



RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

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Hebron resident Eric Liebeskind, who has two artificial replacement knees, trains with his 9-year-old son Noah Liebeskind for the NAFI Foster Care Super Hero 5K. Noah will also be running in the race, which takes place April 9, he's planning to complete the one-mile fun run.

Artificial Knees Can't Stop Runner

by Sloan Brewster

After getting two artificial knees, running was not meant to be a part of Eric Liebeskind's repertoire.

But he never gave up on the idea – and on April 9, the Hebron resident will be running the NAFI Foster Care Super Hero 5K; his son Noah, 9, will take on the one-mile fun run.

Liebeskind, 62, a retired Navy commander, said he had one knee replaced due to "wear and tear" in 2018 and the other the following year. After the surgeries, his physical therapist told him his running days were over.

"I can get you on a bike but you can forget about running," he said she told him.

A runner since he was 16 and well used to clocking 50 miles a week and running in races, including marathons in 1991 and 1993, Liebeskind was devastated.

"It was just like a dagger, it was horrible," he said.

Still, he did what she said and avoided his go-to exercise, opting instead to swim, as she recommended. Then he went in for a two-year checkup and rethought that.

Dr. Vipul Dua, of South Windsor, who put in the new knees utilizing robotic technology known as the Mako Robotic-arm, explained to Liebeskind that the advanced generation of knee replacements includes a layer of heavy-duty plastic to replace joints.

The plastic can last up to 30 years and while it may wear faster in a runner, it can be replaced, he assured his patient.

"He said 'Live your life,'" Liebeskind said. "He looked me right in the eye."

Liebeskind said the three words woke him up and, after thinking long and hard, he found his sneakers and put them on.

In an email to the *Rivereast*, Dua said he does not use bone cement, which was used previously in knee replacements. With the new materials, the likelihood of cement failure is eliminated and there is potential for increased durability.

"Robotic knee surgery is very, very precise for young and active patients," Dua said.

That's a new development, according to Liebeskind.

He said Dua told him that prior to its robotic upgrade, knee surgery was frowned upon for patients younger than their 60s or 70s as the artificial knees lasted only about 20 years. Now the replacements can last 30 years and are available to a younger crowd, including people in their mid-40s.

Liebeskind said the robotic-arm guides the surgeon in making precise cuts and if the surgery is done right, it heals quickly.

He said when he had his first knee replaced he was home for dinner that day. The second time around he said he was ready to go home but there was no doctor to release him so he spent the night in the hospital.

On the Run Again

On Jan. 16 of this year, Liebeskind went out to his driveway and took off at a run, completing a 100-yard dash.

"It took me 19 seconds, which is horrible, and I started to cry," he said. "Noah said, 'Why you crying, Dad?' I said, 'I don't know, I don't know.' It was awful but it was good."

Since then, he has gotten to two miles, lost 12 pounds, and continues to up his goals with plans on hitting three miles before race day.

Liebeskind has been training with Noah, who, he said, runs circles around him. Including one time when he was waving at cars while running backwards to slow his pace to allow his 'Pop' to catch up.

In a phone call last week, Noah said it felt "kinda good" when his dad started to run again and that he too enjoys the activity.

Dua said that while taking on running is not a typical activity for knee replacement recipients, he was not surprised that Liebeskind was doing it. He said the improved surgical technique

See *Artificial Knees*, page 26

Leslie to Remain at RHAM Helm for an Extra Year

by Sloan Brewster

Scott Leslie will hold his post as interim superintendent of the RHAM schools for a second year – but the regional school district will likely then need to find someone else to take the reins.

Leslie has held the post since June, after the office was vacated by former schools superintendent Patricia Law. Initially, he was to lead the district for just a year, while the Board of Education searched for a permanent replacement. But at its monthly meeting in February, Board of Education Chair Stephanie Bancroft announced the school board had received permission from then-Connecticut Commissioner of Education Miguel Cardona to extend Leslie's position for the 2021-22 school year.

Cardona became U.S. Secretary of Education on March 2. Charlene Russell-Tucker is now the state's commissioner of education.

Bancroft, in a phone call Tuesday, said the board wanted Leslie in the position for another year as he has provided excellent leadership and continuity during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since he does not hold a superintendent certificate, the board had to acquire permission to keep him in the post, she said.

"Scott has been doing a wonderful job this year navigating us through COVID and it's been a great transition," Bancroft said. "He's doing such a wonderful job; we know this pandemic crisis isn't over yet."

Bancroft counted Leslie's connections with local leaders in the three towns and other superintendents and his involvement with the New England Association of Schools and Colleges among perks that make him a good fit for the district and the "perfect person" for the

job. She said the board wanted to "hang onto a good thing while we had it" and was "very, very pleased" Leslie would be staying on board for the extra year.

The board has suspended the search for a permanent superintendent and will pick it back up next year, Bancroft said.

Leslie, 63, was principal at RHAM High School from 2000 until last year. He said staying on as interim superintendent for one more year fit with his long-term plan, which includes retiring next year after four decades in education. From 1980 to 1983, Leslie taught at Beckett Academy in East Haddam. He then taught science at RHAM from 1983 until 1994, when he went to Granby to become assistant principal and then principal of Granby High School. He returned to RHAM as the principal in 2000.

Leslie said next year had always been his target for retirement, as he will have been in education for 40-plus years. He said he was "absolutely thrilled" to stay on as superintendent.

"It feels like the timing will be right to kind of explore some new opportunities while I'm still young enough to enjoy them and have the energy to do different things," he said.

Leslie said that, based on the challenges and differences of the past year, it made sense that someone with experience in the three towns in the district and who understands the school system remains at the helm.

"Now that we're getting through [the pandemic] I think it made sense to continue that continuity," he said. "Hopefully when a new superintendent comes onboard they'll get a super-

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From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

A flip through the *Rivereast* this week shows lots of different events and activities – including my favorite, opportunities for eating – coming up.

Are most if not all of the events adjusted to make them safe to hold in the face of the pandemic? Yes. Are the meals mostly take-out? Absolutely. But still, they're back. Community activity is starting to resume. Things may look a little different, at least to start, but, as vaccinations spread, there's every reason to believe life the way we've lived it for the past year is not "the new normal." Our ability to safely and comfortably visit family and friends, to take in a movie or baseball game, to go on vacation, or, heck, to just go to the mall – they're coming back.

It's not going to be right away. Already, July events such as Old Home Days in East Hampton and, it was announced Wednesday, Sailfest in New London have been canceled, out of concern the pandemic won't be fully behind us by that point – or at least not sufficiently enough behind us to warrant such large community gatherings.

It's a shame, it really is – when these events were canceled last summer, I'm sure most organizers were sure they'd be able to hold them again in 2021 – but it's the right call. We're getting there, we're starting to approach that much-talked-about light at the end of the tunnel, but we're not quite there yet. It's going to take time.

As anxious as we all are to put this pandemic behind it, we mustn't do too much too soon. That's why I feel holding off on summertime events that traditionally draw huge crowds is a good idea.

Slow and steady will win this race. And when we get to that finish line – oh, it is going to be fantastic.

It was St. Patrick's Day this week – one of my favorite eating days of the year, as I loooove corned beef and cabbage. Green beer, less so; you drop some food coloring in a pint of Coors Light and it's still Coors Light.

So, in the spirit of the holiday, here are three quick Irish jokes:

Billy stops Paddy in Dublin and asks for the quickest way to Cork.

Paddy says: "Are you on foot or in the car?"

Billy replies: "In the car."

"Yeah, that's the quickest way," says Paddy.

Liam had left Dublin to go up to Belfast for a bit of skydiving. Late Sunday evening he was found in a tree by a farmer.

"What happened?" said the farmer.

Liam explained that his parachute failed to open.

"Well," said the farmer, "If you had asked the locals before you jumped, they would have told you nothing opens around here on a Sunday."

The barman says to Paddy "Your glass is empty, fancy another one?"

Looking around puzzled, Paddy says, "Why would I be needing two empty glasses?"

Spring arrives this weekend, and the season brings with it many things – not the least of which is the beginning of baseball. Whereas last year the pandemic delayed the start of the Major League Baseball season until July – and wiped out the minor league seasons altogether – the game is on track for its standard early April start this year. There may not be a whole lot of fans in the seats, at least to start the season, but baseball is back. And as always, it's a welcome sight.

So, with the start of spring, and the imminent dawn of the baseball season, I'm reminded of this wonderful quote by the late, great former MLB commissioner A. Bartlett Giamatti:

"The game begins in the spring, when everything else begins again, and it blossoms in the summer, filling the afternoons and evenings, and then as soon as the chill rains come, it stops and leaves you to face the fall alone."

In closing, to go back to the St. Patrick's Day theme, I leave you all with a quick Irish blessing:

Editor's Desk continued on page 4



Cleaning Up the Lake... East Hampton's annual Lake Clean-Up Day will be held Saturday, April 24. Pictured are, at left, Joe Carbonell of the Friends of the Lake and Conservation Lake Commission and, at right, Kevin Reich of the East Hampton Town Council.

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

Thanks from Food Bank

To the Editor:

The East Hampton Volunteer Food Bank wishes to express its appreciation and gratitude to the East Hampton community for rallying with unprecedented support during these pandemic times. Through food and financial donations, the Food Bank has been able to meet the needs of all who have sought assistance. And the need has never been greater.

Schools, churches, community businesses and organizations, and individuals have all come forward in response to this special year of need.

It is impossible to publicly acknowledge all who have devoted time, money and food donations toward this effort. Some contributors include the Rotary and Lions Clubs, the Girl and Boy Scouts, Liberty Bank, Laurel Ridge, participants in the annual Turkey Plunge and the Tiffany Court "Christmas Lights" food initiative.

Thanks, again, to everyone for their generosity and spirit. The town, as always, continues to display its nature of caring.

Your Friends at the East Hampton Volunteer Food Bank

Invasive Plants and Tick Disease

To the Editor:

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station has found that non-native invasive Japanese barberry promotes black legged ticks, carriers of Lyme disease and other diseases.

In the last few decades, non-native invasives like Japanese barberry, multi-flora rose and oriental bittersweet vines invade when vegetation is removed from healthy, intact native areas. They spread quickly and have means to block native plants, even trees, from regenerating. They take over the opened area. Native wildlife and pollinators lose their habitat and food. Ecosystem services are lost. And diseases harmful to people and domesticated animals proliferate.

Even as a forest canopy recloses, barberry will thrive in the shade. 120 ticks per acre live in a barberry-infested forest compared with 10 per acre in a healthy forest.

Not only do non-native invasives have prolific berries and seeds; are the first to green up

and last to go dormant; lack existing browsers or pests, but also, they have invisible weapons. Japanese barberry changes the soil's pH and nutrients. This alters the soil to favor their own growth while blocking natives from growing. Some invasive plants even kill the mycorrhizal fungi system that allows trees to interconnect with and support each other.

Prevention is key in blocking the invasion of non-native invasive plants. Keep and promote healthy native vegetation wherever possible. Include native plants, shrubs and trees when landscaping. Remove non-native invasive ornamentals like Japanese barberry, burning bushes, etc. Enjoy all the healthy life that comes with healthy vegetative habitat!

Some great native shrubs to consider planting include high or lowbush blueberry, American cranberrybush (*Viburnum trilobum*), summer-sweet (clethra), winterberry, bayberry (myrica pennsylvanica), evergreen inkberry, and many more. Matched to soil, sun, and water conditions, native plants are low-maintenance joys and also provide healthy habitat for healthy life.

Ann Zitkus – Hebron

Note: Zitkus was recently appointed as an alternate member of Inland Wetlands/Conservation Commission, but said she is writing as an individual.

Earth Day Clean-Up

To the Editor:

As was the case last year, because of COVID-19-related concerns, the Hebron Green Committee will not be holding a group clean-up day for Earth Day this year. However, all is not lost! We are still encouraging Hebron residents to (safely!) do your own clean up in your neighborhood or a street or road of your choice that you think really needs it. We have arranged for our Public Works Department to put a dumpster at Town Hall on Saturday and Sunday, April 24 and 25, so any trash collected can be brought there. If clean, recyclables can be collected separately and recycled, that's great, but we realize roadside items may not be real clean, so they may have to be thrown in the trash. However, the most important thing to keep in mind if you're going to do this is to do it safely! That means wear gloves and a brightly-colored jacket or vest, and don't walk too close to the road. Ideally, do it with a friend or relative who can help keep an eye on traffic.

Finally, if you send a picture of your clean-up effort to the Green Committee (hebrongreencommittee@hebronct.com), we'll choose one at random for a free pizza from one of Hebron's great pizza emporiums.

So let's all use some of our pent-up energy and get out there to help make Hebron a little greener this Earth Day!

**Mike Harder
Hebron Green Committee**

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Bulletin Board

After receiving three unsolicited phone calls from various out-of-state sources the other evening, I have decided to change the message on my answering machine to something a little more informative than "You have reached (phone number), please leave a message."

(My wife originally wanted to record something to the effect that "Your phone call is important to us and we will get back to you as soon as we are able," but I pointed out to her that 1) It is the rare phone call that is even mildly interesting—never mind important—to us and 2) Calling people back only encourages them to keep bothering you when you're in the middle of doing something important like clipping your toenails.)

In any case, my experience the other evening persuaded me that even our terse message is a bit too welcoming and it is time to lay it out a little more clearly to those who feel the need to bother me with their trivial needs and desires at any hour of the day or night. I'm thinking an answering machine message like this:

Hello. You have reached (phone number).

We do not give out money over the telephone. If you are seeking a donation for some horrible disease, please just go away now and die quietly and don't ever bother us again.

No, we do not care about the children.

We do not need a free home security system, replacement windows or a new roof. Not now, not in the near future, not ever. I'd rather sleep on a piece of cardboard under a highway bridge than do business with someone who calls me in the middle of dinner.

My credit card is just fine, thank you. Should my credit card ever need adjustment it will be because it is stuck so far up your you-know-what that it will take a master surgeon with a three-foot-long forceps to remove it.

If you are a burglar calling to see if anyone is home, let me assure you that we have nothing worth stealing. If you decide to see for yourself, I would simply advise you that our six pit bulls sometimes have a difficult time digesting leather. Please dress accordingly. Oh, and by the way, you know all those people in Connecticut who supposedly don't like guns? I'm not one of them.

No I do not want to take five minutes (or two seconds) to respond to your survey. Go bother someone in your own country.

Yes, I love my alma mater, but I thought we were square after I made my final tuition payment. If you expect me to keep paying 40 years after graduating, then I think I should get something in return—like maybe an honorary doctorate in finger painting theory or something.

I'm very sorry that Afghanistan is on the rebound from calamitous flooding. I'd like to help, but I need my garden hose to water my tomatoes.

I'm so thrilled that I've won the Nigerian lottery. That makes the third time this week. You guys must have almost as many lotteries as Connecticut.

If you are calling because you were mugged in the Philippines, Bosnia, Eastern Mongolia or some other godforsaken place and want me to wire you money because you pretend to know me, please save your breath. I don't care if you spend the rest of your life in some Third World hellhole—I only hope you never again gain access to a working telephone.

There is nothing wrong with my mental health that your decapitated head on a stake wouldn't cure.

Mom, if that's you, please leave a message. I'll call you right back. Promise. Love ya!

Jim Hallas, Publisher

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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SALE PENDING
Kellee Smith COLCHESTER
860-373-8849 MLS #170368949 \$270,000



SALE PENDING
Kellee Smith COLCHESTER
860-373-8849 MLS #170376779 \$230,000



SALE PENDING - CONDO
Brittney Gondek EAST HAMPTON
860-982-5406 MLS #170376634 \$132,500



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



NEW TO MARKET
Sue Nilsen MARLBOROUGH
860-918-2840 MLS #170378512 \$300,000



SALE PENDING
Anna Planeta PORTLAND
860-982-4427 MLS #170333496 \$515,000



UNDER DEPOSIT - DIRECT WATERFRONT
Stephanie Starr COVENTRY
860-214-4385 MLS #170377955 \$259,900



NEW PRICE
Mary McCall GLASTONBURY
860-268-7859 MLS #170378295 \$299,900



NEW TO MARKET
Kristen Gonet GLASTONBURY
339-203-5276 MLS #170377561 \$375,000



NEW TO MARKET - CONDO
Kadji Anderson GLASTONBURY
860-836-2721 MLS #170378200 \$135,000



STUNNING VIEWS!
Fred Martins GLASTONBURY
860-841-9333 MLS #170363349 \$1,688,883



NEW CONSTRUCTION
Therese Nuzzolo GLASTONBURY
860-888-9864 MLS #170365354 \$709,000



PRIVACY! WINTER WONDERLAND!
Yola Feery GLASTONBURY
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NEW CONSTRUCTION
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SALE PENDING - CONDO
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SALE PENDING
Lisa Hutt GLASTONBURY
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SALE PENDING
Jamie Bell GLASTONBURY
860-604-8459 MLS #170374954 \$349,900



SALE PENDING
Barrett Daly Team GLASTONBURY
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SALE PENDING
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SALE PENDING
Tatiana Geist S. GLASTONBURY
860-805-8710 MLS #170356159 \$365,000



NEW TO MARKET
Sue Nilsen MANCHESTER
860-918-2840 MLS #170376087 \$430,000



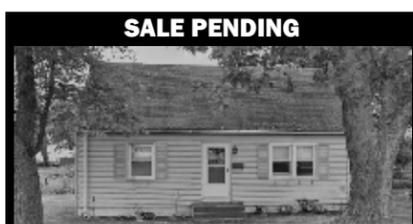
BACK ON MARKET
Fred Martins MANCHESTER
860-841-9333 MLS #170374748 \$174,883



SALE PENDING
Barbara Howe MANCHESTER
860-670-9560 MLS #170363360 \$279,900



SALE PENDING - CONDO
Marielle Bilodeau MANCHESTER
860-916-7443 MLS #170374911 \$134,500



SALE PENDING
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860-205-7575 MLS #170376673 \$124,900



NEW TO MARKET
Lisa Hutt EAST HARTFORD
860-836-8361 MLS #170375637 \$269,900



COMING SOON - OPEN HOUSE 3/28 1-3
Wendy Curry EAST HARTFORD
860-922-0492 MLS #170380607 \$174,900



OPEN HOUSE 3/21 1-3
Tom Welles ENFIELD
860-205-7575 MLS #170342159 \$454,900



NEW TO MARKET
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Emily Turker WETHERSFIELD
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Reader Forum • Reader Forum

★ Letters cont. from page 2

Attempt Met with Contempt

To the Editor:

Pamela Cyr-Long introduced the subject of anti-racism with kindness and respect. Unfortunately, her courageous attempt to bring awareness to the community was met with contempt from Sam Prentice, who criticized her efforts as liberal suppression. An illustration that too often we enjoy the comfort of opinion, without the discomfort of thought.

Mr. Prentice felt it was disrespectful and unpatriotic when Colin Kaepernick also took a knee bringing awareness to police brutality. Ironically, his patriotism seemed indifferent when secessionists stormed the capital and tried to beat an officer to death with the American flag.

This type of implicit bias asserts if you support Black Lives Matter, then you must be against Blue Lives Matter. It's the same white privilege that displays "No White Guilt" yard signs.

The problem with this reasoning is that it ignores the very existence of racism.

It camouflages itself with catchphrases like "All Lives Matter" and suggests we're all equal.

It attempts to turn the oppressor into the victim. Of course, the reality is if we are all equal, then disparities can only be the result of one thing, systemic racism.

This has never been about bathrooms or kneeling. Just like it was never about water fountains. This isn't about liberty or socialism. This is about humanity and expecting America to live up to its principles. This is about trying to make the world more tolerant and leaving things a little better than the way we found them. Unfortunately, humanity begins to feel radical and equality feels like oppression to those with privilege. Mr. Prentice's euphuism "immutable characteristics need to be put behind in deference to moving forward" is simply another way of saying the problem doesn't affect me, therefore it doesn't matter to me. The truth is, equal rights for others don't mean less rights for you.

Joe Stevens – Hebron

Alarmists' Claims

To the Editor,

Ed Smith claimed the 130 degrees reached in Death Valley last summer is the highest ever recorded on Earth. Over a century ago on July 10, 1913, Death Valley's temperature reached 134 degrees when CO2 levels were much lower.

He claimed last year's wildfires set a new historical record. According to the National Forest Service's own data, the decades preceding 1960 experienced more than five times the average amount of acreage consumed by wildfires than now.

Oceans are not becoming "acidified." Their average PH is well into the alkaline range. Absorbing all of the CO2 in the atmosphere couldn't even lower it to neutral (7.0). This alarmist claim is akin to describing water falling from 45 to 42 degrees as becoming more

frozen.

People refuting these false claims are actually trying to preserve the integrity of science rather than "denying" it. As science has increasingly become dominated by government funding, research and data has been fabricated to serve political agendas.

In 1999, NASA's James Hansen reported that 1934 was the warmest year on record, and the 1930s were the warmest decade. Within two years, "adjustments" were made to revise the historical records. The warm decades of 1910-1940 were cooled, and the cool decades of 1940-1970 were warmed, all designed to produce a warming trend seemingly correlated to increases in atmospheric CO2 volumes.

The only "deeply immoral and unethical thinking poisoning our futures" is that coming from those absurdly seeking to supplant inexpensive and plentiful fossil fuel energy with the fool's errand of "renewable" energy. When the entire life cycle of wind and solar devices are considered, from production to disposal, the ensuing ecological damage dwarfs that arising from fossil fuels.

Billions of people will lead lives of impoverishment without access to cheap energy.

Sam Prentice – Andover

Anti-Racism, Cont.

To the Editor:

Microaggressions may be the most harmful and pervasive form of racism. Very few of us are openly and overtly racist; many more of us have employed microaggressions at some point along the way. They are subtle, unintentional harms that many times come from well-intentioned people without their knowledge. The harm compounds over a lifetime of having to endure microaggressions, look the other way, or "pick our battles." For this reason, it is a good idea to inventory what microaggressions are present in our lives.

- Commenting on how articulate or intelligent someone is in their speech.

- Insisting you don't see color, that color doesn't matter to you.

- Insisting you are not racist because you have a close relationship with a person of color.

- Saying that you have experienced similar discrimination as a person of color because you are a woman.

- Refusing to examine deeply held opinions about race in America because there are a handful of Black people who share those opinions.

- Asking a Black woman if you can touch her hair/asking intrusive questions about her hair or skin.

- Centering our good intentions/ignoring our impact.

- Vast historical underrepresentation of people of color in leadership positions, leading roles in movies/TV, politics, historical monuments and statues, who we have chosen as namesakes for towns, roads, bridges, buildings, etc. Representation does matter.

- The ongoing use of race-based medical calculations, algorithms, and decision-making that is not evidence-based and without the knowledge or consent of the public. <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMms2004740>

- Telling a person of color that they should be calmer when voicing their grievances; tone policing.

Resources with more examples and explanations. <https://sph.umn.edu/site/docs/hewg/microaggressions.pdf>

<https://www.apa.org/monitor/2009/02/microaggression>

To be clear, no one is expecting anyone to undo the past, only to acknowledge it and commit to a different present. More again next week. Thoughts? pamcyrlong@gmail.com

Pamela Cyr-Long – Marlborough

A Grim Anniversary

To the Editor:

Zoonotic diseases are those that jump from non-human animals to humans, and vice-versa (anthropozoonosis). There is always a bridge – a link – and it's always anthropogenic (human-caused). For example, domestic animals encroaching into wildlife areas; the pet trade legal and illegal; markets that sell wildlife for human consumption; exploitation of wildlife and destruction of wild lands: these are the links that unleash viral epidemics and pandemics (WHO, IUCN, CITES).

All animal species, including humans, harbor a variety of viral and bacterial pathogens: not all are harmful. But when human activities result in disrupted or destroyed habitats, the probability of a dangerous spillover event increases significantly. (Erin Sorrell, department of microbiology and immunology at Georgetown University).

HIV, Ebola, and SARS are among those that have crossed the bridge from wildlife to humans, spawning international outbreaks (Sorrell). In wildlife markets there may be 40 species—birds, mammals, reptiles—stacked on top of each other; a "cauldron of contagion." (Christian Walzer, veterinarian, Wildlife Conservation Society.)

"It's unclear which species transmitted the COVID-19 to humans, but in an assessment of the Wuhan market, the coronavirus was detected in the live wild animal section (Walzer)."

Contact between humans and wildlife is only becoming more prevalent. The current devastation caused by COVID-19 is the recent example of how closely human health is linked to such interactions.

