

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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Freezin' for a Reason... Colchester residents (from left) Greg Cordova, Rob Suchecki and Fred Brown camped out on the town green last weekend to raise funds for the Colchester Fuel Bank. Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, they decided to hold "Freezin' for a Reason" for the 12th consecutive year, to benefit those who are less fortunate. See story on page 15.

Harassment Suit to Cost Andover \$200K

by Sloan Brewster

The town of Andover has agreed to pay \$200,000 to former Tax Collector Donna Doyker to settle a lawsuit she filed against the town due to alleged sexual harassment by now-former town employee Jay Linddy.

Doyker filed the suit in June 2018, claiming that sexual harassment by Linddy, also a now-former member of the boards of education and selectmen, had gone unchecked in Town Hall for multiple years.

The alleged harassment appeared to reach its zenith in a July 2017 incident in which Linddy brought an explicitly-adorned apron to his office in Town Hall and wore it in front of his co-workers.

At a special meeting last Wednesday, the Board of Selectmen – after discussing the matter in executive session – unanimously agreed to the settlement.

Doyker could not be reached for comment this week.

First Selectman Jeff Maguire said the town attorney had reached the settlement with Doyker and that the \$200,000 would be covered by the Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency [CIRMA], the town's insurance carrier.

"It will have an impact on Andover eventually in our premiums but we're hoping that it's minimal – but it will come down the road," Maguire said. "For the record, it's an exorbitant amount."

In a phone call Wednesday, Town Attorney Dennis O'Brien said the town does not yet have a copy of the settlement agreement and that he believes it has yet to be approved by the court.

O'Brien said he did not represent the town in the suit as a lawyer was provided to the town by

CIRMA. Alexandria Voccio of Howd & Ludorf, LLC represented the town in the suit.

Documents available through the state judicial website include the 11-page complaint Doyker filed against the town. According to the complaint, Linddy, who was the town's animal control officer, transfer station attendant and served on the boards of selectmen and education and the Recreation Commission, had sexually harassed employees in the workplace.

The complaint also alleged that one or more female employees had resigned from their town jobs due to the harassment.

In the suit, Doyker alleged that she suffered from exacerbated medical conditions due to the harassment, including uncontrolled high blood pressure that resulted in branch retinal vein occlusions or blockages in small veins in the retina, causing her to undergo ongoing eye surgery.

In the suit, Doyker describes the events that led to Linddy's termination – the July 2017 incident involving the apron. Town records released to the Rivereast after an order by the Freedom of Information Commission in 2018 describe the same incident – and also detail claims by Town Hall employees that Linddy would frequently use vulgarities while at work, often under his breath, give obscene gestures, and engage in behaviors that made them uncomfortable.

In a subsequent 12-page answer to the complaint, the town agreed to some of the allegations and denied others.

For example, in the complaint Doyker alleged that when a couple came to pay their taxes, they joked with Linddy about the apron, which they bought for him in Mexico. A few

See Harassment Suit, page 27

90-Unit Apartment Complex Coming to Marlborough?

by Karla Santos

Could a 90-unit apartment complex be coming to Marlborough?

During a Tuesday meeting of various town officials, Town Planner Peter Hughes announced Marlborough had received an application for a three-building complex, consisting of approximately 90 apartments.

The complex, proposed by Marlborough-based developer Bill G. Jonbalaj, would be constructed on South Main Street, in the area between Doug's Barber & Styling Shop and a house on Johnson Road, Hughes said. He said the approximately 11-acre parcel eyed for the project wraps around Johnson Road.

The project, Hughes told the Rivereast, will consist of three buildings, each with about 30 units, plus three additional separate units.

The town Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on the application Thursday, March 4, at 7 p.m.

The application is currently being reviewed by the zoning and conservation commissions. Hughes said not much can be done on the project until the snow melts, as town officials still need to go on a site-walk of the property.

Other Updates

During the meeting, Hughes also provided updates on other town projects, which may impact traffic.

He said the South Main Street paving and rehab project will start again sometime in March – depending if the snow is gone. While the pavement is being worked on, there will be some alternating traffic but, Hughes said, the street should not be closed at any point.

A sidewalk project in the center of town is half way completed, according to Hughes. He said because the sidewalks are so close to the edge of the road, at some point while they are being constructed – perhaps in April or May – there will be one lane of alternating traffic through a portion of the work zone.

The meeting also highlighted updates from various town boards and commissions.

Deb Bourbeau, a member of the Board of Finance, said currently the board is mainly focused on budget season.

Ruth Kelly represented the Board of Education, and said the board is currently working on two main things – the school budget and the

search of a new superintendent.

Superintendent of Schools David Sklarz will be retiring at the end of this fiscal year.

Hughes spoke on behalf of the Planning Commission, and said its members are developing an affordability plan, which has to be adopted by June 2022. That plan will look at ways to diversify housing options.

He also spoke on behalf of the Conservation Commission, which he said is planning a shredding event.

Mike Schadle represented the Fire Commission and said its members are working on putting a new command vehicle into service.

Barbara Lazzari, a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission, reported the commission has been impacted by the pandemic because the commission hasn't been able to run as many programs as it used to. She said last year the commission worked on a project to put up 42 kayak racks and will add six more before the spring. In addition, she said that Ray Bull, recreation director, has been running virtual programs to keep residents engaged.

Julie Revaz spoke about the Charter Revision

Commission and noted that the group is refining its work and planning to host a public hearing in March. She said that during that meeting the commission will also explain the ballot questions it is planning to include on the ballot at referendum.

First Selectman Greg Lowrey spoke about the reappointment process and said that board chairs should contact town hall when an expiring term is coming up.

"It's important for us to keep boards and commissions fully staffed," he said, and thanked those who take the time to be involved in the town as members of boards and commissions.

The meeting started with presentations from Sustainable CT and AHM Youth and Family Services.

The town of Marlborough is involved with both organizations and the presentations highlighted their work, missions, services and project updates.

To learn more about Sustainable CT, visit sustainablect.org and for information about AHM, visit ahmyouth.org.

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*From the Editor's Desk***Observations & Ruminations**

By Mike Thompson

I received a letter to the editor this week that contained a line wherein the writer suggested another letter writer, with whom he disagrees politically, was a member of the Ku Klux Klan.

You won't see that line in this week – in fact, you won't see lines similar to that ever again.

Frankly, I've had it with the personal attacks, the childish name-calling. I've been tolerant for years, as I truly do believe the "readers' forum" is your forum as readers, and you should be allowed to have your say. The attacks have grown particularly vitriolic in recent years, but I've let it slide. Others have asked me to make folks dial back the rancor, but I've resisted. Again, this is your section.

But it's gotten out of hand – and lately, the invective seems to be getting worse. And, as much as I hate using this phrase, it really is from both sides. There's a handful of people – you know who you are – who each week take turns swapping insults like schoolchildren. And on those rare occasions when members of that handful stick to the issues at hand, rather than name-calling, the other side shoots back the following week with childish taunts of their own...and then here we go again.

It's grown tiresome. Now, I don't want writers to feel they can't disagree with each other. Of course you can – and a healthy argument can be instructive for all. But you can disagree without calling each other names or putting forth outlandish innuendos. And for crying out loud, leave people's day jobs alone. I don't care who teaches students or who owns an area bar. If you want to disagree with someone, disagree with them; leave jabs at their personal lives out of it.

You can have a healthy debate – a healthy point/counterpoint – without getting in the mud with one another. You all are better than that – I know you are. So prove me right.

Was I disappointed the impeachment went the way it did? Absolutely. Am I surprised? Absolutely not.

I knew from the outset getting 17 Republican senators to agree Trump incited the Jan. 6 insurrection was going to be a long shot. The

way they bent over backwards for him the last four years, it just didn't seem realistic that they'd turn on him, no matter what evidence they saw, and no matter how angry they were on the Senate floor the night of Jan. 6, after order was finally restored.

Still, seven Republicans did come over to the other side and vote 'guilty.' As a result you had 57 votes to convict – the most bipartisan majority to vote in favor of an impeachment conviction in U.S. history.

And, fun fact: those 57 senators represent 202 million people, whereas the 43 who voted to acquit represent only about 125 million. (By the way, let me just note how incredibly messed up it is that, despite being split precisely 50-50, the Democratic half of the Senate represents nearly 42 million more people than the Republican half.)

Now, while a 57-43 margin in favor of conviction would've been seen as a landslide almost anywhere else – for example, no president has attained 57% of the popular vote since Ronald Reagan in 1984 – it wasn't near enough for impeachment. That would've required 67 votes – or two-thirds of the Senate. It's been that way since the Constitution was first written more than 230 years ago. But I heard an interesting point over the weekend, made by journalist Dean Obeidallah on a talk radio station I was listening to. He said it's unlikely we'll ever hit that two-thirds threshold again – and that's thanks to an amendment that's a little over 100 years old.

Back when the Constitution was written, the members of the Senate weren't elected, like their counterparts in the House of Representatives. Rather, they were appointed by state legislatures – precisely to avoid the kinds of people-pleasing that comes with being elected by the general public. It was believed this would allow members of the Senate to take a more detached view of things.

"The use of the Senate is to consist in proceeding with more coolness, with more system, and with more wisdom, than the popular branch," James Madison said.

And it remained that way for well over a century – until 1913, when the 17th Amend-

Editor's Desk continued on page 4**Bulletin Board**

A recent article in a part of the daily newspaper nobody ever reads (well, almost nobody) observed that in recent months "families have turned to nature for inspiration and exploration."

Speaking for myself, my more recent explorations of nature have involved spending a couple of hours blowing snow off my driveway, which, I am compelled to observe, falls considerably short of anything I would define as "inspiration." As for exploration, if straying off the driveway with the snowblower to run over a discarded piece of rope and spending the next hour trying to cut the damn thing out of the blower blades counts as "exploration," you can have it.

Nonetheless, I agree with the author's implied premise that going for a walk outside is better for everyone than bludgeoning your significant other with the popcorn bowl in an argument over whether the TV show 'Young Sheldon' is geared toward idiots or whether it specifically targets morons.

Unfortunately, in her effort to encourage the housebound to venture out in these Days of Covid, the author proceeds—under the headline "Stay safe on your outdoor trips with these tips"—to offer a variety of compelling reasons to stay inside. The more notable among these are: mountain lions, avalanches and venomous snakes. Let us address these issues in that order:

Mountain Lions: The author begins by informing us that "mountain lion attacks on people are rare." This is a good thing. Then she adds, "yet, recently interactions have increased." That's not so good. Personally, I would find it a little difficult to find inspiration in nature when it might be hiding behind a hungry mountain lion.

Should you be confronted by a mountain lion, she adds, "Stay calm." Right. As soon as I'm done wetting myself. "Pick up any children and talk firmly as you slowly back away." Talk about what? I guess you could firmly say, "Nice kitty. That's a nice kitty." She then advises that if the lion acts aggressively, "fight back with rocks, sticks or whatever you can find..." Or, I suppose you could throw that child at him and make a run for it.

Avalanches: Check the forecast before you head out and take note of any changes in the weather that might create unstable snow conditions. "Use caution in the back country." My idea of "back country" these days is pattering around in my back yard. Since I no longer have a dog to decorate the area, these wanderings are reasonably safe.

Snake smarts: "Hiking, climbing and camping in many parts of the country means a snake encounter is possible." Oh, wonderful. "Make sure the kids steer clear of anything that resembles a snake." This would include your garden hose, the odd stick, your son's lost sock and certain incumbent politicians going door to door looking for votes.

This, of course, is just the short list. The author made no mention of the many other hazards of venturing outside, such as quicksand, pterodactyls, pelicans with dysentery, stray rhinos, fire ants and psychotic penguins.

Or, you could just do the safe thing and stay inside and watch TV.

Jim Hallas, Publisher

Frosty Pays a Visit... Mackenzie (left) and Ryleigh Ansich recently built a snowman right outside the Colebrook Village memory care neighborhood for the residents to enjoy.

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

Baby Shower for Life

Dear Parishioners:

The Brothers of Portland's Church of Saint Mary Freestone Council 7 Knights of Columbus want to sincerely thank all the parishioners for contributing so generously to the annual "Baby Shower." The event was organized by Council 7 as a small part of the world-wide efforts of the Knights of Columbus to support life in all its forms.

The items donated were distributed to the Portland Food Bank and the Birthright organization in Meriden. Ruth Maio, director of the Portland Food Bank, expressed her thanks to the parishioners for the bountiful donations.

Charlie and MaryAnn Hermanson, the chairs of this annual event, were amazed by the large support this year during the pandemic.

Sincerely,

**William (Marty) Martyszczyk
Baby Shower Chair,
Knights of Columbus
Portland**

Eagle Project Thanks

To the Editor:

Over a year ago, I decided that for my Eagle Scout project I would renovate a recreation trail behind my high school, Bacon Academy in Colchester. Completing a project with the magnitude of mine during COVID-19 was far from simple, and without the support of my community, it would not have been possible. As I prepare to submit my final report and application to become an Eagle Scout, I thought it was important to send out one final thank you for the extraordinary help I was given.

I had expected fundraising, in particular, to be difficult due to the hardships so many have felt financially in the last year. What I didn't expect was the degree of incredible generosity people from Colchester and the surrounding areas would have in donating. So to all of those who donated back in July during my car wash at Advanced Auto Parts, and to all those who contributed over 420 hours of labor into completing this project; I truly could not thank you enough. I'd also like to thank Shagbark Lumber & Farm Supplies in East Haddam for their incredible support and service, along with Home Depot and Lowes in Lisbon for their gracious donations.

**Nicholas Paggioli
Troop 72, Colchester**

Thanks from VFW

To the Editor:

The Portland VFW would like to issue another huge thank you to T&S Heating and Air Conditioning in Portland CT. They were kind enough to donate a new heating system for the Portland VFW branch. Their generous donation did not go unnoticed. Thank you from all of us here at the VFW.

Portland VFW Post 6121**Anti-Racism, Cont.**

To the Editor:

It is important to keep reminding ourselves that being racist is not so much a personal flaw as it is a degree to which, regardless of race, we have internalized deep-seated beliefs and practices learned over generations and centuries. There is no line of demarcation between people who are and are not racist. We are all somewhere on a continuum living in the same society.

Join me, if you will, in asking ourselves the following questions:

-Would I be content to be treated the way Black, Indigenous, and other people of color are treated? Watch *A Class Divided* for more on this <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/class-divided/>.

-Look around your school/workplace/community. Do I have opportunities for education and career advancement that people of color do not? Are those pathways easier for me because of my pigmentation or name?

-Do I live in a reality where my skin color is the most visible/noticeable thing about me?

-Can I think of a time when something I said or did, or something I failed to say or do, contributed to upholding a racial hierarchy?

-How do my coworkers/friends/fellow students of color have to change their personality or appearance to fit into an accepted norm?

-What do the leaders in my school/workplace/community look like? Do those people look like me?

-How can my actions empower others to be more inclusive and celebrate differences?

Thank you to everyone who has reached out to me so far.

More on this topic next week. Thoughts? pamcyrlong@gmail.com

Pamela Cyr-Long – Marlborough*See Letters, page 4*

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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Marielle Bilodeau EAST HAMPTON
860-916-7443 MLS #170348962 \$585,000



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Sheila Young EAST HAMPTON
860-834-4692 MLS #170372343 \$259,900



SALE PENDING
Michelle Collins HEBRON
860-982-4684 MLS #170339712 \$849,500



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Sue Nilsen MARLBOROUGH
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NEW TO MARKET
Jim Didato GLASTONBURY
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NEW TO MARKET - SALE PENDING
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NEW TO MARKET
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SALE PENDING
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860-982-4684 MLS #170355345 \$418,800



BY APPOINTMENT
Jamie Bell GLASTONBURY
860-604-8459 MLS #170355173 \$279,900



BY APPOINTMENT
Kadji Anderson/Amanda Kolb GLASTONBURY
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PRIVACY! WINTER WONDERLAND!
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RE211921

Reader Forum • Reader Forum

★ Letters cont. from page 2

Trump as Nostradamus

To the Editor:
When Donald Trump predicted in January of 2016 that he could “shoot somebody, and I wouldn’t lose any voters” to a receptive audience at a Christian college in Iowa, it was considered a figurative boast by an over-confident presidential candidate. Now, every true patriot is watching in horror as that prophecy unfolds.

In the aftermath of a deadly attempted coup incited by the damaged ego of a president refusing to accept loss, Trump’s acolytes are complicit in compromising the rule of law and our democracy. As the terror experienced from being hunted by armed insurrectionists fades, legislators such as Sen. Lindsay Graham (R-SC) and Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) walk back their criticism of Trump’s actions and reboard the sycophant bandwagon with rekindled loyalty to an incendiary ex-president.

The “cancel culture” attributed to liberals is on full display in the GOP’s efforts to punish party members who choose to follow a moral conscience rather than robotically fall in line. A mob boss mentality is evidenced in threats to oust those holding Trump accountable. That mentality also instilled fear in representatives who privately confessed to contradicting their better angels by declining to vote to impeach. And at trial time, despite damning evidence, only seven GOP senators grew a spine.

Watching a legislative follower of QAnon, a cult believing in Jewish space lasers and democratic blood-sucking pedophiles, receive a standing ovation in Congress is incomprehensible. Witnessing the hero worship of a man espousing lies, fomenting hate, inciting violence and dividing our country conjures up memories of past heinous acts fueled by such vacuous idolatry. History can and does repeat itself. We must stop chugging the proverbial Kool-Aid and demand accountability from all those defiling our democracy.

Katherine Throckmorton – Middle Haddam

Fundraiser Thanks

To the Editor
The Chatham Children’s Connection would like to thank everyone that supported our Valentine’s Day fundraiser! Without your support we would not be able to continue providing free children’s activities to our community. We will be announcing our upcoming St. Patrick’s Day events soon.

**April Graves, President
Chatham Children’s Connection
Portland**

Tame Hate Meter

To the Editor:
The Hate Meter in last week’s *Bulletin* was tamer than usual. Ed Smith stuck up for his side and put forth some facts. He did indirectly call the Obama administration fools. Sam Prentice accused some of “irrational hatred and rage” but it may be true. They both get a one on the Hate Meter.

Joe Stevens seems to know how millions of people think and is loose with the facts. Some of his statements such as “They never seem bothered by...the pandemic” are hard to take seriously. There is no proof that the police officer at the Capitol riot was bludgeoned to death but it’s a good talking point to support his claims. He accuses people of “feigned outrage” for being against socialism. Really? Talk to someone who lived under that system.

Stevens wins this week’s Hate Meter again. He gets a seven.

William Oliver – Hebron

Support Our Veterans

To the Editor:
I am writing to bring attention to a wonderful organization right here in our state of Connecticut, which is dedicated to the assistance of our veterans. My son, Justin Hjulstrom, recently had to take early retirement from the Department of Corrections. Justin, with his family, moved to Arizona last summer. He had previ-

ously served for eight years with the Connecticut National Guard as a Military Policeman in Germany and later in Iraq. Justin is suffering from ALS, which arose about two years ago. Justin is adapting to the restrictions that this disease has placed upon him, but I am so proud to say that he has been dealing with these medical challenges with strength and an attitude that nothing will stop him.

Justin has been helped greatly by the Veterans Administration in the form of a new motorized wheelchair and a handicapped-accessible van. The VA has been extremely supportive, but there was a portion of the costs associated with the van that were Justin’s responsibility. It was then when a wonderful Connecticut organization by the name of Help Our Military Heroes (HOMH) stepped forward to cover the balance of the van’s costs.

I would strongly urge those who appreciate the efforts and dedication of our veterans to support this organization. For further information or to contribute to this organization I would encourage you to reach out to Laurie Hollander, President of Help Our Military Heroes at 15 Pheasant Lane, Easton, CT 06612. You can also visit the HOMH website at www.helpourmilitaryheroes.org.

I thank you in advance for supporting our veterans. They served our country and they served us. Now let’s support them.

Ken Hjulstrom – Marlborough

Crazy Progressives

To the Editor:
Reading letters from progressives like Ed Smith and Joe Stevens lead me to the inescapable conclusion that they’re all stark-raving mad. Little, if anything, they say is true, but they don’t care in the least. Their lying idiocy grants warrant to them to continue hurling their vile hatred towards others whose only offense is not endorsing their lunacy.

I can’t comprehend how people like this can live lives completely consumed in anger, resentment, and hatred, which is all they have. Stevens’ letter consisted of nothing but long-debunked lies, but he’s so detached from reality he thinks ceaselessly repeating them somehow makes them true. Smith bleats endlessly about QAnon while most of us on the right regard them as a pathetic joke or possibly a counter-intelligence ploy. No one takes them seriously except progressives like Smith.

I’d bet most people reading their inane letters laugh at these clowns and wonder how ostensibly-educated people can so willingly make fools of themselves. For years, people like me have been subjected to their incessant name-calling, slurs, and maliciously-characterized debasement of our supposed motivations.

I chuckle at the abuse from these cretins who I regard as among the dumbest lifeforms to have ever walked upright upon our planet. For some delusional reason they perceive themselves as being more intelligent and superior in every manner than those of us they absurdly demean. But their letters, always lacking of any positive value or substance, put the lie to their illusionary pretensions.

I think people like this actually hate themselves, but defensively project that hatred upon others to avoid confronting the real problem appearing before them in the mirror.

Sam Prentice – Andover

Apartment Proposal

To the Editor:
A proposal for 93 apartments (“Village Cluster Residential Planned Development”) has been presented to the Marlborough Conservation Commission and the Marlborough Zoning Commission for consideration. It is proposed close to the center of town “between 11 and 19 South Main Street and Johnson Road” consisting of three three-story buildings of 30 apartments each and three separate buildings of one apartment each according to information obtained from the town hall.

