

**RIVEREAST**

# News Bulletin

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

Volume 45, Number 12

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

March 5, 2021



**Thanks to a \$20,000 donation from the Petzold family, owners of Petzold's Marine Center, the Portland Police Department was able to acquire a new police K-9 named Magnus. The town recently presented the Petzolds with a certificate of thanks. Pictured from left are, back row, Bob Petzold, Dominic Valente (Bob Petzold's stepson), and Ken Petzold; front row, Magnus, Sgt. James Kelly, Heather Petzold-Bell, and Portland First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield.**

by Jack Lakowsky

For Bob and Ken Petzold, owners of Petzold's Marine Center in Portland, donating \$20,000 to the Portland Police Department to bring in a new K-9 officer was an easy choice to make.

Bob Petzold spoke about the donation to the *Rivereast* on Tuesday.

"I went up to Ken, who's a huge dog lover, and explained to him what happened with Nero," Petzold said, referring to the previous police K-9 who was tragically diagnosed with cancer last year and passed away recently.

After being told Portland Police were looking to fund a new K-9, Ken Petzold simply asked of his brother, "How much do they need?"

Twenty thousand dollars later – enter Magnus, a 16-month-old German shepherd.

Nero's partner, Portland Police Sgt. James Kelly, will be Magnus' partner as well.

Kelly on Tuesday said Magnus still has some training to undergo and certifications to complete before becoming fully active in town.

Kelly said he had expected a little more time to pass before taking on a new K-9, but Magnus' breeder reached out to the department and said Magnus was excelling, ready to come out of his "basic training" phase to find his new job and his new home.

Magnus, like Nero, will live with Kelly and his family. They've been introduced and already get along famously.

After Nero's passing, the department set up a GoFundMe, and sent out a flyer requesting donations.

This is how Petzold caught wind of the department's need.

"The GoFundMe was great, but those can be a little slow," Petzold said. "It sounded like a really good cause. The money didn't matter. We discussed it and dropped off a check that night."

Just a day later, police said they found Mag-

nus.

"They had no intentions of getting one so quickly, but the breeder called and said they had a perfect dog," Petzold said. "Things happen for a reason."

Petzold said the sizable donations lines up with his business' commitment to supporting the community.

"We've been in town for 75 years, and it has been really good to us," Petzold said. "We support anything we can locally. Our company vehicles say, 'Support Local Police,' and that isn't to get out of tickets. We appreciate everything they do."

As fate would have it, Magnus was able to meet his patron. Petzold said Kelly happened to be at the boatyard on police business a few days after Magnus first arrived.

"Magnus gave me a big hug," Petzold said. "What a beautiful, gorgeous dog."

Kelly said Magnus is an eager and able trainee.

"He very much wants to learn, wants to be part of a team," Kelly told the *Rivereast*. "He's also of a lot of fun, and he's great at home."

Kelly said, because funding K-9 officers carries quite a price tag, programs are often funded through donations like Petzold's.

"Thanks just aren't even enough," Kelly said.

Kelly said that, on average, police dogs serve their towns from six to eight years. He said the department is slowly planning a community introduction to Magnus, an event made difficult by cold weather and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kelly during his school patrol duties has introduced Magnus to district students and staff but is looking forward to a more "official" introduction event with the whole town.

Magnus will be Kelly's second K-9 partner. Kelly expects Magnus to serve in full capacity

*See New Pooch, page 23*

## Hebron School Board to Present 5% Increase Next Week

by Sloan Brewster

Hebron's Board of Education will present its proposed \$12.17 million 2021-22 schools budget to the Board of Finance at its meeting next Tuesday.

Last month, the school board, by consensus, agreed to budget reductions bringing the proposed spending package to \$12.17 million, a \$613,257 or 5.3%, increase over the current year's \$11.56 million spending plan.

When he made his initial budget proposal in January, Superintendent of Schools Thomas Baird said the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic was responsible for a large portion on the increased costs but said there was also an uptick in enrollment – which, interestingly, was an unanticipated side effect of COVID-19.

With new families moving into the district, enrollment is climbing by 48 students, or 7.5%, Baird said.

"I'm labeling it as a celebration. We have a lot of new families that have moved into Hebron

for the last year," he said. "We were already projected to welcome our largest incoming kindergarten class."

The district is on pace with registration to "meet or exceed" 100 incoming kindergarten students.

Board of Education Chairman Heather Petit, when Baird first informed the board of the increase in student population, said the influx of students was a good sign for the district.

"Our school system, our staff, our teachers, it's a reputation that proceeds us and people move here for the schools," she said. "You're talking 50 students, which is wonderful."

Planning for COVID-19 is a challenge because it is an unknown, Baird said.

"I don't think we can begin talking about the 2021-22 budget without identifying the elephant in the room here, which is COVID and how we have to continue with mitigation strategies and how that adds uncertainty and adds

cost," he said, adding that next year's plans include planning which of those strategies to continue and which to sunset.

At a budget workshop on Feb. 4, Baird reiterated those comments, saying that one of the biggest budget challenges was how to build plans for COVID-19 mitigation and distance learning "when we don't know what it's going to look like" or what funding sources will come in.

Items Baird included in the budget due to COVID-19, were maintaining one additional bus, which he said has helped students keep their social distance; keeping an additional half-time custodian, an extra licensed practical nurse, a half-time interventionist and personal protective equipment.

For the anticipated additional student population, he said "we will be eyeing" an additional kindergarten class, which means a teacher, paraprofessional, supplies and furniture.

To keep class size the same and thereby qual-

ify for class size reduction grants, he wants to maintain an additional teacher currently in second grade. A third grade teacher would also be moved to fourth grade to maintain the same size classes in that grade level.

Capital improvements Baird proposes will run \$51,290 and include replacing the district's clock system and a new generator at Hebron Elementary School, Baird said. Contractual and other changes will cost \$185,590.

Since Baird's original presentation, the district has learned of additional COVID-19 reimbursements that will offset \$54,835.00 in anticipated COVID-19 expenses, the superintendent said in an email.

The administration also found \$50,783 in savings in insurance and salaries, Baird said. An additional \$28,190 in reductions was achieved when the board quit its membership in the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education

*See School Board, page 23*

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*From the Editor's Desk*

## Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Given that facemasks ridiculously became a politicized issue, I guess I shouldn't be surprised COVID-19 vaccinations have as well.

Earlier this week, I came across an ongoing survey conducted by the online polling and analytics company Civiqs – and the responses weren't altogether encouraging. The survey asked people, quite simply, if they plan to receive the COVID-19 vaccination.

As of March 2, 47% said yes and 24% said no, with 11% saying they were unsure, and 18% saying they'd already been vaccinated.

However, when you break the responses down by demographics, you notice a discouraging trend. Among Democrats, 65% said yes, they would get the vaccine, while 6% said no, they wouldn't. Among Republicans, though, just 29% said yes, while 41% said no. (Somewhat encouragingly, though, the split among Democrats and Republicans who'd already received the vaccine was less stark; 22% of Democrats said they'd already been vaccinated, while 16% of Republicans said they had.)

President Biden announced Tuesday the U.S. expects to have enough coronavirus vaccines for all adult Americans by the end of May – two months earlier than anticipated. That's fantastic news, as it gives hope to eradicating the virus that much sooner, and raises the possibility that maybe, just maybe, we can have at least a somewhat normal summer this year.

But we could have endless supplies of the vaccine and it doesn't matter if people won't receive it. Which is what made it all the more frustrating when word leaked out Monday that, in the waning days of his presidency back in January, Donald Trump was vaccinated, and just didn't tell anybody.

I understand there are questions in regards

to the safety of the vaccine, but, given the reach Trump has, him getting vaccinated could've gone a long way toward helping calm some of those concerns. Again, look at those stark splits. Forty-one percent of Republicans said they don't plan on receiving the vaccine. That's nowhere near enough to build the herd immunity all the doctors and scientists have said we need to knock this terrible virus out.

But think of the support Trump had among Republicans. In January, about the time he was secretly getting the vaccine, Trump's approval rating with Republicans was still sky-high. An NBC News poll showed that 87% of Republicans approved of the job he was doing. I couldn't stand the guy, and still can't, but I admit he carried (and still carries) a tremendous amount of influence with the party. Imagine the difference it could've made if he had been upfront about getting the vaccine in January – if he celebrated getting it, if he assured all his followers it was safe to receive.

It's so frustrating to think about the positive impact he could've made here, and bafflingly decided not to. Just like when, nearly a year ago now, he announced on live TV he wouldn't be wearing a mask, despite CDC recommendations to the contrary, Trump's influence could've made all the difference here. Unfortunately, he chose the wrong path – and it is all of America that suffered.

Not a day goes by that I'm not thrilled Biden is the one now in charge for these (hopefully) waning days of the coronavirus, and not Trump. With Biden, there's finally an adult in the room. And as we were reminded on Monday, Trump, right up till the very end, was not that adult.

\* \* \*

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



**Snow Volcanoes...** Cassidy, Josephine and Melanie Bjorbekk built snow volcanoes during the Joyful Noises Outdoor program recently offered by C3, the Collaborative for Colchester's Children, at Ruby & Elizabeth Cohen Woodlands. The weekly family playgroup, adapted for the outdoors, offers parents and caregivers physically distanced activities with their children that include stories, songs, music and movement games. For more information about C3 programs, go to [www.colchesterc3.org](http://www.colchesterc3.org).

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

## Bulletin Board

It is said (at least it used to be said) that a "man's home is his castle." I presume that in our newly enlightened era such insensitive assertions would earn the asserter a thorough bashing on social media. And (let me hasten to add) rightfully so (so get your finger off the damn trigger).

Any illusions I may have had about being able to wander at will around my so-called "castle," can of cheap beer in one hand and lute in the other, were dashed a number of years ago when I was banned from cooking anything in the kitchen unless supervised by an adult.

This restriction was imposed when, being at loose ends one morning, it occurred to me that it might be possible to cook an egg—direct from refrigerator to microwave—if you poked a hole in the shell to release the pressure. Imagine what a great leap forward this would be for mankind (and womankind and all otherkind) in terms of time and convenience. I mean, this could be the Nobel Prize of cooking stuff. I could already see myself as the honored centerfold in Microwave Magazine as I carefully punched a hole in the egg shell and placed it in the oven.

Alas for the Nobel Prize (and the centerfold), my experiment was proceeding swimmingly right up to the time the egg exploded and nearly blew the door off the microwave. This minor mishap earned me a lifetime ban against using any kitchen appliance without supervision—a restriction that is not only inconvenient, but has surely set the science of egg-in-the-shell cookery back for generations.

However, sometimes one must choose between personal survival and the advance of civilization and, for me at least, that's an easy one.

In fairness to the powers-that-be, the egg was not my first brush with castle authority. This may come as a surprise to those of you who have become accustomed to the impressive clarity of thought concealed in my rambling sentence structure, but around my own house I have the reputation of being somewhat less than organized. Apparently my somewhat cavalier approach to "picking up after myself" is considered in some quarters to constitute a lamentable lack of maturity.

In fact, my road to exile from the kitchen began well before what is known in family circles as "The Great Egg Disaster" (you'd think it was an H-bomb, not one lousy egg, for crying out loud).

No, I was already flirting with trouble thanks to my love for hobo hash, a dish I invented while living in squalor as a bachelor. Hobo hash consists of ham, onions, potatoes and eggs all mixed up and fried together in one big pan with lots of butter. I call it hobo hash, not because it was a favorite of hobos, but because whenever I used to make it (usually on Sundays when the rest of the family was at church praying for my soul) I risked being tossed out of the house to live in a boxcar.

Part of the problem is I can't seem to break an egg without getting it all over the stove top where it turns into some sort of organic epoxy; part of it is because grease is flammable (who knew?); and part of it is that I find it convenient to cook everything on high heat because it's faster, though it does tend to weld a certain amount of char to the bottom of the pan. This can be inconvenient if you don't own your own sandblasting equipment. On the other hand, it's also a wonderful way to see if your smoke detectors are working properly (see previous reference to the properties of grease).

Anyway, I am now allowed to make hobo hash only under strict adult supervision, which makes it a lot less fun, but, to be perfectly candid, does cut down on emergency visits from the fire department.

Meanwhile, in my exile, I continue to ponder the mechanics of a quick and easy, nonexplosive microwaved egg-in-the-shell.

Maybe if I made the vent hole just a little bigger?  
Call it a death wish.

**Jim Hallas, Publisher**

### The Best President

To the Editor:

Donald Trump was the best president in my lifetime. I love him and miss him dearly, especially while witnessing the incredible damage being done to our great country by the new administration. I'm incredulous that people claiming to love our country could support the rampant destruction underway merely because of their contempt for Trump.

Their unwarranted contempt was driven by five years of incessant defamation and fraudulent accusations from establishment media and politicians. Their vitriol has been perpetuated and amplified for years in letters written to this paper. This past week was no exception.

One writer, among other things, claimed Trump neglected the middle class while favoring the rich. Trump's policies always championed the interests of Main Street over Wall Street. The middle class and lower-income workers saw their real wages rise for the first time in decades. He brought back jobs from overseas, restoring decimated communities and giving them hope for their futures.

He made us energy independent, lowering costs for every American and producer. This also reduced our incentive to engage in foreign wars over energy supplies. He facilitated peace agreements and alliances among formerly Mid-Eastern foes once thought impossible.

Another writer's allusion regarding fascism demonstrated her complete miscomprehension of its definition. The system just voted in embodies fascism as it establishes cartels of businesses, institutions, and government dedicated to their own self-serving interests in contraposition to America's. It seeks to silence any opposition.

Hat-tip to Joe Stevens in granting approval for people like me to continue expressing our "fringe" opinions, at least for the time being. Trump's real crime was in exposing and opposing the actual nascent fascism of our establishment. He needs to be destroyed as warning to any future upstart interlopers posing threats to their established order.

Sam Prentice – Andover

### Equality Act

To the Editor:

Having been passed by the House, the "Equality Act" now heads to the Senate. If passed, it will deal a cruel blow to women's sports, high school sports in particular, by allowing biological males to compete against biological females. What was unthinkable just a few years ago is now being mainstreamed; to the heartache of high school girl athletes.

But there is a solution to the contentious dilemma, one that should be acceptable to fair-minded transgenders and cisgenders: the creation of a transgender sports category. A collateral benefit will be opening opportunities for trans men who are presently reluctant to participate in the strenuous physical sports: football, hockey, wrestling, basketball, etc. It's a reluctance that proves the inequality of the Equality Act.

**Peter Kushkowski  
"Almost Heaven"  
Portland**

### DTC Response

To the Editor:

The Andover Democratic Town Committee would like to respond to last week's letter from Bernadette Kasacek regarding comments made by Andover First Selectman Jeff Maguire.

Mr. Maguire's comment that the settlement was exorbitant occurred at a Board of Selectmen meeting and does not reflect the opinion of the DTC. Mr. Maguire does not speak for the DTC. We do not agree or condone his statement and have discussed this with him.

No one but the victim understands the traumatic impact of sexual harassment and therefore cannot possibly determine what amount is sufficient to compensate for such an impact.

Democrats are at the forefront in all fights for human rights issues and the Andover DTC affirms our support of all those who have experienced any form of harassment.

**Sincerely,  
The Andover Democratic Town Committee**

**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.

**(860) 633-4691 — bulletin@glcitizen.com**

**Maintain Triple A Rating**

To the Editor:

Republicans are taxpayers and one of our core values is promoting fiscally-responsible spending of our tax dollars. I understand the town must meet its obligations to the citizens yet at the same time work to eliminate wasteful spending, seek cost-saving measures and minimize increase to our taxes.

I also believe it is important to maintain our Triple A rating so when borrowing is necessary, we obtain the best rate. Tied into the Triple A rating is the need to keep our fund balance at 12% or greater. It should not be used for ongoing operational expenses.

I want our tax dollars spent prudently, equal to how each of us manage our own personal finances by prioritized spending and knowing where every dollar is spent.

**Bridget McLennan – East Hampton****Unlimited Thanks**

To the Editor:

To whom Fred Trinks is. An unlimited thanks for helping return my dear Rosie after her escape. She's an American Staffordshire terrier. This breed is very dedicated breed. Escaped chasing a car I was in and unknown to me.

I love this dog and like I said, I owe ya a beer.

Thanks,  
Jay Baker – East Hampton

**Bransfield Is No Enviro**

To the Editor:

No one should be surprised by First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield's tepid response, at best, to the NRG turbine proposal. After all, Bransfield, through her hand-picked appointees on Portland's Wetlands and Planning and Zoning Commissions, recently approved the destruction of 15 acres of unspoiled, wooded property that hosts a pristine ravine and wetland on Ames Hollow Road. Dozens upon dozens of mature, healthy trees have been felled, stacked and wood-chipped in the last several weeks on said property by the developer. Her commission appointees had an obligation to consider the effect of destroying those trees. They didn't. At all. Such trees served as carbon sinks for exactly the type of pollution that NRG will be sending Portland's way in even greater volumes.

Destruction of properties like this for single-family homes or the mere relocation of existing businesses in town is neither a real nor a sustainable economic development model. As the town bears the burden of this increased pollution for decades to come, it will be less able to do so if our town officials continue to rubber stamp such destruction of our irreplaceable natural resources.

**Brad Towson – Portland****Make America Last II**

To the Editor:

Joe Biden's actual immigration and amnesty program is for 20 million illegals. The 11 million is the 2005 number. Biden and Harris want to provide them with public education, health care, food stamps and rent subsidies while grooming them to become Democratic voters. Once again the middle/working class will be the ones footing the bill. To all "non-diverse" sheep who voted for these two: you were duped.

Gas prices up another 35 cents and the Dems will rescind Trump's tax cuts and your paycheck will shrink.

