



# RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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

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**New Donation Bin...** There's a new donations bin at Cragin Memorial Library, featuring artwork by Bacon Academy seniors Kira Swain (left) and Julia Teranova (right), who created the design as part of their independent study class this spring. See story on page 15.

## Hebron Harvest Fair To Make Comeback

by Sloan Brewster

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Hebron Harvest Fair was a no-go last year.

But this September, it's coming back – just, perhaps, with a different look than years past.

Gov. Ned Lamont has given the go-ahead for outdoor gatherings, so the Hebron Lions are planning to bring back the fair, Russ Strumkas, fair superintendent, said in a phone call last week.

According to the state Department of Economic and Community Development's website, Lamont last month rolled back certain COVID-19 restrictions – and agreed to open up outdoor events to 50% capacity, with up to 10,000 people. Fairs, festivals, and carnivals can run at 50% of normal capacity, and outdoor amusement parks can open with no capacity limits.

In a typical year, the Hebron Harvest Fair draws more than 100,000 visitors over the course of the four-day event.

While they're thrilled the Lions Fairgrounds on Route 85 will be bustling once again, the Lions don't yet know what the fair will ultimately look like, Strumkas said. One looming question is which vendors are still in business and which ones were sunk when all area fairs were canceled last year.

There are also questions on what social distancing and mask-wearing mandates will be, and how vaccine numbers will impact the event, Strumkas said. Masks, he said, would pose a challenge, as there would be a lot of people to police.

Another unanswered question is where the event falls in the state's list of categories.

"Are we an outdoor event? Are we an amusement park or are we a festival?" Strumkas said. "What's nice is we're not alone."

The Connecticut Fair Association is working with the state to determine answers to those questions.

Strumkas said the Lions expect more details in June, but as the plan stands it is anticipating a full-fledged fair.

Of course, as things have been fluid since the onset of the pandemic, they could change at a clip if COVID-19 cases suddenly spike.

"At a bare minimum, we'll have a fair," Strumkas vowed.

While Strumkas did not have information on which entertainment vendors would be returning to the fair, he said he thought most of the food providers would be on hand. He would not, however, list any fan favorites he expected to see lined up on the fairgrounds for fear of making promises he could not keep.

He also said he wasn't sure if there would be limits on how many animals would be allowed in, if any.

The Hebron Harvest Fair is easily the Lions' biggest annual fundraiser – so when it was canceled last year, the group had to think outside the box in order to come up with ways to reduce costs and bring in money to continue to support local organizations and charities.

"We came together like never before and created lots of fundraisers," Strumkas said.

For starters, the Lions held drive-thru food truck fairs on the fairgrounds, which, according

See *Comeback*, page 23

## Andover BOE Chair Hurls Obscenity Toward Selectman

by Sloan Brewster

Andover Board of Education Chair Shannon Loudon stepped down from her leadership position on the board late Wednesday, a week after she directed an expletive toward selectman Jeff Murray during a public budget workshop held over Zoom.

Loudon resigned her chairmanship at a meeting of the school board Wednesday night.

"I thought that it was in the best interest of my board moving forward," she told the Rivereast after the meeting.

Board vice chair Gerald Cremé was made chair. Loudon will remain on the board.

The resignation followed a week of harsh criticism from elected officials and residents alike, after Loudon appeared to call Murray a "f---ing a--hole" during an April 7 Board of Finance workshop.

Shortly before the close of the meeting – at which the board agreed to pass a \$12.64 million budget to public hearing – Murray was commenting on the education budget when Loudon cut in and used the foul language.

Earlier in the meeting, Loudon said the school board would not provide what if scenarios requested by the finance board on how possible budget cuts might affect Andover Elementary

School's proposed budget.

"Quite frankly, we can't have any budget cuts to what we requested," she said. "[The budget request] is needs; it is not wants; it is not padded; it is not fluff."

Her refusal to share the possibilities was an item of discussion finance board members and others returned to repeatedly during discussion.

### Crunching the Numbers

Ultimately, the finance board reduced the \$4.16 million school budget request by \$44,000.

Since the budget was presented in February, it has been reduced a couple of times.

In March, the numbers were adjusted by \$24,000 as the town rather than the school will be paying for services to AHM Youth and Family Services.

The numbers were also reduced when Superintendent of Schools Valerie Bruneau found savings, including in insurance costs, Loudon said in a call Tuesday.

The latest cut brings the final number to \$4.08 million, a \$175,608 or 4.5% increase over the current year.

That number will be presented at next Wednesday's public hearing on the budget.

### An Unexpected Interjection

In discussing the \$44,000 cut, finance board member Robert England said the board likes to understand the ramifications of a potential cut before making it. He said Town Administrator Eric Anderson accommodated a similar request and brought the board through several scenarios for how cuts to the town budget would impact spending.