By changing our ways and attitude toward the natural world, we can change the dismal predictions of inevitable future pandemics.

Sources:
Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
CITES (Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species)

Dept. of Microbiology and Immunology at Georgetown University

IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)

National Geographic Society
(Plowright, R., Parrish, C., McCallum, H. et al. Pathways to zoonotic spillover. *Nat Rev Microbiol* 15, 502–510 (2017)

U.S.-based Wildlife Conservation Society
World Health Organization (WHO)

Thank you,
Maureen Heidtmann – East Hampton

Caring, Thoughtful Letters

To the Editor:

The *Rivereast's* readers have had exceptionally caring and thoughtful letters on one of the most daunting issues facing this nation, race and racism. Pamela Cyr-Long has provided simple steps those of us who are white can take to become aware of where and how each of us can act "to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice," as the U.S. Constitution states, to undo this country's embedded racism. The USA has

been and is an aspiring country, aspiring to realize the high goals declared in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

In contrast to self-righteous letter writers, Pamela presents kind-hearted opportunities to grasp unseen (to many whites) systemic, institutionalized racism as well as paths to being better informed of our own damaging actions. She is acting out of the prophetic religious traditions which call on us to be our better selves, to take actions daily "loving our neighbors as we love ourselves."

Pamela Cyr-Long's compassionate offerings carry even more weight as she is attacked weekly by hateful racist rants because she publishes her email address to be open and accountable. Yet she responds compassionately.

Pam is acting like a saint. As another letter writer noted in last week's *Rivereast*, her letters are worth reading and enriching your life by applying them as you see fit.

Thank you, Pam.

Dave Porteous – Marlborough

Thank You, Library

To the Editor:

I would like to publicly thank the East Hampton Public Library and urge your support of them as we come into budget season. We are so lucky to have had library materials and services available almost continuously through COVID-19. Library Director Ellen Paul and all the staff are creative, kind, knowledgeable and focused on our community. I am especially grateful for how they have been able to pivot during the pandemic. Programs and author visits have continued virtually, curbside service has been readily available, and innovative new ideas have been born of necessity. Last week, with help from a grant through the Middlesex Community Foundation, the library took on the feat of turning our town into an actual giant Candy Land.

In the past year, among many other things, the library created a strategic plan, upped its material circulation, abolished library fines, and continued to support and expand programs that are being enjoyed by more community members than ever before (shout out to Ancestry online and Nintendo Switch games). Please join me in thanking and supporting our wonderful library.

Gratefully,
Eliza LoPresti
Friends of the East Hampton
Public Library

Rivereast Writers

To the Editor:

Portland's Victor Congdon, all a dither, claimed I slandered him. Demands apologies. Ignorant of the first order of business towards proving slander – must quote the slanderer's slander. Didn't do it. Can't do it. I paraphrased his own words accurately. He's too embarrassed to admit his own fallacious false equivalency between atmospheric temperatures and Earth's rotation.

Andover's Gary Gile, in a tizzy, claimed I personally attacked him. Ignorant of his own webpage content. I perused it several times and accurately shared selected nonsense published there. Newly boasting his insider knowledge is YouTube and docuseries sourced. NASA, NOAA, DOE, every university, WHO, UN, the Pentagon are the climate change simpletons?

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Staff Reporters:

Sloan Brewster—Hebron, Andover & RHAM

Karla Santos—Colchester & Marlborough

Jack Lakowsky—East Hampton & Portland

Advertising Representatives:Jason Baran, ext. 231 • jason@glcitizen.comApril Krason, ext. 232 • april@glcitizen.comMichelle Villar, ext. 233 • rep233@glcitizen.com

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Reader Forum • Reader Forum

Showcasing incompetence every letter published. Why write them?

Andover's Sam Prentice, terribly wounded after I accurately quoted and paraphrased his mocking words/sentences he bludgeons others with. Why then use hurtful, specious language against others? Because that is who he is. Almost every week. Sometimes the entire letter. See definition for 'hypocrite.' Unhinged minds unable to know themselves.

Portland's Peter Kushkowski chides *Rivereast* editor Thompson that President Biden has yet to hold a State of the Union address. Current bone Fox News chews on. Displays his own ignorance of the SOTU address. Not officially given by a new president in the first year of their term. Outgoing President delivers it. Trump didn't. Biden's March 11 prime time pandemic speech checked all the boxes for communicating to the American people.

Colchester's Ed Kozlowski, demands explanation how I broached *Rivereast* writer CO2 climate change lunacy to my sixth grade Science Bowl students. Google 'NSB middle school questions'. Thousands of questions. Students miss difficult ones. "Don't worry, I know adults

who think CO2 is made up of three elements." Students laugh. More relaxed.

Google "Passel of fools." Mark Twain. Connecticut's wittiest sarcasm master. Works well here.

Ed Smith – Andover

Hebron RTC to Meet

To the Editor:

The Hebron Republican Town Committee invites you to our next meeting via Zoom on Monday, March 22, at 7:30 p.m. The Hebron RTC believes in collaboration, community, and respect of fellow volunteers and board members.

Please join us and connect with local Republicans as we prepare for the upcoming municipal election cycle and help keep Hebron the

amazing community we all know and love. For meeting log on information please email HebronRepublicans@gmail.com. We hope to see you there!

Amanda Veneziano, Chair
Hebron Republican Town Committee

Thank You, Kathy

To the Editor:

After 14 years of incredible service and dedication to the Marlborough Food Bank, Kathy Mucha is retiring. She began as Linda Cherry's right hand, master couponer, and shopper. Over time Kathy took on critical banking responsibilities and acted as the Food Share orderer and statistician. Kathy also acted as the liaison with MES coordinating with the student council and the staff on all food drives, Spirit Week

contributions, and promoting awareness to our youngest citizens. She spent countless evenings and weekends at the food bank while working full-time as a para at MES. Kathy could be found organizing stock by dates, prepping for each week, and shopping. She accommodated her weekend schedule for Boy Scout events for Troop 39, Girl Scout projects and church youth group events including our kids in all necessary tasks and educating them about the food bank.

Kathy made it her business to understand the special dietary needs of many seniors, the food allergies affecting some clients, and our unique large family needs. There was always something special waiting for them. She is a kind and sensitive volunteer. She also connected with the student volunteers and ensured their service

See Letters, page 6

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Carolyn Kress
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Reader Forum • Reader Forum

★ **Letters cont. from page 5**
was meaningful. We were all fortunate to enjoy her spirit and commitment.

Dave Wagner and I could not have managed without her. Kathy was a critical member of our team. And I know Linda Cherry feels the same.

Please join us, when you see her at MES or around town, in thanking her for her unwavering dedication to our most vulnerable citizens. It is volunteers like Kathy that make this such a great community.

Gratefully,

Linda Cherry, Joanne Goode, Dave Wagner
Retired Directors of Marlborough Food Bank

Possible Solutions

To the Editor:

I enjoyed the editor's writings last week in the "Bulletin Board" and in "Observations & Ruminations" at the end ('On a lighter side'), as it showed a different side of him. About his comments on health care, yes, it is shameful to have so much in this country, yet medical care is so expensive many can't afford it. One partial solution is to stop such huge "frivolous" lawsuits and reduce malpractice insurance premiums. Then stop protecting pharmaceutical companies and their exorbitant prices on medicines.

Congress and the president signed the so called "Stimulus Package" of \$1.9 trillion and it

passed without any congressional Republicans approving it.

Nine percent of those funds went to COVID-19 "relief." The rest went to fill the pockets of special interest groups, foreign governments, and repaying those who helped get democrats elected. Plus, much of the money can't be used for several years, that on top of the unused money from the last "stimulus package."

I heard that for years we have been sending money to Honduras (over \$100 million yearly) and Honduras also received stimulus money. There are only around 10 million people living in Honduras. I also heard that most illegal aliens crossing our southern border are from Honduras. At the border we attempt to test them for the virus and whether or not they test positive, they are released into our interior. Can anyone explain to me the justification for this?

Our president wants to raise taxes on businesses and wealthy individuals. That sounds good. However, that has never worked in the past because they have accountants who can find the workarounds that Congress leaves in those tax hikes so they can also reduce their taxes. Plus, big business always passes down their extra tax obligations to the consumer. Maybe a national sales tax?

Gary Gile - Andover

Editor's Note: Thanks, Gary, but while the

joke at the end of "Observations & Ruminations" last week is indeed my doing, I can't take credit for the "Bulletin Board." Those are written by Jim Hallas.

Thrilled with Biden II

To the Editor:

It put a smile on my face when I read through the letters on March 21 and saw and read multiple letters from Sam, Victor and Ed K. calling out fake news propaganda artist Edmund Smith. Smitty is so smug that he brags about brainwashing his sixth-grade students. Pretty despicable, I'd say!

Sam Prentice's letter was outstanding - one of the best I've ever seen posted in the *Rivereast*. Also, kudos to Peter who beat me to the punch covering the "Thrilled" with Biden editorial. Great job. Editor Mike Thompson states that he is "thrilled that Joe Biden is the one in charge" not Donald Trump (warp speed vaccine in 10 months). Well, Mike has many things to be thrilled about - how about the mass influx of illegals crossing our southern borders, hundreds of unaccompanied minors, members of Drug Cartels, human traffickers, those who carry the virus and more of the "pristine" people of Central America. The border patrol - which had a solid handle on everything under the Trump Administration - has been "disarmed" by Biden (if

he even knows what's going on?) and at taxpayers' cost of \$500 per illegal per day to house and feed them. The border states Texas and Arizona are scrambling to control this "disaster" with little or no federal assistance.

Joe Biden gave the most uninspiring speech I've ever heard by any president in my lifetime. He stumbled through the teleprompter - again - but at least he finally spoke to the nation after 60 days in office. But he has yet to hold a press conference that allows questions. He also signed 46 executive orders in his first 21 days; do you think he remembers any of them? In his address to the Pentagon, Joe couldn't remember his secretary of defense's name and he nominated him.

"Thrilled every day." Really, Mike.

Don Denley - Andover

Spring at Colchester Schools

To the Editor:

Spring 2021 feels more momentous than years past. There is hope in the air and light at the end of the tunnel. In that vein, here are some things happening at Colchester Public Schools: Vaccinations continue for employees! The first dose of this round was Friday, March 12 and the second shot is scheduled for Friday, April 9 (early release day). Given that this clinic is on a Friday, we do not anticipate any side effects lasting through Monday and impacting schools.

WJMS is planning to reopen following April break! Administration is meeting with teachers/staff and parents to make this happen.

Bacon still has multiple student-safety obstacles that prohibit opening right now. However, sports/activities are picking up and parents are talking to Admin about getting outdoor proms safely scheduled.

These kids missed so much in the last year and we want to get them together as much as possible. My own 1991 Baconian yearbook was featured on the "you know you grew up in Colchester when..." Facebook page this week and it drove home the point that at 17, you pack a lot into one year.

Take Care,

Amy Domeika, Secretary
Colchester Board of Education

Data to be Celebrated

To the Editor:

March 16, 2021 marks the one-year anniversary of the Colchester Senior Center having to close its doors to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Although that is a very sad date for us to acknowledge, there are also things to be celebrated. Here are some data points giving a snapshot of this year from behind the scenes: 6,931 calls were answered (tens of thousands of calls were made in outreach, wellness checks and other calls also, but we don't track those statistics); 8,358 meals were delivered; 6,818 rides were given through our senior transportation services; 650 COVID-19 Vaccine appointments were scheduled; over 100 new membership registrations were processed; 70 seniors were served through our Holiday Stocking Project; and 905 program opportunities were offered (many through Zoom - a technology which we didn't even know existed at the start of the year) - all this was accomplished while being "closed."

This unprecedented year was hard in ways that I don't think anyone could've predicted, yet together we rose to every challenge and were able to successfully pivot, innovate and deliver all of the important services for which we're known. I think in many ways, the critical functions of a senior center were brought into sharper focus throughout the pandemic. I applaud the senior center staff for their commitment - they showed up every day and worked harder than ever to make sure that seniors remained safe, connected, and engaged.

In whatever ways the senior center touched your life this year, I hope that you have come to know that the Colchester Senior Center is here for you. With many people getting vaccinated every day, it is our hope that we will soon be able to reopen the senior center to the public and once again see you in person.

Patty Watts
Director of Senior Services
Town of Colchester

Follow-Up on NRG

To the Editor:

My compliments to Jack Lakowsky for an accurate article (3/12/21 "Energy Chair Says NRG Mised Middletown Council"). Thanks to the Portland Board of Selectmen and residents who voiced their concerns on the NRG proposal.

At the Feb. 7th Middletown Council meeting,

See Letters, page 25

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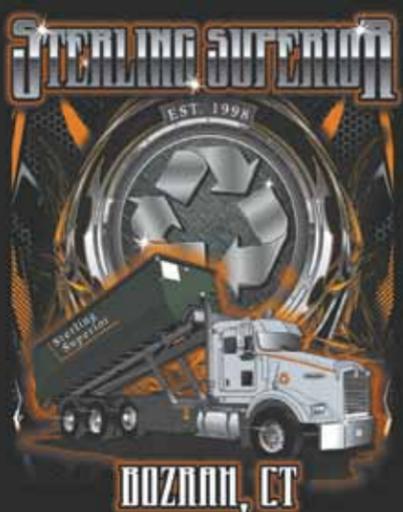
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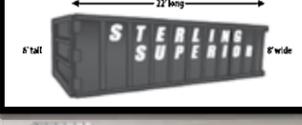
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Pandemic Recovery a Major Focus of Proposed Town Budget

by Jack Lakowsky

During Portland's first-ever Zoom budget hearing on both the town general government and Board of Education budget proposals, First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield and Superintendent of Schools Charles Britton presented their requests to the public.

Bransfield is requesting for the town's 2021-22 general budget close to \$14.17 million. This is an increase of about \$659,000 over the 2020-21 town budget, or 4.88%.

The Portland school board is requesting about \$22.42 million, a 3.12% increase over the 2020-21 budget, or about \$680,000 more.

The combined budget requests total \$36.58 million, up about \$1.4 million from the adopted 2020-21 budget.

"COVID-19 has affected all of us greatly," Bransfield said in the public hearing. "This has been a unique and difficult year, and each of us can attest to difficulties with the pandemic. Many of the things we talk about [in budget talks] will help the town recover from this scourge."

Another budget workshop was held via Zoom March 17, with two more scheduled for March 23 and 24, both at 7 p.m. and both also over Zoom. After deliberations and any adjustments it deems needed, the Board of Selectmen will vote whether to adopt the selectwoman's proposal at its April 7 meeting.

A voted is slated for May 10.

Major ticket items for the town's request include mandatory body and dashboard cameras for Portland police, a new tanker for the town fire department and a Chromebook leasing program for Portland students.

Last year, the state legislature passed the Police Accountability Bill, which requires all town police departments to equip officers and cruisers with body and dashboard cameras, as well as to store data recorded from these devices.

Portland police have no cameras, and so 15 of each type will need to be purchased at a cost of \$214,000, according to Bransfield.

The state will reimburse towns up to 30% of new equipment costs incurred from the bill's mandate. Bransfield said the state should fund at least half the cost, and said she expressed this belief in testimony she made to the state.

"This is a complex endeavor, but it is needed and will help improve [police] services in all

towns," said Bransfield.

Bransfield said she will find out if Portland's \$915,000 allotment from the recently-signed federal stimulus package, the American Rescue Plan, can be used for this work.

"I hope that public safety enhancement will be allowable," said Bransfield.

Bransfield said the local fire department has tried three times, without success, to get a grant to fund a new tanker to replace its current one from the 1980s, a replacement priced at \$391,000.

Bransfield said many homes and businesses east of Route 17 do not use the public water supply, so a new tanker is critical to extinguishing any fires in that area.

Bransfield said the pandemic strained all age groups, but that the town's youth and its seniors were particularly affected.

To bolster services to both seniors and youth, Bransfield has proposed reinstating a full-time director of the senior center, a position that hasn't been filled in some time.

This role has been filled in part by Mary Pont, who splits her time between the town's senior and youth services departments. If the budget passes with this position, Pont would turn all her focus to youth services.

One part-time center position will be cut from the center.

Bransfield said Portland's senior population is growing, and that as vaccinations are given, seniors will be eager to return to the center.

"There's going to be a large physical and emotional aftermath of this crisis," said Bransfield. "This pandemic has affected kids and seniors in ways we don't even recognize yet."

She said Pont and existing staff have done excellent work, and that demand of their work will only grow.

She said adapting to new technology was stressful for both seniors and young kids. She said kids lost out on learning time and socialization, while seniors were forced to limit time spent with their grandchildren.

The selectwoman's budget also calls for increasing Development Planner Mary Dickerson's hours from 30 to 35 per week, making her a full-time employee. Dickerson's title would change to "Planner."

Bransfield said the upcoming activity at the

Brainerd Place development and other town projects have created a need for more hours at the planning department.

In a Wednesday follow-up interview, Dickerson said she already works 35 hours per week. She said she often attends and prepares materials for four nighttime meetings per week, and said she also prepares memos and other work over weekends.

When the town's former Land Use Administrator left the position, Dickerson assumed that job's responsibilities as well.

Dickerson said she regularly logs 10- and 12-hour workdays.

Bransfield's proposal also calls for the town's Zoning Enforcement Officer to go from part-time to full-time.

Future cost prevention was also a component of Bransfield's budget.

She explained that water price rates from the Metropolitan District Commission, Portland's supplier of water, have exponentially increased since the town entered into a 30-year contract with MDC.

Bransfield calculated that in 10 years, MDC prices will skyrocket 97% from what they are now. She said in the last four years, water rates have gone up 75%.

Bransfield said the town is looking to end the

contract with MDC when it expires in 2026. The town received a \$250,000 grant to fund the work of finding new water for Portland, an effort that will start with hiring a consultant to help the town find new sources.

American Rescue Plan money can be used for water and sewer infrastructure improvements as well, according to information from Bransfield.

Due to the pandemic's ceaseless demand on public health officials, Bransfield's proposal calls for a 4.3% increase in the town's contribution to the Chatham Health District.

Bransfield is requesting for the town's highway crew a new excavator with a grapple at about \$185,000, as well as a new dump truck at \$220,000. Another highway capital improvement will be sidewalk reconstruction, funded by a \$525,775 grant the town received.

These items, along with new police and fire equipment, are under the umbrella of the town's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), a five-year plan identifying local items needing major repair or replacement.

In total, the town's CIP cost from 2022 through 2026 is close to \$37 million, with nearly \$3 million for fiscal year 2021-22. This coming year's improvements are funded through a mix of tax revenue, water and sewer usage fees, state grants and lease proceeds.

Police News

2/25: Daniel Winslow, 45, of Moodus, was charged with two counts of possession of controlled substance, possession with intent to sell and possession of drug paraphernalia, Portland Police said.

3/12: Raymond Szymanski, 74, of New Britain, was charged with operating under the influence, police said.

Foodshare Drive-Thru

There will be another Foodshare drive-thru Monday, March 22, at 1 p.m.

You do not have to be a Portland resident. Enter at Portland Library on Freestone Avenue and exit past the Portland Waverly Center (Senior Center) onto Waverly Avenue.

For more information, call Ruth Maio at 860-342-6795 or the senior center at 860-342-6760.

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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 proceeds 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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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.

Virtual Happy Hoopin' With Bringthooopla!: Thursdays, March 25-April 29, 4:15-5:15 p.m., on Zoom, for ages 5-12. The program features a variety of hoop games, music, creativity and movement. All participants receive a custom-designed and handmade Hoopla hoop. All hoops are weighted and sized by age and level. Resident fee: \$85 with hoop, \$70 without; non-resident fee: \$90 with hoop, \$75 without.

Do-It-At-Home Doodlekits with Abrakadoodle!: If a member of your household is interested in virtual art classes but unable to commit to a weekly class, then check out Abrakadoodle's new DoodleKits five projects based on five artists with all brand new materials included, packaged in a basket for the holiday or for your own use. Participants have the option of doing their crafts with Abrakadoodle over Zoom, but this is not required. Fee: \$55 per basket.

Take Home Easter Egg Hunt!: For \$5 you may purchase a kit with pre-filled Easter eggs (half of the eggs will have candy and half will have little toys, stickers and temporary tattoos), and an Easter-themed printout. The print will include recommendations of where to hide eggs, as well as coloring pages, a word search and crossword puzzle.

Zumba with Val at the Riverfront!: Wednesdays, April 14-June 2, 6-7 p.m., at Riverfront Park. Those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Fee: \$50, or \$8 per week drop-in fee. There will be a free trial class April 7; registration required.

Second Chance Babysitting Course!: Thursday, April 15, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., held at A Second Chance's Durham facility. This is a First Aid, CPR and AED course designed for babysitters. This course includes CPR and AED for training for adults, children and infants. Participants will be CPR, First Aid and AED certified for two years by the American Heart Association. Fee: \$80. All participants will receive an American Heart Association Pediatric Book that reinforces all the topics covered in the course.

Boat America – Online Boating Safety Course!: April 12, 14 and 19, 6:30-9 p.m., via Zoom. This eight-hour course enables the student to apply for the Connecticut Certificate of Personal Watercraft Operation, letting them operate a boat up to 65' or a personal watercraft. Course also includes the Safe Water Skiing endorsement. Fee: \$60; additional participant fee: \$55.

Skyhawks – MultiSport (Baseball, Basketball and Soccer): Saturdays, May 1-22, at Riverfront Park. This class uses age-appropriate games and activities to explore balance, hand/eye coordination, fitness, sport skills and child development. Parent participation required for ages 2-3.5 years. Fee: \$79. Schedule: 9-9:45 a.m. for age 2; 10-10:45 a.m. for age 3; 11-11:45 a.m. for ages 4-5.

Men's Softball!: Games tentatively start the first week of May and the season ends in August. Games are played at Nolan Field at Brownstone Park. Contact Derek Zatarain at derekzatarain@gmail.com by the end of March for league interest and team placement.

Abrakadoodle – Storytellers in the Park!: Starting Thursday, May 6, Parks and Rec. will offer an outdoor art enrichment program with Abrakadoodle at Riverfront Park. Make Art that tells stories about cultures from around the world. Fee is \$65. Time is 9:30-10:15 a.m. for ages 2-3; 10:30-11:15 a.m. for ages 3-5; and 4-4:45 p.m. for ages 5 and up.

Golf Workshops with Gerry D'Amora: Junior Workshop!: These youth golf clinics for grades K-2, 3-5, and 6-8 will return in June. Contact Parks and Rec. to save a spot. The **Ladies Clinic** will start in mid-May. More information to follow; space is limited.

Resident on College Baseball Team

The varsity baseball team at Eastern Connecticut State University is amid its spring season of competition. One of the players on the team is Bryan Dinnis, a freshman from Portland.

Dinnis is a pitcher and majors in finance.



Portland Little League recently honored the four 2020 Ben Foley Sportsmanship Award winners. From left are Lily Otero, Lily Hale, James McMicken and Jack Halinean.

Sportsmanship Awards Presented

Portland Little League recently honored the 2020 Ben Foley Sportsmanship Award winners. The winners are: Lily Otero (Softball Majors), Lily Hale (Softball Minors), James McMicken (Baseball Majors) and Jack Halinean (Baseball Minors).

Portland Little League annually awards a number of select players from its entire baseball community with the Ben Foley Sportsmanship Award. The Ben award was created in 2002 to honor players who have exhibited one or more of the ideals of sportsmanship, including fairness, civility, honesty, unselfishness, respect and responsibility.

During his Little League baseball career, at the age of 13, Ben Foley had a brain aneurysm, which left him unable to ever play again. The award was created to honor Ben's passion, en-

thusiasm and respect for the game.

The nominees and the recipients of the award are deemed leaders on and off the field, show respect for their fellow opponents, managers and umpires, and show a love for the game. There is no higher award given in Portland Little League.

Portland Little League's 2021 season will begin April 24.

Historical Society Planning Town-Wide Tag Sale

In 2020, the Portland Historical Society canceled its largest yearly fundraiser, the Town-Wide Tag Sale, due to the COVID-19 pandemic – but the society is determined not to let that happen again.

At its March meeting, the society's executive board decided to bring the tag sale back this year. However, for safety reasons, board members felt the sale should not occur in early May but rather late summer.

So the 25th annual Town-Wide Tag Sale will be held Saturday, Aug. 28. Watch for Town-Wide Tag Sale registration beginning Saturday, July 10, online and on paper as always.

