



RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

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Longtime Portland First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield announced this week she won't be seeking re-election this fall. The decision will allow Bransfield more time for, among other things, visiting with her grandchildren, including, pictured here, baby Sean Thomas and granddaughters Shannon (left) and Samantha (right).

Susan Bransfield Won't Seek Re-Election

by Jack Lakowsky

Portland First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield this week announced after serving as the town's chief executive for close to 20 years, she has decided to not seek re-election this November.

"I wanted to announce officially so candidates can step forward," Bransfield said in a Tuesday phone call with the Rivereast.

"It's a good decision that makes sense for my personal and professional life," she said.

Bransfield said that upon winning re-election in 2018, she mentioned her ninth term would likely be her last.

Bransfield, a Democrat, said local Democrats and Republicans have selected their candidates and will be officially announcing them soon. Both are involved with town government, she said.

Bransfield also hinted that unaffiliated candidates may have a go at the office.

However, Bransfield said she doesn't plan to leave public life entirely.

"I love my job; always have," she said. "Every morning when I wake up, I look forward to coming to work."

Still, she said, she feels the time has come to focus her energy on issues she is personally passionate about. The work of a town leader is diverse, she said, and taking a step back from a 24/7 job will allow her to be more exacting in her activism.

"I'm still committed to Portland," she said. "I've lived here since 1981, and my husband has been here since 1960. This is a beautiful town with a great landscape and great people."

Bransfield said the pandemic did little to hurry her decision.

COVID-19 did bring to light issues Bransfield wants to tackle, including those affecting seniors and children, she said. She said she will continue to attach herself to work promoting equity of and better services to youngsters and to seniors.

Issues faced by seniors and youth are personal to Bransfield, as she is in her 60s and has five grandchildren ranging in age from middle school to newborn.

Bransfield also plans to help shelter diversion programs – finding homes for individuals experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness, especially seniors and youth.

"Throughout the years I've grown to appreciate what a gift it is to have a home, whether you rent or own property," Bransfield said. "Everyone should have a home. Not all reasons [for a period of homelessness] are economic. I'm very interested in pursuing that arena."

Bransfield said she will continue involvement with the local impact of homelessness, but that she also wants to expand her activism. She explained that homelessness diversion services require a broader, regional approach.

"Finding homes is a statewide effort," she said. "The state is doing a good job [with affordable housing and shelter diversion] but it can always use more help."

Although she did not say explicitly, the first selectwoman did not deny the possibility of a future campaign for a Governor Susan Bransfield. She said she's not ruling anything out.

State Sen. Norm Needleman (D-33), whose district covers Portland, told the Rivereast he

See Bransfield, page 26

Rivereast Sold; Longtime Publisher Retires

The Rivereast News Bulletin – a local news presence in the region for nearly 40 years – is under new ownership.

Owner/publisher Jim Hallas announced the sale of the newspaper this week to the Rare Reminder, a longtime, family-owned, weekly newspaper/shopper headquartered in Rocky Hill. The formal closing was held on Wednesday, March 17. The company's 20 employees were advised of the pending sale earlier this month.

The sale includes both of the Glastonbury Citizen, Inc.'s publications: the Glastonbury Citizen and the Rivereast News Bulletin. The purchase price was not disclosed.

The Citizen is a subscription paper with about 5,300 subscribers, devoted strictly to Glastonbury news and events. The Rivereast News Bulletin is a free newspaper with a circulation of about 26,000. It covers news and events in Portland, East Hampton, Marlborough, Middle Haddam, Cobalt, Amston, Hebron, Andover and Colchester.

The newspaper company has been owned

and operated by the Hallas family since 1952 when Henry and Marion Hallas purchased the Citizen, which then consisted of "a shoe box half full of mostly unpaid subscriptions," Henry liked to joke.

The newspaper grew with the town over the years. The first office was in Henry and Marion's upstairs apartment in Glastonbury, followed by space in a building on the corner of Oak Street and Nutmeg Lane and finally its present quarters at 87 Nutmeg Lane.

For several years the printing was jobbed out, with Henry delivering the bundles of newspapers to the post office on Wednesday evenings from the back of his station wagon. Henry eventually acquired his own web printing press and began publishing the paper on site. As the paper grew to the point it no longer fit in his station wagon, he purchased a truck.

The Citizen also published a regional shopper, The Buywiser, for several years. In 1982 the shopper was transformed into the Rivereast News Bulletin, offering news coverage of eight

other towns.

Son Jim, a graduate of Syracuse University's S.I. Newhouse School of Communications, produced the Rivereast. He took on additional duties as publisher when Henry retired in 1985. Henry passed away in 2008.

Hallas, now 68, said it was difficult to leave the business that has been an integral part of his family's life for so many years, but the time had come. He and his wife Deborah have two adult sons who have careers of their own out of state – Benjamin, who is a special education teacher in Boston, and James, who works for NASCAR in Charlotte, N.C. Neither is likely to return to Connecticut, he said.

"It's time to pass things on to owners who will continue our legacy of service to the community and – I am confident – strengthen it," he observed. "Someone with the energy and wherewithal to maintain and improve our papers and take them into the future."

Many of the company's employees have been with the Citizen/Rivereast for between 10 and

30 years. "I was reconciled to leaving the newspaper business, but it's so much harder to say goodbye to the people who have made what we do possible," admitted Hallas.

"Referring to people as being 'like family' is a bit clichéd, but for us, it is absolutely true," he added. "We have always worked together as a team, supported one another, celebrated together, commiserated together and laughed together while at the same time getting the job done. The people I've been privileged to work with take great pride in what they do. They are absolutely the best and I'd have been completely lost without them."

Though the printing will be transferred to the Rare Reminder's facility in Rocky Hill, all employees will be retained. Longtime sports/education editor Chris Seymour will take over Jim Hallas's responsibilities as editor of the Citizen; Mike Thompson will remain editor of the Rivereast News Bulletin and Carole Saucier will remain as office manager.

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Colchester Town Guide Inside!

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## From the Editor's Desk

# Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

First off, let me address the big news – which I'm sure you all noticed on the cover: Jim Hallas, our longtime publisher, has retired.

Jim's been a terrific boss, and a good friend. Back in 2002, when I was 23 and shortly removed from college, Jim took a chance on me, and for that I will always be grateful. He's been encouraging and helpful every step of the way, as I moved from *Rivereast* reporter to *Glastonbury Citizen* reporter to finally *Rivereast* editor in 2007 – where I incidentally took over for Jim, who at that time moved over to the *Citizen* to be editor.

This won't come as a shock to regular readers of his Bulletin Board – which he'll be continuing, by the way – but Jim's got a great sense of humor, and has fostered a fun, laid-back atmosphere in the office all these years. As someone who worked many temp jobs in college, I can tell you this was easily the most enjoyable office I've worked in. The hearty laughs I've had in this place over the years simply cannot be calculated.

And, being a seasoned newsman, Jim of course taught me a ton over the years – a lot about not just the nuts-and-bolts of reporting but what readers want to see. He's been a great mentor and teacher.

I've met with our new publisher, Kevin Rarey, and the *Rare Reminder* crew, and they all seem like great people. I'm excited about being a part of the *Rivereast's* journey under our new ownership – and, as a newsman and boss of my own staff, I'll be continuing to impart the many lessons Jim provided me over the years.

So congratulations on your retirement, Jim, and thank you – for everything.

\*\*\*

Kudos to Marlborough resident Pamela Cyr-Long on her series of letters dealing with small town racism, and how to combat it. The series wraps up this week, and I'm glad Pamela has been getting some much-deserved praise from readers for these courageous letters she's been writing.

And they are courageous. It's not easy for one to open up about their experiences, and it's certainly not easy to try to make people look inside themselves, to discover what may be uncomfortable truths.

They've been a thought-provoking series of letters. I consider myself fairly progressive, but as a white male, there are certain things I take for granted, I realize. Pamela's letters have caused me to pause, sit back, and take stock of some of my own actions and comments over the years, no matter how small and innocuous-seeming they may have been at the time. I think I'm better for having read them.

Thank you again, Pamela, for these enlightening letters.

\*\*\*

After yet another horrific mass shooting Monday evening – the second one in less than a week – I was glued to CNN, watching the coverage, and waiting for the police press conference to begin. As I tend to do in situations like this, being a student of news, I decided to flip back and forth among the cable news channels to see how they were covering the shooting.

CNN and MSNBC each had turned over their prime-time programming to coverage of the tragedy. They had reporters at the scene, with occasional witnesses calling in to the anchors in the studio, and former police officers and Secret Service agents offering their analysis. It was the pretty standard stuff we get after one of these mass shootings. (I hate that there have been enough mass shootings that I know how coverage of them typically goes.)

So I flipped over to Fox News to see what they were doing, and there was Tucker Carlson in studio, as normal, talking about something completely unrelated.

Okay, I thought. *Surely when the police press conference begins, they'll break in then.*

Nope. In the 9 p.m. hour, while CNN and MSNBC were airing the police press conference, Fox News had Sean Hannity, business as usual, talking about issues completely unrelated to the horror that had just unfolded in Colorado.

Look, obviously the story was getting covered, on the other two channels. So everything that was available to know I could, and did, find out from them.

But if you purport to be a 24-hour news channel, shouldn't you, ya know, cover breaking news?

Editor's Desk continued on page 4



**New Art Gallery...** The East Hampton Art Association has revealed its new Chatham Art Gallery, located in the new Town Hall at 1 Community Drive. Elizabeth Sennett's work is currently on display.

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

## Support the Library

To the Editor:

As we finally start to ease our way out of this pandemic, there is a group of folks that I would like to thank: the staff at the East Hampton Public Library. I am retired and live alone. It would have been a long year without being able to access the library remotely with an e-reader, and all for free with my library card. I have been a regular there for over 60 years and still smile as I enter, knowing that new adventure awaits me right inside.

I urge everyone to explore this great resource and support it any way you can.

Billy Clark – East Hampton

## The Actual Racists

To the Editor:

People who see everything through the prism of race and group identity are the ones who are actually the racists and bigots. Everyone they encounter is immediately pre-judged and categorized based on the immutable characteristics they possess, and are expected to think and behave according to the biased stereotypes assigned to them.

Joe Stevens regards overlooking immutable characteristics as a racist ploy, despite its enabling the perception of people as individuals rather than some monolithically-thinking group member. I guess "woke" Joe would now "cancel" Martin Luther King for extolling us "not to judge people by the color of their skin, but the content of their character." Hypocrite doesn't even come close to describing these people.

Ed Smith comes from an environment where he's not used to anyone pushing back on his nonsense. We've found that "he can dish it out but he can't take it." As an "educator" he should know the rhetorical distinction between slander and libel. Slander is spoken, and libel is written. But that's as trite as the distinction between a molecule and an element.

Anyone finding it appropriate to place a BLM sign in her yard while concurrently deeming it unacceptable for another to place a "No White Guilt" sign in his own is in no position to be lecturing people on overcoming racism. This belies her seeming prejudice that white people are inherently guilty of original sin strictly on the basis of their skin color. I guess all white people should just beg forgiveness and seek the manners necessary for atonement and absolution.

But much worse is our "woke" betters condescension displayed towards people of color. Apparently, they regard our fellow Americans as being inferior and incapable of attending to their own best self-interests without their beneficent interventions.

Sam Prentice – Andover

## Freezin' for a Reason

To the Editor:

During a year when there wasn't much that we could count on happening as scheduled, the three men of Freezin' for a Reason kept a long-standing tradition alive. The 12th annual fundraising event took place the weekend of Feb. 12. Rob Suchecki, Greg Cordova, and Fred Brown spent their days and nights braving the cold temperatures and gusty winds. Their mission has always been to raise awareness and funds for the Colchester Fuel Bank and I think it is safe to say that they have outdone themselves this year!

Our town residents, local friends, and community partners have raised \$26,024.79! These funds are going to be able to help so many families that are in need right now. Thank you all very much for always showing up and supporting the community that we are all proud to be a part of.

Colchester Youth and Social Services

## Biden Bias in News Media

To the Editor:

Mainstream news media's Biden bias is alive and well, as evidenced in the following.

After delivering the graduation address at the West Point Military Academy last summer, President Donald Trump cautiously made his way down an incline, slippery from an earlier rain. Mainstream media immediately sprang into full court press with front page headlines and TV news video footage about his physical fitness to be president. The speculation continued for days!

But when recently, in a highly-visible manner, Biden tripped awkwardly three times climbing the red-carpeted stairs to Air Force One in Atlanta, Georgia, there was nary a peep. Mum. Not a word about his physical fitness, despite his advanced age and visible physical frailty. "Strong wind" was labeled the culprit in the few biased media accounts.

It was a repeat of mainstream media's silence last summer about news that might have reflected negatively on Biden's run for president. "Mostly peaceful protests" was the extent of mainstream media's coverage of the rioting in key cities. Those "peaceful protests" burned businesses to the ground.

The bias continues about the border crisis dubbed "challenge," aided and abetted by the news blackout imposed by a Biden administration that promised to be the most transparent ever.

Peter Kushkowski  
"Almost Heaven"  
Portland

See Letters, page 4

## Bulletin Board

My wife caught me busily sketching at the kitchen table the other day. Since I am what might be charitably characterized as a "stick figure artist," she was naturally curious. "What are you drawing?"

"Nothing."

"Clearly it's something. It looks like a tower of some sort."

"If you must know, I'm sketching some ideas for my cemetery memorial when I am laid to eternal rest. Hopefully that will be some day in the long distant future, but I want to be prepared."

She peered over my shoulder. "You intend to be buried under the Washington Monument?"

"It's a very modest obelisk," I retorted.

"For a pharaoh."

"I do need sufficient room for the lengthy laudatory panels. You know, the stuff about how I did the New York Times crossword puzzle in ink and how I was the most important thing in the world to my family."

"You mean your family was the most important thing to you." She saw my blank look and explained, "Normally you list all the things you loved the best—you know: lying on the couch, scratching yourself in inappropriate places, bacon—but then you add, 'But always the most important thing to him was his family.'"

"More important than bacon?"

She sighed. "I probably shouldn't ask, but what are those things at the corners of the obelisk that look like dead opossums?"

"They're bronze wolverines. You probably aren't aware of this, but pound for pound, wolverines are the most ferocious animal in the forest. But do you think snarling lions would be more appropriate?"

"I think squinty-eyed lawn moles with Coke bottle spectacles would be more appropriate, but don't let me dampen your self-esteem."

"I think I'll stick with the wolverines. The real question is whether to go with Italian marble or titanium for the main obelisk."

For once, she was speechless.

"Italian marble is more aesthetically pleasing," I continued, "but titanium will stand up to the elements better over the coming centuries."

"You do realize that the, ah...magnitude of this monument to your admittedly amazing existence will be viewed with jaded eyes by the town Plan and Zoning Commission? At the very least, they'll insist that you install a handicapped bathroom to be available for all the crowds on Resurrection Day."

"Boy they sure know how to take all the joy out of being dead, don't they?"

"Maybe you should reduce the size your monument to something a little more manageable."

"I could lower the height of the spire, I suppose."

"I was thinking maybe just a simple flat stone."

"No wolverines?"

"Or I could just scatter your ashes in the parking lot at Beer, Booze & Beyond."

Jim Hallas

**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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Reader Forum • Reader Forum

★ Letters cont. from page 2

**Anti-Racism, Cont.**

To the Editor:

I offer some final takeaways to consider.  
 -Understand the difference between equality and equity.  
 -If talking about racism makes you angry, dig deep to find out why.  
 -Do your own research. Don't rely on marginalized people to educate. Resist seeking forgiveness or approval to ease discomfort. If you become defensive, stop. We are all accountable.  
 -Self-care is important. Take time to rest if overwhelmed by the work. It can be exhausting. Then come back to it.

Humans are flawed and self-serving creatures by nature, so we must make conscious efforts to get outside of ourselves. Likely no one would put their hand up if asked, "Who is racist?" Most people don't feel they are racist. It's not something that most of us would call ourselves or be proud to be called. But if none of us are racist, how does racism exist?

If we can get a bit uncomfortable, acknowledge that the foundation of our American culture is woven of centuries of racism, built by the labors of a stolen people on stolen land, it is easier to admit that there's room for improvement. Where each of us is on the continuum is not as important as how far we are dedicated to moving from our starting point. No one is expecting perfection, but we can each decide to be a work in progress.

We can each set a new standard for how we're willing to allow ourselves and others to be treated regardless of who's in the room. This requires self-awareness, desire, generational-forgiveness, curiosity, introspection, continuous effort, and most of all, humility. The good news is all these things are free, and we don't lose anything while we do them, but we may have to clean up some trash here and there.

Thoughts? pamecylong@gmail.com

Pamela Cyr-Long – Marlborough

**'Stuff the Pantry'**

To the Editor:

Over recent months, it became obvious that our volunteers needed some extra attention. The men and women who volunteer their time and effort for our fire department and ambulance are truly heroes. They are all "ready to go" at a moment's notice when we need them for an emergency. Keep in mind – this means 24/7!

Members of the Democratic Town Committee, Republican Town Committee and Anchor Lodge worked together to make a donation to provide food for our volunteers. They enjoy each other's company at their stations before and after their emergency calls. \$965 was donated!!! We have shopped and spent \$420 and will soon plan another shopping trip.

When you meet these amazing volunteers, please thank them.

Always grateful,

Barbara Moore – East Hampton

**Executed Within 30 Days**

To the Editor:

It seems like whenever you turn on the news, we hear about this shooting and that shooting or more proposed gun control legislation. What I would like to hear on the news is that Joe so-in-so was executed today because he shot and killed his neighbor! We need politicians that understand that if you kill someone or even attempt to kill someone you should be executed within 30 days, instead of being sent to a place where you get free room and board, free TV, a gym and free medical! That is not a deterrent!!!

All prisoners should get nothing except bread and water. That's it. No free medical or other freebies at taxpayer's expense. If that was the way we did it, a lot of lives would be saved! Any sensible politician would do this, unless they were afraid it might hinder their chances of re-election.

Frank Blume – Colchester

**Teach About Real Science**

To the Editor:

Clearly, Edmund Smith is a "teacher" of science and not a teacher of English literature, composition, or comprehension. Every week he consistently misinterprets everything that is written about him, and provides a nonsensical response that convolutes the issue(s) about which he is the subject. I wish there was a vaccine for that...

Edmund gave a feeble and anemic explanation last week after being called out for making fun of Gary Gile's unintentional mistake of misidentifying elements, atoms, or molecules (shame on you, Gary!). Edmund's view of "climate change" is not relevant and has nothing to do with the issue. The issue is Edmund's arrogant and sardonic attitude toward Mr. Giles for not being the science maven that Edmund envisions himself to be, and then compounding the issue by involving 11-year-olds as unwitting patsies to stroke his ego. As Edmund stated to his students: "Don't worry, I know adults who think CO2 is made up of three elements. Students laugh. More relaxed." Edmund defended himself by using climate change as the context instead of admitting to the reality that he was taking a veiled derisive shot at Mr. Giles. I'm convinced the maturity level for everyone in Edmund's 6th grade Science Bowl classroom reaches an asymptote at 11 years of age. Everyone.

I wonder if Edmund's art colleagues tell their students, "Don't worry, I know adults who think color, tone, and hue are the same thing," as if not knowing the difference is a sign of mental defect (a.k.a. "Bidenism.")

Maybe Edmund should teach his students about real science. Like, without fossil fuels, what square footage of solar panels does it take to recharge a Tesla before your boss calls and wants to know why your late for work again (assuming you actually have a job)?

Regards,

Ed Kozlowski – Colchester

**I Again Demand Apology**

To the Editor:

We now know from the *Rivereast* of 3-19-2021 that Mr. Smith knows the full meaning of defamation of a person's character. He knows that slander is defamation that is spoken and libel is defamation that is written. Again, I demand an apology from him. Owed to all he defames.

Our neighbors spend their hard earned money to advertise their services and products in the *Rivereast* and forum authors need not disrupt this process by "poking-the-eye" of perhaps half of their customers.