Biden – who can barely read the teleprompter – pledges unity and equity. That means giving \$42 billion to bail out California with their Nazi-esque lockdowns, \$20 billion to Oregon after their Democratic leaders stood by and watch Antifa and BLM burn and loot Portland, \$23 billion to New York to cover Governor Cuomo's death trap in nursing homes. Red states that performed well – South Dakota, Florida, Texas – get scraps. The \$1.9 trillion COVID package includes \$50 billion for Obamacare, \$100 million for an underground railroad in Silicon Valley and more pork spending.

Fake News CNN claimed there was an "armed insurrection on Jan. 6." The facts are that only two protesters were charged with weapons violations. Edmund Smith and Joe Stevens falsely claim that the Capitol policeman who died on Jan 6th was "bludgeoned to death" by Trump supporters. More brain-washed lies from these two loyal CNN, MSNBC viewers.

What will our country look like when – if – COVID is over? Will we become a totalitarian nation, and where in the Constitution does it let leaders take away our Bill of Rights without representation?

Joe Biden and Kamala Harris' campaign slogan Build Back Better really means Make America Last.

**Don Denley – Andover****Biased Government**

To the Editor:

"I predict future happiness for Americans, if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them." – Thomas Jefferson

Sadly, our young today are "programmed" to want to be taken care of (by parents, teachers, governments) to the point that they have lost the ability of rational thought. That affliction has transferred to much of the older population as well.

"But as an old joke goes, if one source says it's raining outside and another says it's not, our job as journalists isn't to report both. It's to stick our heads out the window and find out who's telling the truth." – Unknown

People reporting the news (or so-called news) should no longer be referred to as "journalists."

Our government tells us that they make decisions "in our best interest" based on science. Yet their science is very biased and prone to serve their own best interests, not ours. (Just follow the money.)

I mentioned in my 2-5-21 letter that "As far as protection against the virus, they are less than useless." Actually, that is not what was printed as the paper's editor had me change the sentence to "As far as protection against the virus, I feel they are less than useless." He felt that statement was my own personal opinion, and it was to an

extent. However, there is true scientific evidence to back that up. Refer to my post at my website under the heading "Viruses" and article - Moist Masks Are Good for You - NOT. My website is at garygile.com.

Next week I will dive into the current state of politics and perhaps we should not only look at Republicans vs. Democrats, Conservatives vs. Progressives. Rather, peel back the curtain.

**Gary Gile – Andover****Thank You for Dinners**

Dear Danielle and Maddie, and Everyone at Sweet Jean's:

The residents at the East Hampton Housing Authority want to extend a sincere thank you to show our great appreciation for your generous donation of spaghetti & meatball and mac & cheese dinners to us on Thursday, Feb. 11. They were perfect dinners on a chilly winter night!

Your nutritious donations help many of us bridge the gap in our food budgets. It is generous community oriented small businesses and your display of kindness is why East Hampton is such a great and welcoming community for senior citizens.

Please be assured your donations will go to good use. Thank you again from the residents of the East Hampton Housing Authority.

Warmest regards from all of us!  
East Hampton Housing Authority

**See Letters, page 4****Hate Meter**

To the Editor:

Joe Stevens went on a screed about an anti-fact conspiracy alliance. He then offers the only item in his letter as fact and gets it completely wrong. Factually there was no bludgeoning of a police officer on Jan. 6. The officer died in his office after the riot. His wife claimed he died of a stroke. Stevens seems not to let facts get in the way of his narrative.

The Hate Meter got under his skin last week. He doesn't like that his hateful rhetoric in past Bulletins has been called out. His letter goes on to dredge up all the things that incense him which have nothing to do with his being called out. His letter is completely illogical.

His biggest sin is lumping everyone he disagrees with into one group who all think the same. If someone said Obama was a Muslim then everyone in a certain group thinks that way. He interprets from my letter that I belong to a clique of Republicans – really? That's logical?

There were no other letters that came close to his so the sophomoric Hate Meter gives Stevens a 7.

**William Oliver – Hebron**

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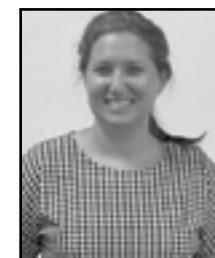
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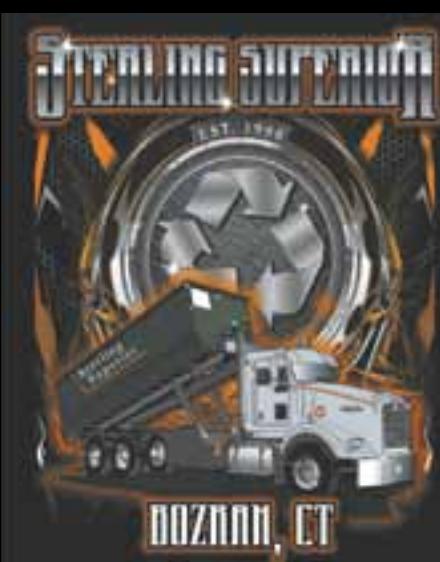
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REB-7-31-21

## Reader Forum • Reader Forum

★ Story cont. from page 3

**Making a Difference**

To the Editor:

If things don't change drastically and rapidly, by the time a child born today reaches his/her 30th birthday, there will be more plastic than fish in the oceans.

About eight million metric tons of plastic are thrown into the oceans annually. Currently, there is an estimated 236,000 tons of microplastics. Every minute, one garbage truck of plastics is dumped into the oceans, contaminating even the remotest places on Earth. Many marine animals, including birds and turtles, mistakenly consume plastic items, causing them to die from starvation. Plastic pollution damages coral reefs, which are vital to ocean health. Many of the fish humans consume have eaten microplastics.

The EPA estimates that plastics account for 8% of global oil production, releasing harmful gas emissions into the environment including carbon monoxide, hydrogen sulfide, benzene, and methane, a greenhouse gas that causes a greater warming effect than carbon dioxide (Plastic Pollution Coalition).

So, what can we do about it? Choose alternatives to plastics. There are environmentally friendly products made from non-petroleum biodegradable materials. There are grocery delivery services where you can purchase "imperfect" but perfectly good vegetables that are delivered in boxes, not plastic bags, and they are less expensive than standard grocery store prices. You can find these companies/services by searching online.

Currently, several environmental organizations are working on innovative ways to clear the oceans of plastics.

Meanwhile, Reuse, Recycle and Reduce. Don't buy Styrofoam or plastic cups, plastic wrap, overpackaged foods, items made from PVC plastic, plastic cutlery or straws. Don't buy items such as throw-away razors and pens. There are environmentally friendly alternatives.

Yes, it's a huge problem, but each of us can do little things to help solve it for the sake of all creatures, great and small. Ultimately, the power of the purse will have the greatest impact.

Thank you,

Maureen Heidtmann – East Hampton

**Whack-a-Mole**

To the Editor:

Rivereast Whack-a-Mole continues as pseudoscientists Victor Congdon and Gary Gile share more CO2/Climate Change nonsense. Congdon summarizes his disjointed understanding of global warming, then edifies us on

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

Now this is pretty cool. AHM Youth and Family Services and the Hebron Open for Business Task Force are partnering to support of local family-owned restaurants – and in support of health.

AHM and the task force are encouraging folks who, when eating a healthy meal at a restaurant in Andover, Hebron or Marlborough, show support on social media by tagging the restaurant and adding #eathealthyatlocal and #AHMhealthmatters to their post.

It's a fun way to show you're eating healthy – and also a fun way to show you're supporting local restaurants. And yes, I'd imagine even getting take-out would work too.

the semantics of the word "is" vs. "ought". He ends his letter claiming it would be just as difficult for humans to control Earth's rotation as it would be for us to add heat to the atmosphere, showcasing his paltry grasp of physics, mass, inertia, meteorology and so much more. Gary Gile, a "Who Wants To Be A Science Denier" game show participant, challenges us again to check out his garygile.com website. I did. His two 'lifelines' are Martin Armstrong, fresh out of serving 11 years in federal prison for running Ponzi schemes and contempt of court charges, and Dr. Joseph Mercola, recipient of multiple FDA warning letters to cease promoting his widely-regarded alternative medicine quackery.

Mr. Gile tried to correct his earlier flubbing of the difference between an atom, molecule and element – but blunders again, now claiming CO2 is composed of three elements. My sixth grade Science Bowl team got quite a laugh out of that one. Don't worry those of you outraged at my being a teacher – I didn't reference Rivereast or Gile's name. But for Gile to write it when he has all the time in the world to do an ounce of research is just unforgivable.

Congdon and Giles – can I call them cretins? The dumbest lifeforms ever to walk upright on Earth? Endlessly-bleating delusional fools and inane letter writers? No – those are Sam Prentice's descriptive terms for myself and Joe Stevens a few weeks ago, which the editor printed after stating he would change the negative culture in the letters section. Prentice's letter had zero value and not a word ought to have been printed.

Ed Smith – Andover

**Two Can Play This Game**

To the Editor:

You are a real class act, Mr. Thompson; the way you chose to define Rush Limbaugh's life and legacy by the things he has said over the course of his 30-year career on the radio. A job that required him to speak for three hours a day, five days a week. Well, two can play this game. Below are some quotes from President Joe Biden:

"Poor kids are just as bright and talented as white kids." Asian and Latino Coalition Town Hall, August 2019.

"I mean, you've got the first sort of mainstream African-American who is articulate and bright and clean and a nice-looking guy. I mean, that's a storybook, man." Characterization of Barack Obama, February 2007.

"You cannot go to a 7-Eleven or a Dunkin' Donuts unless you have a slight Indian accent. I'm not joking." C-Span's *Road to the White House*, July 2006.

For obvious reasons, times are quite tough right now for restaurants, and have been for months. Chains like McDonald's or Wendy's have the resources to survive, but mom and pop places aren't in the same boat – and indeed, many smaller eateries have already closed.

It's said a lot that small business such as restaurants are the lifeblood of our communities – and it's true. We need to keep these places afloat, and AHM's new campaign is a small, but fun, way to help.

\*\*\*

See you next week.

"You've got more questions. I'll tell you, if you have a problem figuring out whether you're for me or for Trump, then you ain't Black." Breakfast Club radio show, May 2020.

"Unless we do something about this, my children are going to grow up in a jungle, the jungle being a racial jungle with tensions having built so high that it is going to explode at some point." Comments referring to busing to desegregate public institutions, 1977.

It seems based on your logic with Mr. Limbaugh that we should define President Biden's life and legacy by these quotes too.

Jeff Koonanekil – Colchester

**Anti-Racism, Cont.**

To the Editor:

Continuing from last week's suggestions, the next couple of weeks will highlight additional specific ways to make changes that can work to counteract racism in our community.

- Consume media, books, movies, podcasts, etc. that center the experiences of Black, Indigenous, and other people of color. Commit to listen/read/watch daily whether on your way to work or on lunch break. This shouldn't be a one-time event. Here are some ideas to get started.

<https://www.antiracismdaily.com/><https://www.npr.org/podcasts/510312/codeswitch>*Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson

- Believe marginalized people when they tell you their experiences. Be prepared to acknowledge if your experience has allowed you to look past or disregard those experiences because they're not your own.

- Write down the names of the 10 people you trust the most for good advice. Notice what each of those people look like. If you find there are perspectives you are missing, reach out to people who can help you connect with those perspectives.

- Learn about reparations and what other countries have done to begin to right historical wrongs. Ask yourself how you would feel if it was your family/ancestors on the other side of the coin. <https://www.history.com/news/reparations-slavery-native-americans-japanese-internment>

- Seek out news and information from a variety of sources and formats. We don't discover anything new from existing in an echo chamber.

- Find out which indigenous land you currently live on by either going to this website, native-land.ca, or texting your zip code to 907-312-5085.

- Refuse to tolerate when those around you are expressing ideas or actions that are harmful to others. Not saying something is still doing something.

While I continue to welcome respectful thoughts on this topic, I am not interested in entertaining anonymous political rantings explaining how my lived experiences are invalid. More on this topic next week. pamcylong@gmail.com

Pamela Cyr-Long – Marlborough

**Life-Size Candy Land**

To the Editor:

I would like to thank Director Ellen Paul and the staff of the East Hampton Public Library for the wonderful job they have done for the past year. They have worked very hard to keep the library building open when many libraries in surrounding towns have only offered curbside

pickup. What a pleasure it has been to be able to go into the library to pick out books, DVDs, and other materials, especially jigsaw puzzles, in a safe and welcoming environment. The staff has created many ways to engage the community during these very difficult, isolating times. Programs for all ages have been presented online. Hundreds of take-home craft projects have been distributed.

The biggest community-wide event yet is starting on March 12th. Thanks to a generous donation from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County and the Peach Pit Foundation, East Hampton will be transformed into a life-size version of the board game Candy Land. The staff has spent numerous hours creating this event for our community. What fun it will be for all ages to visit Licorice Lagoon, Peppermint Forest, Lollipop Woods, Ice Cream Slopes and the Candy Castle.

Register for Candy Land on the library website, <https://easthamptonpubliclibrary.org>, and then enjoy this community event created by our fantastic library staff.

Cyndi Shirshac  
East Hampton Library Advisory Board**BEE Wise in '21**

To the Editor:

A Green Garden Gang member, I'm prepping for spring, when my gardens will be abuzz.

It's early March, nature has cycled through winter, still quiet, awaiting the onset of spring. But my garden is not still. My local native Mason Bees are stirring. Last year, this solitary bee found the tube-shaped holes in my Bee Hotel. There, the female created little rooms where she piled up her collected pollen and then laid an egg on top. She's called a mason bee because she seals off each room with mud and repeats the process room after room. A female will lay around 15-20 eggs in her lifetime, which is short. After mating and laying her eggs she dies about eight weeks later. These eggs hatch and pupate feeding on the pollen mom left behind then emerging the following spring by working their way through the thin walls to find a mate, gather pollen and start the process over again.

Mason bees are the first to emerge in the spring. And they can tolerate temperatures down to 55 degrees; this means that mason bees will be active beginning in late February to early April. Mason bees are excellent pollinators in part because she lands willy-nilly on a flower, spreading pollen everywhere, unlike the tidy honey bee, who creates neat pollen baskets located on their legs. For pollination to occur, orchards need less mason bees per acre than they would honeybee. Mason bees have a 90% pollination rate, where honeybees have a 5% pollination rate.

Unlike honey bees that have a reputation of stinging in defense of the hive, the mason bees are not aggressive at all. They're so very gentle. Raising mason bees is easy. There are numerous sites online for DIY or you can find holes in old wood or trees where they will naturally go to make a home.

Michele Sinkez – Hebron  
See Letters, page 23**E-Mail Letters**

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

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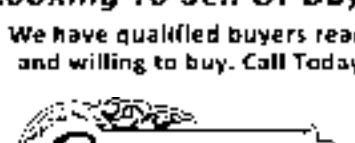
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## School Board Lowers Budget Request

by Jack Lakowsky

The Board of Education Tuesday unanimously voted to reduce the district's requested budget increase by about \$186,000, going from a 4% increase proposal to 3.12%.

The proposed 2021-22 schools budget now sits at \$22.42 million, down from the \$22.60 million Superintendent of Schools Charles Britton had initially requested.

Still, the 3.12% proposed increase is .12% above what First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield recommended the schools ask for, according to school board member Tim Lavoy, a Republican.

According to Stephanie Fragola, business manager for Portland schools, reductions to a budget request are not out of the ordinary, and often come about through resignations and retirements submitted after the budget is drafted.

The schools gained large savings because Bransfield in her requested budget agreed to include as an item in the town's capital budget a Chromebook leasing program for students. Bransfield wrote \$300,000 will be used as the town's first installment in this plan, provided the budget passes with voters this spring.

Britton had previously said a leasing program, rather than buying devices year-to-year, would be less attractive to the town because it will then go onto Portland's debt load.

Leasing the Chromebooks will help to prevent them from being cut from the school's budget. If devices are requested each year, they

can be denied each year as well.

"Stuff that's included with cop cars and fire trucks is harder to cut," said Board of Education Chair and Democrat Sharon Peters. "It's a little more economical."

Board Democrat Meg Scata likened the leasing to how the town funds its copiers.

In a letter to Bransfield, Britton wrote that each student in grades 5-12 has a Chromebook. However, when this one-to-one device ratio was implemented, there were no plans for a replacement cycle.

As a result, Britton wrote, many student Chromebooks are at end-of-life. The leasing program will cost \$500,000, to be realized every four years.

"The leasing program will spread out the expense of the one-to-one device initiative, equip all students in grades 5-12 with a suitable device, and enable the district to reassess current devices so that each classroom in grades PreK-4 has access to a class set of Chromebooks," Britton wrote.

The Chromebooks' one-year lease payment will be moved from the school board's operating budget to the Town Capital Improvement Plan 2021-22, with debt reflected in the town's general budget, according to the first selectwoman's information.



**David's Bench...** A group of Portland residents recently banded together to dedicate a bench to honor the memory of fellow resident David Hadden. In collaboration with Dean Soucy at Quarry View, a brownstone bench was constructed and delivered to the Portland Reservoir.

### Scholarship Offered by Garden Clubs

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

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

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

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

For more information, call 860-685-0593.

### First Congregational Church News

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

Weekly worship services are recorded in the church sanctuary and available on the church's YouTube channel (First Church of Portland, CT). Virtual church school is offered weekly by Ann Labby, Director of Christian Education. Although worship services and church activities are being held virtually at this time, there continue to be missions, fellowship and educational gatherings on Zoom.

The church has a tradition of holding Lenten Soup and Bread Suppers followed by a presentation and discussion. This year, the Lenten gatherings will happen in members' homes, via Zoom. This three-week series of conversations began March 3, is entitled "Three Words of Faith," and is sponsored by the Board of Deacons.

### Honor Roll Addition

Portland High School ninth-grader Grace Sockwell made High Honors on the Portland High School Honor Roll for the first marking term of the 2020-21 school year.

