."

He said he was proud of all the students, including his grandson Caden Spekardt, who hung a wreath on the veterans' monument during the ceremony at the park and presented his grandfather and father with gifts at the ceremony.

Congregational Church News

Andover Congregational Church, UCC, located at 359 Route 6, invites all ages to worship Sundays at 10 a.m. Sunday School is provided. The service also streams live on the church's Facebook page (First Congregational Church, Andover, CT). For more information, call the church office at 860-742-7696, email andoverctchurch@gmail.com or visit www.andoverctchurch.org.

Worship and Lunch: 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

Dec. 1.

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.

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 committee is responsible for selecting and distributing the \$100,000 funds awarded by the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving to local nonprofits designed to assist in projects that will help enhance and benefit the residents of Andover.

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.hfpg.org/andovercf. Applications are also available by emailing committee co-chair Dianne Grenier at deardianne@comcast.net.

Completed applications are due Dec. 1.

Christmas Toy Drive

The Andover town employees are collecting toys for Andover children. New, unwrapped toys and gift cards can be dropped at the town office building.

There will also will be a drive-thru toy drive/drop on Saturday, Nov. 27, from 9 a.m.-noon in the parking lot of the Town Office Building.

Community Garden Ready for Winter

Organizers of the Andover Community Garden are looking for folks to help the garden get ready for winter on Sunday, Nov. 21, at 1 p.m.

All are invited to help clean up the garden beds, turn the compost and organize the space. Come prepared to work outside – bring a hat, gloves, water bottle, and a mug for some warm beverages.

To RSVP, email AndoverCTGarden@gmail.com.



The gazebo at Town Hall has been spruced up with fresh paint, new lighting and electrical and some overgrown bushes were removed.

Weight Restriction Removed on Bridge

by Sloan Brewster

The weight restriction on the Bunker Hill Bridge in Andover has been removed.

Town administrator Eric Anderson said he received an inspection report from the state Department of Transportation (DOT). Based on that, the weight restriction was removed.

Traffic on the bridge remains open to only one lane of vehicles, however, he said.

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

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

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

In October, the town repaired the latest hole using flowable fill concrete – a material that won't wash out – the same material used to complete repairs on the earlier cavities.

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

For about a year the project has been in the design phase.

At the Nov. 8 Board of Selectmen meeting, Anderson informed the board that he anticipated a meeting with Close Jensen and Miller, the firm drafting preliminary designs, sometime af-

ter Thanksgiving. At the meeting, the firm will present a proposed design to the town before submitting it to DOT.

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

Senior Center

The Community/Senior Center Building Committee is still working with the architect and site designer for site plans on a new community/senior center, Anderson said.

In September, selectmen agreed to hire BSC Group of Glastonbury to complete the engineering schematics and Moser Pilon Nelson Architects, of Wethersfield, to sketch architectural drawings.

"They hope to have site designs to present to the public in the next couple months," Anderson said.

Gazebo

The gazebo at Town Hall has been given a makeover, Anderson said.

Anderson said the structure – a setting for concerts, festivities and gatherings in town – was power washed and painted. The 30-year old electrical system, which wasn't working properly, was redone, new interior lighting was installed and some bushes in front of the gazebo were removed.

"They had grown so tall when we had concerts in the front you couldn't really hear, so now you could actually see the band play," Anderson said.

Reader Forum • Reader Forum

★ *Letters cont. from page 5*

in citing.

Next, we visit a random YouTuber breathlessly trying to debunk something and confusing rainstorms with global wind patterns. Then an opinion piece from Murdoch's Sky News (again untrustworthy: <https://mediabiasfactcheck.com/sky-news-australia>), preaching to some other choir; I see little sign in it of Biden's faculties declining. There was a fifth one, but I simply don't have the heart to continue.

Links are a step in the right direction. But if we're going to use them to bolster an argument, we need to refer to credible sources producing information and not to others who happen to promote our personal opinion.

Sincerely,
Scott Sauyet – Andover

Republican Red Wave

To the Editor:

Congratulations to our five "East of the River" towns who pushed back and voted Republicans into office, many for both Board of Selectmen and Board of Education. I was pleasantly surprised that our reliable "blue" state had a majority of people who had enough of the "woke" mentality from the left-wing socialist Democrats. I was also very pleased that all three RHAM towns came together and overwhelmingly defeated the turf project. Talk about wrong place, wrong time – especially when we have just watched the World Series being played on "real" grass. This project was a serious overreach by the RHAM Board of Education and the P.T.A. This defeat will also give Andover \$700K in savings which can be better spent on a New Community/Senior Center and bridge work on Bunker Hill and Long Hill boards.

The pushback on socialist/wokeism starts with local elections and works their way up the ladder. This is the beginning of a movement to Take Back America and the next step is to make King Ned Lamont a one-and-done governor.

Don Denley – Andover

Don't Go Backwards

To the Editor:

Republicans were given the reins in the town of East Hampton. Councilman Philhower mentioned this election wasn't about the Democrats in town governing poorly, but a state and national referendum. I'd like to remind them that when Republicans were voted out of the Town Council in 2019 it was most definitely a referendum on what Republicans in town did wrong, namely cut Chromebooks and technology and teaching positions from the education budget. So while nobody disagrees with trimming fat from the town budgets, superintendent Smith has shown that East Hampton's education budget already runs very lean and efficiently. The fact that the budgets of the last two years had near unanimous approval from the town boards should be a good indication that the town is running efficiently already. In fact, in a bipartisan manner the different department heads were praised for proposing lean common sense budgets the last couple years. So while the town has given Republicans the majorities, the current budgets that they've agreed to while in the minority, are not there for blanket, blind cuts. Parents are not in the mood to go backwards.

Paul Wisniewski – East Hampton

The 'New' Democrats

To the Editor:

Someone must confiscate any shovels owned by Edmund Smith. He continues to dig himself an intellectual hole from which even light can't escape. Genius level IQ is ~140. If Edmund had a twin, together they would just make it.

Edmund's comments about BOE meetings (and Republicans in general) only solidify my astonishment that he is allowed to teach children. Why is it that the progressive liberal, maskaholic, Toilet Paper Mafia is so acutely sensitive to parent protests, yet revel in the "peacefully" destructive protests that have eviscerated our country for almost two years? And if there is anything we've learned about our "cherished reliance" on voting, it's that the Democrats have a cherished reliance on mail-in and absentee voting. What a country. At least it was.

Yes, Marlborough, Hebron, and Colchester all swung Republican. What's the "root cause"? I think we know. Edmund, they won't need any luck. But Edmund is probably right that Republican boards won't have to endure loud and aggressive Democrats at meetings spewing vitriol and spreading rumors. That's Edmund's job.

Role model for 12-year-olds...

Nationwide we are witnessing a disturbing portion of the public, vastly Democrats, who have adopted Anthony Fauci as a patron saint, masks as a facsimile of a gang tattoo, and Joe Biden as, well, an actual President. These are the "new" Democrats, entrenched in a liberal religion that requires unwavering allegiance to a synthetic reality based on moral superiority and incalculable intellect.

And Edmund left Steve Scalise and Rand Paul off his list of violence victims. Paul wasn't shot, but broken ribs and a collapsed lung have to count for something. Although Republicans don't count...

And all this mental masturbation over Jan. 6 has to stop. However, I hear it will regrow hair on your head if you keep doing it...

Regards,
Ed Kozlowski – Colchester

Car Wash Thank You

To the Editor:

Conner Denecour, an Eagle Scout candidate with Troop 72 of Colchester, would like to thank all the generous supporters for turning out in support of his fund raiser on Nov. 6. The Scouts worked from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. to clean the cars of generous residents of Colchester and wish to thank them all for support of this project. We hope that we made your car cleaner through our efforts.

Donations that were collected will be used to rehabilitate the Colchester Giving Gardens building that is behind the Senior Center on Norwich Avenue. Future work days to start the improvements will begin soon.

Thank you again for your supporting Boy Scouting in Colchester.

Boy Scout Troop 72
Colchester

EHHS Baseball Fundraiser

To the Editor:

On Saturday, Nov. 6, the East Hampton High School baseball team sponsored a Cornhole Tournament. It was a fun event that began with 32 teams and ended with an exciting match. Paul Apostalon and Utey Parekh defeated worthy opponents Randy Myers and Ray Smith in the finals.

On behalf of the players, I would like to thank all that came out to participate and the parents and players that helped make it a successful event.

We would like to thank our sponsors: Pauls' and Sandy's Too, CMK Sports, Loco Pero, Fresca's, Caso HVAC, EHHS Sports Boosters, Rossini's, Creative Nails, Po's Rice & Spice, Belltown Dental, Cantina's, Wood N Tap, Buffalo Wild Wings, Batter's Box, Magaldi Builders, Davinci's, Dublin, Main Street Pizza, 2 Brothers, Black Walnut, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, and Modure/Laurie Seidl. We could not do it without you.

We would also like to thank the East Hampton Little League for the use of their field and concession stand.

Sincerely,
Tom Seidl
EHHS Baseball

Thanks for Serving

To the Editor:

Town boards and commissions are in an almost constant state of flux, and there are many new faces to welcome after last week's elections; to each one, I offer congratulations! Before moving on, however, I'd like to publicly thank two people we won't continue to see at meetings who have served with distinction on behalf of us all: Susan Leser and Susan McFarland.