Questions to be asked: 1) How/will water usage and sewer usage be affected? 2) How/will taxpayer funded services be affected such as schools, police, fire? 3) How/will traffic patterns/congestion in the center of town be addressed? 4) How will surrounding property values be affected? 5) How will the development affect the rural character of the town?

A public hearing is scheduled for March 4 at 7 p.m.

**Al Corbeil
A concerned Marlborough citizen**

Conspiracy Nonsense

To the Editor:
Last week, another writer wrote about “forces around the world” pushing climate change. If by forces, he meant millions of scientists around the world studying this topic for over 50 years, he would be correct. He said he felt the need to tread carefully about the topic. I don’t.

The climate has already changed and will continue to change. These changes will cause catastrophic impacts for us and future generations. It’s shocking to me that people freely and confidently spread falsehoods like CO2 is not a pollutant, and we need more of it. Given the overwhelming evidence for CO2 being a primary driver of climate change, it is ridiculous for somebody to say something like that.

The end of the letter ends with the same old laughable conspiracy nonsense that permeates many of these letters. What makes me the most frustrated is how we aren’t having a healthy debate about these subjects. It’s impossible. There is no space or time for that. Countering the utter absurdity from ignorant conspiracy theorists crowds out any meaningful discussion.

Isaac Asimov said it best: “There is a cult of ignorance in the United States, and there has always been. The strain of anti-intellectualism has been a constant thread winding its way through our political and cultural life, nurtured by the false notion that democracy means that ‘my ignorance is just as good as your knowledge.’”

John Farrell – Colchester

Independent Commission

To the Editor:
Bipartisan support appears to be growing for an independent commission to examine what led to and happened on the day of Jan 6. Investigations have already been planned and retired Army Lt. Gen. Russel Honoré is doing a review of the Capitol’s security process.

What I would like to know is, who do my wife and I reach out to to be on this independent commission? We’re both registered as independents. We’ll wear masks, safely distance and follow other established CDC guidelines during the investigation.

**Semper Fi,
Eric S. Manning – Andover**

Editor’s Desk continued from page 2

ment was adopted, turning election of Senators over to the general public. That’s a good thing, in my opinion; I’m always in favor of more democracy.

But, as Obeidallah pointed out, the impeachment threshold was never revised; you still need two-thirds of the Senate to convict a president of impeachment. Obeidallah made a convincing case that it’s unlikely that threshold will ever be met, not as partisan as everything has become over the years. Senators now have to consider how a decision they make will play with the voters back home. And I don’t think it’s overly cynical to speculate senators often give that consideration just as much if not more weight than the merits of the decision itself.

In this hyper-partisan world we live in, where it’s so often a game of Republicans vs. Democrats, it’s tough to see a situation where two-thirds of the Senate will agree on a matter as grave as presidential impeachment – not when they’re counting on the public to give them another term in office. I don’t think it’s any coincidence that, of the seven senators who voted to convict Trump, two had already announced they were retiring at the end of their current terms. When you don’t have

to face the music, it can sometimes be a lot easier to vote your conscience.

Indeed, those Republican senators are facing the music already. Three of the ones who voted to convict have already been censured – two at the state level, one by multiple counties in their state – and a fourth may be censured by the end of the month.

It’s hard to see how that kind of swift punishment would do anything but discourage Republicans from breaking ranks in the future, even if it’s on a matter that they truly feel is best for the country. So perhaps Obeidallah is right, and we’ll never even sniff that two-thirds threshold in the future.

Look, am I saying the threshold needs to be revised? Not necessarily. Perhaps one day things won’t be quite as partisan as they are now, and more senators will feel able to vote the way they want to vote, and not just the way they feel will best help their re-election chances.

But at the moment, that sure doesn’t look likely. At the moment, reaching that two-thirds majority feels a lot unlikelier than our Founding Fathers probably ever intended.

See you next week.

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Reader Forum • Reader Forum

Disrespectful School Board

To the Editor:
As a lifelong resident of the RHAM school district and longtime resident of Andover who's never written a letter to the editor or has gotten involved with politics, it takes a fair amount to get me outraged. However, it is quite clear to me that in the current squabble between members of the Board of Selectmen and members of the Board of Education, it is the members of the BOE who are being outrageously disrespectful. The criticism should be most directly focused on Chair Loudon, as well as Superintendent Bruneau. If anything, the BOS are being far too kind towards the BOE.

The town of Andover should have a school budget well within the lines of those of the surrounding towns, and if anything the BOE should be seeking efficiencies to save the taxpayers even more than that, why not lower the budget by 10 to 20% to be in line with other towns instead of increasing our already inflated budget? Chair Loudon and Superintendent Bruneau's continual desire to spend more and more while student enrollment continues to fall is nothing short of disrespectful to the citizens of Andover, and that disrespect should be recognized by all.

Seb Houle – Andover

Support for Andover BOS

To the Editor:
I am writing this letter in support of the Andover BOS and the process they are undertaking in the 2021-22 budget process. I have watched all of their budget workshops, and they take this process seriously and get right to work analyzing the needs of our town. It is no secret that these are challenging times and they know that. From the moment their first budget workshop started, they got to work, going through their capital improvements, line by line, discussing each and every one to look for items that may be delayed if they need to be.

I also watched the BOE's workshops, which were completely opposite and did none of this. I was shocked at the BOE process because the board only put their rubber stamp on the superintendent's budget without having any real, hard conversations or discussing cuts. Instead, they initially came forward with a request for an increase of 8.45% adding \$329,843 to an already-staggering budget number. This budget is for a school that has an enrollment of only approximately 180 students. If not including preschool students, we are discussing a school of 150 students. If anything, we should see a decrease!

As the BOS has pointed out, this is an outrageous number compared to other towns. Many people including myself have done research on other towns that run schools with far more students for far less money. It is time to spread the taxpayers' money around now that the school enrollment has dropped significantly to now provide for our senior citizens, repair roads, and tackle other items, while also keeping taxes steady while this pandemic still exists and people have lost income. I think our outstanding school can still maintain its high quality with less tax money.

Joanne Hebert – Andover

Climate Change Debate

To the Editor:
Thankfully, the *Rivereast* 'Climate Change' debate had been quiescent for some time. But here comes Andover's Gary Gile stoking the flames saying, "CO2 levels are a bit low and if we continue to reduce those levels our food supplies will be reduced." He also called CO2 an 'element.' Dead wrong on both counts. CO2 is a molecule while carbon and oxygen separately are elements. Basic Periodic Table middle school stuff. Additionally, CO2 levels during Gile's youth were at 310ppm but today are at 415ppm and climbing. The real culprits threatening our food supply are CO2 induced droughts, floods, fires, excess heat, destructive winds, ocean acidification etc. More CO2 will exacerbate harm. Does Gile tell us the source of his information? Nope, just that it's something he read. HW assignment for Mr. Gile – Google CO2 along with NASA, NOAA, DOE, WHO or any university. Be ashamed to learn how misled you were. Thanks to you and all other Republicans dismissive of science, our children's future is made ever more perilous.

And then Hebron's William Oliver using his new toy, the 'Hate Meter.' Proving himself one lousy debate judge, last week he gave me a 6 while Joe Stevens won with an 8. I easily crush Joe every week when it comes to intimidating language. Oliver also gave a pass to Ed Kozlowski, calling his language "civil"? Joe Stevens is a consummate fact-based gentleman

and Kozlowski is perpetually petulant. Lastly, Oliver says I gave no evidence to support my claim that some Capitol mob individuals were looking to kill Pence, Pelosi and AOC. Oliver must have missed the impeachment trial while camped in front of his Fox News. Like Plato's Cave, with his back to the light of reason he can only perceive shadowy images. Truth hidden beyond his sensibilities.

Ed Smith – Andover

Clarifications

To the Editor:
I appreciate the gentleman who responded to my last letter. It helps me to clarify some things. I did not say COVID has destroyed the world economy. Rather it is destroying the world economy, a big difference. Yes, some of us haven't been too inconvenienced as we can work from home or still have a job. I stick by my statement that masks or at least 90+% of masks are useless unless you have COVID and want to protect those around you.

I have stated a solution – that being to gather all the information you can from as many different sources as possible, keeping an open mind. It is extremely hard to give all facts I have gathered in 300 words, so I am constructing a website (garygile.com) with many of the facts I have gathered.

In using Wikipedia, Snopes, and other "fact-checking" sites, one may not truly find the facts, rather only biased and/or paid for "facts." More on that on my website.

In some cases, masks may be harmful because they may make someone feel safe when they aren't. A much better solution is to wash one's hands often and keep your hands away from your face when out in public. Also, work on building up your immune system. Ways to do that will be on my website as well.

I question the statements like "established fact is...". Who established those facts, the CDC? Fauci has switched his stance on mask wearing several times. Is he the so-called "expert"?

"One of the solutions to reducing the spread of COVID is wearing a mask." Maybe wearing two or more masks as has been suggested would work much better? Or maybe three masks? Remember why medical professionals wear masks – it is to protect their patients, not them.

Gary Gile – Andover

E-Mail Letters

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

We Are Republicans

To the Editor:
We are your friends and your neighbors and as Republicans, we do not support the recent violence and extreme behavior from the left or the right. We respect the law and our form of government. Local Republicans promote a vibrant East Hampton community, support our excellent schools and work to protect and restore our environment. We call for equal rights, equal justice and equal opportunity for all people. Citizens should benefit from their hard work. It should not be squandered by stale leaders and an impersonal bureaucracy. Above all, we believe that by working together, we can make things better for us all.

The East Hampton Republican Town Committee meets the third Tuesday of every month. For more information, please email us at EHCT-GOP@gmail.com or follow us on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/EHCTGOP>.

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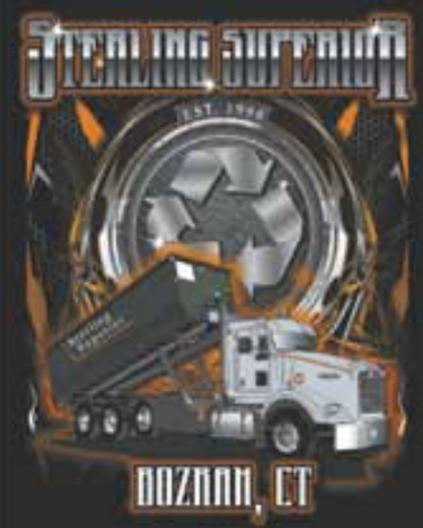
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Portland • Portland

Town's Grand List Rises Less than 1%

By Jack Lakowsky

The Town of Portland's 2020 Grand List assessment rose just .95% over the prior year's, making for a total taxable assessment of about \$848 million, up from the 2019 figure of about \$840 million, about an \$8 million difference.

Before exemptions, Portland's total gross assessment was about \$912 million, up \$9 million from 2019.

Although she has to discuss nuances of the grand list report with the town's assessor, including the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Portland First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said that in 2020 businesses both closed for good and newly opened in town.

"There's a balance in that regard," she said. "But overall, [COVID-19] didn't have a huge impact."

Bransfield pointed out that the town will soon engage in a town-wide revaluation, a more comprehensive process of valuing every property in Portland. She expects from this process a more drastic change in property value assessment, adding that some values used in this year's report were five years old, holdovers from the last revaluation.

Currently, the state's real estate market is healthy and mortgage loan interest rates are low, Bransfield said, explaining that she hopes this will benefit the Portland market as well.

There are several projects that, when finished, will boost the town's grand list, Bransfield said.

"We're still waiting on updates for Brainerd Place, but that's definitely one that will raise our grand list," said Bransfield.

Other projects Bransfield named as grand list-boosters were the new Dairy Queen location, the recent opening of Concentric Brewing, and the clean-up of town property along the riverfront to make it more attractive to businesses.

Small towns face a bit of a Catch-22 when it comes to grand lists, Bransfield explained. They must maintain the open space and quietude that draws many to raise families in suburbia, while also ensuring productive economic development.

For example, town officials last year allowed a local property zone change from buildable lots to farmland. Technically, this brings down the property's grand list value. However, Bransfield said, the town feels preserving farmland, a piece of town heritage and history, is important.

On the 2020 Grand List, one mill will represent \$847,523.

The Grand List is used by the Board of Finance to help set the mill rate for the upcoming fiscal year, which runs July 1 to June 30. The mill rate is used to calculate a resident's taxes. Residents can figure out their own tax bill by multiplying the mill rate by their total assessments. One mill is

equal to \$1 in tax per \$1,000 of assessed property.

Under the current mill rate of 34.38, a resident with a home assessed at \$250,000 would pay \$8,595 in taxes on it. The mill rate for the upcoming fiscal year has yet to be set.

Portland's top taxpayer is Eversource at about \$27 million, with the St. Clements Foundation a distant second at almost \$4 million. Third is Jarvis Airfoil Inc. at \$3 million, followed by Buckeye Cattle Company LLC at \$2.6 million, Perry Portland Associates LLC at \$2.5 million, Woodgreen Portland Limited Partnership at \$2.3 million, Oakwood Sports Center of Glastonbury LLC at \$1.7 million, Standard Knapp Inc. at \$1.66 million, then Connecticut Natural Gas Co. at \$1.65 million, and finally Carroll Properties LLC at \$1.62 million.

Overall, Portland's top 10 taxpayers paid about \$48 million in 2020.

Aside from St. Clements, Buckeye, Perry Portland, Woodgreen, Oakwood, and Carroll Proper-

ties, other major payers of real estate taxes include Portland Care and Rehabilitation at \$1.61 million, Carini, Wayne at \$1.58 million, and Stor-U-Self of Portland at \$1.49 million.

Other top personal property taxpayers include Brownstone Park at \$1.6 million, Intercontinental Holding Company at \$1.15 million, American Concrete Pumping Co. at \$850,000, CT Pharmaceutical Solutions LLC at about \$817,000, then Hubert E Butler Construction Co. LLC at \$673,000, and finally Algonquin Gas Transmission LLC at \$666,000.

Top 10 motor vehicle taxpayers include Toyota Lease Trust at \$1.4 million; Nissan Infiniti LT at \$1.2 million; Acar Leasing LTD at \$961,000; CCAP Auto Lease LTD at \$770,000; Honda Lease Trust at \$631,000; JP Morgan Chase Bank at \$613,000; M and J Bus Inc. at \$496,000; Hyundai Lease Tiling Trust at \$490,000; Hop Energy LLC at \$464,000; and lastly Snyder Civil Engineering at \$429,000.

St. Mary Church News

St. Mary Roman Catholic Church is located at 45 Freestone Ave. The Rev. John Antonelle is pastor, Dana Garry is deacon and Jeanne Samolik is director of music. The church office can be reached at 860-342-2328. For more information, visit www.stmaryportlandct.org.

Weekend Masses: 5 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sunday. Wearing of masks is required. Social distancing and all COVID-19 regulations are followed.

Online Mass: Each weekend, the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass is livestreamed. Visit the the parish website for more information.

Weekday Mass: Monday and Tuesday at 8 a.m., and Friday at 12:10 p.m.

Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Faith Formation Program: Classes are held virtually at this time. For more information, call Faith Formation Director Susan Ferraiolo at 860-342-2308.

Holy Hour Benediction: First Friday of every

month following the 12:10 p.m. Mass.

Mass in Honor of Blessed Mother: First Saturday of every month at 9 a.m.

Baptisms: First and third Sunday of every month at 1:30 p.m. Call the parish office to make arrangements.

Reconciliation (Confession): Saturday at 4-4:45 p.m. If this time is not convenient, contact Antonelle.

Blessings of Marriages: During Masses on the first weekend of every month.

St. Mary Ladies Guild: Meetings held every third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m., with the exception of winter months. For more information, contact President Marilyn McGrath at 860-342-1137.

Knights of Columbus: All practicing Catholic men are invited to contact Mark Creighton at 860-308-0603 to join.

Community Outreach: Food may be brought to the church office for the Portland Food Bank.

Dean's List

Meghan Flynn of Portland, a member of the Class of 2024, made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Stonehill College in Easton, Mass.

President's List

Hannah Sroka of Portland made the fall 2020 President's List at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

Sroka is majoring in English: Creative Writing.

Scholarship Available

Carl Guild and Associates has announced its community scholarship program for local high school seniors entering college in the fall. There are five \$1,000 scholarships given, one each in East Hampton, Portland, Colchester, East Had-dam and the RHAM school district.

There are no restrictions or qualifications; all local seniors can apply. For applications, visit www.carlguild.com/scholarship or ask your school's guidance counselor. Deadline is April 1.



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Portland • Portland

Schools Form Equity Coalition

By Jack Lakowsky

Portland Schools' Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Technology Eric Martin this week announced the new Portland Public Schools Equity and Inclusion Coalition.

Martin, who shared the news at a Tuesday meeting of the Board of Education, is currently reviewing and accepting applications for coalition members.

The board beamed over the new coalition and its upcoming work. Board member Meg Scata and chairwoman Sharon Peters, both Democrats, each asked to receive regular updates from the coalition when work begins in earnest.

The coalition's first meeting will be Tuesday, March 9, at 4:30 p.m. Martin is looking for 25 members, although this number has some flexibility, he told the *Rivereast* this week.

The coalition, when fully formed, will have about 10 student members from grades 8-12. Martin said student participation will be a major focus of the group's work.

Also to be included will be three parents or guardians, three district administrators, five district certified staff, one or two school board members, and around three residents.

The PPS Equity and Inclusion Coalition will work toward such goals as: ensuring for all students unrestricted and equitable access to opportunities for learning, growth, and success; facilitating a sense of belonging to all members of the district by respecting, and celebrating, identities and ensuring not one student is disadvantaged or denied achievement due to their race, gender/gender identity, sexual orientation, spirituality, culture, income level or background ability.

The coalition will meet the second Tuesday of each month. Meetings will be from 4:30-7 p.m. All meetings will be virtual until further notice.

To start, the coalition will scrutinize the Portland school district, examining current practices with the intent of finding disparities, inequities and injustices. Where these are found, the coalition will work closely with schools to enact meaningful changes, such as eliminating achievement gaps and discipline disparities along racial lines.

Racial inequities, Martin said, will be the group's first focus, as these are often the most apparent. Fostering inclusivity will be another of the coalition's primary goals.

"We all have different identities, and it's incumbent upon us to understand and celebrate the identities of all people," Martin said. He said this is not only true for school districts, but for all communities, organizations and workplaces.

Martin stressed that in Portland, the state, and across the nation, work such as this is long overdue.

Martin has partnered with the Connecticut Center for School Change, which according to its website is a statewide nonprofit organization whose mission is to improve teaching and learning, to reduce achievement gaps and to promote equity in the state's schools.

The coalition's first order of business, Martin explained, will be drafting a kind of mission statement.

"Once that's done, it will then engage in the

work of auditing district systems, student records, hiring records, professional learning opportunities," he said.

Based on the coalition's findings, it will then advise on meaningful strategic actions about how to address issues.

"And these will be actions with measurable outcomes," said Martin.

Martin said the coalition won't focus exclusively on disparity issues, but also on honoring and celebrating the district's diversity.

The coalition will also iterate that advocating for and working towards equity is not a political stance. The group will combat the politicization of equity, and instead treat it as a civil priority, one in line with America's founding ideal: striving to achieve a more perfect, equitable union.

"It's been 58 years since [Martin Luther King Jr.'s] 'I Have a Dream' speech," Martin said. "[Achieving equity] will be the dream for a long time. There are longstanding success gaps along racial lines, as well as gender, and socioeconomic status, and we have to examine these things. We're coming to understand that although opportunity doesn't guarantee success, a lack thereof certainly precludes it."

Martin said the district isn't a "pioneer" in the equity effort, but that Portland is somewhere in the "middle-front" among Connecticut school districts.

"There are a lot of places where this work has taken hold, especially in districts with high diversity," Martin said.

Martin said suburban, mostly white districts like Portland may have relatively lower diversity, but this does not decrease the necessity of discussing equity.

Martin said that, fortunately, no local "flashpoint" events spurred the coalition's formation. However, he said, the proactive formation is better than waiting for "spray-painted Swastikas or racist language on school grounds."

The district group is separate from the local grassroots Portland Social Justice Coalition, although Martin recently reached out to them in hopes of collaboration.

Scata expressed enthusiasm for the group's work.

"This is a new beginning," Scata said. "Cultural competence starts with acknowledging difference and diversity and building relationships along those lines."

Scata said school board members will also examine their own implicit biases, and that she

wants to see equity as a regular agenda item.

"That's music to my ears, Meg," Martin told Scata.

Any interested in applying to join the Portland Public Schools Equity and Inclusion Coalition can email emartin@portlandpublicschools.org.

Board Slams Governor's Proposed Budget

Also Tuesday, Superintendent of Schools Charles Britton expressed great disappointment with Gov. Ned Lamont's proposed state budget, which proposes to flat fund the state's Education Cost Sharing (ECS) grant program, aid that accounts for "well over 50 percent of total contribution to [public schools]," according to the state's website.

"If you flat-fund ECS, you guarantee schools will face a deficit," said Britton.

Britton said every year, school districts must account for at least a 3% increase in cost sharing amounts.

Britton explained state officials have reasoned that the federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds recently received by state schools can be counted as ECS money.

Portland received \$312,000 in ESSER money.

"I know superintendents are screaming about how unfair this is," said Britton. "We need this money for COVID-19 [related] needs and for putting things back together after the pandemic. My position is that we need a 2 to 3% increase in ECS every year, along with our full town-

approved budget."

Britton pointed out that language in ESSER documents said the money can't be used to supplement existing budget proposals.

Scata said it's important to note the governor's budget is far from approved, and that boards of education and parents across the state can still communicate to elected officials that ECS should be funded properly.

"That won't fly without loud opposition," Scata said. "This is where activism comes in."

COVID-19 Update

Britton also shared with the board a brief COVID-19 update.