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\*Please check with the community for any  
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## Parks and Rec. News & Notes

Parks and Recreation is offering the following. To register or for full program descriptions, visit [portland.recdesk.com](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).

**Youth Programs: Do-It-At-Home Doodle-kits 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.

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

**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 4:45 p.m. for ages 5 and up.

**Virtual Paint Night:** Thursday, March 18, 7-9 p.m., via Zoom. Learn about and paint in the style of Romero Britto, a Brazilian artist famous for his bright colors and bold patterns. Fee is \$22. Each participant will receive a canvas board and paints for the evening. Paintbrushes can be purchased for an add-on fee of \$5; if you have your own brushes, this is not required.

**Adult Programs: Tai Chi for Long Life:**

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

**Boat America - Online Boating Safety Course:** The course enables the student to apply for the Connecticut Certificate of Personal Watercraft Operation (CPWO). This certificate allows the holder to operate a boat up to 65', to operate a personal watercraft, and will include the Safe Water Skiing endorsement. Fee: \$60; additional participant fee: \$55. The March class is currently full, but join the waitlist on the Parks and Rec. website to be notified about a second session.

**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.

**Easter Information:** Easter is coming soon. While Parks and Rec. won't host its traditional Easter Egg Hunt this year, check back soon to see what it will offer.

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

**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.

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

On Wednesdays during Lent, Allen Hill, Zion's music director, will lead Compline, or evening, services. They are livestreamed to Zion's Facebook page at 7 p.m. each Wednesday and then will be posted onto the YouTube page the following day for easy access at any time.

Because of the changing nature of COVID-19, vaccinations and more, the Worship and Music committee is still making plans for Holy Week and Easter. Details will be available as soon as possible, through an article in the *Rivereast* and online at [zionlutheranportland.org](http://zionlutheranportland.org). Call the church at 860-342-2860 to be added to the weekly email blast.

Bulletins for each service are available on the church website.

Zion Lutheran Church is located at 183 William St. The community is welcome to participate in all worship services and special events.

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).

## 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](mailto:mpont@portlandct.org) or Carol Revicki at [crevicki@portlandct.org](mailto:crevicki@portlandct.org). Hours are Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., and Friday, 8-11 a.m.

**AARP Income Tax Assistance:** Due to COVID-19 restrictions, tax assistance this year is on a very limited basis. The senior center is currently taking a waiting list only. If you are on the list you will be called during March to schedule your appointment.

**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](http://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](http://www.aarp.org/CTvaccine), or call Middlesex Health at 860-358-7050.

**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.

**AARP Smart Driver Virtual Course:** This is a pilot program; therefore, there is no date set yet. Instead, the senior center is putting the word out to see if there is enough interest. Fee will be \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for non-members. Contact the senior center if interested.

**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 8, at 12:30 p.m., and runs for six weeks. Call the center to register.

**AARP Free Virtual Lecture on the Himalayan Snow Leopard:** Monday, March 8, noon. Dr. Richard Benfield will lead a virtual journey into the Himalayas and mountains of Central Asia in search of this mysterious creature. To register, visit [ctaarp@aarp.org](mailto:ctaarp@aarp.org).

**Virtual U Lecture: Northern Lights, Blackouts, and Unruly Radios: Sunspots and Modern Life:** Wednesday, March 10, 1 p.m., with Kristine Larsen, Ph.D., editor of *Reflector Magazine* and professor of astronomy for the geological sciences department at Central Connecticut State University. Register at [ctaarp@aarp.org](mailto:ctaarp@aarp.org).

**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.

**Musical Event:** Thursday, March 18, 7 p.m., via Zoom, with Lynn "Jazzy" Traceski. Call the senior center for the link.

**Home Safety:** Thursday, March 25, 10 a.m., via Zoom. Jeff Piscitelli from CARE One Security Systems will discuss home safety and fall prevention in and around the house. Call the center to register.

**Medicare Info:** Thursday, March 18, 5 p.m., via Zoom. Bruce Kocsis from Bankers Life will discuss what Medicare does and doesn't cover. Call the center to register.

**Fraudcast: Impostor Scams - Spotting, Avoiding & Reporting:** Thursday, March 18, 7 p.m. Stay up to date on impostor scams in this free webinar offered by AARP. To register, email [ctaarp@aarp.org](mailto:ctaarp@aarp.org).

**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](http://www.peabody.yale.edu) for more information or email [bivenne@yahoo.com](mailto:bivenne@yahoo.com).

**Medical Rides:** The center is offering seniors and disabled rides to the doctor on a limited basis. Fee is \$5 per person. Two weeks' notice is requested. Masks are required.

**Foot Care at the Center:** The fourth Tuesday of each month, in the Nurses' Room on the lower level of the center. Upon entering and leaving the building hand sanitizer must be used and a mask must be worn. Fee is \$35 cash or check. Appointments run from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; call the center to schedule one.

## Dean's List

Nicole Zalewski of Portland made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Utica College in Utica, N.Y.

Zalewski is majoring in construction management and minoring in geoscience. She is the daughter of Bill and Cheryl Zalewski.

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**COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic...** Portland residents Keith and Lori Boyce (seated) give thumbs-up Tuesday while in observation after receiving their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. With them is Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteer Marcus Asbridge. Chatham Health District Director Russell Melmed has credited MRC volunteers as the backbone of vaccine clinics. Without MRC, he said, Chatham Health would only be able to provide one or two vaccinators per clinic, which could lead to delays and long wait times. Saint Clements Castle, an event venue in Portland, volunteered its space for the clinic, according to Portland First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield. The by-appointment clinic was for Portland residents 55 and older.

### Webinar on 'Transformative Justice'

On Monday, March 15, from 6:30-8 p.m., the Portland Social Justice Coalition (PSJC) will host a viewing and discussion of the webinar "Building our Future Communities with Transformative Justice," which was recorded by Sustainable Connecticut.

Learn how to invest in the community in ways that are owned and run by community members. This session builds off of the previous webinars in the Social Justice Series. Those who are interested in participating in this viewing and conversation with members of the PSJC and Portland community may email us at portlandsocialjustice@gmail.com for an invitation

to the Zoom meeting. You can also learn more about Sustainable CT and view the webinar on your own at sustainablect.org.

The PSJC was formed in July 2020 with the mission of strengthening the town and building a more equitable, inclusive community. PSJC partners with other groups and organizations in town to create positive opportunities for dialogue and education. All who live, work or are otherwise invested in Portland, are welcomed to join the coalition.

Email portlandsocialjustice@gmail.com for more information, or find the group on Facebook at Portland CT Social Justice.

### Trinity Episcopal Church News

Trinity Episcopal Church, 345 Main St., is not currently holding inside Sunday services or Church School at this time. Weather permitting, drive-in church parking lot services are being held at 9 a.m. Sundays.

The church is also continuing its 10:30 a.m. Zoom Sunday services indefinitely. Additional information on church services or Bible study opportunities is at trinitychurchportlandct.org.

### Portland Robotics Club

The Portland Robotics Club will hold a meeting Thursday, March 11, at 7 p.m.

Portland Robotics Club is a non-profit public charity which provides STEM programs to children in grades 1 through 6 through FIRST Robotics using Lego building bricks as well as other platforms.

The meeting will be held online; visit portlandroboticscl.wixsite.com/website for connection details. Parents of children who enjoy creative activities involving building with Legos and are interested in creative STEM activities are encouraged to attend or to contact Portland Robotics Club at PortlandRoboticsClub@gmail.com.

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RE6-19-20



### 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](http://www.portlandlibraryct.org) or call 860-342-6770.

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

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

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

**NatureCrafting:** Thursdays through March 25, 3:30 p.m., via Zoom. For grades K-5. Explore the worlds of herbs, spices, seeds, nuts and other natural elements with crafts and other activities. Registration is required and space is limited. Supplies can be picked up in advance; a Zoom link will be provided within 24 hours of the event.

**Cooking with Food Explorers: Granola Bars:** Friday, March 12, 3:30 p.m., for kids in grades K-5. March is National Nutrition Month; learn all about the five food groups with a registered dietitian. Parental supervision is recommended. Registration is required for this program and space is limited. Supplies can be picked up in advance; a Zoom link will be provided within 24 hours of the event.

**Family Craft Night: Button Rainbow Canvases:** Wednesday, March 10, 7 p.m., via Zoom. This St. Patrick's Day-themed craft has steps appropriate for all ages, though adult supervision is required. Registration is required and space is limited. Supplies can be picked up in advance; a Zoom link will be provided within 24 hours of the event.

advance; a Zoom link will be provided within 24 hours of the event.

**Teen Event: Stress Relief Kits:** Monday, March 15, 3:30 p.m. Make stress balls and Guatemalan worry dolls. Registration required; space is limited. Supplies can be picked up in advance; a Zoom link will be provided within 24 hours of the event.

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

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

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

### Blood Drive

There will be an American Red Cross Blood Drive Thursday, March 11, from 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m., at St. Mary Church, 51 Freestone Ave.

To make an appointment, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org), call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

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# Town Manager Proposes \$36.80 Million Budget

by Sloan Brewster

Town Manager Andrew Tierney is requesting a \$36.80 million spending package for fiscal year 2021-22 totaling, a 2.97%, or \$1.06 million, increase over the current year.

In the budget address Tierney gave at a joint workshop of the boards of finance and selectmen Tuesday, he attributed the increase to COVID-19 related expenses in the town's budget as well as the local education and RHAM spending plans and said the budgets include approximately \$300,000 in pandemic related costs.

The spending plan includes an anticipated \$14.01 million in levy toward the \$30.82 million RHAM schools spending proposal, which represents a decrease of \$257,472 to Hebron's levy.

Other budget drivers Tierney named included an increase to debt service of \$146,527, which he said was a result of the \$7.6 million sewer upgrade project, approved by voters in November 2019; a \$613,257 increase to the Hebron Board of Education budget; and what he called "a renewed commitment to fund capital projects."

Tierney recommends a total capital improvement plan of \$958,143, with a general government contribution of \$849,577, an increase of 43.83% over the current year. The rest will come from state grants.

Funding he recommends include \$302,508 in road resurfacing and improvements; \$241,167 for a new roof at the Douglas Library; \$79,468 for a mini excavator with a mower that would be shared by the Public Works and Parks & Recreation departments; \$100,000 for a new dump truck with a plow to replace an old one; \$50,000 for a new truck; \$160,000 for a roof restoration project at Hebron Elementary School Roof and \$25,000 for work at the Peter's House.

When selectman John Collins asked about the cost of the library roof, finance board member Mal Leichter cut in to explain that when the problem with the roof was looked at more closely, it was determined that there were also structural issues caused by poor ventilation.

"This is no longer [just] a roof replacement; it is a roof replacement, but we're going to fix all the [other] issues too," he said.

Tierney called the funds he is recommending including for the school roof project "seed money" and said once the project is funded the town will be able to apply for reimbursement grants to cover the cost. He said Gilead Hill School also needs work on the roof.

"One needs a total roof repair the other needs a total replacement," he said.

He said the funds for the Peters House were needed to make it safe so the town could open

it to the public and offer tours, once folks are vaccinated for COVID-19

Other capital expenses total \$152,022 and include: \$50,000 for a new pick-up truck for the Public Works Department; \$11,622 for a new fire hose; \$38,500 for Parks & Recreation for a bridge on the Raymond Brook Trail; \$10,000 for security measures at town buildings; \$20,000 for an affordable housing plan consultant; and \$21,900 for new paint on the exterior of the Peters House.

Tierney also recommends putting \$50,000 toward a future revaluation and a \$125,000 contribution toward open space.

He also recommends increases in public safety including to pay for body cameras for police officers and to cover an increase in EMT calls; he said 1,000 came in last year.

"We've got to be there when the bell rings to get the people out, to get the animals out of the barn," he said.

Tierney said the October 2020 Grand List had increased by \$11,151,010 or 1.42 percent.

"It wasn't as much of an increase as last year," he said. "But it's going in the right direction."

Calculating the Grand List with the budget as presented, translates to a tax increase from 36.33 mills to 36.75 mills.

Based on the numbers, one mill – which is the adjusted grand list of \$793,196,050 divided by 1,000 – equates to \$793,196.

The proposed 36.75 mill rate translates

to \$5,478 for a home with a market value of \$215,420 and an assessed value of \$150,790, a \$64 increase from the current year.

Tierney said the budget endeavors to maintain existing services while considering taxpayer concerns about high taxes.

After Tierney's presentation, Brian O'Connell, Chairman of the Open Space Land Acquisition Committee spoke of the committee's continued mission to preserve open space.

Since its inception in 1998, the committee has preserved 735 acres of town owned open space and helped the state increase its holdings of open space in town to 488 acres, including a purchase last summer of a parcel adjacent to Gay City State Park, O'Connell said. The committee has also seen 604 acres protected through purchases of development rights by such places as golf courses and the Mohegan Land Trust donated 220 acres of open space to the town.

\* \* \*

This is just part of the journey toward approval of an eventual 2021-22 budget. Key dates along the way, as well as additional budget information, are at [hebronct.com/budget-information](http://hebronct.com/budget-information). Anyone interested in commenting on the budget can email the town at [hebronbudget@hebronct.com](mailto:hebronbudget@hebronct.com).

The budget referendum is Tuesday, May 4. Voting will take place from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. at Hebron Elementary School.

## Senior Friends of Hebron News

While the Senior Friends of Hebron group has not been able to meet in person due to the pandemic, the executive committee has been making phone calls and sending email messages to all members, just to keep in touch.

The group will continue monthly meetings via Zoom until it can meet in person again. The next meeting will be for members only Thursday, March 11, at 3:30 p.m. This will be a social meeting and open to discuss anything members would like. For assistance in getting on Zoom, or other technical needs, email [senior.friends@comcast.net](mailto:senior.friends@comcast.net). If you would like a phone call indicate that in your email.

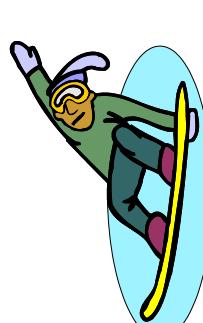
Until in-person group gatherings can re-

sume, the Senior Friends will communicate via email, telephone, Zoom or the Postal Service.

Visit [www.seniorfriendsofhebron.com](http://www.seniorfriendsofhebron.com) for

information and application for membership if interested. Renewal dues that were due in September 2020 are being waived, as the group doesn't know when it will be able to meet in person again. New members will pay the first year dues, which are \$8 per year or \$60 for lifetime membership.

The Senior Friends of Hebron mailing address is P.O. Box 60, Hebron, CT 06248. For more information, call Barbara at 860-228-3106 or Cile at 860-643-8768.



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## Historical Society Clothing Drive

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

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

Proceeds will help cover annual maintenance expenses and program costs. To learn more about the Hebron Historical Society, go to [hebronthistoricalsociety.org](http://hebronthistoricalsociety.org).

For more information on the clothing drive, email [mergonci65@comcast.net](mailto:mergonci65@comcast.net) or call 860-228-1113.

## Open Call to Apply for Grant Funds

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

In 2019, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving established a \$100,000 Greater Together Community Fund for each of the 29 towns in the Greater Hartford region – including Hebron. The purpose of the fund is to support residents in taking ownership around the needs in their towns, encourage broad and inclusive civic engagement and anchor the Hartford Foundation in each town.

Hebron's Greater Together Community Fund Advisory Committee has released its first open call for project proposals. Amounts from \$500 to \$10,000 will be awarded in grant funds to selected proposals. All projects must benefit the residents of Hebron. For further details on project guidelines and how to apply, visit: [hfpg.org/hebroncf](http://hfpg.org/hebroncf).

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

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## Knights of Columbus Food Drive

Council 11835 of The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a food drive through March 31 for the benefit of the Catholic Charities office in Willimantic.

Specific items have been requested: assorted breakfast cereals; canned soups (especially chicken, beef and chowders); canned corn, peas, carrots, and spinach; pasta sauce and boxed pasta; canned spaghetti for children; peanut butter and jelly; high protein items such as canned tuna, chicken and ham; cooking oil; assorted baby food and formula; baby diapers (sizes 4, 5 and 6); personal care items (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, and toothbrush-

es); sandwich and quart-sized baggies; and bottled water (regular size or small bottles).

Place all donations in the designated collection box located in the narthex of the Church of the Holy Family, 185 Church St. (Route 85) in Hebron. Monetary donations are also requested and must be mailed directly to or dropped off at Catholic Charities, 88 Jackson St., Willimantic, CT, 06226. Do not leave monetary donations in the church collection bin.

Contact Ken Slater at 860-978-0341 for more information.

## 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). Coffee hour and in-person Bible study, which ordinarily follow worship, are still on hiatus. Details about online streams of the service are listed at [www.clchebron.org/online](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 proto-

cols, masks are required, and there is no singing. Communion is served.

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

**Caring Shepherds:** Caring Shepherds will be at 877 Main St. in Willimantic at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 20, handing out hygiene kits, Bibles and supplies. Caring Shepherds shares the gospel and provides free basic need items to those in need. For more information about the ministry, call 860-494-0431.

**Online Sunday Bible Study, 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.

## Church Wrapping Up

Gilead Congregational Church is winding down its Hearts of Hope awareness campaign, through which residents of area communities have been helping people impacted by mental health issues during the pandemic.

There is still time to donate to the AHM Youth Services Community Mental Health Fund and lend a hand to area families by making financial assistance available for those in need. You may show your support and spread hope by placing a Heart of Hope in a window.

Red cling hearts are available to pick up in tubs in Hebron at AHM Youth and Family Services, Ted's Supermarket, Ace Hardware, Doug-

## 'Hearts of Hope' Sale

las Library, Gilead Congregational Church, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, and Church of the Holy Family; they are also at Richmond Memorial Library in Marlborough, and Andover Public Library.