Susan Leser has served on the Board of Finance (BOF) for 18 years, and as chairman of the BOF for the last two and a half years. While Susan and I are often at odds about political issues, Susan has been the consistent voice of moderation and fairness in matters of town finances. I appreciate her nonpartisan leadership in what is often a thankless position, especially during the difficult years of harsh state budget cuts and tight finances. Although she decided against seeking a fifth term, I hope Susan will remain an active leader in town. Thank you for your dedication on our behalf, Susan.

We've also been fortunate to have Susan McFarland serve three terms on the Zoning Commission. For twelve years, she has shared her professional land-use expertise to help guide meaningful development of the town. While people are quick to complain about the town changing (especially commercial growth), Su-

san has recognized that to remain vital, Marlborough needs to grow to provide non-residential revenues and to offer the amenities new families demand. Thanks for all your efforts, Susan.

There are others who have served faithfully but won't return to meetings, and we should thank each for serving on our behalf. As the new Board and Commission terms begin, let's hope they follow the example of nonpartisan cooperation set by these two exceptional public servants, and offer our support as they guide Marlborough forward!

Amy Traversa – Marlborough

Note: Traversa is a member of the Marlborough Board of Selectmen, but said she is speaking as an individual.

Project Grad Thanks

To the Editor:

On behalf of AHM Youth and Family Services, I would like to extend a thank you to three very special businesses that support Project Graduation for the RHAM High School Class of 2022: Jennifer Albert owner of J. Star Barn Photography organized a Mini-Photo Session Fundraiser and donated 100% of all sitting fees, Julie Veilleux owner of Simply Soy Candles donated a percentage of sales from the month long fundraiser and Michelle Nicholson, owner of Flour Girl Café welcomed musicians and vocalists during the month of October for our Tip A Musician music series and donated 100% of the proceeds from the Pie Eating Contest during the Harvest Moon Festival.

In addition, AHM is so grateful to the musicians and vocalists who shared their talents during the Tip A Musician Fundraiser music series; Bernie Odoy, Kyle Konopka, Dallin Smith, Joel Earhart, Marcel Paige of Quintessential, David Bell, Tracey DeDonato, Diane Kasper, Jeff Macca and Michael Markure of Five in Time, Tom Aldridge and Charlie Daniels of One Part Harmony and Alexa Odoy, Steve McCarthy, and Sophia Bell! Thank you so much!

Every dollar raised assures the RHAM High School Class of 2022 will have an overnight celebration on the night of their graduation without the temptation of drugs or alcohol. AHM Youth & Family Services coordinates Project Graduation because we want our graduates to have a safe and memorable end to their RHAM High School chapter.

Sincerely,
Jenn Boehler
Prevention Coordinator
AHM Youth & Family Services

Save Our Trees

To the Editor:

Trees take in carbon dioxide gas from the air and create the oxygen gas we breathe. A number of countries have been accused of deforestation, a practice that negatively impacts climate change. Wood products are needed to make the paper used in books, newspapers, and magazines. I personally try to do all my reading online, thus negating the purchase of these products.

The *Rivereast* should make an effort to provide their news bulletin online. An added bonus would be a reduction in cost to the publisher.

Ronald L. Abate – Colchester

What're They Up To?

To the Editor:

What is Marlborough's Zoning Commission (ZC) up to with its Lake Terramuggus watershed and shoreline overlay district regulations? Over 70 residents of Marlborough were looking for answers at a ZC meeting Nov. 4.

Why isn't the Conservation Commission creating these regulations when they clearly have the statutory purview?

Why hasn't the ZC been working with the affected residents? Aren't they aware that failing to involve affected residents undermines the chances the regulations will be supported as well as knowledgeably and enthusiastically enacted? Or was there a belief avoiding a collaborative approach with the affected residents would avoid the questioning as to why they are so onerous?

And where's the science, the evidence demonstrating why these 25 pages are necessary? Where's the precedent, actual examples, for grids and points, for almost anything one wants to do in their own yard such as asking permission, at a fee, to cut down dead trees, etc.?

It's a shame this is happening. No one seems to object to the need for regulations to keep our healthy lake healthy. Check out the regulations at tinyurl.com/xy58vhj8.

I spoke at the Nov. 4 ZC meeting stating

that the regulations needed to be understandable, transparent, supported by science, and embraced by the affected residents to succeed. It doesn't seem they have met any of these criteria. Attend the Dec. 2 ZC meeting at 7 p.m. Check the location when it gets posted on the town's website. It may be in the elementary school cafeteria as was the last one. Please support local democracy in action. Does the ZC have the courage to drop these proposals and allow the Conservation Commission to create appropriate regulations? Vermont is an example of carrying out this type of regulation successfully.

Dave Porteous – Marlborough

Keep This in Mind

To the Editor:

In reading last week's letters, I noted appreciative letters from successful candidates, gracious letters from unsuccessful candidates and then...was reminded of a saying I learned some time ago: "Be hard on issues, not on people." I hope we can all keep that in mind as candidates become officeholders who represent us all.

Respectfully,
Stan Soby – Colchester

SoccerFest Thanks

To the Editor:

Thank you to all of our competitors that came out to play at this past weekend's Colchester SoccerFest! We lucked out with no rainy days, saw some impressive soccer, and made lots of great memories.

Thank you to our sponsors: Bishop Photo, Children's Dental Associates of NL County, Dr. George Mantikas DMD, Family Pizza, Holmgren Subaru, Inishmor Pub and Noel's Market.

Thank you to the following businesses for partnering with us to donate goods or lend supplies: Coca Cola, Belltown Orchards, Dick's Sporting Goods, Ganos, Glastonbury Country Club, Maria's Pizza, Subway and Starbucks.

Also, thanks to our vendors for providing an assortment of food and merchandise: Taco Pacifico, Cold Spring Farm, Faddy's Donuts and Ice Cream, Dude's Donuts, Soccer-N-Moore and Supreme Hotdogs.

And special thanks to everyone's favorite DJ Montez for keeping everyone entertained in between games and the players all warmed up even in the morning cold.

Lastly, thank you to all of our volunteers who helped to plan and work our tournament. It's your commitment and passion to our Club that allows our players to have this fun experience year after year.

We appreciate your support of the Colchester Soccer Club and we hope to see you back again for SoccerFest 2022.

Sincerely,
Colchester SoccerFest 2021
Tournament Committee

Sanctity of our Democracy

To the Editor:

In the Nov. 12 edition of *Rivereast*, a letter to the editor titled "Age of Anti-Government" appeared. That writer went on to state, "The American experiment as we know it may be about finished, and every single Republican voter championed this ending." That writer rants on with a false narrative claiming Republicans are guilty of killing our democracy. That writer demonstrates a complete lack of honesty so typical of many of today's liberals.

In fact, it is liberals who are attempting to kill our American democracy. It is liberals who are promoting changes to our voting laws to permit early voting a month or more before elections. It is liberals who are mailing unsolicited absentee ballots, in some cases, to people who have moved or are deceased. It is liberals who are attempting to change election laws such that voters will not be required to show any proof of identity.

All of these actions intentionally try to destroy the sanctity of our election process, the sanctity of our democracy, the sanctity that so many brave men and women have fought and died to protect.

Doug Sargent – Portland

Thank You, Colchester

Dear Colchester Residents:

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to the town of Colchester for electing me as its next first selectman. I am humbled and honored to represent my hometown. My deepest gratitude is extended to all those who supported me along the way. Your encouragement provided

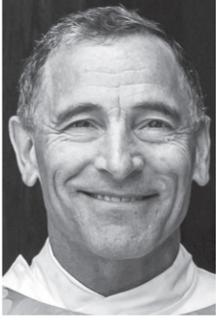
See Letters, page 30

Obituaries

Colchester

Rev. Dr. Michael L. Puscas

Rev. Dr. Michael L. Puscas, Ed.D. – Born May 2, 1953; Ordained June 11, 2005; Born to Eternal Life Nov. 7, 2021.



While enjoying a fitness swim as he often did, Deacon Michael Puscas closed his eyes upon this world for the last time the afternoon of Sunday, Nov. 7.

While we, his family, announce his sudden yet peaceful passing with profound sorrow, we find greater comfort and consolation in words of the homily he preached that same morning – on the importance of being ready to meet the Lord when he calls us. Our shared faith tells us that Michael reopened his eyes in the real and true presence of God, gazing upon his new and eternal heavenly home.

Born May 2, 1953, in Aurora, Ill., and raised there, he was a son of Barbara (Buettgen) Puscas of Aurora, Ill., and the late Victor Puscas. Michael was a graduate of Marmion (Military) Academy in Aurora, a Catholic-Benedictine college preparatory high school for young men dedicated to spiritual formation, academic excellence and leadership development. He went on to earn his master's degree in instructional technology and his doctorate degree in education from Northern Illinois University.

Early on, Michael worked as a special agent with the U.S. Secret Service, protecting presidents Ford, Carter and Reagan, and in doing so, received a special award for achieving peaceful resolutions to potentially violent situations. The majority of his "secular" career was spent in the electric industry; he was currently a standards compliance manager for ISO-New England in Holyoke, Mass. A gifted visionary, Michael earned national recognition as a leader in his field.