"I would just like to point out that when we asked for scenarios, this was why," he said. "We do not know what this \$44,000 will do."

Murray was among speakers who raised the matter later in the meeting, when the floor was opened to public comment.

"We were just asking for what-ifs," Murray said. "If there was some more transparency there, I don't think we'd be having the discussion we're having."

"Yes, you would, f---ing a--hole," Loudon cut in.

"I hope that wasn't directed toward me," Murray said.

"Just keep going, please," finance board chairman Marc Brinker advised everyone.

Murray, in a subsequent phone call to the Rivereast, said he had received phone calls and

emails from residents who were stunned by the comment.

"I said nothing in that meeting to provoke such a reaction," Murray said.

Board of Selectmen Vice Chairman Adrian Mandeville, who was not at the virtual meeting, said his phone "blew up" after the meeting.

Murray read a statement about the incident at Monday's Board of Selectmen meeting.

"I was probably just as shocked and stunned as everyone else who heard it. It was derogatory, inflammatory, and completely out of line," he said. "Unfortunately, things said in a public forum are captured in recordings and they are not easily retracted."

He went on to say that he had expected Loudon to personally apologize to him but she had not, and instead had called Town Hall "attempting to conceal or erase what she said."

In a phone call Monday, Anderson said Loudon had emailed or spoken to his administrative assistant but did not know exactly what she said.

"It wouldn't have mattered because we can't erase anything," he said. "Commentary made is commentary made."

Loudon told selectmen her request was mis-

See *Obscenity*, page 25

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## From the Editor's Desk

# Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

I was shocked to learn of the sudden and tragic passing of Hebron resident Vin Colonna Jr. last week.

The phrase “pillar of the community” may be an oft-overused cliché, but in this case, it seems entirely applicable. Long before Vin joined the RHAM school board, I was familiar with his name, through his many, many activities in support of RHAM athletics. He was the quintessential RHAM sports booster.

In her story on his death in last week's *Rivereast*, reporter Sloan Brewster referenced a RHAM board meeting she was at a couple of years ago where Vin, who at that time hadn't joined the board, advocated for a turf field. Just the mere act of Vin standing to speak led students to cheer and chant his name. For the teens to raucously support him like that said a lot about Vin.

“He spoke directly to our kids,” RHAM Interim Superintendent of Schools Scott Leslie, who was the principal of the high school for many years, told Sloan for her story last week. “The kids saw that. They couldn't help but act enthusiastically to the causes that he championed.”

Many people might not know – I certainly didn't – that Vin's brother-in-law was radio talk show host and former Fox News personality Glenn Beck. Beck discussed Vin's passing on his show earlier this week, and spoke very fondly of him, describing Vin as having “a servant's spirit.”

“He was always the guy who lit up the room,” Beck said. “He was always the guy helping others. He would never stop, because he was always helping others.”

While Vin's stay on this earth may have been far too short, the impact he made was, by all accounts, enormous. I wouldn't be surprised in the slightest to see an athletic field or facility at RHAM named after Vin in the future – perhaps the very near future. There seemed to have been never a bigger supporter of the schools' athletics program.

Of course, as big of a void Vin's passing leaves in the RHAM athletics community, it leaves a far greater one for his family – particularly his four children, who now have lost

their father. Three are RHAM graduates, and one is currently at the school. It was a sign of just how beloved Vin was by the community that, shortly after news of his passing spread, a GoFundMe was organized to help the family pay for tuition and other expenses.

The initial goal of the fundraiser was \$10,000, but that was met and exceeded almost instantly. As of my writing this column, on Wednesday morning, \$72,000 had been raised. That's fantastic.

I know no amount of money can fill the gaping hole left by Vin's passing – but it's a further sign of just how beloved he was by the RHAM community.

\* \* \*

Given that I went to high school in Manchester, it's not too often that I see high school classmates make the news in *Rivereast* towns. So I was quite surprised and delighted to see Celeste Willard, a fellow East Catholic Eagle from the Class of 1997, was recently appointed to the Andover Board of Education.

Celeste – who was Celeste Seifert back when we spent four years together on the hill where fir trees meet the sky – will be a great fit on the school board. She's intelligent, effusive, always positive – and, being a terrific mom herself, will no doubt always have the kids' very best interests at heart.

Now, Celeste's stay on the board may be rather short-lived, but I hope it isn't. The term she's filling expires in May, so she's going to be up for election. I hope she makes it. She'd be a terrific asset to the Andover school board.

Congrats, Celeste – and good luck in the election next month.

\* \* \*

This sounds like it could be a very interesting program. April is Fair Housing Month, and the Portland Social Justice Coalition (PSJC), in partnership with Portland Library and the Town of Portland, will present “Fair Housing Matters: A Whole Community Conversation” Thursday, April 29, at 7 p.m., via Zoom.