"It's shocking how fast these numbers have dropped," said Britton.

Portland hit its COVID-19 peak in mid-January, with a case rate of 70/100,000.

Portland's latest case ratio is 19/100,000, with 25 new cases reported between Jan. 24 and Feb. 11, still listed in "red" alert, but certainly a stark (and encouraging) decrease.

Britton said Portland previously had the highest case ratio in Middlesex County, but now has the lowest.

Although ground has been gained, Britton said schools will still watch the situation closely, adding that COVID-19 variants originating from the United Kingdom and South Africa, as well as variants originating in the U.S., are a "potential dark cloud."

Britton said schools will move forward with "guarded optimism."

Britton was also happy to share that his mother, a senior, received her COVID-19 vaccine.

Scholarship Offered by Garden Clubs

Applications are now available for a \$500 scholarship being offered by The Garden Clubs of Portland.

The scholarship will be awarded to a graduating high school senior who is a resident of Portland and has been accepted at an accredited college or post-secondary school, and plans to pursue a major in one of the following fields: agronomy, botany, city planning, conservation, environmental studies, floriculture, forestry, horticulture, land management, landscape design, plant pathology, or an allied subject. Applicants must have a grade point average of at least 3.0.

The scholarship is funded from the pro-

ceeds of community activities of The Portland Garden Club and The Portland River Valley Garden Club. The review committee will consider the applicant's academic record, ability to articulate career goals, and their recommendations. Financial need could be part of the decision.

Applications for the scholarship are available at the guidance office at the Portland High School, 95 High St., or at the Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave. The completed applications must be submitted on or before Thursday, April 1.

For more information, call 860-685-0593.

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More information, visit glastonburymlkci.org
Registration required – tinyurl.com/336rga3b



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Kindergarten Registration

Valley View School in Portland has announced its kindergarten registration process for the 2021-22 school year.

Parents/guardians of children who will be 5 on or before Jan. 1, 2022, should contact Valley View at pgross@portlandct.us to indicate if they will be registering the child for kindergarten. Provide your child's full name, phone number and address.

Further information regarding kindergarten registration will then be provided.

Project Graduation Fundraiser

Melilli Caffé and Grill is donating a percentage of all sales Wednesday, Feb. 24, to support Portland High School Project Graduation.

On that day, anyone who mentions Project Graduation when ordering will have 25% of the cost of their purchase donated to the committee, which puts on an all-night drug- and alcohol-free party held for PHS seniors the night of their graduation.

Melilli Caffé and Grill is located at 264 Main St., and can be reached at 860-342-4035.

Portland • Portland



Hot Cocoa Giveaway... On Dec. 22, Portland Parks and Recreation and the Waverly Senior Center teamed up for a Holiday Hot Cocoa Giveaway at Chatham Court. Parks and Rec. Director Nate Foley is shown here handing out a jar of hot cocoa.

Portland Library News & Notes

Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave., has made the following announcements. Registration required unless noted. For more information and full program descriptions, visit www.portlandlibraryct.org or call 860-342-6770.

Curbside Only: Due to COVID-19 concerns, Portland Library is closed until further notice. Curbside delivery is available; hours are Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-4:45 p.m.; and Saturday, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Reserve items through the online catalog or call 860-342-6770. The outdoor book return is open 24/7, is emptied frequently, and the library continues to waive fines. If you need to print, scan and/or fax, call the library.

Hours and services are subject to change; call the library or access the webpage for current hours. The library is also on Facebook and Instagram.

Youth Programs: Winter Reading Program: For each row you complete on the Winter Reading Bingo card, the library will donate one can of cat or dog food to Portland Food Bank. Stop in to the library this month to pick up a bingo card. When you complete a row, email jrenk@portlandct.org or post a picture to the library's Facebook or Instagram pages and write whether you want to donate a can of cat food or dog food.

Online Storytime: Tuesday, Feb. 23, at 10 a.m., via Zoom. Share stories, songs and other activities. Registration is required; space is limited. A Zoom link will be provided within 24 hours of the program.

Preschool Science: Tuesdays at 10 a.m. March 2, 16, 30, via Zoom, for ages 3-5. Explore color, chemical reactions and more. Registration is required for each week and space is limited. Supplies can be picked up in advance; a Zoom link will be provided within 24 hours of the event.

NatureCrafting: Thursdays through March 25, 3:30 p.m., via Zoom. For grades K-5. Ex-

plore the worlds of herbs, spices, seeds, nuts and other natural elements with crafts and other activities. Registration is required and space is limited. Supplies can be picked up in advance; a Zoom link will be provided within 24 hours of the event.

Adult Programs: Portland Forum: In partnership with the Portland Social Justice Coalition, the library hosts a series of discussions that focus on representing the faces of diversity. There will be a discussion of Black history Thursday, Feb. 25, at 7 p.m., via Zoom. The book that informs the discussion is *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration* by Isabel Wilkerson. To reserve a copy, call the library or place a hold online.

Beyond the Amistad: Black History at the Connecticut Historical Society: Thursday, March 4, at 7 p.m., via Zoom. A Connecticut Historical Society docent will talk about the photographic depictions of many unrecognized accomplishments of Black citizens of Connecticut. This event was funded by a donation from Inner Circle Family Martial Arts LLC and Be Stronger Personal Training LLC, raised during a 2020 community 5K race they sponsored.

Powerful Voices: Connecticut Women Changing Democracy: Tuesday, March 16, at 6:30 p.m., via Zoom. In this interactive multimedia program by the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame, learn about some of the state's powerful female voices for change in democracy. Discussed will be suffrage advocates such as Alice Paul and Isabella Beecher Hooker; prominent female firsts like Ella Grasso and Denise Nappier; and such social activists as Helen Keller, Anne Stanback and Estelle Griswold. March is Women's History month.

Mystery Lovers Book Club: Tuesday, March 16, 1 p.m., via Zoom. *Stranger Diaries* by Elly Griffiths will be discussed.

Dean's List

Lia Smith of Portland made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Central Connecticut State University.

Smith is majoring in music education and is a member of the Class of 2022.

Chill for Change Fundraiser at Camp Ingersoll

The seventh annual Chill for Change nears, to support YMCA Camp Ingersoll, will take place Saturday, Feb. 20, and although it may look a little different this year, there are still opportunities for community members to get involved – through jumping in the pond, donating, or volunteering at the event.

YMCA Camp Ingersoll features a ropes course, boating, nature, swimming, archery, arts and crafts, and more.

Due to COVID-19, Camp Ingersoll is again planning on limiting numbers this summer, although it will allow more campers to attend this year than last – and the Middlesex YMCA said its goal is to make the camp accessible to every family that desires it. Each year, the individual who raises the most money will receive a certificate for a free session of camp. This certificate can be used for your own family, or given to anyone you know.

The goal for 2021 goal is to raise over

\$15,000. Adjustments for this year include limiting spectators; livestreaming the event; creating designated, socially-distanced, spaces for each participant to wait in; folks checking in before exiting vehicles; and increased sanitation protocols after participants change after jumping.

To register, visit www.campingersoll.org and click on the 'Chill for Change' link under the 'Family and Events' tab. Jumpers can form a team or jump as an individual, but all jumpers should raise at least \$100 to participate. All funds raised go directly to providing scholarships for camp families.

Check-in starts at 12:30 p.m. Feb. 20 and the jumping will begin at 1 p.m.

For more information, contact Ben Silliman at bsilliman@midymca.org or 860-342-2267, or search 'YMCA Camp Ingersoll' on Facebook.

Parks and Rec. News & Notes

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

Youth Programs: Dance & Fitness with Miss Alicia: These virtual dance and fitness programs, for ages 2-10, start next week. There are Tap/Ballet, Cardio Dance, and Creative Movement classes. Register online or contact Parks and Rec. for more information.

Do-It-At-Home Doodlekits with Abrakadoodle: There are new DoodleKits – one for ages 3-5, and one for ages 6-12. Each kit comes with all the necessary supplies and instructions needed for five winter-themed crafts. Participants have the option of doing their crafts with Abrakadoodle over Zoom on Wednesdays at 5:15 p.m., but this is not required. Fee: \$55 for one DoodleKit (five crafts) or \$100 for two DoodleKits (10 crafts).

Abrakadoodle: Kids on Canvas: Wednesdays, March 10-31, via Zoom. Ages 3-5 are 10:30-11:15 a.m., and ages 6-12 are 4:15-5 p.m. Kids will learn about painting on canvas paper, canvas board and stretched canvas using acrylics. Fee is \$50, paintbrushes included.

Virtual Paint Night: Thursday, March 18,

7-9 p.m., via Zoom. Learn about and paint in the style of Romero Britto, a Brazilian artist famous for his bright colors and bold patterns. Fee is \$22. Each participant will receive a canvas board and paints for the evening. Paintbrushes can be purchased for an add-on fee of \$5; if you have your own brushes, this is not required.

Adult Programs: Tai Chi for Long Life: Via Zoom Wednesdays through March 31 (started Feb. 10), 9:30-10:15 a.m., or Saturdays through April 3 (started Feb. 13). Fee: \$40 for either eight-week session. Contact Parks and Rec. if interested in drop-in registration.

Boat America – Online Boating Safety Course: Wednesdays, March 16, 17 and 23, 6:30-9 p.m., via Zoom. For Connecticut, the course enables the student to apply for the Connecticut Certificate of Personal Watercraft Operation (CPWO). This certificate allows the holder to operate a boat up to 65', to operate a personal watercraft, and will include the Safe Water Skiing Endorsement. Fee: \$60; additional participant fee: \$55.

Personal Euphoria – Spring Session: Starts the week of April 5. Check the Parks and Rec. website for more information about Full Body Refresh, Barre, Pilates, High Interval Training, Tighthen & Tone, and Core Strength.

Foodshare Truck Coming

The Foodshare truck will be at the Waverly Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave., on Monday, Feb. 22, at 1 p.m., for a drive-thru event. Individual pre-made boxes will be distributed on this day.

This particular Foodshare is open to anyone; you do not have to be a Portland resident. Enter at Portland Library on Freestone Avenue, have your trunk open, and depart past the senior center onto Waverly Avenue.

Police News

2/8: Monique Porter, 34, of 309 Main St., was arrested and charged with two counts of third-degree assault and two counts of second-degree threatening, Portland Police said.

Project Grad Fundraiser

Inner Circle Family Martial Arts of Portland owner Michael Pelton will donate 50% of the proceeds of virtual fitness classes to Portland High School Project Graduation.

Classes accommodate cardio, body weight exercises, stretching and more. Classes run every Tuesday and Thursday, 6-7 p.m., through April 1. As an added bonus, participants will have access to one free in-person class during weekdays.

Cost is \$40 per month. Inner Circle can be reached at 860-342-2381.

Project Graduation is an all-night drug- and alcohol-free party held for PHS seniors the night of their graduation.

More Portland news on page 27

First Congregational Church News

First Congregational Church of Portland is a member of the United Church of Christ denomination, and is an Open and Affirming congregation. It is located at 554 Main St.

Weekly worship services are recorded in the church sanctuary and available on the church's YouTube channel (First Church of Portland, CT). Virtual church school is offered weekly by Ann Labby, Director of Christian Education.

The Prayer Shawl ministry continues to provide knitted prayer shawls to members and friends in need of comfort.

Anyone wishing to be added to the mailing lists (both electronic and postal service) of this congregation should email first.church.pct@sbcglobal.net, or leave a message at 860-342-3244. For more information, look for the church on Facebook at The First Congregational Church of Portland, or visit www.firstchurchportlandct.org.

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St. Peter's News & Notes

St. Peter's Episcopal Church, located at 30 Church St. (Route 85, a quarter-mile south of the intersection with Route 66), has announced the following:

Schedule for Services: Due to COVID-19, St. Peter's has suspended in-person services. Services are recorded every Sunday and made available online at stpetershebron.com or on the church's Facebook page. Services also posted to the church's YouTube channel, accessible at tinyurl.com/ydy6s4dn.

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

Outreach: Hearts of Hope: St. Peter's joins

other faith communities in sponsoring a Hearts of Hope program to raise funds for AHM Mental Services Fund. You can pick up your Hearts of Hope in the box outside the parish hall anytime to put in your window. **Monthly Food Donations:** Are collected for various local food pantries; items may be placed in the brown bin outside the Parish Hall. **Prayer Shawl Ministry:** This is a knitting group that provides shawls to parishioners suffering bereavement or illness. Contact the church for more information.

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

Christ Lutheran News & Notes

Pastor Dana Hallenbeck and the members of Christ Lutheran Church (LCMS) invite all to join them for Sunday worship. The church is located at 330 Church St. For more information, call 860-228-1152, visit www.CLCHebbron.org or 'like' the church at facebook.com/CLCHebbron for up-to-date news and announcements.

Sunday Worship: Sundays at 9 a.m., an in-person Divine Service is held. All are invited. For current safety protocols and the latest pandemic announcements, visit www.clchebron.org/open. Coffee hour and in-person Bible study, which ordinarily follow worship, are still on hiatus. Details about online streams of the service are listed at www.clchebron.org/online.

Saturday Worship: First Saturday of the month at 5 p.m. This is a service for higher-risk

individuals. There are elevated levels of protocols, masks are required, and there is no singing. Communion is served.

Sunday School: Sundays at 10:30 a.m., in person and also livestreamed at facebook.com/CLCHebbron.

Online Sunday Bible Study, Youth Group and Wednesday In-Person Bible Study: All on hiatus until further notice.

Caring Shepherds: Will hand out hygiene kits, Bibles and supplies at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 20, at 877 Main St. in Willimantic. For more information about Caring Shepherd's ministry, call at 860-494-0431.

Early Childhood Center: Open to people of all faiths. For more information or current offerings call 860-228-5134.

Douglas Library News & Notes

Douglas Library, located at 22 Main St., has announced the following pieces of news. For more information, call the library at 860-228-9312.

Lobby Pickups: The library is operating lobby pickup of materials during business hours, and electronic resources like Overdrive, Kanopy and Hoopla are available 24 hours a day. For updates, visit douglaslibrary.org or look for the library on Facebook. Lobby pickup hours: Monday and Wednesday, noon-7:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; and Saturday, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Call the library with any questions.

Children's Department: Browse the online catalog to see the new selections. Titles are available for lobby pick-up. In the lobby, there are themed children's activity kits added weekly; first-come, first-served. Also, in addition to the regular recorded story times, the library will offer a special series for children aged 3-8, released each Friday on the Douglas Library website and on YouTube. An accompanying activity or craft will be available for participants to pick up in the library's lobby each week. The schedule is: Feb. 26, *Louis* by Tom Lichtenheld, followed by a craft kit including everything you need to make a wearable bear paw.

Arm Knitting: Tuesday, Feb. 23, 5 p.m., via Zoom, for ages 16 and up. Knitting and sewing instructor Dawn Zillich will show how to make an infinity scarf in less than an hour. Yarn will be provided, and knitting skills are not required. Supplies are limited, so registration with a valid email is required at douglaslibrary.org or by calling 860-228-9312.

Adult & Teen Crafts: In the lobby, patrons will find the monthly Take & Make craft bag. February features String Bowl Art. This kit includes the floss string, a balloon and glue. These will be available for pickup during our normal curbside hours and please only take one

per household.

Tax Forms: The Connecticut DRS will not send the library tax booklets containing forms and instructions this year; however, the library will receive IRS forms 1040 and 1040 SR and instruction books for distribution. If you need other forms, call the main desk to have a copy printed and placed with curbside pickup items.

Returns: To avoid unnecessary handling of items, patrons are asked to return any items to the outside book and DVD drops. These items are put in quarantine for 48 hours prior to checking in, and will be backdated upon check-in.

Holds and Renewals: To renew or place a hold on items, log into your account at douglaslibrary.org; access the Acorn Catalog app on your mobile device; or call the library during business hours. Call for assistance logging into your account or to reset your password.

Faxing: Faxing is available by staff while the patron remains in the lobby. Upon arrival at the library, call the main desk and a staff member will meet you in the lobby. Charge is \$2 for the first page and \$1 for each additional page; the library can only accept cash or check at this time. Upon completion, you will receive a transmittal page which reflects the date and time of service.

Kill-A-Watt Meter: These devices allow residents to calculate the energy usage of appliances in their homes and identify which may be causing spikes in their monthly bills. All you need is a library card to check out a meter for one week; each one is accompanied by an in-depth instructional guide.

New Library Cards: People who live in Hebron or Amston and want a new library card can visit Douglaslibrary.org and complete the online application under "Services." You will receive an email with your new card number and password, and the actual card will be mailed to you.

New Member of Realty Group

Countryside Realty has announced the hire of Tracy Doherty of Lebanon.



Tracy Doherty

Doherty brings over 25 years of experience in serving the public through her previous banking career in Storrs, in which she specialized in second mortgage lending. Doherty has lived in Lebanon for the last 10 years with her husband and two children. She grew up in Columbia.

Doherty can be reached at tracy@country-siderealtyct.com, 860-428-6964, or the Countryside office at 30 Main St.

Church of Hope News & Notes

Hebron Church of Hope, 1 Main St., holds worship Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Church of Hope is a biblically-driven Christ-centered church.

Worship is in person and via livestream on the church website. To see the guidelines, and get more information, on in-person worship during the COVID-19 pandemic, visit www.hebronchurchofhope.org.

The church office is closed until further notice. Pastor Jordan Brown is available to meet by appointment. Use the church website to set up a time.

The Red Barn is closed and not accepting donations at this time.

For more information about Hebron Church of Hope, visit the website or look for the church on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.

Honor Roll

The following local students made the East Catholic High School Honor Roll for the second quarter of the 2020-21 school year:

Amston: First Honors: Brett Schofield and Laurel Woods, Class of 2021. Honors with Distinction: Jackson Woods, Class of 2024.

Hebron: Honors with Distinction: John Oei and Timothy Wilson Jr., Class of 2021; Owen Bergquist, Nathan Grzybowski, Matiwos Rumley, Trent Sargent, Class of 2022. First Honors: Caroline Carlson and Hannah Czapiga, Class of 2021; William Bergquist and Zuriel Sarosh, Class of 2024.

Historical Society Clothing Drive

The Hebron Historical Society will hold another clothing/textile drive next month.

Donations will be accepted Saturdays, March 13 and 27, from 10 a.m.- 1 p.m., at Old Town Hall (adjacent to Douglas Library). Acceptable items are linens, clothing, shoes, boots, belts, towels or any textile item. Condition of items is not important, but they must be delivered to Old Town Hall in a sealed trash bag.

Proceeds will help cover annual maintenance expenses and program costs.

For more information on the clothing drive, email mergonci65@comcast.net or call 860-228-1113.

Gilead Church Offers Hearts of Hope

Gilead Congregational Church is helping to support the mental health of those in the community by raising funds for AHM Youth and Family Services' Community Mental Health Fund.

The AHM Community Mental Health Fund was started to support the mental health of children, youth and families in our communities by making financial assistance available for those in need.

Red cling hearts are available to pick up in tubs in Hebron at AHM Youth and Family Services, Ted's Supermarket, Ace Hardware, the Douglas Library, Gilead Congregational Church, UCC, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, and Church of the Holy Family; they are also at Richmond Memorial Library in Marlborough, and Andover Public Library.

Hearts are free; however, the church is asking people to go online and make at least a \$10 donation to AHM Youth & Family Services to support the Community Mental Health Fund. To make a donation, go to ahmyouth.org and click on "Make a Donation" in the upper right corner and designate the "Community Mental Health/Hearts of Hope" as the recipient.

Dean's List

Hebron residents Ailish Bozzo, Emma Fuini and Joseph Brosseau made the fall 2020 Dean's List at the University of New Hampshire.

Bozzo and Brosseau earned Honors, and Fuini earned Highest Honors.

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Revaluation Coming This Year

by Karla Santos

It's time again for the assessor's office to hold a revaluation of town properties – although this year, as with seemingly everything else, things are a little bit different due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Town Assessor John Chaponis said the town has decided to inspect properties through a data mailer questionnaire instead of physically going inside the properties.

Residential property owners will begin receiving the data mailer questionnaires the week of Feb. 22.

After property owners receive the questionnaire, they have seven days to complete it and return it.

Commercial properties will be revaluated by Lawrence Revaluation Services (LRS), and residential properties will be done by Vision Governmental Solutions (VGS).

Chaponis said that, as per state law, property owners who do not return the data mailer questionnaire will instead be visited by a data collector employee, who will ask to inspect the interior.

Because of the town's contracts with LRS and VGS, Chaponis said there will be an additional fee to the town for every property that fails to return the completed questionnaire requiring the vendor to visit and inspect the interior of the property.

Chaponis said it is best if property owners return their completed questionnaire as soon as they receive it.

"I am asking our property owners to please fill this out and send it back immediately," Chaponis said. "In doing so, property owners will save the town money, which ultimately saves them money."

Once property owners receive the questionnaire, they are asked to review and compare the current data of their property versus the current town assessment records included with the mailer.

Town employees and data collector employees will carry photo identification, Chaponis said. Data collector employees will also carry a letter of introduction from the town assessor on a Colchester letterhead. If property owners wish to verify the employees who come to their property, they may do so by contacting Chaponis' office at 860-537-7205.

Municipalities must complete a new town-wide revaluation every five years. According to Chaponis, Colchester last had a town-wide revaluation for the Oct. 1, 2016 Grand List.

Chaponis explained that the majority of the revaluation regulations and processes are governed by state statute and at least once every 10 years, each town must fully inspect the inside of each property.

Selectman Rosemary Coyle said she has lived in Colchester since 1972. She said for the last two revaluations she received a data mailer questionnaire to fill out and send back.

"That works out great," she said, and added that the process is even easier for those who haven't had any changes made to their homes.