I have written truthfully about the hoax of man-made global warming and we all should be concerned as the EPA is currently working to classify CO2 as a pollutant grouping it with the toxic gas ozone, O3. That will cause a needless crisis. CO2 is not a pollutant it is essential in the support of life. The elimination of fossil fuels will result in the loss of human life but will do little to nothing in reducing atmospheric CO2.

Loss of fossil fuels will hurt our electric grid. Our electric supply is already harmed by subsidized solar panels. Installed panels and contracted outside the free market is raising our electric cost. As we pay to transmit unused panel energy. We need a larger, improved and protected grid, especially if all cars are electric-powered. The Carnot Cycle limits the efficiency of a thermodynamic engine and converting electric power to work is much more efficient. Where will all the electric power come from? Water?

Respectfully,

Victor Congdon – Portland

**Where is North Westchester?**

To the Editor:

As news of the development of Norton Park in the North Westchester section of Colchester begins to circulate, your readers may be asking, where is North Westchester? It is a small village located on Westchester Road (Route 149), where the C.H. Norton Paper Mill was once located.

Back in the day, when people traveled by horse and carriage, the journey to the center of Colchester was no easy trip. So a group that lived in what was known as Westchester Center, located at the four corners of routes 16 and 149, west of the Town of Colchester, established a Congregational Church on Cemetery Road, and eventually a one-room school.

At the same time, several miles north of Westchester Center, a village had grown along the banks of the Jeremy River, which became known as North Westchester. The river powered a number of small businesses, and boasted a railroad line and station, carrying passengers to Willimantic or Middletown, even as far as Boston, to shop, go to doctors, visit friends. There was a general store, a post office, and a two-room schoolhouse. There were many farms in the surrounding area. In 1886, the C.H. Norton paper mill, located on the Jeremy River, was founded.

Presently at the site of the old paper mill a public park is being developed by the town, to be named Norton Park. A committee is busy planning design of park, and raising money to finance many amenities, as the town does not plan to do so. For details to donate, go to [www.colchesterct.gov/norton-park-committee](http://www.colchesterct.gov/norton-park-committee).

Sincerely,

Nan Wasniewski – Colchester

**We Fall for Fear**

To the Editor:

"A study from the National Institutes of Health claims wearing a moist mask is actually good for you because inhaling through the wet mask hydrates your lungs and boosts your immune system." This is according to our government "scientists."

The USA and state governments have been "forcing" us to wear masks and social distancing for over a year. When will this end and why are we being "forced" do so?

It is my opinion and that of those who have the "pulse" of what is happening around the world, that these lockdowns and mask wearing is to control us. So far, they are succeeding.

In an earlier article I mentioned "The Great Reset." It appears Canada's Trudeau is actively pursuing that agenda. See my links in "Politics" on my website [garygile.com] titled "Trudeau Moves to Install Guaranteed Basic Income in Canada" and "Trudeau is Altering the Economy of Canada Denying the People Any Right to Vote on His Great Reset." The Great Reset is spearheaded by Bill Gates, George Soros, and Klaus Schwab. They are all multi-billionaires.

It seems the media takes everything Fauci and the CDC say as "The Truth." Yet they never mention where he gets a lot of his funding from. Too many politicians seem to give their loyalty to the highest bidder, mostly through lobbyists. Just look at the \$1.9 trillion "COVID" bill. Only about 9% went to help to stop the virus that appears to not be any worse than the yearly flu which we no longer hear anything about.

Creating fear is the greatest weapon ever devised by humans and we fall for it every time. Look at this current virus. Look at climate change. Look at our politicians. Look at their funding sources, and you will begin to discover the truth.

Gary Gile – Andover

**Lip Service – Again**

To the Editor:

Late last July, in a stunning show of disrespect for our law enforcement community, our state senator, Cathy Osten, voted "yes" on SB 6004 the "Police Accountability" bill, although "Anti-Police" bill is more fitting. For all her listening and empathizing, she managed to undermine the law enforcement community, potentially making it less safe for her constituents. While we're all busy locking our car doors at night, what cop would want to be proactive, stopping cars and put his or her livelihood at risk over a property crime? Connecticut has some of the best-trained law enforcement officers in the nation. This is not Minneapolis. Since the bill was passed, I've spoken with many members of law enforcement, who feel betrayed, unappreciated, and unsupported by the legislators who voted "yes" on this bill. Contrary to Sen. Osten's assertion, this was a party line vote, with all Senate Democrats voting "yes."

In September, a special session was called. This bill was not one of the items discussed, nor was Sen. Osten vocal about "fixing" this bill. Sen. Osten found time to debate and pass measures on absentee voting, insulin, and aligning Connecticut's hemp laws with federal laws. The Office of Fiscal Analysis estimates that municipalities and the state will bear millions of dollars in additional costs annually. In September of last year, Sen. Osten stated in this newspaper: "This is not a perfect bill but there has been commitment to address concerns in future ses-

**Editor's Desk continued from page 2**

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I admit, I got a chuckle earlier this week when Senator Mike Rounds of South Dakota tweeted, "The Founding Fathers never intended for Washington D.C. to become a state."

Yes, as opposed to all those nights Thomas

Jefferson and John Adams stayed up late talking about welcoming Alaska and Hawaii into the fold.

\*\*\*

See you next week.

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sions. I will ensure that happens.” Until then, we wait for Sen. Osten to represent her constituents of the 19th District and suggest those fixes to this imperfect bill. Since she’s raised no bills this regular session that have anything to do with this bill, my question is: when will this be addressed by our state senator?

**Steve Weir – Hebron**

**East Hampton Zone Change**

To the Editor:  
East Hampton residents should be aware that Food Bag has resubmitted a proposed zoning change on Main Street. Food Bag has requested a zone change from residential to commercial to expand their store at Route 16 and Main St. The latest proposal is a 4,500-sq. ft. building with four gas pump islands, an indoor dining area, parking for 24 cars and a food drive-thru exiting onto Main Street. The proposal has increased in size for a total of 1.93 acres for the site. This is over five times the size of the existing site.

Residents should oppose for the following reasons:

First, this is not in the Plan of Conservation and Development which is the plan for East Hampton to expand business and still retain a small town feel. In the plan this street is proposed to become professional office/residential. Not commercial.

Secondly this is spot zoning. A commercial zone in the middle of a residential area goes against every principal of planned zoning.

Third, 157 Main St is said to be an eyesore.

If the town has an issue they should utilize the town’s blight ordinance. People should remember the owner that is proposing this zoning change is the one that has put tarps on the roof hoping that it will aid their request for a zone change. This building is on the national registrar of historic buildings and should not be lost forever due to another oversized convenience store.

Please voice your opposition to the proposed zone change to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Don’t let this development begin the downfall of Main Street. Once changed there is no going back.

**Kenneth Dodson – East Hampton**

**Waterfowl Not Toys**

To the Editor:

Ducklings and goslings are often purchased at Easter time as presents for young children. The little birds are often injured, even killed, by over-handling or an innocent hug. If they survive, they are often discarded when no longer tiny and cute. Most die within months of being abandoned (often on ponds) by people who think the birds can fend for themselves.

Not true. They are used to being cared for, so if released they will starve to death or be taken by predators. They cannot fly or migrate like wild waterfowl can, therefore, many will freeze to death, some will lose limbs due to frost bite, and some will actually freeze onto iced-over ponds and lakes if they live long enough to experience cold weather.

Waterfowl are social creatures and need constant companionship to be happy and healthy; if you cannot fill that role, you need to buy more than one.

Consider these facts: waterfowl mature in 6-8 weeks and stand up to 2-3’ tall; require vet care; live up to 15 years; cannot fly or fend for themselves in the wild; require daily care; need shelter from weather and protection from predators; clean, fresh water for drinking and bathing and proper nutrition (they should never be fed bread). Egg-laying females need calcium supplements.

Ducks on ponds, whether domestic or wild, should never be fed bread or junk foods such as chips. They will fill up on those foods instead of their natural, nutritious diet, and many will develop serious skeletal disorders. Instead of

bread, choose dry cat food.

Ducklings, goslings (and chicks) are living creatures with feelings and needs, not children’s playthings. If you still want a one for a pet, many abandoned waterfowl are rescued by organizations like Majestic Waterfowl. For waterfowl adoption and other information visit: [www.majesticwaterfowl.org](http://www.majesticwaterfowl.org)

**Thank you,**

**Maureen Heidtmann – East Hampton**

**Poor Attendance**

To the Editor:

Remember when the pandemic hit, and over a hundred parents attended Board of Education meetings to learn the fate of our children being in-school or virtual? Where has that involvement gone? We are lucky to have a Superintendent who overcommunicates with “Coffee Talks,” Superintendent Advisory Council, and of course Board of Education meetings. Not to mention the intermittent meetings that take place specific to the Board of Education budget. These meetings take place at various different times (morning/night) to accommodate

*See Letters, page 6*

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★ Juniors – Wednesday Mornings  
Starts End of June  
★ Ladies & Mens – Mixed League Thursday Mornings  
Play begins May 6<sup>th</sup>  
★ Couples – Friday Evenings  
Starts End of May - 5pm Shotgun Start  
★ Men's Club – Sunday Morning 18 or 9 Holes  
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★ *Letters cont. from page 5*  
 everyone's schedule. There are also always virtual options; you don't even have to physically show up. A meeting last week had only three parents join. Three. This is an embarrassment for our community and our children.

We need to lead by example and show our children what being involved and informed looks like. Please make an effort to join these meetings. They are important, and your feedback during these meetings is not only wel-

comed, but encouraged.  
**Christina Tammaro-Dzagan – East Hampton**

**Reprehensible Actions**

Dear Caring Readers of the *Rivereast*:  
 It is with great sadness that we see hate in the form of racism and xenophobia raise its ugly head once again. The Marlborough Democratic Town Committee stands in support of the AAPI Community and those who understand that all people are valued regardless of ethnicity, race,

gender, sexual orientation or religion. The recent actions against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are reprehensible. These acts of hatred as well as the deaths of Black Americans this year, underscore the racial injustice and inequality that exists at all levels of our society.

"There are simply some core values and beliefs that should bring us together as Americans," President Biden said during a speech at Emory University in Atlanta on Friday. "One of them is standing together against hate, against racism, the ugly poison that has long haunted and plagued our nation."

How can we as Connecticut citizens help to fight against racism and hate in whatever form it takes? As we are all citizens of the world, let our consideration for all people guide our actions, thoughts and caring relationships. Let us inform ourselves and be vigilant. Especially during the last year, our town demonstrated that we are a caring community. Is it hard to expand that caring sentiment to be inclusive of all people? We can embrace our differences and rejoice in our common bonds of humanity.

We condemn violence and historic and ongoing systemic racism in every form. We stand with those who are peacefully working toward a just, compassionate and equitable world. We value dignity, respect, kindness, and equality, and it is our continuing mission to uphold these

values. We are committed to examining our own implicit biases as individuals and as a community organization, and we will keep actively listening and learning.

**With concern,**  
**Marlborough Democratic Town Committee**  
**Dianne Dunn Greco, Chairwoman**

**Why Plant Natives?**

To the Editor:  
 I'm bingeing on nature, pollinators, biodiversity and the future of life as we know it.

I intended to answer this simple question: why plant natives? My research led me to believe that planting natives was the least we could do to stem the effects of the decline in biodiversity and our ecosystem. I say least we can do, because it is the most simple, responsible act we can do as individuals, and the collective effect by a community can have a huge impact.

Essentially, native plants are advantageous because: native plants do not require fertilizers and require fewer pesticides than lawns, native plants require less water than lawns and help prevent erosion, native plants help reduce air pollution, native plants provide shelter and food for wildlife, native plants promote biodiversity and stewardship of our natural heritage, and native plants are beautiful and increase scenic values!

Individually, we can garden to fight climate change by absorbing harmful carbon dioxide, removing and storing the carbon and releasing oxygen back into the air. Planting native plants sequester, or remove, carbon from the air, and help us breathe by absorbing odors. Planting natives can prevent soil erosion and rainwater runoff by encouraging the water to seep into the ground rather than run off.

So, why plant natives? Because we can.

With spring in the air, consider a simple first step. Plant one native tree in your yard: American dogwood (Cornus florida), sweetbay magnolia (Magnolia virginiana), serviceberry (Amelanchier x grandiflora), red maple (Acer rubrum), red oak or white oak (Quercus rubra or Quercus alba), redbud (Cercis canadensis), maple, native dogwood, Redbud, birch.

Imagine if we all did do this! How much more healthy and beautiful we can green up Hebron!

**Michele Sinkez**  
**Green Garden Gang**  
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**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-03-21 – 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 3/19, 3/26

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### Senior Center News & Notes

The Waverly Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave., is currently closed to the public until further notice. Staff is still working, however. For more information or full program descriptions, call 860-342-6760 or email Mary Pont at mpont@portlandct.org or Carol Revicki at crevicki@portlandct.org. Hours are Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., and Friday, 8-11 a.m.

**AARP Income Tax Assistance:** A reminder for those people with appointments: Pick up an Intake Form from the senior center. A box of forms will be at the side entrance of the center Monday through Thursday between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Have the form completed prior to coming in for your appointment. When arriving for your appointment, remain in your vehicle; an AARP volunteer will come out to obtain your paperwork.

**COVID-19 Vaccinations:** For Portland residents age 65 and up, there are several ways to register for the vaccine. To start the process, go to [dphsubmissions.ct.gov/OnlineVaccine](https://dphsubmissions.ct.gov/OnlineVaccine); call Connecticut's Vaccine Appointment Assist Line at 877-918-2224, seven days a week, from 8 a.m.-8 p.m.; or call Info Line 211. Due to high volume, hold times may vary. You may also go to the AARP website, at [www.aarp.org/CTvaccine](https://www.aarp.org/CTvaccine), or call Middlesex Health at 860-358-7050.

**Live Well Free Workshop – "Active Living Everyday Toolkit":** The toolkit can be sent directly to participants at no cost and includes a Living a Healthy Life Book, instruction booklet and exercise and relaxation CDs. There will be weekly phone calls from a trained Live Well leader. The program begins Monday, March 29, at 12:30 p.m., and runs for six weeks. Call the center to register.

**Celebrate National Nutrition Month – Personalize Your Plate!** Wednesday, March 31, 1 p.m., presented by Alison Dvorak, MS, RDN, CD-N. Dvorak will discuss ways to tailor a healthful eating plan just for you. Register at [www.aarp.org/ctevents](https://www.aarp.org/ctevents).

**T'ai Chi & Qigong with Tom Cushing:** The new session runs through April 22 and classes are held Thursdays, 10-10:30 a.m., via Zoom. Cost is \$40 per session, payable to Portland Senior Center. Call the center to register.

**Bocce, Anyone?:** Bocce is coming soon to the Route 17 park, on Wednesdays at 1 p.m., weather permitting. Open to both men and women. Call the center if interested.

**Light Aerobics:** With warmer weather coming, the senior center will start back up the light aerobics class, held Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 9:30-10:30 a.m., outside at the Route 17 park, weather permitting. Call the center if interested; a start-up date will be announced.

**Coupons for Troops:** The program revolves around cutting manufacturer's coupons, which will then be donated to overseas and domestic military families. The military will accept coupons up to six months past their expiration date. If interested in helping, contact the center. Anyone who has coupons not being used may drop them off at the senior center; call the center to make arrangements.

**Watercolor Lessons with Bivenne Staiger:** While lessons at the center are currently on hold, seniors may take online lessons with Staiger through Yale Peabody Museum's Natural Sciences Illustration Program. Visit [www.peabody.yale.edu](https://www.peabody.yale.edu) for more information or email [bivenne@yahoo.com](mailto:bivenne@yahoo.com).

### 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](https://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. Facemasks for those over the age of two, social distancing and use of sanitizer upon entering are required. 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.

tion. available by appointment. "Curbside Delivery" of requested items also continues.

**Holiday Closing:** The library will be closed Friday, April 2, for Good Friday.

**Youth Programs: Preschool Science:** Tuesday, March 30, 10 a.m. via Zoom, for ages 3-5. Registration required; space is limited. Supplies can be picked up in advance; a Zoom link will be provided within 24 hours of the event.

**Online Storytime:** Tuesdays, April 6-27, at 10 a.m., via Zoom. 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 each program.

**Adult Program: 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.

Although the church continues to worship virtually, preparations are underway for Holy Week, which begins March 28. Virtual church school is offered weekly by Ann Labby, Director of Christian Education.

Palm Sunday will be observed March 28, with the worship service on the church's YouTube channel, First Church of Portland, CT.

On April 1, a Maundy Thursday Service with the Sacrament of Communion and Words of Tenebrae will be livestreamed on YouTube at 7 p.m., and will be available for later viewing as well.

An Easter event for children will be offered Saturday, April 3, from 10 a.m.-noon, in the

field behind the church. There will be activities for the children, including an Easter Egg Hunt and prizes for all. Masks and social distancing will be required.

An Easter Sunrise Service will be held at 6:15 a.m. April 4. Social distancing will be observed and masks will be required at this in-person gathering in the area of the Memorial Garden Gazebo, behind the church. The Easter Worship Service will be available on YouTube.

The church recently 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](mailto: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](https://www.firstchurchportlandct.org).

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# Former Elmcrest Worker Remembers Andrew McClain

by Jack Lakowsky

Twenty-three years ago this week, an 11-year-old patient of the now-defunct Elmcrest Psychiatric Hospital was killed after two adult hospital staff trying to restrain the developmentally-disabled boy suffocated him beneath their combined bodyweight.

His name was Andrew McClain.

Brian Cohen worked at Elmcrest as a mental health aid from 1989 to 1999. He resigned from the former mental health hospital in protest over the boy's death, which he said was the tragic culmination of a long history of neglect, abuse and administrative incompetence at Elmcrest.

"I was the whistleblower who blew this up," Cohen told the *Rivereast* on Monday.

The former Elmcrest site, now dubbed Brainerd Place, is currently awaiting development as a mixed-use commercial property.

Cohen, now an artist and activist for patients' rights, wants to honor Andrew through a donation of memorial art to the Portland property.

Cohen said awareness of the issue is far too little, and felt that its obscurity is in no small part due to the victim's being Black, having one eye and living with special needs.

Cohen said people like Andrew are far too easily taken advantage of.

"I'm trying to figure out how to pay tribute to

the kid, and how to get people involved," said Cohen.

Cohen's hope is that, once work on Brainerd Place is completed, he could donate for free public art memorializing the boy's untimely death. Cohen, a resident of Chaplin, posted his idea to Portland social media forums.

The *Rivereast* exchanged a few expository emails with an engineer representing the developer, but never received a definitive answer about accepting the art.

The *Rivereast* was also unable to find relevant contact information for the site's listed owner, Portland Perry Associates, LLC.

On Tuesday, Portland First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said Andrew's memory is more than worth honoring, but that Cohen and the developer must discuss it between themselves. The boy died before Bransfield took office, although she was a Board of Selectmen member at the time.

The *Rivereast* was unable to find in the many articles that reported Andrew's death any statements or quotes from Portland officials. Bransfield said she does not know why none were released, or whether town officials were interviewed in the first place.

## The Killing of a Child

"Andrew McClain spent the last night of his life sleeping on a mattress tossed on the floor," Cohen said.

Cohen said Elmcrest was overcrowded, with patients of all ages – children, adolescents and adults. As a result, patients were forced to sleep on floor-bound mattresses, and children were mixed with adults, among whom were convicted sex offenders.

Forcing patients to sleep on the floor was common practice at Elmcrest. The hospital called these individuals "sleepers," according to documents shared by Cohen.

Cohen alleged the hospital's director at the time, Michael Suchopar, knowingly crowded past capacity to make Elmcrest more attractive to Hartford's St. Francis Hospital, who bought the place in January 1998, just a few months before the boy's death.

Upon partnering with St. Francis, Cohen said he and multiple staff complained internally and to the state. He said with the St. Francis takeover, Elmcrest went from for-profit to nonprofit, and he hoped this would mean more effective remediation.

He was proven wrong.

Among the neglect at Elmcrest was short-staffing, Cohen said. Adequate – and statutory – numbers of nurses, aids and other staff were not supplied.

A month before Andrew's death, a February 1998 report to the state by hospital staff said the children at Elmcrest Psychiatric Hospital were in danger due to mixing adults with children, including one adult with "a history of sexual felony."