Dean's List

Olivia Smith of Portland made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Emerson College in Boston.

Smith is majoring in media arts production, and is a member of the Class of 2024.

The safety of our patients and staff members is extremely important for us. All recommended COVID-19 safety measures are in place.



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St. Mary Church News

St. Mary Roman Catholic Church is located at 45 Freestone Ave. The church office can be reached at 860-342-2328. Office hours are 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday. For more information, visit www.stmaryportlandct.org.

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

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

Easter Schedule: The Rev. John Antonelle, pastor, has announced the following Easter schedule. Services are livestreamed where indicated.

Holy Thursday, April 1: 7 p.m. Mass (livestreamed);

Good Friday, April 2: 3 p.m. Stations of the Cross; 7 p.m., Passion of the Lord (livestreamed);

Holy Saturday, April 3: 10 a.m., Blessing of Easter food in the church hall; 8 p.m., Easter Vigil Mass (livestreamed);

Easter Sunday, April 4: 8 a.m. Mass (livestreamed); 10 a.m. Mass; 11:30 a.m. Mass. Attending Easter Masses will require reservations by call-

ing the church office at 860-342-2328.

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.

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. The library is also on Facebook and Instagram.

Library Reopens: The library is now allowing entry for brief visits to browse and borrow books, use computers, and more. Call ahead to book an appointment before your visit; walk-ins may be allowed but cannot always be accommodated due to limits on the number of visitors allowed in the building. Computers and wireless access in the building are available by appointment. Curbside delivery of requested items also continues. Call for more information.

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

NatureCrafting: Thursday, March 25, 3:30 p.m., via Zoom. For grades K-5. Explore 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.

Preschool Science: Tuesday, March 30, 10 a.m. 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.

Adult Program: Portland Forum: Thursday, March 25, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom. In partnership with the Portland Social Justice Coalition, the library hosts a series of discussions that focus on representing the countless faces of diversity. The March discussion will focus on the lives of two African American women who set the standard for activism: Ida B. Wells and Dorothy Pittman Hughes. To prepare for April's discussion, read the book *Red at the Bone* by Jacqueline Woodson. The book deals with issues of class, education, ambition, racial prejudice, sexual desire and orientation, identity, mother-daughter relationships, parenthood and loss.

Mystery Lovers Book Club: Tuesday, April 20, 1 p.m. *All is Not Forgotten* by Wendy Walker will be discussed.

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. Although worship services and church activities are being held virtually at this time, there continue to be missions, fellowship and educational gatherings on Zoom.

In preparation for Easter, the church's Flower Committee is taking orders for flowers that will be used at the Sunrise Service, to be held behind the church in the Memorial Garden area at 6:15 on Easter morning. Flower orders must be submitted by March 20. Details and the order form are available at www.firstchurchportlandct.org.

The church is launching a new "FUN'd"-raising project to bring some "photographic friends" to the sanctuary as a way to have some digital folks in the pews as the church gradually returns to in-person indoor worship services within the next few months. Those interested in participating may send a vertical photo of yourself to Amy Jahnke at amy.jahnkefcportland@gmail.com by March 23, as well as mailing a check for \$25 per adult cutout (\$20 per child cutout). The photos will be created into life sized cardboard cutout images that will be placed in the pews. These cutouts will be used to designate socially distanced spacing when the sanctuary opens for worship services, and will become part of the 300th anniversary events at the church. More information is available on the church website.

The Board of Missions has announced its annual participation in One Great Hour of Sharing, a special offering of the United Church of Christ. This year's theme is "Let Love Flow." Funds provide assistance to those suffering from natural disasters, support sustainable development projects all over the world, help farmers

who are trying to build a sustainable life, provide clean water for drinking and sanitation to families in rural areas all across the world and assist refugees who have been displaced by economic conditions, war and climate change. Those wishing to make a contribution may log onto their website at www.ucc.org/oghs to make a donation or may donate online at the church website or may send a check to the church.

The church has launched a weekly e-newsletter, *The Weekly Word*. 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.

Resident on Swim Team

The men's and women's swimming teams at Eastern Connecticut State University are competing in abridged seasons this spring.

Among the student athletes is freshman Kelly Schneider of Portland, who participates in the back/free event and majors in biology.

Soccer Club Taking Spring Registrations

Portland Soccer Club (PSC) is now accepting registrations for the spring 2021 soccer season. All COVID-19 protocols will continue to be followed throughout the season. Club-Recreational and Travel-Town registration will be accepted until April 25.

PSC will only accept registrations online, at www.bluesombrero.com/portlandsoccerclub.

Club Soccer: Cost and schedule is: Pre-K sessions (\$60): 8:45-9:30 a.m. (Saturday only); Dribbler sessions (\$75): 10-11 a.m. (Saturday only); Kicker sessions (\$75): 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. (Saturday games and Wednesday practice).

Full-team uniforms for Dribbler and Kicker divisions and shirts and balls for pre-kindergarten are included in the registration fees and will be available for distribution prior to and during the first day of play. The Club-Recreational program will run from May 1-June 12 (seven-week season). All games will take place at the New

Portland Recreational Complex.

Travel-Town Soccer: Cost per travel registrant is \$100 for U9 to U15. The Travel Division will be structured as an in-house only division with individual teams practicing and playing within their own group cohort for practices and games. Specific cohorts will be determined after registration closes. PSC will also enhance the experience by holding additional foot skill, shooting and goalie training throughout the season offered by outside professional trainers. These additional training experiences are included in the registration fee.

For more information, contact President Chris Donahue at donahuecj@sbcglobal.net or 860-342-3228; Vice President Chad Wilson at nosliw.dahc@gmail.com or 205-999-8842; or registrar Stephanie Bolstridge at stephaniebolstridge@gmail.com or 860-478-9693.

Zion Lutheran Church News

Zion Lutheran Church is offering several opportunities for worship during the Lenten season.

Evening services, or "Compline," are livestreamed to Zion's Facebook page at 7 p.m. each Wednesday and then posted on the YouTube the following day.

Sunday morning worship services are posted on YouTube after 9 a.m. Bulletins for each service are available on the church website at zionlutheranportland.org.

Holy Week and Easter Sunday services include:

March 28: Palm/Passion Sunday – Blessing of Palms at 9 a.m. in person outside the church entrance; virtual worship will be available on YouTube.

April 1: Maundy Thursday – Prayer Stations at home. The service will be emailed, made available for download online, or a paper copy mailed upon request.

April 2: Good Friday – Tenebrae service posted on YouTube at noon.

Gardening Program via Zoom

Portland Library and the Garden Clubs of Portland will present the virtual program "Welcome Home to Native Plants" by Kathy Connolly Wednesday, March 24, from 7-8:30 p.m., via Zoom.

Kathy Connolly will discuss the fundamental design problems posed by planting near buildings, driveways, sidewalks and other structures, and talk about the many native shrubs, small trees, perennials and ground covers that suit foundation-area gardens. She will also explore native substitutes for traditional non-native foundation plants and identifies deer-resistant selections.

Portland River Valley Garden Club and the Portland Garden Club are sponsoring this joint gardening program. To attend, visit www.portlandlibraryct.org for an access code and password.



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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.

Library Open: The library building has reopened to the public for computer use, materials browsing, and other limited services. All patrons will be required to wear masks and practice social distancing. Curbside pick-up requests will continue to be filled in the lobby of the building. Hours: Monday and Wednesday, noon-7:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; and Saturday, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. The library will be open for curbside pick-up only (no building access) on Friday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The library is closed on Sunday.

Virtual Workshop: Foundations of Equity Literacy: Wednesday, March 24, 6 p.m. Facilitators from HB4 Diversity Inc. will present this 90-minute workshop that covers the basics of equity, racial equity lens, bias and more. Space is limited; register on the calendar page at douglaslibrary.org or by calling the main desk at 860-228-9312. Valid email is required.

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 offers a special series for children aged 3-8, released each Friday on the library website and YouTube. An accompanying activity or

craft is available to pick up each week in the library's lobby. Upcoming books and crafts: March 19, *Roof Octopus* by Lucy Branam, then build your own stuffed animal octopus; March 26, *Miss Brooks Love Books (and I Don't)* by Barbara Bottner, then make a monster-themed bookmark for your own favorite book; April 2, *Kate, Who Tamed the Wind* by Liz Garton Scanlon and *How to Find a Bird* by Jennifer Ward – then go on a nature scavenger hunt, and build a bird feeder at home.

Adult & Teen Crafts: In the lobby, patrons will find the monthly Take & Make craft bag. Bags are available for pickup during our normal curbside hours; 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.

Donations Accepted for April Book Sale

The Friends of Douglas Library group is accepting donations of used books in good condition for its conditions-permitting April 17th book sale. Fiction, science-fiction, mysteries, romances, non-fiction, and children's books are requested. CDs and DVDs are also welcome.

People are asked not to donate VHS tapes, encyclopedias, magazines or *Reader's Digest* condensed books. All donated items should be in good condition – not mildewed, moldy, dirty or torn.

Douglas Library is located at 22 Main St. on the Hebron Green. The next Book Sale will be Saturday, April 17, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., in the library's Community Room. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Friends will offer its \$5/bag sale for an extra hour, from 1-3 p.m.

Proceeds from the sale are used to purchase

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

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

Open Call to Apply for Grant Funds

Grants offered through the new Greater Together Community Fund are now available – with letters of interest due April 1.

In 2019, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving established a \$100,000 Greater Together Community Fund for each of the 29 towns in the Greater Hartford region – including Hebron.

Hebron's Greater Together Community Fund Advisory Committee is looking for project proposals. Amounts from \$500 to \$10,000 will be awarded in grant funds to selected proposals. All projects must benefit the residents of Hebron. For further details on project guidelines and how to apply, visit: hfpg.org/hebronct.

A letter of interest is due by April 1. Selected applicants will be invited to submit a project application or grant proposal by May 1. Grant awards will be announced by June 1. For more information, email hebroncommunityfund@gmail.com.

Hebron Cemetery Spring Cleaning

The New Hebron Cemetery Association is asking visitors to be conscious of the Cemetery Rules and Regulations regarding decorating gravesites.

There have been numerous problems with metal plant hangers, metal and wooden borders, balloons and other decorations that interfere with the mowing and maintenance of the grounds.

On May 1, all objects that interfere with maintaining the grounds will be removed.

Transfer Station Hours Change

The new hours at the Hebron transfer station are:

Tuesday and Thursday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; and Sunday, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

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

Yard Work Help Available for Seniors

The AHM Youth and Family Services CHORES Program is accepting applications from senior citizens age 60 or older from Andover, Hebron and Marlborough to utilize the CHORES Program.

Teens will work two hours per job at a senior citizen's residence raking, weeding, picking up sticks, planting, etc. For complete program information visit ahmyouth.org, click on "Menu" and select "CHORES Program." Applications can be found at Russell Mercier Senior Center.

Contact Jenn Boehler at 860-228-9488 ext. 12 or jenniferb@ahmyouth.org for more information.

Snofolk Seeking Summer Fun

The Town Center Project is currently accepting sponsorships for hosting a Snofolk for the summer. Grace your garden, yard or anywhere you can think of, with part of the art installation known as the SnoFolk of Hebron.

Express your interest and your bid via email to ttcp@thetowncenterproject.org or via Facebook at [facebook.com/towncenterprojectinc](https://www.facebook.com/towncenterprojectinc). Highest bidder wins choice.

Calling all Musicians

The Town Center Project is again bringing Make Music Day to Hebron. Make Music Day is an international event dedicated to the celebration of music – and this year's festivities will be held Monday, June 21.

Make Music Day was originally established in France in 1982, and is now in over 1,000 cities in more than 120 countries. All levels of musicians are welcome, all genres – individuals, family talent shows... your imagination is your only limit.

TTCP will line Main Street, bringing back the "Mile of Music." To sign up to participate, or for more information, visit [facebook.com/towncenterprojectinc](https://www.facebook.com/towncenterprojectinc) or www.thetowncenterproject.org.

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.

Easter Services on April 4: Services will be held inside the church, observing COVID-19 protocols. Reservations are required, via the church website. There will be a 7:30 a.m. Rite I with no music, and 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services, both with music. The 9 and 11 a.m. services will also be aired in the Parish Hall, in case of overflow attendance.

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 Health 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.

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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, March 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.

Tuesday, March 23: 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi on Zoom; 11 a.m., Adult Coloring; 1:30 p.m., conference call bingo; 7 p.m., Senior Center Building Committee on Zoom.

Wednesday, March 24: 9 a.m.-noon, AARP Tax Aide, by appointment only; 10 a.m., Making Memories on Zoom; 10:30 a.m., Community Conversations with the First Selectman; 2 p.m., Masks & Martinis Zoom Happy Hour. No AARP Webinar Wednesday today.

Thursday, March 25: 9 a.m., Exercise with Anne on Zoom; 10 a.m., Sittercize on Zoom; 10:30 Shopping Trip to Windham; 11 a.m., Senior Yoga on Zoom; noon, Care Corner with

Select PT: Basic Strengthening Exercises; 1:30 p.m., Genealogy 101.

Friday, March 26: 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., AARP Tax Aide; 11 a.m., Senior Yoga; 1:30 p.m., International Cooking Demo on Zoom.

Upcoming Programs: Community Conversation with the First Selectman: Wednesday, March 24, 10:30 a.m., via Zoom. First Selectman Mary Bylone will provide COVID-19 updates, announce town-wide events, and more. She will take questions from the audience.

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

Resident on Lacrosse Team

Michael Parker of Colchester is a member of the men's lacrosse teams at Eastern Connecticut State University, which is resuming play this spring.

Parker plays midfield and majors in pre-secondary education certification and biology.

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.

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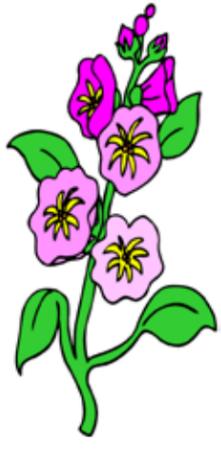
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Town Receives Open Space Funds

State Sen. Norm Needleman (D-33) announced this week that, with the initial announcement of 2020 Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Awards by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Colchester will receive \$63,000 to purchase the 65-acre Sablitz Property.

The property is located at the southern end

of the state-designated Pine Brook Greenway. Almost the entire property has been designated as an aquifer protection zone and its conservation will protect 2,600 feet of river-adjacent land. The town plans to connect the property to the Richard Goodwin Trail and will construct a gravel parking area for 8-10 vehicles as well as a picnic area.

Parks and Rec. News & Notes

Parks and Recreation has announced the following. For more information, call 860-537-7297, email parksandrec@colchesterct.gov or visit www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department. The Parks and Rec. office is located at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave. To visit in person, call to make an appointment. Registration is required for all programs.

Basic Dog Obedience: Saturdays, April 10-May 15, 9-10 a.m. or 10:15-11:15 a.m., at Ruby Cohen Woodlands. This is a basic obedience course using positive reinforcement training methods. First session is humans only. All dogs must be leashed with a non-retractable leash. Only one dog per handler. Instructor is Kevin Williams of Paws to the Wall Dog Training. All canine participants must provide proof of rabies and distemper. The Bordetella vaccination is recommended as well. Fee: \$150/residents, \$155/non-residents. For adults age 18 and up. Minimum number of participants is four and maximum is eight.

Spring Guide to Online Shopping: Available at www.colchesterct.gov/community-events. The guide features local artisans. Online ordering and payment as well as local pickup/delivery are options with each vendor.

Gentle Yoga: Mondays, April 5-26, 4:45-5:45 p.m., for ages 45 and up. Explore yoga postures, breathing techniques and meditation. All levels of fitness or yoga experience are welcome. Fee: \$35/residents, \$40/non-residents. Link will be mailed to you after you register.

Cupcake Champion: Saturday, April 24, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. This is a friendly competition for Colchester residents to see who makes the best cupcakes. Residents can participate in teams of two. All baking and decorating will be done at your home, on Zoom. You cannot leave your home or camera once the contest begins. Final cupcakes need to be delivered to the judges at the Town Hall immediately after the contest ends

at 1 p.m. The event is free to participate in; you just provide the supplies to make and decorate your cupcakes. The winners will be determined based on seven criteria: cake flavor, cake density, frosting flavor, frosting consistency, Decoration: neatness, creativity, relevancy to theme (theme will be revealed on the day of the event). The winner will be invited to participate in the next event to defend their championship. The top three winners will be awarded a Cupcake Plaque. Registration deadline is April 16.

Spring Clean-Up: Since Parks and Rec. is unsure of what the COVID-19 protocols will be in April, it has made changes to allow everyone to participate. First, choose a location that you love in Colchester. Then choose a time over the weekend of April 24-25 to clean up that area. All participants will be mailed a package of sunflower seeds. Registration is available online at www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department.

Here Comes The Sun-flowers: With the sunflower seeds from participating in the Spring Clean Up, Parks and Rec. is encouraging all to plant them on their property, to create a yellow sea of flowers across town.

Summer Day Camp: June 28-Aug. 20, from 8 a.m.-3 p.m., at the RecPlex, for kids entering grades K-7 in the fall. Hours are 8 a.m.-3 p.m.; extended care is available from 3-5 p.m. for an extra fee. In case of inclement weather, Parks and Rec. will use a school for the day. More information including registration, the camp calendar and daily activities, is at www.colchesterct.gov/day-camps. Call 860-537-7297 for more information.

Book Bingo at Cragin

Cragin Memorial Library, located at 8 Linwood Ave., has announced its Book Bingo card for March is Historical Fiction.

If you're looking to get out of a reading rut, try this new program to find your next book. Get a bingo and you will win a prize and be entered into a raffle for a gift card to a local business. Complete a full card and you will be entered into the big end of the year drawing.

This program is free and open to the public. For more information, call the library at 860-537-5752.

Empty Bowls? Oh Yes!!

Due to the pandemic, William J. Johnston Middle School teachers are offering the school's Empty Bowls program as a virtual event.

Through March 19, anyone who buys a bowl for \$10 will also receive a copy of a soup recipe you can make at home in your new bowl. This program continues to benefit both local and global charities: the Colchester Food Bank and Restavec Freedom Alliance in Haiti, which helps children who were formerly in slavery-type situations.

If interested, email ctayl31@colchesterct.org for more information.

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Copies of *Images of America: Colchester* have returned to the Colchester Historical Society Museum. The book includes nearly 200 historic images – including this view of Lebanon Avenue from a railroad trestle.

Images of America: Colchester Book-Signings

The Colchester Historical Society is restocked with copies of *Images of America: Colchester* and will host book-signings by the author, Gary Walter, on Sundays only, noon-2 p.m. throughout March and April at the Colchester History Museum.

Images of America: Colchester is part of the Arcadia Publishing series celebrating the history of neighborhoods, towns and cities across America. In this book, Walter has incorporated almost 200 historic images to tell the story of Colchester during the late 19th into 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. Can't get to the museum? You can get a copy mailed for an additional \$3 for postage, for a total of \$23.

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.

Colchester Soccer Club News

The Colchester Soccer Club (CSC) has announced the following pieces of news. For more information, and for registration and season updates, visit www.colchestersoccer.org and "like" the club's Facebook page.

CSC will hold its annual meeting Wednesday, March 24, at 7 p.m., via video conference. All members are welcome to attend. There will be elections for vice president of recreation and treasurer nominations for other board positions. Email secretary@colchestersoccer.org for details on how to access the video call.

CSC is seeking volunteers for the following open positions: web administrator – if interested, contact Tim Daniels at President@colchestersoccer.org; 3rd/4th Grade Divisional

Coordinator – if interested, contact Bill Beeler at vp.recreation@colchestersoccer.org; U9 Boys and Girls Fall Travel Coaches (all Travel Coaches are required to hold an age appropriate Grassroots license, or equivalent, or obtain one before the start of the season) – if interested, contact Anton Smith at vp.travel@colchestersoccer.org; Grades 2-7Up Fall Recreation Coaches – if interested, contact Bill Beeler at vp.recreation@colchestersoccer.org.

CSC is in need of more referees for the spring and fall soccer seasons. Online training is available through March 31. Visit ctreferee.net for more information.

Homeschooling Resources Available

With the COVID-19 pandemic continuing, the Colchester Board of Education has approved a new temporary policy to support all school-aged children who reside in Colchester – regardless of whether they are attending the town's public schools.

A limited number of educational resources are now available to homeschooled students in grades K-12. Any interested family should make a written request for access to the resources directed to tlldirector@colchesterct.org.

org, and will need to agree to abide by all district terms of use of resources. Home Schooling Policy 6000.1T is available on the district website, www.colchesterct.org.

Access to, and associated data and profiles of, digital resources will end on June 30 if a student does not re-enroll in Colchester Public Schools. If interested in re-enrolling, visit the website for an updated registration process. The school board asks people re-enrolling to do so by July 1.

Children's Programs at Cragin Library

The following programs are offered for children at Cragin Memorial Library. While the library is currently open, it is not hosting any in-person programming. 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.

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

Let the Shenanigans Begin

Colchester Senior Center will play to local host to a statewide virtual event entitled "Let the Shenanigans Begin" Friday, March 26, from 1-2:30 p.m., via Zoom.

To celebrate St. Patrick's Day, CT Healthy Living, CASP and AARP will present this afternoon of live entertainment by Pierce Campbell, laughs, and a time to celebrate.

Registration is required, by calling the senior center at 860-537-3911.

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2021 marks the 50th year of Gano's Power Equipment. The business sells, rents and repairs commercial and residential outdoor power equipment. The business is co-owned by Frank Gargano and his son Tony Gargano.

Gano's Power Equipment Turns 50

by Karla Santos

After serving in the United States Navy and working for Pratt & Whitney, Frank Gargano established Gano's Power Equipment – a business he has maintained for five decades.

It all started when he helped a neighbor fix his lawn mower and the neighbor gave him a “generous tip” for the help.

That's when Frank started to think fixing lawn mowers could make an interesting business.

So in 1971, he and his wife Norma Gargano started Gano's Power Equipment. The couple rented a space on Clark Lane and started a full-time lawn mower business.

This April marks Gano's Power Equipment 50th anniversary.

Frank said developing a business and being able to keep it alive for five decades brings a “good sense of accomplishment” and that it was “a fun business to run.”

The business is co-owned by Frank and his son Tony Gargano, who said he is also grateful for the milestone.

“A lot of businesses today don't get the opportunity to make 50 years,” Tony said. “We are in a tight knit community, where we are happy and proud to have made 50 years.”

The father and son are hoping to have a celebration during the summer, depending on COVID-19 restrictions.

Frank said that one of the things that helped the success of the business in its initial stages was applying the golden rule.

“We tried to always treat people the way we wanted to be treated and it kind of started mushrooming,” he said.

In 1974, the business went from being in an approximately 600-square-foot space to an 8,000-square-foot facility at its current location

at 120 Linwood Ave.

Frank said for several years he and his wife operated the business, until it got to a point where they needed another employee. He said his son Tony always helped out at school. Frank is now retired and Tony runs the day-to-day operations.

According to Tony, the business grew as they started to sell more brands of equipment and expanded their services to selling and renting parts and equipment.

“Our offerings expanded too, not just lawn mowers and chainsaws, we do a lot of other things as well,” he said.

He added that they also fix, rent and sell truck snow plows and truck sanders.

In addition, the business went from mainly providing services to homeowners to serving commercial clientele.

“We have people that come from all over to get stuff,” Tony said.

The business employs 14 individuals and Tony said they are hoping to expand in the future.

Tony said part of what he likes about the business is that it allows him to do something he enjoys while he meets people and creates relationships.

Frank said that while he is retired, he enjoys stopping by, talking to customers and sharing stories. When he was more active in the business, he enjoyed that every day was different and kept the job more interesting.

The Garganos have lived in Colchester for a long time, which has helped the business get closer to the community. Tony said the business has sponsored many events and often makes donations in support of the community.

“We believe in supporting the community that helped support us,” Tony said.

Cragin Virtual Book Club

The Cragin Memorial Library Virtual Book Club will be held Monday, March 29, at 6 p.m., via Zoom. This month, read Joanna Goodman's *The Home for Unwanted Girls*.

Copies are available for checkout at the Adult Circulation Desk. To register for this free event, visit <https://tinyurl.com/1p4ejrug> For more information, call the library at 860-537-5752.

From the Superintendent's Desk...

Colchester Public Schools Celebrates the Board of Education

March is Board of Education Appreciation Month! Our Board of Education members spend countless hours as volunteers to support the best possible educational outcomes for our students. Colchester Public Schools is celebrating their achievements all month to express thanks for all they do.