According to the PSJC, those who tune into the Zoom meeting will learn “who is most

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



**Little Free Pantry at KOCO... On April 13, community service group Kindness with Kids and KOCO Childcare Center celebrated the creation and installation of a Little Free Pantry, on the KOCO property at 12 Long Crossing Rd. in East Hampton. Kindness with Kids raised the money to purchase the supplies for the pantry, volunteer parents Zach Tuchmann and Chris Soule built the pantry, school-aged children from KOCO assisted with the installation and the pre-school aged children helped by painting the pantry. Pictured with kids from KOCO are, from Kindness with Kids, Cameron Meacham, Jillian Meacham and Amie Meacham, and, from KOCO, Roxann Barton and Brian Barber. Not pictured is, from KOCO, Janet Santos.**

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

## 'Seeds of Hope'

To the Editor:

Early Friday morning (interestingly, during our Seeds of Hope campaign), the Gilead Congregational Church lost a centuries-old maple tree which stood at the corner of Route 85 and Meeting House Road. The tree blocked most of Meeting House and some of Route 85. Everyone here at Gilead Church would like to thank both the Hebron Department of Public Works and Jason Yerke of Distinctive Tree here in Hebron. Both went above and beyond to remove the tree, which was four feet in diameter!

Many hands made light work and we are so grateful to be part of such a kind and caring community.

**With peace and hope,  
Barry MacLachlan  
Gilead Congregational Church  
Board of Trustees**

## Republican Mission

Dear Portland Neighbors:

We hope this letter finds you and your family well. The impact of COVID-19 has touched us all over the past year. Throughout this, the Portland Republican Town Committee has re-committed itself towards one singular mission: making Portland a better place to live and work for our entire community.

This year presents an opportunity for us to help shape our town for years to come. In November we will be electing a first selectman, a Board of Selectmen and four Board of Education members, among others. We are presently building the strongest slate of candidates we have had in years. In preparation for this, we are asking for your support and involvement.

Portland's RTC meets on the first Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom. Our members are active in all levels of town boards, commissions and committees. At our meetings you will get updates on all of these, as well as at the state level. We invite you to attend our meetings and welcome your input on our goals and priorities for the town.

We know that many families do not have the time to become active in another activity. Still, we value your feedback and encourage you to contact us or make a donation towards our goals. You can reach us at [goppportlandct@gmail.com](mailto:goppportlandct@gmail.com) or see us on Facebook.

We look forward to meeting you and sharing thoughts and ideas.

**Sincerely,  
Portland Republican Town Committee  
Timothy E. Lavoy, Chair,  
Ryan J. Curley, Vice Chair  
Cynthia R. Varricchio, Treasurer and  
Michael Hernandez, Finance Chair**

## Flu Season

To the Editor:

The influenza season is winding down and what a surprise! One could say it's the flu season that wasn't. The most cases have been in solid red states where only “snowflakes” and people that just want to feel like they are doing something about COVID-19 wear masks. Texas had 37,000 people for opening day of baseball, most not wearing masks. Granted it's outside, but getting from your car to your seat you have to go through some bottlenecks.

The concerning backdrop to this is an Israeli study that suggests the South African variant of COVID-19 is somewhat resistant to the Pfizer-BioNtech vaccine. We know you can catch COVID-19 twice and the vaccine probably protects you for at least six months. A person can catch COVID-19 and be asymptomatic, not even know they were infected. Catch it twice and have mild symptoms, catch it a third time and strike three you're out! This is a very real possibility as it appears we will not eradicate this virus anytime soon. It continues to mutate and to some it is just bothersome enough to ignore. It will be a sad day if tens of millions of people die and all we had to do is eat our broccoli.

We should all be prepared for the worst and hoping for the best.

**Tim Rinell – East Hampton**

## Praise for Senior Center

To the Editor:

I would like to take the opportunity to commend the staff at the Colchester Senior Center for the marvelous work they have done during the COVID-19 crisis. All the staff used both technology and wonderful personal efforts to continue programs that otherwise would have been lost to the Colchester senior residents.

From developing Zoom programs to continuing to provide meals on wheels and rides to our citizens, their efforts proved outstanding. The Senior Center also lead in establishing a vaccine program for Colchester. Hundreds of seniors are now fully vaccinated due to the administrative skills exhibited by the Senior Center staff.

Colchester's older community, which can sometimes find itself isolated on occasion, could have suffered greater isolation during the yearlong COVID-19 event. The Colchester Senior Center delivered continuing support for all its members and did its best during hard times. I can't wait for the completion of the new senior center building. The new center will only enhance programs for its members.

**Alphonse Letendre – Colchester**

*See Letters, page 4*

## Bulletin Board

Having participated in many an argument about where the worst drivers in the country reside, I have long taken the position that it's a toss-up between New York City, New Jersey and Boston.