Even under investigation after Andrew's death, the hospital short staffed, and this is blamed for an incident of sexual contact between two minor patients.

According to a May 1998 *New York Times* report, state officials concluded that the actions of the workers who killed Andrew were abusive and that the hospital itself was negligent in its staff training.

However, no charges were filed against the workers or hospital administrators, according to the *Hartford Courant*.

At the time, the Connecticut Department of Children and Families (DCF) concluded Andrew's behavior did not warrant restraint.

The state's medical examiner confirmed the boy was crushed to death when workers used their weight to restrain him on the floor of a padded "timeout" room. He'd been at Elmcrest four days.

The boy weighed 90 pounds and was about 4'6, according to U.S. Senate legislation introduced after the boy's death.

Andrew's short life was one of hardship.

From 3 years old onward, Andrew lived in various foster care facilities. He was placed in foster care after injuries caused blindness in his left eye.

He'd been repeatedly hospitalized for psychi-

atric reasons, according to the *Times*.

The *Times* reported that, at breakfast the morning of March 22, 1998, Andrew argued with another child, and he punched his own hand in front of the other child's face. Andrew refused to move to another table, and so was brought to a padded cell.

Andrew became distraught and resisted which, tragically, resulted in his violent death.

Andrew was not the last to die at Elmcrest. In 2000, an adult patient, Barbara Beninato, died from a medication overdose while she was in "seclusion," according to Cohen.

Two months after Beninato's death, Suchopar and hospital president and CEO Dr. Anthony Ferrante abruptly resigned, according to the *Hartford Courant*.

Elmcrest never recovered from the massive fines and cuts in state funding resulting from the deaths and abuse. It closed in 2003.

Cohen said the hospital was hit with one of the biggest punitive fines in the history of the federal Department of Health and Human Services.

Following Elmcrest, Suchopar went on to be executive director of the Lake Grove school in Durham, and was in this role when it was closed for what then-Attorney General Richard Blumenthal's office reported as "grossly serious" violations, ranging from financial mismanagement, inadequate supply, failure to provide good care and to check employee backgrounds.

The school, according to the *Hartford Courant*, provided treatment and schooling for boys and girls with serious behavioral problems.

In 2005, when federal authorities began investigating Lake Grove, Suchopar told the *Courant*, "I welcome any investigation [and am] confident they're not going to find any problems."

DCF removed the children after Lake Grove failed to comply with standards and improve its practices for two probationary years. Lake Grove has also since closed.

Ultimately, state officials concluded that the issues at Lake Grove were unsurprising, saying in their 2008 final report that these "acute events [were not new], but what [have come] to be recognized as chronic, continuous, deficient, neglectful, and even abusive care of children placed there."

Following his time at Lake Grove, Suchopar went on to run the Boys and Girls Club in Bristol. He began that job in 2006 and retired in December 2020. Boys and Girls Club of Bristol did not respond to a request for comment, and Suchopar was unable to be reached for this story.

## Awareness Equals Accountability

Cohen said he has a deep wish to give voice to the story of a boy who was never able to tell his own, but that the art would also be a reminder to Portland, and anyone who sees it, that marginalized people like Andrew, a Black mentally- and physically-disabled child, are easy targets for bad actors.

He advised anyone with family in nursing home, rehabilitation clinics or other like facilities to regularly check in with their loved ones to ensure care and practices are sufficient.

Cohen said he has, at great personal cost to himself, tried to garner some form of justice and recognition for Andrew, including lobbying in Hartford and public art exhibits.

"I'm inquiring to the powers-that-be [at Brainerd Place] about this donation of memorial art, to keep Andrew's legacy going, to help people learn facts so they can't be covered up," Cohen said. "Mental illness affects many, many people, and there should be no stigma against them."

After McClain's death, the *Courant* released an investigative report that uncovered a large number of patient-restraint deaths in psychiatric facilities – 142 in 30 states. More than one-fourth of those deaths were children under 17, many of them suffocated.

Spurred by this report, then-Connecticut Senators Joe Lieberman and Chris Dodd, along with Congressional Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-New Haven), introduced legislation banning the restraints unless approved in writing by a physician or under dire emergencies.

The 1999 bill also required facilities to report deaths and injuries.

"The death of Andrew McClain is really what provoked in many ways the series of articles prepared and written by the *Courant*," Dodd told the Senate.

## 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](http://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.

April 4: Easter Sunday – Virtual worship posted on YouTube at 9 a.m.; an in-person Holy Communion service will be in the parking lot at 11 a.m.

Zion Lutheran Church is located at 183 William St. Sara Stall-Ryan is pastor. The community is welcome to participate in all worship services and special events. Call the church at 860-342-2860 to be added to the weekly email blast.

For more information, or if you are in need of pastoral assistance, call 860-342-2860, email [zion.lutheran@snet.net](mailto:zion.lutheran@snet.net) or visit [zionlutheranportland.org](http://zionlutheranportland.org).

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

### Sportsmanship Awards Presented

Portland Little League recently honored the 2020 Ben Foley Sportsmanship Award winners. The winners are: Lily Hale (Softball Minors), Lily Otero (Softball Majors), 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, enthusiasm 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.

### Church to Offer 300th Anniversary Event

The 300th Anniversary Committee of the First Congregational Church in Portland invites all to stop by the Memorial Garden gazebo at the church, 554 Main St., on Saturday, April 3, from 10 a.m.-noon, to view pictures of the oldest church in town.

Founded Oct. 25, 1721, the church history is also the early history of the town of Portland, which was incorporated in 1841. The Rev. Daniel Newell was the first minister and he along with the other 28 original members are memorialized with their names and dates of birth and death on engraved pavers that line the walkway to the gazebo. This new church became

the Third Church of Middletown in the newly formed Society of East Middletown.

Available for purchase at the April 3 event will be a recently-published book, *The History of the First Congregational Church of Portland*, and a special-edition Woodbury pewter ornament. Cost of the book is \$20 and the anniversary ornament is \$12. Also for sale will be a special line of photo greeting cards made by church member Diane Burgess.

Attendees should wear a facemask and maintain social distancing throughout this event. For more information, call Nancy Johnson at 860-342-4098.

### Parks and Rec. News & Notes

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

**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 40 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.

**Indoor/Outdoor Athletic Skills Clinics:** Parks and Rec. is offering Baseball Speed and Conditioning clinics and Basketball Skills/Vertical Jump clinics. Each will be broken up into three different groups (grades 2-4, 5-6 and 7-8). Clinics begin in April. For more information, including dates, or to register for free trials, visit the website.

**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 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.

**Virtual Paint Night:** Thursday, April 22, 7-9 p.m., via Zoom. Each participant will receive a canvas board and paints for the evening. Paint brushes can be purchased for an add-on fee of \$5. If you have your own brushes, this is not required. Fee: \$22.

**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](mailto: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:** The youth golf clinics for grades K-2, 3-5, and 6-8 will return in May, with registrations being accepted for a second clinic 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.

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# Town Offices to Reopen to Public April 5

by Sloan Brewster

Hebron town offices are reopening the Monday after Easter.

At last Thursday's Board of Selectmen meeting, Town Manager Andrew Tierney said he was shooting to make sure all proper protocols are in place to have the doors on the buildings open April 5.

"We'll be working with the Chatham Health District, but the date set right now is April 5," he said.

At the March 4 meeting, Tierney said the library had opened in February, and earlier this month, Gov. Ned Lamont eased some restrictions on churches, gyms, restaurants and bars, which have had mandated reduced capacity due to the pandemic.

In a phone call Monday, Tierney said he was reaching out to department heads and working on getting the staff vaccinated for COVID-19 ahead of the opening.

"We're trying to get everybody vaccinated," he told selectmen.

On Wednesday, he said most eligible staffers had received at least their first shot of the two-dose vaccine.

Tierney said the vaccine was not mandatory, but that town officials were suggesting employees get it.

"I think there are some people that don't want it," he said.

Town offices have been closed since November, when an in-person meeting of Hebron's clerical union led to the need for all employees to be tested for COVID-19.

Tierney said then that he had received a call from an employee of the Public Works Department who had tested positive for the virus and through contact tracing learned the union held an in-person meeting. The employee who tested positive was at that meeting, Tierney said.

Based on concerns that all town employees were exposed, Tierney said then that they were all being tested. The town manager was among employees to come back with a positive result.

Last Thursday, Tierney told the board he had taken another test and had received the results that afternoon.

"It's negative, so I'm good to go," he said.

While the offices were closed the town continued to offer most services with many documents available online. Residents could also go to the offices, call in for help and wait at the

door for a staffer to come outside to address their needs.

"We really weren't denying any services other than notary," Tierney said. "We tried to deal with everybody as best we could."

Tierney said he was pleased that voters will be able to make their voices heard about the proposed spending plan for the next fiscal year.

"I'm just glad we're going to be able to have a referendum vote in person; that's important," he said.

## Church of the Holy Family News

Masses are celebrated at Church of the Holy Family, on a limited attendance basis, at the following times: Weekend Masses are Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sundays at 9:30 a.m., and weekday Masses are Tuesdays at 7 p.m. and Thursdays at 6:30 a.m. The church is located at 185 Church St.

Livestreamed Masses continue every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. until further notice. Visit [holyfamily-hebron.org](http://holyfamily-hebron.org) for more information. The church can be reached at 860-228-0096.

**Church Collecting for Homeless Shelter:** The church collects items year-round for the Windham Region No Freeze Hospitality Center, which provides assistance to homeless adults. The center requests donations of waterproof two-person tents, sleeping bags, tarps (green or brown; no blue), tent rope and small flashlights with corresponding batteries, for their clients living outdoors after the overnight program ends.

The "overflow" shelter, set up to allow for greater social distancing, will close March 31 and the main shelter will close for overnight stays effective May 1.

Other needs: men's boxer shorts (L, XL, XXL) and white or solid color crew neck T-shirts and women's briefs (sizes 6-10); men's sweatpants (L, XL, XXL); snack bars (granola, protein, etc.); bottled water; toilet paper; men's and women's stick deodorant; disposable razors and shaving cream; Latex or vinyl gloves (L and XL only); paper towels (always needed); paper facemasks; Pine-Sol or other concentrated floor cleaners; disinfectant wipes and sprays; bleach; and ear buds for cell phones. Place donations of goods in the designated collection box next to the church's Cry Room. Place large quantities of donations in the Cry Room. For more information, call Monica or John McKerracher at 860-228-4211.

## Christ Lutheran News & Notes

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

**Sunday Worship:** Sundays at 9 a.m., an in-person Divine Service is held. All are invited. For current safety protocols and the latest pandemic announcements, visit [www.clchebron.org/open](http://www.clchebron.org/open). Details on online streams of the service are at [www.clchebron.org/online](http://www.clchebron.org/online).

**Saturday Worship:** First Saturday of the month at 5 p.m. This is a service for higher-risk individuals. There are elevated levels of protocols, masks are required, and there is no singing. Communion is offered.

**Maundy Thursday:** April 1. Service in person at 7 p.m.

**Good Friday:** April 2. Service in person at

7 p.m.  
**Easter Sunday:** April 4. There will be a Sunrise service at 6:30 a.m. and a service at 9 a.m.

**Online Sunday Bible Study:** Will meet again every Sunday at 7 p.m. To attend, go to [global.gotomeeting.com/join/713476005](http://global.gotomeeting.com/join/713476005). You can also dial in by calling 312-757-3121, followed by the access code: 713-476-005.

**Caring Shepherds:** The Next Open Pantry will be on April 10; call Caring Shepherds ministry for more information at 860-494-0431. Caring Shepherds shares the gospel and provides free basic need items to those in need.

**Sunday School:** Sundays at 10:30 a.m., in person and also livestreamed at [facebook.com/CLCHebron](https://facebook.com/CLCHebron).

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

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

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## Dean's List

Charlotte Pintavalle of Amston made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Simmons University in Boston.

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# Colchester to Preserve Middletown Road Open Space

by Karla Santos

Residents of Colchester will soon be able to enjoy a 65-acre scenic area with walking trails and picnic tables.

The Boards of Selectmen and Finance recently approved spending additional funds needed for the purchase of the property, located on Middletown Road.

During late February, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) awarded the town a new open space grant for the purchase. But the grant came with an additional “set of problems” as it did not cover the total amount needed to buy the land, Jay Gigliotti, the town’s inland and wetlands agent, explained.

Last year, the town entered an agreement to buy the property for \$210,000, Gigliotti said. The DEEP grant award was for about \$60,000 and the town’s match, another \$60,000, which will come out of the \$101,000 in the town’s two open space accounts.

That left an \$87,000 gap.

If the town did not secure the funding, the sale agreement could have been voided, Gigliotti told the *Rivereast*. However, due to support from the Boards of Selectmen and Finance, along with town residents that spoke in favor of buying the property, the \$87,000 was approved.

“The decision by both boards to support this purchase speaks volumes for the commitment of our community leadership to preserving open space,” First Selectman Mary Bylone said.

Gigliotti said he is also anticipating about \$20,000 in closing costs, which he will take from the open space accounts.

“The majority of that is to meet the requirements of the grant,” he said.

After closing, the next steps in meeting the grant requirement will include surveying the property and installing signage specifying the project was funded through the grant.

Then, the town would take the necessary steps toward adding a trail network, a picnic area and a parking area off Route 16.

Before the town approved the additional funds, Gigliotti told the *Rivereast* it would be “unfortunate” if the project did not move forward.

“It’s a very strategic piece in terms of open space protection but it [also] provides a certain rural scenic vista, if you will, right down Middletown Road,” he said. “It certainly is consistent with the character of that area.”

He said that if the town did not purchase the property and protect it, there was a risk that

somebody else could buy it and develop it.

## The Grant

To obtain the grant, the town entered DEEP’s Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program (OSWA) – a grant program that provides financial assistance to help municipalities acquire land for open space.

“The town has definitely been successful in the past with this program for other pieces of property,” Gigliotti said.

Deep officials explained during the award ceremony that there were a lot of good projects across the state but not enough money to fund them in their entirety, Gigliotti said.

Will Healey, DEEP spokesperson told the *Rivereast* the program has become more competitive as more applicants have been requesting high grant amounts, while at the same time, funding is tighter.

“For the 2020 OSWA grant round, the highest ranking projects were funded at 40%,” he said. “The Colchester project, based upon its ranking, fell into the 30% funded tier of projects.”

Healey said DEEP, through the OSWA grant program, partially funds a project. He said the grant application posted on the DEEP website states the maximum award is 65%. The balance is funded through matching funds.

## The Property

According to Gigliotti, in early 2020, the town identified the 65-acre property on Middletown Road as one aligned with Colchester’s conservation and open space goals. He said the

location and some features of the property influenced officials’ interest in the land and led to the grant application.

He noted the owners of the property have been interested in selling it to the town as open space so it is not developed and remains in its natural state.

Gigliotti said the property does not have an address. It is a vacant piece of land on Middletown Road, diagonally across the street from Abundant Life Church on Skinner Road.

## Public Comments

During last week’s Board of Finance meeting, about eight residents spoke in favor of the purchase of the land.

Will Hochholzer noted he is a natural resource professional and serves as the chairman of the open space advisory committee but was speaking as a resident. He said he supports the town in allocating the funds and purchasing the property as open space.

Some reasons Hochholzer said he supports

the purchase, include that the property is in a scenic area, provides passive recreation opportunities and protects the wetlands and water courses in the area.

He also explained that the property, which is largely forested, would continue to provide additional ecological services, such as sequestering and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide, “which has been increasingly important in light of climate change.”

In addition, purchasing the property will help protect the Pinebrook Greenway and its associated wetland system as well as the rural characteristics of that section of Route 16, he said.

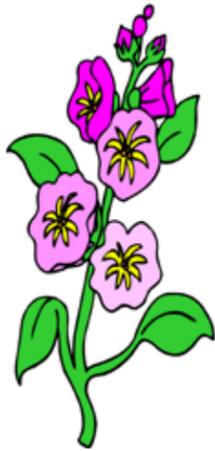
Hochholzer said that the property is within a known region for threatened and endangered species as indicated by DEEP, another reason it should be preserved.

Other citizens that spoke in favor of the purchase were Lindsay Floyd, Lisa Hageman, Leslie Curtis, Mary Stevens, Kristin Moody, Nathan Emmons and Arthur Liverant.

## Cragin Virtual Book Club

The Cragin Memorial Library Virtual Book Club will be held Monday, March 29, at 6 p.m., via Zoom. Joanna Goodman’s *The Home for Unwanted Girls* will be discussed; copies are available at the Adult Circulation Desk at the library, 8 Linwood Ave.

To register for the discussion, visit [tinyurl.com/1p4ejrug](http://tinyurl.com/1p4ejrug). For more information, call 860-537-5752.



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# Boards Agree to Fund New Ambulance

by Karla Santos

Last week, the Colchester Board of Finance unanimously agreed to spend \$328,000 on a new ambulance and stretcher.

Sean Shoemaker, interim fire chief, said a new ambulance is “much-needed” as the motor of the town’s ambulance could die at any time.

“Every time our 14-year-old ambulance goes out, I’m concerned,” Shoemaker said.

The new ambulance could be in town hands by August or September.

The Board of Selectmen, who also voted unanimously in favor of funding the equipment, requested \$217,800 from the General Fund-Unassigned Fund Balance toward the purchase.

The remaining \$112,200 will come from the Vehicle Reserve Fund.

First Selectman Mary Bylone said if the town did not have the savings in the Vehicle Reserve Fund, it would have had to go through the process of requesting money from the general fund

and hold a town meeting before purchasing the ambulance.

During the Board of Finance meeting, two citizens – Audrie Babineau and Chuck Maynard, who are each Colchester Fire Department volunteers – raised their voices in support of the purchase.

The conversation about the need for equipment at the Fire Department is not new. At the March 4 Board of Selectmen meeting Bylone explained that the town has done an “extensive” assessment of the Fire Department’s apparatus. The plan is to put together a proposal that would go to referendum in about June to see if residents would approve the purchase of a variety of equipment needed at the Fire Department.

Part of that list was an ambulance. Bylone said the town needs an ambulance very soon, so she decided to pull it off that package

and, instead, request funds to purchase it sooner rather than later.

Shoemaker spoke during the meeting and explained that after speaking with the town’s fleet maintenance supervisor and consulting with a service center, he realized the old ambulance would soon require a motor replacement, which would cost about \$65,000. But fixing the motor wouldn’t be the most appropriate option, he told the selectmen.

The town has a second ambulance, which is newer but it’s rapidly accumulating miles, he said.

He suggested buying a compatible spec unit that “very, very closely” matches the specifications of the newer ambulance.

“Dealers build spec ambulances all the time,” Shoemaker said. “We would possibly be able

to buy a spec unit with the same manufacturer of the same box that we have on our new unit, so those would be compatible.”

In order to buy a spec ambulance, the dealer would look at popular options and configurations in ambulances and place an order based on that. The other option would be building a customized ambulance, which would be more expensive and would take longer to be built.

The spec ambulance the town is looking to buy will be more customized to Colchester’s needs because they just started building it, Shoemaker said.

He added that buying a spec ambulance allows the town to have an ambulance about a year earlier and at a lower cost than if they were to buy a completely customized vehicle.

Selectman Rosemary Coyle asked about what could happen if the older ambulance dies. Shoemaker said the fire department could use the remaining ambulance and would be “relying heavily” on mutual aid for second ambulance calls.

## Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration for the 2021-22 school year is at [www.colchesterct.org](http://www.colchesterct.org).

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

Once registration forms are completed, parents/guardians will need to make an appointment with the Board of Education office. Appointments are available Monday, Wednesday or Friday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. To schedule one, call 860-537-7267.

## Livestreamed Classical Music Easter Concert

St. Andrew Church will present its livestreamed Easter concert, “Let There Be Light: A Morning of Easter Song,” at 8:50 a.m. Easter morning, April 4, just prior to the 9:30 a.m. Easter Mass. (The concert will begin shortly after the 8 a.m. Easter Mass is over.) The stream will be at [www.standrewcolchester.org](http://www.standrewcolchester.org).