Work paid the bills, but there were two great love affairs that truly enveloped Michael's life – which he believed were both divinely-inspired. The first – for God and His Church – was fostered and nurtured from his birth; while the second began when he married his best friend and the love of his life, the former Colleen Metternich, on Sept. 29, 1979. Their union and the family they would create was truly like a fairy tale! That story included countless God-given talents, which Michael always shared with humility.

Along with their young family, Colleen and Michael relocated to Colchester in the early 1990s and found their new spiritual home at St. Andrew Church in Colchester. Michael was a brother with Francis Cardinal Spellman Knights of Columbus Council 6107 and was active with the ACTS Men's Retreat movement. He served as a lector, Eucharistic minister and catechist to name just a few of his ministries. However, he, as two of his brothers also have, felt a deeper calling to serve God and His people – a call to ordained ministry. Michael began his theological studies at Holy Apostles Seminary in Cromwell, and journey toward diaconate.

Raised in the Romanian Catholic tradition, the Rev. Deacon Michael Puscas was ordained in the Byzantine Catholic Eastern Rite at the Cathedral of St. Patrick in Norwich on June 11, 2005. A bi-ritual deacon, he served with facul-

ties not only in the Romanian Catholic Eparchy of Canton, Ohio, but also the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Stamford, as well as the Roman Catholic Diocese of Norwich. In addition to serving as director of deacons for the Diocese of Norwich, his parish assignments included the newly-formed Guardian Angels Parish – serving St. Andrew Church, Colchester and St. Francis of Assisi Church, Lebanon; as well as St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, Colchester. From healing and prison ministries, to three mercy trips to Haiti, to hosting countless numbers of spiritual workshops, his gifts and talents were now really at work!

In addition to his warm, soothing orator's voice, (which some said sounded like the voice of God) he could sing just as masterfully. Over the years, he thoroughly enjoyed acting and singing with both the Colchester Community and East Lyme (CT) regional theaters, as well as in St. Andrew's annual Passion Play. He was also an accomplished, self-taught woodworker. He lent his carpentry skills generously, often building beautiful furniture from scratch. On mission trips to Haiti, he gave that same attention to detail to one-room houses and other structures benefiting the Haitian Health Foundation and the greater community of Jeremie, Haiti.

He leaves to mourn his loss but forever cherish his love and memory his beloved wife of 42 years, Colleen; their four children, whom have made them both so incredibly proud – Alexa Sifuentes (and her husband, Paul) of Indianapolis, Ind.; Blair Puscas of New York City; Emily Toole (and her husband, Robert) of Geneva, Switzerland, and Julia Eckrich (and her husband, Andrew) of Noblesville, Ind.; eight adored (and adorable) grandchildren, Luke, Victoria, Peter, Natalie, Regina, Maximilian, Augusta, Andre; four siblings, Deacon Steve Puscas (and his wife, Sue) of Nebo, N.C., Mary McCarthy (and her husband, Richard) of Madison, Louie Puscas (and his wife, Cathy) of Mt. Pleasant, S.C., and Deacon Vic Puscas (and his wife, Elizabeth) of Yorkville, Ill.; and numerous nieces, nephews, extended family, friends and faithful.

"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the son, but the Father only." (Matthew 24:36)

All funeral services were observed at Guardian Angels Parish – St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester, with visitation Thursday, Nov. 11, and the Celebration of the Funeral Liturgy Friday, Nov. 12. The Most Rev. Michael R. Cote, D.D., Bishop of Norwich, was principal celebrant.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that donations in his memory be made to the Haitian Health Foundation, 97 Sherman St., Norwich, CT 06360 (www.haitianhealthfoundation.org).

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester. For online condolences, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Anita E. Carlson

Anita E. Carlson, 96, of Moodus Road, East Hampton, died Thursday, Nov. 11, at the home of her son, where she had been living for the last year. She was the loving wife of her late husband, Kenneth A. Carlson, who passed away in 2000.

She was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., May 24, 1925, daughter of the late Ivar and Elfrida Lindquist. She moved to East Hampton in 1949 and raised her family. Before her retirement in 1991, she worked in the East Hampton school system as the cafeteria director. She started the cafeteria program in all East Hampton schools in 1963 and managed all activity funds at the high school. She was a member of the Had-

dam Neck Covenant Church beginning in 1962, where she was involved in numerous activities over the years.

She is survived by her four sons and their wives, Barry and Ruth Carlson of Forney, Texas, Glenn and Debra Carlson of Higganum, David and Patty Carlson of Chester, and Rick and Jaye Carlson of Hingham, Mass. In addition, she is survived by nine grandchildren, Sherry Vasquez (Rich), Elysha Mallon (Patrick), Kelly Malaro (Will), Kyle Carlson, Gregory Carlson, Kristy Troxell (Greg), Erik Carlson, Kirsten Carlson and Jennifer Carlson; as well as eight great-grandchildren, Dima, Natalia, Conner, Cameron, Sadie, Brayden, Haven and Parker. Special thanks are also extended to Bill and Catherine Holmes, special friends and neighbors, for all of the caring and support provided throughout the years.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Nov. 20, at 11 a.m., at Haddam Neck Covenant Church, 17 Haddam Neck Rd., East Hampton, with the Rev Tom Cowger officiating. Burial will be in Rock Landing Cemetery, Haddam Neck, at the convenience of the family. There will be no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Haddam Neck Covenant church or a charity of your choosing. To leave online condolences, please visit www.spencerfuneral-homeinc.com.

Hebron

Timothy W. Brooks

Timothy W. Brooks, 54, of Hebron, passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, Nov. 10. He is predeceased and now reunited with the love of his life, his wife Martha (DeConti) Brooks, who passed away in 2018. They celebrated over 30 years of marriage and built a life together in Hebron with their three daughters.

Born on a U.S. Air Force Base in Aguadilla, Puerto Rico, he is the son of Wayne and Susan (Stawarz) Brooks. Tim exemplified the meaning of a hard worker. He was employed as a diesel mechanic and for several years owned his own repair service business. He often picked up odd jobs and was always willing to lend a helping hand to others.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his three daughters and sons-in-law, Kelly and Shawn Brunner of Colchester, Erika and Matt Maloney of Hamden, Nicole and Christian Trantalis of Coventry; two brothers, Christopher Brooks and his wife Karlene of East Hampton, Patrick Brooks of Newington; his three grandchildren, Cody and Hunter Brunner and Emma Trantalis; and several nieces and nephews.

In his spare time, Tim loved being outdoors. He enjoyed many weekend getaways with family and friends, riding trails on his side by side in Vermont and snowmobiling with his grandchildren in the winter. His other hobbies included shooting guns at the range with friends and sporting clay shooting. He was a member of the Rockville Fish & Game Club, for which he volunteered at many events.

Tim was never one to turn down a good time and lived life to its fullest. He cherished every moment with family and was extremely proud to be a Dad and Grandpa. His grandchildren brought him so much joy and he spoiled them greatly with love and attention. He was loved by so many and will be deeply missed.

A private funeral service and burial will be held. There are no calling hours. For online condolences, please visit www.mulryanfh.com.

Hebron

Anthony Albert Belmont

Anthony Albert Belmont, 26, of Stamford, passed away far too soon Wednesday, Nov. 3, and will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Anthony was born Aug. 14, 1995, to Brian and Margaret "Meg" (Nastasi) Belmont of Hebron. He grew up in the wonderful town of Hebron where he developed his lifelong love of sports including snowboarding, skateboarding, soccer, and hockey. Anthony loved nothing more than being part of a team with many who became lifelong friends.

After graduating from RHAM High School in 2013, Anthony attended Northern Vermont University in Lyndonville, Vt., where he pursued his passion for outdoor sports, particularly snowboarding and skateboarding. Anthony lived his dream life during his years in Vermont with constant outdoor adventures and wonderful friends who became family.

Anthony's work life followed his passion, working at Burke Mountain in East Burke, Vermont, and most recently at Stamford Motorsports in Stamford. In recent years when he wasn't working, Anthony could be found on his dirt bike exploring trails and back country wherever he could. Anthony was introduced to dirt bikes at age 5 by his uncle Tom with his first dirt bike from Stamford Motorsports. It was a fitting full circle when Anthony started working there.

Anthony was predeceased by his father, Brian; his maternal grandfather, Franklin D. Nastasi; paternal grandparents, Albert L. and Theresa F. O'Hagan Belmont; and maternal aunt, Alexandra M. Nastasi.

He is survived by his mother, Meg; his beloved dog, Cocoa; maternal grandmother, Margaret Race; aunts, Bonnie Ferro (Mickey), Melissa Benick (Tony); uncles, Albert Belmont (Karen), Thomas Nastasi (Gabriella), Anthony Nastasi (Caroline). Anthony is also survived by his cousins, AJ Belmont, Bonnie Herring, Michael Ferro III (Emily), Lynnae Monti (Dean), Michelle Ferro-Esposito (John), Theresa Ferro, Franklin, Gabriela and Victoria Nastasi, Lauren and Emily Benick, and Izabella and Brigitta Nastasi.

Anthony was treated as family by so many in Connecticut, including the Saltus family and the rest of the Windham and Christmas Eve crew. A special thank you to Chris Vento from Stamford Motorsports for his kindness and generosity towards Anthony.