I am here to report (only by the grace of God and my catlike reflexes) that Boston moved higher on the list the other day when my wife and I drove up to visit Son #1 who is a Special Education teacher in what is popularly referred to as “Beantown” but is more recently on track for fame as the home of what is likely to be the worst team in baseball this year (hopefully that will change by the time you read this).

In an effort to enjoy the brisk spring day, we stopped at a place called Fisher Hill Reservoir Park, which, as it turns out, is not a reservoir at all, but a hole where a reservoir used to be, accompanied by some paved trails and a couple of funky old stone pump houses. Don't be fooled by the online photos of joyful crowds wandering among a sea of flowers. The place was about as crowded as a football game at Yale Bowl—which is to say there was hardly anyone there at all.

The main crowd consisted of four or five gawky adolescent boys with a skateboard hanging out by one of the pumphouses presumably (if I know anything at all about gawky adolescent boys) swapping lies about the numerous eager virgins they'd nearly deflowered over the past 24 hours. There was also some elderly gent pushing a stroller containing what appeared to be the hairiest baby in the Northeast, but may actually have been a dead cat.

Undeterred by a biting wind and our apocalyptic surroundings, we three set off on the paved walkway around the empty hole when I suddenly spotted a bicyclist bearing recklessly down on us. The operator was a lad about nine years of age wearing a bicycle helmet with jagged, multi-colored spikes on top in what I was subsequently informed was a tribute to dinosaurs, though he looked to me more like some sort of malevolent tropical fish.

Pedaling madly down the path while at the same time ringing his bell to alert pedestrians to their impending doom, he descended upon us, only swerving onto the grass at the very last moment, missing us by a scant 30 yards.

“Look out,” I warned as he executed a leisurely turn, “he's coming back for another pass.”

Determined not to go down without a fight, I looked around on the ground for a stick or a rock or a discarded machine gun, but saw nothing but the plastic top to a coffee cup. Not being a trained Navy SEAL, the latter was useless to me.

“You're a Special Ed teacher!” I exclaimed to Son #1. “Surely you must know some emergency exorcism that will bring this creature to his senses!” (I'm paraphrasing here; I don't ordinarily sound like a constipated English duke, but my actual remarks are unpublishable.)

“Dad,” he replied, completely oblivious to our peril, “it's just some little kid in a dinosaur hat riding his bike.”

“It's Friday,” said my wife for reasons that are still unclear to me, unless she wanted me to know that my last day on Earth was a Friday.

Quicker than it takes to tell, the little monster started back toward us, then, no doubt sensing the determination in my posture (or, perhaps already late for a meeting with his parole officer), he veered off on another trail and disappeared into the fog. Actually, he disappeared down a hill, but he would have vanished into the fog if there had been any.

“Boy,” I said, as we headed back to our car past the would-be despoilers of virgins and their skateboard. “That was a close one.”

Son #1 exchanged a knowing glance with his mother and mumbled, “Pretty soon he'll be wearing sweaters in August.”

Whatever the hell that was supposed to mean.

**Jim Hallas**

**News copy deadline for *The Rivereast News Bulletin* is Tuesday at noon. Please address all letters & news articles to: *Rivereast News Bulletin*, P.O. Box 373, Glastonbury, CT 06033**

Letter Writers: Due to space constraints, letter writers must limit their letters to **300 words or less**. No exceptions will be made. E-mail is preferred. Word or text documents are best. Letters submitted without a contact phone number will not be published nor will anonymous letters or letters submitted by someone other than the person who wrote it. We cannot guarantee all letters will be published.

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Bryan Feery COLCHESTER  
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**SALE PENDING**

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**COMING SOON**

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**SALE PENDING**

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**SALE PENDING**

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**NEW TO MARKET**

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**BACK ON MARKET - LAND**

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**SALE PENDING**

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**NEW TO MARKET**

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**SALE PENDING**

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Reader Forum • Reader Forum

★ Letters cont. from page 2

**England for Board of Finance**

To the Editor:

I have had the pleasure of working with Robert England as a member of our Andover Democratic Town Committee for years. He is intelligent, honest, and quick-witted. He respects the opinions of other members and is willing to listen to opposing views. Robert is focused and will take the time to explain the rationale behind his decisions calmly and with clarity.

Robert has a BA in history from Trinity College. He became a member of the Board of Finance in 2015 and was re-elected to the board in 2017. Robert has excellent problem-solving skills. He is analytical, impartial and efficient, all traits critical for a Board of Finance member.

He and his family moved to Andover in 2007. As a member of the Board of Finance and having two girls in Andover Elementary School, Robert understands the issues facing Andover. He has worked many hours and worked with many boards and committees to help shape our budget. I confidently recommend Robert for the Andover Board of Finance.

**Catherine Magaldi-Lewis, Chair  
Andover Democratic Town Committee**

**Happy Birthday, Library**

To the Editor:

May 8th marks the Portland Library's 126th birthday. That's 126 years of becoming the exceptional community resource that it is – providing a wealth of materials, informational and technological support, and excellent programming to the Portland community – and that is something worth celebrating!