Coyle said she encourages residents to return the questionnaire as it makes the revaluation process smoother.

"Filling out the data mailer is pretty simple, pretty effective," she said.

Coyle said she prefers the questionnaire, particularly now that there is an ongoing pandemic because it is safer for the home owners and the revaluation staff.

There are five phases of a revaluation, Chaponis noted. The first phase is data collection, which includes the full inspection or data mailer process.

He said the other four phases are market analysis, valuation, field review, and informal hearings.

The market analysis phase started in December. As part of that phase, the vendors will look at all properties that have sold, or will have sold, between last October and this coming September. Chaponis explained that these properties will be used to determine the fair market value of every other property in town as of Oct. 1, 2021.

Because many times a new owner will make

changes to a recently-purchased property, Chaponis said "it is imperative that we get a snapshot of exactly what sold in close proximity to the sale date."

That's why it is not uncommon for new homeowners to see someone taking a photo of their home within six months after they purchase it, Chaponis said. Someone from the assessor's office will sometimes want to drive by and look at the home, he said, but also real estate appraisers will drive by and take their own photos, Chaponis said.

Individuals may contact the assessor's office at 860-537-7205 with any questions regarding the revaluation process.

Abundant Life Church News & Notes

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

Food Truck: Today, Friday, Feb. 19, from 3-6 p.m. in the church parking lot, the church will again hand out free boxes of food to anyone in need. Cars will line up in the parking lot and boxes will be loaded into your trunk or car. Boxes may include milk, chicken, potatoes, apples, onions, cheese, butter and yogurt.

Weekly Sunday Service: The church continues open-door services on Sundays. Facial masks while roaming and social distancing guidelines are followed, including only allowing fewer than 50 attendees. Sunday School is

at the church at 9:30 a.m., with the main service beginning at 10:30 a.m. Call the church if you would like to attend.

The service is also broadcast live on Facebook, beginning at 10:30 a.m., with a special children's program included. Go to www.facebook.com/groups/abundantLifeCT or look for the church on Facebook. For more information or if unable to connect, call the church at 860-537-3082.

Power of Prayer: Prayer is provided by a group of faithful members at Abundant Life. If you are in need of prayer for healing, financial issues, troubled family members, life-controlling habits, or any other need, call the church to be placed on its prayer list. You may also ask about the various days and times the prayer groups meet and come at that time.

Children's Programs at Cragin Library

The following programs are offered for children this month at Cragin Memorial Library. While the library is currently open, it is not hosting any in-person programming. Most of these programs will be conducted online. For more information, call the children's department at 860-537-7201.

The library has a list of available craft bags at the Children's Circulation Desk; supplies are limited and are on a first-come, first-served basis. The library is located at 8 Linwood Ave.

Baby Activity Videos: Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. on Facebook and YouTube. There will be book suggestions, baby bounces and more. Often, activity bags will be available at the children's circulation desk to accompany the videos.

Sharing Stories: Mondays at 10:30 a.m. on Facebook and YouTube. There will be stories, songs and more. A craft will be showcased, and bags will be available for pick-up.

Exploring the Alphabet: Fridays at 10:30 a.m. on Facebook and YouTube. Each week, explore a new letter of the alphabet, sing songs, practice writing and share books. A craft bag

will accompany each video, bags can be picked up on Monday the same week as the video. The final video is March 19.

Polar Bear Art Take & Make Craft: Saturday, Feb. 27, all day for all ages. Celebrate National Polar Bear Day with this art craft. Pick up the bag and create a piece of art.

March Programs: Pie Take & Make Craft Bag: Wednesday, March 10. Celebrate "Pi Day" with this paper craft.

Foodie Fun: Rainbow Bark: Saturday, March 13, 10:30 a.m., for kids and teens. Pick up your Take & Make Bag, watch the video on Cragin's social media channels, and enjoy.

St. Patrick's Day Take & Make Craft Bag: Wednesday, March 17, for all ages.

Puppy Take & Make Craft Bag: Tuesday, March 23, for all ages. Celebrate National Puppy Day with this craft.





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Hunting & Fishing Club Membership Vacancies

The Westchester Sportmen's Club, located in Colchester, Connecticut, has open membership vacancies. Membership is currently limited to 100 members. This is an excellent opportunity for you and your friends to join a Club as a group, and enjoy the private benefits of hunting, fishing & shooting. The Club is now accepting applications until Friday, February 19, 2021.

For additional information and to obtain an application, please contact the club President, Harold Gannon, at hgnnon@gmail.com.



Colchester • Colchester



Froze for Fuel Funds... Kim Talarczyk, founder of giving group Colchester Cares, presents a check to members of Freezin' for a Reason – the three Colchester residents who camped on the town green from Feb. 12-14 to raise awareness and funds for the Colchester Fuel Bank. From left are Fred Brown, Talarczyk, Rob Suchecki and Greg Cordova.

'Astronomy for Everyone'

Cragin Memorial Library invites all to "Astronomy for Everyone: Size & Scale of the Universe" on Thursday, March 4, at 6 p.m., via Zoom.

Kevin Manning will lead people on a virtual journey throughout the cosmos, describing celestial objects and how they were formed. Manning is an astronomer, author, and former consultant to NASA.

The free program is sponsored by the Friends of Cragin Memorial Library. To sign up, go to tinyurl.com/1ikfr9f6. The library does not record virtual programs.

For more information, call 860-537-5752.

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year is now open at the Colchester Public Schools website, www.colchesterct.org.

Children who turn 5 by Jan. 1, 2022, are eligible to register for the full-day program. Registration must be completed online. Select the "For Families" tab and on the drop down menu click on the tab for "Registration and Residency." Follow the necessary steps outlined on the website.

You will need to make an appointment with the Colchester Public Schools Board of Education office once all of the online enrollment forms are completed. To do this, call 860-537-7267. Registration hours are by appointment only on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A list of documents needed can be found on the website.

Images of America Books are Back

The Colchester Historical Society is restocked with Images of America: Colchester and will be hosting book signings by the book's author and Society Collections Chairman Emeritus Gary Walter on Saturdays and Sundays throughout February, from noon-2 p.m., at the Colchester History Museum.

The book is filled with almost 200 historic images of Colchester, each with carefully-researched captions, all capturing the history of the town.

Images of America: Colchester is part of the Arcadia Publishing series celebrating the history of neighborhoods, towns and cities across America. In this comprehensive book, Gary Walter has created an engaging and compelling overview of Colchester history from the late 19th century to the mid-20th century.

The Colchester Historical Society is selling the book for \$20, underselling the current retail price (including Amazon). Proceeds from the book enable the Society, a non-profit organization, to operate a free museum and offer diverse programs about Colchester history.

Copies will be available at the Colchester History Museum on Saturdays and Sundays, from noon-2 p.m., throughout February, or until sold out again. The Colchester History Museum is located at 24 Linwood Ave., adjacent to the Cragin Memorial Library. There is free parking behind the museum and library.

Scholarship Available

The St. Joseph's Polish Society is offering a scholarship for Bacon Academy graduates.

For an application, students can visit their guidance counselor or stop into the St. Joseph's Polish Club, 395 S. Main St., or download one at www.stjoespolishclub.com.

All applications must be turned in by March 31.

Police News

2/9: State Police said that Sterlin W. Feeney, 26, of East Haddam, was arrested and charged with second-degree failure to appear.

Ahavath Achim News

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

Friday night Zoom service, 6:30 p.m.; Saturday morning Zoom service, 10 a.m.; Tuesday, Kabbalah class, 5:30 p.m. on Zoom; Tuesday, Talmud class, 6:30 p.m. on Zoom.

There are daily prayer classes on Facebook Live, by Rabbi Ken Alter. For more information, call 860-537-2809. Office hours are 8 a.m.-noon Tuesday-Friday.

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 remains closed to the public until further notice. The church has canceled in-person worship and Sunday School until disease rates decline in Colchester. Worship is offered by a small worship team Sundays at 9 a.m. via Facebook Live. Sunday School lessons are shared virtually with families.

Virtual worship can also be found at www.colchesterfederatedchurch.org under the "Worship & Sermons" tab.

Lions Announce Scholarships Available

The Colchester Lions Club invites all Colchester residents in their senior year of high school to apply for one of several scholarships the club awards.

All students are eligible, no matter which public, private, charter or magnet school they attend. Home-schooled students are also eligible. The Lions consider applications from students planning to attend any accredited college, university or trade school.

Applications will be available in March through the Bacon Academy guidance office, and are also at colchesterlions.org.

Bacon Academy students should submit their application to the Bacon Academy guidance office. Other students should mail their application to Colchester Lions Club, Attn: Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 423, Colchester, CT 06415.

Applications must be received by Wednesday, March 17.

For more information, email Sue Currie at lionsuecurrie@aol.com.

White-Tailed Deer in Connecticut

Cragin Memorial Library invites all to come learn about white-tailed deer in Connecticut on Thursday, Feb. 25, at 6 p.m., via Zoom.

Paul Colburn, a certified master wildlife conservationist, will teach an overview of the white-tailed deer's habitat, diet, behavior and reproduction. He will also provide recommendations for optimum coexistence with white-tailed deer population.

To sign up, visit tinyurl.com/y5tke59z. The library does not record virtual programs.

This program is free. For more information, call 860-537-5752.

Physical Therapy Helps...

by Kirsti Stennett, P.T.



HIP IMPINGEMENT THERAPY

Femoro-acetabular Impingement (FAI) is a condition in which extra bone forms on one or both of the bones that form the hip joint. The presence of these irregular shape(s) prevents them from fitting together properly, and causes pain with active movements such as getting out of sitting, getting out of a car seat, walking on inclines, uneven surfaces or climbing stairs. Physical therapy can improve that range of motion and strengthen the muscles around the hip joint, resulting in less pain. Exercises to improve the flexibility of the hip flexors will loosen the muscles whose tension may be intensifying the pinching feeling. With adequate flexibility and strength in all muscle groups about the hip, balance exercises can help re-establish more pain free movement enabling greater tolerance and abilities to transition out of sitting, walking and stair climbing with less pain.

Some people may live long, active lives with FAI and never have problems. When symptoms develop, however, it usually indicates that there is damage to the cartilage or labrum and the disease is likely to progress. When you first meet with your PT, he or she will ask you questions about your hip pain and how it behaves. Remember, you have the right to choose where you receive care, where it is convenient and the most comprehensive. At ECRC-Physical Therapy "Experience you can trust to get results."

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Dr. Kassem Khybery is announcing his retirement as of February 13, 2021.

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Local Men Get Cold for a Cause

By Karla Santos

The Colchester town green looked a bit different over the weekend – a fire, a pile of wood and a camping tent could be observed when driving through the center of town.

That's what could be seen from a distance, but those who came closer to the site learned the set-up was for three men who decided to go "Freezin' for a Reason." The three camped out on the green for 46 hours to raise money for the Colchester Fuel Bank.

Fred Brown, who started the event in 2010, said he feels rewarded by "knowing that somebody can turn their heat up a few degrees because I sat out here in the cold."

This was the 12th annual "Freezin' for a Reason," and this year's event raised \$17,200 – bringing the total amount raised during the 12 years to more than \$135,000.

Former Colchester police officer Rob Suchecki was one of the three who got cold for a cause. He explained that the tradition is to set up the campsite at 2 p.m. on Friday and remain there until noon on Sunday. The fundraiser normally takes place the second weekend of February.

When the gentlemen were asked if they were ever skeptical about doing the event in the middle of a pandemic, Suchecki said, "It's even more important that we do it this year, with more people not working."

Normally, the three put out a bucket where folks could stop by and drop off money. And while the bucket was there again this year, Brown said people were also able to donate online, due to COVID-19.

Brown said a motivating factor in putting on "Freezin' for a Reason" each year is his knowledge of the difficult choices those in need are constantly forced to make.

"There are still people that have to choose between heat and medicine or heat and food," Brown said.

Sucheki has been part of the event for the past 10 years; he said he feels it is important to give back to the community.

"The three of us are very fortunate," Suchecki said. "We go home to warm houses, we don't have to worry about making sure the heat's on – but there are people that don't have that luxury."

Greg Cordova said he had been donating to "Freezin' for a Reason" ever since its start 12 years ago, but three years ago, he decided he wanted to be a part of the event as well.

"I thought it was a very important cause," he said. "This community is unbelievable when it comes to donating and helping each other."

As it is mid-February in Connecticut, the nights were cold – and the tent the three slept in was not close to the fire they had set up – but it could've been worse. Saturday night, the temperature was only about 25 degrees. By com-



A pile of wood and a tent were part of the set-up at the Town Green for the Freezin' for a Reason fundraising event, which started Friday, Feb. 12, and ended Sunday, Feb. 14.

parison, they said, temperatures for the 2016 "Freezin' for a Reason" dipped to 11 degrees below zero at one point.

Brown started the fundraiser as he was looking for ways to raise money for the town's Fuel

Bank. He said the organization had no major source of funding as it depended on donations.

Donations can still be made through Paypal at freezinforareason@yahoo.com.

Senior Center News & Notes

Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave., has announced the following programs and events. Most programs are on Zoom; to learn more about join them, or for full descriptions of any program, call the center at 860-537-3911 or email csc@colchesterct.gov. The center is online at www.colchesterct.gov/senior-center. More information about senior trips can also be found online.

Monday, Feb. 22: 9 a.m., Exercise with Anne on Zoom; 10 a.m., Sittercize on Zoom; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign with Ruth on Zoom; 1:30 p.m., Mandala Mug Craft on Zoom.

Tuesday, Feb. 23: 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi on Zoom; 11 a.m., Adult Coloring; 12:30 p.m., In the Know with Patty; 1:30 p.m., conference call bingo; 7 p.m., Senior Center Building Committee on Zoom.

Wednesday, Feb. 24: 9:30 a.m., Coffee Talk with Ruth; 10 a.m., Making Memories on Zoom; 7 p.m., AARP Webinar Wednesdays: Behind-the-Scenes Figureheads Gallery at Mystic Seaport.

Thursday, Feb. 25: 9 a.m., Exercise with Anne on Zoom; 10 a.m., Sittercize on Zoom; 11 a.m., Senior Yoga on Zoom; 2 p.m., Community Conversation with the First Selectman on Zoom.

Friday, Feb. 26: 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., AARP Tax Aide; 11 a.m., Senior Yoga on Zoom; 1:30 p.m., International Cooking Demo on Zoom; 4 p.m., deadline to submit decorated snowmen.

Upcoming Programs: Community Conversation with the First Selectman: Thursday, Feb. 25, 2 p.m., via Zoom. First Selectman Mary Bylone will discuss COVID-19 in Colchester, announce town-wide events and more. Bring your questions.

International Cooking Demo on Zoom: Poland: Friday, Feb. 26, 1:30 p.m. Follow along at

home or simply watch a demonstration on how to prepare galumpkis, or Polish stuffed cabbage rolls. After the program you are welcome to stop by the senior center to get a sample of the dish; pre-registration required. Contact the senior center for a recipe and shopping list.

Colchester Senior of the Month: Each month, beginning in February, the senior center will give one or two of its members the spotlight to tell more about themselves. If interested in being the February Senior of the Month, call Ruth at the senior center.

Learn to Sign with Ruth: Mondays, 11 a.m.-noon. This course teaches the basics of how to communicate with sign language. No prior experience necessary.

Weekly Zoom Programs: Exercise with Anne: Mondays and Thursdays, 9 a.m.; **Senior Yoga:** Thursdays and Fridays, 11 a.m.; **Sittercize:** Mondays and Thursdays, 10 a.m.; **Tai Chi:** Tuesdays, 9:45 a.m.

Drive-Thru Corned Beef Dinner

This year, the annual St. Joseph Polish Club corned beef dinner will be a drive-thru dinner, on Sunday, March 14. Servings will be from 1-4 p.m. Pick up dinners at the club, 395 S. Main St., or come in and socially distance in the club hall.

Dinner will include corned beef, potatoes, carrots, cabbage, and rye bread with butter. Tickets are \$15 each and are on sale only at the club, during normal business hours. Call 860-537-2550 for more information. The dinner typically sells out fast, the club said.

Cragin Virtual Book Club

The Cragin Virtual Book Club will be held Monday, Feb. 22, at 6 p.m., via Zoom. Brit Bennett's *The Mothers* will be discussed.

Copies are available for checkout at the adult circulation desk at Cragin Memorial Library, 8 Linwood Ave. To register for this free program, go to tinyurl.com/y67vno8y. For more information, call 860-537-5752.

Fish Fry Fridays

The Colchester Fish and Game Club is holding its annual Fish Fry dinners every Friday during Lent, starting Feb. 19 going through and including Good Friday, April 2.

Meal choices include traditional fish and chips, baked fish with baked potato, the club's breaded clam strip dinner, as well as chicken nuggets for the kids. All meals include coleslaw, coffee and dessert. Cost is \$13 for adults and \$7 for kids.

Meals will be served from 6-8 p.m. Take-out is encouraged. There will be a limited amount of seating at the club, with social distancing. The club is located on Old Town Road.

Call 860-537-2593 to order or for more information.

Ukrainian Catholic Church News

All are invited to worship each week at St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, located at 178 Linwood Ave.

The church offers Eastern Rite Divine services. Church doors are open for Divine Liturgy on Saturdays at 4 p.m. and Sundays at 9 a.m.; the Sunday service is bilingual.

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

Live Performance of Shakespeare Play

The Connecticut Repertory Theatre at the University of Connecticut will present the Shakespeare classic *Pericles, Prince of Tyre* live via Zoom for a special price to Colchester Senior Center members on Saturday, March 6, at 2 p.m.

The show will feature undergraduate and graduate acting students as well as professional actors, with a Q & A with the actors after the show. Tickets are \$10 per household (payable to CSC). Register by calling 860-537-3911.

Deadline to sign up is Feb. 19. The Zoom link will be emailed directly.

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Abundant Life Church will hold its third Farmers to Families Food Box Distribution today, Feb. 19, from 3-6 p.m., in the parking lot of the church, located at 85 Skinner Rd.

Colchester Food Box Distribution Today!

Abundant Life Church will hold its third Farmers-to-Families food box distribution today, Feb. 19, from 3-6 p.m., in the parking lot of the church, located at 85 Skinner Rd.

At last week's distribution, the tractor-trailer load of 1,300 boxes of food was unloaded quickly and efficiently in less than half the time of the previous week, thanks to Tim Marvin from D H Marvin & Son Inc. There was no waiting for cars and trucks to obtain their 30-pound box of fresh produce (onions, apples and potatoes), dairy (milk, yogurt and cheese), as well as meat (chicken and hot dogs).

Abundant Life also served as a CityServe HUB distribution center of food boxes to local churches and organizations that provide food for insecure individuals and families in the area. St. Vincent de Paul Place in Norwich, East Windsor Senior Housing, Goshen Hill Congre-

gational Church, Cornerstone City Church of Norwich, Recovery Church in New London, and His Oaks Ministry in New London, were some of the recipients last Friday. Transformation Church in Oakdale and the East Hampton Lions facilitated further distribution of hundreds of boxes in their towns of influence.

There are no financial criteria to receive a Farmers-to-Families food box. This is part of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program from the USDA under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act to purchase and distribute agricultural products to those in need.

When arriving at the distribution site, remain in your car and a volunteer will load your box into your trunk. For more information, contact Abundant Life Pastor Charles Brown at c.brown26@mac.com or 860-303-0416.

Dean's List

Erin Mathieu of Colchester made the fall 2020 Dean's List at the University of Vermont.

The following Colchester residents made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Springfield College in Springfield, Mass.:

Carolyn Burnham, who is majoring in health science/pre-physician assistant; Nicole Santoro, applied exercise science; Ryan Lawrence, sport management.

Gabriella Snow of Colchester made the fall 2020 Provost's List at Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y. The list recognizes students who have earned a perfect 4.0 grade point average.

Colchester residents Stephanie Davis, Gillian Lewis and Adam Rochette made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I.

Marlie Gill, a psychology major from Colchester, made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Coastal Carolina University in Conway, S.C.

Colchester residents Lilly Hoeniger, Haylee Skoog and Liah Brown made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Lasell University in Newton, Mass.



Winter Greetings... On Monday, Feb. 8, students from Bacon Academy's National Honors Society came to Harrington Court Genesis Healthcare to make snowmen for the residents to enjoy through their windows. Also, pictured at right, Bacon Academy senior Jamie Greene made over 100 valentines for the residents at Harrington Court and dropped them off for residents. To see more photos, go to www.facebook.com/HarringtonCourtCT.

CBSL Spring Registration

The Colchester Baseball and Softball League has opened spring registration for the 2021 season.

To register or for more information, visit www.cbsl.org. By using your account registration from last year, parent and player information will not need to be re-entered.

The registration deadline for most age groups is March 8.

Those with questions or concerns about the registration process, COVID-19 precautions, or the league in general, can attend the general league meetings, which take place the second Tuesday of each month, or contact CBSL via the website. Also, those interested in volunteering for a team this spring can contact any board member.

Fire Calls

From Jan. 31-Feb. 13, the Colchester Hayward Fire Department responded to 78 calls: 59 emergency medical calls, 12 fire/fire-related calls, and seven motor vehicle crashes. Calls included:

Fire: fire alarm, six; structure fire, two (Salem); service call, two; CO call, one.

Crashes: four two-car (mutual aid given to Marlborough and Salem) and three one-car.

Medical: sick person, 15; cardiac distress, three; difficulty breathing, five; lift assist, six; fall injury, 10; seizure, one; abdominal pain, three; unconscious, two; back pain, two; medical alarm, one; alcohol disorder, three; bleeding emergency, three; mental disorder, three; stroke, one.

CHFD provided mutual aid five times – twice each to Marlborough and Salem and once to Hebron. It did not receive any mutual aid.