The live concert will also be presented at the church, 128 Norwich Ave. Social distancing norms still apply, and therefore ample room may not be available for everyone to attend the live concert).

The concert will feature Natalie Wood, soprano soloist, and Colleen Puscas, pianist and organist. Wood is a veteran soprano soloist,

voice teacher, actor and performer on the musical stage throughout the tri-state area. Puscas is the 26-year veteran music director of St. Andrew Church, with dual master’s degrees in music composition/theory and liturgy/theology.

Wood and Puscas will perform a program of traditional classical favorites including “The Lord Is My Light,” “I Know That My Redeemer Liveth” (Messiah), 2 pieces from Mozart’s Exultate Jubilate and “Let The Bright Seraphim” featuring professional trumpeter Carey Ozmun.

After the concert, all are invited to celebrate Easter Sunday Mass, either at the church or streamed online.

## 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 April 15, 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 [elise.bob@gmail.com](mailto:elise.bob@gmail.com) for more information.

## 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 age 40 and up, and will feature 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](http://annegarlandenterprises.com).

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### CBA Welcomes New Business

The Colchester Business Association recently welcomed Riverast Insurance to town. The office is located at 139 S. Main St., on the second floor of the financial plaza above Dime Bank.

Riverast Insurance is run by Dan Rossignol and Greg Kiss. There was a ribbon-cutting and grand opening ceremony on Feb. 26 – and the two have stressed the community has already been quite welcoming.

“Our agency believes in doing right by people and hope that we can provide really good services to the people in our area,” Rossignol said.

“As an independent insurance agency with access to dozens of insurance providers we have products to insure your home, auto, motorcycle, boat, recreational vehicles and more. We also specialize in a multitude of business and life insurance products.”

For more information, call 860-615-9980.

### 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.

**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. The library is located at 8 Linwood Ave.

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



**New Book of Poems...** A career as a chaplain, numerous bird-watching trips, and relationships with others inspired Colchester resident Ernie Harris to publish a book of original poems, entitled *Still*. The book is available on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

### Fish Fry Fridays

The Colchester Fish and Game Club will offer 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 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.

### 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 but may find it difficult to pay for preschool.

For the application and more information, go to [colchester3.org/school-readiness](http://colchester3.org/school-readiness).

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## Manchester OBGYN Associates Welcomes Dr. Lydia Lormand

Lydia Lormand, DO, FACOG, is a board-certified physician specializing in obstetrics and gynecology. She completed her ObGyn residency at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, Massachusetts, after earning her Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from New York College of Osteopathic Medicine, and her Bachelor of Science degree from Binghamton University. As a resident, she received the Practicing the Art of Medicine Award, which is given to the chief resident who displays a strong ability to integrate the foundation of evidence-based medicine with clinical intuition, empathy, and compassion.

As a women’s healthcare provider, Dr. Lormand’s mission is to provide comprehensive healthcare to women through puberty, the reproductive years and menopause, and to make women feel comfortable and try to take away the fear and anxiety that can associated with ObGyn care. In her spare time, Dr. Lormand enjoys reading murder mysteries, traveling, scuba diving, playing volleyball and spinning.

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## 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., by appointment only. To schedule, call 860-537-5189 or email [cfc06415@gmail.com](mailto: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 at [www.colchesterfederatedchurch.org](http://www.colchesterfederatedchurch.org) under the Worship & Sermons tab. Updated information can also be found on the church's Facebook page.

**Holy Week Info and Schedule:** Palm Sunday, March 28 at 9 a.m. (Virtual and limited in-person.) Text is Mark 9:30-37 and the sermon theme from the Reflections on the Heart Sermon Series is "Shifting Our Gaze."

Maundy Thursday, April 1 at 7 p.m. (Virtual worship only.) Text is John 13:1-17, 31-35 (Foot-Washing and Love Commandment). There will be communion, so have elements on hand as you worship at home.

Good Friday, April 2 at noon. (Virtual worship only.) This will be a shortened version of the usual Good Friday Stations of the Cross service.

Easter Sunday, April 4: Sunrise Service at 6 a.m. at Lake Hayward. In-person outdoors and open to all; masks and social distancing required. There will also be the Easter worship service at 9 a.m., the service will be virtual and will also have limited in-person attendance. Communion will be served in the sanctuary. Those worshipping in person should bring their own Communion elements, while those worshipping at home should Communion elements on hand for those worshipping from home. The final sermon from Reflections on the Heart will be "Sharing our Treasures" based on Matthew 27:62-28:10 (Guard at the Tomb and Resurrection).



Rivereast Insurance recently held a ribbon-cutting and grand opening ceremony. From left are Katie Kiss, Ava Kiss, Greg Kiss, Dan Rossignol, Elise Rossignol, Courtney Rossignol, and Rick Sharr.

## "Welcome to Medicare" Virtual Fair

The Colchester Senior Center will have a "Welcome to Medicare" Virtual Fair Wednesday, April 7, at 3 p.m.

Sponsored by the CT CHOICES Program, this virtual fair will help those new to Medicare make their initial enrollment decisions. Medicare experts will go over eligibility, enrollment, and coverage options, as well as answer individual questions.

Registration is required; call the senior center at 860-537-3911 for more info or to register.

## New Book at Storywalk

A new book, *The Lumberjack's Beard* by Duncan Beedie, has been posted at the StoryWalk at Ruby & Elizabeth Cohen Woodlands, 96 MacDonald Rd.

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

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

## Board of Education Budget Meetings

The Board of Education will hold a workshop on the proposed 2021-22 schools budget at 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 30, if necessary. There will then be public hearings to present the proposed spending package 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](http://www.colchesterct.org).

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

## Parks and Rec. News & Notes

Parks and Recreation has announced the following. For more information and full descriptions, call 860-537-7297, email [parksandrec@colchesterct.gov](mailto:parksandrec@colchesterct.gov) or visit [www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department](http://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. First session is humans only. Only one dog per handler. Instructor is Kevin Williams of Paws to the Wall Dog Training. Proof of proof of rabies and distemper vaccinations required for all dogs, and the Bordetella vaccination is also recommended. 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](http://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. All levels of fitness or yoga experience welcome. Fee: \$35/residents, \$40/non-residents. Link will be mailed to you after you register.

## Grab-and-Go Meals Update

Through the last day of school in June, Colchester Public Schools is offering free breakfast and lunch to all students and to all children 18 years of age and younger; meals includes entrée, fruit, veggie, and milk.

Beginning April 1, Grab-and-Go Meals pick-up will be at Bacon Academy, in front of the auditorium doors. Pick-up days will be Mondays and Thursdays only, from 10-10:30 a.m. Meals will not be available on days when students do not come to school because of inclement weather.

For more information, contact nutrition coordinator Leanne Ranheim at 860-537-9421 ext. 381 or [lrnheim@colchesterct.org](mailto:lrnheim@colchesterct.org).

## Scholarship Available

Any local high school senior entering college in the fall can apply for a \$1,000 scholarship offered by Guild and Associates.

Visit [www.carlguild.com/scholarship](http://www.carlguild.com/scholarship) for an application. Deadline is April 1.

## Images of America 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, noon-2 p.m. in March and April at the Colchester History Museum.

*Images of America: Colchester* features 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; proceeds benefit the society. Copies can also be ordered by mail for \$23 each.

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.

## Pain, Pain Go Away

Mark and Elizabeth Cahill, who own Alternative Approach Acupuncture & Therapeutic Massage at 79C Norwich Ave. and have been in practice for over 18 years in Colchester, will be the guest speakers at "Pain, Pain Go Away: CBD Fundamentals," a virtual event hosted by the Arthritis Foundation, on Monday, March 29, from 7-8:30 p.m.

This is a free discussion on arthritis pain and how CBD can be an asset in managing a painful and difficult daily life. The fundamentals of CBD will be discussed by the Cahills, who have years in alternative pain management through acupuncture, massage therapy, CBD and more. You can submit questions prior to the event, and there will be time for open discussion at the end. Register at [cvent.me/YPw2Qz](http://cvent.me/YPw2Qz).

## Food Box Distribution Wraps Up

Abundant Life Church will make one more distribution of 30-pound boxes of fresh produce, dairy and meat products today, March 26, from 2-4 p.m., at the church, 85 Skinner Rd.

Any families in need are invited. When arriving for delivery, remain in your car and a volunteer will load the box into your trunk. For more information, contact Abundant Life Pastor Charles Brown at [c.brown26@mac.com](mailto:c.brown26@mac.com) or 860-303-0416.

## Finding Balance with Social Media

On Thursday, April 8, at 7 p.m., Colchester Youth and Social Services will co-host a special virtual screening of the documentary *LIKE*, to open up a dialogue between local families, community leaders and experts on how to find a balance with social media.

CYSS is holding the screening along with youth service bureaus from Griswold, Preston, New London, Norwich, Montville, Ledyard, Voluntown and Stonington, as well as Griswold PRIDE.

The event will feature a viewing of the film, followed by a panel discussion with special guests Max Stossel, head of education and content at Center for Humane Technology; Dr. Jerry Bublick, senior psychologist at Child Mind Institute; and Scilla Andreen, CEO and co-founder of the entertainment company IndieFlix.

According to the makers of the movie, before COVID-19 two billion smartphone owners were checking their phones, on average, 150 times a day, and the enforced isolation and mandated screen time of the past year has only increased this figure – leading to low self-esteem, isolation and depression.

The film's mission is to educate, inform and inspire people to effectively self-regulate their screen time, and to start a conversation about how to ensure healthy use of technology.

To register for the live virtual screening and expert panel, visit [tinyurl.com/er8j77w8](http://tinyurl.com/er8j77w8).

In addition to the live virtual screening, there will be a weeklong opportunity for New London County parents, youth, educators and community members to view the film on their own time.

School staff and local YSBs are working together to have the documentary screened in local middle schools and high schools, as well. This particular option can be accessed by going to [tinyurl.com/yfjdwkw5](http://tinyurl.com/yfjdwkw5) and entering the case-sensitive login to access the film. Login: [nlcountyouth@indieflix.com](mailto:nlcountyouth@indieflix.com); password: [nlco.untyouth](http://nlco.untyouth).

The link is good from April 5 at midnight to April 9 at 11:59 p.m.

To watch the *LIKE* trailer, visit [www.thelike.movie.com](http://www.thelike.movie.com).



The St. Andrew Choir of Colchester has released its second "Virtual Choir" recording – just in time for Easter. The choir is shown here in an archive photo.

## St. Andrew Choir Releases Easter Recording

The St. Andrew Choir of Colchester recently produced its second "Virtual Choir" recording with national recording team Arts Laureate – and the concert has now been released, just in time for Easter.

Over the course of two virtual recordings, 60 current and former members of the choir and cantor corps, living in Germany, Switzerland, Florida, Virginia, North Carolina, Indiana, New York, Rhode Island, Alabama, and the Colchester area joined together in song. The first recording, "Rejoice with Exceeding Great Joy," was released last Christmas, and is available at [youtu.be/dKmqwGRZjhQ](http://youtu.be/dKmqwGRZjhQ).

And now the choir has released its second Virtual Choir performance, just in time for Easter: "Alleluia Fanfare." This concert is available at [youtu.be/jUQ0aJoJtCY](http://youtu.be/jUQ0aJoJtCY).

St. Andrew Choir has produced the recordings with Arts Laureate professionals, whose audio and video engineers have created "virtual recordings" for the Los Angeles Opera, the U.S. Marine Band, the Choral Arts Society of Washington, the Kansas City Symphony, the Virginia

Symphony, and the National Children's Chorus. The new video will also be viewable during Holy Week at [standrewcolchester.org](http://standrewcolchester.org).

## St. Andrew Church News

St. Andrew Catholic Church holds weekly 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. The only entrance to the church is on the parking lot side.

Facemasks covering both nose and mouth are required of all parishioners. Parishioners should also bring and use hand sanitizer.

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](http://www.standrewcolchester.org).

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**Abundant Life Church News & Notes**

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

**Food Truck:** Friday, March 26, from 2-4 p.m., in the church parking lot, the church will again hand out boxes of food to anyone in need. There is no charge. Cars will line up in the parking lot and boxes will be loaded into your trunk or car. Boxes may include milk, chicken, potatoes, apples, onions, cheese, butter and yogurt. Food is supplied by USDA Farmers to Families Food Box Program. This program will continue through April 23.

**Weekly Sunday Service:** This Sunday,

March 28, Palm Sunday will be celebrated. Social distancing guidelines are followed. Sunday School is at the church at 9:30 a.m., with the main service beginning at 10:30 a.m. Call the church if you would like to attend. The service is also broadcast live each week on Facebook, and includes a special children's program. Visit [www.facebook.com/groups/abundantLifeCT](http://www.facebook.com/groups/abundantLifeCT) or look for the church on Facebook. For more information or if unable to connect, call the church.

**Power of Prayer:** Prayer is provided by a group of church members. If in need of prayer for any reason, call the church to be placed on the prayer list. You may also ask about the various days and times the prayer groups meet and come at that time.

**Senior Center News & Notes**

Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave., has announced the following. Most programs are on Zoom; to learn more about join them, or for full descriptions, call 860-537-3911 or email [csc@colchesterct.gov](mailto:csc@colchesterct.gov), or visit [www.colchesterct.gov.senior-center](http://www.colchesterct.gov.senior-center).

**Monday, March 29:** 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 30:** 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi on Zoom; 11 a.m., Adult Coloring; 12:30 p.m., In the Know with Patty Watts; 1 p.m., conference call bingo.

**Wednesday, March 31:** 9 a.m.-noon, AARP Tax Aide, by appointment only; 9:30 a.m., Coffee Talk with Ruth on Zoom; 10 a.m., Making Memories on Zoom; 7 p.m., AARP Webinar Wednesday: Personalize Your Plate.

**Thursday, April 1:** 9 a.m., Exercise with Anne on Zoom; 10 a.m., Sittercize on Zoom; 11 a.m., Senior Yoga on Zoom; 1:30 p.m., Genealogy 101.

**Friday, April 2:** Senior center closed in observance of Good Friday.

**Upcoming Programs: Garden Club:** Monday, April 5, 8:30 a.m., meets at the senior center to maintain the front and side gardens. No experience necessary. All are welcome. No registration required.

**Shopping Trip:** Thursdays, April 8 and 22 a.m., 10:30 a.m. departure. The buses are running on limited capacity to Lisbon Landing. Please select only one trip per month to allow everyone an opportunity to shop during the month. Suggested donation is \$4. Pre-register by calling the office.

**Crafters Show and Share:** Friday, April 9, 10:30 a.m., on Zoom. Show off current or past projects.

**AARP Webinar Wednesdays:** Wednesdays

**Fire Calls**

From March 14-20, the Colchester Hayward Fire Department responded to 34 calls: 26 emergency medical calls and eight fire/fire-related calls. Calls included:

**Fire:** fire alarm, four; wires down, one; service call, three.

**Medical:** sick person, eight; difficulty breathing, four; fall injury, two; seizure, one; lift assist, two; mental disorder, one; abdominal pain, two; cardiac distress, one; bleeding emergency, two; cardiac arrest, two; overdose, one.

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

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

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

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**A Thanks to Schools...** The Colchester Garden Club recently placed painted "Thank You" hearts near the entrance signs at town public schools – including William J. Johnston Middle School, shown here – to thank teachers and staff for all they do.



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# Town Manager Proposes Nearly 5% Budget Hike

by Jack Lakowsky

East Hampton Town Manager David Cox on Monday presented to the town's Board of Finance a \$49.79 million 2021-22 town budget request, an increase of about \$2.3 million over the current spending plan, or 4.91%.

Superintendent of East Hampton Schools Paul Smith also presented the district's \$33.19 million request, an increase of about 3.28% over the current fiscal year, which makes up most of the town's request.

General town operations account for about \$12 million of the proposal, about a \$440,000 increase.

The proposed budget calls for a tax increase at a rate of about 1.59 mills, resulting in a rate of 34.73 mills, about a 4.8% increase.

The proposed budget calls for a tax levy of about \$40.9 million.

According to Cox's written report on the budget, the October 2020 Net Grand List for East Hampton is nearly \$1.2 billion, which represents an increase of about \$37.4 million, or 3%, over the prior grand list.

Cox said the proposed budget jump is a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the budget process last year, the town passed essentially a flat budget, minimizing the tax levy and freezing the mill rate for East Hampton residents.

This newest budget attempts to even out that decision from last year.

"Bold steps were taken in the preparation and adoption of the previous fiscal [year's budget] at the onset of [the pandemic]," said Cox in his narrative.

Cox wrote that the various town department heads and administrators first submit to him their budget recommendations. Cox then adjusts these requests as appropriate.

"In a holistic way, the future of the community is assessed with an effort to provide sufficient and appropriate resources so that program needs can be met or enhanced," Cox's report reads.

There is a large increase in the town's debt load in the proposal as the town will make its final payments for the high school renovation project and will begin realizing the debt incurred from the new town hall. Debt service accounts for \$3.6 million of the proposal.

Other changes Cox noted were the addition of a part time Deputy Fire Marshall, as the fire department has trouble meeting routine inspections of commercial and multi-family buildings. The position would be funded for about a 19.5-hour work week.

Changes at the senior center are proposed as well, and future budgets will continue to focus on the growing needs there, and of the growing senior population in East Hampton. Previous budgets have funded a part-time food service assistant, which will no longer be necessary as the social service agency providing meals to the center as agreed to a five-days-per-week service.

The senior center food assistant would be moved to a more flexible assistant's position to better suit the center's staffing needs.

The new town hall also incurred a new staffing cost in the proposal. The town's parks and recreation department budget includes funding for a year-round part-time maintenance worker to help with the additional mowing required at the new town hall.

Capital improvements are a major ticket item in the proposal as well.

In January, the town's Capital Improvement Committee recommended to the town manager

a plan outlining \$2.5 million in projects, as well as equipment and vehicle purchases.

These activities would be funded through grants and a \$1.3 million transfer from the general fund, according to Cox's report.

Another major capital line item covers about \$160,000 in new body and dashboard cameras for the town's police. Last year's Police Accountability Bill required all state police departments to have such equipment.

Cox, noting he feels the committee's request was appropriate, said he reduced this by \$400,000, down to \$885,725.

Cox said this is an incremental step towards recovering the funds lost to capital projects due to the pandemic.

"The community will need to plan for annual investments of current funds in the amount of \$1.2 to \$1.4 million in the coming years."

Budget workshops were held throughout this week. Budget deliberations will pick up again at the start of April. A town meeting is expected for Monday, May 3, with a referendum slated for May 11.

The Board of Finance will finalize the mill rate in June.

Locals can send their thoughts on the budget proposal to budget@easthamptonct.gov.

## Senior Center News & Notes

East Hampton Senior Center, 105 Main St., continues to be closed, although staff is available (860-267-4426 or seniorcenter@easthamptonct.gov) Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information, visit [www.easthamptonct.gov/east-hampton-senior-center](http://www.easthamptonct.gov/east-hampton-senior-center). Contact the center to receive a copy of its email or regular mail newsletters. Note: All online program registration is now at MyActiveCenter.com; 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 April 5.

**Seated Yoga with Kitch via Zoom:** Next session is Wednesdays through May 26 (started March 24), from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Register online. 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.

**March Winds:** Monday, March 29, 10 a.m., via Zoom. This is a question-and-answer session on how to sign up for MyActiveCenter.com. Call the center to register.

**Bingo via Telephone/Conference Call:** Next date is Friday, April 2, at 10 a.m. Call the center to register and schedule a time to pick up your bingo cards.

**Creative Crafts/Batik Silk Painting:** Wednesday, April 14, 1-2:30 p.m. The workshop will be hosted by Color Cruiser, a business owned and run by two teenagers from California. Register online.

**Live Well Program:** This six-week class on living well with and managing chronic conditions is offered via telephone, conference-call style. 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).

## YPCCA Announces Summer Show

The Young People's Center for Creative Arts is 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.

Mornings at YPCCA are devoted to workshops in such artistic endeavors as Show Choir, Stage Combat, Comedy Improvisation and Shakespeare. Afternoons are spent rehearsing for a full-length musical production – which this year is the smash Broadway hit *Mamma Mia!*, based on the music of the band ABBA.