If you have had the chance to make it into the library recently, you will have noticed some significant updates to the library's interior. Brand-new carpeting and lighting fixtures, an ergonomic circulation desk, and more accessible and comfortable furniture are among the much needed improvements that will allow for greater ease of use and meet the changing needs of library users. This renovation was possible because of the Portland Library Endowment Fund, an investment account maintained by the Portland Library Board of Directors, along with a grant from the Connecticut State Library. Endowment Funds allow the Library to undertake high priority projects, such as the most recent interior renovations, that the town is unable to support through its operating budget. The growth of the Endowment Fund, and the critical projects it enables, are all possible because of contributions from Portland community members like you.

There are so many special reasons to make a donation to the Portland Library – in memory of a loved one, to welcome a new baby, or perhaps in celebration of an anniversary, birthday, graduation, or retirement. This May, the Portland Library Board of Directors would like to invite you to join us in celebrating the library and all that it does for our community by mak-

ing a donation to the Portland Library Endowment Fund in honor of the library's 126th birthday. Donations of \$100 or more will be acknowledged with an inscribed leaf on the newly installed Donor Recognition Tree in the library entryway, coming May 2021.

With gratitude,

**The Portland Library Board of Directors  
Co-Chairs Margot Chapman  
and Laurel Steinhauer,  
Jay Brown, Myra Finkelstein,  
Betsy Graziano,  
Jade Richardson, and Melissa Woodward**

**America, Wake Up**

To the Editor:

I just heard on the news that the royal family is limiting Prince Philip's funeral to 30 attendants. Only 30 people out of this whole planet will attend in person. Why? Simply because that is the correct and proper when dealing with the situation during a pandemic. The queen is following the same protocol and lack of privilege as the others in the UK.

Recall when Mrs. Pelosi was caught sneaking into a hair parlor when we couldn't? Mayor de Blasio sneaked into a gym for his workout when others could not. Mr. Newsom wine and dined when we were told to stay at home. And the list goes on.

Yet, the royalty are applying the rules of decorum and decency to a function honoring a man of world renown. They are playing by the same rules that apply to the rest of the UK. Do they really have to? Yes. There are plenty of reasons not to but they have taken the higher road.

They are thumbed at for being stuffy and locked into tradition. Yet they respect their fellow humankind enough to avoid crowds and humbly obey the rules.

The queen's demonstration of moral fortitude and empathy to the public is outstanding. She is truly leading by example. Refreshing? Yes.

America, wake up. We have much to improve upon and today is a good place to start. Look at the royalty. They are setting a fine example of proper judgment and behavior.

**Alison Walck – East Hampton**

**Iron in Water**

To the Editor:

At the beginning of this year, Colchester faced the issue of discolored water supply due to an increase in iron content. There was a problem with the filtration system at the beginning of January, leaving many people with orange and metallic-tasting tap water. Although the water is said to be safe, the discoloration and poor taste makes drinking the water worrisome. I want to make sure this never happens again.

From personal experience, I know that an increased iron content in water can stain clothing as several of my items were damaged and discolored after being washed. However, this is not the least of the effects a high iron content has on our lives. If iron levels are too high, this

can lead to iron overload and hemochromatosis. Iron also contains a bacteria that can be harmful when ingested. In order to avoid these hazards, action needs to be taken on our water supply immediately. It is very important that people can rely on the quality of their tap water.

The best solution to this problem would be to use both a water softener and iron filters. This will provide the maximum increase in water quality and will be most effective in removing all iron particles. Water softeners work the same way they treat water hardness with salt regeneration, and iron filters use oxidation to remove oxidized iron from the water.

In order for the Colchester community to feel safe and be able to rely on their water supply, a new system of iron removal and monitoring will need to be put in place. We need to do what is best for the community and find an effective solution to this problem. High iron content will continue to harm the town of Colchester if changes are not made.

Sincerely,

**Meghan Purcell – Colchester**

**Budget Season and Meetings!**

To the Editor:

Two-thirds of the public comments at Monday night's CPS budget workshop spoke in favor of the proposed education budget. Topics that drove interest included infrastructure planning and universal pre-k. This is a great start to the process and gives the board confidence that the public understands that an investment in school programming and infrastructure is the right path to take. Last year, the BoE budget robbed Peter to pay Paul to get down to a 0% increase. The bills have come due, and we need to put money aside for maintenance and repair projects. These will only get more expensive down the road with Band-Aid patchwork.