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

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



Birth Announced... Kaleigh Wood and Patrick Cuff of Colchester have announced the birth of a daughter, Shelby Patricia Cuff. Shelby was born Dec. 28, 2020, at Middlesex Hospital, weighing 7.3 pounds and measuring 22 inches. She joins older sister, Ava.

Dean's List

Jakob Misbach of Colchester made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, Mass.

Misbach is a member of the Class of 2023, and is majoring in computer science.

Scholarship Available

Carl Guild and Associates has announced its community scholarship program for local high school seniors entering college in the fall. There are five \$1,000 scholarships given, one each in East Hampton, Portland, Colchester, East Had-dam and the RHAM school district.

There are no restrictions or qualifications; all local seniors can apply. For applications, visit www.carlguild.com/scholarship or ask your school's guidance counselor. Deadline is April 1.






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Local Author Finds Beauty in Everything

By Jack Lakowsky

In his writing, East Hampton's Robert Claps wants to show readers that no matter how ordinary a given day or moment may seem, it is always subject matter that can be made into art.



Robert Claps

"I want to write poetry that any person can pick up and read and enjoy," Claps told the *Rivereast* on Tuesday.

At the start of the month, Claps published his first collection of poetry, entitled *Castings*, a culmination of 30 years of writing.

Claps' poem "Jump Shots At Sixty" was nominated for a Pushcart Prize – a prestigious literary award given to independent presses. His work has appeared in local and national magazines, including the *Connecticut River Review*, *Grey's Sporting Journal*, *Tar River Poetry*, *The Hollins Critic* and *Image: A Journal of Arts and Religion*.

Castings was printed by Bloomfield-based Antrim House, a publisher of poetry, memoir, and photo essays.

"People are sometimes wary about poetry; they aren't always comfortable with it," Claps said, explaining that readers often expect from poetry a certain academic, prosaic style.

"I don't even like to describe myself as a poet. I say I'm a nonfiction writer," he added.

Claps' poetry doesn't contradict a nonfiction label. Many pieces in *Castings* read as short glimpses of memoir. For example, in "Clam Digging in Connecticut," Claps writes:

"These flats marine biology majors seeded a few years back// today draw out my father in his walker//[he] once flashed white here when he filled a half-bushel by noon, years before muck from General Dynamics shut down the beds[.]"

The poem continued, "I think about his last x-ray, the dark shadowy mass on his lung, the bed// that cancer has seeded."

Hand-in-hand with this personal and heavy matter is the beauty Claps finds everywhere, as he also writes in the poem: "[I] with long-handled rake and wire basket wading waist-deep// watching two industrious mute swans in the middle of a salt pond dipping in unison for the smaller clams//their bodies resembling the line of clouds floating overhead//backed by September's fragile blue."

In Claps' poetry, beauty and tragedy walk both sides of a tight rope.

Claps' eye for backyard beauty appears in "To a Child Sleeping Out" as well: "You won't go far//but the crickets small talk//will seem more wild, there//at the depth of the yard's edge."

Claps' poems discuss loss, nostalgia, aging, illness, joy, and one's ties to their immediate environment.

"The places we live leave a lasting effect," said Claps.

Claps has lived his whole life in the area. The book's cover photo, which features a young Claps at the Meriden Rod and Gun Club, was taken in 1963 by the *Meriden Record-Journal*.

A native of Wallingford, Claps has lived in East Hampton since the mid-1980s, raising three kids while working as a software engineer at a Hartford-based insurance company.

Claps said this job was a way to pay the bills while he worked on his writing, stealing a little time away from the responsibilities of work and raising a family, a story familiar to most artists.

Retired now, Claps can focus on his craft.

"Hopefully, the next one won't take me 30 years," Claps said with a laugh.

Claps said he is a lifelong reader and writer. A robust reading habit, Claps said, will almost inevitably lead to at least habitual writing.

Claps writes for at least one hour every morn-

ing.

"When I'm working on something, I'll leave it out to look at it and think about it," said Claps of his process. "A lot of times, I'll try reading other writers to try to see how they do it. I usually try to have two or three pieces going at a time, so if one is going nowhere and it's time to say goodbye to it, there's something else waiting."

To fellow writers, Claps doesn't recommend waiting for the muse to sing.

"I always say, 'Perspiration, not inspiration,'" he said.

However, Claps does find inspiration in his wife, in her resilience and strength in the face of challenges like loss and grief.

Before his interview, Claps was engrossed in poems by Raymond Carver, a prominent 20th century short story writer and an influence to Claps. The writer who most captures Claps, and is his greatest influence, is National Book Award for Poetry winner and Poet Laureate

Philip Levine.

Claps said he identified with Levine's contemplations of working-class, blue collar life in industrial Detroit, someone who wrote about "the people working night shifts at auto shops." Levine is known for his deep skepticism of conventional American ideals.

"He championed the working guy," Claps said. "He's my mentor. He writes in plain language, but also with an efficiency and compactness and quality that transcends plain speech."

When he isn't writing or reading, Claps can be found outside, saying he considers himself an outdoors person. Claps is an avid angler and hiker. He enjoys "old time" music and plays the five-string banjo.

Castings is available for purchase at antrim-housebooks.com/claps.html. For signed first editions, orders can be sent to 73 Charles Mary Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424, or at robert-claps@sbdglobal.net. Make checks payable to Robert Claps.

Parks and Rec. News & Notes

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

Morning and Afternoon Adventure: Parks and Rec.'s before and after school program held at Memorial School has availability.

No School ½ Program: Friday, March 12, 9 a.m.-noon, in the Town Hall community room. Fee: \$30.

Parents' Night Out: Friday, March 19, 5-9 p.m., at the Town Hall community room. For students in grades K-7. Fee: \$35.

Spring Egg Hunt: Sunday, March 28, 10 a.m., at the Center School field. Fee is \$5, and space is very limited due to COVID-19 restrictions. Registration required.

Adult and High School Pick-Up Soccer:

Wednesdays, April 21-May 26, 6:30-7:45 p.m., at East Hampton High School, 15 N. Maple St. Fee is \$40 for the whole session or a \$10 drop-in fee each week.

Cardio Kickboxing: Mondays, April 26-June 2, 4:45-5:30 p.m., at the Sears Park gazebo. Fee is \$140 for the whole session or a \$15 drop-in fee each week.

NFL Flag Football League: Sundays, April 18-May 23, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at East Hampton Middle School. Fee is \$115.

Girls Volleyball Clinic: For grades 6-8. Tuesdays, April 20-May 25, at EHMS. Fee: \$100.

Golf Tourney Save the Date: The Seamster Park Golf Tournament will take place Thursday, Sept. 2, with a 10 a.m. shotgun start, at the Blackledge Country Club in H-brook.

Kindergarten Registration to Start

Kindergarten registration packets for the 2021-22 school year is available at the Memorial School foyer and online at www.easthamptonps.org/o/memorial-school.

To secure a screening appointment, return all completed registration paperwork to the school office or drop box in the foyer by Friday, March 26. Memorial School is located at 20 Smith St.

A parent information night will be held Thursday, May 6, at 6 p.m. Details to follow.

Kindergarten screenings will be held 9 a.m.-2 p.m. the week of May 24-28.

Dean's List

Brianna Caron of East Hampton made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield.

Caron is a freshman majoring in nursing.

Little League Registration Open

East Hampton Little League Registration is now open. Boys and girls ages 5-13 are welcome to play baseball and softball. For more information, visit www.belltownll.org. For questions, email ehllpres@gmail.com.

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East Hampton Library News & Notes

East Hampton Public Library, 105 Main St., has made the following announcements. For more information, call 860-267-6621 or visit easthamptonpubliclibrary.org or [facebook.com/EastHamptonLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/EastHamptonLibrary).

Library Hours: The library is open Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; and Thursday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. All patrons age 2 and up are required to wear masks that cover their nose and mouth in the library and observe social distancing. If unable or unwilling to wear a mask, call the library to schedule a curbside delivery.

Stories and Songs: Wednesdays at 10 a.m. via Zoom, for ages 1-5. No registration required.

Family Bedtime Stories: Mondays at 6:30 p.m., via Zoom, for ages 3-8. This program combines stories, songs and literacy activities. Siblings, pajamas, and stuffed animal friends welcome. No registration required; just drop in. However, you can register online to receive weekly reminders for storytime.

Virtual Afterschool Programs: Footprints, Fribrarys, and Fundays: The library offers afterschool programming for children in grades 2-5 on Fridays during the school year, and Monday Fundays for middle school students on select Mondays. Programming takes place at 4 p.m., and all programs are over Zoom. Registration required. The schedule is: Footprints, for grades 2-3, March 5, April 9 and April 30; Fribrary, for grades 4-5, Feb. 26, March 19 and April 23; Monday Fundays, for grades 6-8, Feb. 22.

Mindful Movements: Thursdays, 10 a.m., via Zoom, for ages 3-8. This is an early literacy program for child and caregiver that combines singing, dancing, and whole body movement. Siblings welcome. For weekly reminders and recordings, register online.

Cozy Crafts: Wednesdays, Feb. 24-March 10, time, via Zoom, for grades 2-5. Each week will bring a new hands-on arts and crafts proj-

ect. Next week, make paper lanterns. Register for each session to reserve a project bag that contains all the supplies you'll need to participate.

Teen Advisory Tuesday: Feb. 23 at 3 p.m., for grades 8-12. Come together to plan and create events and programs you want. Provide input to expand the library's YA/Teen collection. Teen Advisory Board requires a monthly commitment and participation. Registration and applications are being accepted.

Adult Programs: Seeking Signs: An Introduction to Tarot: Tuesday, Feb. 23, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom. This program will be led by Uma, who has been a healer and reader of runes, tarot and other divination methods for over 30 years. The tarot is a deck of 78 cards, each with its own imagery, symbolism and story. This event will build a basic framework and teach the concepts of tarot.

Book Club: Via Zoom Tuesday, March 16, at 6:30 p.m., or Thursday, March 18, at 2 p.m. *Hidden Valley Road: Inside the Mind of an American Family* will be discussed. Copies are available for check out at the circulation desk. Register online for the Zoom link.

New England at 400: From Plymouth Rock to Present Day: Tuesday, March 23, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom. Author Eric D. Lehman will discuss his new book, covering four centuries of New England history.

Waiving Fines and Fees: The library will waive all fines and fees for the foreseeable future.

E-Books and E-Audiobooks: The library currently offers two different eBook and eAudio platforms. Visit the eLibrary tab on the website for more info.

E-Book Library Cards: Don't have a library card and you're an East Hampton resident? Sign up on the website for an eBook library card to access all of the library's online resources.

Antique Appraisal Day

The Chatham Historical Society will host its 25th annual Antique Appraisal Day Saturday, March 20, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at the new Town Hall at 1 Community Drive.

There will be four appraisers – two in person and two virtual. Verbal appraisals will be given on furniture, artwork, glassware, china, musical instruments, military pieces, dolls, jewelry, quilts as well as European, Asian, and Island items, and more.

There is a suggested donation of \$6 per item for this event. This is a fundraiser for the

continual upkeep of the society's two museum buildings and 1840 one-room schoolhouse on Bevin Boulevard. The COVID-19 pandemic had canceled all previous society fundraisers and events going back to last March. Tax-deductible donations to the Chatham Historical Society, a non-profit 501c3 entity, can also be made at this event.

Masks are required and seating will be set up, with six feet between each person. For more information, call 860-267-8953.

Grant Applications Due in April

The East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission welcomes grant applications from East Hampton organizations and individuals with programs and/or projects designed to enrich residents' lives through the arts. Deadline to apply is April 1.

There are two \$500 grants available. Grants will be awarded to East Hampton individuals or organizations the commission determines will have the most potential impact of arts and/or culture on the town. Incomplete forms will be denied; applicants can resubmit.

Criteria for awarding grants: The artistic and organizational quality of the organization and/or project and its likelihood of continuing viability or success, and the organization's or

project's accessibility and service to the East Hampton community.

Grant recipients must credit the East Hampton Arts and Culture Commission on all press releases, posters, print advertising and programs.

An interview may be requested of the candidate prior to awarding the grant. A progress update will be required six months after the award date, with a final report required one year after the award date.

Visit www.artsforeasthamptonct.org for applications; mail them to Town Manager's Office, Town Hall, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424, or email to arts@easthamptonct.org.

Children Sought for Preschool Programs

The East Hampton Public School System is seeking 3- and 4-year-old residents for preschool programs for the 2021-22 school year. A half-day and a full-day program will be offered.

Memorial Elementary School's half-day Integration program will be held three times a week for 3-year-old students and four times a week for 4-year-old students. Due to limited spaces, selection for peer models will be determined through a lottery process. If selected, peer models demonstrating age-appropriate skills will be assigned by age to either a three-day- or four-day-a-week schedule (2.5 hours per day).

Memorial's Smart Start Program will be held five full days per week (8:50 a.m.-2:50 p.m.), following the East Hampton Public Schools calendar. Priority will be given to 4-year-old children that meet income guidelines or have

other factors for consideration. Other applicants, regardless of economic or risk factors, will then be selected.

Parents interested in proceeding through the selection process must pick up an application/information packet at either Memorial Elementary School, located at 20 Smith St., or East Hampton Public Library, located at 105 Main St.

The completed parent interview form, immunization form and a proof of residency must be returned to Kelly Caruso at the Memorial School office no later than March 19. Once all three forms are returned, parents will be contacted by phone, no later than March 26, to schedule a time to bring their child for the screening and lottery/selection process.

Forms received after March 19 will not be accepted.

Congregational Church News

Due to the number of COVID-19 cases in Connecticut, The Congregational Church of East Hampton, UCC, is holding all services via Zoom. Current and past services can be accessed at www.cc-eh.org. All are welcome.

The Teen Youth Group will resume its monthly meeting Friday, Feb. 26, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Students in grades 6-12 are welcome.

For more information, visit the church website or call 860-267-4959 during office hours, Tuesday-Friday from 8 a.m.-noon. In case of pastoral emergencies, the Rev. Jim Latimer can be reached at 610-568-2480.

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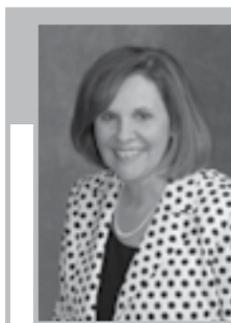
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Senior Center News & Notes

East Hampton Senior Center, 105 Main St., continues to be closed, although staff is available via phone (860-267-4426) and email (seniorcenter@easthamptonct.gov) through normal business hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. For the latest information, visit www.easthamptonct.gov/east-hampton-senior-center.

Schedules and programs have changed significantly. The center is developing virtual meetings and programming for those with internet access. In addition, the center has expanded its email newsletter and continues to mail out monthly newsletters. If not receiving either, call the center to receive a copy.

Online Program Registration: All program registration is now at MyActiveCenter.com. You will need your key-swipe tag number that you scan when you visit the center, as well as the phone number and email you used when originally registering at the senior center. Once registered for MyActiveCenter, you'll only need your email and password to get back in. Call the senior center for assistance.

Virtual Lunch Bunch: Every other Monday at 12:30 p.m. for an hour, via Zoom. Next date is Feb. 22. Register online. Musician Hardy Hemphill is the guest on March 8.

February Chill: Having trouble signing up for MyActiveCenter.com? Then learn more virtually Monday, Feb. 22, at 11 a.m. Call East Hampton Senior Center to register.

Creative Crafts: Wednesday, Feb. 24, 1

p.m., via Zoom. Learn to make a butterfly pin. Register online.

Statewide Virtual Senior Center Program – Unlock Ancient Stories with DNA: Friday, Feb. 26, 1-2:30 p.m. The program is by the Connecticut Science Center. To register, visit www.cthealthyliving.org or call the senior center.

Live Well Program: Mondays, March 1-29. This is a class on living well with, and managing, chronic conditions. The class is sponsored by the Chatham Health District and offered via telephone, conference-call style, through the senior center. Contact the senior center for more information and to register.

Tai Chi with Tom Series: Thursdays, 10-10:30 a.m., March 4-April 22. Cost is \$40. Register at MyActiveCenter.com.

Seated Yoga via Zoom: Wednesdays at 10 a.m. through March 10. Fee is \$20 for the session (which started Jan. 6). Register online. Mail payment to East Hampton Senior Center; make check payable to the Town of East Hampton.

Weekly Virtual Events: Register online via MyActiveCenter.com. Schedule: Bingo: Tuesdays at 1 p.m.; Writing Our Lives to Open Our Hearts: Thursdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Register online.

Volunteer Shopping: The center has a program where a volunteer will shop for you. If interested or for more information, including how to arrange payment, call 860-267-4426 or email jewing@easthampton.gov.

Sponsors Sought for Summer Concerts

The Joseph N. Goff House seeks individuals, local businesses and organizations to help sponsor the annual Joseph N. Goff House Gazebo Music Series, which will take place six Thursdays this summer at the Center School Gazebo in the East Hampton Village Center.

Sponsors will be listed by donations level in promotional materials and posters displayed around town and handed out at concerts. Donations are: Baritone, \$250; Soprano, \$150;

Alto, \$75; Tenor, \$50; and Bass, \$25.

The Joseph N. Goff House is a nonprofit organization and donations are tax-deductible. New members to the board are welcome. Call 860-205-7376 for information. Donations can be mailed to The Joseph N. Goff House, c/o Melissa Pionzio, 61 Smith St., East Hampton, CT 06424.

Visit goffhousehct.blogspot.com for updates and band lineup.

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 with masks, social distancing and safety protocols. Pastor is the Rev. Tom Cowger.

Puppet Ministry: Each Sunday the Church's Puppet Ministry features Digger the Dog from Farmer M's Red Barn to help Cowger explain the meaning of the message topic.

Bible Study: Cowger hosts a Zoom study entitled "God's Peace and Prayers" every other Thursday from 7-8:30 p.m. The foundation of the study is the book *Armchair Mystic -- How Contemplative Prayer Can Bring You Closer to God*.

Call the church office at 860-267-2336 for more information. Office hours are 12:30-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Scholarship Available

Carl Guild and Associates has announced its community scholarship program for local high school seniors entering college in the fall. There are five \$1,000 scholarships given, one each in East Hampton, Portland, Colchester, East Haddam and the RHAM school district.

There are no restrictions or qualifications; all local seniors can apply. For applications, visit www.carlguild.com/scholarship or ask your school's guidance counselor. Deadline is April 1.

East Hampton 'Big Easy' Raffle

East Hampton Rotary Club is raffling off a Golden Ticket for the Big E – which will allow the winner lifetime admission to the popular fall fair.

The Rotary is selling 3,000 raffle tickets for \$10 each. Grand prize is a Big E Golden Ticket – lifetime entry privileges for The Big E for the winner and one guest for every day of the fair. Parking is included.

Second prize: Four one-day tickets to the Big E. Third prize: \$50 gift card for Thorncrest Farm in Goshen.

The drawing will be Saturday, May 8, at Sears Park, and will be livestreamed at easthamptonct.rotary7980gives.org/goldenticket and the East Hampton Connecticut Rotary Club Facebook page.

For tickets, visit www.easthamptonrotary.org or contact any East Hampton Rotarian.

Lions Want Your Shoes

The East Hampton Lions are asking people to clean out their closets and give them their new or gently-worn shoes, sneakers, slippers and boots they don't wear. Ace Hardware on Route 66 has a collection bin in their store for residents to drop the shoes.

The Lions have also partnered with the students of Center School. The classrooms will be competing to be one of the top three classes that collect the most shoes. Students will be bringing the shoes to school during February.

The Lions said they hope to collect 2,500 pairs, which will be used to support small businesses in developing countries.

To have your shoes picked up, call Lion Mary Krogh at 860-977-5760 or Lion Sandy Giordano at 860-593-1220.

Police News

2/2: David Hunt, 64, of 46A Edstrom Rd., Marlborough, was arrested and charged with driving under the influence and failure to drive right, East Hampton Police said.

2/5: Aaron Riley, 20, of 19 Smith St., was issued a summons for speeding and possession of drug paraphernalia, police said.

2/5: Jonathan Robinson, 24, of 196 East Hampton Rd., Marlborough, was issued a summons for breach of peace and criminal mischief, police said.

2/9: John Betty, 54, of 89 Markham Lane, was charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, police said.

2/10: Clifton James Knight, 21, of New Britain, was arrested and charged with second-degree harassment and second-degree threatening, police said.

Also, from Jan. 25-Feb. 7, officers responded to 12 medical calls, 11 motor vehicle crashes, seven reports of hazardous conditions and 13 alarms, and made 23 traffic stops, police said.

Knights of Columbus Raffle

The Knights of Columbus Belltown Council 6190 is again offering Connecticut State Council raffle tickets.

There are 10 prizes to be awarded. First prize is \$5,000; second is \$3,500; third is \$2,000; fourth is \$1,500; fifth is \$1,000; sixth is \$600; seventh is \$500; eighth is \$400; ninth is \$300 and 10th is \$200.

The drawing will be held Friday, April 30, at 9 p.m., at the Hartford Marriott Downtown, 200 Columbus Blvd, Hartford. Ticket holders need not be present to win.

Tickets may be purchased through any of the Knights members or call Bob DeMarchi at 860-267-5978.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church News

During the pandemic, the Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church congregation has not held services in its church but instead holds them via Zoom. All are welcome; Zoom information can be found at www.facebook.com/BethlehemEH.

Services begin every Sunday morning at 10:15 a.m., with fellowship following. Communion blessings are held; participation only requires a piece of bread.

Dean's List

East Hampton residents Jackson Benigni, Emma Cahill and Skylar Vicino made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Stonehill College in Easton, Mass.

Benigni and Cahill are members of the Class of 2024, and Vicino is a member of the Class of 2023.