Auditions will take place at EHHS 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 auditions. 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.

For more information and a brochure, call 860-754-6145 or email [info@ypcca.org](mailto:info@ypcca.org). Additional information about the camp and online registration is available at [www.yppcca.org](http://www.yppcca.org).

## Joe Barber

### Memorial Scholarship

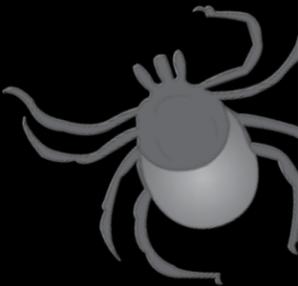
Fowler-Dix-Park VFW Auxiliary 5095 is offering the \$1,000 Joe Barber Memorial Scholarship to graduating high school seniors. Applicant must be an East Hampton resident (attending any high school, not just East Hampton High School) who has been accepted to attend an institute of higher learning after graduation.

For applications, stop by the EHHS guidance office or VFW Post 5095 (20 North Maple St.), or email [kbarber03@snet.net](mailto:kbarber03@snet.net). Applications are due April 9.

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**Town of East Hampton  
Sewer Use Bills due April 1, 2021**

The second half of the East Hampton Sewer Use bills is due on April 1, 2021. The last day to pay the Sewer Use fee for the April 1, 2021 installment without a penalty is May 3, 2021. Payments received May 3, 2021 and later, including payments postmarked May 3, and later, are considered past due and will be subject to an interest penalty of 1.50% per month, or a fraction thereof, 18% per annum, from the due date of the tax, as required by Connecticut General State Statutes 12-130 and 146. The minimum interest charge is \$2 on each tax bill. A returned check fee is \$20. Payments legibly postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service on or before April 1, 2021 are considered on time regardless of when they are received by the Collector of Revenue.

As owners of property, taxpayers are responsible to see that taxes are paid when due. Failure to have sent or received a bill does not exempt the taxpayer from payment of all taxes, interest charges and collection costs, as per Conn. Gen. Stat. 12-130 and 12-146. Interest is charged on all late payments. There are no exceptions.

There are multiple payment options:

Pay by Mail: Please make checks payable to Town of East Hampton. Payments may be mailed to Collector of Revenue, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424.

Pay Online: Visit [www.easthamptonct.gov](http://www.easthamptonct.gov). Note: Your sewer account number is required when making a payment online.

Pay by Drop Box: There is a drop box located in the front of the Town Hall at 1 Community Drive. Do not leave cash in the drop box unless you have arranged it with the Collector of Revenue.

Pay in Person: When paying in person at the Tax Office at the Town Hall, all taxpayers must adhere to the CDC guidelines. This includes wearing a mask upon entering the building and practicing social distancing.

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### 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: 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](http://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](mailto:arts@easthamptonct.org).

### 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](http://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. Ages 2 and up are required to wear masks that cover nose and mouth, and observe social distancing. If unable or unwilling to wear a mask, call the library to schedule a curbside delivery.

**Weekly Activities for Kids: 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. **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:** Programs are at 4 p.m. over Zoom. Registration required. Sched-

ule: 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. Registration required. The library will let people know when the kits are ready for pickup.

**Adult Programs: 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.

### 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.



### Barbecue Chicken Dinner Takeout Event

Haddam Neck Covenant Church is hosting a Barbecue Chicken Dinner Drive-Thru Takeout Event on Saturday, April 10, by reservation only. Reservations are due April 3. This is the barbecue chicken the church has sold at Haddam Neck Fair for over 40 years. The dinner includes a thigh/leg chicken quarter, baked beans, coleslaw and cornbread. Cost is \$10, cash only. Call in your reservation to the church office at 860-267-2336 and indicate your pick-up time: noon-1 p.m., 1-2 p.m., 3-4 p.m., 4-5 p.m. and 5-6 p.m. Haddam Neck Covenant Church is located at 17 Haddam Neck Rd. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 12:30-4:30 p.m.

### Chatham Gallery Opens at Town Hall

The East Hampton Art Association recently revealed its new Chatham Art Gallery. It is located in the new Town Hall at 1 Community Drive. It has lighting to show off everyone's artwork. The Chatham Gallery is accessible for delivering and hanging artwork as there is an elevator just inside the front door. The gallery has the Walker system installed, which makes it easy to adjust the artwork. The gallery is located near the Town Manager's office at the top of the stairs. The East Hampton Art Association welcomes all to stop by and view the artwork. Members who would like to show their artwork should call Lenora Bear to schedule a month for your showing. If you are not a member, the dues are \$15 for a year.

### 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 small and COVID-19 protocols will be followed. Classes are held at 27 Skinner St., and begin April 5. Register at [www.epoch-arts.org/classes-registration](http://www.epoch-arts.org/classes-registration).

### Police News

3/15: Wesley Holstein, 19, of New London, was issued a summons for misuse of plates, operating without a license and operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, East Hampton Police said. 3/16: Colin McBriarty, 31, of 7 Grove St., Portland, was arrested and charged with misuse of plates, operating a motor vehicle while under suspension, reckless driving, disobeying an officer's signal, speeding and failure to obey a stop sign, police said. Also, from March 8-14, officers responded to four medical calls, eight motor vehicle crashes and four alarms, and made 20 traffic stops, police said.

### 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, hand sanitizing and social distancing are required. 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. All services can also be accessed at [cc-eh.org](http://cc-eh.org).

### Congregational Church News

Sunday School classes will also resume in person beginning Palm Sunday. The Teen Youth Group will meet Friday, March 26, from 6:30-8 p.m. Grades 6-12 are welcome. For more information, visit [cc-eh.org](http://cc-eh.org) 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.

### Shoe Drive Wrapping Up

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. Donations will be used to support small businesses in developing countries. Shoes may be dropped off at Ace Hardware. To have them picked up, call 860-977-5760 or 860-593-1220.

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### Gazebo Concert Lineup

The Joseph N. Goff House Museum will hold the 22nd annual Goff House Gazebo Concert Series Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. from June 24-July 29. The band lineup is:

June 24: T Ray, performing acoustic country, rock, folk and pop music from the 1940s to today; July 1: Centerline Band, performing rock 'n roll, country and blues; July 8: Mick and Vic, an acoustic duo performing hits from the '50s to today; July 15: Flamingo Big Band, a 15-piece all-female group performing music from the swing era with a sprinkling of rock, pop, rhythm and blues; July 22: 3 Gals 3, a vocal trio of three female Connecticut musicians who perform three decades of musical genres;

July 29: Leaf Jumpers, performing rock hits from the '90s to today, along with their own modern originals.

There will be no rain location or bathrooms available during the concerts. Listeners must wear masks when arriving and leaving the shows and maintain six feet apart from other audience members as part of COVID-19 safety regulations. Picnics welcome. Admission is free.

Tax-deductible donations to help pay for the bands are being accepted now, at \$250, \$150, \$75, \$50 and \$25 levels (or any amount). Donations can be mailed to the Joseph N. Goff House, P.O. Box 337, East Hampton, CT 06424.

### Rotary Scholarships Available

The Rotary Club of East Hampton invites local high school seniors from East Hampton and Marlborough as well as adult learners to apply for one of several scholarships.

All residents are eligible, regardless of what high school they attend (public or private). Applicants can be attending any college, university, trade school, vocational program, or veteran-focused program.

Applications can be obtained through the high school guidance office or at [www.easthamptonrotary.org](http://www.easthamptonrotary.org), and can be emailed to [scholarshipapp@yahoo.com](mailto:scholarshipapp@yahoo.com). All applications are due April 10.

### KoC Scholarship, Grant Available

Belltown Knights of Columbus Council 6190 is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating high school senior who 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](mailto:stpatrick47@sbcglobal.net).

### 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](http://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.

### Submissions Sought for New Magazine

Epoch Arts is taking submissions for its new student-led magazine, which has the theme "Inspiration and Encouragement."

Epoch is calling all artists age 12 and up to submit original works. Submissions can be photography, poetry, short stories, lyrics, original songs and sheet music, and more. Send 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.

For more info, email Elizabeth Namen at [elizabeth@epocharts.org](mailto:elizabeth@epocharts.org) or visit [www.epocharts.org](http://www.epocharts.org).

### 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.

### Haddam Neck Covenant Church News

Haddam Neck Covenant Church, located at 17 Haddam Neck Rd., invites all to Sunday worship at 9 a.m., online at [www.facebook.com/Haddam-Neck-Covenant-Church](http://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*.

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

### 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.

### LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY ATTENTION SEWER USERS

Notice is hereby given to all property owners connected to the sewers in East Hampton that the second installment of the sewer use payment is due and payable on April 1, 2021. The last day on which to pay without penalty is May 3, 2021. Payments received May 3, 2021 and later, including payments postmarked May 3, and later, are considered past due and will be subject to an interest penalty of 1.50% per month, or a fraction thereof, 18% per annum, from the due date of the tax, as required by Connecticut General State Statutes 12-130 and 146. The minimum interest charge is \$2 on each tax bill. A returned check fee is \$20. Payments legibly postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service on or before April 1, 2021 are considered on time regardless of when they are received by the Collector of Revenue.

As owners of property, taxpayers are responsible to see that taxes are paid when due. Failure to have sent or received a bill does not exempt the taxpayer from payment of all taxes, interest charges and collection costs, as per Conn. Gen. Stat. 12-130 and 12-146. Interest is charged on all late payments. There are no exceptions. Please make checks payable to Town of East Hampton. Payments may be mailed to Collector of Revenue, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424. Pay online by visiting our website at [www.easthamptonct.gov](http://www.easthamptonct.gov). Note: Your sewer account number is required when making a payment online. Hours of collection are: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm, Tuesday 8:00 am - 6:30 pm and Friday 8:00 am - 12:30 pm. Respectively Submitted, Scott Clayton Public Utilities Administrator

3TB 3/26, 4/9, 4/23

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# Community Offers Input on Superintendent Search

by Karla Santos

While not many people showed up for Monday's "community conversation" regarding the search for new school superintendent, those who were there all agreed on one thing.

They all felt the next superintendent of the Marlborough school system must be someone willing to have a good relationship with the school community, including the teachers and staff of Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School, the only school in the system.

The meeting, held via Zoom, was led by Joseph Erardi, a search consultant working with the Marlborough Board of Education. The school board is tasked with finding a replacement for David Sklarz, who announced in December he'd be retiring in June, after serving as school superintendent for 11 years.

During his time in Marlborough, Sklarz became known for having a good relationship with school staff, teachers and children – and

that's one thing those in attendance Monday stressed they don't want to lose.

Pamela Farrington, a teacher at the elementary school, stressed that, due to Sklarz only being in charge of the one school in town, he has a connection with staff and teachers that one might not see in other, larger school systems. She hopes whoever replaces him next can foster a similar connection.

"We just want to make sure that anybody who comes to Marlborough understands that this is really a unique situation that they are in," Farrington said. "It's not like being a superintendent in a big district. These are interpersonal relationships; these are face-to-face conversations."

Erardi said he feels the strong relationships in the school system are a big positive for folks who might be considering applying for the position.

"I think there are extraordinary relationships right now between faculty and staff, school board and the superintendent," Erardi said. "Marlborough Board of Education and Marlborough Elementary School checks every box."

During the meeting, Erardi asked the handful of individuals who attended to tell him the best advice they would like to give to the school board in regards to the hiring process.

Laurel Killough and her husband Gustavo Fernandez were the only parents that took part in the meeting. They have children in first and fifth grade at Marlborough Elementary. Killough stressed that she hopes whoever the school board hires has plans to stick around Marlborough for a while.

"We would like to have somebody who comes out to be a good fit, and wants to stay in the district for a number of years before moving on to the next step in their career," Killough said.

She was also in agreement that a good relationship between the next superintendent and the teachers and staff of the school is "really important."

Erardi stressed why what he does as a search consultant is an important role. He said that while people can learn facts about a potential superintendent through simple Google search-

es, "what you can't find is climate and culture, and that's my job."

Erardi said that, as part of his job, he doesn't only call the candidates' references, but he also reaches out to "people who don't necessarily expect the call around that candidate because I have to ensure climate and culture."

Erardi said he also has a private investigator in charge of handling background checks for the candidates.

Erardi told those in attendance he is "really pleased with the interest and with the pool of applicants" for the position so far. He said around 14 people have applied, and he expects to receive even more applications before the deadline of April 2.

Erardi said the new superintendent will probably be hired in May, but will not start the position until July.

While the exact process is up to the Board of Education, Erardi said there will most likely be six to eight candidates called for initial interviews, with that number narrowed down to two or three called back for a second interview. From there, the list will be whittled still further, with the remaining finalists having a third interview as well as a site visit if COVID-19 conditions allow, he said.

## 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.

**Virtual Storytimes:** Monday, April 12, 10 a.m., for ages 2-3, and Fridays, March 26 and April 9, for ages 3-5. Email richmondprograms@gmail.com to register.

**Spring Lunch Bunch:** Wednesday, April 7, at 11:30 a.m., in the Blish Park pavilion, best for ages 2-5. Masks must be worn and social distancing measures must be followed. One family/household per picnic table will be allowed. Email richmondprograms@gmail.com or call the library to register. Space is limited.

**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.

**National Library Week:** April 4-10. While supplies last, origami bookmarks will be given to anyone who checks out materials using curbside pickup. There will be coloring pages and word search puzzles given out as well.

**Virtual Tour of Ford's Theatre:** Thursday, April 8, 6 p.m., via Zoom. In this guided tour, learn the details of the assassination conspiracy and the fate of those involved in the death of Abraham Lincoln. Stops on the tour include: the balcony and orchestra levels of the historic theatre; entrance to the President's Box, where John Wilkes Booth waited to shoot the president; the historic stage; and the back alley, where you can follow Booth's escape route.

**Tenement Museum Tour: Irish Outsiders:** Tuesday, April 6, from 6:30-7:30 p.m., via Zoom. Offered in conjunction with the Tenement Museum in New York. Take a virtual walk through the 1860s New York tenement of Irish immigrants Joseph and Bridget Moore, to understand daily life and their experiences as Irish New Yorkers. Registration required; max number of participants is 30. Email richmondprograms@gmail.com to register.

**Book Drop Open:** Items are quarantined for 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. Charges: the first two pages are free; cost thereafter is 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.

## Second Blessings to Reopen

Second Blessings Thrift Shop, located at Marlborough Congregational Church, 35 S. Main St., will re-open Saturday, April 10. Shopping hours are Saturdays from 9 a.m.-noon.

Second Blessings has been closed since March 2020, but donations have continued to arrive. The shop has expanded into two rooms featuring "Holiday Highlights," "An-

tique Boutique," "Kids Korner," "Bangles and Beads," and more. Items include jewelry, everyday and formal china, silver, glassware, baking, cooking and serving, name-brand handbags and accessories, lamps, signed prints, children's, seasonal items, and more. Each week new items will be featured.

Safety protocols will be observed, with masks required.



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I would like to thank all the staff members here at the facility, the nurses, and the therapy staff. Most importantly, I would like to recognize the two CNA's that went above and beyond during my stay, Christopher and Rebecca. Whenever I needed them, they were there. They changed my outlook and I realized how valuable your life and health really is. They were part of my progress along with physical therapy; I was able to start walking by myself after being in a wheelchair. I can now get up by myself and maneuver my way around.

My experience at Marlborough was very good although in reality I did not want to be here. I wanted to be able to be at home. My life literally changed as I never went to college. I felt my whole experience starting at Yale New Haven Hospital, going to Gaylord and then finishing at Marlborough was as if I was in college, and now I am finally graduating. My graduation date was March 11, 2021, and I could not be more proud of myself.

— Lewis Lara from Moodus, CT

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### Parks and Rec Programs

Marlborough Parks and Recreation has announced the following. For full descriptions or to register, visit [marlboroughct.recdesk.com](http://marlboroughct.recdesk.com) and click on "programs," stop by the office at Town Hall, 26 N. Main St., or call 860-295-6203. 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 Easter Candy Workshop:** Tuesday, March 30, 3:15-4:15, at Marlborough Senior Center, for grades 4-8. 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. Fee: \$99/residents, \$104/non-residents.

**Skyhawks Mini-Hawk (Soccer, Baseball and Basketball):** At Blish Park 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. Fee: \$85/residents, \$90/non-residents.

**Kids Sewing – PJ Pants:** Tuesday, April 6, 5:30-7 p.m., for ages 8-18. 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. Class instruction is virtual. All materials 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. 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. Fee: \$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: Barre/Pilates:** Monday, March 29, 5:30-6:15 p.m., or Wednesday, March 31, 6-6:45 p.m. Class instruction is virtual. Fee: \$15.

**Yoga:** Monday, March 29, 6:30-7:30 p.m., or Tuesday, March 30, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Class instruction is virtual. Fee: \$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.

**May Youth Programs:** Mondays, May 3 and 10, 5:30-7 p.m., for ages 8-18. Class instruction is virtual. Fee: \$53/residents, \$58/non-residents.

**Kids Intro to Machine Sewing 101:** Tuesdays, May 4-25, 5:30-7 p.m., for ages 8-18. Projects will vary; materials will be delivered. All participants must have their own sewing machine. Class instruction is virtual. Fee: \$103/residents, \$108/non-residents.

**Tennis Lessons:** Mondays, May 10-June 7, at the Blish Park tennis court. Ages 5-7 are 3:45-4:30 p.m., and cost is \$83/resident, \$88/non-resident. Ages 8-12 are 4:30-5:30 p.m., and cost is \$90/resident, \$95/non-resident.

### Congregational Church News

Marlborough Congregational Church, located at 35 S. Main St., livestreams Sunday worship each week at 10 a.m. through the church website, [mcc.marlconchurch.org](http://mcc.marlconchurch.org).

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 also recorded and available for viewing on the church website later that same day. All previous worship services can be viewed through the webpage.

**Holy Week Schedule:** The March 28 Palm Sunday service will be led by Faulhaber and livestreamed through the church website at 10 a.m. Palms will be available outside the church by the front doors before and after worship.

Maundy Thursday worship will be streamed through the church website at 7 p.m. April 1.

An in-person Easter Sunrise Service will be held lakeside at Lake Terramuggus at 7 a.m. April 4. Wear a mask and bring your own chair.

At 10 a.m., the Easter Sunday worship will be streamed through the church website.

All worship services are available for viewing through the webpage on YouTube.

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

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."

All students in grades 5-7 are invited to Junior Youth Group. For more information, contact Gwen Lawson at [gwendolynn78@yahoo.com](mailto:gwendolynn78@yahoo.com).

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

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

### 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](http://www.stjfisher.org), or look for the church on Facebook (Saint John Fisher Roman Catholic Church) or Twitter (@StJohnFisher\_CT).

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

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

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

**Church Office Hours:** Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Face-to-face office visits

are limited due to COVID-19 regulations. Call before heading over or connect via the phone.

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



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## Obituaries

### Colchester

#### Kathleen Shanks

Kathleen Dale (McKinney) Shanks, beloved wife of Timothy Shanks, passed away Thursday, March 18, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Born Jan. 18, 1950, in Middletown, Kathy was the daughter of the late Elwood and Gertrude McKinney. She grew up in Marlborough and graduated from RHAM High School.



Kathy and Tim met at First National Supermarket in Glastonbury, where they both worked. They were married May 16, 1970, and moved to Colchester, where they raised their family.

Kathy was a devoted full time mother to her children. She pursued many hobbies and was very talented with embroidery and crochet. She was an avid reader and was always ready to discuss the latest novel at the top of the best seller list. She had a great love of birds and had so many assorted bird feeders in their backyard that her family joked that it looked like a science lab. She had a green thumb with many beautiful house plants and flowers in her hard.

A skillful card player, Kathy spent many Saturday nights playing setback with her family. Kathy and Tim loved to travel, especially with her sister Shirley, and Shirley's husband, Lee. They enjoyed taking fall trips to Tennessee and Missouri to take in as many shows as they could fit into their schedule.

Above all else, Kathy loved her family more than anything, and often held gatherings involving cookouts and copious amounts of delicious food, most of which she prepared herself. While undergoing grueling cancer treatments, Kathy discovered her artistic side and took up coloring elaborate pictures to brighten her day and to those she gave them to.