Colchester's BOE members Mary Tomasi, Christopher McGlynn, Mitchell Koziol, Jessica Morozowich, Amy Domeika, Suesen Hickey and Joanne Rose worked tirelessly in the past year on the following:

- Transitioning to online learning during pandemic;
- Approving the technology plan to facilitate virtual learning
- Supporting the development of several educational models to meet the varied needs of Colchester families.
- Establishing a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion AdHoc subcommittee to incorporate Social Justice into best practice in the areas of budget, policy, personnel, and curriculum.
- Revising BOE goals:
 - Fostering a welcoming, inclusive, and equitable culture that promotes the overall well-being of our students, staff, caregivers, and the community.
 - Growing innovative thinkers by investing in student achievement through dynamic and appropriately resourced instruction that maximizes the individual potential of students.
 - Effective intercommunication (two-way) that builds connections with the CPS community and promotes advocacy efforts at the local and state level.
 - Purposefully aligning the needs of students with a fiscally responsible, equitable, and transparent budget.
- Revising and updating hundreds of policies and bylaws, including adoption of 12 COVID-19 specific policies, to connect our district's vision and values to our day-to-day operations.

Throughout the month, BOE members will be treated to letters, videos, and virtual concerts from students, goodies from the Bake Shop at Bacon Academy, and CPS apparel to wear with pride. I am grateful to these dedicated individuals who are committed to working for the best for all of our students.

Warm Regards,
Jeffrey E. Burt

Colchester Superintendent of Schools

Food Box Distribution Continues Fridays

It's not too late to pick up your 30-pound box of fresh produce, dairy and meat products. Abundant Life Church will continue distributing these boxes to the community through the end of March, on Fridays from 2-4 p.m., at the church, 85 Skinner Rd.

When arriving Fridays for delivery, 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.

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. The program will expire in April.

Girls' Night Out

Anne Garland Enterprises of Colchester will hold a virtual Girls' Night Out Thursday, April 15, from 7-8:30 p.m., to benefit Colchester Food Bank.

This will be an evening for women from their 40s to 60s and up, with Zest Zone's essential oil mixologists. A \$5 donation is requested to benefit the Colchester Food Bank and will be matched by Anne Garland Enterprises, LLC. Each registrant will receive a free gram of magic for your mocktail/cocktail.

Registrations are due April 5. To register and for more information, visit annegarlandenterprises.com.

Tag Sale March 20

Westchester Congregational Church will hold a Tag Sale Saturday, March 20, from 8 a.m.-noon, at the parsonage located at 98 Cemetery Rd. in the Westchester section of Colchester.

Donations of good-quality usable items (no clothing, large appliances or large furniture can be accepted) are welcome to be dropped off on the parsonage porch before the day of the sale.

Attendees should wear their mask and plan to be physically distant from others.

Colchester Federated Church News

Colchester Federated Church is an Open and Affirming church located at 60 Main St. Pastor is the Rev. Lauren Lorincz.

The church office is open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Should you need to visit the office, call ahead and schedule an appointment. The office can be reached at 860-537-5189 or cfc06415@gmail.com

The church remains closed to the public until further notice. In-person worship services are limited to 40 people total. Reservations are required. Call or email the church office by Friday at 9 a.m. to reserve a spot. Worship services will be broadcast via Facebook Live each Sunday at 9 a.m.

Worship videos can be found on our website at www.colchesterfederatedchurch.org under the Worship & Sermons tab. Updated information can also be found on the church's Facebook page.

Board of Education Budget Meetings

The Board of Education will hold workshops on the proposed 2021-22 schools budget at 6 p.m. Tuesdays, March 23 and (if needed) 30.

After it's adopted by the school board, public hearings to present the budget will be held Tuesdays, April 6 and May 4, at 6:30 p.m. All meetings and public hearings will be on Zoom; log-in info will be at www.colchesterct.org.

The budget referendum will be held on Thursday, May 27.

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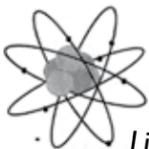
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Call to Artists, Poets, Storytellers and More

Epoch Arts has announced the creation of its original student-led magazine – and is currently taking submissions.

Thanks to the support of the East Hampton Rotary Club, students are creating an original magazine with a theme of “Inspiration and Encouragement.” Epoch is calling all artists age 12 and up to submit their creations. Epoch is looking for many forms of art: photography, poetry, short stories, lyrics, original songs and sheet music, and more.

High School Honor Roll

East Hampton High School has announced its honor roll for the second quarter of the 2020-21 school year.

High Honors

Grade 12: Danielle Elizabeth Adams, Grant Arcidiacono, Kathryn Jeanne Arndt, Robert Russell Balda, Adam Richard Berkenstock, Peyton Scott Burger, Colby Jonathan Camp, Connor Ryan Carrington, Meryl Elizabeth Curtin, Emma Arlene Field, Mya Lauren Field, Samuel Cole Gibson, Kyle Christopher Jones, Lorelai Ashley Jump, Lauren Anna Klemonski, Jenna Noelle Ledas, Logan Anthony Lefebvre, Claire Ava Lindsay, Kristina Colleen Lintz, Jacob Aiden Loitz, Sage Tayla Lynch, Anna Marie McElroy, Alexandre’ Aidan McMillian, Angela Michelle Mercaldi, Sarina Leigh Michaud, Julia Evelyn Nevico, Alexander Stoyko Nikolov, Austin James Ondas, Ariana Elizabeth Pimentel, Luke William Rempe, Tyler Jeremy Robinson, Carmen Anthony Sanca, Melissa Hope-Diane Snow, Kyle Raymond Stamm, Wiktor Grzegorz Szwajger, Kaitlin Luz Tassmer, Elizabeth Anna Urban, Catrina Marie Viveiros, Cody James Voelker, Lauren Elizabeth Walton, Xavier Ward Cardona, Allison Nicole Williams, Abigail Jean Wilson, Marissa Ann Woodbury, Ted Jia Zhao, Cassandra Beth Zimmerman.

Grade 11: Christopher Lawrence Anderson, Randi Hazel Baier, Kaitlyn Maria Baran, Joshua James Berg, Nathan Edward Bigelow, Sydney Lane Blyler, Julia Eleni Borrelli, Charles Walter Bosco, Juliet Isabella Byrne, Annin Emily Daley, Javier Andre Diaz, Jose Thomas Diaz, Carys Patricia Dinunzio, Drew Mark DiStefano, Conner Joseph Dixon, Thomas Gray Engel, Madison Marie Evans, Emma Nicole Fentress, Einin Mary Frost, Morgan Elizabeth Garcia, Jason Colby Gardiner, Alyssa Brooke Godwin, Austin Michael Goldner, Kaylee Joy Gravel, Sarah Ilene Johnson, Allison Deborah Kearney, Piper Nicole Lange, Jillian Victoria Lockwood, Bailey Rose Lombardi, Elizabeth Annmarie MacDonald, Connor Christian Michalowski, Brylee Lyons Montanari, Benjamin Robert Nafis, Diyangi Nihara Perera, Konrad Piech, Paul James Pignatella, Hailey Marie Porter, Alyssa Marie Rau, Nicholas David Rivard-Lentz, Victoria Paige Schiavoni, Carter Martin Scovill, Isabella Grace Searles, Kylie Eileen Shoefeldt, Finn Jacob Spooner, Jessica Avery Starr, Griffin Stockburger, Scarlett Rain Theobald, Jenna Rose Tigner, Jennifer Brooke Tripp, Madison Olivia Uliano, Herminio Paul Viveiros, Jack Dudley Watkins, Andrew James Weyrauch, Madison Kate Yorker.

Grade 10: Isabella Amelia Bafumi, Reagan Leigh Burt, Ephraim Jacob Butson, Sophia Marie Cahoon, Madeline Rose Crumb, Virginia Margaret Decker, Lehan Methula Dharmatilake, Salem Joy Didato, Daniel Drlik, Michael Jameson Fauvel, Benjamin David Fazekas, Jenna Marie Field, Matthew Gallmon, Caidyn Olivia Galovich, Savannah Grace Garcia, Mia Concetta Garuti, Charles Thomas Griswold, Meaghan Marie Hall, Melanie Linda Hurt, Nathaniel Charles Ireland, Danielle Virginia Johnson, Georgia Reese Jump, Eshani Vivek Karkun, Kaleigh Saige Kiernan, Kayli Lynn Levenduski, George William Magaldi, Brianna Elizabeth Miller, Jewel Elizabeth Miranda, Thomas George Morton, Jenna Michele Murphy, Jordan Elizabeth Murphy, Benjamin Jeffrey Nolan, Ryan Patrick O’Sullivan, Lucia Ann Petruzzello, Alexis Antoinette Pettine, James Patrick Quinn, Mikaela Jade Rich, Aiden Jace Robichaud, Kira Lynn Roloff, Sophia Rose Shellenberger, Robert James Stanford, Julia Marie Stone, Taylor Marie Sylvester, Jaelyn Rain Taylor, Sophia Ray Theobald, Shea Michael Thibodeau, Alexander Jeffrey Urban, Adam Michael Wacht, Oren Michael Wilson, Benjamin Hobbs Wysor.

Grade 9: Brooke Eliza Adams, Benjamin Edward Barry, Andrea Sarah Berg, Austin Atwater Bigelow, Emma Grace Braga, Riley Julia Briggs, Erik Ryan Brody, Robert Michael Buccheri, Nicole Margery Carl, Audrey Rose Cooke, Abigail Grace Daley, Sean Robert Dickerman, Matthew Andrew Dickinson, Maya Taylor Dobson, Ethan Jacob Fields, Riley Kathleen Flatley, Cameron Elizabeth Fraser, Madison

Send your work via email. All visual art mediums are acceptable (painting, photography, drawing, sculpture, digital, prints, fiber art, collage or installation art), as well as other forms and styles of writings. The deadline for submissions is April 26. Send submissions with title, name of artist and age. “Adult” is 18 and older.

To submit work, and for more information, email Elizabeth Namen at elizabeth@epocharts.org or visit www.epocharts.org.

Rose Gay, Rileigh Mae Govoni, Ryan William Govoni, Lyndsey Sarah Gravel, Caroline Elizabeth Greco, Lauren Nicole Greco, Michaela Rose Healy, Amarylla Jane Ingala, Lauren Elizabeth Johnson, Samantha Lynn Kearney, Ella Renee Khongkham, Tyler John Khongkham, Leah Catherine Kohler, Maya Brianna Korczak, Brayden Asher Kramer, Nathaniel Aaron Laird, Sierra Ashley LaRose, Hailey Elizabeth Ledas, Noah Philip Leon, Daniel Antonio Lopes, McKenzie Aika Magge, Aidan Michael Maiorino, Benjamin Jeremy Maynard, Anthony Peter Miro, Amber Nicole Murphy, Erica Leigh O’Connor, Liam Shane Stimpson Owen, Aiden Joseph Palen, Finn Roman Piper, Holly Alexzandra Pugo, Luisa Fernanda Rojas, Delaney Sinead Russell, Jacquelyn Dionne Russell, Katherine Rose Searles, Aiden James Sones, Camryn Elizabeth Sprague, Cadence Michael Thibodeau, Emily Mae Tinson, Kali Felicia Trapp, Louis John Uliano, Hailey Rose VanBlaricom, John Henry Wilson, Chelsea Marie Woods.

Honors

Grade 12: Ryleigh Christine Ansich, Hannah Marie Barrientos, Michael Evan Brubaker, Damon Leo Carabetta, Alec Kevin Carrington, Adam John Collisson, Avery Tomas Connors, Kaitlin Joy Curylo, Callie Rae Dubos, James Vincent Hansen, Clayton Damon Hobby, Sabrina Rose Jenny, Brandon Nicholas Jirowet, Maxwell James Karrenberg, Kyle Robert LaPolt, Zachary Joseph Marshall, Lainey Elizabeth Maynard, Bridget Isabelle Montovani, Benjamin Edward Morton, Kyla Jayne Norton, Brendan Patrick Owen, Joshua Steven Penn, Devin Ray Petocchi, Mary Alice Rainville, Zakary Kai Robichaud, Moira Hunter Slater, Trent Michael Spitz, Ashley Alexis Stoeckle, Brayden James Vicino, Joshua Charles Wagner.

Grade 11: Brady Nicholas Battit, Jack Whiles Blakey, Jacob Christopher Brooks, Vincent Anthony Buccheri, Daniel Thomas Cascio, Ceana Maritza DeStasio, Olivia Lee Dillon, Caroline Elizabeth Dziekan, Benjamin Joseph Fields, Katelyn Ashley Flemke, Abigail Marie Flynn, Mikayla Anne Franklin, Patrick Gavrylchuk, Reilly Joseph Howard, Miller Aron Koziel, Rachel Grace Lee, Hailey Rose Lefebvre, Jye Andrew Lynch, Erin Elizabeth McGrath, Cheyane Elishia Nichols, Madison Frances Phillips, Matthew John Piela, Luke Edward Shinde, Kelsey Jean Smith, Julie Velez, Sydney Lauren Weller, Jaylencia Ashayla Young, Mariana B. Zulvaran.

Grade 10: Madeline Marie Ballou, Raymond Jon Beck, Tyler Brian Carrington, Alex Cho, Abigail Christine Chrin, Nicholas Ryan Chunko, Christylee Rose Dus, Evan James Giovanelli, Avery Thomas Hall, Maddox Rocco Howland, Matthew Robert Jacobsen, Brennan Albert Johnson, Bridget Elizabeth Keilbach, Noelle Orian Lavender, Jarrett David Leith, Bella Brianna Lineberry, Sophia Eva-Marie Martin, Cole Hunter Norton, Savannah Mylie Partridge, Matthew James Penn, Coen Michael Phillips, Aiden Catherine Rine, Austin Michael Rivera, Madelyn Mary Rolland, Nicolas Robert Ruggiero, Gavin Tyler Santillo, Emily Deborah Vick.

Grade 9: Kaitlyn Samantha Anderman, David Hunt Anderson, Bryce Aiden Bailey, Izabella Palma Buccheri, Logan Maxwell Burnham, Brian Kenneth Collisson, Benjamin Gilman Donahue, Thomas Anthony Fenton, Teagan Elizabeth Frost, Lucas Patrick Gagne, Adriana Gonzalez, Francis Joseph Guiliano, David Carlton Johnson, Jason David Johnson, Christian Alexander Lanou, Brittney Lin, Mimi Madelyn Lira-McGuire, Riley Virginia Lombardo, Ethan Patrick Marshall, Evan Rene Michaud, Sadie Lynn Michaud, Tyler Gregory Millett, Charlotte Rosalynn Minnick, Julia Grace Morrell, Kylie Shannon O’Brien, Samuel Michael Orlovski, Zacharia Michael Parker, Artur Piech, Baden Alexandre Plante, Shane Thomas Proxee, Ophelia Rose Pugliese, Hailey Elizabeth Pyrek, Jakub Remiszewski, Madison Murphy Reola, Alex John Rivard-Lentz, Jaden Grace Sinsigalli, Alyssa Carolyn Snyder, Sonoma Claire Steiner, Andrew James Wagner, Alexander Patrick Wills, Makayla Lee Wolf, Alexander Jon Zimmerman.

Realtor Featured in Local Edition of Top Agent Magazine

Dana Flanagan of Flanagan Realty Group at Agnelli Real Estate was featured on the cover of the March Connecticut edition of *Top Agent Magazine*, which features the top producing and most accomplished professionals in the real estate industry, offering an in-depth look at their careers.

To be considered for a feature in *Top Agent Magazine* all professionals must go through a nomination and interview process. All candidates are then evaluated based upon production, professionalism, and industry and community involvement.

“It’s an honor to be on the cover of *Top Agent Magazine* for a second time,” Flanagan said.

For more information, contact Flanagan at 860-796-0562 or dana@flanaganrealtygroup.com, or visit FlanaganRealtyGroup.com.



Local realtor Dana Flanagan was recently featured in the Connecticut edition of *Top Agent Magazine*.

Ham Shoots

The Belltown Sportsman’s Club will have ham shoots Sunday, March 28, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the club grounds, located off Tartia Road.

Bring your own shotgun or one will be provided. Shells supplied; 410, 20 and 12 gauge. Cost is \$3 per shot. Refreshments available.

For more information, call Curly at 860-638-7221.

Kindergarten Registration

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.

Beginner Bellringer Preschool

East Hampton High School’s Beginner Bellringer Preschool Program is now taking applications for the 2021 school year. Parents may have a preschool application sent to them by contacting Kasey Tortora at ktortora@easthamptonct.org. All applications must be received by March 31.

This year, there will be sessions of preschool with a distant learning option, and a maximum of 12 preschool students. The schedule is three afternoons per week (Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays). The preschool is open to 3- to 5-year-olds (as of Jan. 1). In some cases, the school will accept older 2-year-olds.

The preschool program will begin in March and end in May. There is a materials cost of \$200 per student. Enrollment is limited. Applications will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis. All children must be toilet-trained. For more information, contact Tortora.

All preschoolers must present completed documentation of a current physical and adequate immunizations before the start of the program.

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. 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.

Visit chathamhistoricalct.org or the Chatham Historical Society’s Facebook page right before the event, for word of any possible cancellation.

Easter Food Drive

Knights of Columbus Belltown Council 6190 are sponsoring an Easter food drive to benefit the East Hampton Food Bank through Palm Sunday, March 28, at St. Patrick Church, 47 W. High St.

Items requested are: canned hams, canned pineapple slices, fresh carrots, celery, potatoes, sweet potatoes or yams, canned vegetables, rice, mayonnaise, vegetable oil, mustard, Easter candy and cash. Checks should be payable to the East Hampton Food Bank.

Place all donations in the collection bin located at the side entrance of the church.

Pot Roast Dinner

The Missions’ Committee of the Second Congregational Church of Middle Haddam at 52 Middle Haddam Rd. is preparing a classic pot roast dinner for pick up on Saturday, March 27, from 2-4 p.m.

The dinner includes pot roast, potatoes, carrots, onions, winter squash, gravy and challah bread. It serves 4-6 people and comes in a reheatable pan. Cost is \$30.

To reserve dinners, call Betty at 860-214-5429 or Kathy at 860-510-8102. Deadline for reservations is Sunday, March 21.

A percentage of proceeds will be donated to the East Hampton Food and Fuel Bank.

Resident on College Baseball Team

The varsity baseball team at Eastern Connecticut State University is amid its spring season of competition. One of the players on the team is Zachary Player, a junior from East Hampton.

Player is a pitcher and majors in criminology.

Lions’ Shoe Drive

The East Hampton Lions’ shoe drive collection runs through March 27. The Lions are asking people to donate new or gently-worn shoes, sneakers, boots and slippers. They are hoping to collect 2,500 pairs, which will be used to support small businesses in developing countries.

The Lions have partnered with the students of Center School. The classrooms will compete for the top three classes that collect the most shoes. The students will be bringing the shoes to the school for the Lions to pick up.

Shoes may also be dropped off at Ace Hardware, or to have them picked up, call 860-977-5760 or 860-593-1220.

Town Receives Open Space Funds

State Sen. Norm Needleman (D-33) announced this week that, with the initial announcement of 2020 Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Awards by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, East Hampton will receive \$46,500 to acquire the 7.5-acre Christopher property.

The property contains Christopher Pond, fed directly by a Lake Pocotopaug tributary. This purchase is motivated by hopes of protecting Christopher Brook, protecting and improving water quality as it suffers from cyanobacteria blooms every summer. If acquired, the public would be allowed to use the property for fishing, kayaking, hiking and picnicking.

East Hampton • East Hampton



Spring Classes at Epoch Arts... Epoch Arts is offering eight-week classes this spring. Classes include Animal Art, Arts and Crafts, Create Your Own Fairy Garden, Improv Troupe, and more. Epoch also welcomes back its preschool and kindergarten class this season in the "Fun with Eric Carle" class. Also, two original theatrical performances by Breaking Silences and the cast of Mainstage will be held outdoors late spring on Epoch's new outdoor stage. Class size is still small and Epoch will follow all procedures to keep students safe. Classes begin April 5, and are all held at 27 Skinner St. Register online at www.epocharts.org/classes-registration. Pictured here is student Quincy Ordonez, who studied artist Wayne Thiebaud at a previous class.

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.

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.

Virtual Afterschool Programs: Footprints, Fribrarys, and Fundays: The library offers fun and educational after school 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, April 9 and 30; Fribrary, for grades 4-5, April 23, May 7 and May 28; Monday Funday, for grades 6-8, April 19 and May 24.

Science Explorers: Project Bags for Grades 2-5: Tuesday, April 6, 10 a.m. Explore the world of science with an interactive take home project bag. This session's kit features optical illusions; trick your eyes with a sliding grey step and spinning disks. Registration is required. The library will let people know when the kits are ready for pickup.

Visit Candy Land: Through Sunday, March 21, the library has transformed East Hampton into a life-size version of Candy Land, thanks

to a donation from the Middlesex Community Foundation and the Peach Pit Foundation. Your game board will guide you around town to visit Candy Land-themed stops where you'll complete challenges and answer riddles. All you need is the game board to play. Once you've completed the game, return your game board to the library for a chance to win prizes. You can find the game board at easthamptonpubliclibrary.org/candyland.

Teen Advisory Tuesday: March 23 at 3 p.m., for grades 8-12. In this online program, teens will plan and create events and programs, and provide input to expand the library's YA/Teen collection. Teen Advisory Board requires a monthly commitment and participation; upon registration you will receive an application and agreement to be completed prior to our first meeting. Registration and applications are being taken now.

Adult Programs: 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.

Author Event! Martha Hall Kelly: Sunflower Sisters: Tuesday, April 20, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom. *New York Times* best-selling author Martha Hall Kelly, who wrote the books *Lilac Girls* and *Lost Roses*, will discuss her latest book, *Sunflower Sisters*. Books will be available for sale and borrowing prior to the event at the library. Registration required.

Book Club: Sunflower Sisters is also the April Book Club selection. There will be a discussion of the book via Zoom on Tuesday, April 27, at 6:30 p.m., and Thursday, April 29, at 2 p.m. Register online for the Zoom link. Copies of the book are available for checkout at the circulation desk.

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.

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.

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.

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

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 – and forms are due today.

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 chil-

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.

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 Hebron.

dren 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

The Congregational Church of East Hampton, UCC, will open for in-person services beginning Palm Sunday, March 28, at 10 a.m. Masks will be required as well as hand sanitizing and social distancing.

An online Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service will take place via Zoom Thursday, April 1, at 7 p.m., and the church will again be in the sanctuary for Easter Service at 10 a.m. Sunday, April 4.

For those who are unable or not ready to at-

tend in person, all services can be accessed at cc-eh.org. All are welcome.

The Teen Youth Group will meet Friday, March 26, from 6:30-8 p.m. 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.

KoC Scholarship, Grant Available

Belltown Knights of Columbus Council 6190 has announced the availability of one \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating high school senior and is continuing their education at an accredited college/university. Applicants must be a member of St. Patrick Church, East Hampton.

The council will also award a \$500 Helping Hand grant to a member of St. Patrick Church who will attend Mercy, Xavier or East Catholic high schools.

For applications, stop by the parish center office, 47 W. High St., or email stpatrick47@sbcglobal.net.

Easter Egg Hunt

Haddam Neck Covenant Church will host its annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 27, at 1 p.m. Hundreds of colorful candy-filled eggs will be hidden outside the church. There will be Easter gift bags for the children to take home along with their candy.

All are welcome. Haddam Neck Covenant Church is located at 17 Haddam Neck Rd., the road to the fairgrounds.

Lions Offering Scholarships

The East Hampton Lions are offering three scholarships and one service award. All are \$1,000 awards presented to East Hampton graduating seniors who are furthering their education.

Individuals graduating from East Hampton High School or programs outside of East Hampton are eligible. Applications are available at the East Hampton High School guidance office, and are due April 5.

Christ Episcopal Church News

Christ Episcopal Church, 66 Middle Haddam Rd (mailing address: P.O. Box 81) Middle Haddam, will not hold in-person Sunday services until further notice. Sunday services are at 10 a.m., and Wednesdays during Lent at 6 p.m. there is a service of Holy Eucharist. Both services are available on Zoom.

Christ Church Virtual Sunday School conducts lessons, conversations and activities that follow the Gospel appointed for each Sunday. The sessions are held at 11 a.m. and are also on Zoom.