This is where you come in, come to the meetings! You have probably heard that there are some voices that try to hijack the microphone (we've all been to weddings with people like this too!). Come anyways. If time is an issue, my recommendation is to come right at the beginning of a meeting and speak at the first public comment section. Raise your hand in Zoom and since it is a webinar, the camera is NOT on. The BoF chair has said that he looks for new names and calls on those people early on. Let us know what you support. I think you'll find it a beneficial exercise in local government. Most members on all three town boards are rational and don't pedal in the "politics of outrage." We are there to serve the town and look for your input. The next workshop is Monday 4/19, and you can find the link on colchesterct.org under budget calendar.

Take Care,

**Amy Domeika – Colchester**

*Note: Domeika is secretary of the Colchester Board of Education, but said she is speaking as a private citizen.*

**Vote for Ed!**

To the Editor:

Congratulations to Celeste Willard on being unanimously selected by the Andover Board of Education (BOE) last week! I hope that Celeste, Ed, and Gerry will be elected to the Andover BOE on May 3.

Although he may ironically not now want my support, I am writing to enthusiastically endorse the candidacy of Edmund J. Smith for the Andover BOE. For those of you who only know Ed through his letters to the *Rivereast*, I want you to know that Ed has been educating and working with children for almost 50 years

of his life. Ed is a "teacher's teacher" and has devoted his life to being a teacher both inside and outside of the classroom. In addition to coaching many athletic teams, Ed has advised numerous academic teams -- National Science Bowl (19 years), MathCounts (11 years), CT Envirothon (six years), and NASA Student Challenge (four years) to name a few – and has spent many of his summers working at camps such as the highly acclaimed Hartford County 4-H Camp in Marlborough (10 years) and the Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp and day camps for EASTCONN.

Ed has been a certified, award-winning science teacher for more than 30 years, and I believe that it's important to have a current teacher's representation on the Andover BOE. As he said in his letter for the position for which Celeste was selected, Ed hopes to retire within a few years and believes that "serving on the Andover BOE will be an excellent means of both staying connected with education and giving back to my community by helping to support the best educational outcomes for our students while being as cost effective as possible."

Please consider Ed as the "teacher's teacher" and vote for him to join the Andover BOE on May 3rd. Thank you!

Sincerely,

**Shannon O. Loudon, Esquire  
Andover**

*Note: Loudon is chairwoman of the Andover Board of Education, but said she is writing as an individual.*

**Right Wing at it Again**

To the Editor:

The right wing is at it again. "War is peace. Freedom is slavery. Ignorance is strength." They want you disbelieve the evidence in front of you because they find the truth inconvenient.

Sam Prentice suggests the Jan. 6 attacks on the Capitol were a minor protest and that last year's Black Lives Matter protests were a violent uprising. He critiques Joe Stevens for the words "insurrection" and "attempted coup." The definition of "insurrection" is an obvious fit. "Coup" is less so, but the analogy was clear. Mr. Prentice prefers "incursion," which imputes some military legitimacy for this act of sedition.

Next, he belabors the death of one secessionist at the hands of the police, while belittling the protesters incensed by police brutality and police killings of black men. Last summer's George Floyd protests were far and away peaceful affairs; much of the actual violence involved counter-protester actions and unprovoked attacks by police. (<http://link.sauyet.com/18>)

Bill Oliver and Gary Gile want us to believe that Georgia's new election laws – and presumably all the others Republican legislatures are trying to pass – are meant only to improve voting, that the negative feedback is political nonsense.

If Georgia's election laws needed an overhaul, why didn't they need it in 2016 when Republicans won Georgia's presidential and Senate races, or in 2018, when Republican Kemp's shady voter roll purging led to his winning the governorship? No, they suddenly needed it immediately after Democrats won the presidential and both Senate races during record turnout. They choose to strip power from their Secretary of State only after he refuses to take part in Trump's attempted steal. The new law is obviously designed to reduce voter participation, to benefit Republicans.

"But look over here," they'll tell you. "We've got something shiny to distract you from the truth."

Sincerely,

**Scott Sauyet – Andover**

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

impacted by the affordable housing shortage; why Connecticut is one of the most segregated states in the country; facts about Portland's zoning regulations; [and] personal stories about the impact of segregation and the housing crisis."

The PSJC is a relatively new group, forming

last year, but it has already put on a number of interesting programs – and this seems like another one. Registration is required for the event; to do so, call Portland Library at 860-342-6770 or go to [tinyurl.com/c34m3d27](http://tinyurl.com/c34m3d27).

\* \* \*

See you next week.

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**Happy Earth Day**

To the Editor:  
Happy Earth Day, Thursday, April 22, 2021! This year will mark the 51st Anniversary of Earth Day. The theme for this year's Earth Day is "Restore Our Earth."

What is Earth Day and how did it begin?  
Earth Day began on April 22, 1970. It was started by San Francisco activist John McConnell & Wisconsin U.S. Sen. Gaylord Nelson. They asked Americans to demonstrate their desire to do something about the dangerous and serious issues of air pollution, toxic drinking water, and the harmful effects of pesticides on the environment. The result: 20 million Americans peaceably demonstrated to take action about the environment according to "Earth Day 2021" from the Old Farmer's Almanac.