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

## Dean's List

Hebron residents Katie Malgioglio and Nick Malgioglio made the fall 2020 Dean's List at the University of Connecticut.

Katie is a third-year student majoring in social work, and Nick is a second-year student majoring in actuarial science.

## Resident Graduates

Sara Heitman of Hebron recently graduated magna cum laude from Suffolk University in Boston, with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology.

Heitman is pursuing a career in research, with a focus on marine biology.

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## 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. Critical needs are: men's and women's stick deodorant (supply tends to run out quickly); disposable razors and shaving cream; Latex or vinyl gloves (L and XL only); paper towels (always needed); toilet paper; paper masks; Pine-Sol or other concentrated floor cleaners; disinfectant

wipes and sprays; and bleach. Additional ongoing needs: men's boxer shorts (L,XL, XXL) and white or solid color crew neck T-shirts; and women's briefs (sizes 6-10). The center is well-stocked with winter clothing, and therefore cannot accept any clothing donations at this time, including spring and summer wear. The center also has an adequate supply of hand sanitizer and hand soap. The center also has a great need for new sheets of plywood to build a bench, work surfaces, and partitions to facilitate checking in guests and to maintain a safe environment. Gift cards of \$25 to Home Depot are requested to fund these needs. Call the number below to offer assistance.

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.

## Douglas Library News & Notes

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

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

### Virtual Workshop: Foundations of Equity Literacy:

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

**Children's Department:** Browse the online catalog to see the new selections. Titles are available for lobby pick-up. In the lobby, there are themed children's activity kits added weekly; first-come, first-served. Also, in addition to the regular recorded story times, the library offers a special series for children aged 3-8, released each Friday on the library website and YouTube. An accompanying activity or craft is available to pick up each week in the library's lobby. Upcoming books and crafts: March 5,

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

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

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

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

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## Preschool Lottery Applications

Hebron Early Childhood Center at Gilead Hill School is taking applications for eligible preschool students for the 2021-22 school year.

Parents/guardians of children who will be 3 or 4 by Dec. 31, 2021, and are planning to have their children entered into Hebron's preschool lottery should call the Gilead Hill School Office at 860-228-9458 to have an application mailed to them. The application may also be downloaded from hebron.k12.ct.us; scroll down to the bottom of the page to

"Quick Links" in the lower left-hand corner.

Lottery applications must be completed and returned to the Gilead Hill School office by Friday, Feb. 26. Enclose two forms of residency when you return the application.

The lottery drawing will be held Wednesday, March 17, at 9 a.m., via Zoom. The Zoom link will be sent to all parents and/or guardians prior to the lottery date. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance or waitlist status by phone.

## Senior Center News & Notes

Russell Mercier Senior Center remains closed but has announced the following. For questions on any program or service, call 860-228-1700 and leave a message.

**Senior Transportation:** Transportation is coordinated for seniors 60 and over and adult disabled individuals via two handicapped-accessible vans for medical care, personal needs care, grocery shopping, or other pre-approved needs. Dial-a-Ride service operates Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. COVID-19 guidelines will be followed, and all passengers must wear a mask during transportation and will be asked screening questions prior to their ride. There is transportation to the UConn Health Center in Farmington, Hartford Hospital, Windham Hospital, and surrounding towns. Fares are charged. For a full list of locations and the fee schedule, contact the senior center. Appointments must be scheduled a minimum of 24 hours in advance, but 48 hours is recommended. New riders need to schedule their first appointment a minimum of 48 hours in advance, and all rides are first-come, first-served. To schedule an appointment, call the senior center.

**COVID-19 Vaccine Information:** The public directory of vaccine clinics is at [www.211ct.org/vaccineclinics](http://www.211ct.org/vaccineclinics). All clinics require an appointment to be made in advance. When viewing the directory of vaccine clinics, click on 'More Details' for specific information about how you can schedule an appointment at each location. Those eligible to receive the vaccine who are unable to self-schedule an appointment due to lack of internet access or access to technology, a disability or a language barrier can call the COVID-19 Vaccine Appointments Assistance Line at 877-918-2224 from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday to schedule an appointment.

Seniors may also call Hebron's COVID-19 hotline at 860-228-5977, where they'll be connected to the senior center. We will be able to access the above mentioned public directory of

vaccine clinics and provide you with the information regarding how you can schedule your COVID-19 vaccination appointment by either computer or phone.

**Newsletter:** Available at [HebronCT.com](http://HebronCT.com); select "senior center" from the "town departments" menu. You can also sign up to have the newsletter emailed to you automatically each month; click the link on the senior center page and add your email address.

**Energy Assistance Winter Heating Program:** The senior center is taking applications for the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP), which is designed to help offset the winter heating costs for a household's primary heating source. If the household's primary heating costs are included in rent, the household may also apply for assistance. Benefits are available to households with incomes up to 60 percent of the state median income. A liquid assets test is an additional basic eligibility requirement. Due to the current COVID-19 crisis, all applications for energy assistance will be completed over the phone; there will be no in-person appointments. Call the center for more details.

**Meals Available for Pick-Up:** The senior center offers frozen congregate meals from CRT for pick-up. On Mondays you will receive four frozen meals, two milks, sides and snacks for a suggested donation of \$12 (\$3 per meal). Seniors must call to sign-up for each week's meals by 3 p.m. the prior Thursday. Meals are for ages 60 and older, from any town, and are to be heated and consumed at home. Meals will be distributed outside and can be curbside pick-up. Pick-up times are 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m., but with prior approval an alternate time can be arranged. Delivery is also available. Each person will need to complete a Form 5, but senior center staff can offer assistance in filling it out. To sign up, call 860-228-1700 ext. 202 or email [aocznak@hebronct.com](mailto:aocznak@hebronct.com). Anyone picking up the meals must wear a mask and adhere to COVID-19 guidelines.

Ristow is a sophomore who majors in theatre.

## St. Peter's News & Notes

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

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

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

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

## The Worship Center News & Notes

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

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

**Bible Study:** Second Wednesday Overcomers Bible Study will be held at 7 p.m. virtually until further notice. Call the church office for details on how to join.

**Praise and Prayer Night:** Held at the firepit every third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. This

## Revaluation Info

The Town of Hebron has contracted with eQuality Valuation Services LLC, a revaluation firm certified by the State of Connecticut, to assist the assessor's office in performing the Oct. 1, 2021 property revaluation.

## Resident Participates in Theatre Festival

Amston resident Rebecca Ristow was among the Eastern Connecticut State University's theatre students and faculty who recently attended a virtual version of the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival.

At the festival, the students and faculty presented their work, attended workshops, watched productions, listened to keynote speakers and attended an award ceremony.

Ristow is a sophomore who majors in theatre.

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

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

night is dedicated to worship and praying for everyone in need in families, church and community.

**Youth Group:** For grades 6-12. Meets every other Sunday after the service; next meeting is March 14. Email the office for meeting details: [theworshipcenter.hebron@gmail.com](mailto:theworshipcenter.hebron@gmail.com).

**Couples Study:** This group meets every first Saturday of the month; next date is March 6. Current DVD session is entitled "Sacred Marriage." Book sets are available for purchase at the church office. Email [theworshipcenter.hebron@gmail.com](mailto:theworshipcenter.hebron@gmail.com) to reserve a copy.

**One-to-One Confidential Christian Care:** Provided by Stephen Ministry to people in difficult life situations. If in need of help, call the church office.

## Revaluation Info

Data mailers had been sent to property owners requesting they verify the information and return them to eQuality. eQuality has made attempts to contact property owners regarding any changes noted on these forms. If they were able to contact the owner, and notified them that an inspection would be needed, or, if they were unable to contact the owner and an inspection is needed, they will be in the town doing these inspections over the next couple months.

This is not a full inspection revaluation, so only properties that had changes or questions submitted on their data mailer, or properties with open building permits issued or work recently completed will require inspections.

Data collectors have photo identification cards and letters from the town; their information is filed with the resident state trooper's office, the town manager's office, and the assessors' office.

For more information, call the Hebron assessor's office at 860-228-5971 ext. 147.

## LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF HEBRON

### TOWN MANAGER'S PROPOSED BUDGET BUDGET SUMMARY FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

	ADOPTED Expenditures 2020-2021	PROPOSED Expenditures 2021-2022	Percent Change
Town Government	\$9,722,318	\$10,429,693	7.28%
Hebron Board of Education	\$11,561,416	\$12,174,673	5.30%
RHAM School District Levy	\$13,217,247	\$12,999,043	-1.65%
RHAM Debt Service	\$1,236,177	\$1,196,909	-3.18%
Total	\$35,737,158	\$36,800,318	2.97 %

For detailed budget information and meeting dates please visit: <https://hebronct.com/budget-information/>

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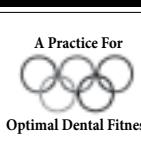
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P.S. While a dental inlay is similar to a filling and fits inside the cusp tips (top edges) of the tooth, a dental onlay is more extensive and extends over the cusps of the treated tooth.

**George M. Mantikas, DMD, PC**

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RE3-5-21

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**Fish Fry Fridays**

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

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

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

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



**100 Years Young... On Monday, Feb. 22,**  
Madeline Grant, a resident at Harrington Court Genesis Healthcare, celebrated her **100th birthday.** Her family sent her some wonderful gifts: new clothes, cupcakes, a birthday girl tiara, and Cracker Jacks (her favorite).

**Ukrainian Catholic Church News**

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

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

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

**Fire Calls**

From Feb. 21-27, the Colchester Hayward Fire Department responded to 40 calls: 27 emergency medical calls, 12 fire/fire-related calls, and one motor vehicle crash (a single-car crash). Calls included:

Fire: fire alarm, eight; service call, two; vehicle fire, one; gas leak, one.

Medical: sick person, seven; cardiac distress, one; cardiac arrest, one; difficulty breathing, three; lift assist, one; fall injury, four; abdominal pain, one; unconscious, three; medical alarm, two; mental disorder, two; injured person, two.

CHFD provided mutual aid once last week, to East Haddam, and did not receive any.

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

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

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**Happy 100th!...** Patty Watts, director of senior services at Colchester Senior Center, recently presented a proclamation from First Selectman Mary Bylone to Colchester resident Mary Wibberley in celebration of her 100th birthday.

### Tag Sale March 20

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

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

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

### Genealogy 101 Series

Colchester Senior Center will hold a Genealogy 101 series Thursdays, March 18-April 8, starting at 1:30 p.m.

This four-week course will teach you the basics of how to trace your family history, from the U.S. census to land records and other historical documents.

Fee for all four sessions is \$20. Space is limited; to register, call the senior center at 860-537-3911.

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

**Monday, March 8:** 8:30 a.m., Commission on Aging via Zoom; 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 9:** 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi on Zoom; 11 a.m., Adult Coloring; 1:30 p.m., conference call bingo; 7 p.m., Senior Center Building Committee on Zoom.

**Wednesday, March 10:** 9 a.m.-noon, AARP Tax Aide, by appointment only; 10 a.m., Making Memories on Zoom; 2:30 p.m., Senior Center Staff Meeting; 7 p.m., AARP Webinar Wednesday: Work at Age 50+.

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

**Friday, March 12:** 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., AARP Tax Aide; 10:30 a.m., Highlighting Colchester History with CHS; 11 a.m., Senior Yoga on Zoom.

**Upcoming Programs: Care Corner with Select Physical Therapy:** Thursdays, March 11 and 25, noon, via Zoom. Jennifer Owens from Select Physical Therapy will share tips on how to stay healthy and fit. On March 11, learn about fall prevention and on March 25, learn safe exercises to do at home.

**Virtual Tour of Nashville Presented:** Thursday, March 11, 2 p.m., via Zoom, presented by

### Ahavath Achim News

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

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

There are daily prayer classes on Facebook Live.

For more information, call 860-537-2809. Office hours are 8 a.m.-noon Monday-Friday.



### Physical Therapy Helps...

by Kirsti Stennett, P.T.



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To help pinpoint the cause of your shoulder pain, your physical therapist will complete a thorough examination that will include learning details of your symptoms, assessing your ability to move your arm, identifying weakness, and performing special tests that may indicate a rotator cuff tear. Remember, you have the right to choose where you receive care, where it is convenient and the most comprehensive. At ECRC-Physical Therapy "Experience you can trust to get results."

P.S. If rotator cuff surgery cannot be avoided because the tear is too severe, physical therapy will help in post-surgical recovery.



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### Senior Center News & Notes

Friendship Tours. Learn about Nashville's music, culture and the arts, food, sports, shopping and more. Click the link in the monthly Zoom table to join.

**Leprechan Lunch To-Go:** Wednesday, March 17, noon. Pick up your lunch of corned beef and cabbage, steamed parsley potatoes, sliced carrots, Irish soda bread, apple juice, and a sweet treat for dessert. Pre-register by March 10 by calling the center. Cost is \$8 and can be paid the day of pickup.

**Shamrock and Roll with John Banker:** Wednesday, March 17, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom. Eat your Irish meal while listening to Banker, a Connecticut-based musician who will bring the sounds of the old country in this free live performance. Be sure to wear your green. For more information and directions on how to join, call the senior center.

**Masks & Martinis Zoom Happy Hour:** Wednesday, March 24, 2 p.m. To celebrate resilience in the face of a global pandemic, have a drink and play some games.

**Let the Shenanigans Begin: A Statewide Virtual Event:** Friday, March 26, 1-2:30 p.m., via Zoom. The same people who brought you the "It's a Wonderful Life" virtual holiday bash are back at it again, this time to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. CT Healthy Living, CASP and AARP will present this afternoon of live entertainment by Pierce Campbell, laughs, and a time to celebrate. Registration is required.

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

**International Cooking Demo on Zoom: Korea:** Friday, March 26, 1:30 p.m. Follow along at home or simply watch a demonstration on how to prepare Korean barbecue chicken and spicy vegetable slaw. After the program, you are welcome to stop by the senior center to get a sample of the dish; pre-registration is required. Call or email the senior center to be provided a recipe and shopping list.

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

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

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



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## Colchester Food Box Distribution Continues on Fridays

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

When arriving Fridays for delivery, remain in your car and a volunteer will load your box into your trunk. For more information contact Abundant Life Pastor Charles Brown at c.brown26@mac.com or 860-303-0416. For the past three weeks, volunteers have unloaded and loaded 19

tons of food and distributed it to the surrounding towns of East Windsor, Manchester, East Hampton, Lebanon, Norwich and several others. Local residents have also benefited from the drive-thru opportunity to obtain a box and provide their neighbors with a second box.

This is part of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program from the USDA under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act to purchase and distribute agricultural products to those in need. The program will expire in April.

## 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. Most of these programs will be conducted online. For more information, call the children's department at 860-537-7201.

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

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

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

**Exploring the Alphabet:** Fridays at 10:30 a.m. on Facebook and YouTube. Each week, explore a new letter of the alphabet, sing songs, practice writing and share books. A craft bag will accompany each video, bags can be picked up on Monday the same week as the video. The final video is March 19.

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

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

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

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

## Abundant Life Church News & Notes

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

**Food Truck:** Friday, March 5, from 2-4 p.m. in the church parking lot, boxes of food will again be handed out to anyone in need. There is no charge. Cars will line up in the parking lot and volunteers will load boxes into your trunk or car. Boxes may include milk, chicken, potatoes, apples, onions, cheese, butter and yogurt. The food is supplied by USDA Farmers to Families Food Box Program.

**Weekly Sunday Service:** The church continues open-door services on Sundays. Facial masks while roaming and social distancing guidelines are followed, including only allow-

ing fewer than 50 attendees. Sunday School is at the church at 9:30 a.m., with the main service beginning at 10:30 a.m. Call the church if you would like to attend.

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

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

## Hummingbirds: Jeweled Acrobats in the Garden

All are invited to join Cragin Memorial Library for a virtual program about hummingbirds via Zoom on Thursday, March 18, at 6 p.m.

Sally Brockett, a local gardener, birder and member of the Daytime Gardeners of North Haven, will present tips on attracting hummingbirds to your yard. She will also share her experiences with hummingbirds and backyard birding. Brockett has photos of a variety of hummingbirds, some seen in the U.S. and others from Central America.

The event is sponsored by the Colchester Garden Club and Friends of Cragin Memorial Library. To sign up, visit tinyurl.com/12au7mz8. The library does not record virtual programs.

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

## Kindergarten Registration

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

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

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

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## Homeschooling Resources Available

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

A limited number of educational resources are now available to homeschooled students in grades K-12. Any interested family should make a written request for access to the resources directed to [tldirector@colchesterct.org](mailto:tldirector@colchesterct.org), and will need to agree to abide by all district terms of use of resources. Home Schooling Policy 6000.1T is available on the district website, [www.colchesterct.org](http://www.colchesterct.org).

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

## Scholarship Available

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

For an application, students can visit their guidance counselor or stop into the St. Joseph's Polish club, 395 S. Main St., or download one at [www.stjoespolishclub.com](http://www.stjoespolishclub.com).

All applications must be turned in by March 31.

## Pierogis and Easter Kielbasa Loops

On Saturday, March 27, members of St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church in Colchester will make pierogis for sale and sell Easter kielbasa loops (approximately two pounds each) for \$15.

Pre-orders are required and will be taken until March 18. Call 860-365-0281 to place an order for pierogis, kielbasa or both.

For more information, call 860-537-2069.

## Drive-Thru Corned Beef Dinner

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

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

## Book Bingo at Cragin

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

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

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

## CBSL Spring Registration

Registration ends soon for the Colchester Baseball and Softball League's spring season.

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

The registration deadline for most age groups is March 8.

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



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REG-12-20

Colchester • Colchester

**Dean's List**

Christopher Maffuid of Colchester made the fall 2020 Dean's list at Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia, Pa.

Maffuid is co-majoring in machine learning for business applications and business intelligence and analytics.