A gathering of friends and family to celebrate and honor the life of Anthony was held Monday, Nov. 15, at Bosak Funeral Home, 453 Shippan Ave., Stamford.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made in Anthony's memory to The Chill Foundation (www.chill.org/support-chill). Chill was founded by the owners of Burton Snowboards to work with disadvantaged youth, engaging them in the outdoor sports that were Anthony's passion.

To leave an expression of sympathy for the Belmont family online, please sign the guestbook at www.bosakfuneralhomestamford.com or visit the funeral home Facebook page at www.facebook.com/bosakfuneralhome.

Portland

Nancy Droit

Nancy Elizabeth (Gustafson) Droit of Glendale, Ariz., passed away Wednesday, Nov. 10, at her home that she dearly loved. She was the daughter of Clifford and Helen Gustafson.

She was born on July 11, 1947, spent her childhood in Portland, was a parishioner of Zion Lutheran Church, attended Portland schools, and graduated from Portland High School. Several years later she went on a vacation to visit relatives in Arizona where she met and married the love of her life, Jim Droit. Together they raised their two children, Sarah Beth and Joseph Droit. They resided in Missouri and Illinois for a several years, eventually returning to Arizona where they enjoyed camping, hiking, taking day trips, and spending time with their grandkids who called them Nana and Poppie. Nancy enjoyed many annual trips back to Portland with her children to visit with family and friends.

She leaves her daughter Sarah Beth Daugherty and her husband Ryan of Phoenix, Ariz.; her son, Joseph Droit and his wife Yvonne of Glendale, Ariz.; her brother, Charles Gustafson of Middletown; her sister, Elise O'Brien and



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Obituaries

her husband David of Portland; her sister-in-law, Kit Warren Gustafson of Plymouth, Mass.; her grandchildren, Colin Daughtery and Maxine Daughtery, Simon Droit and Astrid Droit; and many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her parents, Clifford and Helen Gustafson; her husband, Jim Droit; her sister and brother-in-law, Carol and Peter Van Aken; her brother, Clifford E. Gustafson; and her sister-in-law, Jane Hale Gustafson.

Nancy cherished her family and friends and we all loved her very much. She will be greatly missed, and will always be in our hearts.

If you so wish, donations in her memory can be made to Zion Lutheran Church Memorial Fund, PO Box 202, Portland, CT 06480.

Portland

William C. Donahue

William (Bill) C. Donahue Jr., 81, beloved husband of Dorothy Otfinoski Donahue, passed away peacefully Monday, Nov. 8, at home, surrounded by his family. He was born June 27, 1940, in Middletown, and was the son of the late William C. Donahue, Sr. and Catherine (Doyle) Donahue.



He attended Woodrow Wilson High School and was a 1962 graduate of St. Michael's College in Burlington, Vt., where he became the first of many in the extended Donahue clan to call SMC their alma mater. Bill grew up, raised his family, volunteered his time and resided in Middletown for most of his life, spending his final years in Portland. A longtime member of St. Pius X. Church in Middletown, he was most recently a member of St. Mary Church in Portland.

Bill had a strong faith which he endeavored to instill in his family. On one occasion, during a huge snowstorm, he and Dorothy loaded the family into the station wagon to make their way to the church, to find they were the only family to have braved the storm. The Mass given by the surprised priest was very short but the experience was memorable.

After working more than 30 years as a sales manager, he retired from the Magee/Magner Corporation in Middlefield, but not before he had explored every back road and small inn throughout his New England territory picking up bits of local history along the way, which he loved to share. Prior to that, he was president and former co-owner of Work Management Associates, a management consulting company. He also worked as a systems manager for Travelers Insurance in Hartford.

Bill was a lifelong volunteer who gave his time freely to many organizations over the years beginning with his service in the 103rd Fighter Squadron of the Connecticut Air National Guard. He served as a past president of the St. Michael's College Alumni Association as well as on their Board of Trustees and was named Alumnus of the Year in 1977.

A past president of the Greater Middletown Jaycees, he was the recipient of their Distinguished Service Award. He was also one of the founders and a past president of the Greater Middletown Preservation Trust and served on Middletown's Bicentennial Committee and its Charter Revision Committee. One of the co-founders and a longtime chairman of the Middletown Transit District, he also chaired the building committee for the transit terminal. In addition, he was a past president of the former Middletown Columbus Federal Credit Union, a member of the Rockfall Foundation and a life member of the 3rd and 4th degree Knights of Columbus who awarded him the Irishman of the Year Award.

True to his Irish heritage, Bill will forever be remembered for his sense of humor and the jokes he was so fond of inserting into conversation, as well as his penchant for storytelling at frequent family parties where he was always surrounded by his large family and circle of friends he loved so much. His love of history, both family history and local lore, fueled many of these stories and his frequent travel throughout New England, especially to Maine and Cape Cod. If there was a choice between the highway or the byway during a family vacation, Bill always took the byway, regardless of what the five kids in the backseats voted for.

Most importantly, Bill was a devoted family man and a loyal friend. He was proud of watching his children grow up, get married and start their own families and cherished spending time with his grandchildren where he could pass on

his stories and family lore to a new generation. Shortly before his death, he self-published a small book for the family that had been a long-time labor of love he worked on in his spare time based on 30 years of correspondence from his great uncle who had been a prospector in Alaska during the days of the Gold Rush.

Bill was creative with his time, always tinkering with a project, drawing, pursuing his interest in history, or enjoying the several antique cars from the 20s and 30s he owned over the years. In his last months he continued to amuse the family with a gift from his brother, a shiny little harmonica that he kept in a case in his pocket and which he took great pleasure in popping out at a moment's notice, entertaining everyone with his self-composed ditties. He will be greatly missed by all of those who were blessed to have him as part of their lives.

Bill is survived by his wife of 57 years, Dorothy, and their children: William (Michelle) of Portland, Christopher (Michelle) of Portland, Margaret (Michael) Tartsinis of Colchester, Stephen (Jennifer) of Deep River, and David (Temma) of Portland, Maine. In addition, he leaves 13 grandchildren: Connor, Emily, Erin, Andrew, Molly, Sarah, Katherine, Julia, Chloe, Eamonn and Joah Donahue and Dimitrios (DJ) and Nicholas Tartsinis. He also leaves his brother Daniel and sisters Catherine Daley and Anne (Michael) Lombardo; sisters-in-law Diane Magee, Judith Lindstrom and Joanne (Philip) Martinelle; many nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews; as well as dear lifelong friends John and Mary Nork.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by a newborn daughter, Mary Donahue; brothers-in-law William Magee, Thomas Daley and George Lindstrom; and sister-in-law, Diane Donahue.

The family wishes to thank the Middlesex Health Hospice staff for their caring support during William's last few months.

The funeral liturgy will be held Monday, Nov. 22, at 11 a.m., at St. Mary Church, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland. Calling hours will be held Sunday, Nov. 21, from 3-5 p.m., at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown.

In lieu of flowers, donations to scholarships in his memory can be made to St. Michael's College at www.smcvt.edu/giveback or by mailing a check to St. Michael College, One Winooski Park, Box 256, Colchester, VT 05439.

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

Portland

Joseph T. Sienkiewicz

Joseph Theodore Sienkiewicz, 80, of Portland, husband of Mary (D'Emanuele) Sienkiewicz, died Thursday, Sept. 23, at his home, surrounded by his family. He was born in Middletown, the son of the late Stanley J. and Mary Ann (Fiut) Sienkiewicz.

Prior to his retirement, Joe was a scale man with Miller Company in Meriden. Joe was a communicant at St. Mary in Portland. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus. Joe was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather and a kind and generous friend. He enjoyed many things in his life, NASCAR and the Red Sox are noteworthy. He also liked to 'take a drive' with his wife, Mary, to the casino on a Sunday afternoon. He will be missed by all for his caretaking nature, generosity and kindness.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his sons, Joseph J. Sienkiewicz of North Franklin, Paul C. Sienkiewicz and Thomas P. Sienkiewicz, both of Portland; daughter, Theresa A. (Sienkiewicz) Krauth of Portland; brother, William Sienkiewicz of Portland; five grandchildren, Amy J. (Krauth) (Evan) Gustafson, Alexandra J. Krauth, Edward J. Krauth, Beau T. Sienkiewicz, Carli Sienkiewicz; great-grandson Easton J. Gustafson; and many, many beloved nieces, nephews and their families.

He was predeceased by his brothers, Raymond Sienkiewicz and Edward Sienkiewicz, and their wives, Geraldine (Griffith) and Patricia (Sullivan) Sienkiewicz. He also leaves his lifelong friends, Richard and Janice Stanhope and their family.

The funeral liturgy was held at St. Mary Church, Freestone Avenue, Portland, and burial was in St. Mary Cemetery, Portland.

Those who wish may send memorial contributions to a charity of their choice.

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

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RHAM • RHAM



The RHAM Raptors visited E.O. Smith last Friday, Nov. 12 – and came away with a 28-0 shutout win.

RHAM Falls to Bristol Central

The RHAM High School Raptors split a pair of football games the last two weeks.