The church is collecting Lenten contributions to St. Vincent's School for physically-challenged children in Port au Prince, Haiti. Contact the church for more information.

The Rev. Ann Perrott is Priest-in-Charge, the Rev. Joanne Neel-Richard oversees Children's Ministry, and Martha Alimi is the music director.

For more information or if in need of pastoral assistance, call the church at 860-267-0287 or visit www.christchurchmiddlehaddam.com.

'Belltown Spring Sprint' Returns in May

Project Graduation at East Hampton High School is holding the "Belltown Spring Sprint," a run/walk to raise funds for a drug- and alcohol-free graduation night, Sunday, May 2, on the grounds of East Hampton High School, 15 N. Maple St.

Kids' Fun Run starts at 9:15 a.m., and cost is \$5. The 5K Run/Walk starts at 10 a.m., and cost is \$20 for adults and \$10 for ages 18 or younger.

Register at belltownspringsprint5k.itsyourrace.com. There are free T-shirts for 5K runners registered by April 10.

For more information, email Melissa Curylo at ehhscprojgrad@gmail.com.

Belltown Garden Club Meets in Person

After months of virtual meetings, the members of Belltown Garden Club met for their March meeting in-person, in the Fellowship Hall of the Congregational Church.

After a brief business meeting, members got right to work, painting rocks of all shape, sizes and creative expression. The club said it looks forward to spring and upcoming club projects, which will include various garden clean-ups around town and the annual spring plant sale.

The East Hampton Belltown Garden Club is a member of Federated Garden Clubs of CT and National Garden Clubs.

For more information about the club and its activities, call President JoAnn Hewitt at 860-267-4129.

East Hampton • East Hampton

Council Hears Update on Village Center Brownfields

by Jack Lakowsky

According to Brain Corvo, chair of the East Hampton Brownfield Redevelopment Agency, the town's rich history of industry means it must now contend with revitalizing former industrial properties in the town's Village Center.

These brownfield sites are polluted from industrial use and in need of costly remediation, factors that discourage private developers from making the unused property productive again.

This fact means towns often have to remediate or start the work of remediating brownfields in order to make them marketable.

Corvo updated the East Hampton Town Council on five Village Center brownfields: 103 Main St., 13 Watrous St., 1 Watrous St., 3 Walnut Ave., and 13 Summit Street.

Corvo said all but 13 Summit St. have been assessed and remediated, to varying degrees of completion. The Summit Street location, Corvo said, is one that agency wants to work on, but first the town must buy the property.

In his presentation to the Town Council, Corvo said the Village Center's impressive past "created the current barriers to redeveloping [the] properties in and around the Village Center and realizing their economic potential."

Corvo said much of the agency's work goes into grant applications, as well as identifying, remediating, and reusing brownfields.

Corvo said that, in total, the agency on behalf

of the town has received \$1.5 million in grants from both the state and the federal government.

Corvo said 103 Main St., the former Gong Bell Manufacturing property, is an example of a completed, well-done project, although it moved faster than most remediations.

The agency received \$200,000 in May 2007 to clean up the site.

Corvo said parking may not be the most exciting use, but that the town center is increasingly vibrant, and so demand for it will grow.

The process of finding, cleaning and reusing brownfields can be slow and sometimes frustrating, Corvo said, especially when the agency isn't awarded a given grant for which it applies.

Corvo described 1 and 13 Watrous, as well as 3 Walnut, as "works-in-progress."

Corvo said 13 Watrous is a "typical work-in-progress," and that it's further along than some of the other projects.

Historically the site was owned by Summit Thread Company, which owned multiple Village Center properties, eventually becoming an autobody repair shop until 2005.

Corvo said the site is stabilized and structures are demolished, but that more remediation is needed before it can be used. Corvo said it will likely be a parking lot as well.

Corvo said 3 Walnut Ave. is at a great location in the center of town. A Phase 2 environmental assessment was done in 2006, a water tower removed in 2008, and now it sits vacant.

Corvo said based on its location, the site

could be far more productive.

The agency has drafted for 3 Walnut a concept design for a parking lot.

The next site Corvo discussed, 1 Watrous, was also owned by Summit Thread Mill, and is known as the former East Mill. It's also been a chemical storage warehouse and an auto repair shop.

It was privately-owned until 2016. When it came into town hands, it needed serious work, including cleaning up illegal dump sites, eventually being cleared in 2017.

Last year, the agency performed environmental assessments of the site. Currently, 1 Watrous is town-owned and for sale.

According to East Hampton Town Manager David Cox's written report to the council, 1 Watrous will cost between \$479,000 and \$587,000 to remediate.

Cox wrote that town staff are working on soliciting proposals for redevelopment. In the meeting, he said the town will also seek grants to do more work on the property.

Cox said the town will work hand-in-hand with a private developer to remediate the site

and make it productive again, adding that to his thinking, the private company would then take full ownership of the property.

Corvo explained that 1 and 13 Watrous should be packaged and marketed alongside 13 Summit St., as the buildings were designed by their builders as a campus.

"We have to tackle them together," said Corvo.

The town does not own 13 Summit, and it's a future priority for the agency. Currently the site is owned by an entity called Mercedes Zee Corp LLC, which has a P.O. Box in East Haddam. The *Rivereast* was unable to find immediate contact information for Mercedes Zee, and Cox said he has not had contact with them.

East Hampton Finance Director Jeff Jyllka did not return request for comment on what communication the town has had with 13 Summit's owners.

Corvo said whether dollars from East Hampton's \$1.3 million allotment from the recently-signed federal stimulus package, the American Rescue Plan, can be used for these projects is "still murky at this point."

Grant Applications Due in April

The East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission is continuing to seek 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.

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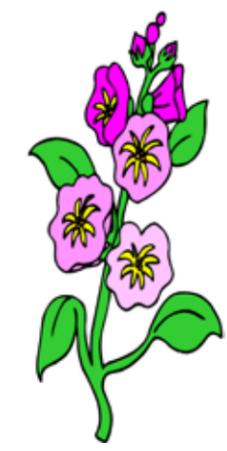
Tim's Tips
Tim Feegel, Service Manager

THE EVOLUTION OF THE TIRE

Can you imagine life before wheels? It wouldn't be fun, as the earliest types of tires were leather bands wrapped around a wooden wheel. The leather was quickly replaced with metal bands that lasted longer and after some time, it was found vulcanization of rubber was much better. Tires made out of solid rubber did make the ride better and last longer, but still had no sidewall so it was a rough ride. In 1847, the pneumatic tire was introduced and was an air filled rubber tire that also had some give in the sidewall giving people a more quality ride. Many improvements came along the way including belted tires and eventually steel belted radial tires. This is more like a tire that is used today, but it still hasn't stopped evolving. We're fortunate now to have tires for better fuel economy & performance and the wheel has come a long way since the day of around stone on an axle!

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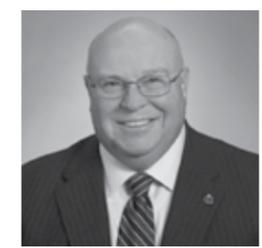
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Budget Meetings Coming Up

The East Hampton Board of Finance will hold multiple budget workshops next week via Zoom. The board will listen to input from both the public and from other boards.

The town government and Board of Education will present their budgets on March 22 at 6:30 p.m.

On March 23 at 4 p.m. the departments of the town clerk, taxation, assessment, building, land use, public works, police and capital will present their budgets.

On March 24 at 6:30 p.m. the senior center, library, youth and family services, and parks and recreation will present their budgets.

The fire department, the emergency management department, the economic development and conservation commissions, the Middle Haddam Library, and the Brownfield Redevelopment Agency will present their budgets at 6:30 p.m.

The school board will have another budget overview on March 26 at 4 p.m.

On March 27 at 8:30 a.m. the town manager, finance, and technology departments will present their requests.

All meetings are via Zoom. Budget information is available on the town's website, www.easthamptonct.gov.

Local Rotarian Donates Five Million Masks

Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz will be among several dignitaries in Hampton at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, March 21, to assist Rotarians from across the northeastern United States distribute 1.5 million protective facemasks as part of Rotary's "Million Mask Challenge Tour."

The event is the third and final wave of the tour, which has delivered a total of five million facemasks, donated by East Hampton Rotarian Ted Rossi and his Rossi Family Foundation. The Rossi Family Foundation sourced and donated all five million masks to Rotary. What began as an initial gesture of goodwill and support during the early months of the pandemic was transformed into a Rotarian-led project throughout seven northeastern states.

"With the immunization in full swing and the country moving closer to herd immunity, now is not the time to let our guard down," said Southern Connecticut's Rotary District 7980 Gov. Ron Webb. "The gift that Ted Rossi and his Rossi Family Foundation has provided is an outstanding example of philanthropy taking action to address those unable to provide for themselves during difficult times."

The Million Mask Challenge Tour began in October 2020 with 1.5 million masks, and was followed by a second distribution of 2.5 million

masks in January 2021. The project now culminates on March 21 with a final delivery of 1.5 million facemasks. Ten Rotary districts, with more than 500 Rotary Clubs and 15,000 Rotarians, will come to Hampton to collect their masks. They will be distributed in communities throughout Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and New York.

This final distribution will include surgical masks for adults, and a large supply of masks designed for children.

"We just cannot let up," Rossi said. "The need continues to be overwhelming, and this third distribution effort is so important, particularly for those small organizations that have yet to receive the support they need to maintain the necessary safety resources."

"I am so grateful to Rotary and the thousands of Rotarians that have taken part in the distribution of these masks," he added. "It makes me proud to see this work and reinforces for me the power of the Rotary network."

Non-profit and government agencies that will receive masks from Rotary Clubs include fire and rescue, nursing homes and other health care services, food pantries, social services and schools.

Lake Clean-Up Day Coming

The Friends of Lake Pocotopaug, with the help and support of the Conservation Lake Commission, will hold the annual Lake Clean-Up Day Saturday, April 24, starting at 9 a.m., at Sears Park.

If you are looking to volunteer any amount of time for this outdoor project, come on down. Dumpsters will be placed at Sears Park. Metals, tires (no rims), wood and plastics can be brought

to the park to be put in the dumpsters. All COVID-19 rules apply.

Lake Pocotopaug T-Shirts, garbage bags, gloves, directions and assignments will be available at the Park.

Full details are available at www.flpeh.org. For more information, call Joe Carbonell at 860-917-7366 or email vicechairman@flpeh.org.

YPCCA Taking Enrollment for Summer

The Young People's Center for Creative Arts is now accepting enrollment for its 2021 summer theater camp, to take place at East Hampton High School during July. YPCCA is a non-profit theater arts camp devoted to bringing musical theater to students in the central Connecticut area.

Mornings at YPCCA are devoted to workshops in a variety of artistic endeavors, including Show Choir, Stage Combat, Comedy Improvisation and Shakespeare. Afternoons are spent rehearsing for our full-length musical production. This year's production has not been chosen yet, but we will announce our show as soon as it is approved.

Auditions will take place at East Hampton High School in June. It is not mandatory to audition to participate in the camp – everyone is in the show whether they audition or not. Students will be asked to sing, dance and read at the au-

ditions. The cast list will be announced the first day of camp.

YPCCA will take place Monday, June 28, through Sunday, July 25. It is open to students entering grades six through freshman year of college. Tuition for the four-week program is \$600 per student if you register by May 1. Two full and two partial scholarships are also offered each summer.

The staff of YPCCA is made up of professional actors and teachers from throughout Connecticut. Students and staff of the program have gone on to work and perform on Broadway as well as regional theaters including Long Wharf Theater, Goodspeed Opera House, Hartford Stage and the Eugene O'Neill Theater.

For more information and a brochure, call 860-754-6145 or email info@ypcca.org. Additional information about the camp and online registration is available at www.yppcca.org.



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Save the Date for Quilt Show

Haddam Neck Congregational Church will hold its 32nd annual Quilt Show Saturday, May 8, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday, May 9, from noon-5 p.m., at the church, 408 Quarry Hill Rd., Haddam Neck.

The show is a fundraiser for the church and proceeds from attendee donations will support the annual upkeep of the 19th century church and Sunday School building, formerly the local one-room schoolhouse.

This year, the show is being combined with the Ladies Aid Plant Sale.

All COVID-19 pandemic protocols will

be in place and followed. Masks will be required and visitors will be asked to stay six feet apart. Only the church will exhibit quilts and visitors will be limited to permitted capacity and follow a set one-way flow with a separate entrance and exit. There will be no food service this year, but baked goods will be available for purchase to take home.

For more information, contact Lisa Malloy at 860-267-2713 or elizabethhartmalloy@gmail.com, or Franky Dallas at 860-267-4513. Visit www.haddamneckcongregational-church.org for church directions.

Haddam Neck Covenant Church News

Haddam Neck Covenant Church, located at 17 Haddam Neck Rd., East Hampton 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. The Message Series for Lent is "The Jesus Way."

Puppet Ministry: Each Sunday, the church's Puppet Ministry features Digger the Dog and some of his friends from Farmer M's Red Barn to help Pastor Tom explain the meaning of the message topic. This week, Cowger and Digger will talk about patience.

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*. During Lent, the study group will look at various Bible passages and apply the imagination tool outlined in *Armchair Mystic* to gain a deeper understanding of what is happening in the passage.

Famous BBQ Chicken: This drive-thru takeout event will be held Saturday, April 10, from noon-6 p.m. The dinner includes the barbecue thigh/leg chicken quarter with baked beans, coleslaw and corn bread. Reservations are required, by calling the church office.

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

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. Register online. Next date is March 22.

Seated Yoga with Kitch via Zoom: Winter Session 2 will be Wednesdays, March 24-May 26, from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Register online at MyActiveCenter.com. Fee is \$20. Payment

may be mailed to: East Hampton Senior Center, 105 Main St., East Hampton, CT 06424; make check payable to the Town of East Hampton.

Bingo via Telephone/Conference Call: The center has a telephone number people dial into to play every other Friday, and staff will be the caller. The next Bingo call will be Friday, April 2, at 10 a.m. Call the center to register and schedule a time to pick up your bingo cards.

Creative Crafts/Zentangle Zoom: Wednesday, March 24, 1-2:30 p.m. Becky Boynton will teach about Zentangle, a way to create abstract designs by drawing structured patterns. No skills are necessary. Register online at MyActiveCenter.com.

Live Well Program: This six-week class on living well with and managing chronic conditions will be sponsored by Chatham Health District and offered via telephone, conference-call style, through the senior center. Call the center for more information and to register.

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 [jewling@easthampton.gov](mailto:jewing@easthampton.gov).

Rotary Club Scholarship

East Hampton Rotary Club scholarship applications are available to any graduating senior in 2021 who resides in either East Hampton or Marlborough who would like to apply. Applications are available at the guidance departments of East Hampton High School, RHAM, Mercy, Xavier and Vinal. Applications are also available online at www.easthamptonrotary.org

To be eligible, student must be a resident of East Hampton or Marlborough, and must graduate from a secondary school accredited by the State of Connecticut and use the scholarship for expenses at an accredited school. The school may be a four- or five-year college or university, a community college, a trade school or a commercial school.

Selection will be made by the club's Scholarship Committee from the list of candidates who apply in a timely manner using the online application forms supplied by the Club obtained through the guidance department or the Rotary Club. Selection will be made based on a number of factors such as scholastic record, need, extracurricular activities, community service, the quality of the required essay, and the impres-

sion made at the interview.

Note: due to COVID-19, the Rotary will most likely not be able to do interviews in person. Everyone will be emailed the interview questions to complete during April, and the Rotary said it is open to Skype or Zoom or email with attachments of the information you would like to share.

The number of scholarships awarded each year will be determined by the budget. There are normally several scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each.

If possible, the scholarship recipients will be invited to an awards dinner as the guests of the Rotary Club to receive their check, meet the other recipients and receive the well-deserved recognition of the Rotary Club.

Applications are due April 10. The Rotary said it will email everyone to set up an appointment arrangement for an interview. Include your cell phone and email so we can contact you. The awards presentation will be planned closer to May due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Return applications directly to the Rotary Club by emailing Tom Sweeney at Scholarshipapp@yahoo.com, and be sure to let your guidance department know as well so they can be kept informed.

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New 'Cottage' Bakery Satisfies Sweet-Teeth

by Jack Lakowsky

New business owner Ydanis DeStasio in a recent *Rivereast* interview said she opened her home bakery, Ydanis & Co., in East Hampton after she realized locals share her passion for giving.

DeStasio said anyone looking to start a baking habit at home will find true enrichment by “using baking, and cooking, to bring people together”.

DeStasio has baked since she was 10 years old.

“You can leave something simple and delicious at someone’s doorstep, or bring it to work just to share,” DeStasio said. “I love being a giver, and that’s why I like living in a small town, and here there are great businesses and charities that give back.”

She said during daily life’s hustle and bustle, and especially during the pandemic, it can be easy to lose touch with a healthy giving spirit.

DeStasio is familiar with this busy lifestyle. She said she puts about 30 hours per week into her bakery, on top of working a full-time job.

“My weekends are for baking,” she said. “I put in about 8 hours on Saturdays and Sundays.”

All that time is needed – DeStasio said business has boomed since she opened in January. DeStasio said she filled more than 200 orders in the last month.

DeStasio and her family moved to East Hampton in 2015. Before then, she worked in the banquet department at the Ritz-Carlton in Orlando, Fla. DeStasio created dishes for weddings and worked as a personal chef, work she thoroughly enjoyed.

In Florida, DeStasio ran a similar home bakery, baking and selling cakes out of her home. Her Connecticut shop is a bit different, serving not cakes but small treats like custom-made cookies and macarons.

She said her macarons always sell out, as do her seasonal treat boxes. Currently, Ydanis & Co. is offering a charming Easter-themed macaron set. Search “Ydanis & Co.” on Facebook to get one before they’re gone.

DeStasio said her painstaking attention to detail and appearance sets her apart from many other bakeries.

DeStasio said it took between three and four years of work to perfect her recipes. She said

before opening her new bakery, she baked for friends and her children’s school events.

“People said I should sell them, and I thought it’d be nice to get back to my roots and use my degree,” DeStasio said.

Now all of Belltown can enjoy DeStasio’s sweets.

DeStasio was able to open her shop under the state’s “cottage food” law, passed in 2018. The act waived the need for all food vendors to use a commercial kitchen, and essentially allows for low-risk, shelf-stable products like pastries, jams and coffee to be sold from a home business.

East Hampton voters can claim some credit for this law. It was introduced by then-state Rep. Melissa Ziobron, who during her tenure served East Hampton in Hartford, as well as Colchester and East Haddam.

Ziobron in 2018 told *The News-Times* of Danbury the law was a way for entrepreneurs to test their ideas before investing heavily in a commercial kitchen, or simply a way for people to make a little extra money.

DeStasio said her experience with state and town officials has been great, and that opening and operating have gone smoothly, save for a few pandemic-related supply challenges. To combat this, DeStasio is emphasizing pre-orders so she knows what she needs to stock.

Eventually, DeStasio plans to grow.

She said she’s going to maintain the bakery’s “cottage” status while her two girls make their way through high school and college. DeStasio’s husband also has a demanding work schedule, and so taking on more and more work would mean less and less time for helping her children in their journey to young adulthood.

“Right now I just don’t want to sacrifice more time with them,” DeStasio said. “But once they start out on their own, I plan to build a very busy business, to move forward and focus on growth.”

She said if business continues growing, she’s on track to fulfill this ambition.

Currently on DeStasio’s long-term drawing board are ideas for a food truck service, as well as a small “Main Street” storefront. Expansion, she said, would also result in the creation of a new local job or two.

“As the business grows, it will get to a point



Seen here proudly beaming over her fresh-made French macarons and her Gourmet Signature Chocolate Chip Cookies, Ydanis & Co bakery owner Ydanis DeStasio is eager to serve up a little happiness. Along with the cookies, DeStasio poses with her St. Patrick’s Day special macarons – Irish Cream, Lucky Charms, Shamrock Mint and Salted Caramel Pretzel.

where I can’t do everything myself,” she said. “I’ll definitely keep it small, though, I love that hometown feel.”

To place an order or for more information,

call 321-794-6677, email ydanisco@yahoo.com, or visit ydanis-co.myshopify.com. Look up Ydanis & Co. on Facebook for regular updates and for pick-up hours.

Police News

2/24: John R. Forbes, 34, of 205 W. High St., was arrested and charged with failure to obey a red light, engaging police in pursuit, driving under the influence, operating a motor vehicle while suspended and operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, East Hampton Police said.

3/3: Beilhe Liskey, 21, of Moosup, was issued a summons for misuse of plates and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, police said.

3/9: Michael Birner, 56, of Hartford, was charged with second-degree strangulation, third-degree criminal mischief and disorderly conduct, police said.

From Feb. 22-March 7, officers responded to 11 medical calls, seven motor vehicle crashes and 10 alarms, and made 27 traffic stops, police said.

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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.

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

Teen Take and Make Kit: Teens (ages 11 and up) can make arrangements to pick up a kit that includes directions and the supplies to make a CD weaving craft.

March Book Madness: Take a video tour of all the books you may not have seen that have come out since March 2020. One winner will receive a copy of one of the highlighted books they are excited to read.

Shaker Song and Dance: The Hancock Shaker Village will present this virtual program for adults Thursday, March 25, at 7 p.m. Exam-

ples of Shaker songs will be shared, and one or two "laboring" songs will be taught, with motions that express Shaker values of unity, humility, and peace. Email richmondprograms@gmail.com to register.

Tenement Museum Tour: Irish Outsiders: The library will partner with the Tenement Museum in New York for this virtual program Tuesday, April 6, from 6:30-7:30 p.m., via Zoom. Travel back to New York in the 1860s for a virtual walk-through the tenement of Joseph and Bridget Moore, Irish immigrants living at 97 Orchard St., to understand daily life and discuss their experiences as Irish New Yorkers. There is a maximum of 30 participants and registration is required. Email richmondprograms@gmail.com 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.

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 until April 30, and can also 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.

Resident on Lacrosse Team

Alexa Jacobson of Marlborough is a member of the women's lacrosse teams at Eastern Connecticut State University, which is resuming play this spring.

Jacobson plays defense and majors in biology.

Charter Revision Public Hearing

Marlborough's Charter Revision Commission (CRC) will hold a public hearing via Zoom Tuesday, March 23, at 7 p.m., to discuss the commission's recommendations on charter changes.

All Marlborough residents are encouraged to attend and provide feedback. Information on how to join the virtual public hearing is provided in the CRC meeting agenda, available at tinyurl.com/d36wvhz4. Those who cannot attend the virtual public hearing are welcome to submit feedback or questions by email to firstoffice@marlboroughct.net. In the subject line, enter "CRC Public Hearing Comments." All CRC meetings are recorded, and meeting minutes are posted online on the town website, www.marlboroughct.net.

The Marlborough Charter Revision Commission (CRC) was established in late January 2020 for the purpose of examining the number of Board of Selectmen and the form of town government structure in addition to identifying other needed updates to the town's charter for recommendation. After a review of the charter and other documents, input from residents, and having interviewed more than a dozen others, some from other towns, who were identified as having some knowledge to bring to bear, the CRC said it would like to share their proposed recommendations with town residents and to obtain their feedback.

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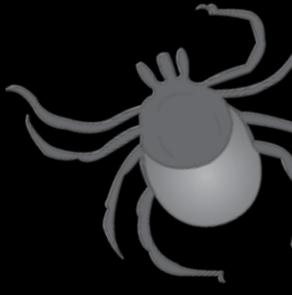
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Marlborough • Marlborough

Selectmen Table Decision to Spend Money on Oil Pump System Repairs

by Karla Santos

On Tuesday, the Marlborough Board of Selectmen decided to hold off on a decision to spend funds from the sale of the water system to repair the oil pump system at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School.

First Selectman Greg Lowrey explained that during a routine inspection it was determined that the fill station at the school – where oil gets added to the tanks – needs to be replaced.

Lowrey said the replacement is “time-sensitive.”

“The risk of contamination of the site exists if there was a spill during fueling,” Lowrey said.

He explained that the project can be funded from proceeds of the sale of the water system and noted that \$200,000 of those proceeds must be spent at the school.

Lowrey’s initial motion was to refer the matter to the Board of Finance. His plan is to have approximately \$15,800 from the sale of the water system spent on the oil pump system repair.

Lowrey suggested not going through a formal bid process because that could delay the project, but Selectman Amy Traversa requested additional bids, which resulted in the motion being tabled.

Other Board News

In other news, selectmen accepted two resignations.