**Take-Out Turkey Dinner**

Westchester Congregational Church will hold a Turkey Dinner (order ahead and drive-thru take-out only) from 4-6 p.m. Saturday, March 27. Orders must be placed by Wednesday, March 24, by calling 860-267-6711. The church is located at 95 Cemetery Rd. in the Westchester section of Colchester.

The menu will be: roast turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, butternut squash casserole, cranberry sauce, roll and butter, and a brownie for dessert.

Payment is \$13 per dinner, by cash or check made out to "WCC."

**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.

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

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

**Scholarships Available**

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

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

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

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

Applications must be received by Wednesday, March 17.

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



**Helping the Town...** Colchester Rotary applied for the Rotary Foundation COVID-19 Community Response Grant and received a \$1,000 grant to help the town during the pandemic. The grant was presented to Colchester Youth and Social Services to help with any area of need in the community, including: medical co-pays, medical needs such as glasses or hearing aids, Internet services for distance-learning, gasoline, assistance with paying rent, or more. From left are Stephaine Turbes of CYSS; Terry Congdon, Colchester Rotary president; and Bonnie Johnson, grant committee chair.

**Republicans Seek Candidates**

In preparation for the Nov. 2 municipal election, the Colchester Republican Town Committee is seeking candidates for town-elected offices.

For more information, call RTC Chairman Art Shilosky at 860-537-1093 or Betty Wagner at 860-537-5327.

**RESTAURANT**

**WEEKEND BREAKFAST SPECIALS**

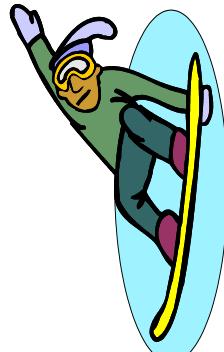
**Saturday 3/6 & Sunday 3/7**

**Farmyard Breakfast Bowl**  
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**Scholarship Available**

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

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

**Dean's List**

Sydney Rochette of Colchester made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

**Colchester Soccer Club News**

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

CSC will hold its annual meeting Wednesday, March 24, at 7 p.m., via video conference. All members are welcome to attend. Elections for vice president of recreation and treasurer will take place, along with nominations for other board positions. Email [secretary@colchestersoccer.org](mailto:secretary@colchestersoccer.org) for details on how to access the video call.

CSC is seeking volunteers for the following open positions: web administrator – if interested, contact Tim Daniels at [President@colchestersoccer.org](mailto:President@colchestersoccer.org); 3rd/4th Grade Divisional Coordinator – if interested, contact Bill Beeler at [vp.recreation@colchestersoccer.org](mailto:vp.recreation@colchestersoccer.org); U9 Boys and Girls Fall Travel Coaches (all Travel Coaches are required to hold an age appropriate Grassroots license, or equivalent, or obtain one before the start of the season) – if interested, contact Anton Smith at [vp.travel@colchestersoccer.org](mailto:vp.travel@colchestersoccer.org); Grades 2-7Up Fall Recreation Coaches – if interested, contact Bill Beeler at [vp.recreation@colchestersoccer.org](mailto:vp.recreation@colchestersoccer.org).

CSC is in need of more referees for the spring and fall soccer seasons. Online training is available through March 31. Visit [ctreferee.net](http://ctreferee.net) for more information.

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REB-5-21

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REB-26-21

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REB-5-21

East Hampton • East Hampton

## Grant Applications Due in April

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

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

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

tion'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).

## Beginner Bellringer Preschool

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

This year, there will be sessions of preschool with a distant learning option, and a maximum of 12 preschool students. The schedule is three afternoons per week (Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays). The preschool is open to 3- to

5-year-olds (as of Jan. 1). In some cases, the school will accept older 2-year-olds.

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

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

## Children Sought for Preschool Programs

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

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

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

cants, regardless of economic or risk factors, will then be selected.

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

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

Forms received after March 19 will not be accepted.

## Resident Joins Real Estate Firm

Real estate sales professional Lauren Reis recently joined Carl Guild & Associates, a full-service, independent real estate brokerage based in East Hampton that services clients throughout the central Connecticut region.

Reis is an East Hampton local with knowledge of Middlesex County markets and a background in sales and education.

"We're so happy to welcome Lauren to Carl Guild & Associates," said broker/owner Carl Guild. "She's not only passionate about real estate but also a caring and trusted advisor, who puts the needs of her clients first, always."

Reis lives in East Hampton with her husband and four children. Prior to her career in real estate, Reis worked with special education children, assisting students with autism and multiple sclerosis. Before that, she worked in



**Lauren Reis**

a sales position for one of the nation's largest retail department stores.

Reis said the complexities of building her real estate business in a pandemic – with countless obstacles and unusual scenarios – prepared her to successfully navigate any challenge.

"Helping buyers and sellers during COVID-19 meant I quickly became familiar with the best digital, contactless tools and solutions for my clients," she said. "It's why I can provide such a streamlined, seamless experience now."

Reis said that during her initial interview, she immediately sensed Guild's willingness to help expand her career.

"It wasn't just the rave reviews I read about the brokerage," she explained. "After meeting with Carl, I could tell agents at his brokerage receive so much support and are willing to collaborate to help everyone succeed."

Guild added, "After speaking with Lauren, I knew she'd be an ideal fit for our brokerage family. Her clients aren't just her clients; they become her fans and her friends. She's just that personable, knowledgeable and eager to help people achieve their real estate goals."

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RE3-21

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**Dinners Donated...** On Thursday, Feb. 11, Sweet Jean's Café donated over 60 hot dinners to the resident at the East Hampton Housing Authority. The donations helped EHHA residents stretch their food budgets. Pictured with the dinners are, at right, Danielle Tyler, owner of Sweet Jean's, and, at left, Madison Zean, supervisor at Sweet Jean's.

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RE3-5-21

## — Center Package Store —

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## 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.

## Police News

2/5: Jonathan Robinson, 24, of 196 East Hampton Rd., Marlborough was issued a summons for sixth-degree larceny (shoplifting), East Hampton Police said. He was also issued another summons for sixth-degree larceny (shoplifting) on Feb. 18, police added.

2/13: After an investigation into a car-vs.-guardrail motor vehicle crash on Colchester Avenue, Mark Deptula, 44, of 59 Comstock Trail, was arrested and charged with driving under the influence and failure to drive right, police said.

2/23: Samuel Clymer, 55, of 1 Middletown Ave., was issued a summons for operating without a license, following too close and illegal use of high beams, police said.

From Feb. 15-21, officers responded to three medical calls, three motor vehicle crashes and eight alarms, and made 11 traffic stops, police said.

## Lions Continues Shoe Drive

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

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

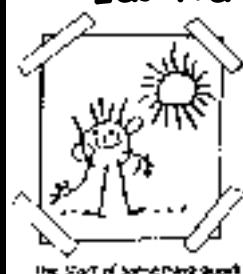
Shoes may also be dropped off at Ace Hardware, or to have them picked up, call 860-977-5760 or 860-593-1220.

## Dean's List

Kendall Burt and Kailey Flatley of East Hampton made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield.

Burt and Flatley are freshmen, majoring in nursing.

## East Hampton Nursery School



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[www.easthamptonnurseryschool.com](http://www.easthamptonnurseryschool.com)



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East Hampton • East Hampton

## East Hampton Library News & Notes

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

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

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

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

**Virtual Afterschool Programs: Footprints, Friarys, and Fundays:** The library offers after school programming for children in grades 2-5 on Fridays during the school year, and Monday Fundays for middle school students on select Mondays. Programming takes place at 4 p.m., and all programs are over Zoom. Registration required. The schedule is: Footprints, for grades 2-3, March 5, April 9 and April 30; Friary, for grades 4-5, March 19 and April 23; Monday Fundays, for grades 6-8, March 15 and April 19.

**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.

**Library Becomes Candy Land:** This month, the library is transforming East Hampton into a life-size version of Candy Land. Starting March 12, pick up your Candy Land Kit in the library or curbside. Inside, find your game board (plus a few extra surprises). The game board will guide you around town to visit Candy Land-themed stops, where you'll complete challenges and answer riddles. Once you've completed the game, return your game board to the library for a chance to win prizes. Register at easthamptonpubliclibrary.org/candyland.

**Cozy Crafts:** Wednesdays through March 17 via Zoom, for grades 2-5. Each week will bring

a new hands-on arts and crafts project. Register for each session to reserve a project bag that contains all the supplies you'll need to participate.

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Pot Roast Dinner

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

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

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

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



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RE3-5-21

## Parks and Rec. News & Notes

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Senior Center News & Notes

Hemphill is the guest.

**Seated Yoga with Kitch via Zoom:** Winter Session 2 will be Wednesdays, March 24-May 26, from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Register online at MyactiveCenter.com. Fee is \$20. Payment may be mailed to: East Hampton Senior Center, 105 Main St., East Hampton, CT 06424; make check payable to the Town of East Hampton.

**Bingo via Telephone/Conference Call:** The center has a telephone number people dial into to play every other Friday, and staff will be the caller. The next Bingo call will be Friday, March 19, at 10 a.m. Call the center to register and schedule a time to pick up your bingo cards.

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

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

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Tim Feegel, Service Manager

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## Antique Appraisal Day

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

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

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

continual upkeep of the society's two museum buildings and 1840 one-room schoolhouse on Bevin Boulevard. Tax-deductible donations to the Chatham Historical Society, a non-profit 501c3 entity, can also be made at this event.

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

Visit [chathamhistorical.org](http://chathamhistorical.org) or the Chatham Historical Society's Facebook page right before the event, for word of any possible cancellation.

## Sponsors Sought for Summer Concerts

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

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

## 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.

## COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic

The Chatham Health District will hold a COVID-19 vaccine clinic for people aged 65 and older on Wednesday, March 17, by appointment, at East Hampton High School.

Call the East Hampton Senior Center at 860-267-4426 for more information or to schedule your appointment.

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).

## Scholarship Available

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

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

East Hampton Middle School has announced its honor roll for the first semester of the 2020-21 school year.

### High Honors

**Grade 8:** Alyssa Anderson, Katherine Banack, William Bothamley, Rachael Boudreau, Charlotte Cascio, Alicia Colegrove, Matthew Correia, Jonathan Crowley, Austin Cuthbertson, Olivia D'Agostino, Olivia DeMartino, Joli Dickson-Cotto, Jace Donohue, Cassie Duigan, Keira Engel, Gavin Fazekas, Domenique Fontano, Skyler Frosti, Elliott Galovich, McKayla Greenwood, Kaitlyn Grenier, Nicholas Guarino, Parker Gustine, Madison Hall, Danielle Healy, Alison Hebb, Kaitlyn Ireland, Allison Jacobsen, Kathryn Johnson, Sean Jones, Emily Jovel, Blake Kapernaros, Emma Kelly, Courtney Klewicki;

Jacqueline Laboy, Kristoffer Lintz, Evan LoPresti, Brady Lynch, Faith Machnik, Hailey Marrero, Riley McCormick, Abbie Miller, Grace Montovani, Amanda Murphy, William Nafis, Theodore Nanos, Aiden Nolan, James O'Brien, Jarod Ondas, Addison Partridge, Sienna Paul, Raleigh Paulauskas, Gavin Peterson, Sydney Pettine, Payton Polsonetti, Kiersten Rolland, Lydia Roloff, Clara Romero, Christopher Ruggiero, Liana Salamone, Sierra Selger, Zachary Selger, Neha Sidana, Keenan Spooner, Aiden Sullivan, Aidan Trombino, Landon Vailancourt, Tyler Varni, Sonja Venetianer, Gabriella Wiesner, Samantha Yorker.

**Grade 7:** Tristan Adams, Sofia Arezzo, Beckett Asklar, Lila Babcock, Alivia Baier, C. Frances Barry, Michael Bellemare, Madison Benigni, Ella Briggs, Lilah Butson, Alexis Cardenas, Richard Carl, Dylan Carlson, Natalia Clark, Anastacia Cooke, Tyler Crumb, Madelyn Daniels, Hannah DePino, Monica Dickenson, Chase Dinunzio, Matthew Drlik, Andrew Fenton, Stephanie Franklin, Brielle Gay, Hailey Geoffrey, Aiden Gora, Jocelyn Gustavson, John Haley, Jaxon Hanson, Andrew Hawk, Alyson, Henderson, Ryan Ingala, Ava Jedziniak, Ashley Johnson, Dean Jump, Kendall Jump, Ollie Kennedy, Abigail Kiernan, Julianna Korczak, Adriana Kromish, Jillian Leonardo, Mikah Leven-

## Middle School Honor Roll

duski, Bethany Limmer, James Limmer, Sophia Long, Cael Lumbrä;

Hannah Malinka-Morgan, Domenic Mangino, Jacob Marchinkoski, Liam McGarty, Makayla Miarecki, Eryk Mitkiewicz, Noah Mokrzynski, Jake Morrone, Mackenzie Mortimer, Calista Nephew, Aiden Niderno, Leah Norton, Lauren Palma, Chase Palmer, Grace Pekar, Sophie Perron, William Potter, Benjamin Romero, Meagan Rose, Jackson Rurka, Declan Russell, Brooke Ryan, Chelsea Ryan, Landon Searles, Sophia Snyder, Aubrey Stevens, Roxanne Stewart, Emma Sweet, Victoria Twiss, Sydney Vicino, Caleb Wagner, Evan Wagner, Amelia Wiesner, Madelyn Wilk, Chloe Wisniewski, Logan Zabroski.

**Grade 6:** Lucy Alford, Rohnan Burke, Andrew Christensen, Olivia Correia, Sayla DeStasio, Lilly Engel, Michael Farrell, Owen Fielding, Daniel Fields, William Finn, Grace Flannery, Bryce Gagne, Mason Gagnon, Kellen Garvey, Pearl Gaston, Kaelyn Gould, Benjamin Kohler, Julian Kramer, Mineth Kulatunga, Ryan Lopes, Kelsey Lynch, Eva Moren, Colin Neary, Liam O'Connor, Paige Ottone, Bryn Parmelee, Gabriela Proxee, Alexandre Rodrigues, Dempsey Russell, John Salafia, Kaylan Sullivan, Teagan Sullivan, Logan Supinski, Ethan Vai, Empress Valencia, Taylor VanBlaricom, Aubrey Varni, Mya Viveiros, Samantha Werme, Josie Wilson, Helena Wisniewski, Sebastian Woodson, Maria Zabroski.

### Honors

**Grade 8:** Macie Brazal, Devin Crowley, Tyler Dixon, Claire Fentress, Zackary Howland, Isabella Hyte, Colin Kosek, Maximilian Mozrowski, Juliana Sinsigalli.

**Grade 7:** Ayomide Bambose, Nicolas Borrelli, Vivienne Braun-Fales, Ava Carpenter, Jack Cote, Ethan Dewhurst, Talor Lambo, James O'Brien.

**Grade 6:** Lee Barron, Patrick Cahill, Macie Coleman, Madeline D'Elia, Luke Garcia, Nora Hyte, Dolan Krasnitski, Jonathan Lee, Bryson Milton, Madeleine Mohr, Zephra Sanderson, Darren Schwedler, Garrett Sharpe.

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## \$3M in Stimulus Marked for East Hampton, Portland

by Jack Lakowsky

Portland First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield last week announced that in President Joe Biden's \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan \$2 million is marked for Portland schools and general town government.

Another \$1.3 million is marked for East Hampton, according to East Hampton Town Manager David Cox.

The stimulus passed the U.S. House of Representatives 219-212. The bill now heads to the U.S. Senate.

Rep. John Larson (D-1), who serves Portland in Washington and voted for the stimulus, called Bransfield to say that the town government will receive about \$915,000 and the Portland Board of Education is slated to get \$989,000 should the bill pass the Senate vote.

In all, Portland stands to receive about \$1.9 million.

"[Our] congressman is feeling very positive this will be affirmed in the Senate," Bransfield wrote in an email to the *Rivereast*. "Stay tuned

for more information."

In a letter to Bransfield, Larson wrote should the legislation pass, he will visit Portland at a later date for a community conversation.

Bransfield implied this won't be the only opportunity for the town to receive federal dollars. Anything allotted to Middlesex County will also be distributed to each town in the region, based on population.

After the interview, Bransfield sent to the *Rivereast* information saying Middlesex County will receive \$32 million.

Details at the moment are slim, Bransfield said Monday. She said details about restrictions, if there are any, have yet to come through. She also isn't clear if this is "straight money" or will work as a reimbursement.

But one can brainstorm.

Bransfield said for example if the legislation allows, the money could be used for new police body and dashboard cameras, and the storage of collected data. Last year's state Police Accountability Bill mandates this. It's pricey – about \$200,000, Bransfield said.

Purchasing Chromebooks for Portland students would be another way to use the money,

Bransfield said, as the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated starkly the need for seamless access to up-to-date technology.

A third option Bransfield floated was bolstering the town's social services department. Right now, Portland has no full-time director of the Waverly Senior Center.

Mary Pont, director of Youth/Family Services, fills this role, splitting time between the town's youth and its seniors. Bransfield said the town should employ at least a part-time center director.

Bransfield said the workload brought on by the pandemic, including vaccination scheduling, overseeing distribution of relief money and outreach to keep the town informed have strained social service staff, as well as personnel of the Chatham Health District.

"There are many future and ongoing items a director of the senior center will have to deal with," said Bransfield.

In his statement, Larson said the stimulus will "put dollars in families' pockets as they struggle to stay afloat during the dual economic and health crises."

The American Rescue Plan, if it passes the Senate as-is, will include \$1,400 in direct payments to families. A family of four making less than \$150,000 annually will receive \$5,600.

Connecticut is also slated to receive \$277 million to fund childcare for parents who need to return to work. It also includes \$5 billion in utility relief.

For small businesses, the package includes

an extension of the Employee Retention Tax Credit, creates a \$25 billion grant program for restaurant relief and provides \$1.25 billion for live venues and museums.