On Friday, Nov. 5, the Raptors fell to the Bristol Central Rams by a score of 34-20. In a game that had many momentum swings, one thing was consistent: Victor Rosa. The Bristol Central quarterback ran 35 times for 304 yards and four touchdowns.

BC opened with a long 17-play drive to make the score 6-0. The rest of the first quarter saw much of the same. Rosa would score two more touchdowns to make it 20-0, and RHAM was in jeopardy of being blown out. However, backed up by a penalty at their own 2-yard line, the RHAM offense came to life. Ryan McLaughlin threw a long pass to Jimmy Hulland for 65 yards. Max Nylen would haul in a screen pass for 22 yards and follow that up with a reception from 12 yards out for a touchdown, making it 20-6. On defense, Gino Deliseo would follow that up with an interception of Rosa and return it inside the BC 20 yard line. Unfortunately, McLaughlin would throw an interception in the end zone to end the scoring threat.

In the second half, Nylen had a 59-yard touchdown score. McLaughlin would hit Nick Pace for a 2-point conversion to make the score 20-14. But on the next drive BC's Trey Blair caught a Rosa pass and broke two tackles to score making it 26-14. After a key turnover on a screen pass, Rosa would cash in to make it 34-14. RHAM wasn't finished however. The defense started to tighten up and RHAM went back to the air finishing off a long drive with a McLaughlin to Nylen touchdown to make it 34-20.

RHAM had opportunities to make it closer, but Rosa came back in key situations every time and would eventually run out the clock.

Tommy Puetzer, Owen Riley and Tom Panecasio played well on the offensive line, opening up holes and pass blocking. Mike Marques, Shane Wagner and Landers all had sacks on Rosa and led RHAM in tackles. Nylen was again a workhorse for RHAM and would finish with 161 yards and three touchdowns. McLaughlin would end up 15/27 for 197 yards

and two touchdowns, and Hulland had 101 yards on five catches.

RHAM then went on the road last Friday, Nov. 12, against E.O. Smith in Storrs. This time the Raptors shut out their opponents, by a score of 28-0. The defense seemed to be ready for whatever E.O. could offer, holding them to 92 yards of total offense.

Boden Landers led the Raptors with 8 tackles and 2 sacks. Mike Marques and Shane Wagner each had 4 tackles and a sack. Tommy Puetzer was in the E.O. Smith backfield the entire game and also had 4 tackles.

In the secondary, Logan Topulos and Silas Haley shut down the E.O. passing attack while Ben Weers picked off a pass that would set up a RHAM touchdown. On Special teams Gino Deliseo would block a punt out of the end zone for a safety. Nick Pace, Jake Nichols, Tom Panecasio, and Owen Riley all played well in a solid defensive effort.

Offensively, RHAM took advantage of short fields all night. Max Nylen would start the scoring with a 6-yard touchdown in the first quarter and add another touchdown from 8 yards out after RHAM intercepted a pass. Mike Marques score a touchdown in the third quarter from 2 yards away, making it 19-0. Deliseo's blocked punt for a safety would make it 21-0. Later in the fourth quarter, on third and long, Nylen would haul in a short pass from Ryan McLaughlin and take it 59 yards for a touchdown.

The offensive line of Aiden Rodriguez, Michael Hoffman, Riley, Panecasio, and Puetzer were solid all night, not giving up a sack and opening holes for Nylen and Marques.

Nylen had another solid game, leading the Raptors in rushing (126) and receiving (69) for a total of 195 yards from scrimmage.

McLaughlin went 9/12 passing for 146 yards and a touchdown.

Marques rushed eight times for 44 yards and Jimmy Hulland had two catches for 21 yards and returned a punt 35 yards.

RHAM plays its final game of the season at home on Thanksgiving morning vs. Colchester at 10 a.m.

Mentors Sought for Lanterns Program

AHM Youth and Family Services is seeking adults to participate in its Lanterns Mentoring Program. The goal of the program is to match dedicated community members with children who would benefit from a relationship with a trusted adult.

The mentoring relationship will take place within a local school during school hours, or at AHM's offices in Hebron during afterschool hours, for one hour per week. Visits will continue for a minimum of one academic year.

All COVID-19 safety measures will be taken. Mentors must be at least 18 years of age, and a background check and two-hour training are required. If interested in becoming a mentor for the program, contact Laura Beeler, Lanterns facilitator, at 860-228-0871 or LauraB@ahmyouth.org.

AHM Online Holiday Auction Kicks Off

The 2021 AHM Online Holiday Auction has kicked off. This year's auction will benefit AHM programs and services for children, teens, young adults, families and seniors. The online bidding started Nov. 17 and will end Dec. 1.

This year's auction features 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 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.

More RHAM News on page 31

★ *Letters cont. from page 27*

me strength throughout the entire campaign. A special thank you to my campaign team, the Colchester RTC, and the slate of candidates that I ran with. It was a privilege to work with such a talented and committed group of individuals. I am hopeful that the next two years will bring forth continued success. A special thank you to my family as they were instrumental in providing me guidance in the most challenging of times. I love you so much.

This election cycle was certainly a most memorable one. Though there are many positives to take away, I would be remiss not to mention how negative it got. They say time heals all wounds, but perhaps some wounds will never heal. Regardless, I hope and pray that better days are ahead for everyone. I am also encouraged by certain members of the DTC for reaching out and promising an open line of communication. It is a good start.

With great power comes great responsibility. As I assume the office of first selectman on Monday, Nov. 15, there is a lot of work to be done. There will times we celebrate together and times that will challenge our community. For those who casted a vote for me, I hope my commitment and dedication will make you proud. For those who went a different direction on Election Day, I hope to earn your trust along the way. We are all in this together.

Sincerely,
Andreas Bisbikos
Colchester First Selectman

Thank You Hebron

To the Editor:

Thank you to everyone who supported me and the other candidates who ran for election on Nov. 2. I consider it an honor and a privilege to have been re-elected to the Board of Finance by the Hebron voters. I am grateful for all of the support received from members of our community during the last two months. To everyone who posted signs in their yard, those who beeped or stopped to talk while I was out waving, those who wrote letters of support in the *Riverast News Bulletin* or posted on social media, and everyone who came out to vote on Nov. 2, I am thankful for your trust and confidence.

Congratulations to all who were elected and thank you to everyone who stepped forward with a willingness to volunteer their time and service to our wonderful town. I look forward to continuing to serve on the Board of Finance and will work hard to represent the interests of all residents of Hebron.

Thank you again.
Michael McCormack – Hebron

Thank You, Kellys

To the Editor:

This year, as in the past, Kevin and Shawn Kelly of Portland Golf West and Michael LaMalfa of Fairway Grill held their annual golf tournament to benefit the Portland Food Bank.

On behalf of the Portland Food Bank and the many people who benefit from it, we would like to personally thank them for their tireless efforts to help those in need again this year. These men and their businesses have been ardent supporters for many years. We consider them as part of the Portland Food Bank family. We are very appreciative of their unending support.

It takes a lot of work and many hands to make the food bank successful and this golf tournament certainly helped more than we can express.

Once again, thank you for your continued support.

Ruth Maio, Director
Portland Food Bank

Thanks for Your Support!

To the Editor:

Fowler-Dix-Park VFW Auxiliary 5095 would like to thank all our vendors and patrons for their years of support for our Annual Craft Fair. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen events, we will not be able to hold our December craft fair this year. We would like to assure the community that we will be hosting the event next year on Saturday, Dec. 3, 2022.

To all crafters and vendors interested in participating, please assist us in keeping our files current by sending your contact information to: VFW Auxiliary 5095; 20 North Maple St.; East Hampton, CT 06242-1014.

Thank you for supporting our veterans! Happy holidays!

Judith Barnes, Auxiliary Secretary
Fowler-Dix-Park VFW Auxiliary 5095
East Hampton

Thank You, President Biden

To the Editor:

President Biden has been in office for only ten months. During this short time period he has had three major accomplishments.

He has overseen the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine to everyone who chose to be vaccinated; he has ended our twenty year war in Afghanistan; and he has led the passage of the first major infrastructure program in six years.

More than 750,000 Americans have died due to the COVID-19 virus. The president is encouraging all people to get vaccinated and in certain instances requiring people to get vaccinated due to the nature of their employment. This action will prevent many future deaths and will make all of us safer.

Two thousand four hundred of our military men and women have died in Afghanistan during the 20-year war. President Trump spent four years talking about ending the war but he refused to end it during his term of office. President Biden had the wisdom and political courage to withdraw our troops.

Both presidents Obama and Trump expressed the need to repair and improve our country's infrastructure. No major repairs or improvements were made during either administration. President Biden was able to obtain bipartisan support for the enactment of a major infrastructure program that will benefit our country.

Thank you, Mr. President, for your leadership in our country's effort to control the COVID-19 virus, for ending our war in Afghanistan, and for the enactment of the infrastructure program.

Richard J. Cromie – Colchester

Costs Causing Hardship

To the Editor:

Price increases for most essential goods, from gasoline to groceries, are causing real hardship for the families of this state.

According to Triple-A, the average per-gallon price of gas in this state is up almost a dollar and a half from where it was a year ago.

Eversource Energy is also now warning its customers that natural gas heating prices could jump 14% in the coming months, costing the average household \$30-a-month more than last year.

And it isn't just energy: average prices for American consumers jumped 6.2% last month – the highest recorded rate of inflation since 1990.