Kathy is survived by her loving husband of nearly 51 years, Tim, and their daughter Holly Bolduc and her husband Michael of Franklin, their son Scott and his wife Kellie, of Port Charlotte Fla., and their son Mark and his wife Terri of Colchester. Kathy was also a proud Grammy to Destiny Waters and her husband Nicolas, of Colchester, and Taylor and Kyle Sasman, of Franklin. She also leaves behind two precious great-grandchildren, Jason and Annie Waters. She is also survived by her sister Shirley and her husband Lee Tinney of Hebron, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. She was predeceased by two brothers and a niece.

Kathy was and always will be a beautiful soul with a beautiful heart.

Due to COVID-19, services will be private. Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society.

To leave online condolences, please visit [www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

### Marlborough

#### Wayne Edward Chasse

Wayne Edward Chasse was a husband, father, papa, brother, friend and musician. He passed away Sunday, March 14, at the age of 60, with his wife by his side. His battle with serious medical issues in recent years showed his courage in facing life challenges. Despite the pain, Wayne came out a hero and stayed strong until the end.

Wayne held many jobs throughout his life and worked hard to provide for his family, most recently as founder of Wayne's World of Computer Repair and then regional sales manager at Andre Prost. He was also very well known as a main member of the band Cheap Shot.

With a passion for music, a talent for computers, and a love of life, he left a profound

impact on everyone who was lucky enough to know him. Wayne loved to make people laugh with his charm and quick wit. His own laugh was nothing short of contagious, and everyone loved that smile!

He is survived by his parents, Linda and Ed Chasse; his wife, Sondra (Brinck) Chasse; his daughter Amber and husband Adam Tommasi and their five children; his son Nicholas and wife Casey Chasse and their two sons; his sister Laurie and husband Bill Robbins and their children; and lifelong friend and band-mate Mark Noel; and his sweet pup, Sophie.

Services for Wayne will be held Saturday, March 27, from 2-4 p.m., at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Masks are required. Please also join family and friends at the American Legion Post 197 in Marlborough immediately following services for refreshments and memories.

To leave online condolences, please visit [www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

### Colchester

#### Stanley Dankiw

Stanley Dankiw, 87, of Colchester, passed away suddenly Saturday, March 20. Born in Ukraine Nov. 10, 1933, he was the son of the late Stephan and Rosalia (Masleuch) Dankiw.



Sponsored by the Zagrady Farm and family, at age 15 Stanley emigrated to America, settling in Colchester with his father and four siblings. At age 18, he volunteered with the U.S. Army and after serving in active duty, he was granted American citizenship. A hard-working man, Stanley quickly became entrenched in the town of Colchester, taking work with Sableski Oil and later working as a tire mechanic for Schuster's Express Trucking Company for more than 30 years. He retired several years ago.

Stanley married his beloved late wife, Marion Elizabeth Young, in 1956. With his own hands and ingenuity, Stanley built the home where he and Marion raised their seven children. Marion predeceased Stanley in 2001. Stanley was fortunate enough to marry his second beloved wife, Gloria Ceruti, who also predeceased him in 2007 after sharing a few short years together.

True to his heritage and devoutly faithful, Stanley was very involved with St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church in Colchester, where he attended Mass frequently. In his spare time, Stanley enjoyed woodworking. He became quite talented at the craft and made furniture and other wood worked crafts for family members and friends. In later years, Stanley was often seen riding about town on his blue scooter, which he enjoyed even into his 80s.

He will be sadly missed but remembered with love by his children and their spouses: Rosa (John) Winder of Colchester, Michael Dankiw of Colchester, Andrew Dankiw of Vernon, Stephen (Patty) Dankiw of Lebanon, Stanley Dankiw Jr. of Newington, Cathy (Joe) Guadagni of Haddam, Daniel (Valleri) Dankiw of Colchester; his stepchildren Sharon, Gail, Carol and Diane; a sister, Mary Zolubak of Chicago, Ill.; nine grandchildren, Kimberly, Carri, John, Christopher (Samantha), Joseph, Michelle, Kida, Kristyn, JD; five step-grandchildren, Jessica Crystal, Lisa, Angela and Sarah; five great grandchildren, Shawn (Kayla), Rylee, Nicholas, Abigail, Gabriel Jade; nine step-great-grandchildren, Luis, Yamelette, Crystal, Niomi, Priscilla, Jalen, Tristan and Sonney; and numerous extended family and friends.

Calling hours, utilizing face covering and social distancing, were held Thursday, March 25, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old

Hartford Rd., Colchester. The Funeral Mass will be offered today, Friday, March 26, at 10 a.m., at St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, Linwood Avenue, Colchester. Burial will follow in St. Mary Cemetery, Route 85, Colchester.

Donations in his memory may be made to St. Mary's Ukrainian Church, 178 Linwood Ave., Colchester, CT 06415.

For online condolences, please visit [www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

### Marlborough

#### Edward M. Walton

Edward M. Walton passed away peacefully at Hartford Hospital Friday, March 19. He was born April 14, 1942, in Montclair, N.J., son of Edward H. Walton and Anne M. Walton.



Ed leaves behind his wife of 57 years, Shirley Sullivan Walton; son, Stephen Walton; daughter, Deborah Walton Gallacher and husband Richard; brother, Chandler Walton and wife Bette Ann; sister, Linda Dode; three beloved grandchildren, Brenna, Connor and Meagan Gallacher; brother-in-law, Ed Sullivan and wife Eileen; nieces, nephews and cherished friends.

Ed grew up in Hamden attending local schools, graduating from Milford Prep and went on to attend University of New Haven, graduating with a BS in electrical engineering and an MBA from University of Hartford. He started his career at Times Wire and Cable moving to Brand-Rex where he worked his way up to vice president of sales and marketing. During his time at Brand-Rex he was able to travel extensively and make lifelong friendships. He ended his career at Rockbestos and Draka Cable.

Generous and forgiving to a fault, Ed was the first to grab the check, or pay for your round of golf, and the first to overlook your flaws. Ed always approached life with a positive attitude with passion and a sense of adventure. He enjoyed golfing weekends with his wonderful friends, Monday night football with the Spring Glen crew, and season tickets to UConn basketball for years, with the opportunity to celebrate many national championships. Ed loved to drive his 1985 red Corvette with his faithful dog Chloe and recently Brie. He would watch the sunset sitting by beautiful Lake Terramugus with a Glen Livet Scotch on the rocks.

Funeral services will be private, due to COVID-19 restrictions. A celebration of his life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Roy B. Pettengill Marlborough Ambulance Association, P.O. Box 308, Marlborough, CT 06447-0308.

For online condolences, please visit [www.potterfuneralhome.com](http://www.potterfuneralhome.com).

### East Hampton

#### Mary MacDonald

Mary Agnes (Corsair) MacDonald passed away Thursday, March 18, at the age of 90. She was born Sept. 20, 1930, in East Hartford. She was the eighth of nine children born to David Corsair and Marie Augustine (Requier) Corsair. She was a bright student, skipped two grades, and graduated from East Hartford High School in 1947. Mary was very close to her siblings, especially her sisters Janette, Catherine (Bee), Louise and Pauline.



Mary's first job was at Aetna in Hartford, and then Hamilton Standard in Windsor Locks. It was there she met William MacDonald who had just returned home from the Korean War. Bill always said he experienced "love at first sight" when he met Mary, and told a co-worker, "I'm going to marry that girl!" They dated, fell in love and married May 1, 1954, at the Corsair family home on Linden Street, East Hartford. Their first child, Catherine, was born on their first anniversary at Hartford Hospital, and two sons, David and Douglas, soon followed. The family lived in South Windsor, then moved to East Hampton in July 1966.

Mary was a homemaker who created a wonderful place in which to grow up. She was a very loving mother and grandmother, sister, aunt and friend. She was a devout Catholic and was a very involved parishioner and prayer warrior at St. Patrick Church in East Hampton. Mary taught catechism and was an active member in the Parish Guild, and other church groups. In retirement, Bill and Mary traveled the continen-

tal U.S. together visiting family and friends.

Mary became ill in 2009 and was lovingly cared for at home by her husband Bill, and by a special family friend, Karen Turney of East Hampton. Mary was loved and visited weekly by Sister Dominic, who would give her Holy Communion. Mary was also visited and cared for by friend and neighbor Diane Anelli.

Mary is survived by her husband, William MacDonald of East Hampton; daughter, Catherine Keinigs (Rhonald) of Radford, Va.; son, David (Joann) MacDonald of East Hampton, and son, Douglas (Karen) MacDonald of East Hampton. She was grandmother to Jason Keinigs (Tracy) of Folsom, Calif., Michael MacDonald (Courtney) of Boston, Mass., James MacDonald (Carlee) of East Hampton, Heather MacDonald of Naugatuck, and Brian MacDonald of East Hampton. She is great-grandmother to Taya, Niya and Jaima MacDonald of East Hampton.

A funeral liturgy will be celebrated Saturday, March 27, at 11 a.m., in St. Patrick Church in East Hampton, with burial in St. Patrick Cemetery. A gathering in Mary's honor will be planned for a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Mary's memory to St. Patrick Church Guild in East Hampton.

To leave online condolences, please visit [www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

### Colchester

#### Michele Papp

Michele (Dziatko) Papp (Feb. 3, 1952-March 16, 2021) died after a long hard-fought battle with ovarian cancer, a deadly disease which is often detected in its advanced stages. Women should be aware of its early signs and men should be on the lookout for symptoms their loved one may be ignoring.



Michele was raised in the south end of Hartford and graduated from Bulkeley High School. Having settled in Colchester with her loving husband, whom she'd been with for 50 years and comforted her during her final moments, she raised a daughter, Thea Marsh of New Hampshire; a son, Georg Papp of Colchester; and many dogs. Thea and her husband Jack provided Michele with grandchildren, Ethan and Grace, all of whom were a source of pride for her. Michele also leaves behind her brother, Gary Dziatko of Colchester, and his family.

Michele quietly worked behind the scenes in town, helping to revive a failing youth football program to a solid, stronger level. Her backing also helped persuade the town into introducing football into Bacon Academy. She was also a board member of the rechartered Boy Scout Troop 109.

After becoming ill, she retired from Backus Hospital after 18 years. Whether camping in the wilds with her family, enjoying the companionship of the many dogs she loved over the years or enjoying the company of her friends and neighbors, Michele enjoyed life.

A COVID-19-compliant graveside ceremony is scheduled for Monday, April 5, at 11 a.m., at the Cedar Hill Cemetery on 453 Fairfield Ave., Hartford.

Donations may be made in her name to Cut Out Cancer, 44 Ferncliff Drive, West Hartford, CT 06117. These angels donate their time to provide much appreciated spa and social interaction to those who are actively being treated for cancer.

Men and women are encouraged to view on YouTube "Men, Her Ovarian Cancer Is Your Ovarian Cancer" on the Outhouse Americana channel.

### East Hampton

#### Laurie Ann Fredrickson

Laurie Ann Fredrickson (Foell), 63, of Waveland, Miss., passed away unexpectedly Tuesday, March 9. She was born Aug. 29, 1957, in Meriden, to Dorothy Kronenberger Eremita and Alfred E. Foell. Laurie grew up in Meriden and at a young age lived in Queens, N.Y., later moving to East Hampton, where she graduated from East Hampton High School in 1975.



Early on, Laurie lived in San Diego, Calif., and worked for the phone company there before moving to the Mississippi gulf coast where she worked for Casino Magic, Isle of Capri Casino,

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**Obituaries continued**

and Silver Slipper Casino.

Laurie had an adventurous spirit. She loved traveling, boating, snow skiing, going to the beach and countless other activities. She enjoyed Mardi Gras season, Cruisin' the Coast, and many other festivals. She also volunteered and helped anyone she could.

Left to cherish her memory are her daughter, Kelsey Fredrickson (Donovan Grimes); her granddaughter, Kyla Grimes; and her best friend, her dog Beau, all of Diamondhead, Miss. She is also survived by her mother, Dorothy K. Eremita (Michael); sisters, Deborah Foell, Melinda Dumond (Frank) all of East Hampton; her sister, Beverly Butcher of Peoria, Ariz.; Elizabeth Foell of Mesa, Ariz.; her brothers, Rock Foell of Meriden and Michael Foell of Cheshire; nieces, Ashlee Saitta (Mike) and their children Logan and Haylee of East Hampton; Megan Butcher and her children Alexia and Aiden of Ariz.; nephews, Matt Dumond (Brittany) and children Aaron, Hayden and Kaia; Damien Dumond and Jacob Tedder all of East Hampton. She is also survived by several aunts, cousins and the many friends she has made along the way.

She was predeceased by her father, Alfred E. Foell; her niece, Jennifer and nephew, TJ; her grandparents, many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Graveside services and burial were held Friday, March 19, at Rotten Bayou Cemetery, Diamondhead, Miss.

**Colchester**

**Ivy Shelby SklarElson**

Ivy Shelby SklarElson, 73, passed away at her home in Manhattan, N.Y., Thursday, March 18. Born in New York City Nov. 30, 1947, she was a daughter of the late Sol and Sylvia (Gottlieb) Sklar.



Ivy grew up in Colchester and graduated as salutatorian of her class at Bacon Academy. She then went on to earn her BA degree from UConn. Ivy retired several years ago having worked alongside her uncle, cousins and friends in Grand Central Station in jewelry sales and repairs.

She will be sadly missed but remembered with love by her stepchildren, Sarah and Michael Weinberger, Jessica Elson, all of Denver, Colo.; a sister, Tina Sklar of Colchester; a brother, Malcolm Sklar of Redding. She was a loving grandmother of Zachary Weinberger, and she leaves numerous extended family members and friends.

A graveside funeral service was held on Tuesday, March 23, at the Ahavath Achim Cemetery, Tanter Hill Road, Colchester.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to Beth's Furry Friends Foundation, [www.bethsfurryfriends.com](http://www.bethsfurryfriends.com).

The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with care of arrangements. For online condolences, please visit [www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

**Obituary Policy**

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**Marlborough**

**Christine Billings**

Christine Nicole Marie Fletcher Billings (Sept. 12, 1963-March 24, 2021)

Chris Billings, comforted by family and friends near and far, left quietly after a brave and hard-fought two-year battle with ovarian cancer. She was 57 years old.

Wife, mother, grandmother, sister, teacher, friend. Chris' life will be remembered as overflowing. She sought out and conquered challenges with enthusiasm and without hesitation. Life was never boring when Chris was around... she made sure of that!

Chris' family moved from West Chicago, Ill., to Morristown, N.J., when she was 12. There she met many lifelong friends, including the family of her future husband. After high school years spent partially on crutches thanks to successful treatment for a tumor on her leg, she graduated from West Chester University and Smith College as a teacher of the deaf. Chris' future husband followed her to Connecticut where she began a long career with CREC Soundbridge. She loved the work, helping children with hearing loss from babies to high school.

Chris Fletcher and Scott Billings were wed in Madison, N.J., on April 16, 1988. Together they lived in East Hampton and then Marlborough, where they raised three beautiful children, Derek, Rebecca and Cassidy. Their nearly 33 years together were the happiest times. Her family cannot appreciate enough the enthusiasm with which Chris accepted motherhood's challenges and joys.

Chris retired and moved with Scott to Medford, Mass., in 2018. An anticipated second half of life, full of activities around Boston and Cape Cod, was cut short by her diagnosis in February 2019. Intermittently successful treatments, however, allowed kayaking, biking, tennis and vacations to national parks in Utah and Arizona and Turks and Caicos, and visits with her granddaughter, Daisy.

Memories of a friendship with Chris are her lasting legacy among an extended network of family and friends. Time shared with Chris was filled with activity and smiles, invariably captured in pictures.

Events in Boston and Eastham to gather and share remembrances will be held over the summer. At her request, Chris' physical remains will be distributed at the beautiful places she enjoyed on the Cape.

Donations in Chris' memory can be made to these organizations that were close to her: Expect Miracles Foundation ([www.expectmiraclesfoundation.org](http://www.expectmiraclesfoundation.org)), Hole-In-The-Wall Gang Camp ([www.holeinthewallgang.org](http://www.holeinthewallgang.org)), Fidelco ([www.fidelco.org](http://www.fidelco.org)), Massachusetts Audubon ([www.massaudubon.org](http://www.massaudubon.org)).



**Marlborough**

**Irene E. Haley**

Irene E. Haley, 96, currently of East Ridge in Cutler Bay, Fla., passed away Thursday, March 11, to join our Lord in heaven. She peacefully died in her sleep.

She was born to Rose and Howard Lucier Aug. 5, 1924, in Worcester, Mass., and graduated from Malden High School in 1942. She remained in the Boston area working until she met and married our Dad, Robert F. Haley, on May 11, 1947. Dad was her lifelong partner and friend, and they were together for 68 years through thick and thin until his passing Feb. 10, 2015. They resided in Marlborough, at the same location on Jones Hollow Road in the house they built. Mom moved to a retirement community near her eldest son in 2017, but always considered Marlborough home.

Mom is survived by her sister, Dotty Currie (East Hampton); and her four sons: Michael (Palmetto Bay, Fla.); Paul (Coon Valley, Wis.); James (Port St Lucie, Fla.); and Stephen (Hialeah, Fla.). She is also survived by eight grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Mom seemed to be most comfortable with the simpler life and was selfless in putting family ahead of her immediate needs. Never idle (raising four boys demanded it), always on the move in the kitchen or outside in the huge garden or attending our roadside orchard stand. She loved talking on the phone to her close friends and hosting other neighborhood folk after daily baking sessions of bread, pies, and her famous cowboy cookies.

Mom was active in the community, helping with the polls at voting time (got to see all Marlborough's old-timers) and with St. John Fisher's prayer shawl knitting church group. Mom never learned to drive, but was able to get around at the generosity of others. She was pleasant to be around, always willing to help others and stand up for people willing to do right.

Mom's only wish was to be joined with Dad in their resting place at Marlboro Cemetery. She would say, "I'm alright and I don't need to be a bother to anybody." We will always love you and most certainly miss you.

A private memorial service will be held with immediate family Saturday, April 3, coordinated by Stanfill Funeral Homes (Miami, Fla.) via electronic media. The plan is to meet in Marlborough September to join Mom and Dad together graveside. An announcement will be shared in the future.



**Colchester**

**Scott Michael Smith**

Scott Michael Smith, 44, of Colchester, passed away unexpectedly Tuesday, March 16. Born April 6, 1976, he was the beloved son of Gary and Katherine (Martin) Smith.

Scott grew up in Colchester and was a graduate of Bacon Academy. Over the years he worked in various fields, from food service to being a trader at local swap meets. Scott had a love for animals and nature, often spending time outdoors fishing, kayaking and hiking, and he was an avid Boston Red Sox fan. He also enjoyed cooking and he would spend countless hours in the library, as he loved to read. He loved music and playing his guitar. He was very gifted artistically.

Scott will be dearly missed by his parents and his sister Jaime and her husband Shawn Callaghan; his niece and nephew, Grace and Finn Callaghan; his beloved cat, Abby; and numerous other extended family and friends.

A memorial service will be scheduled at a later date.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that memorial donations be made to the Colchester Food Bank, 127 Norwich Ave., Colchester, or an animal shelter of choice.

Care of arrangements have been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester. For online condolences, please visit [www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com)



**YOUR AD SHOULD BE HERE!**  
Call us at: 860-633-4691

MAKE SURE THEY'RE IN THE RIGHT CAR SEAT  
[NHTSA.gov/TheRightSeat](http://NHTSA.gov/TheRightSeat)

**Be prepared, not scared.**

Considering the number of disasters that have occurred in the past decade, chances are you'll experience some sort of emergency. Between school, sports and other activities, chances are you won't be with your kids when it happens.

Ready.gov/kids has the tools to make preparing easy and even fun, so your kids can feel...