Connecticut's local governments could get as much as \$2.7 billion in relief, according to Larson's statement. Towns in the 1st Congressional District are slated to receive \$212 million. Tribal Nations across the country could receive as much as \$20 billion.

Connecticut Head Start, the state's chapter of the federal program that readies for their school careers young learners from low-income families, is proposed to get almost \$7 million, according to Larson's information.

### More than \$1 Million for East Hampton

Cox on Tuesday told the *Rivereast* Belltown is set to receive about \$1.3 million from the stimulus plan if it passes the Senate.

Cox said the current understanding is that the money will be used for economic growth, as well as any revenue shortfalls, but that the money's exact use requirements haven't been detailed.

"The fewer limits, the better," said Cox.

Cox said ideally, towns will be able to use the money creatively.

"Economic development is always local, so the farther decision makers are, the harder it is to identify the right thing to do," said Cox. "Flexibility is great."

Superintendent of East Hampton Schools Paul Smith said some relief money amounts have been floated to the district, but nothing has been confirmed.

In all, Connecticut towns will be allotted \$1.56 billion, according to information from the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities.

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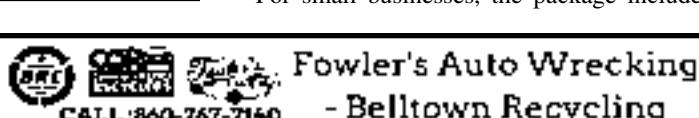
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# School Capital Plan Has Both New and Longstanding Needs

by Karla Santos

On Tuesday, Superintendent of Schools David Sklarz presented the Board of Finance a \$138,000 capital improvement budget for Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School.

The school's capital improvement plan has items the Board of Education has been saving for on a long-term basis, Sklarz said. Other items have been added more recently.

Sklarz said an issue with the oil pump system emerged this year and has to be addressed. He said the estimated cost for the repair is \$18,000 and that it has to be completed before the end of the fiscal year.

"The oil pump system is failing and the last inspection said this needs to be taken care of and it needs to be taken care of as immediately

as possible," Sklarz said.

Also included in the capital improvement plan is the boiler replacement with an estimated cost of \$30,000; the need to reseal exterior brick at an estimated cost of \$30,000; a roof replacement plan for \$30,000; and an elevator replacement plan for \$30,000.

The boiler, roof and elevator replacement plans are multi-year annual budget items, Sklarz said.

Sklarz explained that he has been a proponent of paying attention to the capital improvements of the school building for the 10 years he has worked there as a superintendent.

He said it would be beneficial to eventually hire someone to perform a major facilities audit.

"Other than that, we run the risk of having a half a million-dollar major roof replacement that we didn't pay attention to," he said.

Sklarz said the capital improvement plan is not only a school investment but also a town investment as the school building is the largest building in town and the one that serves the most people.

Board of Finance member Ken Hjulstrom told Sklarz he was concerned because he has noticed that when it comes to the roof of the building, they are not budgeting a lot relative to what the cost might be.

"I'm just concerned that's going to be on the horizon before we know it and that we are going to be nowhere near having adequate funds reserved for it," Hjulstrom said.

Sklarz said that because of items like the roof, which can be costly, he recommends a detailed facilities plan done by experts in the topic.

First Selectman Greg Lowrey said the town is also reserving funds for the roof, boiler and

elevator of the school, at \$10,000 for each.

In the 2020-21 capital improvement plan, two items were funded but the rest were put on hold because of the COVID-19 safety protocol, Sklarz said. That's why out of the \$116,400 that Sklarz budgeted for capital improvements last year, only \$49,000 ended up being funded.

Also Tuesday, Sklarz presented the school budget as adopted by the Board of Education.

Sklarz made the original budget presentation at the end of January and proposed a \$7.80 million budget that has since increased to \$7.93 million.

The original budget proposal included one additional teacher, but in Tuesday's presentation, he said the budget approved by the board includes a total of three additional teachers; one additional kindergarten teacher and two COVID-19 related teachers.

Sklarz said that 1.63% of the total budget is COVID-19-related.

## 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. For more information, visit [www.stjfchurc.org](http://www.stjfchurc.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 [tbyrysgel@stjfchurch.org](mailto:tbyrysgel@stjfchurch.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@stjfischer.org](mailto:jcast@stjfischer.org) or 860-295-9904.

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

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

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

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

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# Lowrey Presents \$26.34M Budget

by Karla Santos

At Monday's meeting of the Board of Finance, First Selectman Greg Lowrey presented a \$26.34 million budget proposal for fiscal year 2021-22.

The proposed budget comes with a \$519,210, or 2.01%, increase.

However, while the proposed budget has an overall increase, if it is approved as is, Marlborough town residents could see their taxes go down, Lowrey said, due to a surplus and other savings.

Lowrey presented the budget highlighting two main parts – town operations and capital. The proposed town operations budget is of \$5.27 million, or a 2.14% increase from the current budget.

Appointed and elected personnel account for \$1.29 million of the proposed budget or a 0.53% increase from the current budget. That part of the budget covers general government personnel, assessor, town counsel, probate, election expenses, treasurer, tax collector, town clerk and selectmen.

Town operations – which include the town hall, administrative expenses, the land use department, library building, senior center and food bank – account for \$373,815 of the proposed budget, or a 0.54% decrease from current year spending.

Boards and commissions account for

\$218,077 of the proposed budget, or a 3.28% increase from the current year. That part of the budget includes the Commission on Aging, Economic Development Commission, Parks and Recreation, Board of Finance, Board of Assessment Appeal, Fire Commissioner and Lake Study Advisory.

Health and public safety – which includes canine control, cemeteries, agent for the aged, health services, civil preparedness, public safety, Fire House #2 and the fire department – account for \$644,738 of the proposed budget, or a 4.99% increase.

Lowrey budgeted \$2.16 million for the public works portion of the budget. That's a 2.38% increase and includes the town garage, general maintenance, supplies and snow removal, tree warden, contracted services; and sanitation and landfill.

Regional services and procurement account for \$231,738 of the proposed budget or an 8.34% increase from the current budget. Regional services and procurement include the Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District, Capitol Region Council of Governments, Connecticut Council of Small Towns, North Central Connecticut Emergency Medical Services Council, Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, Salmon River Watershed Partnership, dispatch, paramedic service, Andover,

Hebron, Marlborough (AHM) Youth and Family Services and Chatham Health District.

Lowrey also budgeted \$343,068 for grants. That category saw no increase from the current budget. Grants include the Richmond Memorial Library and Memorial Day.

The biggest chunk of the \$1.28 million capital funding recommendation is \$350,000 for road improvements. Other big-ticket items in the \$1.28 million recommendation include: \$158,000 for a new fire department rescue truck and accompanying equipment; \$125,150 for North Main Street sidewalk projects; and \$113,100 for the completion of Richmond Memorial Library's second floor.

## Surplus Helps Tax Burden

During the presentation, Lowrey noted that in fiscal year 2020, the town had a surplus of \$754,799.

"We budgeted more than we spent," he said. "We have topped up our 15% unassigned fund balance and this is the money that's over and above this 15%."

He explained that the guideline that the town has adopted is keeping unassigned fund balance in the range of 13-15%.

"My feeling is, when we go over the 15% and we don't have a plan to spend money in the near term, that we should return that money to the taxpayer," he said. "That's a pretty big offset to the mill rate there."

Lowrey also explained that the tax base in town has grown faster than the total tax levy

imposed on property owners. He said there are several contributing factors to that including an overall operations, capital and debt reduction of 4% in the projected fiscal year 2022 town hall spending. That excludes the local and regional school spending, he said.

Other contributing factors are: an increase of 1.89% in the 2020 Grand List; \$50,000 from the state Local Capital Improvement Program grant; \$100,000 of proceeds from the sale of the water system toward town capital projects; \$118,443 from retired capital projects; up to \$200,000 of proceeds from the sale of the water system toward the school's capital projects; \$200,000 from the state Town Aid Road grant; and \$298,000 from capital reserves.

"Marlborough is in sound financial condition," Lowrey said.

Selectman Amy Traversa said the proposed budget reflects benefits from investments the town has made over the years.

"This year's budget realizes the savings from several of the long-term sustainability investments we've made over the years," Traversa said.

She noted that installing LED lighting in town buildings and becoming self-insured to reduce the cost of employee health insurance are examples of how the town has invested for the future over the years.

"We need to continue exploring creative efficiencies to reduce costs wherever possible," Traversa said.

## Parks and Rec Programs

Marlborough Parks and Recreation has announced the following. For full descriptions or to register, visit marlboroughct.recdesk.com and click on "programs," stop by the office at Town Hall, 26 N. Main St., or call 860-295-6203. Parks and Rec. advises people not to wait until the last minute to register, as the program may be canceled if minimum registration is not fulfilled by a certain date.

**Youth Programs: Kids Intro to Machine Sewing 101:** Thursdays, March 11-April 1, 5:30-7 p.m., for ages 8-18. Class instruction is virtual. Kids will learn the basics of machine operation, sewing basics seams, hems, elastic application and more. Materials will be delivered. All participants must have their own sewing machine. Fee: \$103/residents, \$108/non-residents.

**Kids Sewing - Kids Bunny Slippers:** Monday, March 29, 3:15-4:30 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center, for grades 4-8. Kids will create fleece booties complete with bunny ears. Each participant will take home their projects. All supplies are included. Fee: \$38/residents, \$43/non-residents.

**Kids Easter Candy Workshop:** Tuesday,

March 30, 3:15-4:15, at Marlborough Senior Center, for grades 4-8. Kids will temper chocolate to make Easter bunnies and other treats. Fee: \$28/residents, \$33/non-residents.

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

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

**Barre/Pilates:** Choose Mondays through March 29 (started March 1), from 5:30-6:15 p.m., or Wednesdays through March 31 (started March 3), from 6:45 p.m. Fee: \$50/resident, or a \$15 drop-in fee each week. Class instruction is virtual.

**Yoga:** Choose Mondays through March 29 (started March 1), from 6:30-7:30 p.m., or Tuesdays through March 30 (started March 2), from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Fee: \$50/resident, or a \$15 drop-in fee each week. Class instruction is virtual.

**Zumba:** Thursdays through March 25, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at Fire Station No. 2, or virtually if preferred. Drop-in fee each week is \$10.



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# Grand List Climbs 1.89 Percent

by Karla Santos

Marlborough has released its 2020 Grand List, reflecting an increase of 1.89% or \$11,342,155 from the previous year.

The net total of the Oct. 1, 2020 Grand List of assessable properties is \$610,860,200.

First Selectman Greg Lowrey said Marlborough has attracted a number of businesses and homebuyers, raising the market and therefore increasing the Grand List.

"We benefit from careful stewardship of our infrastructure, including nature trails and the watershed surrounding Lake Terramuggus," Lowrey said.

The Grand List is a report that represents the net value of assessments in town including real estate, personal property and motor vehicles.

All three of these categories saw an increase from 2019.

Real estate property increased \$6.93 million, going from \$528.27 million in 2019 to \$535.21 million in 2020.

There was a \$2.01 million increase in personal property, going from \$15.98 million in 2019 to \$17.99 million in 2020.

Motor vehicles' increase of \$2.39 million, brought the line item from \$55.25 million in 2019 to \$57.64 million in 2020.

A mill will represent \$610,860 on the Oct. 1, 2020 Grand List, barring any reductions made by the Board of Assessment Appeals.

## Richmond Library News & Notes

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

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

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

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

**Children's Take and Make Kit:** Kids ages 4-10 can request a take-and-make kit with instructions and materials on how to make your own galaxy calm sensory bottle. Available while supplies last.

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

**Résumé Reboot:** Wednesday, March 10, at 5 p.m. The library has teamed up with Brainfuse's Job Now to present a virtual résumé workshop hosted by Ashley Watkins, a nationally-certified résumé writer and nationally-certified online profile expert. This a free workshop and will cover three key areas: 1) How to create a keyword-rich résumé that hiring managers find irresistible; 2) What design elements draw the reader's attention to your skills, competencies, and results; and 3) Strategies for showcasing your value so you land more interviews and higher-paying positions. Contact the library to register.

**Exploring American Lighthouses:** Thursday, March 11, 7 p.m., via Zoom. John Mann, lead docent at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Museum in Ponce Inlet, Fla., will discuss the

The Grand List is used by the Board of Finance to help set the mill rate for the upcoming fiscal year, which runs July 1 to June 30. The mill rate is used to calculate a resident's taxes. Residents can figure out their own tax bill by multiplying the mill rate by their total assessments. One mill is equal to \$1 in tax per \$1,000 of assessed property.

Under the current mill rate of 36.27, a resident with a home assessed at \$250,000 would pay \$9,068 in taxes on it. However, the mill rate for the 2021-22 fiscal year won't be set until a 2021-22 budget is approved by voters.

Lowrey said the town has also seen an increase in home improvements such as backyard pools. He said the pandemic may have played a role in that as families have had to distance themselves from other people.

Lowrey also said there is ongoing activity in town that could lead to an increase in future grand lists.

"Several businesses have opened in town in recent years," Lowrey said. "I applaud their tenacity in a difficult environment. We see ongoing commercial and residential permit and construction activity, indicating a continued upward trend in the Grand List."

"I think anytime the Grand List increases is great," Board of Finance Chair Susan Leser said, and added that the growth was expected

with the results of the last revaluation.

Leser said every time the Grand List grows, the town benefits. However, she said that an increased Grand List doesn't mean the town should spend more money.

"In my opinion, budgeting should be based only on what you need," she said. She added this strategy should particularly be considered these days, as, she said, the economy doesn't seem to be doing great and gas and oil prices are increasing.

Board of Finance member Ken Hjulstrom agreed that developments such as Big Y have had a positive effect on the Grand List. He said residents are also buying newer vehicles, which has also been a growth factor.

"This brings in more revenue and allows the town to adjust the mill rate accordingly," Hjulstrom said.

Hjulstrom said he is thankful to Lowrey and Superintendent of Schools David Sklarz for working together to address the needs of the elementary school when it comes to building maintenance and capital improvements.

"And our tax collector's continued efforts to maintain a collection rate in excess of 99% shouldn't be overlooked," Hjulstrom added.

The top 10 Marlborough taxpayers in 2020 were M3-5 LLC at \$8.64 million; Conn Light & Power Co at \$6.61 million; Big Y Foods Inc at \$2.96 million; Both LLC at \$2.94 million; Marlborough Health Care Realty Co at \$2.58 million; Bridle Brook Estates LLC at \$1.94 million; Leandra Knes at \$1.66 million; OM Village LLC at \$1.22 million; Carl Zirkenbach at \$1.10 million; and C & B Marlborough Associates LLC at \$1 million.

## Julia Marcin to Wed Conner Raggio



**Conner Raggio and Julia Marcin**

John and Jeanine Marcin of Marlborough have announced the engagement of their daughter, Julia Marie Marcin, to Conner Anthony Raggio, currently of Bronx, N.Y.

The prospective bridegroom is the son of Richard and Tara Raggio of Yonkers, N.Y.

Marcin is a 2014 honors graduate of Mercy High School in Middletown. In 2018, she earned her Bachelor of Science degree in business, with concentrations in finance and international business, from the Gabelli School of Business at Fordham University, Rose Hill, Bronx, N.Y. During her time at Fordham, she was active in campus life, clubs, band and completed a mission trip to the Dominican Republic, working amongst the impoverished. In addition, she studied abroad in Berlin, Germany, becoming conversational in a second language.

Upon graduation, Marcin was accepted into the legacy United Technologies Financial Leadership Program, which she successfully completed in August 2020. This involved four six-month rotations across the company's business units where she received two distinguished performance awards.

Marcin is currently a senior associate at Raytheon Technologies Corporate Strategy and Development group. She will move with Raytheon to the Boston, Mass., area in the near future.

Raggio is a 2013 honors graduate of Salesian High School in New Rochelle, N.Y. In 2017, he graduated from Fordham University, Rose Hill, Bronx, N.Y., earning a Bach-

elor of Arts degree in history with a focus on economic development. While at Fordham, Raggio was involved in the Reserve Officers Training Corps. In addition, during his time at Fordham, he volunteered as an ambassador for the not-for-profit Eye to Eye, a company focused on helping those with learning and attention issues towards a brighter future. He also completed the pilgrimage mission trip, El Camino, "the way of St. James," in Spain.

After graduation, Raggio accepted a teaching position at Bronx Collaborative High School. In 2019, he completed his Master of Arts degree in special education with emphasis on history. He was promoted in 2020 to his current position as department coordinator for special education at Bronx Collaborative High School.

The couple will wed in July 2021 at St. Stanislaus Church in New Haven.

## Preschool Lottery Applications

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

Eligible children must be at least 3 years old by Sept. 1, and parents/guardians must complete and return a questionnaire no later than Friday, March 26. Children identified as kindergarten eligible (those turning 5 by Dec. 31) are not eligible to be peer models for the coming school year.

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

## Police News

2/25: State Police said Lawrence Carl Oliver, 42, of Manchester, was arrested and charged with driving vehicle without insurance, driving with a suspended license, evading responsibility, driving under the influence, driving vehicle without ignition device, and failure to drive in proper lane.

## Enrolled at ECSU

Marlborough residents Ethan Spinelli and David Vrooman have enrolled at Eastern Connecticut State University for the spring 2021 semester.

Spinelli is a part-time graduate student majoring in organizational management, and Vrooman is a part-time senior majoring in music.

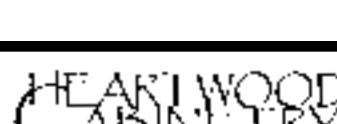
## E-Mail Letters

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

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# Taxes May Climb More Than 7 Percent

by Sloan Brewster

If the budgets for the next fiscal year are passed as presented, Andover taxes will go up by more than 7 percent.