Businesses feel this pain acutely, especially those restaurants that already operate under razor-thin margins: every change in the price of flour, meat and other ingredients cuts deep.

Seniors and those on a fixed income also have no choice but to begin tightening their belts, hoping to save whatever is left after their high heating and grocery bills have been paid.

Taxes compound the hardship, especially for commuters. Connecticut drivers currently pay two state fuels taxes and one federal fuels tax, adding 50 cents to the already-high per-gallon cost of the gas that fills your car, truck or generator.

With prices through the roof, it's important that the state gives residents some assurance that tax increases aren't also headed our way.

No such certainty exists in Hartford, however – after all, the governor and legislative Democrats successfully passed a new mileage tax on the shipping industry in the middle of a global pandemic and economic downturn.

Most residents don't want to pay higher prices for energy or food. More expensive tax proposals from the Democratic majority like 'TCI' (the Transportation and Climate Initiative) are likely to lead us there.

Respectfully,
State Rep. Robin Green
R-55th District
Andover, Bolton, Hebron and Marlborough

Wasting Their Time

To the Editor:

When I read the letter from Kevin Tulimieri (new public works location) I had to laugh. When anyone cites the "2014 Plan of Conservation and Development" they are wasting their time.

I bought property at Amston Lake in 1993 and immediately became involved in the Amston Lake District. Soon I joined the Board of Directors and was accepted as the environmental director.

I acquired a copy of the "Plan of Conservation and Development for Amston Lake" that was originally adopted by the Town of Hebron in 1993. Goal #2 was defined as "Protect the Amston Lake residential community from over development, etc." Since many empty lots and

existing house lots were on 50-foot lots, they could not be used for new house development.

Many houses at Amston Lake that were already close to each other were exempt from the new zoning laws. Some lots were given approval but were only 50-foot lots wide. They were deep enough to satisfy the total acreage size. A bad law. Some houses were rebuilt on non-conforming lots.

For the next five years, I brought five or six cases to the zoning board when I felt that construction of new or replacement houses violated the Conservation Plan.

My cases were dismissed or ignored by the Hebron Zoning Board.

So, I laugh when someone references the Plan of Conservation. They are wasting their time. I suggest Kevin keep trying to raise public awareness and fight the bad plan that would put a town garage on land that should never see any building that will destroy that beautiful preserved land.

If someone would ask me, I could suggest two or three other locations that would be suitable for the new garage, but then who am I?

Larry E. Zimmerman – Amston

East Hampton Zone Change

To the Editor:

Atlantis Marketing is back again. The proposed zone change from residential to commercial on Main Street in East Hampton that was defeated on June 2 this year has been resubmitted and will be before the Planning and Zoning Commission for public comment at their January meeting.

For those that are new to this, the proposal is to remove the current Food Bag at Route 16 and Main Street, change the zoning to business at two adjacent properties and construct an expanded facility with eat-in dining, a drive-thru service and expanded gas islands.

While a revised site plan has been submitted which supposedly saves the historic Strong House, the zone change is the exact same.

Atlantis Marketing is in the process of demolition by neglect for the Strong House. The blue tarp on the roof has been in tatters for over a year, allowing the roof system to deteriorate. Their intention is to get a zone change for the property, have the building declared unsafe then tear it down. Once demolished their site plan will be altered to encompass the nearly 2-acre site as was shown before.

If Atlantis Marketing truly wanted to save the house, the property would have been subdivided and not included in their proposal, but it wasn't and that is by intent. But the battle ultimately isn't about the Strong house; it's about altering the towns plan of conservation and development and changing residential zoning to commercial.

Over the next few weeks, you will see more letters here and I hope the public will voice their opposition to rezoning Main Street from residential to commercial. Tell the P&Z commission to listen to their community and adhere to the Town Plan of Conservation and Development. Maintain the zoning as it currently is and in the town plan.

Kenneth Dodson – East Hampton

Library is Thankful!

To the Editor:

Portland Library is thankful! The Friends of the Library supports library services throughout the year. Many programs, DVDs and e-audio-books, a children's virtual reading resource, and museum passes for borrowing are some of their valued contributions to the Library.

The Library Board is responsible for the library's policies and performs the important function of overseeing the Endowment Fund. Donated funds are invested and utilized mainly to address larger, special projects. Recently the Endowment Fund provided \$225,000 to more than match a grant from the State Library to support a major interior improvement project. A donor tree is installed in the updated library, to honor many donors.

Thanks to the many patrons who frequently donate new books for the collection as well as used books to support the Friends' book sales. Recent special donations: books on the history of Indigenous peoples in honor of the Wangunks were accepted; Middlesex County Community Foundation gave us a gift that provided for a game collection.

We appreciate those who work throughout the year on the Boards of the Library and the Friends of the Library, our volunteer teens who assist Summer Reading programming, and our faithful volunteer Paul for his continuing service. Thanks to Portland's garden clubs for beautiful floral displays and to many local busi-

nesses for support of programs.

We appreciate the work of organizations that partnered with us or supported constant improvements, including the Portland Historical Society and Town Departments of Public Works, Senior Services, Parks & Recreation, Youth Services and the First Selectman. Last but not least: During the challenges of a building renovation and a pandemic, the library staff carried out their duties to provide the best possible service during a long period of upheaval and uncertainty.

With sincere gratitude,
Library Board Co-Chairs
Margot Chapman
and **Laurel Steinhauser**
Library Director Janet Nocek

A Big Thank You

To the Editor:

The Wall Family would like to extend a big "thank you" to Gary, his wife, and staff at Chateau Le' Gari' in Marlborough. He was very accommodating and understanding as we planned a Celebration of Life for Kevin. Thank you to everyone who helped make this a special day as we laughed and cried celebrating Kevin's life.

We appreciate Gary's kindness during this tough time.

Thank you again to everyone.

The Wall Family
East Hampton

We Are So Grateful

To the Editor:

On behalf of AHM Youth & Family Services, I would like to extend a thank you to three very special businesses that support Project Graduation for the RHAM High School Class of 2022: Jennifer Albert, owner of J.Star Barn Photography, organized a Mini-Photo Session Fundraiser and donated 100% of all sitting fees; Julie Veilleux, owner of Simply Soy Candles, donated a percentage of sales from the month long fundraiser; and Michelle Nicholson, owner of Flour Girl Café, welcomed musicians and vocalists during the month of October for our Tip-A-Musician music series and donated 100% of the proceeds from the Pie-Eating Contest during the Harvest Moon Festival.

In addition, AHM is so grateful to the musicians and vocalists who shared their talents during the Tip A Musician Fundraiser music series; Bernie Odoj, Kyle Konopka, Dallin Smith, Joel Earhart, Marcel Paige of Quintessential, David Bell, Tracey DeDonato, Diane Kasper, Jeff Macca and Michael Markure of Five in Time, Tom Aldridge and Charlie Daniels of One Part Harmony and Alexa Odoj, Steve McCarthy, and Sophia Bell! Thank you so much!

Every dollar raised assures the RHAM High School "Class of 2022" will have an overnight celebration on the night of their graduation without the temptation of drugs or alcohol. AHM Youth & Family Services coordinates Project Graduation because we want our graduates to have a safe and memorable end to their RHAM High School chapter.

Sincerely,
Jenn Boehler
Prevention Coordinator
AHM Youth & Family Services

Do You Still Not See?

To the Editor:

"Age of Anti-Government," Joe Stevens' letter, should be displayed on everyone's refrigerator door, to be read and reread between now and the next election. His prophecy will come true if Independents and 'fence-sitters' don't wake up and start attending to the Trump-led Republican party tearing apart our American government and constitution.

Since Joe wrote his letter, several Republican-led states have further gerrymandered their districts so that Democrats will automatically lose even more house seats next election. A Republican-led minority already controls a vastly more majority-Democrat nation, and it is only going to get more imbalanced. We are no longer a true democracy. Our country reels with mostly Republican led aggressions, foul language, and threats. Just look at their flags, their slogans, their behavior at so many town meetings. Do you still not see what they are doing to our country?

General Washington, at the lowest point of suffering at Valley Forge, had Thomas Paine's words read to his troops. Paine's "American Crisis" calls out to us today to rise to our times, to rally our spirits and gird ourselves for the work to be done.

"These are the times that try men's souls: The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in

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

this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like Hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly: it is dearness only that gives everything its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as freedom should not be highly rated.”

Edmund Smith – Andover

Thank You!

To the Editor:

I am very grateful to Hebron voters for electing me to serve on the Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission. I am excited to begin work on the commission and look forward to working with residents and other boards and commissions to make Hebron an even better place.

Thank you!

Dave Sousa – Hebron

Overwhelmed by Support

To the Editor:

Thank you to the voters in Colchester for electing me to the Board of Education; I am overwhelmed by your support! It was an honor to be sworn into office on Monday and I am ready to work collaboratively with the board, the school system, and the families in our town to give our children every opportunity to succeed.

Respectfully,
Margo Gignac
Colchester Board of Education

Email Letters

Letter writers are encouraged to email their letters of 300 words or less to bulletin@gcitizen.com. Letters submitted without a contact phone number will not be published.