**Prepared, not scared.**

Go to [www.Ready.gov/kids](http://www.Ready.gov/kids) and talk to your family today.

ad COUNCIL Ready FEMA

**EXIT STAGE NEVER.**

Amy Meisner was diagnosed with MS in 1997. For someone who has always danced, MS would seem like the end. But for Amy, it means the start of a new chapter. She'll never leave the floor, still dances from her wheelchair, and is a great choreographer. Embracing Amy's undying passion, the National MS Society teamed up with LaTonya Swann to create an entirely new and inspired dance experience through virtual reality. See their experience and find out how you can share yours at [WeAreStrongerThanMS.org](http://WeAreStrongerThanMS.org).

**Together We Are Stronger.**

**MS National Multiple Sclerosis Society**

Cover Story • Cover Story

★ **Bransfield cont. from page 1**

very much admires Bransfield for her “unending work for the town of Portland.”

Needleman and Bransfield have worked together on several projects. In his role as First Selectman of Essex, Needleman worked closely with Bransfield in the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG).

Needleman said Bransfield’s multiple endorsements of his senate campaigns were a huge boost.

“There’s been no better mentor to me than Susan,” Needleman said. “She’s been a tremendous guiding light for me. I’m going to miss her sorely.”

Needleman said Bransfield has had an “outsized presence throughout the state for the selectperson of a small town,” noting Bransfield’s previous leadership of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM).

Needleman said Bransfield strikes an excellent balance between her role as a leader of a town, and as a leader in the state overall, finding solutions for both big picture and small-scale challenges.

Needleman said Bransfield’s announcement came as “a bit of a shock.”

State Rep. Christie Carpino (R-32) wrote in an email to the *Rivereast* that “Susan IS Portland.” Carpino’s district covers Portland and Cromwell.

“Portland was fortunate to have her as their leader, especially during some of our most difficult times,” Carpino said. “It was truly a privilege to work alongside her and I wish my friend all the best.”

Of her decision, Bransfield said, “The time always comes to turn the page and devote yourself to something new, to allow others to take the helm, which I think will be very positive for our town.”

**Town Pride**

Bransfield said the biggest accomplishment of her 18-year tenure was helping to foster and grow a sense of pride in Portland, whether through infrastructure, beautification and conservation, economic development, or encouraging the generosity of Portland residents.

“Our population is generous and kind to a person,” said Bransfield. “When times get difficult, people here step up and help.”

Bransfield said that just this week, her faith in the town’s generosity was once again affirmed; she visited the Portland Food Bank and saw a great number of donated items.

Personally, Bransfield said she takes pride in her eye for talented volunteers to run the town’s various commissions and grassroots organizations, like the Air Line Trail Steering Committee and the Portland Solidarity Task Force.

Bransfield said she views her role as one to help bring out “what people want of their town.”

“The people build the town,” she said. “You aren’t just building a trail or a recreational complex. You’re building a town. The more hands involved, the better and stronger the town will be.”

Bransfield said an early highlight of her career was when 70% of Portland’s voters voted for the town to purchase 300 acres of Connecticut Riverfront land, space that at the time had been eyed by a company for waste disposal.

She said in this effort, she was lucky that her predecessors also thought such an important part of town couldn’t be sold off to “a developer who wanted to store garbage along our riverfront.”

“It’s never about one person who is first selectman, the people decide what they want to do,” Bransfield said. “[The first selectperson] just has to be able to get those things done.”

Before her 2003 election, Bransfield served as a selectman and school board member. She lost one bid for the executive’s job before her successful run.

She said from the first day stepped into office those two decades ago, she focused on sustainable riverfront development and helping turn Portland’s quarries into money-making businesses.

Bransfield helped oversee the 2007 establishment of the town’s landmark Brownstone Exploration and Discovery Park. Since opening, the park has produced nearly \$4 million in revenue to the town.

“That’s a goodly sum for roads and sidewalks and schools,” said Bransfield. “It helps bring more people to town and helps establish our reputation.”

Bransfield named the Air Line Trail expansion, improving Portland’s roads and sidewalk connectivity, renewable energy projects like the solar panels on Brownstone Intermediate School, clean-up of local brownfields, and the Portland Recreational Complex as projects she was proud to have facilitated.

Finally, Bransfield said she also prides herself on an eye for talented staff, administrators and volunteers, saying local the local police, fire, public works, economic development, library and social service departments have all grown or improved due to the town’s able workforce.

**Local Leaders React**

Portland Superintendent of Schools Charles Britton said Bransfield has been a fantastic partner.

“Throughout the pandemic and in all matters involving town needs, Susan has shown a steadfast commitment to all Portland residents’ well-being,” Britton said in an email. “She is a tireless advocate for all of our students. I can’t thank her enough for her support and leadership throughout this challenging year.”

In a joint budget meeting of the selectmen and school board earlier this month, Britton said Bransfield has saved the district a lot of money through her skilled negotiations with contractors.

Board of Education Chairwoman Sharon Peters said she’s been privileged to serve with Bransfield on various commissions, and that the selectwoman’s guidance has led to many advances in town.

Bransfield’s fellow members of the Board of Selectmen also offered high praise.

“I want to thank Susan for her outstanding leadership,” said Selectman Jim Tripp. “I’ve had the privilege or working with Sue for many years, both through [volunteering and as a selectman].”

Tripp said he wanted to directly thank Bransfield for “all you have done, and continue to do, for Portland.”

Selectman Lou Pear said the town has been lucky to have a leader of Bransfield’s caliber, who is dedicated and “puts her heart into everything she does.”

Selectman Rick Sharr said he first met Bransfield when their respective children were in grammar school.

A local businessperson, Sharr worked with Bransfield in that vein, and then upon Sharr’s retirement from the private sector, the selectwoman encouraged Sharr, a Republican, to run for a selectman’s seat.

“I have thoroughly enjoyed serving on the board, and I always felt Susan gave me a voice at the table,” said Sharr. “[She is] open-minded and gracious to all those wanting to be heard.”

Sharr also said Bransfield never let partisanship impede good decision-making.

“She will be missed on the board and her many years of service to [the town] will be long remembered,” said Sharr.

Selectman Mike Hernandez said although he’s a new member and has worked with Bransfield for a relatively short time, that he is very proud of her accomplishments.

Lastly, selectman Michael Pelton said he has worked with Bransfield for many years, both on the Board of Selectmen and as members of the school board.

“I’ve been truly impressed at how smart and hard she works to improve Portland for [everyone],” said Pelton. “She’s well respected by both parties in town, as well as statewide, and I’m proud of the work she’s done, and how well we’ve all worked together.”

**A Note to Future Leaders**

Bransfield said women seeking political office face institutional barriers unknown to men in the same pursuits, including systemic sexism, misogyny and the infamous glass ceiling.

“Everyone, no matter their gender identity, is an equally contributing member of society,” she said. “Diversity is key to success.”

Bransfield said she has seen other women shatter that glass ceiling, especially in the fields of education and medicine.

“There’ve been improvements, but there’s a long way to go,” Bransfield said.

To all women and young girls wanting to run for public office, whether for a local school board or for the White House, Bransfield advises authenticity, resolve and humanity.

“Be true to yourself, understand your reasons for entering public life,” Bransfield said. “Don’t get marred or bruised because you stumbled and fell. People will make fun of your appearance, how you speak, how you wear your hair, but those are just tactics to bring you down. Hold your head high, know you will stumble, that opponents and people who say they’re your friends will say you can’t do it. Stay strong, and hold close your loved ones.”

★ **Retires cont. from page 1**

One expected benefit to readers, said Hallas, will be the introduction of color to the two newspapers, which have always been simply black and white due to press limitations. “I think that will be a very welcome addition,” he said.

The *Rare Reminder* has also agreed to retain the office at 87 Nutmeg Lane in Glastonbury for at least the next year. “With all reporters remaining on board, I expect there should be little change in local news coverage,” said Hallas.

*Rare Reminder* owner and publisher Kevin Rarey said this week, “Jim is just a great guy and we would be lucky to live up to his standards.”

As for his own departure, Hallas expressed

appreciation to the communities that have supported the two newspapers for so many years – and a warm farewell to the many thousands of readers, letter writers, critics and fans who have interacted with the papers through the years and helped shape them. “It’s easy to become jaded these days,” he remarked, “but I’ve found that there are far more good people out there than bad – even those misguided souls who insist on disagreeing with me.”

As for legacy, he observed, “We’ve always tried to be fair to all and to give everyone a voice. I’d like to think we’ve succeeded for the most part and that I leave having made more friends than enemies.”

**LEGALS**

**TOWN OF COLCHESTER  
LEGAL NOTICE**

At its meeting of March 17, 2021, the Planning and Zoning Commission made the following decisions:

1. Edward Wasniewski / Harvey Pond View LLC – 167 Marvin Road, Special Permit (2021-003) – The Commission APPROVED the special permit and site plan pursuant to Section 8.9.5.H, Rural Use District; and
2. CNMDD LLC – Regulation Amendment (2021-001) – The Commission APPROVED the regulation amendment to define Large Scale Agricultural Building, and add a new regulation authorizing a Large Scale Indoor Agricultural Zone as a floating zone.

All modifications/conditions are on file in the Planning Department. A copy of this notice has been filed in the Town Clerk’s office.  
Planning and Zoning Commission  
Joseph Mathieu, Chair

1TB 3/26

**TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH  
LEGAL NOTICE**

Residents in the sewer district in the Town of Marlborough are notified that the Benefit Assessment bills are due to the Marlborough Water Pollution Control Authority (MWPCA), April 1, 2021. The last day to pay without interest is May 3, 2021. Delinquent bills will be charged 1.5% per month reverting to the due date of April 1 or 18% per year. Minimum interest is \$5.00.

Payments may be paid at the Marlborough Town Hall, 26 No. Main Street or mailed to MWPCA, Tax Collector, PO Box 29, 26 No Main St., Marlborough, CT 06447. There is a Drop Box to the left of the Town Hall door for payments, and payments can be paid at the Tax Collector’s window. Normal office hours for the Tax Office are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Tuesdays 8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m. and Fridays 8:30 a.m. to noon.

To keep everyone safe from the Coronavirus, please check the Marlborough website, marlboroughct.net, for updates for safe in-person Benefit Assessment payment protocol. Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara C Murray, CCMC

3TB 3/26, 4/2, 4/23

**ADVERTISERS**

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

**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON  
LEGAL NOTICE  
Notice of Hearing**

The East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a regular meeting on April 7, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. to consider the following (contact the Land Use Department for location details):

Application PZC-20-024: Paula Free, 249 West High St., for a special permit per Sec. 8.4 Motor Fuel Filling Station for a proposed convenience store Map 06/Block 12/Lot 1B.

Application PZC-20-026: Long Hill Estates, LLC., Long Hill Estate Subdivision, for a Zone Change R-2 to C Map 06/Block 12/Lot 8-1

Application PZC-21-005: JCG Properties, LLC., 9 Middle Haddam Rd., for a 2-lot subdivision Map 01C/Block 9/Lot 5

Application PZC-21-007: Atlantis Marketing, 157 Main St., 1 Colchester Ave., 5 Colchester Ave., for a zone change from R-2 to Commercial. Map 07A/Block 56/Lots 21, 22 and 24.

Application PZC-21-006: James Marino, Deer Meadow, for a Special Permit for an Accessory Apartment Map 35/Block 95/Lot 7-44

Ray Zatorski, Chairman  
Note\* any question re: Applications and Maps are on file in the Land Use Office 860-267-7450.

2TB 3/26, 4/2

**TOWN OF PORTLAND  
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION  
LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION**

At the March 18, 2021 meeting, the following action was taken:

APPROVED with Conditions PZC Application #20-10: 1561 Portland-Cobalt Road. Request for renewal of a three-year special permit to excavate and remove up to 203,448 cubic yards of earth material in the remaining two phases and for the associated on-site screening and crushing. Application and property of Riverside Equities, LLC. Assessor’s Map 6 Lot 21-1, Zone B2.  
Dated at Portland, CT. this 22nd day of March 2021  
Robert Ellsworth, Chairman  
Planning & Zoning Commission

1TB 3/26

**EMPLOYMENT**

**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](mailto:kcifaldi@colebrookvillage.com)

0TB 3/21

**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](mailto:kcifaldi@colebrookvillage.com)

0TB 3/21

**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](mailto:psmith@easthamptonct.org). The Town of East Hampton is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

2TB 3/19, 3/26

**SEASONAL GROUNDS  
MAINTENANCE WORKER  
Town of Portland, CT (EOE)  
Deadline: 03/29/2021**

One part-time Seasonal Grounds position to work April, May, June, August, September, October. Work involves: lawn care, athletic field maintenance and other related grounds maintenance activities. Subject to pre-employment drug/alcohol testing. Flexible schedule, up to 24 hrs wkly; non-union; no benefits. Must have HS diploma or GED, CT Driver’s License.  
Send General Employment Application to: **First Selectwoman’s Office, P.O. Box 71, Portland CT 06480-0071**

1TB 3/26



# EMPLOYMENT

**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

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

**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.

**SHEEHAN TREE REMOVAL IS A SMALL FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED TREE COMPANY BASED OUT OF EAST HAMPTON, CT. WE ARE LOOKING TO HIRE A TREE WORKER** to assist in the daily operations. This is a part time position with the possibility of becoming full time. Having any experience is a plus but we are willing to train the right person. Must be physically capable of hard work and a willingness to be a team player. Having a positive attitude and being honest are two of the most important characteristics we are looking for. If you like working outdoors in all types of weather and enjoy doing a good job for the sake of doing a good job then this might be an opportunity for you. Pay is based on experience. Contact us if you're interested: sheehanreemove@gmail.com

**CASHIER POSITION AVAILABLE** at a gas station in Glastonbury. FT or PT. Will train. Please call 860-617-4349

**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.

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

**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

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

## 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](http://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

**YOUR AD SHOULD BE HERE!**

**CALL US AT: 860-633-4691**

## Summer Help Wanted

The Town of Marlborough is currently accepting applications for lifeguards. Applications can be found at [Marlboroughct.net](http://Marlboroughct.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



**SPRING**

## Saint Clement's

CASTLE & MARINA

Looking for motivated individuals to join our team. Currently seeking waitstaff, kitchen utility, maintenance and grounds/housemen positions. Every position is an integral part in providing an exceptional experience for our couples and guests! Must be available to work weekends and have a flexible schedule. Banquet venue experience preferred.

If you would like to be considered for employment please complete the Employment Application at: [www.saintclementscastle.com/employment](http://www.saintclementscastle.com/employment)

If you have further questions you can call 860-342-0593 or email: [eventmanagers@saintclementscastle.com](mailto:eventmanagers@saintclementscastle.com)

### 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

### NOW HIRING!

**WENTWORTH CONCRETE & CONSTRUCTION**

**860-819-4821**

E-MAIL: [WCCONSTRUCTIONLLC@YAHOO.COM](mailto:WCCONSTRUCTIONLLC@YAHOO.COM)  
CT LIC# 0648345

**Construction**  
- Yard Expansions  
- Excavation  
- Drainage  
- Grading  
- Driveways  
- Installation & Repairs

**Concrete**  
- Foundations  
- Floors  
- Sidewalks  
- Steps / Porches

### 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](http://www.salemct.gov)

Email resume and completed application to: [Meredith.Eisenberg@salemct.gov](mailto:Meredith.Eisenberg@salemct.gov)

### Town of Marlborough Employment Opportunity Position: Highway and Fleet Foreman

Complete job description and application are available online at [www.marlboroughct.net](http://www.marlboroughct.net) (> Departments, >Town Clerk), or in person from the Office of the Town Clerk PO Box 29 Marlborough, CT 06447

**JOB SUMMARY**  
Engages in hands-on planning, organization and supervision of the highway maintenance crew in the construction, repair and maintenance of the Town's highway infrastructure and fleet vehicles to provide a safe well maintained, environmentally sound roadway network for the public.  
**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED**  
The skills and knowledge required would generally be acquired from a minimum of a high school diploma or equivalent, and ten (10) years of progressively responsible experience in highway maintenance or construction work. Candidates must possess five (5) years of experience in supervising union and non-union employees and good interpersonal and supervisory skills. The position requires a minimum of five (5) years of experience in the operation and maintenance of heavy construction and maintenance equipment, or any equivalent combination of education and skills that demonstrates possession of the required knowledge, skills and abilities to perform the functions of the position.  
**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS**  
• Able to obtain a Transfer Station operator's certification within one year of employment.  
• Possess a CDL Class B with endorsement N. (Restrictions E, F, K and L will not be allowed)  
• Certification as a Tree Warden is preferred, or ability to obtain certification within one year of employment.  
**FILING REQUIREMENTS**  
Interested candidates should submit a fully completed Application for Employment, Resume, and Cover Letter to: Office of the Town Clerk PO Box 29 26 North Main Street Marlborough, CT 06447  
**The Town of Marlborough is an Equal Opportunity Employer**  
We consider applicants for all positions without regard to race, creed, religion, gender, national origin, disability, age, marital status, sexual orientation, or any other legally protected status. 4TB 3/26, 4/2, 4/9, 4/16

### 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

### To Advertise Call 860-633-4691

### 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/easthamptn/onlineapp/>. For further information contact Mary Clark, [mclark@easthamptonct.org](mailto:mclark@easthamptonct.org).  
The Town of East Hampton is an Equal Opportunity Employer. 2TB 3/19, 3/26

## REAL ESTATE

### RENTALS

**2 BEDROOM APARTMENT IN MARLBOROUGH FOR RENT.** Newly renovated. Washer & dryer hookup. \$1000./month. Credit check and security deposit required. Available April 1. Call 860-993-2875

**Glastonbury Center - 2 Bdrm \$1,390 Inc. Heat / Hot water.** Excellent condition. Large 2 bdrm; Lvg room; 1 bath; large tiled kitchen with quartz & stainless range, fridge, dish, and microwave; hardwood floors throughout. Private parking lot; laundry in building; large storage area. Heat and hot water included. Perfect for someone looking for an immaculate apartment. \$1,390/mo. 860-798-7403.

**GLASTONBURY SIDE-BY-SIDE DUPLEX** on nice street. 2 bedrooms with garage. Private office, gas heat. \$1350./month. Call 860-338-0023.

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### Scholarship Offered by Garden Clubs

The Portland garden clubs are offering a \$500 scholarship to a graduating high school senior who lives in town and has been accepted at an accredited college or post-secondary school.

Applicants must plan to major in one of the following: agronomy, botany, city planning, conservation, environmental studies, floriculture, forestry, horticulture, land management, landscape design, plant pathology, or an allied subject. Applicants also must have a grade point average of at least 3.0.

The scholarship is funded from the pro-

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

Applications are available at the Portland High School guidance office, 95 High St., or Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave. Completed applications are due April 1. For more information, call 860-685-0593.

### Portland Exchange Offering Scholarship

The Portland Exchange Club is offering the \$1,000 John W. Goodrich Scholarship to any Portland resident senior going on to a higher education institution after graduation.

When determining the winner, the club will consider community service, academic achievement and participation in extracurricular activities. Applications are at the Portland High School counseling center and at [www.portlandexchange.org/john-w-goodrich-scholarship](http://www.portlandexchange.org/john-w-goodrich-scholarship). Deadline to apply is April 17.

### Drive-Thru Palm Distribution

In addition to the distribution of palms during regular Palm Sunday Mass this weekend, St. Mary Church, located at 45 Freestone Ave., will hold a drive-thru distribution of palms from noon-1 p.m. Sunday.

Attendees must enter the church parking lot from Route 66 and exit from Freestone Avenue.

### Kindergarten Registration

Children who will be 5 on or before Jan. 1, 2022, are eligible for Valley View School kindergarten for the 2021-22 school year.

Interested parents/guardians should contact Valley View at [pgross@portlandct.us](mailto:pgross@portlandct.us) and provide the child's full name, phone number and address. Further information regarding kindergarten registration will then be provided.

### Police News

3/20: Kyle Northup, 34, of Middletown, was charged with driving under the influence, Portland Police said.

### Scholarship Available

Any local high school senior entering college in the fall can apply for a \$1,000 scholarship offered by Guild and Associates.

Visit [www.carlguild.com/scholarship](http://www.carlguild.com/scholarship) for an application. Deadline is April 1.