This peaceful protest for Mother Earth led President Richard Nixon to create the Environmental Protection Agency, along with laws that successfully protected the environment such as the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act.

What can you do today and every day to save our planet? Pick up litter in your neighborhood or a public park, recycle, compost, plant a tree, don't use pesticides in your garden, and conserve water.

On April 20th at 7 p.m., there will be a free virtual Earth Day event titled "Beyond Recycling: Zero Waste Swaps at Home" with Kim O'Rourke and the Russell Library in Middletown. Learn about ways to reduce waste & learn simple tips to recycle. Registration is required to receive the zoom link.

You can register at the Russell Library event page at [russelllibrary.libcal.com/event/7564543](http://russelllibrary.libcal.com/event/7564543). Beyond Recycling: Zero Waste Swaps at Home Join Middletown's recycling coordinator, Kim O'Rourke, for an active discussion on CT's looming waste crisis, why recycling isn't enough, and more. This event is open to the public.

Call your Town Hall to learn what your town is doing this Earth Day.

**Frank LoGiudice – Portland**

**Easter Plant Sales Thanks**

To the Editor:  
The Hebron Volunteer Fire Department would like to thank everyone that came out and supported our Easter Plant Sales. Even though we followed COVID-19 protocols, it was wonderful to see all of your smiling eyes! We sold out by noon on Saturday. Thank you for your support!

We hope to see you next year.  
Sincerely,  
**Deborah L. Dupuis and Deb Horton**  
Easter Plant Sales, HVFD

**Debts are Coming Due**

To the Editor:  
Earth's human population nears 8 billion, triple the number when I was born. Arable land declining, new high-mortality viruses evolving, yet the population still grows. Credit scientists in agriculture and medicine who give us an edge, for now. But debts are coming due, and nature will collect when she chooses.

Ecologists speak of 'carrying capacity' and resource 'tipping points'. Some think humans have already passed Earth's carrying capacity, the resource tipping point breached with climate change and overpopulation wreaking havoc. Witness impoverished peoples desperately emigrating from resource-poor countries to those resource-rich, all over the world. Central America and Mexico to the United States. Africa and the Middle East to Europe. Walls and oceans cannot keep them from coming. It is only going to accelerate exponentially.

The cracks are deepening. Worried citizens elect populist leaders who tell them they will be great again. But once in power, these nationalist conservatives (Erdogan, Putin, Duda, Modi, Khamenei, Assad, Duterte, Bolsonaro, Trump, Orban, Xi) hold power by fomenting distrust of science and a free press, and by stacking the courts. Conservative religious leaders back them, all the while extremists within their faiths chomp at the bit to be let loose.

The *Rivereast* itself is home to multiple anti-science, anti-progressive, climate change deniers. Some weeks they are the majority, mocking writers who accurately reference worrisome trends including ocean acidification, record

temperatures, wildfires, other natural disasters, and lately, racism. Widespread American scientific illiteracy has spawned a species of fence-sitter, unable to discern fact from fiction, who just want the 'noise' to go away. Pulling the covers up over their heads, leaving future generations, our children and their children, to try and figure a way out of the mess we bequeathed them. Nature cares nothing for human civilization. Nature will have the final say.

**Edmund Smith – Andover**

**'Mainstream Media' Simplified**

To the Editor:  
There is an objective way of determining what comprises the mainstream media that doesn't require extensive analysis. And it doesn't grasp at straws. A simple, quantitative definition of the word mainstream will suffice.

Mainstream: "The dominant trend in opinion."  
Applying this definition to mainstream media, the key word "dominant" does not imply right or wrong or political party affiliation. It simply connotes size, e.g.: which of the news media entities, by observation, dominated with their chosen narratives; narratives of alternate realities (mainly peaceful protests), or simply to ignore realities (anarchist looting and burning).

**Peter Kushkowski**  
"Almost Heaven"  
**Portland**

**More of the Same?**

To the Editor:  
After reading the Ryan Curley article and Ralph Zampano's letter, my first thought is do the GOP and Democratic committees get together and decide to take turns putting candidates before voters? For years, Portland had the Kalinowski show followed by the Bransfield show. During those years, we had little in the way of economic growth but a lot in the way of increasing taxes, specifically property taxes. Another area where we had consistency across the parties was the duplicitous and selective enforcement-those areas continued to be a concern regardless of the party. Now we have a Republican candidate (Curley) and I'm guessing Democrat (perhaps Zampano) as both mention continuing "successes." How about putting up viable candidates focused on Portland being a town that is more than a drive through to get to Dunkin', quarry, or golf course? Let's have a town where taxpayers are treated fairly and equally, not because you have a certain last name or have lived in Portland for x number of years to be meet the requirement to speak your mind without being told to "move to Glastonbury/Farmington/insert name of any other town that is more than a drive through."