The combined \$12.84 million budget proposed for the 2021-22 fiscal year requests represent a \$301,450 or 2.4% increase over the current year's \$12.54 million budget – but the numbers translate to a much higher estimated increase in taxes, Town Administrator Eric Anderson said in a phone call Wednesday. All told, the spending packages would bring taxes from the current mill rate of 34.99 mills to 38.31 mills, a 7.58% hike.

The reason for the discrepancy is that this year, selectmen strayed from a path they have taken in recent years and did not transfer funds from the unexpended fund balance to offset the budget, Anderson said.

"Were transferring \$780,000 less from the unexpended fund balance," he said. "Without that [change], it would be a relatively easy balance to swallow."

In a phone call Wednesday, Vice First Selectmen Adrian Mandeville said last year the town took \$320,000 from the unexpected fund balance and gathered funds from several other closed accounts and transferred those into the budget as well, bringing the total to about \$785,000.

At the Board of Selectmen workshop last Tuesday, at which selectmen voted to send the budget request onto the Board of Finance, Mandeville toyed with the idea of transferring \$100,000 from the fund balance but the board opted against it.

"The board has always been very reluctant to use fund balance just to decrease taxation, although we did it last year and to some extent the year before," Anderson said.

Anderson, on Tuesday, said the Board of Finance can still make the decision to pull some

funds out of fund balance.

Last Thursday, Anderson gave the spending request to the finance board.

The budget is broken down into three main components, Andover Elementary School, RHAM's spending plan and town spending.

The town's \$3.48 million portion, which includes a \$2.50 million capital request, is \$72,478, or 2.13%, above the current year's \$3.41 million spending plan.

The local school board's \$4.16 million request represents a \$255,000 or 6.56% over the current year's \$3.90 million spending plan.

The proposed RHAM 2021-22 budget currently sits at \$30.71 million and includes a \$5.29 million levy for Andover – which would be a reduction from the current year's levy. The RHAM Board of Education will not finalize its budget until after a budget public hearing on April 5.

To get to their numbers, selectmen made some cuts from department requests, with the biggest to capital, Anderson said. Cuts include \$25,000 from the Fire Department's \$100,000 spending request; \$25,000 from the Public Works \$75,000 tree trimming request; and \$15,000 from the \$60,000 building maintenance request.

The primary drivers in capital spending are for improving town infrastructure, including roads, bridges and culverts, the town administrator said.

While capital spending is going up, town operations are going down.

"We're certainly not adding anything on the town side," Anderson said

The town cut \$4,000 in employee benefits for a new employee in the tax collector's department and an \$11,000 decrease was made because the town decided against hiring a senior services director put in the budget last year.

"With COVID, most of the programming we wanted to do, we couldn't do anyway," Anderson said. "We kind of made the decision to keep that [position] with an existing employee."

Another \$8,000 in spending was slashed from the Public Works Department equipment maintenance account, which Anderson said was higher last year to cover the cost of sandblasting and painting a vehicle.

Over the past few weeks, selectmen have stated the local education request represents too much in per pupil spending, a sticking point they rehashed during last week's discussion when selectman Scott Person asked "are we okay" with the education board's request.

"No," Mandeville replied. "We can voice our disdain to the Board of Finance and ask them to address it."

Anderson was scheduled to give a detailed presentation on the town's budget request at a budget workshop Wednesday.

**Finance Board Looks at School Spending**

At last Wednesday's Board of Finance budget workshop, Superintendent of Schools Valerie Bruneau presented the education request and defended her decision to keep class sizes in kindergarten and third grade low for the 2021-22 school year.

Board of Finance member Louise Goodwin

asked Bruneau about bringing an additional classroom to third grade when there are only two additional incoming students expected.

Bruneau replied that the district was "looking at different kids."

"No matter how you bake it, unless there's some specific students involved you went from 17 students in a class to 18 students in a class to 10 students in a class," Marc Brinker, finance board chairman, said. "I think that's probably what Louise is getting at."

Bruneau said there was a potential learning gap and that third grade and kindergarten, which she also plans for small class sizes, are crucial years for elementary school students.

"Third grade is that first grade that we do [standardized testing]," she said. "I would say that kindergarten and third grade are probably those optimal years in elementary school for curriculum and bench marks."

Board of Finance member Robert England said his daughter is in second grade and is behind in reading.

"I get that, that a particular grade level [or] cohort of kids may need a little handholding for a bit to catch them up and I don't think it's crazy for someone to say that they need that," he said. "I've seen it personally."

## School Board Vacancy

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

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

## 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

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

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

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

## 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.

## Preschool Screening

The Andover Board of Education, through the Andover Elementary School Early Learning Center, will hold a screening Friday, May 14, for children that reside in Andover and are 3 or 4 years old.

The screening will be held differently this school year due to the ongoing pandemic. School staff will send home an age-appropriate questionnaire for parents to fill out about their children. The questions are in the areas of speech, language, cognitive, and motor development. Parents will then receive information which will assist in fostering their child's growth, if needed.

If interested in having your child screened, contact the director of special education at 860-742-7339 or at [maioranoh@andoverelemen-taryct.org](mailto:maioranoh@andoverelemen-taryct.org) to request an ASQ-3 questionnaire.

## Honor Roll

Four Andover residents made the Cheney Tech honor roll for the second quarter of the 2020-21 school year.

Alaric Erami, Grade 10, and Sarah Hunter, Grade Nine, made High Honors. Cayden Hunter and Logan Lysiuk, both Grade 10, made Honors.

## Vaccines Now Available for 55+

COVID-19 vaccine shots are now available for ages 55 and up. Call 1-877-918-2224 for an appointment. Call Cathy Palazzi at 860-916-6122 if transportation or additional assistance is needed.

## Baking with Zoom

Andover Public Library will host a "Baking with Zoom" program Wednesday, March 24, at 6:30 p.m., during which participants will make an Earl Grey Yogurt Cake (Bread).

Upon sign-up, bakers will receive a list of ingredients and the loose-leaf tea for this project. Bakers will supply everything else that is needed (oven, baking pans, other ingredients). During the Zoom presentation, participants will mix the batter and pop the bread/cake into the oven.

Toward the end of the program, the library will show an example of the finished cake, and provide some suggested toppings for eating.

To arrange a time to pick up the tea and list of ingredients, as well as the Zoom login information, call 860-742-7428 or email [andoverctpubliclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:andoverctpubliclibrary@gmail.com).

## Senior Citizen News & Notes

The following news items have been announced for Andover seniors.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Congregational Church News

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 be there March 17.

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

**Walk-In/Preorder Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner:** Friday, March 12, from 5:30-7 p.m. Preorder at 860-742-7696. Dessert and beverage included. Cost is \$12.

## Library Friends Offer Scholarship

The Andover Friends of the Library is offering its 32nd annual scholarship to an Andover high school senior.

Seniors interested in applying for the \$1,000 scholarship should do so by May 2. Applications are available at the guidance office at RHAM High School and at Andover Public Library, 355 Route 6. Completed applications must be dropped off at the library only.

The applicant must be currently enrolled as a senior in any high school, use the scholarship to further his or her education, and hold a valid Andover library card.

For more information, call Janet McCall at 860-742-9764.

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## Tri-County Baseball Registration

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

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

Summer registration ends Thursday, March 25. Teams will play in the Kokinis Baseball League ([www.kokinisbaseball.com](http://www.kokinisbaseball.com)) against teams from the greater Hartford area. Divisions include a 13-year-old Prep, a 14-15-year-old Junior, and a 16-19-year-old Senior. This is a competitive league, with teams playing a 16-game schedule plus single-elimination playoffs. Games start June 7 and run through the end of July. The championship games will be played on July 31 and Aug. 1 at New Britain Stadium.

To ensure the safety of players, coaches and families, Tri-County Baseball will continue

to follow federal, state and local health board guidelines and learned best practices.

To register for both programs, visit [tricountybaseballruthct.org](http://tricountybaseballruthct.org) and click "register now."

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

## HAMR Softball Spring Registration

Time is running out for HAMR spring softball registration.

HAMR Softball is a nonprofit, fast-pitch Little League softball league, for girls age 5-14 from Hebron, Andover and Marlborough. HAMR offers several divisions, open to all girls, including T-Ball, Rookies, Minors, Majors, and Juniors. Skill instruction ranges from basic fundamentals and game play to advanced skills and game strategy. Fundamentals are a focus throughout all divisions.

To learn more about HAMR and to register, visit [www.hamrsoftball.org](http://www.hamrsoftball.org).

Cover Story • Cover

### ★ New Pooch cont. from page 1

within a few weeks.

Residents can also help welcome Magnus through donations. Kelly said Magnus' diet is strict, and so food shouldn't be donated, but he is very toy- and ball-driven. Contact Portland Police at 860-342-6780 for details about what to donate.

According to research from the National Academics of Science, Engineering, and Medicine, police K-9 units offer several benefits to the communities they serve. The study, which researched K-9s used on public transportation in Boston, found that police dogs facilitate outreach with the public and media, and serve as a strong symbol of safety.

The study went on to say that while police dogs are a high-demand responsibility and represent a sizable long-term investment, K-9 search teams can perform the work of four patrol officers and remain the most effective resource for narcotics and explosives detection, better than the most up-to-date technology

### ★ School Board cont. from page 1

and reduced substitute teaching costs and legal fees.

"Overall, the budget was reduced by \$133,808 from my original proposed budget," Baird said.

Resident Meg Clifton sent a letter in support of the budget to the board, which Petit read before the board discussed the changes Baird recommended.

A few other residents also spoke during public comment.

Resident Alisha Natelle spoke of concerns with special education and said the department was "lacking."

"I don't see a lot of increases in the special education department," she said. "We're short-staffed with what we have right now. I highly encourage our board and our administration to look at the special ed program. We need to look at that with a strong lens."

Baird said last year the district added a special education teacher and a paraprofessional.

Petit will present the budget to the Board of Finance at its workshop next Tuesday at 7 p.m.

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

### ★ Letters cont. from page 4

#### Kale Microchips

To the Editor:

I want to clear up some confusion around conspiracy theories and global warming. A conspiracy theory is not merely a minority or alternative viewpoint. A conspiracy theory is a fantastical tale that covert institutions are behind world-changing events.

Some people think kale is delicious. I don't. My dislike of kale is an alternative viewpoint. Suggesting that Bill Gates implants microchips in kale to control our brainwaves so he can start a new world order is a conspiracy theory.

When we talk about global warming, we have to be precise; the viewpoint is that human-made CO<sub>2</sub> is warming the planet. It would be a conspiracy theory to say a dark network of scientists funded by Al Gore and Charles Schwab are pushing a made-up climate narrative for nefarious reasons.

Conspiracy theories dominate political discourse. While we can't expect everybody to be equally informed about complex issues, it's disheartening how people broadcast fairy tales about shadowy organizations with such conviction. My final thought about conspiracy theories is referencing Brandolini's law, which states: "The amount of energy needed to refute bullshit is an order of magnitude larger than to produce it." With only 200 words, I do what I can.

John Farrell – Colchester

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RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM • RHAM

## AHM News & Notes

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

**Free Developmental Screenings:** AHM is offering these free screenings for all families with children ages 4 months-5 years in Andover, Hebron, Marlborough and Columbia. Using the questionnaire "Ages and Stages," children will be asked some questions and perform a series of activities to check on their development in different areas. Screenings take about an hour and are completed with parent/caregiver and child present. Screenings will be done at Gilead Hill School in the Family Resource Center by appointment, with proper COVID-19 precautions taken. Contact Jahnna Sieckowski at [jahnna@ahmyouth.org](mailto:jahnna@ahmyouth.org) or Becky Murray at [beckym@ahmyouth.org](mailto:beckym@ahmyouth.org) for more information.

**Play and Learn Groups:** A new six-week session starts this month. These groups are for families or caregivers with children ages birth-5 from Andover, Hebron, Marlborough, and Columbia. Groups are held weekly for one hour in the AHM Family Resource Center, located at Gilead Hill School in Hebron. During the groups, children can participate in art projects,

play, and have circle time with songs and stories. Groups are held from 10:15-11:15 a.m. Tuesdays, March 9-April 13. There is also a Thursday group that started March 4 and will continue each week until April 8, also from 10:15-11:15 a.m. Fee is \$25 per family for the six-week session. Park in the parking lot closest to the Board of Education entrance. (If you're facing the front of the school, it's on the left side.) Bring a driver's license the first time you attend the group. Masks are required for children ages 3 and older and all adults. Participants are currently not allowed to use the restrooms at the school. Registration can be completed online at [ahmyouth.org/play-learn-group-virtual](http://ahmyouth.org/play-learn-group-virtual)

## Scholarship Available

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

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

## Eat Healthy, Eat Local!

AHM Youth and Family Services and the Hebron Open for Business Task Force are partnering in support of family-owned restaurants in Andover, Hebron, Marlborough and Columbia, as well as the Health Matters Program, by spotlighting healthy meals at these restaurants.

If you go to a restaurant in these towns and order a healthy entrée, show your support on social media by tagging the restaurant and adding #eatthealthyeatlocal, #AHMhealthmatters to your post.

For more information, visit [ahmyouth.org](http://ahmyouth.org), click on "Menu" and select "Health Matters," or contact Jenn Boehler at 860-228-9488 ext. 12 or [jenniferb@ahmyouth.org](mailto:jenniferb@ahmyouth.org)

## Project Graduation Planning Underway

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

For information and meeting dates, visit [ahmyouth.org](http://ahmyouth.org), click on "Menu" and select "Project Graduation," or contact Jenn Boehler at 860-228-9488 ext. 12 or [jenniferb@ahmyouth.org](mailto:jenniferb@ahmyouth.org)

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Dogs: walking; clean & feed; socialization
- **East Hartford facility** – Cats: clean & feed; socialization; medical & placement teams

Please call **860-569-0722** or visit [www.poainc.org](http://www.poainc.org)



## Obituaries

### Portland

#### Frederick Peter Ulm

Frederick Peter "Pete" Ulm passed away quietly Sunday, Feb. 21.



He was the son of the late Frederick and Linda (Phelps) Ulm. Born June 19, 1964, in Middletown, he grew up in East Hampton, playing Little League baseball and working the tobacco fields of Portland.

Pete was always the hunter and fisherman.

He leaves behind a sister, Sandra Badrick and her husband Jack; nephews, Matthew and Thomas Badrick; uncles, David and Robert Ulm; aunts, Nedra Wallis and Jean Daniels; and many cousins and friends. He will be missed by Alan Derosier, who always called him "Dad."

Due to COVID-19, there are no services at this time. A memorial is planned for a later date.

### Lebanon

#### Marion Bradley

Marion English Lovell Bradley, 91, of Lebanon, formerly of Coventry, passed away Sunday, Feb. 28, in the loving care of the staff at Mansfield Center for Nursing, with her devoted husband by her side. Born Dec. 22, 1929, in Manchester, she was the daughter of the late Joseph J. English and Irene G. (Lovell) English.



Marion was raised in East Hartford by her Aunt Kay and Uncle Henry Lovell. She graduated from East Hartford High School in 1948. After graduating, she worked at Pratt & Whitney, until the birth of her first child in 1953.

During the summer of 1949, she met a young sailor named Lewis Bradley while vacationing at Coventry Lake; they married May 2, 1953. The couple lived in Coventry for 31 years and raised four children.

While living in Coventry, Marion and Lew were active in Cub Scouts, and the Boy Scouts Troop 65 during the late 1960s and early 1970s. Marion taught Sunday School at the Second Congregational Church of Coventry for many years. Marion and Lew were very active members of O.E.S., Climax chapter 98 for over 50 years, until their health declined. She attended Manchester Community College from 1970 to 1974 where she obtained her associate's degree in 1974.

Marion and her husband moved to Lebanon in 1984. Marion continued her love of teaching Sunday school at the Goshen Congregational Church in Lebanon. She worked at S&S World Wide, and then at the Colchester Senior Center until her retirement in 1989 to raise her grandchildren, Marion and Sam.

Marion will always be remembered as a hard-working and loving wife, mother, grandmother and friend.

She is survived by her loving husband of 67 years, Lewis G. Bradley; her children, Charlotte Richardson of Bristol; James Bradley Sr. and his wife Kathy of Lebanon, Doris Carilli and partner Bruce Kuper of Hebron; grandchildren, Mark Carilli Jr., Marion George, Robin Jordan, Sam Richardson, James Bradley Jr. and Gordon Bradley; nine great-grandchildren; as well as numerous cherished extended family and friends.

In addition to her parents, she is predeceased by her eldest son, Lewis Jr.

The family would like to thank all the loving and caring staff of Mansfield Center for Nursing and Rehab, where she and Lew resided since June 2018.

Burial will take place directly at the Goshen Cemetery on Church Road in Lebanon today, March 5, at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial donations be made in Marion's name to the Goshen Congregational Church, 157 Church Rd., Lebanon, CT 06249 and MCNR- Recreation Department, 100 Warren Circle, Storrs, CT 06268.

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

### Portland

#### Richard Harold Graves

Richard Harold Graves passed away peacefully at Middlesex Hospital Friday, Feb. 12, at the age of 87. He was born in Montague, Mass., the son of Albert and Mary (Cuff) Graves, on Sept. 4, 1933. He was the husband of Judith Sheehan Graves.

Rich will be sadly missed but always remembered with love by his wife Judy of 56 years, and his children, Chris (Pam), Katie, Jeff (Becki) and Dan (Karen); his brother, Don Graves and his wife Carol; and many nieces and nephews. He is survived by eight grandchildren: Samantha, Megan, Nathan, Evan, Carter, Carly, Riley and Makenna.

He was predeceased by his parents; his sister, Reet O'Connor; his brother-in-law, Jim O'Connor; his sister-in-law, Kay Sheehan; and a very special cousin, Loretta (Babe) Patterson.