Steve Kukucka presented his retirement and resignation from his position in the Public Works Department. Lowrey accepted the resignation “with regret.”

“Steve was a really good employee and I wish him every happiness,” Traversa added.

Highway fleet supervisor, Mike Perviti also submitted his resignation, which was accepted by the selectmen.

Scholarship Available

The Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department Women’s Auxiliary is now accepting scholarship applications from any graduating senior who resides in Marlborough. The applications are available online through the RHAM High School guidance department.

Applications are due Saturday, May 1. Mail all completed applications to MVFD Women’s Auxiliary, P.O. Box 237, Marlborough, CT 06447.

Lowrey noted that both positions are union jobs and are first offered internally and then to the public.

Selectmen also accepted a bid for detention basin clearing. They voted to accept the lower of two bids – \$25,430 from Connecticut Site Works.

In addition, selectmen accepted a \$5,765 donation from the Roy B. Pettengill Ambulance Association to help cover dispatch expenses for the North Central Connecticut Emergency Medical Services Center for fiscal year 2022.

In other news, Lowrey announced the Parks and Recreation Department is looking for life guards and that the town has seasonal public works openings.

On May 22, the town hall will host a shredding event from 8 a.m. to noon.

The Public Works and Parks and Recreation departments, along with a local Boy Scout Troop, will be installing an additional kayak rack at Blish Park. Lowrey noted that the racks will be available before Memorial Day.

The town is in the process of bidding two projects – guard rails for South Main Street and several aspects of the North Parker Road culvert project.

Furthermore, the plan review of the second-floor expansion of the Richmond Memorial Library is now in front of the fire marshal. Lowrey said he is looking to move forward with the project.

Community Conversation on Superintendent Hiring

The Marlborough Board of Education will host a virtual evening opportunity for community members to share their insight on the hiring of the school district’s next superintendent.

On Monday, March 22, at 7 p.m., Joseph Erardi, the search consultant working with the Marlborough Board of Education, will lead a one-hour meeting dedicated to gathering community input for the superintendent’s hiring committee. To log in to the meeting, visit meet.google.com/ted-knuv-mgz.

For more information, call Erardi at 571-480-0313.

Congregational Church News

The Sunday worship service at Marlborough Congregational Church is livestreamed every Sunday at 10 a.m. through the church website, mcc.marlbconchurch.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.

Mission-giving through March 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 sponsors the Drive-Thru Café, now held

twice monthly. Donations to the group for this project may be made through the church; note ‘Drive-Thru Café.’

A Wednesday evening Lenten program is held each week via Zoom. 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. For more information, contact Gwen Lawson at gwendolynn78@yahoo.com.

Dean’s List

Sydney Neumuth of Marlborough made the fall 2020 Dean’s List at Simmons University in Boston.

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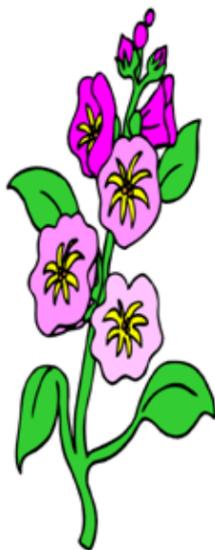
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Obituaries

Colchester

Thomas J. Glemboski

Thomas J. Glemboski, 90, of Colchester, passed away peacefully Thursday, March 11. Born March 23, 1930, he was a son of the late Joseph and Katherine (Pasternak) Glemboski.

Thomas was a graduate of Bacon Academy. In 1957, he married his wife Wanda (Suroviak) Glemboski; the couple shared 56 years of marriage until she predeceased him in 2013. For years, he was the owner and operator of Glem Oil, serving Colchester and surrounding towns. He also retired from the United States Postal Service as a mail carrier for Colchester residents.

Thomas was a very devout man; he was a communicant of St. Andrew Church for years, and later a member of St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church for the last two decades. He was known for being a generous man, who had a big heart; even in his retirement he continued to serve his local community by volunteering for Meals-on-Wheels, and organizing tag sales for St. Mary, St. Andrew and the Colchester Senior Center.

In his spare time, he enjoyed working with his hands in his garden. He loved animals, especially his rescue dogs and watching and feeding the birds in his own backyard. He is survived by many other extended family members and friends.

In addition to his parents and wife, he is predeceased by his brothers, Leo, Edward and Frank Glembowski, and his sister, Helen Long.

Walk-through calling hours were held Sunday, March 14, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral Mass was offered Monday, March 15, directly at St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, located at 78 Linwood Ave. in Colchester.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church 78 Linwood Ave., Colchester, CT 06415.

For online condolences, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com

Portland

Joyce Elaine Ottone

Joyce Elaine (Anderson) Ottone, 93, of Portland, formerly of East Hampton, beloved wife of 40 years to the late Charles A Ottone, passed away peacefully Thursday, March 11, at Hartford Hospital. Born Feb. 19, 1928 in East Hampton, she was the daughter of the late Harry T. and Mary E. (Spencer) Anderson.

Joyce was born into a large family of ten children and was a lifelong resident of East Hampton. She is survived by her son Gary S. and wife Liz Ottone of East Hampton; her two daughters, Denise Dalton and husband James of South Carolina, and daughter Pamela St. Lawrence and husband Richard of Portland. She was predeceased by all of her siblings: brothers Harry, John, Donald and Robert Anderson; sisters, Mary Goff, Alma O'Brien, Norma Fontanelli, Gail Whitten and Sue Engel.

There's a saying, "Life doesn't come with a manual; rather, it comes with a Mom."

Joyce's true career was her dedication to her family and friends. At home with Charlie they always loved to entertain.

Joyce was an avid reader, painter, sewer, baker, cook and loved doing jigsaw puzzles, playing cards and games, gardening, bird watching



and owning orange cats. She especially loved seeing and caring for her three grandchildren, Greg, Andrea and Whitney, and was blessed with six great-grandchildren, Paige, Grady, Maya, Jocelyn, Aryana and Hunter. With her wonderful gentle soul she loved teaching each child something new, whether it was playing a game, reading a book, doing laundry, cooking, making a craft or even gardening.

Spending time with all the children was the highlight of her day. Each and every one of us will cherish the life lessons she taught.

A graveside service was held Wednesday, March 17, in Lake View Cemetery in East Hampton.

To leave online condolences, please visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

Deborah Ann Mitchell

Deborah Ann Mitchell, 60, of Windsor, formerly of Colchester, passed away at home Thursday, March 11. Born Jan. 18, 1961 in New Haven, she was the daughter of the late Elijah and Geraldine (Hill) Gibson.

Deborah grew up in Colchester and was a 1979 high school graduate of Bacon Academy and attended Southern Connecticut State University for a brief time after high school. She spent her younger years working at S&S World Wide in Colchester during the 1970s, she then went on to work at the United States Post Office in Bloomfield during the early 2000s.

Deborah was a loving mother; there was nothing she wouldn't do for her family and children. Her sons recount how she would work so hard and go out of her way to make Christmas morning a truly special day for them, every year they looked forward to her amazing stocking stuffers that she would gift them.

In her spare time, Deborah loved to take in the simple pleasures in life, she would often go to Addison Park in Glastonbury and just sit and people watch or relax at home making mix tapes of her favorite shows, and her favorite team, the New York Mets, to watch later. Anyone who had the pleasure of meeting her will always remember how infectious her smile was; you couldn't help but smile back while being in her presence.

She will be forever loved and missed by her sons, Jahmal and Brandon Mitchell, and their father, Vaughan Mitchell; her brothers, Anthony Gibson and Craig Gibson; and numerous other extended family and friends.

In addition to her parents, she is predeceased by her brothers, Alan Gibson, Balery Gibson and Michael Gibson.

Walk-through calling hours were held Thursday, March 18, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, followed by a graveside service at Linwood Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial donations be made to Deborah's GoFundMe page, <https://gofund.me/f0483cd7>.

For online condolences, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com



Hebron

Madelaine Fraleigh

Madelaine Frances (Eitel) Fraleigh, 78, of Vernon and Hebron, peacefully entered into eternal life Sunday, March 14, with her loving family at her bedside.

Maddy was born in New York, N.Y., on March 12, 1943, to the late Frances and William Eitel. She married the love of her life, Robert J. Fraleigh, also of New York, N.Y., in 1963, and the couple eventually settled in Connecticut to live their lives together and raise a family.

Early in her career, she worked as a secretary on the 94th floor of the Empire State Building for several years. Later, as she was raising her family in Vernon, she worked as an office manager at Gerber Garment Technology in Tolland where many employees on the floor considered her to be their "work Mom."

In addition to her husband, she is survived by her three children: sons and daughters-in-law, Bob and Donna Fraleigh of Hebron and Jim and Jody Fraleigh of Mishawaka, Ind., and her beloved daughter and best friend, Kelly Stone, and son-in-law Mike of Hebron. She is also survived by her dear sister and brother-in-law, Linda and Phillip Auld of East Haddam, and her nephew and godson, Brian Auld and his wife Becky of East Haddam.

Lastly, she is survived by what she considered her most precious gifts of all, her 10 grandchildren. Nothing meant more to her than the times she was able to be with them, whether it was at the beach, a trip to Disney World, cheering them on at one of their sporting events or just having them by her side at a family gathering. She will be missed most of all by Ryan, Meghan and Matty Fraleigh, Brendan, Casey and Riley Fraleigh and Mallory, Sierra, Dakota and Dylan Stone.

The family would like to extend their thanks to the Palliative and Hospice Care Teams at Hartford Hospital for their kindness and exceptional level of care during her final days.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Connecticut Children's Medical Center Foundation Inc., 282 Washington St., Hartford, CT 06106.

At the request of the family, final services will be private and handled by Ladd-Turkington & Carmon Funeral Home of Vernon.

For online condolences and guestbook, please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com.

Portland

Raymond H. McNulty Sr.

Raymond H. McNulty Sr., 86, of Portland passed away Wednesday, March 10, after fighting a courageous battle with multiple health conditions. The family was blessed to share his final days by his side.

Raymond was born on Jan. 3, 1935, to Dorothy and Raymond A. McNulty. In 1956, he graduated from Saint Michael's College with his bachelor's degree. Shortly after his graduation, he joined the Marine Corps and married his high school sweetheart Barbara Daniels.

Raymond will be greatly missed by all who knew him, but especially by his son Raymond Jr. and his daughter by heart Lisa, his grandchildren Kirsty and Brandon, his great-grandson Raymond and his brother and sister-in-law Dean and Barbara.

Raymond's pride and joy was his family. He also loved hunting, fishing and spending time exploring the Maine outdoors.

Services will be held at a later date due to COVID-19.

East Hampton

Clifton Leonard Smith Sr.

On Friday, March 12, Clifton Leonard Smith Sr., loving father of three children, passed away peacefully at the age of 85.

Clif (with one "F") was born May 25, 1935 in New Britain, and was the son of Clifton R and Anna M. Smith. He attended local schools and EC Goodwin Tech for mechanical drafting. Clif worked at Stanley Works in the sales department until



entering the U.S. Army from 1957-1959. The remainder of his career was spent in sales, until he opened his own business in Ft. Walton Beach, Fla., "Clif's Used and New Furniture."

He has three wonderful adult children, Valerie, Kimberly and Clif II, who he loved very much. He has three beautiful grandchildren, Zoe, Olivia (Lib) and Jake, and he leaves his longtime loving friend, Carol.

Clif was a funny and kind man. He loved music and was a member of the "Royals" in the mid-50s. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

East Hampton

John Thomas Fredericks

John Thomas "Jack" Fredericks, 78, of East Hampton, passed away peacefully after a brief illness Wednesday, March 10. He was the son of the late James and Marie (Fusaro) Fredericks.

He was born Sept. 20, 1942, in New Britain, where he then grew up. He graduated from New Britain High School in 1960 and went onto trade school to become a tool and die maker. Jack worked at Associated Spring, Barnes Group for over 25 years as a journeyman tool & die maker until his retirement in 2006.

At a very young age Jack's interest in music was ignited, he taught himself to play the guitar and sing, which became his lifelong passion. He played for many years in the band The Continentals and then in The Martin Brothers & Cousin Jack. He loved to brag about being in the opening band for Steppenwolf. In his later years, he was known as "Jack & the Box," a one-man band, singing and playing his guitar for various social functions.

When he wasn't out playing a gig or strumming his guitar in the house, you could find him in the kitchen cooking up some new concoction that "you just have to try." Of course, we would never get the full recipe; he always left out one ingredient so that he could keep making it for you. Jack loved spending time outdoors taking care of his many beautiful flower gardens or puttering around the yard. After his retirement he enjoyed many days out on the open road riding his "Harley."

Jack is predeceased by his wife of 47 years, Frances "Ferris" Fredericks. He is survived by his children, Dawn Kryszpin and her husband Henry of Avon, Kelly Gustine and her husband Bruce of East Hampton, Kimberly Belanger of Bristol, and John Fredericks Jr. and his wife Dottie of Willimantic; and his grandchildren, Blake and Kathy Kryszpin, Katey and Matt Valley, Chloe, Maddie, Carter, Clara, Parker, Emily, Jack and Nicholas; and his great-grandchildren, Caleb, Logan, Nolan and Mason. He leaves behind many beloved nieces and nephews. He is also survived by his special friend and companion of the last year and a half, Ann Abascal Robida.

Friends and family may call Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Wednesday March 24, from 5-8 p.m. A funeral liturgy will be celebrated Thursday, March 25, at 11 a.m., at St. Patrick Church, 47 W. High St., East Hampton. Burial will be private at the convenience of the family.

To leave online condolences, please visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Marlborough

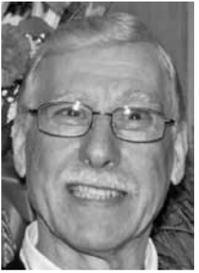
Benjamin Arthur Sarkis

Benjamin Arthur Sarkis, 19, of Marlborough, died Saturday, March 13, in Plymouth, N.H. Ben was the beloved son of Michelle (Karlin) and Jon Sarkis, and best friend and brother to Matt Sarkis. He was deeply loved by his father, mother and brother, and will be dearly missed.

Ben was a 2019 graduate of RHAM High School in Hebron, and was attending Plymouth State University. He was a Dean's List student, studying English.

Ben was described by friends as sweet, kind and genuine. He had compassion for animals, especially his dog and "good buddy" Rudy. Additionally, Ben loved the outdoors and vacationing with family in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and Lake George. He will be remembered for his sense of humor, gentle soul and creativity.

Ben was cherished by his family and friends



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Obituaries continued

and will be missed by all who knew him. Besides his parents and brother, he is survived by his grandparents, Adrienne Cohen of Stoughton, Mass., Robert and Diana Karlin of Los Angeles, Calif., Jerry and Faye Cohen of Sharon, Mass., and Shirley Sarkis of Glastonbury; his aunts and uncles, Adam and Heather Karlin, Jeffrey and Erica Cohen, Nicole Cohen and Dave Fisher, Charles and Lynn Sarkis and Saadia "Betsy" Sarkis; his cousins, Ella and Theo Karlin, Emma and Ryan Cunningham, Gabrielle and Levi Cohen; and many relatives and friends.

He was predeceased by his loving great-grandmother Dorothy Karlin.

At the family's request, Ben's burial will be private. A celebration of his life will be held at a later date, when COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Ben's memory can be made to Mental Health Connecticut (MHC), 61 South Main St., Suite 100, West Hartford, CT 06107, or the Connecticut Humane Society, 701 Russell Rd., Newington, CT 06111.

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

Colchester

Leonard Ventura Jr.

Leonard Manuel Ventura Jr., of Lake Charles, La., formerly of Colchester, was called home on March 5, 2021. Leonard was born on November 20, 1949 to June and Leonard Ventura Sr. in New Britain.



He attended E.C. Goodwin Technical School and shortly after graduation he enlisted into the United States Marines, serving in the Vietnam War. In 1969, after two years of service, he

received an honorable discharge and returned home.

Soon after returning home, he met Kathleen through a mutual friend, Debbie Boulanger (Bransford), and in 1971, he and Kathleen exchanged vows and together they welcomed two sons, Kevin and Michael. He spent 40 years in Colchester, working as a diesel mechanic. Family was also important to him, he enjoyed spending time with his wife and children. He was an avid hunter, fisherman and also enjoyed scuba diving.

As a disabled veteran himself, he proudly worked along other veterans in various programs and organizations. He served on the Honor Guard with the Antique Veterans Association, Vietnam Veterans Association, American Legion, Disabled Veterans Affairs, and the VFW.

Upon retirement, he moved to Louisiana, for the improved weather. Often you would find him enjoying the sportsman's paradise, fishing the banks of Rutherford Beach with his best friend Kevin, and later would share their stories with Kellie. He also enjoyed social activities with his "Southern Family" friends Jay and Lize Brown.

Leonard lived through several hardships, yet he could always smile and lived by "...Whatever makes you happy."

He was welcomed into heaven by his mother and a brother, Lawrence Ventura.

Those left to cherish his memory are his wife of 49 years, Kathleen; two sons, Kevin (Crystal) Ventura and Michael Ventura; grandchildren, Raven Ventura, Ariella Ventura, and Mariah (Zachary) Tanner; father, Leonard Ventura Sr.; and siblings Lynn Dziurgot and Lane Ventura.

Cremation has been entrusted to Johnson Funeral Home, with family to host a private service at a later date.

All are invited to sign his digital register book, or leave a fond memory or sentiment of condolences, at www.johnsonfuneralhome.net.

RHAM • RHAM

Project Graduation Planning Underway

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

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

Youth Soccer Registration Open

Registration is now open for kids from ages 3-16 with RHAM Youth Soccer. All skill levels are invited. Current COVID-19 guidelines will be in place, and players will receive age-appropriate training at all levels.

Developmental players (U3-U8) will participate in small-sided scrimmages at Long Hill Field in Andover every Saturday morning. The Recreational teams for the U10-U15 girls and boys will compete against other Division 5 teams within the district. In addition to the practices and games, there will be a Saturday Clinic Program offering additional skills training at Long Hill on Saturdays from 10:30 a.m.-noon.

Comp team players are selected at tryouts held in early June for the next full year (fall/spring). The comp program is designed for more serious athletes who seek a higher level of competition and achievement. Comp teams will participate in a tournament in spring or fall and tend to play more games than the recreational program.

RHAM Youth Soccer implements the CJSA Player Development Philosophy that aims to develop the individual skills of all players through the four components of soccer: Technical, Tactical, Psychological and Physical.

For more information or to register, visit clubs.bluesombrero.com/rhamyouthsoccer or find the club on Facebook at RHAM Youth Soccer.

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 Hadam 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.

Email your classified line ads to sandy@gcitizen.com & call 860.633.4691 to pay with Mastercard or Visa

AHM Offers Free Narcan and QPR Training

AHM Youth and Family Services is offering a free, virtual training on how to administer Narcan, which is the substance used to reverse an opioid overdose. Approximately 27,000 lives have been saved in the United States due to Narcan administration, AHM said.

This training covers how to use Narcan properly; each attendee will also be provided a free Narcan kit.

The second part of this training is on QPR, which stands for "Question, Persuade, Refer." This is a suicide prevention strategy, in which a trained person is taught to notice signs of a mental health crisis, and respond.

The training will take place on Zoom Thursday, March 25, from 6:30-8 p.m. To register for this free training, email Brendan at Brendang@ahmyouth.org.

AHM News & Notes

AHM Youth and Family Services has announced the following pieces of news. For more information, contact Jenn Boehler at 860-228-9488 ext. 12 or jenniferb@ahmyouth.org.

CHOREs Program Getting Ready for Spring: AHM is accepting applications from teens ages 14-18 from Andover, Hebron and Marlborough to participate in this program. Teens will earn \$12 per billable hour and will work up to two hours per job at a senior citizen's home; due to COVID-19, only jobs outside the home will be scheduled until further notice. Visit ahmyouth.org, click on "menu" and select CHOREs from the list of offerings. If you are a senior citizen 60+ years and this program is of interest, contact your town's senior center.

Eat Healthy, Eat Local!: AHM and the Hebron Open for Business Task Force are partnering in support of family-owned restaurants in Andover, Hebron, Marlborough and Columbia, as well as the Health Matters Program, by spotlighting healthy meals at these restaurants. If you go to a restaurant in these towns and order a healthy entrée, show your support on social media by tagging the restaurant and adding #eathealthyeatlocal, #AHMhealthmatters to your post. For more information, visit ahmyouth.org, click on "Menu" and select "Health Matters," or contact Boehler.

MAKE SURE THEY'RE IN THE RIGHT CAR SEAT

NHTSA.gov/TheRightSeat

Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Read-

★ Letters cont. from page 6

Councilor Ed McKeon asked NRG reps, "What do Portland and East Hampton get out of this?" The answer is pollution, but that's awkward to admit, so... there was instead simply an awkward silence. Kudos to Mr. McKeon.

I hope to see the day when a major energy player like NRG actually invests in modernizing power generation – renewables coupled with energy storage. My suggestion to those who feel the same: speak up, but don't wait.

PortlandCT.org's Clean Energy page has links to make your home energy efficient (even if you don't live in Portland). CTGreenBank.com gets you started if you are interested in solar. Both of these offer immediate savings, not to mention reducing smog and greenhouse gases.

And neither of them harm your neighbors downwind.

Regards,
Andy Bauer
Portland Clean Energy Chair

.....

YOUR AD Should Be Here!

—————

CALL US AT:

860-633-4691

.....

Better Dental HEALTH

A Practice For Optimal Dental Fitness

by George M. Mantikas, DMD

WHITE GUMS

When gums turn white, it may signify an unhealthy condition that warrants examination by the dentist. Among the possible causes of white gums are canker sores, which are potentially painful lesions that develop in the mouth and on the gums. They are typically round or oval with a pale center and a red border. They do not change the color of the gums in the entire mouth. Another possible cause is anemia, which occurs when the body lacks healthy red blood cells, causing the skin and gums to look white. Leukoplakia, another condition that can result in white gums, causes white patches to appear. Usually harmless, patches occurring alongside red lesions are more likely to be cancerous or precancerous.

We have a sincere interest in our patients' complete health and stay up to date on the latest oral health care issues. If you are looking for just such a dentist, we invite you to call us for an appointment. All oral health problems are dealt with efficiently, effectively, and compassionately. And any medical problems noticed during a dental exam will be discussed with your other health care providers if you so choose. We offer complete gentle, dental care for all members of your family.

P.S. Over time, "gingivitis," the mildest form of gum disease, can cause the gums to turn white and recede if left untreated.

George M. Mantikas, DMD, PC
The Ridge • 142 East High Street • East Hampton, CT 06424
860-267-6666 • www.DrMantikas.com

Health Care Services



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Stuart L. Jablon, D.P.M.

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9-B South Main Street, Marlborough, CT
www.stuartjablondpm.com

Cover Story • Cover Story

★ **Artificial Knees cont. from page 1**

enables a high level of recovery. "Eric should continue to stay active and enjoy his life and his new knees," Dua said. For knee surgery patients who want to get back to being active but are having a tough time, Dua recommends they work on stretching and strengthening their muscles.

Mood Follows Action

Liebeskind said he is starting to look normal when he runs and seeing firsthand the success of behavioral activation and how "mood follows action," a theme he said he has bumped into several times, including in a *New York Times* article about Brad Stulberg's books *Peak Performance* and *Passion Paradox* and through Rich Roll's *Finding Ultra*.

On his Twitter feed, Roll, who transformed himself into an athlete after finding himself 50 pounds overweight at age 40, said the way to control the nervous system "and feel the way we want to feel" begins with changing behavior.

That is what has happened to Liebeskind, who said once he started running again he felt liberated.

"It felt like I was flying," he said. "I'm flying. I'm just flying not at the altitude I want yet, but I feel like I have wings."

That doesn't mean it was easy. When he first started running again, he said his knees were stiff and hurt and he had to loosen up. Now, the activity is positively affecting him in many areas and he can climb up and down stairs, ride a bike and feels better all around.

"I'm breathing deeply and sleeping better. It's just a relief" he said. "Here I am, after the operation with a walker, a cane, a handicapped sticker and somebody telling me after the operation that I'm never going to run again. It just wasn't me."

Jeanette Liebeskind said her husband's resilience was a surprise and called him an inspiration.

"I didn't even know that he could do that," she said. "I don't know that he thought he could do that."

She said she sometimes warns him not to be so hard on himself but that she's glad he's able to get back on the street.