Trans-formational Changes

To the Editor:

A lot of societal attention is focused on “trans rights” – the gist being respecting people’s decisions on how they chose to express their gender and sexuality. This is perfectly acceptable for adults, but there seems to be a push towards gender and sexual fluidity for children. Culturally, children are not trusted to vote, buy cigarettes or alcohol, join the military, or make legally binding decisions for themselves, yet we cheer them on when it comes to ingesting hormonal therapies or making permanent alterations to their genitalia?

What this inserts into the public consciousness is the concept of “trans”...which will soon be morphed into “transhumanism” in the lexicon. The idea of blending human bodies with machines and computers to create an “internet of bodies” that is part of a hive mind. These ideas, even though they sound like science fiction to most people, are being openly touted as the future of humanity, or Human 2.0, as it is being dubbed by futurists and bioethicists. Not surprising considering that “Generation Z” is currently the people enrolled in public schools... the last purely human generation.

The idea of creating a network of genetically and technologically advanced humans is being promoted as an integral part of the 4th industrial revolution being touted by the World Economic Forum. The melding of your “biological, physical, and digital identities” is promoted, complete with implantable subcutaneous QR codes for banking and vaccination purposes and brain interfacing computer chips being called for in order to assimilate us into the future Borg. Don’t take my word for it; feel free to visit their website yourself: www.weforum.org.

Do you think this vision of the future is desirable? Do you want your children’s genetics to be altered toward transhumanism? Who is behind this agenda and who benefits? Do you hear any politicians talking about it...why not?

Colin McNamara – Marlborough

RHAM • RHAM



The RHAM Girl Scouts’ Children’s Holiday Craft Fair will return Saturday, Dec. 4. Pictured from a previous fair are Scouts, from left, Ava Moore, Isabella Bangham, Karly Spencer, Addison Krynick, Juliet Neale and Olivia Johnson.

Girl Scouts Children’s Holiday Craft Fair

RHAM Girl Scouts will hold their Children’s Holiday Craft Fair Saturday, Dec. 4, from 9 a.m.-noon, at the Marlborough Elementary School community room.

Troops are busy putting the finishing touches on items they’re making and preparing to sell at the fair. There will be holiday gift items for all – even the family pets – and all priced at \$5 or less. There will be free gift-wrapping with all purchases.

To help the youngest shop on their own, there

will be Girl Scout elves ready to assist with gift selections and financial transactions. Just bring a list of who to buy for, a coin bag and a budget.

There will also be a bake sale with free coffee or juice, and a large section of baked items for you to enjoy a break after shopping or relax while your family is busy shopping.

Masks are required and COVID-19 protocols will be followed.

All proceeds go directly to the local troops for activities and community service projects.

AHM Health Matters Fall Workshops

AHM Youth & Family Services’ Health Matters program will offer two more workshops over the next week.

An Amaryllis workshop is planned for Saturday, Nov. 20, from 10-10:45 a.m. Then, back by popular demand, a Mandalas Art Class (for teens and adults) is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 23, from 6-7:30 p.m.

To register, go to www.ahmyouth.org and select ‘Health Matters’ from the pull-down menu. COVID-19 safety protocols will be followed.

Early Deadline

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, next week’s *Rivereast* will publish a day early – and the deadlines have been adjusted accordingly.

All written copy for next week – such as letters to the editor, event notices, church listings, press releases, etc. – **must** be submitted by **noon Monday, Nov. 22**. No exceptions will be made.

Also, all paid advertisements for next week’s issue **must** be in by **10 a.m. Tuesday, Nov 23**.

Thanks in advance for your cooperation – and happy Thanksgiving from all of us at the *Rivereast News Bulletin*.

LEGALS

**LEGAL NOTICE
MARLBOROUGH ZONING
BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF ACTION**

The Marlborough Zoning Board of Appeals at its meeting on Wednesday November 10, 2021 took the following action: **APPLICATION APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS:** APPLICATION #ZBA-5-21 – David C. Gates (applicant/property owner) 76 Keirstead Circle Assessor/ Map 6 Block 26 Lot 64 - is seeking variance of Article Three A.1, Minimum Requirements, Article Three A.3 Conformity of Buildings & Land, Article Three A.5 Reduction of Lot Areas or Minimum Required Yards, Article Three A.9 Minimum Required Yards, Article Six D. 1 a Front Yard Setback, Article Six D.1.b Side Yard Setback, Article Six D.1.c Rear Yard Setback, & Article Six D.4 Maximum Building Coverage in order to construct a single family house with a Front Yard Setback of 48 feet and a Rear Yard Setback of 25 feet where 50 feet is required, and a shed 7.5 feet from the Side Yard Setback where 15 feet is required and 7.5 feet from the Rear Yard Setback where 50 feet is required, and a driveway turnaround area 8 feet from the Side Yard were 15 feet is required. Alan Miller/ ZBA Chair Dated at Marlborough, CT this 15th day of November. 1TB 11/19

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.

**LEGAL NOTICE OF ACTIONS
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
HEBRON, CONNECTICUT**

The Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission took the following actions at their meeting which was held on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, at 7:00 P.M., on the following:
1. Petition 2021-13 – Subdivision Application of Blackledge West LLC requesting to subdivide a 3.52-acre parcel of land into three building lots, property located on the east side of West Street, approximately 700 feet north of Martin Road, application is filed under the provisions of the Hebron Subdivision Regulations, R-1 District. **Approved** with the following conditions: 1. The outstanding items in the Town Planner’s report, dated 11/4/2021, shall be addressed on the Final plans. 2. The Town Engineer comments in his letter of 11/3/2021 will be satisfactorily addressed on the final plans. 3. Prior to the filing of subdivision mylars, the executed Conservation Easements in the form approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission, dated March 1, 2019, shall be submitted to the Town, provided however that all references regarding removal of vegetation within the Conservation Easement shall be removed from the Plan. 4. The edge of the Conservation Easements shall be marked in the field each 50 feet with plaques provided by the Town. 5. Prior to the filing of subdivision mylars, a public improvement bond covering corner lot pins, conservation easement pins, and open space markers shall be submitted to the Town in a form acceptable to the Town Attorney. 6. A fee-in-lieu of open space, in the amount acceptable to the Town Planner, shall be paid to the Town. A minimum of one-third of the fee shall be paid to the Town before the sale of each individual lot or before the issuance of a building permit for each individual lot, whichever is sooner. A notice to this effect shall be placed on the Subdivision Plans filed in the Town Clerk’s Office. 7. Prior to the issuance of a building permit, a public improvement bond covering driveway aprons, driveway culverts, and address signs shall be submitted to the Town in a form acceptable to the Town Attorney. 8. Prior to the issuance of a building permit, an erosion and sediment control bond in an amount acceptable to the Town Engineer shall be submitted to the Town in a form acceptable to the Town Attorney. 9. A preconstruction meeting shall be held with the Town staff, the engineer of record, and the site contractor prior to site work, and after final plans addressing all conditions of approval have been submitted to the Town for signature. 10. Prior to any cutting of trees for driveways within the Conservation Easements, the clearing limits shall be marked in the field, and a site walk and inspection shall be held with the Town staff, the engineer of record, and the site contractor. 11. All modifications required by the Commission shall be included on the final plans and copies of all letters or notices of approval from all land use agencies shall be added to the final plans prior to signature by the Commission. One mylar copy and four paper copies of the final plans shall be submitted to Town Staff for signature by the Commission, revised to adhere to all conditions of approval, and containing the Planning and Zoning Commission letter of approval.
2. Petition 2021-14 – Application of Wright Pierce on behalf of the Town of Hebron to make a modification to an approved site plan at the Stonecroft Village sewer pump station, premise located on River Road, part of the Mill at Stonecroft complex (Map 22, Parcels 6), R-1 District. **Approved** with the following conditions: 1. A vinyl fence shall be installed around the generator and other structures, as approved by staff. 2. A Pre-construction meeting with the selected contractor, design engineer and land use staff is required prior to the start of any site activity. 3. Any general maintenance, including the periodic test run of the generator, shall be performed during business hours. 4. Native evergreen shrub plantings continuous along the northern and western sides of the vinyl fence shall be placed.
3. Approved, a referral to the Board of Selectmen., under Section 8-24 of the CGS, recommending Main Street (CT RT 66) and Wall Street (CT RT 316) Intersection Improvements.
 Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, this 9th day of November 2021.
 Gerald Garfield, Secretary
 Legal Notice will be published in the *Rivereast News Bulletin* on Friday, November 19, 2021.
 A Recording of this meeting can be found at: <https://transcripts.gotomeeting.com/#/s/e7e9d5ded74d9c34e8437a50ab5a88c066f7ae1700d6ae1ccea1030fca32bf>
 1TB 11/19

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO
DEMOLISH STRUCTURES
TOWN OF COLCHESTER
OFFICE OF THE BUILDING OFFICIAL**

Notice is hereby made of intent to demolish one (1) structure at 92 River Road, Colchester, CT, Assessor’s Map #06-14, Lot #018-000.
 Information regarding the intended demolition may be obtained from the Office of the Building Official, Municipal Office Complex, 127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, CT, 860-537-7285 – Monday thru Friday – 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 N. Reed Gustafson
 Building Official
 1TB 11/19

**LEGAL NOTICE
MARLBOROUGH ZONING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING
Marlborough Elementary School Cafeteria
(25 School Dr.)**