Rich grew up in Montague and graduated from Turners Falls High School. He continued his education at UMass, earning a BS degree in chemistry. Upon graduating, he served two years in the U.S. Army – rank of 1st Lieutenant. He was very proud of the time he served in Japan. The highlight was being able to climb to the top of Mount Fuji, not once, but twice.

Rich began his career at Yankee Rowe Nuclear Power Plant as a chemist. He met his wife Judy, got married, and then relocated to Connecticut to work at the Connecticut Yankee Nuclear Power Plant in Haddam Neck. Prior to retiring in 1992, he was the plant superintendent for 12 years. In his "free time," he dedicated his time to the Town of Portland. He served on the Board of Education for six years, the Board of Selectmen for two years, and was the past chairman of the town facilities building committee responsible for the renovation of Central School to the now Town Hall.

Rich and Judy were very active in St. Mary Church of Portland. A man with a strong sense of history and tradition, he served as co-chairman of the church rebuilding committee after fire destroyed the building, raising more than \$500,000 to renovate and preserve the 100 year structure. After retirement, he was finally able to enjoy his passion for golf. Not only did he work as a ranger at the Portland Golf Course, but he golfed as often as he wanted.

In 2007, he and Judy made the decision to downsize and moved to Laurel Ridge in East Hampton. Rich and Judy continued their community involvement and gained many new, wonderful friends and neighbors. Rich continued to support the town of Portland by volunteering at the Portland Food Bank twice a week. It was an important part of his life socially as well as a testament to his generous spirit.

Rich will be forever missed by those who knew and loved him. The family gives special thanks to all the doctors and nurses for their kindness and care.

Funeral services and burial will be private. Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, is in charge of arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Rich's memory may be made to the Portland Food Bank (7 Waverly Ave., Portland, CT 06480) or the Jimmy Fund ([www.jimmyfund.org/gift/](http://www.jimmyfund.org/gift/)).

### Colchester

#### Peter Andrew Ezold



Peter Andrew Ezold of Guilford, formerly of Glastonbury, Colchester and Hebron, passed away unexpectedly at his home Tuesday, Jan. 19. He was born in New Haven April 20, 1955, to Mary P. Ezold and the late Andrew P. Ezold Jr. of Branford.

He is survived by the mother of his children, Lisa Ezold; his sons, Peter Ezold Jr. of Tennessee, Christopher (Kelly) Ezold of Colchester, Evan Ezold of Salem, and Scott (Haley) Ezold of Colchester.

He was an employee of the former Marlin Arms and was also an insurance investigator for AIG and Cigna. He was an avid sports fan and will be greatly missed for his comedic wit and cheerful manner.

Besides his children, he is survived by his siblings, Karen (Charles) Malarney, Daniel Ezold, Kristie (Peter) Cannon, Andrew (Beth) Ezold III, James (Debbie) Ezold and Gregory Ezold. He is survived by four grandchildren and 12 nieces and nephews, as well as many close longtime friends.

Memorial services will be made at the convenience of the family.

### Middle Haddam

#### Catherine Cozzi Konefal

Catherine Cozzi Konefal, 99, of Manchester, passed away peacefully Monday, March 1, 11 days before her 100th birthday. She was the wife of the late Walter Konefal. She was born March 12, 1921, in Middle Haddam to Achille and Mary (Kavanaugh) Cozzi, their first child.

She attended school in the one-room schoolhouse on Haddam Neck Road, Middle Haddam, and graduated from Middletown High School in 1939. She then attended and graduated from New Britain Teachers' College (now Central Connecticut State University). After graduation she began a long career as an elementary school teacher in Connecticut. She lived in Middle Haddam on Hog Hill Road until 1970, when she and Walter moved to Florida and continued teaching there until retirement. Her students were her joy.

In addition to her husband and her parents, Catherine is predeceased by her infant daughter, Suzanne Marie, and by her siblings, John Cozzi of Portland, Helen Hayes of Middletown and Rita Becker of Middle Haddam. She is survived by her nieces and nephews and their families, Kathleen Smith of West Virginia, Barry Hayes of South Carolina, Sharon Becker of Middle Haddam, Jacquelyn Skillings of Hebron, Leslie Loguidice of Haddam, Howard Becker of Ohio, Lynette Branday of Middletown and Robert Cozzi of East Hampton.

Per her specific instructions, she requested no calling hours and no flowers. Her funeral Mass will be celebrated at Our Lady of Peace Church, 370 May Rd. in East Hartford, Saturday, March 13, at 10 a.m. The Mass will be followed by burial in St. Patrick Cemetery in East Hampton.

Catherine left no requests for memorial donations but if you wish to make one, please choose one that is personal to you.

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

### Colchester

#### Elise Addrianna Carola



It is with profound sadness that I announce the passing of my only daughter, Elise Addrianna Carola, at Hartford Hospital on Tuesday, Feb. 23, after a long illness. She was 31 years old.

Elise was born and raised in Colchester. She graduated Bacon Academy in 2007 and later received a degree from Three Rivers Community College. Elise worked at various jobs in the Colchester/Lebanon area. Elise was always a water person. She loved swimming, fishing, boating, and sailing. Elise also loved reading and hunting, but most of all she loved her two black labs, Boomer and Monster.

Elise is survived by her father, Louis Carola and stepmom Pam Mason, both of Colchester, and also her boyfriend Scott of Lebanon, with whom she lived with for the last two years.

Elise was predeceased by her mother, Kathleen G. Carola of Colchester, on Sept. 11, 2003. She will be sadly missed but always remem-

bered with love by those who knew her well.

Due to COVID-19, there will be no services at this time.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the P.K.D (PolyCystic Kidney) Foundation, P.O. Box 871847, Kansas City, MO 64187, or to the charity of your choice.

Care of private arrangements has been entrusted to Farley-Sullivan Funeral Home of Wethersfield. For online condolences, please visit [farleysullivan.com](http://farleysullivan.com).

### Colchester

#### James C. Vars

James C. Vars, 71, of Norwich, formerly of Colchester, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 16, at Backus Hospital in Norwich. Born June 9, 1949, he was the son of the late Arthur and Priscilla Vars.

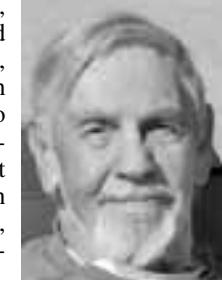
James lived at the Oak Hill Group Home on Sherwood Lane in Norwich. The staff and residents were family to James; he loved spending time with them, to music and audio tapes and watching TV.

He is survived by his group home family and guardian Valerie Taff.

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

### East Hampton

#### Chester Jasenski



Chester Jasenski, 89, of East Hampton, passed away Saturday, Feb. 27, the morning of his 57th wedding anniversary to Joyce (Jordan), from complications after a recent surgery. Chet was born in Torrington Dec. 31, 1931, to the late Chester and Vivian (Bialecki) Jasenski.

Chester grew up in New Britain, fishing, hunting, gardening, swimming and climbing trees with his brothers, cousins and friends. Chet graduated from New Britain High School. He served in Korea as a radio operator for the U.S. Army from 1951-54. He later graduated from Hillyer College and earned a master's degree in education from Central Connecticut State College.

Mr. "J" was a respected and loved fifth-grade teacher in Cromwell for 30 years. Chet loved the kids and teaching. He also enjoyed bowling with his colleagues. Chet was active in his local union and was proud of his part in the passing of binding arbitration for Connecticut teachers. Chet and Joyce met and married while teaching at Nathaniel White School. They settled in East Hampton where they resided until his passing.

Chet taught his children how to garden, fish, ice skate, ride bikes and fly kites. He loved cooking hot dogs on a stick in the rocks at Hammonasset and on Salt Island. Chet also loved camping at the Connecticut and Rhode Island shores with his family. Chet was a runner and loved the outdoors. For years, Chet was an active boater and member of the Power Squadron.

After retiring, Chet and Joyce enjoyed traveling cross country in their motorhome, spending time with family, watching UConn women's basketball, watching movies, and listening to music.

Besides his loving wife, Chet leaves behind his children: Jennifer of Middletown, Jeffery of Avon, Cynthia (Bill) Deckelman of Portland and Lisa (John) Graver of Vernon. Chet adored his seven grandchildren: Benjamin, Justin, and Leah Graver, Kayla and Ava Deckelman, and Landon and Rowen Jasenski. Chet also leaves his brother Walter of Southington, sister Frances of Florida, and several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his parents and his brother Theodore.

The family will receive friends Saturday, March 6, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., at Spencer Funeral Home in East Hampton. Masks will be required and social distancing is expected. A private celebration of life will be held for the family.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to support veterans or education. To leave online condolences, please visit [www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

## Obituary Policy

*Rivereast will publish obituaries free of charge if the deceased person is a resident or former resident of any of the towns we circulate in.*

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# LEGALS

## INVITATION TO BID FIELD DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS AT RHAM HIGH SCHOOL HEBRON, CONNECTICUT February 26, 2021

Regional School District # 8 (RHAM) is seeking competitive bids for the construction of "FIELD DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS AT RHAM HIGH SCHOOL" in Hebron, CT. Scope of work for this project includes earthwork and grading, installation of bituminous pavement walkways, concrete pads, miscellaneous site work, and site restoration. Beginning on Friday February 26, 2021, plans and specifications for "FIELD DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS AT RHAM HIGH SCHOOL" will be available to bidders. Plans and specifications may be viewed and purchased on-line at <http://www.advancedplanroom.com/public.php>. Advanced Repographics, Plainville, CT. There is a charge for Portable Document Format (.pdf) file sets, paper copies, and shipping. Bidders are responsible for any printing or shipping costs, or pickup at the Advanced Repographics office and for obtaining all addenda from the Advanced Repographics website.

A NON-MANDATORY pre-bid site walk-through will be held at the running track/soccer/lacrosse field. As a secure school campus Bidders are asked NOT to visit the site unescorted while school is in session RHAM High School, 85 Wall Street, Hebron, Connecticut on Wednesday March 24, 2021 at 10:00 am. All prospective bidders are encouraged attend. Sealed Bids for "FIELD DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS AT RHAM HIGH SCHOOL" may be mailed or delivered in person to: Scott Leslie, Interim Superintendent, in the Central Office for Regional School District No. 8 at 85 Wall Street, Hebron, CT 06248 until 2:00 pm on Thursday May 6, 2021. Bid opening shall be a closed bid opening. Bid Results will be posted on the online plan service website for review within 24 hours of due date. Emailed or faxed bids will not be accepted. To obtain or review bids refer to the bidding instructions included with the specifications.

Regional School District No. 8 reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or to accept any bid, should the School District deem it to be in its best interest. No bidder may withdraw his bid within 60 days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

Any questions regarding the proposed work should be addressed, in writing, by e-mail to: Michael Kluchman, PLA, BSC Group, e-mail: [mkluchman@bscgroup.com](mailto:mkluchman@bscgroup.com). Questions will not be considered past 4:00 pm on April 26, 2021 and responses will be posted via addendum no later than 4:00 pm on April 30, 2021.

Eva Gallupe  
Business Manager  
Regional School District No. 8  
85 Wall Street Hebron, CT 06248  
(860) 228-2115  
[eva.gallupe@rhamschools.org](mailto:eva.gallupe@rhamschools.org)

1TB 3/5

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# EMPLOYMENT

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

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SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY HIRING EXCEPTIONAL CNAs, FT or PT positions 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 community. Must have a valid CT License. Please email [kcfaldi@colebrookvillage.com](mailto:kcfaldi@colebrookvillage.com)

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

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



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CH3421

## TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Regular Meeting at 7 pm on March 8, 2021 via Zoom meeting (see Town website for details) to consider the following:  
Application ZBA-21-001: Brian Galovich, 35 Highland Terrace, to increase the lot coverage from previously approved 13% to 17% to construct an 18'x36' IG pool with 650 sq. ft. concrete decking around and a 20'x30' pool house. Map 18/Block 44/Lot 78-28.  
Matthew Walton, Chairman

2TB 2/26, 3/5

## LEGAL NOTICE of PUBLIC HEARING BOARD OF SELECTMEN Town of Portland, CT

Notice is hereby given that there will be a public hearing on the proposed Budget for 2021-2022 to be held, by the Board of Selectmen pursuant to Section 1201.3 of the Town of Portland Charter, at the following place and time:  
Tuesday, March 16, 2021  
7:00 P.M.  
Portland Connecticut  
Public Access through Zoom A - [www.portlandct.org](http://www.portlandct.org)  
SUBJECT: General Government, Board of Education Budget; and all other Special Revenue Funds  
At this hearing, any resident or taxpayer may be heard concerning the proposed budgets. Copies of the proposed budget are available for inspection online at [www.portlandct.org](http://www.portlandct.org).  
Dated this 1st day of March 2021  
Attest: Susan S. Bransfield, First Selectwoman

2TB 3/5, 3/12

## TOWN OF COLCHESTER LEGAL NOTICE

The Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a virtual public hearing on March 17, 2021, at 7:00 P.M. to hear and consider the following petitions:  
**1. Edward Wasniewski / Harvey Pond View LLC – 167 Marvin Road, Special Permit (2021-003)** – Pursuant to Regulation Section No. 8.9.5.H, Farm Labor Housing; and  
**2. CMMD LLC – Regulation Amendment (2021-001)** – Define Large Scale Agricultural Building, and add new regulation authorizing a Large Scale Indoor Agricultural Zone as a floating zone.  
At this hearing interested persons may be heard and written communications received. A copy of this petition is in the Planning and Zoning Department and the Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, and may be inspected during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday).  
Planning and Zoning Commission  
Joseph Mathieu, Chair

2TB 3/5, 3/12

## TOWN OF PORTLAND PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Portland Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, March 18, 2021 at a meeting to start at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom to consider the following:  
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. At this hearing interested persons may appear and be heard and written communications will be received. A copy of this application is available for public review in the Portland Land Use Department or on the Town of Portland Website: [www.portlandct.org](http://www.portlandct.org).

Dated at Portland, CT. this 2nd day of March 2021

Robert Ellsworth, Chairman

2TB 3/5, 3/12

## LEGAL NOTICE MARLBOROUGH ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF ACTION

The Marlborough Zoning Board of Appeals at its meeting on Wednesday February 10 took the following action:  
**APPLICATION APPROVED:**  
APPLICATION #ZBA-1-21 – Bill Lardi & Amy Traversa (Applicant/Property Owner) 153 Saner Rd - is seeking variance of Article Three A.1, Minimum Requirements, Article Three A.3 Conformity of Buildings & Land, Article Three A.5 Reduction of Lot Areas or Minimum Required Yards, Article Three A.9 Minimum Required Yards, Article Six D. 2 a Front Yard Setback, in order to construct a deck with a Front Yard Setback of 34 feet where 50 feet is required, to construct a front door landing area with Front Yard Setback of 28 feet where 50 feet is required, and to construct breezeway with a Front Yard Setback of 45 feet where 50 feet is required.

**APPLICATION CONTINUED:****PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED:**

APPLICATION #ZBA-8-20 – Gordon Sime (Applicant/Property Owner) Pettengill Vacant Lot located between 40 Pettengill Road & 39 Washington Road - is seeking variance of Article Three A.1, Minimum Requirements, Article Three A.3 Conformity of Buildings & Land, Article Three A.5 Reduction of Lot Areas or Minimum Required Yards, Article Three A.9 Minimum Required Yards, Article Six D. 2 a Front Yard Setback, in order to construct a single family house with a Front Yard Setback of 32 feet where 50 feet is required. A public hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, March 10 at 7pm.

Alan Miller/ ZBA Chair

Dated at Marlborough, CT this 17th day of February.

1TB 3/5

## Legal Notice Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission

The Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission of the Town of Andover at their Regular meeting held on March 1st, 2021 approved the following application:  
IWWC 20-37M: Jean-Marc Bade, 344 Lake Rd (Andover, CT), Modification of previously approved permit to construct an approximately 24-foot x 36-foot addition to a house within the 200-foot Andover Lake Upland Review Area. The Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission of the Town of Andover at their Regular meeting held on March 1st, 2021 received the following application:  
IWWC 21-03: Jeff Murray, 11 School Rd (Doris Chamberlain Nature Pond) (Andover, CT), Application to cut and remove brush and small trees from the shoreline of the Doris Chamberlain Nature Pond.

1TB 3/5

## LEGAL NOTICE MARLBOROUGH CONSERVATION COMMISSION NOTICE OF ACTION

The Marlborough Conservation Commission at its meeting of March 1 2021, took the following action:

**APPLICATIONS CONTINUED; SITE WALKS SCHEDULED**

Application #16-20 – Bill G. Jonbalaj (applicant) 21 Austin – HGB LLC (Property Owner) South Main Street (Between 11 & 19 South Main Street) & Johnson Road – Special Permit – Village Cluster Residential Planned Development. The application is continued until April 5, 2021. A site walk is scheduled for 3/20/21 at 10am.

Application #01-21 – Erik Young (Applicant/Property Owner) – 351 So Main St. – 2 Lot Subdivision. The application is continued until April 5, 2021. A site walk is scheduled for 3/20/21 at 11am.

**APPLICATION CONTINUED:**

Application #02-21 – Big Y Foods Inc. (Applicant) OM Village LLC (Property Owner) – 1-3-5-7 So Main St. – Special Permit – Convenience store/gas station.

**APPLICATION CONTINUED; PUBLIC HEARING**

**SCHEDULED:** Application #03-21 – Town of Marlborough (Applicant) – Park Rd – Reconstruction of boat launch. The application is continued to May 3, 2021. A Public Hearing is scheduled for June 7, 2021 at 7pm.

**APPLICATION APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS:**

Application #14-20 – Gordon Sime (applicant/property owner) Pettengill Vacant Lot – Construction of a single family house within 30' of marked wetland area.

Dated at Marlborough, CT this March 2, 2021.

MARLBOROUGH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Yvonne Bolton, Chair

1TB 3/5

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Marlborough Town Clerk  
26 North Main Street  
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4TB 3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26

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