"That you can get out there every day, when the weather permits, and that you can run is just a blessing," she said she tells him.

For His Daughter

Liebeskind said he wants to be an inspiration for his four adopted sons – Noah, 9, Asher, 5, Grayson, 2 and Payton, 1 – who are also his biological grandchildren by his daughter Leah Liebeskind, who passed away in 2019.

"I'm doing it for the kids, I'm doing it for my daughter and I'm doing it for me," Liebeskind said.

Leah died of an overdose at age 32, after years of fighting an opioid addiction that she couldn't control, her father said.

"It was just too big, it was bigger than her, it was bigger than all of us and she struggled for years," he said.

He and Jeanette already had three of the boys when Leah died, Liebeskind said. The Department of Children and Families (DCF) had removed them from her care.

Each time DCF informed the grandparents that one of the children had been taken from their mother's care, they immediately took on the responsibility of raising the child.

"It was never, 'Should we adopt these kids?' it was, 'Drop them off, bring them over,'" Liebeskind said. "It's a role. It's a job. It's what you do."

At the time of her death, Leah was caring for Payton, then 3 months old; he is now 1.

Caring for young children is different and more enjoyable the second time around, Liebeskind said. When he was raising his first three, he had less time to spend with them. On active duty, he was often away from home for months at a time. When he came back and picked up the children, they barely recognized him and would even cry.

This time Liebeskind gets to be there for their momentous firsts, such as Noah's t-ball first base hit.

"It's like Benjamin Button or something; it's like I'm living my life backwards," he said. "It's like a do-over."

Jeanette, who said she couldn't imagine the children going to the state, said taking them in "was a no-brainer."

She said that while some people may not like DCF, she appreciates the agency for the effort it takes to keep families together.

Serendipity

When Liebeskind decided to hit the race circuit,

Cover Story • Cover

★ **Leslie cont. from page 1**

pletely normal year." He said this past year has been one for the record books and that the administration has had to keep on top of making sure everyone was safe while providing "the richest education" possible and remaining wary of how isolating remote learning has been for students.

RHAM students have been learning via a hybrid model, meaning they are in school part of the week and remote the rest. Since September, the students have been placed in two alphabetized groups, with those whose last names begin with A through K coming to school on Monday and Tuesday and the rest coming in on Thursday and Friday. Wednesday was remote for everyone.

Then, for the last month, the Wednesday remote learning day was eliminated and the groups were brought to school two and three days per week in alternating patterns, a model Leslie said was working well and giving students a chance to be in the building more.

On March 29, all students are scheduled to return to full in-person learning five days per week.

The district works with the Chatham Health District, which covers the towns of Colchester, East Hampton, Hebron, Marlborough, Portland, and East Haddam and Leslie said Russell Melmed, director of health at Chatham, has offered invaluable advice in weekly remote meetings throughout the pandemic.

"There's so many different sources of information from the CDC [Centers for Disease Control] to the state Department of Public Health and Russ has been really helpful in putting it all in context," the superintendent said.

After a vaccination clinic Melmed scheduled earlier this month, most RHAM teachers have gotten their first dose of the two-dose vaccine and some received the single dose Johnson & Johnson shot and are fully vaccinated, Leslie said.

This year, providing students with a rich education has meant ensuring teachers and students have opportunities to connect in spite of the unusual schedule. Leslie said staff members "have done a phenomenal of changing literally overnight everything they

did." Teachers went from teaching in traditional classrooms to teaching with some students in the room and others distance learning at the same time. He said everything from the type of work students complete to how teachers share and evaluate assignments and how they communicate with students "is going to look different."

Teachers were flexible in taking on the new routines and administrators have worked hard to make the changes happen, he said.

Leslie said working with fellow superintendents in Eastern Connecticut, most of whom have many years of experience, and with the superintendents of the elementary districts in the three district towns has "helped to bring some sense to this" and "has been a really godsend for me."

With plans to return to full in-person learning at the end of the month, Leslie is working to make sure the school is ready when the students return and planning for senior activities, such as prom and "whatever those might look like."

One thing that's been different this year has been Leslie's interaction with students, which was a regular part of the day when he was a principal. In his new role, he said his focus is on budget and "bigger district pieces."

Still, he said he makes of point of being in the buildings a few times a day and starts each morning greeting kids.

"I get out as much as I can to connect with kids," he said.

Penny Bryzgel, who was an assistant principal at RHAM and stepped in as principal last year when Leslie took over as superintendent, has continued a principal advisory program Leslie started years ago. Through the program, students meet regularly with the principal to discuss concerns and float ideas about new initiatives.

Leslie said he has also been working more closely with the education board than he did when he was principal, adding that he is impressed with board members' commitment to support teachers, students and staff.

"Having a board that is as forward thinking as the RHAM board has really been instrumental to this entire district," he said.

cuit, he went online and the first scheduled race that popped up in the search engine was the NAFI Foster Care Super Hero 5K. The coincidence was not lost on him.

"It was like the race was put there for me," he said.

He pointed out that while two of the boys'

adoptions are finalized, the other two have been approved but the paperwork is still pending.

Until that's done, he and Jeanette are technically foster parents.

Liebeskind said his goal and inspiration is to run a race with his boys and that every step he takes is dedicated to his daughter's memory.

Regional • Regional • Regional • Regional • Regional • Regional

Tri-County Baseball Summer Registration

Registration ends March 25 for the Tri-County Baseball summer program for players aged 13-19 (as of April 30, 2021).

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 tricitybaseball.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

HAMR Softball Spring Registration

Time is running out for HAMR spring softball registration.

HAMR Softball is a nonprofit, 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.

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

Legal Notice Marlborough Charter Revision Commission Public Hearing

A virtual (Zoom) Public Hearing with Marlborough's Charter Revision Commission (CRC) is scheduled for March 23, 2021 at 7 PM to discuss the Commissions' recommendations on charter changes. All Marlborough residents are encouraged to attend and provide feedback. To Join the Zoom Meeting Public Hearing with Video and Voice capability: <https://zoom.us/j/93756542483?pwd=UVNaR2Vnc2psRnEVRm9abGJENmFBQT09> Meeting ID: 937 5654 2483 Passcode: HB4N11 Phone into meeting (no video) 1-646-558-8656 Meeting ID: 937 5654 2483 Passcode: 278082 Note: Phone into meeting has its own passcode Bob Ragusa- Charter Revision Chair 2TB 3/12, 3/19

LEGAL NOTICE MARLBOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The Marlborough Planning Commission will hold the following Public Hearing Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 7:00 PM. Commission members and the Public should utilize the teleconference line. Meeting Call in Phone Number – 877 – 304 – 9269 Meeting Code Number – 423694# Application #P-21-01 Erik S Young (applicant/Property Owner) 351 So Main St. – To subdivide property into two lots. Mark Stankiewicz, PLANNING COMMISSION CHAIR 2TB 3/12, 3/19

TOWN OF COLCHESTER COLCHESTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION NOTICE OF DECISION

At the regular meeting of the Colchester Conservation Commission held on Wednesday, March 10, 2021, the following action was taken: **W2020-3058** - 525 Norwich Avenue, Chase Taylor- Applicant/ Owner, Assessor's Map 29-00 Lot 004-000, proposed wetland fill for equipment storage area. - **Approved** Respectfully Submitted, Falk von Plachecki, Chairman 1TB 3/19

MIDDLE HADDAM HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION MEETING Thursday, March 25, 2021 6:30 pm (Zoom call) LEGAL NOTICE

Public Hearing will be held to discuss and assess a proposed plan for 53 Long Hill Road by Wayne Rand (Long Hill Estates, L.L.C.) - to rezone a parcel (1 1/2 acres) from R-2 to commercial - and subsequent sub-division of the remaining 17 acres into 8 building lots, all within the Middle Haddam Historic District. At this hearing interested persons may be heard and written communications will be received. Dated: March 17 2021 Regina Starolis, MHHDC Clerk 1TB 3/19

LEGAL NOTICE MARLBOROUGH ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF ACTION

The Marlborough Zoning Board of Appeals at its meeting on Wednesday March 10 took the following action: **APPLICATION APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS:** APPLICATION #ZBA-8-20 – Gordon Sime (Applicant/ Property Owner) Pettengill Vacant Lot located between 40 Pettengill Road & 39 Washington Road - is seeking variance of Article Three A.1, Minimum Requirements, Article Three A.3 Conformity of Buildings & Land, Article Three A.5 Reduction of Lot Areas or Minimum Required Yards, Article Three A.9 Minimum Required Yards, Article Six D. 2 a Front Yard Setback, in order to construct a single family house with a Front Yard Setback of 32 feet where 50 feet is required. Alan Miller/ ZBA Chair Dated at Marlborough, CT this 16th day of March. 1TB 3/19

LEGAL NOTICE MARLBOROUGH ZONING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The Marlborough Zoning Commission will hold the following Zoom Public Hearing Thursday, April 1, 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/98302922109?pwd=cFUrSEdLaXBtQ0lyamVqbllaa25DUT09> Meeting ID: 983 0292 2109 Passcode: 3Y9DL1 **Phone into meeting:** 1 646 558 8656 Meeting ID: 983 0292 2109 Passcode: 039797 Note: Phone in has its own passcode different from the video conference passcode. **Application #Z-02-21** – Big Y Foods Inc. (Applicant) OM Village LLC (Property Owner) – 1-3-5-7 So Main St. – Convenience Store/Gas Station. **Application #Z-02-21** – Special Permit - Mitch and Hazel Lichatz (Applicant/Property Owner) 86 E Hampton Rd - music events, comedy nights, dinners. Kevin Asklar, ZONING COMMISSION CHAIR 2TB 3/12, 3/19

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF COLCHESTER ATTENTION COLCHESTER TAXPAYERS

Notice is hereby given to the Town of Colchester taxpayers that tax bills on the Grand List of October 1, 2019 are due and payable: Executive Order No. 9R is due to end. The deferral program will end April 1, 2021 and the low interest rate program will end on March 31, 2021. Amounts due after these dues dates will be subject to the regular rate of interest of 1.5% per month or 18% annum and will defer back to the due date of the bill January 1, 2021. Failure to receive a tax bill does not invalidate the tax or any interest charged should the tax become delinquent. Taxpayers may access tax bill information and pay on-line from the homepage of the Town of Colchester website at www.colchesterct.gov and clicking the "View and Pay Tax Bills" link under Online Services – **fees apply.** **Payments dropped in the town hall's drop box after 4:30p.m. after the above dates, will be considered as having been made on the following business day and will be deemed as paid late.** Mail postmarked (US Postal Service postmark only) on or before these dates will be considered as having been paid on time. Please make all checks payable to the Tax Collector. Checks may be mailed to the Tax Office, 127 Norwich Avenue Colchester, CT, 06415. Questions concerning tax payments should be directed to the Tax Office, (860) 537-7210. Michele Wyatt, CCMC Town of Colchester Tax Collector 1TB 3/19

EMPLOYMENT

HELP WANTED - SEASONAL MAINTENANCE/SECURITY. 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.

COOK WANTED, part time weekends. Apply Winchester Cafe, Portland.

PART-TIME WEEKENDS ONLY: setting up bounce houses for local business. Must be able to lift heavy equipment and able to drive a box truck. Experience welcome. \$14.-\$18. an hour. 860-573-4499.

HELP WANTED: Personal Care Assistant. 16.25/hour, 4pm-9pm, Monday-Friday. Also openings for weekends. Call 860-537-3243 and leave a message if no answer.

WANTED EXPERIENCED GUTTER INSTALLERS. Please contact Mike Wood by text 860-205-2573. Include your name, number and gutter experience.

COLCHESTER WINE AND SPIRITS IS LOOKING FOR PART TIME LIQUOR STORE CLERK. Must be 18 years old to work, must be able to work evenings, nights, weekends. Stop in to apply. Located next to Stop & Shop.

CNA NEEDED - Nursing home experience preferred. Colchester area. Must have own transportation, be reliable and have three references. 860-334-1553.

PT CAR WASH ATTENDANT WANTED. Call Diamond Sparkle Car Wash in Colchester at 860-531-9182

SHEET METAL MECHANICS, APPRENTICES & HELPERS: Steady work, good benefits. Call for interview. 860-828-3762

MARLBOROUGH BASED CONSTRUCTION COMPANY LOOKING TO HIRE A LABORER. For concrete work/light excavation. Experience a plus but not needed. Call 860-819-4821 to inquire.

CAR WASH ATTENDANT WANTED AT BUSY CAR WASH IN COLCHESTER. Call 860-608-6449 for details.

HELP WANTED: GENERAL LABOR, inside and outside building maintenance and cleaning duties. Please call: 860-467-3999, e-mail: eneregmachinery@gmail.com.

WELDER/FABRICATOR: Custom Sheet Metal Fabrication, light structural, min 5-10 yrs exp & SHEET METAL MECHANICS, APPRENTICES & HELPERS: Steady work, good benefits. Call for interview. 860-828-3762

East Hampton Public Schools/Town of East Hampton is seeking a Director of Facilities (Building and Grounds).

Directs and controls all town-wide (both general government and education) public buildings & ground maintenance, improvements and supervises custodial staff. Strong knowledge of mechanical systems, OSHA, ADA, building codes and compliances. Please apply on-line at <http://www.applitrack.com/easthampton/onlineapp/>. For further information contact Superintendent Paul Smith at psmith@easthamptonct.org. The Town of East Hampton is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

2TB 3/19, 3/26

Town of Marlborough Full-Time Maintainer Department of Public Works

The Town of Marlborough is accepting applications for the position of full-time Maintainer in the Department of Public Works. This is a 40 hour/week position, Monday through Friday from 7:00am to 3:30 pm., and offers a competitive starting wage and comprehensive benefit package. This is a Collective Bargaining Unit position. The successful candidate will work under the supervision and direction of the Public Works Supervisor performing a wide range of facility, grounds and road maintenance duties. A complete job description and application is available from the Marlborough Town Clerk, or online at www.marlboroughct.net. Candidates will be considered based on knowledge, skills, abilities and previous experience. Candidates will be required to pass a thorough background investigation and physical exam, including a drug screening. An application and current resume must be received by the Marlborough Town Clerk, 26 North Main Street, P.O. Box 29, Marlborough, CT 06447 by noon Friday, April 16, 2021. The Town of Marlborough is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

4TB 3/19, 3/26, 4/2, 4/9

Summer Help Wanted

The Town of Marlborough is currently accepting applications for lifeguards. Applications can be found at Marlbroughct.net, in the Town Clerk portal. Completed applications are to be submitted to:

Town Clerk
P.O. Box 29
26 North Main Street
Marlborough, CT 06447
8TB 3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30

East Hampton Public Schools is seeking Paraeducators and Intervention Specialists.

Seeking applicants with an Associates Degree or equivalent and have relevant experience as outlined in the job postings. We offer competitive hourly rates and benefits. Please apply on-line at <http://www.applitrack.com/easthampton/onlineapp/>. For further information contact Rodney Mosier at rmosier@easthamptonct.org. The Town of East Hampton is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

2TB 3/12, 3/19

Colchester Public Schools is actively recruiting tutors at this time to work with our youngest learners.

Come join our dedicated team in working with children to help them reach their full potential. Tutors will work with individual or small groups of students to help them achieve academic proficiency in course/grade-level standards. Tutoring may be provided through virtual, in-person, or blended instruction. If you are interested in employment opportunities with Colchester Public Schools, please visit <http://www.applitrack.com/colchester/onlineapp/> for a complete job description and to submit an application.

2TB 3/19, 3/26

East Hampton Public Schools is seeking Substitute Teachers.

Applicants must be over 18 years old with a High School Diploma or equivalent and have experience with school-age children. The position reports to the principal or designee at the location to which they are assigned and is responsible for providing instruction and managing the learning environment. The per diem rate is \$105. Please apply on-line at <http://www.applitrack.com/easthampton/onlineapp/>. For further information contact Mary Clark, mclark@easthamptonct.org. The Town of East Hampton is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

2TB 3/19, 3/26

Member Services Coordinator

This independent contractor position requires a responsible candidate to take minutes at monthly meetings, help prepare a newsletter, assist with banking, and help coordinate dinner meetings and several community events. Must have own computer and working knowledge of Microsoft Office and QuickBooks. Flexible schedule. Must be organized and have strong people skills.

If interested, send cover letter and resume by April 1 to:

**Colchester Business Association,
P.O. Box 453, Colchester, CT, 06415.**

RES-19-21

SPRING

NOW HIRING

Colchester Board of Education is currently hiring for several custodial positions. The positions involve working with school administration, the Head Custodian and other district staff to ensure school facilities requirements are met, including maintaining a safe and clean building and providing for the physical needs of the educational program. For more information and to apply go to www.applitrack.com/colchester/onlineapp.

2TB 3/12, 3/19

Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Assisted Living

Colebrook Village – Looking for an LPN that wants to join a dynamic, talented, and dedicated team. Duties will include but are not limited to the following: providing care to our residents, speaking with physicians, families and supervising the C.N.A's. Must like to have fun at work. FT & PT, 2nd and 3rd shifts available.

Please email:
kcifaldi@colebrookvillage.com

OTB-11-21

POSITION AVAILABLE Public Works Department - Maintainer I Public Works Department Town of Colchester

Responsibilities-The Town of Colchester is seeking a full-time Maintainer I for the Public Works Department. The selected individual will participate in snow and ice control activities and in all phases of maintenance and improvements on Town roads and facilities during normal operating hours and overtime as necessary, in order to address natural or man-made emergencies. The selected individual will report to the Public Works Supervisor and / or Director of Operations and may occasionally supervise seasonal employees within the Public Works Department. Qualifications include, but are not limited to, an ability to use common laboring tools, equipment, and work methods and practices used in the general maintenance and improvement of public highways, parks and grounds; ability to operate, service, and make minor repairs on maintenance equipment. The Maintainer I performs a wide variety of semi-skilled labor tasks relative to the maintenance of Town roadway infrastructure, parks, grounds, and buildings. The selected individual must possess a valid Connecticut Driver's license; have a High School Diploma or equivalence, and not less than one (1) year of related employment experience. Reference is made to the job description of the position for more detailed information.

Closing Date-Qualified individuals shall submit a completed Town of Colchester application with a resume and required documentation to the First Selectman's office, 127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415 by Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 4:30 pm. Requests for job descriptions can be made at the Selectman's office. Applications available online at: www.colchesterct.gov. The Town of Colchester is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Wage Rate \$18.41 per hour (Grade 91 -Step 1) per Bargaining Contract.

2TB 3/12, 3/19

TOWN OF SALEM Full-Time Position Public Works Manager/Foreman

Position: The Public Works Manager/Foreman develops, administers, directs and supervises the programs and activities of the Public Works Department in the areas of road, bridge construction, maintenance and repair; transfer station management; vehicle and equipment maintenance; building maintenance and repairs, snow removal and storm emergencies and recreational area maintenance.

— The Town of Salem is an Equal Opportunity Employer —

See full job description and application at:
www.salemct.gov

Email resume and completed application to:
Meredith.Eisenberg@salemct.gov

RES-20-21

Senior Living CNA in Hebron CT C.N.A

Colebrook Village – FT and PT positions are available for all shifts!! Must be compassionate, committed to resident center quality care, a team player and have fun while providing the highest level of hospitality in any senior living. This community has been COVID free and remains so!! Must have a current Certified Nursing Assistant Certificate in accordance with state requirements.

Please email: kcifaldi@colebrookvillage.com

CTB-11-21

HELP WANTED TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

The Town of Marlborough is accepting applications for the following positions:
(2) Seasonal Laborers
This is a seasonal position with up to 40 (forty) hours a week weather permitting, to start May 3, 2021 within the Public Works Department for the summer. The successful candidate will be expected to perform general work in construction, repair and maintenance of town roads, grounds and facilities. Requirements: Familiarity and ability to operate grounds maintenance equipment, power equipment, and hand tools as well as possession of a valid Connecticut driver's license. A Town of Marlborough Employment Application and a general job description are available at the Town Clerks Office, 295-6206. Completed applications are to be submitted to the:

Marlborough Town Clerk
26 North Main Street
P.O. Box 29
Marlborough, CT. 06447

Application deadline is Friday, April 2, 2021 at 12:00 P.M. We consider applicants for all positions without regard to race, creed, religion, gender, national origin, age, disability, marital or veteran status, sexual orientation, or any other legally protected status.

4TB 3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26



FULL TIME POSITION Packaging Department

Located in East Hampton, American Distilling is the world's largest producer of Distilled Witch Hazel Extracts. We are looking for Packaging Operators on and second shift (Monday through Friday 4:30pm – 12:30 am).

- Must be able to multi-task
- Must be comfortable working in a fast paced environment
- Must have attention to detail
- Mechanical ability a plus

EMAIL YOUR RESUME TO:
careers@americandistilling.com
NO CALLS PLEASE.

RES-19-21

REAL ESTATE

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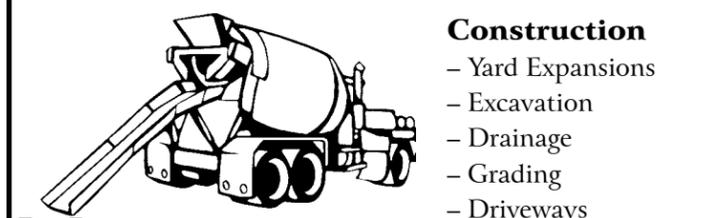
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Rotary Club Scholarship

East Hampton Rotary Club scholarship applications are available to any graduating senior in 2021 who resides in either East Hampton or Marlborough who would like to apply. Applications are available at the guidance departments of East Hampton High School, RHAM, Mercy, Xavier and Vinal. Applications are also available online at www.easthamptonrotary.org

To be eligible, student must be a resident of East Hampton or Marlborough, and must graduate from a secondary school accredited by the State of Connecticut and use the scholarship for expenses at an accredited school. The school may be a four- or five-year college or university, a community college, a trade school or a commercial school.

Selection will be made by the club's Scholarship Committee from the list of candidates who apply in a timely manner using the online application forms supplied by the Club obtained through the guidance department or the Rotary Club. Selection will be made based on a number of factors such as scholastic record, need, extracurricular activities, community service, the quality of the required essay, and the impression made at the interview.

Note: due to COVID-19, the Rotary will most

likely not be able to do interviews in person. Everyone will be emailed the interview questions to complete during April, and the Rotary said it is open to Skype or Zoom or email with attachments of the information you would like to share.

The number of scholarships awarded each year will be determined by the budget. There are normally several scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each.

If possible, the scholarship recipients will be invited to an awards dinner as the guests of the Rotary Club to receive their check, meet the other recipients and receive the well-deserved recognition of the Rotary Club.

Applications are due April 10. The Rotary said it will email everyone to set up an appointment arrangement for an interview. Include your cell phone and email so we can contact you. The awards presentation will be planned closer to May due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Return applications directly to the Rotary Club by emailing Tom Sweeney at Scholarshipapp@yahoo.com, and be sure to let your guidance department know as well so they can be kept informed.

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 brysgel@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 virtual 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.

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 Programs: Kids Sewing - Kids Bunny Slippers: Monday, March 29, 3:15-4:30 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center, for grades 4-8. Kids will create fleece booties complete with bunny ears. Each participant will take home their projects. All supplies are included. Fee: \$38/residents, \$43/non-residents.

Kids Easter Candy Workshop: Tuesday, March 30, 3:15-4:15, at Marlborough Senior Center, for grades 4-8. Kids will temper chocolate to make Easter bunnies and other treats. Fee: \$28/residents, \$33/non-residents.

Artventureswithkids!: Thursdays, April 8-May 20, 4:15-5:15 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center, for grades K-4. Create hot air balloon lanterns and each week learn about different cultural art using unique materials and artisans' techniques. Cost: \$99/residents, \$104/non-residents.

Skyhawks Mini-Hawk (Soccer, Baseball and Basketball): Thursdays, April 1-29, 4:30-5:30 p.m. for ages 4-6, and 5:30-6:30 p.m. for ages 7-10. Program held at Blish Park. Fee: \$85/residents, \$90/non-residents.

Kids Sewing - PJ Pants: Tuesday, April 6, 5:30-7 p.m., for ages 8-18. Kids will make their own print fleece PJs while learning elastic application and hemming. Class instruction is virtual. All materials provided. Fee: \$43/residents, \$48/non-residents.

Soccer Shots: Saturdays, April 17-June 12, at the West Road Baseball Field. Mini, for age 2, is 3- 3:45 p.m., and Classic, for ages 3-5, is 3:45-4:30 p.m. Fee: \$100/residents, \$105/non-residents.