The Marlborough Zoning Commission will hold the following Public Hearing
 Thursday, December 02, 2021 at 7:00 PM at
 25 School Dr. (Marlborough Elementary School Cafeteria)
APPLICATION #Z-15-21 Amendment to the Marlborough Zoning Regulations, Article Two Zones Section A, Amendment to Article Four
 Definitions & New Article Ten J - Lake Terramuggus Watershed & Shoreline Overlay District, and adding a new overlay zone within the Lake Terramuggus watershed as shown on a map on file, for the purpose of regulating the cutting and retention of trees and other vegetation; the erection of docks, retaining walls, sheds, and other structures in proximity to the Lake; the application of chemicals; and other measures to protect the water quality of Lake Terramuggus and the property values around it.
APPLICATION #Z-18-21 - Bill G. Jonbalaj / 17 East Hampton Rd LLC (Applicant/Owner) - 4-8 East Hampton Road & 13 North Main Street - Convenience Store/Gas Station.
APPLICATION #Z-19-21 – Graphik Sign Solutions, LLC / Schwartz Real Estate (Applicant / Property Owner) – Building Signs 5 South Main Street
 The room capacity will be limited due to Social Distancing requirements and masks are mandatory for those who are attend in person. Written testimony will be received at the public hearing and written testimony can be sent to the Building and Use Department at Town Hall ahead of the public hearing. All testimony and application materials will be available to the public on the Town Website, www.Marlbroughct.net, under Minutes/Agendas then Agenda 2021 then Zoning Commission and the Town Clerk’s Office.
 Kevin Asklar, ZONING COMMISSION CHAIR
 2TB 11/19, 11/26

**LEGAL NOTICE
MARLBOROUGH ZONING COMMISSION
NOTICE OF ACTION**

The Marlborough Zoning Commission at its meeting of November 04 2021, took the following action:
APPLICATIONS CONTINUED; PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED:
 Application #Z-15-21 Amendment to Article Two Zones Section A, Amendment to Article Four Definitions, & New Article Ten J - Lake Terramuggus Watershed & Shoreline Overlay District Overlay District. A public hearing is continued to December 02, 2021.
 Application #Z-18-21 - Bill G. Jonbalaj / 17 East Hampton Rd LLC (Applicant/Owner) - 4-8 East Hampton Road & 13 North Main Street - Convenience Store/Gas Station. A public hearing is scheduled for December 02, 2021.
APPLICATION APPROVED WITH AN EFFECTIVE DATE DECEMBER 01, 2021:
 Application #Z-16-21 OM Village, LLC (Applicant) – Amendment to Article 7A.F.E. Impervious Surface Coverage.
APPLICATION APPROVED:
 Application #Z-17-21 - Tim Casey NE Enterprises (applicant) - 45 N Main St. – Karly Zirckenback (property owner) – change of use – coffee shop
 KEVIN ASKLAR, ZONING COMMISSION CHAIR
 Dated at Marlborough, CT this 15th day of November. 1TB 11/19

**ACTION NOTICE
TOWN OF ANDOVER
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION**

The Andover Planning and Zoning Commission took the following action at their Regular Meeting held November 15, 2021:
APPROVED:
 Request of Christopher Bell, agent for William/Joe Genovese, for the extension of an existing Special Permit to operate a sand/gravel operation at 517 Route 6. Extension was granted so as to allow for the permit to be extended for a ninety (90) additional days.
 Details of the aforementioned application(s) are on the Planning and Zoning Commission page of the Town of Andover’s web-site (andoverct.org).
 Received application for a two-lot subdivision of property at 580 Lake Road. Owner – Lake Road, LLC, Applicant – Garrett Homes, LLC. Public Hearing set for 7:00 p.m., Monday, December 17, 2021.
 Details of the aforementioned applications are available on Planning & Zoning Commission page of the Town’s website (andoverct.org) and at the Building and Land-Use Office of the Town Hall, 17 School Road.
 Jim Hallisey
 Zoning Agent
 1TB 11/19

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE
GLOBAL SELF STORAGE
 244 Middletown Ave.
 East Hampton, CT
 860.267.6639

Will sell or otherwise dispose of such personal property on Saturday 12/04/21 at 8:00 AM
 Property previously owned by:
 P Murphy J Carlson S Gunther G Ivanish S Stevens S Rosen
 2TB 11/19, 11/26

TOWN OF PORTLAND
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION

At the November 10, 2021 special meeting, the following action was taken:
 DENIED-Application #21-02: 36 Jobs Gate 2. Request to appeal Zoning Permit #21-33 denied by the Zoning Enforcement Officer to construct a single family dwelling. Application and property of Larry Whitmore. Assessor's Map 24, Lot 3. Zone RR. Dated in Portland, CT. this 15th Day of November 2021
 Rose Aletta, Chairwoman
 Zoning Board of Appeals
 1TB 11/19

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Robert is a young 2-3 year-old Dachshund / Miniature. He can be a bit shy at first but is super sweet and friendly once he's comfortable. He is a tiny guy at 13 lbs but will be quite the walking partner. Due to Robert's tendency to get nervous when unsure, the ideal home would be in a quiet, adult-only setting where he can be the only pet. He would benefit from an experienced adopter committed to continuing his socialization and training.

For more information on adopting **CATS** or **DOGS**, call 860-569-0722
VOLUNTEERS & FOSTER HOMES NEEDED - For information call: 860-569-0722

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EMPLOYMENT

MARLBOROUGH COUNTRY BAKERY SEEKS COUNTER HELP. Stop in for an application. Independence Drive, Marlborough

PAINTER WANTED - Must have experience and transportation. Please call Mike 860-608-8376

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.

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.

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

COLCHESTER WINE AND SPIRITS IS LOOKING FOR PART TIME LIQUOR STORE CLERK about 30 to 35 hrs. Must be 18 years old to work. Must be able to work evenings, nights, weekends

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Senior Center Van Driver

The Town of East Hampton is accepting applications for the position of Senior Center Van Driver. This is a part-time position that provides safe, courteous and on schedule transportation for Senior Center activities and appointments. Candidate must have excellent customer service and communication skills, in addition to experience working with older adults. Requirements include possession of or the ability to obtain first-aid and CPR certifications, Connecticut class B driver's license with passenger endorsement or a Public Service license, along with a clean driving record. 15-hours per week, with some flexibility depending on the needs of the Senior Center, at \$17.00 per hour. If interested, please submit your cover letter, resume, and employment application to the Town of East Hampton, Department of Human Resources, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424, by 12/17/2021, (or until filled). Job description and employment application may be found at www.easthamptonct.gov. EOE/AA/M-F. 1TB 11/19

TREE CREW member wanted for establish tree company in Hebron. Immediate opening. call for details. 228-SAWS

Wastewater Operator

The Water Pollution Control Authority, under the Joint Facilities Administration in the Town of East Hampton, is seeking an individual to perform all routine, skilled and semi-skilled duties involving the operations and maintenance of a 3.9mgd water pollution treatment plant and pump stations located in a regionalized system. Individual must possess a high school diploma or equivalent, a Connecticut CDL license (Class B with endorsement N - air brakes) within 6-months of hire and must receive State of Connecticut DEEP Class 1 Operators Certification within 2-years of employment. Operator-in-training starting hourly rate: \$26.19; Class I Operator: \$27.05; Class II Operator: \$28.97; Class III Operator: \$31.55; Class IV Operator: \$38.70. 40-hour workweek with required overtime and on-call rotation. Individuals with laboratory, electrical experience and veterans are encouraged to apply. Benefit package offered. Please send cover letter, resume and employment application to the Town of East Hampton, Department of Human Resources, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424, by 12/1/2021, or until filled. EOE/M-F/AA. www.easthamptonct.gov 1TB 11/19

CAREGIVER NEEDED

Non-medical, mostly companionship, meals & light housekeeping. Colchester. Part-time days. Great small caring agency. Must have caregiving experience, paid or non-paid & pass background check. Looking for long term employee. Mon-Sat hours. Older adults encouraged to apply. Immediate work. Call 860-967-0831

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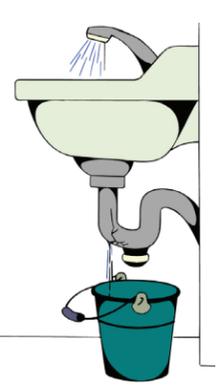
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 Candice Smith 860-917-4784 candicesmithproperties@gmail.com	 Tania Sones 860-918-5100 sonesrealtor@gmail.com	 Stacy Soracchi 860-534-0333 stacysoracchi@gmail.com	 Robin Tayles 860-367-3795 robinrealtor888@gmail.com	 Michael Varni 860-335-7380 michael@harrs.com	 Daniel Walsh 860-841-0183 danwalshsells@gmail.com	 Candy Webb 860-377-7510 candywebbrealtor@gmail.com	 Cieara Yanaros 860-754-7048 ciearasellct@gmail.com	 Gladys Yeager 860-944-9772 gladysyeager@sbcglobal.net		

Carl Guild, Broker / Owner
131 New London Tpke., #215 Glastonbury
41 West High Street, East Hampton
121 Broadway Colchester
860-539-5373 | carlguild@gmail.com
www.CarlGuild.com

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