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Library Programming Adapts to Pandemic

By Karla Santos

The COVID-19 pandemic has kept many people at home and the Richmond Memorial Library has taken that as an opportunity to host programs that allow individuals to travel across the country right from the comfort of home.

According to Library Director Aubrey Muscaro, those who participate in the library adult programs have been able to virtually travel to such states as Texas, Florida, Arkansas and more.

Even though the Richmond Memorial Library building is closed to the public because of the pandemic, a variety of programs for children and adults continue to be offered virtually.

Muscaro said that when it comes to the adult programs, the library staff has been reaching out to museums and other organizations across the country to bring new experiences to the community.

She said attendance within adult virtual programming has increased. The in-person programs used to hold between half a dozen to a dozen attendees and the virtual programs get double that number and some have even received 40 to 50 people.

Muscaro said these programs have become popular in the community because “virtual programming allows people to travel places they may not otherwise get to see.”

She added that these programs have not only provided an educational component but have also given those in attendance something to do during a time when there’s not much to do

safely out of people’s homes.

According to Muscaro, the programs adults have been enjoying most are the ones that are interactive because they get to talk to museum educators and tour guides.

“So even with the adult programs you’re not just watching a video, you are interacting with somebody in some other part of the country,” Muscaro said. “A lot of our programs are actually people walking around museums, people walking around historical buildings and giving us a tour of what they are.”

She said the next adult virtual program is “Exploring American Lighthouses,” with the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Museum in Ponce Inlet, Fla. The museum staff will teach program attendees about the 12 American lighthouses that have been designated as National Historical Landmark since 1930. Then, attendees will be able to participate in a virtual tour of the museum. This program will take place Thursday, March 11, at 7 p.m.

On Thursday, March 25, at 7 p.m., a Shaker song and dance program will take place. This program will be held in partnership with the Hancock Shaker Village in Pittsfield, Mass.

“That one is going to be a lot of fun because it’s a participatory program, meaning they are going to share samples of shaker songs and they are actually going to teach participants a couple of songs,” Muscaro said.

On Tuesday, April 6, at 6:30 p.m., the library will host a program through the Tenement Mu-

seum in New York. Muscaro said that with this program, attendees will be brought back to New York in the 1860s and the home of Irish immigrants will be highlighted.

On Thursday, May 6, at 6:30 p.m., a program with the Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens in Pittsburgh, Pa., will be hosted at the library; and on Tuesday, May 25, at 7 p.m., there will be a program highlighting the Museum of American Revolution, also in Pennsylvania.

Lisa Seethaler, vice president of the library’s board of directors, said she has been able to enjoy some of these virtual programs.

“It’s ironic that while we all are limited with our ability to travel, these virtual programs have opened up route to see through technology a lot of interesting places,” Seethaler said.

She said the first virtual program she attended through Richmond Memorial was a tour of historic Salem, Mass., in the fall.

“That was really fun,” she said.

She said the most recent program she attended was “really fascinating,” and was the program that struck her most, of all those she attended. It was the “Art of the Holocaust” program, held in conjunction with the Holocaust Museum Houston in Texas.

During the program, the museum educator

shared pictures of paintings and drawings made by Jewish artists during the Holocaust, sometimes while living in the concentration camps.

Participants were able to discuss their own interpretations of the artwork.

Seethaler said the program was unique to her because she had never heard of artwork by people in concentration camps.

When it comes to children’s programs, the staff at the library prepares crafts and materials that parents can curbside pick-up in advance so that children can interact as they take part in their virtual programs.

“We didn’t want it to be somebody just reading to them,” Muscaro said. “We wanted to make it interactive and make it conversational, make the kids actually be engaged in a project and doing some hands-on activities.”

Muscaro said about the same number of children that attended the in-person programs have been attending the virtual programs.

Muscaro said Richmond Memorial might be the only library in the state offering these kinds of programs – and added that there’s a lot of enthusiasm within the residents that attend the programs.

“We are beyond excited,” she said. “Our community has been really positive about it.”

Preschool Lottery Applications

All public school systems in Connecticut are responsible for the identification of children who may be eligible to receive special education services. The Early Childhood team at Marlborough Elementary School is accepting applications for current resident children interested in its peer model lottery for the 2021-22 school year.

by Sept. 1, and parents/guardians must complete and return a questionnaire no later than Friday, March 26. Children identified as kindergarten eligible (those turning 5 by Dec. 31) are not eligible to be peer models for the coming school year.

Call Marcy Spellman at 860-295-6236 for a screening packet or more information.

Eligible children must be at least 3 years old

Congregational Church News

The Sunday worship service at Marlborough Congregational Church is livestreamed every Sunday at 10 a.m. through the church website, mcc.marlconchurch.org, and follows the usual order of Sunday worship.

Regular participants include church pastor the Rev. Bob Faulhaber, Carolyn Brodgerski, organist Dave Mulligan, and other musicians and participants from the church and community. A Message for the Children by Christian Education/Junior Youth Director Gwen Lawson is given immediately following the worship service.

Sunday services are recorded and available for viewing on the church website later that same day. All previous worship services can be viewed through the webpage. The Feb. 21 worship service will be led by Faulhaber.

Mission-giving for February will go to Marlborough Food Bank. To donate, make your

check payable to MCC, note “First Quarter Missions,” and mail it to the church at P.O. Box 57, Marlborough. The Senior High Youth Group will sponsor the Feb. 28 Drive-Thru Café.

A five-week Wednesday evening Lenten program will be held via Zoom, starting Feb. 24. Call the church office for more information.

Phone messages are checked at Faulhaber’s direct line at 860-295-0432 and at the church office at 860-295-9050.

All students in grades 5-7 are invited to Junior Youth Group. The next meeting is Thursday, Feb. 25. For more information, contact Gwen Lawson at gwendolynn78@yahoo.com.

Amazon Smile donates .5% of purchases back to the church when you sign in using smile.amazon.com/ch/06-1038392.

Second Blessings Thrift Shop is planning to reopen in April, but is selling on eBay. New items are listed each week at bit.ly/MCCebay.

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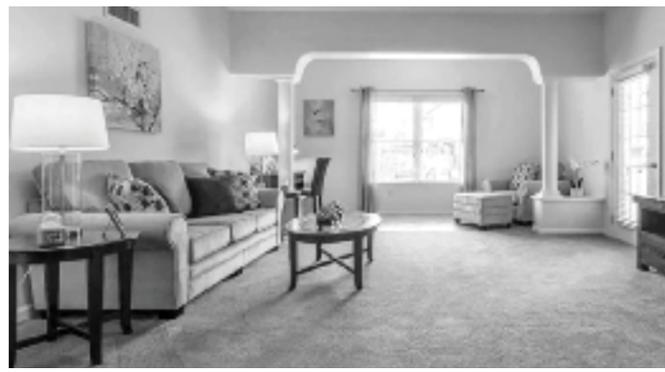
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Richmond Library News & Notes

The Richmond Memorial Library building, located at 15 School Drive, remains closed, but there are many services still being offered. For more information, call the library at 860-295-6210 or visit richmondlibrary.info.

Library2Go Curbside Pickup: Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Hoopla Bonus Borrows Return: Hoopla Bonus Borrows have returned for February. Hundreds of titles are available at no cost to your borrowing limit.

Young Chefs Winter Series: Friday, Feb. 6, 5:30 p.m., for ages 8 and up. Learn to make sweet potato gnocchi. Space is limited; email richmondprograms@gmail.com to register.

Library2Go Take & Make Kits: Kids ages 4-10 can pick up a kit with instructions and materials to make a braided polar animal heart. Parental supervision and/or help may be needed. Available while supplies last.

Winter Storytimes: Children ages 2-3 can meet virtually at 10 a.m. Mondays, Feb. 22, March 8 and 22, and April 12. Children ages 3-5 can meet virtually at 10 a.m. Fridays, Feb. 26, March 12 and 26, and April 9. Email richmondprograms@gmail.com to register.

Exploring American Lighthouses: Thurs-

day, March 11, 7 p.m., via Zoom. John Mann, lead docent at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Museum in Ponce Inlet, Fla., will discuss the 12 American lighthouses that have been designated as national historical landmarks since the 1930s, and then delve further into the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse itself. Email the library to register.

Financial Wellness Wednesday: Wednesday, March 17, 6 p.m., via Zoom. Rebecca Miller from the Financial Awareness Foundation will discuss retirement income planning. Learn how to address common risks in retirement and create a successful income plan. Email the library to register.

Book Drop: The book drop is open. Items are quarantined for three days (72 hours) before being checked in. Overdue fines are not accruing at this time.

Curbside Printing: Email a JPEG, DOC, or PDF to richmondprograms@gmail.com and staff will print it for you. Standard printing charges still apply; the first two pages are free, then 25 cents per black and white page and 50 cents per color page. Exact change must be put in a sealed envelope with your name on it and left in the library book drop. Staff will contact you when the item is available for pick-up. Allow up to one full business day.

Dean's List

Matthew St. Jean of Marlborough made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, Mass.

St. Jean is a member of the Class of 2021, and is majoring in aerospace engineering.

Lions to Raffle Kayak

The Marlborough Lions Club is raffling off a new kayak and a one-year rental of a kayak rack at Marlborough's Blish Park. The use of the rack at Blish Park is limited to Marlborough residents, but the raffle for the kayak is open to everyone.

Raffle tickets are \$20 each and will be sold at various locations March 1-April 30, or can be purchased from Marlborough Lions Club members. The raffle drawing will take place at Blish Park at noon Saturday, May 1. You do not need to be present to win.

The Marlborough Lions support local services such as the Marlborough Food and Fuel Banks and provide such services as an annual vision screening of children at Marlborough's elementary school.

For more information and to purchase raffle tickets, call Lions Club Chairman Megan Lloyd at 413-687-5537 or Lions Tom Reiser at 860-295-8374 or Ken Hjulstrom at 860-490-9116.

Historical Society News

Marlborough Historical Society has announced the following pieces of news:

Architectural Surveys: The society is conducting surveys of historic structures in town. For more information, email mhs@marlboroughhistory.org or write to the society at P.O. Box 351, Marlborough, CT 06447.

Reflections Into Marlborough's History: This town history book is available for purchase. Cost is \$50. More information is at www.marlboroughhistory.org.

Lost in History: The historical society is looking for any photographs of South School. The school was located close to where the exit 15 off-ramp is now. It was standing in the 1930s but abandoned. People are asked to contact the society if they have any photographs that may depict this school.

Donations and Proceeds: Marlborough Historical Society is a nonprofit organization. To make a tax-deductible donation, visit www.marlboroughhistory.org or mail to Marlborough Historical Society, P.O. Box 351, Marlborough,

CT 06447. All proceeds from sales of calendars and the *Reflections* book go to support the society.

Cardboard Cutouts at Church

A community-wide fundraiser is being sponsored by Marlborough Congregational Church – parishioners in the form of cardboard cutouts.

Worship services are livestreamed Sundays at 10 a.m. through mcc.marlconchurch.org with only church pastor the Rev. Bob Faulhaber, organist Dave Mulligan, and a technical staff in attendance. So that Faulhaber won't need to preach to an almost empty sanctuary, there are plans to have "Pew People" fill the seats using professionally-made life-size photo cardboard cut-outs.

All ages are welcome to participate, including church and family members, friends, people from the community and beyond. There is a \$50 minimum donation per cutout.

For details, contact the church office at office@marlconchurch.org or 860-295-9050.

St. John Fisher Church News & Notes

St. John Fisher Roman Catholic Church is located at 30 Jones Hollow Rd. The Rev. Thomas J. Sas is pastor, John McKaig is deacon and the pastoral assistant is Holly Bangham. The church office can be reached at 860-295-0001 or. For more information, visit www.stjfisher.org, or look for the church on Facebook (Saint John Fisher Roman Catholic Church) or Twitter (@StJohnFisher_CT).

Weekend Masses: 4 p.m. Saturday and 9:30 a.m. Sunday. Wearing of masks required. A maximum of 44 parishioners is able to attend each Mass; pre-registration required (on the church website via a live link available Thursday mornings). Contact the parish office with questions.

Weekday Mass: Tuesday and Thursday at 8:30 a.m. Appropriate spatial distancing and use of masks are required and disinfectants will be provided.

Online Mass: Each weekend's Mass is also available on the parish website, starting at 4 p.m. Saturdays.

Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Face-to-face office visits are limited due to COVID-19 regulations. Call before heading over or connect via the phone.

Youth Faith Formation Programs: There are currently virtual classes and continued outreach; grades 1-8 should contact Faith Formation Coordinator Theresa Brysgel at 860-830-2194 or tbrysgel@stjfisher.org, and Confirmation Grades 9-10 should contact Confirmation Director Jen O'Neill at oneill.jen@comcast.net.

Youth Group and Youth Leadership "Teen Emmaus": High school students continue vir-

tual meetings and connections. Contact O'Neill for information.

Adult Faith Formation: Contact O'Neill for information on program offerings and virtual opportunities.

RCIA and Adult Confirmation Programs: For more information, contact RCIA Coordinator James Castellani at jcast@stjfisher.org or 860-295-9904.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Sundays, 4-4:45 p.m. Appropriate spatial distancing and use of masks are required and disinfectants will be provided.

Knights of Columbus: All practicing Catholic men are invited to contact Michael Schadtler at 860-295-9701 for information about joining this international charitable and service fraternity.

Community Outreach and Service: Bring food or household donations directly to Marlborough Food Bank Monday and Tuesday mornings; sandwich-making and collection continues on the last Thursday of the month for St. Vincent DePaul in Middletown; and the Community Garden to benefit the Marlborough Food Bank is underway. Other service opportunities are scheduled monthly; see the church website for more details.

Someone in Need: If you or someone you know is in need, whether it be someone to talk to, someone to pray with, or anything else that you think the church could help with, reach out to Sas at 860-295-0067 or McKaig at 860-918-4084. You can also email McKaig at dcn.john@cox.net.

Kindergarten Registration

Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School in Marlborough will accept registration packets for kindergarten students for the 2021-22 school year Wednesday, March 3, from 9-11 a.m., 1-2 p.m., and 5-6:30 p.m.; and Thursday, March 4, from 9-11 a.m. and 1-2 p.m.

Due to current COVID-19 protocol, all completed kindergarten packets should be dropped off at the school's main office located at 25 School Drive.

Children are eligible for kindergarten if they will be 5 years old by Jan. 1, 2022. Registration packets have been sent home to prospective kindergarteners. If you have an eligible child and have not received a registration packet, call the school office at 860-295-6220.

If you receive a registration packet and do not plan to enroll your child, you are asked to notify the school as soon as possible.

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. Parks and Rec. advises people not to wait until the last minute to register, as the program may be canceled if minimum registration is not fulfilled by a certain date.

Youth Program: Kids Private Virtual Sewing: Days, nights and weekends are available. Fee is \$48 for a 90-minute session.

Adult Programs: Private Virtual Sewing: Days, nights and weekends are available. Fee is \$48 for a 90-minute session.

Barre/Pilates: Monday, Feb. 22, 5:30-6:15 p.m. Class instruction is virtual. Fee is \$15.

Yoga: Monday, Feb. 22, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Class instruction is virtual. Fee is \$15.

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Arts Center Preparing for Tag Sale

Marlborough Arts Center, located at 231 N. Main St., is planning its annual tag sale for as soon as COVID-19 restrictions will allow. In preparation, in February it is accepting donations of household goods and other tag sale items, on Tuesdays from 6-7 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m.-noon.

No books, TVs, or clothing are accepted. Donations may be left at the lower level of the center, next to the door.

New Collection at Arts Center

Marlborough Arts Center has received a large collection of many of the works of artist Jacob Pell, a former Marlborough resident.

Pell was born in 1898 in Ukraine, and after immigrating to the U.S. began his artistic career in New York City, working there from 1913 through 1931. His second phase, from 1931-1955, was as resident in Marlborough, from where he then studied in Paris and was later a muralist for the WPA.

Budget Meeting

The RHAM Board of Education will review the proposed 2021-22 schools budget at its meeting Monday, Feb. 22, at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held virtually; links to each will be posted on the schools' and district's websites.

Project Graduation Planning Begins

Parents of RHAM High School juniors and seniors are invited to join AHM Youth and Family Services' Project Graduation Committee, as it begins planning for this year's celebration.

For more information, visit ahmyouth.org, click on "menu" and select "Project Graduation," or contact Jenn Boehler at 860-228-9488 ext. 12 or jenniferb@ahmyouth.org.

AHM News & Notes

AHM Youth and Family Services has announced the following. For more information on AHM, visit www.ahmyouth.org.

Free Developmental Screenings: These are offered to all families with children ages 4 months-5 years in Andover, Hebron, Marlborough and Columbia. Using a questionnaire, Ages and Stages, children will be asked some questions and perform a series of activities to check on their development in different areas. This takes about an hour and is completed with your child and you present. Screenings will be done at Gilead Hill School in the Family Resource Center by appointment, with proper COVID-19 precautions taken. Contact Jahna Sieckowski at jahnna@ahmyouth.org or Becky Murray at beckym@ahmyouth.org for more information.

Scholarship Available

Carl Guild and Associates has announced its community scholarship program for local high school seniors entering college in the fall. There are five \$1,000 scholarships given, one each in East Hampton, Portland, Colchester, East Haddam and the RHAM school district.

There are no restrictions or qualifications; all local seniors can apply. For applications, visit www.carlguild.com/scholarship or ask your school's guidance counselor. Deadline is April 1.

Free Self-Care Video Library

AHM Youth and Family Services has a Health Matters Free Self-Care Video Library.

The collection includes fitness and nutrition videos (Mission Wellness of Colchester), sketching tips and techniques (Beverly Fisher of RHAM High School), yoga flow and meditation (Anna GLOWacki Yoga), core fusion (Donne Bellmore of Wildflower Fitness) and as a bonus an opportunity to join a weekly live Zumba Fitness class via Zoom (Tressa Giordano)

This video library is available to residents of all ages in the towns of Andover, Hebron, Marlborough and Columbia. As a special exception, due to the global health crisis, AHM is welcoming surrounding towns as well.

To view the library, visit www.ahmyouth.org, click on "menu," and select Health Matters from the list of programs and services. For more information, contact Jennifer Boehler at 860-228-9488 ext. 12 or jenniferb@ahmyouth.org.

AHM Creative Kids Readers Theater

AHM Youth and Family Services is about to kick off another season of theater for young people living in the towns of Andover, Columbia, Hebron and Marlborough.

For the last 36 years, the regional youth service bureau has produced theater programs for area youth. During the pandemic, it became a challenge, one that was overcome to continue the unbroken chain of providing teens with the opportunity to take part in the performing arts.

AHM Executive Director Tressa Giordano announced this week that through an ongoing partnership with the Playhouse Theater Academy of West Hartford, a new season of youth theater is about to begin for local children in grades K-6. AHM and Playhouse Theater Academy will offer six weeks of theater entitled Creative Kids. The six sessions will be offered

virtually through Zoom on Tuesdays, March 2-April 6, from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Cost for all six sessions is \$75/student. Scholarships are available through AHM's Colleen Keenan Memorial Fund for families experiencing financial hardship.

The six-week theater experience will explore storytelling by encouraging each participant to create their own play based on a children's book. Workshop exercises and games will focus on acting, storytelling, puppetry, and character building. On the final day of the series, participants will have the opportunity to share what they have learned with family and friends.

To register, visit ahmyouth.org/2021-virtual-theater-program-registration.

HAMR Softball Spring Registration

Early registration is now open for HAMR Softball, a non-profit, fast-pitch Little League softball league, for girls age 5-14 from Hebron, Andover, and Marlborough.

HAMR offers several divisions, open to all girls, including T-Ball, Rookies, Minors, Majors, and Juniors. Skill instruction ranges from basic fundamentals and game play to advanced skills and game strategy. Fundamentals are a focus throughout all divisions. COVID-19 guidelines will be followed.

Early bird registration runs through Feb. 28. Fees: T-Ball, \$50; Rookies, \$75. Minors/Majors/Juniors, \$120. Those registering after Feb. 28 will incur a late fee.

To learn more about HAMR and to register, visit www.hamrsoftball.org.

Regional • Regional

Tri-County Baseball Registration

Registration is now open for the Tri-County Baseball spring and summer programs for players aged 13-19 (as of April 30, 2021).

Registration for the 2021 spring recreational season runs through March 15. Spring programs include a 13-14-year-old division and a 15-18-year-old division against teams from Glastonbury. Games will start in late April and run through the beginning of June, and will be played at West Road Field in Marlborough and Glastonbury fields.

Summer registration ends Thursday, March 25. Teams will play in the Kokinis Baseball League (www.kokinisbaseball.com) against teams from the greater Hartford area. Divisions include a 13-year-old Prep, a 14-15-year-old

Junior, and a 16-19-year-old Senior. This is a competitive league, with teams playing a 16-game schedule plus single-elimination playoffs. Games start June 7 and run through the end of July. The championship games will be played on July 31 and Aug. 1 at New Britain Stadium.

To ensure the safety of players, coaches and families, Tri-County Baseball will continue to follow federal, state and local health board guidelines and learned best practices.

To register for both programs, visit tricotybaseball.org and click "register now."

For more information on any of the programs, contact Chris Caputo, president of Tri-County Baseball, at c.caputo@comcast.net.

RHAM Youth Lacrosse Spring Registration Now Open

RHAM Youth Lacrosse registration is now open for our 2021 spring season. We offer programs for both boys and girls in grades K-8. Visit our website www.rhamyouthlacrosse.com for more information and to sign up for our spring season.

RHAM Youth Lacrosse is open to players that reside in Hebron, Marlborough, Andover and other local towns that do not offer a youth lacrosse program. Looking forward to seeing our players back out on the field this spring! Feel free to email any questions to ascibek@gmail.com.