Kids Sewing - Stretch and Sew Leggings: Wednesday, April 21, 5:30-7 p.m., for ages 8-18. Kids will make their own print leggings while learning elastic application and hem-

ming. Class instruction is virtual. All materials for the project are provided. Fee: \$43/resident, \$48/non-resident.

Tiny Twirlers Dance Class: Choose Mondays, April 26-June 7 (no class May 31), 5:30-6 p.m., or Saturdays, May 1-June 12 (no class May 29), 8:40-9:10 a.m. For ages 2-3 with caregiver. Children will be introduced to basic dance moves, work on their motor skills, and develop a sense of music. All classes held at Dance Dynamics in Hebron. Fee: \$85.

Mad Science - Mad Labs: Tuesdays, April 27-June 15, for 3:15-4:15 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center, for grades K-6. Topics covered this session are optical illusions, lights, color, walloping weather, sonic sounds and earthworks. Participants get a take-home project every week. Cost is \$150/resident, \$155/non-residents.

Horseback Riding Lessons: For ages 5 and up, English or Western-style instruction. The lessons are private and are an hour in length. Lesson days and times are flexible; the instructor will contact you to set up. Fee: four lessons for \$175/residents, \$180/non-residents.

Adult Programs: Zumba: Thursdays through March 25, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at Fire Station No. 2, or virtually if preferred. Drop-in fee each week is \$10.

Barre/Pilates: Choose Mondays through March 29, 5:30-6:15 p.m., or Wednesdays through March 31, 6-6:45 p.m. Class instruction is virtual. There is a \$15 drop-in fee each week.

Yoga: Choose Mondays through March 29, 6:30-7:30 p.m., or Tuesdays through March 30, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Class instruction is virtual. Drop-in fee each week is \$15.

Adult Tap: Thursdays, April 8-June 10 (no class April 22), 6:30-7:15 p.m., at Dance Dynamics in Hebron. This is a mixed level class. Fee: \$155.

Dog Obedience - Polite Dog Manners: Tuesdays, April 20-May 25, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Beginner level classes for dogs 5 months and older. Fee: \$120/resident, \$125/non-resident.

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Drive-Thru Fish Fry

St. Joseph's Polish Society, 395 S. Main St., will host a drive-thru fish fry each Friday through Good Friday, April 2. Dinner will be available from 4-7 p.m.

People can pick up dinners to take home or eat socially distanced in the hall. Dinner is \$13 for adults and \$7 for children under 12. Starting at 4 p.m. each Friday, people can call in the orders to 860-537-2550 and they will be ready for drive-thru pick-up.

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.

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.

For more information, call 860-537-2809. Office hours are 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday; 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Tuesday; 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday; and 9 a.m.-noon Friday.

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.

Dean's List

Shruti Rajkumar of Colchester made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Emerson College in Boston.

Rajkumar is majoring in journalism, and is a member of the Class of 2022.

School Nutrition Program Update

Through the end of the school year, all students and children under the age of 18 can get free breakfast and lunch.

Note: milk is included in every meal; however, if a student wants to buy just a milk, the cost is 65 cents. For those interested in grab-and-go meals, which are also free, pick-up is at William J. Johnston Middle School from 12:30-1 p.m. on in-school learning days and 10-10:30 a.m. on distance learning days.

Any questions can be directed to Leanne Raneheim, nutrition coordinator, at 860-537-9421 ext. 381 or Iranheim@colchesterct.org.

Fire Calls

From March 7-13, the Colchester Hayward Fire Department responded to 34 calls: 24 emergency medical calls, eight were fire/fire-related calls, and two motor vehicle crashes (both two-vehicle crashes). Calls included:

Fire: fire alarm, two; trees on wires, one; CO call, one; brush fire, one; vehicle fire, two; outside fire, one.

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

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

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

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

Fish Fry Fridays

The Colchester Fish and Game Club is holding its annual Fish Fry dinners every Friday during Lent, 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.

Take-Out Turkey Dinner

Westchester Congregational Church will hold a Turkey Dinner (order ahead and drive-thru take-out only) from 4-6 p.m. Saturday, March 27. Orders must be placed by Wednesday, March 24, by calling 860-267-6711. The church is located at 95 Cemetery Rd. in the Westchester section of Colchester.

The menu will be: roast turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, butternut squash casserole, cranberry sauce, roll and butter, and a brownie for dessert.

Payment is \$13 per dinner, by cash or check made out to "WCC."

Grant-Subsidized Preschool

Colchester's School Readiness Program is offering grant-subsidized preschool for the 2021-22 school year – and is seeking Colchester residents who want a five-day-per-week program and may find it difficult to pay for preschool.

For the application and more information, go to colchester3.org/school-readiness.

Honor Society Inductee

Nicholas Tartsinis of Colchester was among over 80 students from the Western New England University College of Arts & Sciences inducted into Alpha Lambda Delta in a virtual ceremony held March 5.

Tartsinis is working toward a Bachelor of Arts degree in law and society.

Republicans Seek Candidates

In preparation for the Nov. 2 municipal election, the Colchester Republican Town Committee is seeking candidates for town-elected offices.

For more information, call RTC Chairman Art Shilosky at 860-537-1093 or Betty Wagner at 860-537-5327.

Westchester Church News

Westchester Congregational Church, located at 98 Cemetery Rd., holds worship services in-person Sundays at 10 a.m. Services are also available on Zoom; visit the church website at westchesterconchurch.org for Zoom login information.

Safety precautions are in place to protect against COVID-19; pews are labeled for safe physical distancing, masks are required to be worn, hand sanitizer is available, and there is no singing, but music is played.

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

Sunday School is not in person yet, but the church emails video links and mails out packages of worksheets to children for the Sunday School experience. Email westconchurch@gmail.com or call 860-267-6711 to request Sunday School items.

Church tag sales will return; check this newspaper and the church website for news of upcoming events.

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Bacon Academy Honor Roll

Bacon Academy has announced its honor roll for the second quarter of the 2020-21 school year.

High Honors with Distinction

Grade 12: Kevin Agan, Abigail Auden, Caitlin Bagdasarian, Lucas Baldinger, Cayden Bertrand, Sarah Brigandi, Abigail Burke, Owen Burton, Mason Candler, Brandon Cicero, Ashley Clark, Evan Clark, Jason Consiglio, Adia Cordova, Tianna Croskey, Alexsea Dean, Kaillee Dickinson, Samantha Gauthier, Sarah Grant, Jamie Greene, Jack Grimord, Hailey Groene, Shannon Hickey, Amy Jones, Brandon Kauffman, Justin Kelsey, Delaney Lima, Michaela Longo, Patrick Mawhiney, Luke Maynard, Sydney Mikalonis, Catheryn Neudecker, Braeden O'Brien, Russell Pajor, Kellen Paparella, Paul Perkins, Riley Peters, Michael Pimenta, Sean Preston, Meghan Purcell, Avery Raber, Dillon Rakowski, Ava Sanchez, Andrew Smith, Elena Smith, Harrison Snow, Sean Swanke, Terranova, Atharv Thaker, Colton Vasseur, Victoria Violette, Brianna Waters, Alexander Weddall, Rexford Welch, Connor Wilcox, Paula Yanez, Olivia Zumpano.

Grade 11: Adrian Aivaliotis, Caleb Arbuckle, Leah Balsler, Michael Barnett, Samuel Blumberger, Kyle Brogden, Alexandra Brown, Austin Brown, Faith Chantres, Samantha Ciaglo, Caylin Davids, Ella Dubiel, Gianna Duckworth, Annie-Mae England, Matthew Guerriere, Cole Harrison, Wilson Hathaway, Jade Hostetler, Olivia Ignazio, Alajah Jimenez, Matthew Kranc, Jordan Malloy, Vincent May, Aidan McLoughlin, Sokheta Nguon, Luke Pennella, Jayson Robitaille, Jordan Rodgers, Alexandra Skilton, Christopher Stephenson, Caitlin Wargat, Aidan Zimmitti.

Grade 10: Matthew Ashley, Brianna Berthiaume, Megan Braga, Kaylie Couch, Maya Crowell, Austin Dinsmoor, Jaden Espejo, Catherine Field, Jillian Filloramo, Grace Galarneau, Grace Gorreck, Camryn Grasso, Neely Hart, Allyson Hickey, Anna LeGault, Lillian Litwinko, Meaghan Malone, David Marino, Chloe Marshall, Heather Martyszczuk, Theresa Mathieu, Nico Matteucci, Layla Meekins, Ryan Moores, Zachary Perreault, Mitchell Rathbone, Brooke Rodgers, Kaitlyn Romprey, Ian Sargent, Audrey Schuck, Jordyn Tassmer, Kaitlyn Tracey, Krista Tracey, Mia Voiland, Miranda Waters, Samantha Willauer, Isabella Wood.

Grade 9: Chloe Alfieri, Carolyn Baehr, Kayla Balsler, Allison Bartiss, Mia Belcamino, Abigail Belding, Madison Brown, Jonah Brownson, McKayleigh Capone, Sarah Churchill, Kevin Claffey, Samantha D'Atri, Olivia Elliott, Emily Ferrigno, Garrett Geloney, Gracie Gladding, Matthew Harasimowitz, Taylor Herboldt, Leah Hochholzer, Owen Ibey, Sean Jolly, Aisha Kasli, Mariam Kasli, Sana Kasli, Madelyn Koziol, Logan Lammey, Alexa Lebiszczak, Emma Liberty, Johannes Liebenberg, Christopher Lusignan, Gabriel Mahon, Jack Mallett, Neil Malloy, Maya Mancuso, Kaylee Marshall, Melinda McKenzie, Caitlyn Neves, Dylan Opalenik, Zenovia Panteloukas, Rohan Patel, Tyler Pulse, Audra Putorti, Leah Putorti, Dina Sehl, Jazlyn Small-Yu, Chelsea Smith, Kiera Stewart, Shea Sweet, Olivia Tellar, Meghan Walsh, Amanda Waters, Juan Yanez.

High Honors

Grade 12: Blane Baillargeon, Malik Barnes, Joshua Braga, Natalie Caballero-Negron, Jayleen Caez, Jack Ciaglo, Olivia Donahue, Joshua Gladding, Tyler Graham, Julia Grottole, Jayden Guerra, Emma Hajdasz, Cassidy Hambrecht, Nathan Hebert, Erin Holt, Eric Kanaowicz, Samantha Lang, Jack LaRosa, Rose Macijauskas, Emma Mallett, Mallorie Mancini, Catherine Marburger, Natalie Maynard, Jack McIllduff, Joshua Melo, Logan Miceli, Owen Mocksfield,

Kaitlyn Moody, Nicholas Paggioli, Tyllynne Parsons, Lauren Peake, Ethan Ratzler, Megan Reading, Mallory Scherff, Sophie Schroll, Ty Stanchina, Jordyn Strong, Griffin Sullivan, Kira Swain, Emily Tellar, Samantha Uccello, Jarod Underberg, Cody Woodcock, Kiki Zeng.

Grade 11: Daniel Blanda, Sarah Caley, Aidan Carroll, Ryan Claffey, Erin Dalton, Reed DelMastro, Emily Farrington, Carsyn Formanek, Connor Gordon, Skylar Gustavsen, Quinn Johnson, Adam Lesinski, Aine Malone, Emma Mancuso, Matthew McCune, Catherine Misbach, Daniel Morytko, Andrew Navickas, Sarah Newton, John Novak, Jasmyne Ouellette, Maryanne Ringuette, Madison Simone, Bethany Steinman, Joely Stella, Ashton Sullivan, Sarah Tupper, Harrison Wells, Jennifer Whipple.

Grade 10: Jazmin Adams, Olivia Adams, Noah Auden, Annalia Benitez-Goodale, Danielle Benoit, Cecelia Carnelli, Olivia Carnelli, Mackenzie Dean, Michelle Jolly, Robert June, Samantha Kinsey, Gabrielle Papale, Isabelle Richards, Evan St.Louis, Megan Swanke, Joselyn Thomson, Connor Tuttle.

Grade 9: Nathaniel Alexander, Illiana Blanco, Angel Bravo Almanza, Dante Colella, Jonathan Curry, Allison Deane, Avatar Disher, Andrew Ferrigno, Aaron Fidyrych, Brady Gould, Xavier Gudelski, Kayla Hall, Jara Hester, Jace King, Theodore Koutsofavas, Shannon Lovgrove, Sophie Melmed, Kaie Quimby, Samuel Ringuette, Sebastian Santini, Ethan Siborg, Sarah Skilton, Lourzinais Sosa Torres, Brianna Taskey, Luke Torneo, Daniel Wozniak, Amaya Zavistoski.

Honors

Grade 12: Daniel Alexander, Julia Baehr, Elijah Blanchard, Abigail Boislard, Jesse Burnham, Mason Candler, Isabella Carnelli, Sarah Chantres, Quinn Clark, Hannah Dornfried, Nicholas Ellis, Samantha Gesiak, Clare Gillerlane, Dylan Graham, Avianna Ibrahim, Nathaniel Kowinsky, Chloe Lawley, Kara Lawley, Paige Lawrence, Kaylea McCourt, Grace Palmer, Gillian Pineau, Jason Praisner, Julian Prignano, Nicholas Putorti, Aidan Reeve, Alyssa Rubbo, Caitlin Shea, John Spaulding, David Talbot, David Tremblay, Leslie Vazquez, Sarah Vilardo,

Grade 11: Makayla Babineau, Josiah Banks, Natalie Brault, Dominic Colella, Tyler Cottrill, Tyler Couture, Jaianna Dechalus, Connor Denecour, Brynne Dobek, Kayla Fillion, Sean Gannon, Luke Gilbert, William Girard, Kelly Goodwin, Brennan Hester, Scott Kardys, Yuki Liu, Valerie Luizzi, Heather Marvin, Samuel Miller, Isabel Murphy, Josiah Perkins, Morgan Prates, Isha Rana, Zoe Rondeau, Sophie Rose, Jessica Schuth, Jordyn Scutnik, Zachary Starks, Evelyn Toennes,

Grade 10: Korhal Bartlett-Dennis, Maddox Burton, Henry Callan, Amber Capaldi, James Chiaverini, Alexander Constant, Madison Crook, Emmet Day, Sophia Falkowski, Logan Ferretti, Aidan Fritz, Charles Gionfriddo, Kaitlyn Graham, Luke Grimord, Jack Holmes, Isabella Kress, Steven Laliberte, Matthew LaRosa, Andrew Lima, Brandon Losier, Vivian Lubinsky, Evan Maldonado, Kaiyana Malloy, Ava McCarvill, Brady McIllduff, Charlotte Murphy, Dante Ricci, Mason Romanowski, Grace Saldana, Mahra Sehl, Kaitlyn Sierra, Reina Spearin, Julius Totten, Michael Vilardo, Elisabeth Westerfeld, Ryan Wilcox, Peter Wrinn.

Grade 9: Logan Brown, Emyliah Colon, Noah Crowell, Matthew Elsdon, Grace Eveleigh, Makayla Gale, Taylor Gerst, Cody Gesiak, Maya Goodwin, Brett Guntulis, Quintin Henley, Samantha Hipsher, Grant Johnson, Gabriella Korczak, Michael Marino, Lucas Mieszkwicz, Lauren Myers, Eric Prates, Cara Shea, Shane Strzalka, Dylan Ward.

St. Andrew Church News

St. Andrew Catholic Church holds Sunday Mass Saturdays at 4 p.m. and Sundays at 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. The church is located at 128 Norwich Ave.

Social distancing remains in place; pews are sectioned off to maintain six feet, in all directions, between individuals and/or households. Available seating is clearly marked. Seating is limited to 100 people per Mass, due to social distancing and local regulations. The only entrance to the church is on the parking lot side.

Parishioners should bring and use their own hand sanitizer. Also, facemasks that cover both nose and mouth are required of all attending public worship.

The dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains in effect until further notice.

For more information, call 860-537-2355 or visit www.standrewcolchester.org.

CYSS News and Notes

Colchester Youth and Social Services has announced the following. For more information and full program descriptions, contact CYSS at 860-537-7255 or youthservices@colchesterct.gov. Register online at www.colchesterct.gov/youth-social-services. Registration is required for every session of each program due to the current COVID-19 guidelines.

The Learning Lounge: Mondays-Fridays, 8:30-11:30 a.m., for grades 6-8. This program provides middle school youth space to complete their distance learning. Socially-distanced work stations and support will be provided. Limited availability.

Youth Uprise: Wednesdays, 12:30-1:30 p.m., at the Youth Center, for grades 9-12. High school students come together and discuss unity, diversity, civic engagement and making a change.

Andover • Andover

Committee Presents Community Center Concept

by Sloan Brewster

Andover's Board of Selectmen has agreed to spend up to \$50,000 for the exploration of a new community center.

A portion of the funds would be used to hire an architect to draft plans based on concept drawings Adrian Mandeville, Board of Selectmen vice chairman, drafted using computer aided design software.

Mandeville and the Community/Senior Center Building Committee, which is chaired by selectman Jeff Murray, presented the plans at a special Board of Selectmen meeting Tuesday.

They said the plans – which include a 56- by 40-foot building – were preliminary and the color and design could look different after an architect takes over.

The building they have in mind, however, is one-story stand-alone building with a gabled roof that would stand between Town Hall and Andover Elementary School.

Mandeville described a glass exterior door opening to a hallway with room for a bulletin board and small gatherings. Off the hall, would be a large meeting room, two offices space and a kitchen with a serving area.

One office could house a senior services director and the second office – with space for small groups meetings – could be a spot for professionals to come in and meet with seniors, Mandeville said.

"This allows you to have tax people come in, counselors," he said. "We have a variety of things. It could be anything from a dentist to a visiting nurse to come in and speak with the community."

A larger meeting room would have a divider and could be split into two smaller spaces, were

the need presented, Mandeville said. The town could also rent the space out.

"You could have three gathering spaces or a big one and a small one," he said.

Interior spaces would have eight-foot ceilings and the walkout basement would have one large space and a separate closed off area where mechanicals would be housed.

The building would also have two bathrooms, one that would be handicapped accessible and one not.

To save money and hire a local contractor, the plan would be to use conventional materials rather than brick, Mandeville said.

"The idea of concern here is to get as much bang for the buck as we can," he said.

Ed Sarisley, a civil engineer and committee member, said a grassy area behind the building would be a spot for picnicking and outdoor activities and sports, such as croquet and badminton.

Between the buildings would be a patio with picnic tables and there could be a walkway with an overhead connecting the buildings, Sarisley said.

Sarisley added that the configuration of the building would have an additional perk.

"The gabled roof is perfect for solar panels which in the future we could eventually add to the roof on this so our town could finally go solar," he said.

While there would not be room to put a garage beneath the building, the town could possibly add garage space for senior vehicles on the adjoining fire department property, Sarisley said.

"It would be nice to have the busses in the

area somewhere," he said.

Mandeville called the plan a "starting point" and Murray reiterated that the committee had put together the initial plans to save the town money but they are not final.

"This is just a concept that we are going to give to the architectural firm," he said.

Sarisley, however, said the plans were good enough to present to the town.

Talks about a new community/senior center really picked up speed in October 2018 when, due to a mold infestation, the Board of Selectmen shut down the old firehouse on Center Street, which had been used for a senior center and also meeting space for town functions.

However, even before the closure of the firehouse, the town had discussed a new senior center.

Sarisley said that since 1969 the idea has been in five consecutive plans of development for the town and was pointed as a number one need among residents in a 2018 Long Term Planning Committee survey.

"This has been a longstanding need in our town," he said. "It's been in our town documents for [more than] 50 years."

The board agreed to pay for the plans with up to \$50,000 from the \$450,000 the town has set aside for a community center. The first step will be to spend about \$20,000 for a site survey, architectural renderings and cost estimations. Once those come in the committee can seek additional approval from the board to spend the rest for final construction drawings.

"I'm very excited about this," Sarisley said. "This is a very good working solution, I feel."

Library Friends Launch Annual Appeal

To help make up for loss of revenue due to COVID-19, Andover Friends of the Library group has expanded its annual membership drive to an 'annual appeal.' The group helps support Andover Public Library.

To join this 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, donations are: \$3 senior/student, \$5 individual, \$10 family, \$25 business, \$150 lifetime, \$500 patron. Donations of any amount are appreciated and can be mailed to Andover Friends of the Library, P. O. Box 117, Andover, CT 06232.

The Library Friends provide ongoing financial support for print and audio books, DVDs, children and adult programming (currently online), museum and state park passes, an educational scholarship for an Andover high school senior, subscriptions, as well as equipment, supplies and facility enhancements beyond the library's current budget. A free summer gazebo concert, a visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus, a book/bake sale, and the annual auction are, the Friends hope, all back this year.

Membership forms are emailed to current and former members and are also available by visiting the library at 355 Route 6, or by calling 860-742-7428. Forms are also online at tinyurl.com/ayrsvpks.

The library is currently open for a limited number of patron visitors at a time Monday/Wednesday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Tuesday/Thursday, noon-7 p.m.; and Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. For library news, updates and photos, visit the Andover Public Library Facebook page at [facebook.com/AndoverPublicLibrary.CT](https://www.facebook.com/AndoverPublicLibrary.CT) or www.andoverconnecticut.org/library.

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.

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.

Garden Club Scholarship Available

The East Hartford Garden Club has announced the availability of one \$1,000 scholarship to any full- or part-time student who plans to major in horticulture, floriculture, landscape design, conservation, forestry, environmental concerns, botany or other allied subjects.

The student can be a resident of Andover, Bolton, Bloomfield, Coventry, East Hartford, East Windsor, Glastonbury, Manchester, Middletown, Vernon, Storrs or Windsor Locks. For Andover residents, applications with the submitted instructions are available at the guidance department of RHAM High School.

All completed applications must be received by April 1.

Yard Work Help Available for Seniors

The AHM Youth and Family Services CHOREs Program is accepting applications from senior citizens age 60 or older from Andover, Hebron and Marlborough to utilize the CHOREs Program.

Teens will work two hours per job at a senior citizen's residence raking, weeding, picking up sticks, planting, etc. For complete program information visit ahmyouth.org, click on "Menu" and select "CHOREs Program." Applications can be found at Andover Town Hall.

Contact Jenn Boehler at 860-228-9488 ext. 12 or jenniferb@ahmyouth.org for more information.

Congregational Church News

Andover Congregational Church, UCC, located at 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, email andoverctchurch@gmail.com or visit www.andoverctchurch.org.

Bible Study: Tuesday mornings 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 church

pastor the Rev. Rose Nilson will send you the meeting link.

Food Pantry: Mondays from 5-7 p.m. Bring your own bags. CDC guidelines are observed and masks are required.

Foodshare Van: Comes to the church every other Wednesday from 9-9:30 a.m.; it will next be there March 31.

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.

Bingo and Baskets: Today, March 19 (snow date March 26), at 5:30 p.m. Admission is \$10 and includes pasta dinner, drink and dessert. Masks required.

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.

Library Friends Offer Scholarship

The Andover Friends of the Library is offering its 32nd annual scholarship to an Andover high school senior.

Seniors interested in applying for the \$1,000 scholarship should do so by May 2. Applications are available at the guidance office at RHAM High School and at Andover Public Library, 355 Route 6. Completed applications must be dropped off at the library only.

The applicant must be currently enrolled as a senior in any high school, use the scholarship to further his or her education, and hold a valid Andover library card.

For more information, call Janet McCall at 860-742-9764.

Preschool Screening

The Andover Board of Education, through the Andover Elementary School Early Learning Center, will hold a screening Friday, May 14, 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.

Baking with Zoom

Andover Public Library will host a "Baking with Zoom" program Wednesday, March 24, at 6:30 p.m., during which participants will make an Earl Grey Yogurt Cake (Bread).

Upon sign-up, bakers will receive a list of ingredients and the loose-leaf tea for this project. Bakers will supply everything else that is needed (oven, baking pans, other ingredients). During the Zoom presentation, participants will mix the batter and pop the bread/cake into the oven.

Toward the end of the program, the library will show an example of the finished cake, and provide some suggested toppings for eating.

To arrange a time to pick up the tea and list of ingredients, as well as the Zoom login information, call 860-742-7428 or email andoverctpublclibrary@gmail.com.

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Reach out to a friend about
their mental health.

Find more ways to help at SeizeTheAwkward.org

SEIZE THE AWKWARD

**YOUR AD
SHOULD BE HERE!**

Call us at: **860-633-4691**