### Bill Peterson Memorial Scholarship

Portland Soccer Club (PSC) offering the \$500 Bill Peterson Memorial Scholarship to a high school senior headed to college or a post-high school institution.

Applicants must be a Portland resident and played a minimum of two years with the PSC. Applicants must also submit a 250-word essay entitled "How Soccer Inspired Me to Give Back to the Community."

Applications are at [www.bluesombrero.com/portlandsoccerclub](http://www.bluesombrero.com/portlandsoccerclub) under the Community Link drop-down, and are due May 1.

### Project Grad Fundraiser

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

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

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

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

### Exchange Club Golf Tourney

The Exchange Club of Portland will hold its annual charity golf tournament Friday, May 7, at Portland Golf Course. Proceeds support various local programs and charities.

Cost is \$165/golfer for the four-person scramble event, and includes cart, breakfast, lunch and dinner. Registration and sponsorship brochures are available at many town businesses and at [www.portlandexchange.org](http://www.portlandexchange.org).

### No Brush Pick-Up This Year

Due to the extensive brush pick-up that was done after Tropical Storm Isaias, the town will not be doing brush pick-up this year. It will resume pick-up in spring 2022 and will then continue every other year.

Residents with a permit may bring brush to the Transfer Station. (Permits may also be purchased there.) Brush must be no larger than 4 inches in diameter and will be charged based on weight.

### Virtual Tour of CT Wine Country

All are invited to take a virtual ride through Connecticut's wine country and learn about the state's more than 40 wineries Tuesday, April 6, at 7 p.m., via Zoom.

In this program, offered by Portland Library, is Michelle Griffis, nicknamed by friends as "The Nutmeg Nose," will discuss the array of wineries in Connecticut. She will also share dining options which include vineyards with on-site cafés, food trucks, and BYO picnic options.

There is a Zoom link on the library webpage, [www.portlandlibraryct.org](http://www.portlandlibraryct.org). The ID is 8603426777 and the passcode is Portland.

For more information, call the library at 860-342-6770.

### Soccer Club Taking Spring Registrations

Through April 25, Portland Soccer Club is taking registrations for the spring season. All COVID-19 protocols will be followed. Registration is online only, at [www.bluesombrero.com/portlandsoccerclub](http://www.bluesombrero.com/portlandsoccerclub).

**Club Soccer:** Runs May 1-June 12 (seven-week season). All games are at the New Portland Recreational Complex. Cost and schedule: 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.

**Travel-Town Soccer:** Cost per travel registrant is \$100 for U9 to U15. The Travel Division will be in-house only, 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 hold additional foot skill, shooting and goalie training throughout the season; this additional training is included in the registration fee.

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

### Trinity Episcopal Church News

Trinity Episcopal Church, 345 Main St., has announced its Holy Week and Easter schedule; all are invited. Complete information is available on the church website, [trinitychurchportlandct.org](http://trinitychurchportlandct.org), and by looking for "Trinity Episcopal Church \* Portland" on Facebook.

On Palm Sunday, there will be a "Drive-In" service in the parking lot at 9 a.m., and a Zoom service at 10:30 a.m. A Maundy Thursday service, where the altar will be stripped in preparation for Good Friday, will be available on Facebook or the church website on April 1 after 8 p.m.

On Good Friday, the church will provide a prerecorded "Stations of the Cross" on Facebook and its website beginning at noon April 2. The stations will be set up on the parking lot lawn and will be available for individuals from the community to contemplatively or medita-

tively, walk with Jesus to the cross. The stations will be available from Thursday afternoon through Saturday afternoon (April 1-3).

On Easter Sunday, a prerecorded service from the sanctuary will be available via Facebook or the church website beginning at 8 a.m. April 4. There will also be a "drive-in" Easter service, in the parking lot, at 9 a.m., and a Zoom service at 10:30 a.m.

The church is open for prayer and meditation on Fridays from 2-4 p.m. Any group meeting at the church must follow current COVID-19 protocols including wearing masks and social distancing.

For more information on church activities or to make an appointment with the Rev. Darryl Burke, email [trinitychurchportlandct@gmail.com](mailto:trinitychurchportlandct@gmail.com) or call 860-342-0458.

### 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](http://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: 8:30 a.m. Mass (livestreamed); 10 a.m. Mass; 11:30 a.m. Mass.

**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.

### Takeout Pasta Dinner

The Freestone Council Knights of Columbus will provide a takeout pasta dinner Wednesday, April 7, from 4-6 p.m., at St. Mary Church to help fund the council's charitable works.

The dinner will include homemade pasta and meatballs, salad and roll. Cost is \$10 each, or \$30 for a family serving. No pre-order is necessary. On the day of the meal, chefs are available at 860-342-2713 for any questions.

For home delivery, call Mike Melluzzo at 860-342-1983.

### ADVERTISERS

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

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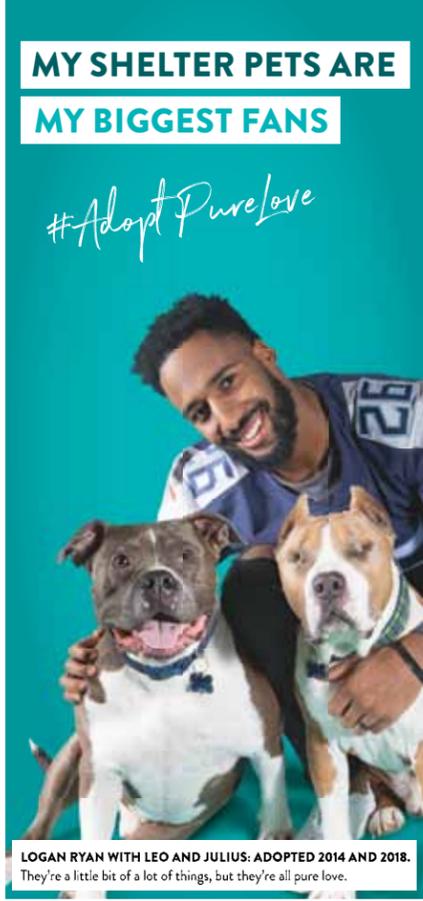
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**Off to Fairfield...** East Hampton High School senior Alexandre' McMillian recently signed a letter of commitment to run cross country at Fairfield University. McMillian is a four-year member of the cross country, indoor track and track teams at East Hampton High School. He is the son of Andre' and Jaime McMillian.



**Soccer Signing...** East Hampton High School senior Kyla Norton recently signed a letter of commitment to play soccer at Western Connecticut State University. Norton is a four-year member of the soccer program at East Hampton High School. She is the daughter of Chad and Holly Norton.

## 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.

**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.

**Adult and High School Pick-Up Soccer:** Wednesdays, April 21-May 26, 6:30-7:45 p.m., at East Hampton High School. Fee: \$40/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:** Tuesdays, April 20-May 25, at EHMS, for grades 6-8. 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.

## 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](http://www.christchurchmiddlehaddam.com).

## Quilt Show Coming

Haddam Neck Congregational Church will hold its 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. This year, the show is being combined with the Ladies Aid Plant Sale.

Due to COVID-19, 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](mailto:elizabethhartmalloy@gmail.com), or Franky Dallas at 860-267-4513. Visit [www.haddamneckcongregationalchurch.org](http://www.haddamneckcongregationalchurch.org) for church directions.

## Helping Hands

Helping Hands, a ministry of Cornerstone Bible Church, is open the first and third Saturdays of each month. The ministry offers free gently-used clothing, household items, books, linens and more to community members in need.

All must sign up for a time slot and wear a mask when entering. To register, call 860-918-0784 or email [jholm225@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jholm225@sbcglobal.net), on the Sunday before the open Saturday.

Helping Hands will accept donations only on the first and third Saturday of each month.

## Scholarship Available

Any local high school senior entering college in the fall can apply for a \$1,000 scholarship offered by Guild and Associates.

Visit [www.carlguild.com/scholarship](http://www.carlguild.com/scholarship) for an application. Deadline is April 1.

## Bethlehem Lutheran Church News

During the pandemic, Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church is holding weekly services via Zoom. All are welcome; log-in information can be found at [www.facebook.com/BethlehemEH](http://www.facebook.com/BethlehemEH).

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

## East Hampton 'Big Easy' Raffle

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

Tickets are \$10 each. Grand prize is a Big E Golden Ticket - lifetime entry privileges for The Big E for the winner and one guest for every day of the fair. Parking is included. Second prize is four one-day tickets to the Big E, and third prize is a \$50 gift card for Thormerest Farm in Goshen.

The drawing will be Saturday, May 8, at Sears Park, and will be livestreamed on [easthamptonct.rotary7980gives.org/goldenticket](http://easthamptonct.rotary7980gives.org/goldenticket) and the East Hampton Connecticut Rotary Club Facebook page.

For tickets, visit [www.easthamptonrotary.org](http://www.easthamptonrotary.org) or contact any East Hampton Rotarian.

## 'Belltown Spring Sprint' Returns in May

East Hampton High School Project Graduation will hold the Belltown Spring Sprint, a run/walk to raise funds for a drug- and alcohol-free graduation night, Sunday, May 2, on the EHHS grounds, 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. 5K runners who register by April 10 receive a free T-shirt.

To register, visit [belltownspringsprint5k.it-yourrace.com](http://belltownspringsprint5k.it-yourrace.com). For more information, email Melissa Curylo at [ehhsctprojgrad@gmail.com](mailto:ehhsctprojgrad@gmail.com).

## Athletic Hall Of Fame Nominations

The East Hampton Athletic Hall of Fame is accepting nominations through Sept. 15 for its 2021 induction class. The Hall of Fame has inducted over 47 athletes, coaches, teams and contributors since 2006.

The Hall of Fame recognizes people and teams that have "made a significant impact to the athletic landscape of East Hampton." While there was no election in 2020 due to COVID-19, in 2019 the Hall of Fame inducted Bill Willkie (Outstanding Coach), Darin Aloia (All-State Baseball), and the 1969 East Hampton Senior League All Star Baseball team.

The induction banquet this year will be Friday, Nov. 5, at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron.

For more information or to nominate a person or team, email Tom Seidl at [seidl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:seidl@sbcglobal.net).

## Chatham Gallery Opens at Town Hall

The East Hampton Art Association recently revealed its new Chatham Art Gallery. It is located in the new Town Hall at 1 Community Drive. It has lighting to show off everyone's artwork.

The Chatham Gallery is accessible for delivering and hanging artwork as there is an elevator just inside the front door. The gallery has the Walker system installed, which makes it easy to adjust the artwork. The gallery is located near the Town Manager's office at the top of the stairs.

The East Hampton Art Association welcomes all to stop by and view the artwork. Members who would like to show their artwork should call Lenora Bear to schedule a month for your showing. If you are not a member, the dues are \$15 for a year.

## Resident Graduates

Matthew Flynn of East Hampton recently graduated from Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y., earning a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering.

## Beginner Bellringer Preschool

East Hampton High School's Beginner Bellringer Preschool Program is taking applications for the 2021 school year. For an application, email Kasey Tortora at [ktortora@easthamptonct.org](mailto:ktortora@easthamptonct.org). Applications are due 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.

Cost is \$200 per student. Enrollment is limited; applications will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis. All children must be toilet-trained, and must have documentation of a current physical and adequate immunizations.

## Lions Offering Scholarships

The East Hampton Lions Club is offering three scholarships and one service award to all East Hampton graduating seniors. Seniors can apply for one of the awards offered.

Applicants must be attending public, private, charter or magnet schools, or are currently home-schooled. They must plan to attend an accredited college, university or trade school.

Applications are available at the East Hampton High School guidance office, and are due April 5.

## Knights of Columbus Raffle

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

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

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

Tickets are \$10 each and may be purchased through any of the Knights members or by calling Bob DeMarchi at 860-267-5978.

# On it.

Ending racial injustice requires all of us to work together and take real action.

**What can you do to help?**

- Educate yourself about the history of American racism, privilege and what it means to be anti-racist.
- Commit to actions that challenge injustice and make everyone feel like they belong, such as challenging biased or racist language when you hear it.
- Vote in national and local elections to ensure your elected officials share your vision of public safety.
- Donate to organizations, campaigns and initiatives who are committed to racial justice.



Let's come together to take action against racism and fight for racial justice for the Black community. Visit [lovehasnolabels.com/fightforfreedom](http://lovehasnolabels.com/fightforfreedom)



# Veterans Monument Park to Be Beautified and Get Upgrades

by Sloan Brewster

Gerry Wright of Andover is planning to spruce up Veterans Monument Park ahead of the June 5 unveiling of the Agent Orange Monument.

In a phone call Tuesday, Wright, who designed and is having the monument built, said he plans to begin beautification efforts at the park next week with the goal of having them completed by the June debut.

The monument remembers veterans who died from or have ailments caused by Agent Orange and was inspired by a similar memorial Wright saw in Ennis, Texas.

The black granite monument will depict an orange and yellow heart with a C-123 airplane, like the ones used to spray the chemical over Vietnam, Wright said. Inscribed around the heart will be the words "Agent Orange, in memory of all those who died because of this chemical. Please pray for those veterans who continue to suffer because of it. Remember their sacrifice."

The front of the stone's base will have the words, "May this small plot of ground serve as a reminder for those exposed to chemical and genetic warfare for generations to come."

On the base's back will be the words, "They served, they fought, they died and received neither their country's glory nor their country's compassion."

The back will also have a laser-etched scene, though exactly what it will portray Wright has not divulged.

Wright said he's frustrated that the town has been stalling the effort to beautify the park, especially since he is funding it.

"June 5 is coming really quickly," he said. "I need to get the monument done."

The town is not funding landscaping or ground work at the park; Wright is covering that with funds he raised to pay for the monument. Selectmen, however, are organizing the effort.

During last week's Board of Selectmen meeting, Vice First Selectman Adrian Mandeville said everyone involved should meet "so we're all on the same page," before Wright starts his work.

According to Wright, that interference is slowing things down.

"It's so frustrating," he said. "If I'm raising the funds, let me have at it."

He said he will be doing a site visit to the park with selectmen Friday and has every intention of getting to fixing it up next week. The project will include moving the cannon that is currently there to make way for the monument, grading the ground to make it level, putting in pavers, adding flowers and shrubbery and seeding grass, including along a walking path that will lead to the monument.

In addition to the monument, Wright will be installing two benches and a walkway made of bricks inscribed with the names of veterans.

Veterans or their family members can get bricks for the walkway for an \$80 donation. Wright said after the walkway is in, some of the bricks will be blank and can be replaced with inscribed bricks.

Once the monument is installed, it will remain covered until its formal presentation on June 5 at 4 p.m.

Wright is still accepting donations for the monument and additional park improvements to make it a destination.

"This monument isn't for Andover; it's not for Connecticut. It's for everybody who was exposed to this dioxin by our government," he said. "It just happens to be in Andover. It's for everybody."

## Park Improvements

Last week, selectmen directed Town Administrator Eric Anderson to meet with the Board of Finance and find up to \$20,000 to fund some park improvements but the money is not for beautification. The funds will pay for drilling a new well, putting in an underground vault for the well-pump and running electricity to light the monument.

In a phone call Monday, Anderson said he had a meeting scheduled with the finance board Wednesday to find the money, which will come from the current budget.

Issues at the park include that the existing wells are too shallow and lack the flow capability to support an irrigation system, Anderson said.

## 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](http://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.

## Preschool Openings

The 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.

For more information or a registration packet, call 860-742-7339 or download a packet from [www.andoverelementaryct.org](http://www.andoverelementaryct.org).

## 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.

"You can use it for hand watering and going down there with a hose," he said.

Mandeville said digging a new well could open the possibility of installing bathrooms and/or a water fountain near the Museum of Andover History, which the well will also serve.

An attraction along the rail trail, the museum has a well that also has problems and the building has no public restrooms.

"It opens up possibilities," Mandeville said. "We're just trying to think of a long term vision here."

For the past two years, a portable toilet has been set up outside the museum and has served folks using the trail, Anderson said. The nearest public restroom is nine miles away in Bolton Notch.

Anderson said adding a water fountain would be valuable to trail users.

"If you think about the length of the rail trail from Willimantic through to the terminus in Manchester, there really are not any convenient places – certainly not public places – that you can stop for water," he said.

In a 2018-Long Term Planning Committee survey, more than 70% of respondents said they use the rail trail, Anderson said.

"It's probably the most highly used town amenity – even though it's a state amenity," he said.

## Unveiling

Wright is planning a big affair around the unveiling, including veteran performers and guest speakers, army trucks and a 1968 Bell UH-1 Iro-

quois helicopter known as a "Huey."

"There's nothing like the sound of a Huey helicopter for a Vietnam veteran," he said. "Brings up a lot of memories."

Wright, who said there would also be a food truck, said he does not anticipate the pandemic will interfere with the event.

"The governor said everybody in Connecticut will be [vaccinated] by the middle of May," he said. "We have to do this rain or shine."

Wright is among Vietnam veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange, an herbicide or defoliant that contains the contaminant Dioxin and was sprayed over Vietnam by the U.S. military.

Wright, who spent two tours in Vietnam, has health issues because of the toxin.

During two motorcycle tours of the country, he has gotten petitions in favor of and rallied the U.S. government to pass a law to get treatment and disability for veterans exposed to the contaminant, but whose ailments have been all but ignored.

For order forms, contact the town clerk's office at 860-742-0188. Forms are also available on the town website, [www.andoverconnecticut.org](http://www.andoverconnecticut.org), and are also on Wright's Facebook page, [Sprayed & Betrayed AO](https://www.facebook.com/Sprayed&BetrayedAO).

Anyone interested in contributing to the monument can send donations to Gerry Wright at P.O. Box 274, Andover, CT 06232. Make checks out to Legion Post 95 and in the memo put "AO Andover Monument."

## 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, one 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](mailto:andoverctchurch@gmail.com) or visit [www.andoverctchurch.org](http://www.andoverctchurch.org).

**Bible Study:** Tuesday mornings both via Zoom and in person at the church (observ-

ing 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.

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

## Preschool Screening

The Andover Board of Education will hold a screening Friday, May 14, for 3- and 4-year-old children living in town.

School staff will send home an age-appropriate questionnaire for parents to fill out about their children, with questions in the areas of speech, language, cognitive, and motor development.

To have your child screened, contact the director of special education at 860-742-7339 or [maioranoh@andoverelementaryct.org](mailto:maioranoh@andoverelementaryct.org).

## 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](http://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](mailto:jenniferb@ahmyouth.org) for more information.

## Library Friends Launch Annual Appeal

The Andover Friends of the Library group has launched a membership drive/annual appeal.

To join this 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, which helps support Andover Public Library, donations are: \$3 senior/student, \$5 individual, \$10 family, \$25 business, \$150 lifetime, \$500 patron. Mail donations to Andover Friends of the Library, P.O. Box 117, Andover, CT 06232.

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/ayrsvpsk](http://tinyurl.com/ayrsvpsk).

## Filling of the Lake

Andover Lake will begin filling to summer water level on this Saturday, March 27.

## 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.

## LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF ANDOVER REVENUE COLLECTOR'S NOTICE

To the taxpayers of the Town of Andover – the fourth installment of the taxes listed on the October 1, 2019 Grand List becomes due and payable to the Town of Andover on April 1, 2021. Payments must be postmarked, paid online, or brought to lockbox outside Town Hall by May 1, 2021 to avoid penalty. Interest will be charged starting May 2, 2021 on all delinquent bills at a rate of 18% per year (1.5% per month) from the due date of April 1st, with a minimum charge of \$2 for each bill. All Tax bills under \$3 have been waived.

Online credit card payments may be made at [www.andoverct.org](http://www.andoverct.org). Checks or money orders payments may be placed in the locked drop box at Town Hall. Payments by check or money order may be mailed to the Tax Collector's office. Failure to receive a tax bill will not invalidate the tax or any interest which may, by State law, accrue.

Please refer to the Town website [www.andoverct.org](http://www.andoverct.org) for Town Hall hours.

If you have any questions, please contact our office at 860-742-4035, option 4.

Eileen Curtin, Tax Collector  
Town of Andover  
17 School Road  
Andover, CT 06232

3TB 3/26, 4/2, 4/23

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WHATEVER  
JUST  
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