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School Board Adopts Budget, with Tweaks

By Sloan Brewster

After making some tweaks, the Board of Education last Wednesday adopted a \$4.16 million budget for the 2021-22 school year.

The proposed spending package now goes to the Board of Finance for review.

The package is down \$74,000 from Superintendent of Schools Valerie Bruneau's initial \$4.23 million proposed budget – but is still an increase of \$255,000, or 6.56%, from current year spending.

Cuts from Bruneau's initial proposal included \$20,000 for a proposed Wi-Fi upgrade that, she said, would instead be funded through other revenue sources.

Another \$13,000 was cut to account for reduced hours for the preschool liaison.

There was also a \$10,000 reduction due to savings in insurance.

The board decided not to repave the Andover Elementary School parking lot, leading to a \$15,000 cut. That service, according to board chair Shannon Loudon, is coordinated with the town – which has decided to hold off on the paving project.

In COVID-19-related expenses, the district cut \$8,000 that Loudon said could be paid with Federal Elementary and Secondary School

Emergency Relief [ESSER] Fund Grant funds.

Lastly, the board cut \$8,000 in educational field trips, which Loudon said parents had indicated they would pay for themselves.

"We did not believe that it was something that the town should necessarily be paying for," she said.

However, no student will be denied going on a field trip due to financial need, Loudon said. The Parent Teacher Association has agreed to cover the cost in such cases.

Bruneau's proposed budget has been the object of concerns from the Board of Selectmen in recent weeks, with selectmen arguing that it was too high and requests, including for kindergarten class sizes of 10 students, were overblown. Bruneau has argued that the need for the small class sizes stems from a learning gap related to COVID-19. She said students coming into kindergarten this fall would be facing their first time ever being in school – and thus would require additional time with teachers.

At last Wednesday's meeting, Principal John Briody said 94% of students in Andover were learning in school and only 6% were doing so remotely. He said student growth from September to now was being evaluated in tests. The

goal by year's end is that all students will have met the academic level for their appropriate grade levels and be ready to move forward next year, he said.

"I can honestly say that we don't feel like we're there yet at the midyear point," Briody said. "We have a lot of catching up to do."

School board member Daniel Foran asked if students were falling behind due to COVID-19, to which Briody simply said "yes."

"This is why we are asking for the smaller kindergarten classes, this is why we are pushing for smaller classes all together," Foran said. "Because we have the factual data that kids are behind."

Foran said the smaller class sizes were "for the good of our children."

"Even though we have been in school since day one this year, there is a lag from last year that we have to make up for," he said.

Briody concurred and said that with COVID-19 restrictions in place the school "cannot do instruction in the way that we've done

instruction." Specifically, students can't move around between classrooms or work together in small groups.

Bruneau said the district would not know if students achieved a full year of learning growth until the end of the year.

"At the end of the year, we'll have extensive data to be able to show how the kids progressed," she said.

Bruneau said she had talked with other districts who said they would not be cutting staff for the next school year but rather are considering staffing increases. Some districts, she said, were looking at spending money for summer learning programs to deal with the gap.

She said she did not think there would be a need for a summer school add-on in Andover.

Loudon said the RHAM Board of Education had incorporated summer school into its budget proposal.

The board will present its budget to the Board of Finance next Wednesday, Feb. 24.

First Congregational Church News

The First Congregational Church, UCC, of Andover, 359 Route 6, invites all ages to worship Sundays at 10 a.m. Enter through the Narthex. Masks and social distancing are required. If you don't have a mask, a mask will be given to you. Sunday School for children 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.

The church has a weekly Bible Study on Tuesdays at 11 a.m. both via Zoom and in person at the church (observing CDC guidelines

regarding social distancing and masks). If interested in attending via Zoom, call the church and leave a message and Nilson will send you the meeting link.

The Food Pantry is Mondays from 5-7 p.m. Bring your own bags. CDC guidelines are observed and masks are required. The Foodshare van comes to the church every other Wednesday from 9-9:30 a.m. and will next be there March 3.

Sonshine Stampers: This group meets Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. at the church to make greeting cards. All are invited. Masks and social distancing required.

Dean's List

Andover residents Ashley Kolodziejczyk and Jillian Smith made the fall 2020 Dean's List at the University of St. Joseph in West Hartford.

Preschool Openings

Andover Elementary School Early Learning Center is accepting applications for preschool students for the 2021-22 school year.

Andover's preschool program is full-day. Before- and after-school care is available. Children who will be 3 on or before Dec. 31, 2021, are eligible to attend. The learning center receives funding for reduced tuition rates from two state grants: The School Readiness Grant and The Smart Start Grant.

Call Principal John Briody for more information at 860-742-7339. For registration packets, call the school office at 860-742-7339 or download one from www.andoverelementaryct.org.

Preschool Screening

The Andover Board of Education, through the Andover Elementary School Early Learning Center, will hold a screening Friday, March 5, for children that reside in Andover and are 3 or 4 years old.

The screening will be held differently this school year due to the ongoing pandemic. School staff will send home an age-appropriate questionnaire for parents to fill out about their children. The questions are in the 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, contact the director of special education at 860-742-7339 or at maioranoh@andoverelementaryct.org to request an ASQ-3 questionnaire.

There will be another screening Friday, May 14.

Clarification

In a story last week, Selectman Jeff Murray was quoted saying that Andover spends more per pupil "compared to surrounding towns and towns that academically outperform us." The story gave the examples of Hebron and Marlborough.

While Hebron and Marlborough are indeed surrounding towns, Murray clarified this week that he was not counting them as towns that academically outperform Andover.

School Board Vacancy

Any Andover elector interested in serving on the Andover Board of Education for a term ending June 30 should send a letter of interest to:

Andover Board of Education Vacancy,
17 School Rd., Andover, CT 06232.

Honor Roll

Andover residents Benjamin Carso and Kevin Kolodziejczyk each made the East Catholic High School Honor Roll for the second quarter of the 2020-21 school year.

Carso made Honors With Distinction and Kolodziejczyk made First Honors. They are each members of the Class of 2022.

Kindergarten Registration

Andover Elementary School is registering kindergarten students for the 2021-22 school year. The kindergarten program is full-day.

Parents of children who will be age 5 on or before Dec. 31 can call the school office at 860-742-7339 to obtain a registration packet, or download it at www.andoverelementaryct.org.

Parents choosing to have their child attend an alternative kindergarten, not attend school until the following year, or who will be home-schooling are asked to inform the school of this decision.

Assessment Appeals Due

Any Andover taxpayer who would like to appeal the assessment on real estate, personal property or supplemental motor vehicle assessments must submit an appeal form by mail to Town Hall, 17 School Rd., Andover, CT 06232. Mailings must be postmarked on or before Feb. 20.

Forms are available in the town clerk's office at Town Hall and at andoverconnecticut.org.

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Senior Citizen News & Notes

The following news items have been announced for Andover seniors.

COVID-19 Vaccinations: Shots now available for Andover seniors age 75 and over. Call 877-918-2224 and register to receive your vaccine shot. If you will need a ride, call senior coordinator Cathy Palazzi at 860-916-6122.

Rides to Medical Appointments: Call Palazzi to reserve a ride. All seniors, veterans, and ADA individuals are welcome. Masks must be worn in the van; if you have a caregiver that person may come with you. Temperatures will be taken by the driver.

Shopping: The bus picks people up at home and takes them to Manchester for shopping on Tuesdays at 7 a.m. Masks must be worn and

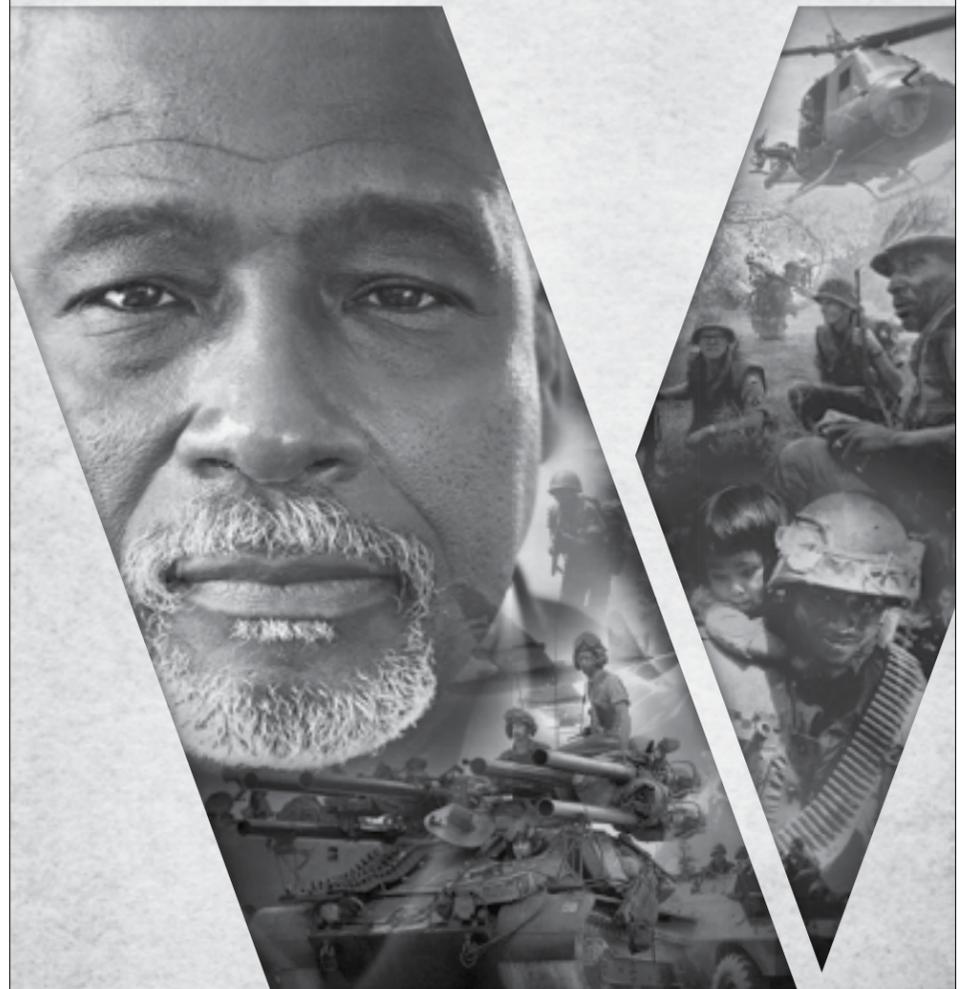
temperatures will be taken by driver before clients can access the bus. Call Palazzi for a ride.

Foodshare/Food Pantry: Municipal Agent Roberta Dougherty calls seniors on Fridays to see if they would like Foodshare or the food pantry delivered. All deliveries will be made by senior transportation drivers. Food will be placed outside the senior's door.

No Other Activities: No other senior activities will start until further notice. This includes: movies, exercise programs, drumming classes, and Young at Heart meetings. No trips will be available until there is approval from Town Administrator Eric Anderson and the Board of Selectmen.

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Obituaries

Hebron

Mary Weaving

Mary "Polly" Weaving, 86, passed away at Middlesex Hospital Monday, Feb. 8, due to complications from COVID-19. She was born May 15, 1934, in Summit, N.J., to the late Mary (Britten Shelley) and Frank Dan Waterman Jr.



Polly (as she was called) attended Kent Place School in Summit, Greenwich High School, Lasell Junior College and then nursing school. She became a nurse at Yale (Grace) New Haven Hospital, where the maternity ward was her favorite assignment, until she left to raise her own family.

Mary is survived by her loving husband of 61 years, William Weaving of Hebron, and their four children: Catherine McSweeney (Stephen Steele) of Hebron, Donna Cobb (Chris) of Cheshire, Raymond Weaving (Michele) of Branford, and Shelley Dorst (Joseph) of Hebron. She is also survived by her sister, Anne Waterman Sykes of Doylestown, Pa. In addition to her four children, she leaves behind five grandchildren: Maryellen and Melissa Weaving of Branford, Jessica McSweeney of Baltimore, Md., Ariana Nardella (Joshua Cothard) of Columbia, and Jade Dorst of Hebron. She also has many nieces, nephews and well as grand nieces and nephews.

Polly was an avid New York Yankees and UConn women's basketball fan. She loved to read, crochet, sew and watch cooking shows.

Walk-through calling hours were held Wednesday, Feb. 17, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Mass at Church of the Holy Family and burial in Holy Cross Cemetery were held privately.

Donations in her memory may be made to the American Diabetes Association www.diabetes.org.

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

Colchester

Charles Andrew Lineberry

Charles Andrew Lineberry, "Charlie," age 50, of Colchester, passed away in Rocky Hill, where he had recently resided after a long and difficult illness. He was surrounded by his loving family till the very end.



Born in Cortland, N.Y., April 4, 1970, he was a son of the late Charles A. Sr., and Mary (Orendack) Lineberry. Charlie grew up in Colchester and lived there most of his lifetime. He worked as a mechanic, which was a labor of love as he was very talented at his trade and loved to fix or tinker with anything mechanical.

He leaves to mourn his passing two children and their spouses, Andrew (Christina Clouston) Lineberry of Ledyard and Ashya (Todd) Charlebois of Colchester; siblings, Joyce Setterstrom, Mary Lineberry, John Rush, Michael Rush, all of Colchester, Raleigh Lineberry of Norwich; three grandchildren whom he adored, TJ Charlebois, Tegan Charlebois and Andrew Lineberry; special friends, Kathy and Rick Tarallo; several special grandchildren, many extended family members and friends. In addition to his parents,

Charlie was predeceased by a brother, Kevin Rush.

Walk-through calling hours will be held Monday, Feb. 22, from 2-4 p.m., at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester.

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

Salem

Patricia Jane Williamson

Patricia Jane (Sampson) Williamson, of Salem, entered into God's peaceful presence Thursday, Feb. 11, surrounded by her family, in Wichita, Kan.

Born June 9, 1944, in Hartford, Pat, as she was known by friends, was a homemaker and master seamstress. She was an active member of The Congregational Church of Salem, and a one-time ombudsman for families of the Naval Submarine Force in Groton. Pat was an active craftsperson and enjoyed volunteering and organizing various community events.

Pat considered herself a 'walking miracle,' having beaten breast cancer and a stroke. She credited her faith for her recovery and shared her Christian testimony openly and frequently.

She is predeceased by her husband of nearly 50 years, James, and survived by her family: siblings, Karen Monteleone of Colchester and Jacki and Stan Walter of Rocky Hill; children, Carol Christian, Stephen Christian, and Brenda Williamson; and grandchildren, Joshua, Caleb, and Amelia, who lovingly remember her.

Services were held online Sunday, Feb. 14. A private family interment will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Congregational Church of Salem Benevolence Fund.

"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?'" John 11: 25, 26

East Hampton

Beatrice Porter Anderson

Beatrice Porter Anderson, 97, of East Hampton, passed away peacefully at home with her children by her side Tuesday, Feb. 9. She was born Feb. 22, 1923, to Winthrop and Ethel (Hills) Porter in Gilead. She grew up on the Porter Dairy Farm in Hebron.

After graduating from high school Bea continued her education, earning her hairdressing license. She left the family farm to work at G. Fox Salon in Hartford. She continued her profession by opening her own business, Bea's Beauty Box, above Thatcher's Drug Store in East Hampton CT.

At Thatcher's Drug Store she met the love of her life, Ernest Anderson. They were married in 1947 and made East Hampton their lifetime home. Shortly after being married they opened East Hampton Laundromat. Together they were among the original founding partners of Blackledge Country Club in Hebron. Bea, and the other wives, handled the day-to-day operations of the golf course, which was unusual for those times. She was instrumental in forming Blackledge Country Club Women's Golf Association and enjoyed playing the game of golf until her late 80s. The Bea Anderson Golf Tournament has been ongoing for 30-plus years, and is one of the highlights of the Women's Golf Association.

Bea and Ernie enjoyed their summers in Cape Cod and their winters in Florida where they made many lifelong friends. She had an outgoing fun spirit that bonded her with many friends of all ages throughout her life and she cherished those friendships dearly. Bea enjoyed painting, sports and always looked forward to watching the Red Sox, UConn basketball and golf.



She was involved in many organizations over her life, including High Hopes, East Hampton Garden Club, American Legion and The Mayflower Society. Her family meant everything to her. She attended many sporting events over the years, always cheering on her grandchildren and many of their friends.

Bea was predeceased in death by her husband, Ernie, in 1997. She is survived by her three children, Barbara Free and her husband Steve, Bill Anderson, Jane Bolles and her husband Keith. She also leaves nine grandchildren, Nicholas Free and wife Tiffany, Kimberly Keil and husband Ken, Christopher Anderson and partner Kristin Cobb, Ryan Anderson and wife Casey, Scott Anderson, Jennifer March and husband Patrick, Lindsey Bolles, Kara Bolles and fiancé Luke Goodermote, and Keith Bolles and wife Beth. Her eight great-grandchildren, Anderson, Holden and Catcher Free, Henry, Elise and Avery Keil, Logan and Parker Anderson, were the light of her life.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Connecticut Special Olympics, 2666 State St., Suite 1, Hamden, CT 06517 or you can visit www.specialolympicsct@soct.org.

The family is planning a celebration of Bea's life later this summer at Blackledge CC.

To leave online condolences, please visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Hebron

Leona May Pizzitola

Leona May (Breault) Pizzitola, 89, of Hebron, passed away on Our Lady of Lourdes Day, Thursday, Feb. 11. She was born Nov. 21, 1931, on her grandparents' farm in Mansfield. She was the daughter of the late Arthur and Mabel (Prue) Breault.



After graduating from Willimantic High School, Leona was employed doing secretarial/office work at The University of Connecticut, Storrs. Later, she worked for 26 years at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft, East Hartford, retiring in 1992. Leona was a communicant of St. John Fisher Church in Marlborough, and also attended Mass at St. Andrew Church in Colchester. Leona was honored to receive The Saint Joseph Medal of Appreciation from the Archdiocese of Hartford during a March 20th, 2011 ceremony at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford.

She was predeceased by her daughter, Mary Pizzitola; husband, Joseph Pizzitola; brother, Raymond Breault and his wife, Mary Breault; nephew, Arthur Breault; and all of her generation's cousins. She was also predeceased by numerous friends.

She will be forever loved and remembered by her daughter, Gai (Charles) Savitski; grandsons, Christopher Savitski and Theodore (Jessica) Savitski; niece Debra Breault; cousins, Frances Chesko and Roberta (Joe) Gagne; and many other extended family, and loyal friends.

Visitation was Tuesday, Feb. 16, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A funeral Mass directly followed at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Burial followed in the New St. Andrew Cemetery on Gillette's Lane in Colchester.

In lieu of flowers, please pray for Leona, and offer Masses on her behalf.

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

Hebron

Jean Ann Brewer

Jean Ann Brewer, 93, of Hebron, passed away at home Tuesday, Feb. 9, with her two daughters, Pam and Jody, by her side. Born Nov. 6, 1927, in Middletown, Ohio, she was the daughter of the late Benjamin and Irene Hill.



Jean met the love of her life while attending a USO dance in Boston. Looking across the room at a sailor singing around a piano, she said to her friend, "That's for me!" They settled in Proctor, Vt., raising four children. Jean's love of anything creative continued throughout her life, tap dancing, playing clarinet, to art classes at University of Vermont. In Proctor she pursued her artistic talent in watercolors, pastels, oils, teaching crafts on local TV and as activities director at a nursing home in Rutland, Vt. Her compassion for the elderly was unsurpassed.

Her children grown, Jean and Vic moved to

California and it was there she discovered a lifelong passion of Chinese brush art. Travels took Jean from Nova Scotia to Scotland, from Italy to painting on the Great Wall of China. Moving to Cape Cod, Jean was involved in a book club, a garden club and was a member of Cataumet and Falmouth Art Guild.

Jean was full of passion, had a radiant smile, a beautiful voice that could harmonize with anyone, was always telling people to smile and could never pass up coffee ice cream. We love you to the moon and back, Mom...love you more!

Jean was predeceased by her husband, Victor Jefferson Brewer Jr., and sister, Ruth Liscumb. She leaves her children, Pamela Richardson of Amston, Jody Brewer/husband Rick Orsini of East Hampton, Jeff Brewer/wife Wendy (Icken) of Brattleboro, Vt.; Scott Brewer of Laguna Niguel, Calif.; grandchildren, Benjamin Brewer/fiancée Kristyn Masse of Vernon, Vt., and Christopher Brewer of Brattleboro, Vt.; also, dear cousin, Janet Wray of Chelmsford, Mass., who was like a sister. She also leaves behind her dear friend, Jennifer, who took her on wonderful adventures. The family thanks Elizabeth, who cared for Mom with skill and compassion.

A private ceremony will be held later. The family asks for everyone to please show compassion and caring towards individuals who have memory loss.

Colchester

John Spaulding

John Spaulding, a.k.a. Uncle Johnny, John-boy and Hammer, left us Wednesday, Feb. 10. For anyone who knew him, John was a gift in their lives. His sister put it best when she said "he was the best of all of us"...and if you knew Johnny, you knew that too. A sweet soul, Johnny loved his family above all.



Johnny was an avid outdoorsman. He loved to fish, chop wood and walk in the woods. He was a collector of treasures and was always finding little gifts for everyone he loved, including a special heart-shaped stone that he recently gave to his mother for her garden. He was a hard worker and a good friend to all who knew him, and he will be dearly missed. Johnny was the eldest of four siblings whom he leaves behind to remember him and all of the fun times together. It has been said that Johnny would give you the shirt off his back, and indeed he would.

John served in the U.S. Navy after high school and resided in East Hampton and Colchester. He was most recently employed at Frasca Bar & Grill in Colchester and was a handyman for many people in Colchester and East Hampton. As a jack of all trades, Johnny helped his family and others with projects - carpentry, tree removal, painting, whatever needed doing.

John is survived by his mother and stepfather Pauline and Richard Ziegler; his beloved sweet son, Todd Spaulding (wife Heaven) and grandchildren Parker and Aurora, all of Marion, Iowa. He also leaves behind his sister, Sheri Spaulding; brother, Billy Spaulding; sister, Jennifer Marozzi (husband Heath); stepsister, Scarlet Street; and his companion, Eva Kochuk. John also leaves behind many aunts, uncles and cousins in New York, Maine and Maryland. Johnny was a fun uncle and often dropped off gifts and mementos to his nieces and nephews, Megan Spaulding, Jayden Fuqua, Maya, Macy and Mark Marozzi.

John was predeceased by his father, Roy Spaulding, and we are confident that he was right there to welcome Johnny with a big hug when it was time.

Friends called at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Wednesday, Feb. 17.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to The Parker & Aurora Fund at Liberty Bank, 2 West High St., East Hampton, CT 06424.

To leave online condolences, please visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

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Obituaries continued

East Hampton

Max Fentress

Max Fentress, 81, passed away at home in East Hampton Saturday, Feb. 13, in the care of people who loved him. Born in Jasper, Ind., he was the son of the late Shelton Ira and Victoria Roxa (Freeman) Fentress.



He was raised in New Albany, Ind., and as a youth, Max was an active amateur boxer who appeared on the local television boxing shows and in various tournaments. He was a Golden Gloves middleweight champion in 1955. On high school graduation, Max received a U.S. Navy scholarship to train for a career in the Navy and to attend the University of Louisville, where he graduated with a B.S. degree in mechanical engineering. Later, he earned an MBA degree at the University of Hartford.

Max was predeceased by his wife, Nicole Françoise Bégin Fentress, and is survived by his sons and daughters-in-law, Eric and Kim Fentress of East Hampton, and Brian Fentress and Jessica Puma of Fogelsville, Pa.; Ann Fentress (sister-in-law) of Louisville, Ky.; and was predeceased by his sister, Louretta Hublar, brother Garrett Fentress and a nephew, Mark Hublar. Max is also survived by his granddaughters, Emma Nicole and Claire Marie who have many wonderful memories of their grandpa and loved him deeply; and many nieces and nephews. He was survived by his loving companion, Anne Gagnon.

Max met the love of his life, Nicole Bégin, at a midshipman's ball at the Ménéage Militaire citadel in Quebec City, QC, Canada. Max proposed to Nicole on the Plaines d'Abraham. Max served as engineering officer and navigation watch officer aboard ships in the Pacific Fleet amphibious assault force [USS Wexford County (LST-1168)] and Atlantic/Mediterranean carrier strike forces [USS Leyte (CV- 32), USS Beale (DD-471), and USS Barney (DDG- 6)].

After the Navy, Max and Nicole made their home in Connecticut where he enjoyed a full engineering career at Pratt & Whitney, where he was a JT8D engine design engineer and had other manager assignments including recruitment, college relations. Max and Nicole traveled extensively in North America and Europe. They lived in five homes located in four states and in Sweden. On taking early retirement from Pratt & Whitney, Max became a teacher. He taught biology, chemistry, physics, and calculus in high school and college for several years. He enjoyed a second retirement.

Max's sea experiences caused him to encourage others to enjoy the sea. Thousands of mariners have benefited from his American Boat-school during a 25-year period. This school/charter company offered mariner instruction and sail training at various locations along the New England coast. He was a lifelong learner with interest of French-Canadian culture and his wife's native language. His studies included full French immersion programs at his home by Nicole and at Université Laval in Quebec. Max was a published genealogist for his grandparents' family lines that extend over nine generations. He was a 40-year member of the Saint Patrick Church, East Hampton, and Saint John Fisher Church, Marlborough.

Max will be remembered as a person who lived the traditional virtues, and all will recall him ready to laugh. All will recall the pleasure he derived from Nicole, Eric and Brian, his family and his many friends.

A funeral service will be livestreamed today, Friday, Feb. 19, at 1:15 p.m. For the Zoom link and passcode, see Max's obituary on the Mulryan Funeral Home website, www.mulryanfh.com.

Family and friends may visit Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury, today, Feb. 19, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. In order to adhere to current COVID-19 mandates, masks are required and six feet of social distancing will be maintained.

Expressions of sympathy and recollections of Max's life can be sent to the family at 4 Curry Lane, East Hampton, CT 06424.

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

Colchester

William John Scopino

William John Scopino, "Billy," 60, passed away suddenly Tuesday, Jan. 26, due to injuries sustained from a fall while on the job, working on a construction project. Born in Norwich Nov. 21, 1960, he was the son of the late William P. and Sylvia (Clark) Scopino. He was predeceased by his beloved Marylou.



Billy grew up in Lebanon and graduated from Lyman Memorial High School. He also spent much time during his younger years with family in Colchester. He was a communicant of both St. Francis of Assisi Church in Lebanon and St. Andrew Church in Colchester. He played soccer in high school and enjoyed riding his dirt bike. Billy worked in construction throughout his career. He enjoyed working construction with his close friend, Roger Palmer.

Billy will be remembered as a hard-working man who was kind and helpful, always generous with his time to help anyone who needed a hand. He will be sadly missed but always remembered with love by his two sisters, Debra Goodwin of Lebanon, Linda and her husband, Ronald Kneeland of Lebanon; an uncle, Walter Clark of Colchester; three nephews, Justin, Joshua and Brett; a niece, Brooke; his companion, Lori Bernier, with whom he made his home in Lebanon; and numerous extended family members and friends.

A graveside funeral service will be held in the New Lebanon Cemetery on Waterman Road in the springtime of 2021.

The family requests that donations in his memory be made to the animal rescue or charity of one's choice.

The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with care of arrangements. For online condolences, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Robert Allen Taylor

Robert Allen Taylor, 64, of Bozrah, died Tuesday, Feb. 9, at Hartford Hospital, from complications from COVID-19. He was born Feb. 20, 1956, to the late Charles J. and Jane (Everitt) Taylor.



Bob grew up in Colchester and graduated from Bacon Academy; he worked in the shipyard at E.B. for 38 years as a welder and was a member of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers Local 614. He married his wife Phyllis June 10, 1995 and they moved to Bozrah. Bob was a hardworking and fun-loving husband and father who was quick with a "Dad Joke"; he loved his family and the time they spent together camping, playing corn-hole or letterboxing. He also enjoyed gardening and crafting.

Bob is survived by Phyllis Taylor, his wife of 25 years, of Bozrah; his four children, son Robert R. Taylor of Mississippi, stepdaughter Kim Hunt of Salem, stepson Mike Taylor of Jewett City and "adopted" daughter Samantha Poulin; his brothers, Charles Taylor, William Taylor and Christopher Taylor; his sister, Beth Moran; grandsons, Lauren and Zachary; and several nieces and nephews.

A celebration of Bob's life will be held at a later date when family and friends may safely gather.

Belmont Funeral Home LLC has been entrusted with Bob's care. Condolences and memories can be left at www.belmontfh.com.

Colchester

Ethel Elizabeth Derry

Ethel Elizabeth Derry, 95, of Colchester, formerly of Hebron, passed away at home Tuesday, Jan. 26. Born in Jamaica, N.Y., July 26, 1925, she was a daughter of the late Otto and Elizabeth (Haas) Fensch.



She married her beloved husband Robert F. Derry Dec. 27, 1947. The couple built their home and raised their family in Naugatuck. They shared 54 years of marriage before he predeceased her June 1, 2002. Ethel retired several years ago after working for several banking institutions as a bank teller.

She leaves to mourn her loss a daughter and her husband, Linda and Robert Johnston of Colchester, with whom she made her home in her final days. She also leaves her daughter-in-law, Elissa Derry; four granddaughters, Christine, Shelley, Rachel, Becky; six great-grandchildren, Catherine, Claire, Leila, Jace, Julien, Jude; and many extended family and friends.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was predeceased by a son, Robert Derry, and a sister, Helen Smith.

Ethel will be laid to rest with her beloved husband in the Calverton National Cemetery on Long Island, N.Y., at a later date.

The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with care of arrangements. For online condolences, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

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Donating for Bears... Each year, Evan Brown, currently a student at Portland Middle School, raises money on his own to donate to the "Bears on a Journey" class held at the Waverly Center. This group of ladies meets Tuesdays at 10 a.m. to make fleece teddy bears for cancer patients. Evan has been donating to this project for several years.



Fourth-grader Lauren May, left, and fifth-grader Evangeline Papke, right, are the local winners of this year's Fire Prevention Poster Contest.

Fire Poster Local Winners Announced

The Portland Fire Marshal's Office has announced the local winners of the 2020-21 Fire Prevention Poster contest. Fire Marshal Raymond Sajdak announced that Lauren May and Evangeline Papke won this year's contest, which had the theme "Fire Prevention – Everyone/Everyday."

Lauren is a fourth-grader at Gildersleeve School, and her teacher is Jennifer Childree. Evangeline is a fifth-grader at Brownstone Intermediate School, and her teacher is Tracey Graf. The art teacher for both students is Patricia Allen.

Lauren and Evangeline will each receive checks for \$75 and move on to the county level. Two county winners from each grade will then be chosen from this selection. The state winner will be used to promote fire prevention throughout the State of Connecticut and will be the Of-

ficial State Poster.

All winning posters on the county level will be exhibited at the State Capitol during October. The county winners will be awarded a \$150 check, and the state winner will receive a \$750 check. In addition, a \$500 grant will be awarded to the state winner's school.

The Connecticut Fire Prevention Poster Contest is a cooperative effort of the Office of State Fire Marshal, the Connecticut Fire Marshals' Association, Connecticut Fire Chiefs' Association, the state Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, the state Board of Education, and the Connecticut Fair Plan (representing the insurance industry).

Sajdak thanked all teachers for their assistance with the contest, and all the fourth- and fifth-grade students who participated.

Dean's List

Portland residents Bethany Dillon, Micayla Kelley and Jayden Schoeps made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I.

Nicole Zalewski of Portland made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Utica College in Utica, N.Y. Zalewski is majoring in construction management and minoring in geoscience. She is the daughter of Bill and Cheryl Zalewski.

Portland resident Michael Olayos Jr. made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Central Connecticut State University.

Vincent Miano of Portland made the fall 2020 Dean's List at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind.

Miano is a freshman majoring in mechanical engineering.

Portland residents Nicholas Piersall, a member of the Class of 2022, and Kelly Barry, a member of the Class of 2021, each made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Bryant University in Smithfield, R.I.



Top Realtor... eXp Realty recently presented Cheryl Zalewski with its ICON Award, for achieving exceptional sales volume, displaying strong business acumen and contributing to fellow agents and community. Zalewski had over 40 sales and will earn \$16,000 back in stock.

President's List

Portland resident Autumn Tewksbury made the fall 2020 President's List at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Va.

Tewksbury is an intelligence analysis major.

Honor Roll Addition

Portland High School ninth-grader Grace Sockwell made High Honors on the Portland High School Honor Roll for the first marking term of the 2020-21 school year.

Dean's List

The following Portland residents made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Springfield College in Springfield, Mass.:

Nicholas Coman, who is majoring in health science/pre-physician assistant; Jacob Kostraba, health science; Jenna Lagana, health science and pre-physical therapy; Erin Muskatalo, health science/occupational therapy; Juliette Piazza, health science/occupational therapy.

Dean's List

Ashley K. Benham of Portland made the fall 2020 Dean's List at the University of Scranton in Scranton, Pa.

Benham is a sophomore kinesiology major in the university's Panuska College of Professional Studies.

Emily Kerr of Portland made the fall 2020 Dean's List at the University of St. Joseph in West Hartford.

She is a sophomore majoring in business management.

Portland residents Kelly Talerico and Nicolette Talerico each made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Endicott College in Beverly, Mass.

They are each nursing majors, and their parents are Dawn and Richard Talerico.

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Category (example: For Sale) _____

Classified Text: A word is anything with spaces around it. For example: Rd., 2BR, 6-cyl. are all one word each. A phone number is one word.)

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Please call 860-569-0722 or visit www.poinc.org

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE MIDDLE HADDAM HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION MEETING Thursday, February 25, 2021 6:30 pm via Zoom call

Public Hearing will be held to consider the following:
Application 545 for a Certificate of Appropriateness at 26 Long Hill Road --to replace roof shingles, nine windows, and siding -- for applicants Charlie and Eileen Gotta.
The foregoing application is available for public review at the East Hampton Building Department. At this hearing interested persons may be heard and written communications will be received.
Dated: February 17, 2021
Regina Starolis, MHHDC Clerk

1TB 2/19

TOWN OF PORTLAND PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Portland Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, March 4, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom to consider the following:
PZC Application#20-09: 53 Riverview Street. Request for a Special Permit Modification to locate a food truck, tables and chairs, and a special event tent. Application of Yankee Boat Yard. Property of Yankee Associates. Map 3 Lot 2. Zone FP.

At this hearing interested persons may appear and be heard and written communications will be received. A copy of this application is available for review on the Town of Portland Website: www.portlandct.org
Dated at Portland, CT. this 17th day of February 2021
Robert Ellsworth, Chairman

2TB 2/19, 2/26

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE MARLBOROUGH ZONING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The Marlborough Zoning Commission will hold the following Zoom Public Hearing Thursday, March 4, 2021 at 7:00 PM. Zoning Commission and the Public should utilize the Zoom line.

To join the Zoom video meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/95732320289?pwd=TTIsTk5weTBqSXRkSnVzWmVaZmtRZz09>

Meeting ID: 957 3232 0289 Passcode: DPR88q

Phone into meeting: 1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 957 3232 0289 Passcode: 398601

Note: Phone in has its own passcode different from the video conference passcode.

Application #Z-12-20 – (Formerly Application #Z-04-20) –Special Permit – Bill G. Jonbalaj (Applicant) 21 Austin – HGB LLC (Property Owner) – South Main Street (between 11 & 19 South Main Street) & Johnson Road – Village Cluster Residential Planned Development
Kevin Asklar, ZONING COMMISSION CHAIR

2TB 2/19, 2/26

Legal Notice TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON LEGAL NOTICE Notice of Hearing

The East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a regular meeting on March 3, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. to consider the following (contact the Land Use Department for location details):

Application PZC-20-024: Paula Free, 249 West High St., for a special permit per Sec. 8.4 Motor Fuel Filling Station for a proposed convenience store. Map 06/Block 12/Lot 1B.
Application PZC-20-026: Long Hill Estates, LLC., Long Hill Estate Subdivision, for a Zone Change R-2 to C. Map 06/Block 12/Lot 8-1

Application PZC-21-001: Gloria & Troy DeLeon, 16 Wells Ave., for a Special Permit for an Accessory Dwelling Unit per Sec. 8.3.M. Map 05A/Block 63A/Lot 1B.

Application PZC-21-002: Timothy Puglielli, 155 Middle Haddam Rd., for a 2 lot subdivision. Map 02/Block 18/Lot 24-3.

Application PZC-21-005: JCG Properties, LLC., 9 Middle Haddam Rd., for a 2 lot subdivision. Map 01C/Block 9/Lot 5 Ray Zatorski, Chairman

Note* any question re: Applications and Maps are on file in the Land Use Office 860-267-7450.

2TB 2/19, 2/26

Town of Colchester Special Town Meeting C-TIP Application DVI Properties LLC

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85097966735?pwd=ekp5d2EwG3VXN1UnRVSGxangzUT09>

Passcode: 508617

Telephone: Dial US: 312 626 6799 or 929 205 6099 or 301 715 8592 or 346 248 7799 or 669 900 6833.

Webinar ID: 850 9796 6735

Passcode: 508617

A Special Town Meeting of the electors and citizens qualified to vote at town meetings of the Town of Colchester, CT will be held on Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 5:30pm via zoom, for the following purposes:

1. To discuss and vote upon the C-TIP (Colchester Tax Incentive Program) Application for the site 124 Upton Road; applicant is DVI Properties LLC, as recommended by the Colchester Economic Development Commission. See Connecticut General Statute Sec. 12-65b

2. To recess the meeting to a Drive-up vote on Thursday, February 25, 2021 from 6:00pm-6:30pm at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, CT. (specifics to be announced during zoom meeting).

3. Adjournment

The full Colchester Tax Incentive Applications from DVI Properties LLC are available in the Town Clerks office for viewing.

The DVI Properties LLC presentation is available on the Colchester website at colchesterct.gov.

Dated at Colchester, Connecticut this 8th day of January 2021.

Gayle Furman, Town Clerk
Mary Bylone, 1st Selectman
Rosemary Coyle, Selectman
Denise Mizla, Selectman
Taras Rudko, Selectman
Denise Turner, Selectman

1TB 2/19

Employment Posting Parks and Recreation Summer Camp Director

The Town of East Hampton is accepting applications for the position of "Summer Camp Director". The Summer Camp Director will focus on the highest quality program delivery possible through quality leadership, staff recruitment, training, supervision as well as dynamic programming. This position is responsible for promotion and marketing of programs, as well as organizes and manages orientation programs, day-to day setup of schedules and ordering of supplies.

Applicants must have strong organizational, computer and public relation skills. Certification in CPR and basic first aid are required. Certification by the American Camp Association is preferred. Med Certification is also preferred.

This is a seasonal position starting in May and will go through August. Monday through Friday between 7:30 am-5:30 pm, with a 40 hour work week. \$17-19 per hour, depending on experience and qualifications.

Job description and application are available at www.easthamptonct.gov.

Please submit a cover letter along with your resume and an employment application to the Town of East Hampton, Department of Human Resources, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424, by March 3, 2021 (or until filled).
EOE/AA/M-F.

1TB 2/19

Employment Posting Town of East Hampton Prevention Coordinator

The Town of East Hampton is accepting applications for the position of Prevention Coordinator. The Prevention Coordinator shall implement grants received to reduce alcohol and drug use among youth and young adults that adversely affect our community.

This position requires a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in Counseling, Social Work, Human Services, Public Health or Psychology; or equivalent combination of education, training and experience, including one year of youth services work – Master's degree and /or Certified Prevention Specialist (CPS) credentials preferred. This is a 37.5 hour per week position with a starting salary of \$50,123 per year and benefit package. This is a grant funded position.

Job description and application are available at www.easthamptonct.gov.

Applicants should submit a cover letter, resume and employment application to the Town of East Hampton, Department of Human Resources, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424, by March 4, 2021 (or until filled).
EOE/AA/M-F.

1TB 2/19

VACANCY NOTICE

POSTING DATE: February 4, 2021
POSITION: Paraprofessional
QUALIFICATIONS: High School Diploma, Bachelor's Degree preferred

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Until filled

The Hebron Board of Education is seeking the following positions for 2020-21 school year:

Paraprofessionals

Gilead Hill School and Hebron Elementary School are looking for energetic and motivated Paraprofessionals to work with teachers and assist in the delivery of instructional and related services for students, knowledge of, and the ability to assist in instructing in reading, writing and mathematics. Candidates will have to undergo a background check and submit up to 3 current letters of reference.

Applicants who wish to apply should go to www.hebron.k12.ct.us – District – Job Postings. Please click on Hebron Public Schools- ALL VACANCIES link to view and apply for position.

In addition to application, please upload: copy of Resume, Certification (if applicable), and current letters of reference.
Job ID 308

Equal Opportunity Affirmative Action

The Hebron Board of Education is committed to a policy of equal opportunity/affirmative action for all qualified persons. The Hebron Board of Education does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of race, color, religious creed, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability (including, but not limited to, intellectual disability, past or present history of mental disorder, physical disability or learning disability), genetic information, access to Boy Scouts or other Designated Youth Groups or any other basis prohibited by Connecticut state and/or federal nondiscrimination laws.

Inquiries regarding the Hebron Board of Education's nondiscrimination policies should be directed to:

Dr. Donald Briere
Title IX and Section 504 Coordinator
Hebron Public Schools
580 Gilead Street, Hebron, Connecticut 06248
860-228-2577
dbriere@hebron.k12.ct.us

2TB 2/12, 2/19

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Please come down and fill out an application at 195 Dekoven Drive, Middletown, CT 06457

02114-20

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E2 ELECTRICIAN WANTED with residential experience and apprentices. Call John 860-214-4045 or email gardelec@frontier.com

HELP WANTED: PERSONAL CARE, HOUSEKEEPING and gardening. Hours 4-9 PM. Call 860-537-3243

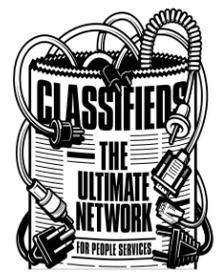
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HELP WANTED - SEASONAL MAINTENANCE. Maintenance duties included but not limited to: grounds keeping, lawn care, pool maintenance & cleaning, general park repairs & renovations, site cleanups, wood cutting, raking, shoveling, weed whacking, nighttime rounds/security and other duties as needed. Some lifting required. Mechanically inclined is preferred. Applicant must be 18 years or older with a current, valid driver's license. Weekends/Holidays are a must. This position is a seasonal job as it is at a campground. This position also requires a friendly personality. Candidate must be able to pass a background check. Any questions please call 860.267.5300. EOE. Estimated start time March 2021.

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Thompson Landscape 860-659-1438

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If anyone refused to rent to you because of your source of income, race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, religion, marital status, age, disability or because you have children, you may have been the victim of illegal housing discrimination. Contact the Connecticut Fair Housing Center.



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1006 Canterbury Lane - The townhouses at Highland Farms association don't last and for a good reason. Location, location, location! Recent updates make this condo a steal - updated kitchen, fresh paint, and carpet. New water heater, city water and sewer. Move in today.
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