Ryan has been around for years. Why wasn't he put up as a viable candidate by the GOP the last time? Shawn Manning ran as an independent - why couldn't the GOP previously endorse Shawn? Does the GOP and Democratic

committee decide the fate of Portland leadership or is it the voters? It looks manipulative and not what the voters deserve. Saying Susan left things nicer than she found them and Ryan hopes to "do the same" leaves me with a sense of dread. More of the same is not where I want my tax dollars to go.

**Melissa Gerrier-Satagaj – Portland**

**Beyond Grateful**

To the Editor:  
This was my family's first year as part of the Andover Elementary School and my husband and I are beyond grateful to the school for working so hard to shelter our children from the pandemic and let them 'just be kids.'

In September we took a leap of faith and left our children in the care of adults we had never met, in a building we had not been able to step foot in. My 3- and 6-year-old also both have viral-induced asthma; if they catch a cold or the flu, they often end up with severe difficulty breathing. There has not been a year since they were born that we have not made multiple trips to the hospital to seek emergency treatment. The risk of COVID-19 was (is) therefore particularly scary for our family, but we felt the social and learning benefits of school outweighed the risks. And to our surprise, this was the first winter in six years that we did not need to make a single ER visit! Safety measures (masks, hand-washing, etc.) and small class sizes have clearly protected the kids not just from COVID-19, but all the other winter viruses as well.

So, as the school year draws towards its end, I want to send out a heartfelt 'thank you!' to AES and all those who have worked so hard to provide our children with a safe space to learn, socialize and play. Despite all our fears, our children have truly thrived since they started last fall. Thank you to the teachers and staff for putting themselves and their families at risk to make this possible. Our family especially thanks Mrs. Barone, Mrs. Ivey, Ms. Knox, Mrs. Bush, all the 'specials' teachers, Principal Briody, Mrs. Crandall, the school nurses, and Dr. Bruneau.

**Meghan Lally – Andover**

**Supports Hebert, Willard**

To the Editor:  
I am pleased to write about a couple of new candidates in this election. They are Joanne Hebert and Celeste Willard.

I met Joanne Hebert a few years ago and was

very impressed and wanted her to run for office. It wasn't the right time for her then, but it is now. She's running for Board of Finance and has all the qualities and experience essential for this position. Her 10 years as an office manager, dealing with budgeting, accounting, human resources, sales and service agreements, benefits packages, and insurance. She also has 20 years' experience in administrative assistant and accounting positions. She has been attending BOS, BOF and BOE meetings by Zoom, so she is very informed about the issues and can "hit the ground running" as she puts it. She has the character and spirit needed for this position. As a former BOF member and chairperson, I know she would be an asset to the Board of Finance. Please vote for her

Celeste Willard is running for the Andover Board of Education. She is already on the board, having recently filled a vacant position. She is currently on the Andover Farmers' Market Committee and the co-president of the Andover Elementary School PTA. You may not be aware, but the current chairperson of the Andover BOE engaged in some vulgar name-calling of a selectman who asked questions during public speak. It's a matter of record on the Zoom recording. You can listen to it on the Town website. We don't want that kind of behavior on our Board of Education or any board for that matter. Celeste is a very positive person, with a delightful attitude and personality. I'm endorsing her wholeheartedly for the Andover Elementary Board of Education.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
**Georgette Conrad – Andover**

*Note: Conrad is chair of the Andover Board of Assessment Appeals, but is writing as an individual.*

**Running for Finance Board**

To the Editor:  
My name is Joanne Hebert, and I am excited to announce that I will be running for a seat on Andover's Board of Finance on May 3. I have been an Andover town resident for the past 16 years and have raised my three children here. For the past 16-plus months, I've been present at almost all of Andover's BOF and BOS meetings and for as many BOE meetings as I could, which I believe should prove to town residents that I am very serious in this quest as I have already been attending meetings and

*See Letters, page 23*



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**Light Aerobics are Back...** The Portland Waverly Center has resumed its Monday/Wednesday/Friday Light Aerobics group. The group meets from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the Route 17 Park. All are welcome to join.

### 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. Worship services are held each week on the church's YouTube channel. Virtual church school is offered weekly by Director of Christian Education Ann Labby.

Sunday, April 18 is Silver Lake Sunday, featuring a virtual worship service by the Silver Lake Conference Center. Labby and church member Mary Clark will provide a local touch. The service will also feature music by the church music director Kasha Breau. Silver Lake is a 60-acre conference center in Sharon,

for young people from United Church of Christ congregations throughout the state.

The church is celebrating its 300th anniversary this year, and members are invited to write an act of kindness they have completed on a paper heart and return it to the church office or leave it in the "drop box" by the Nursery School entrance. A display of 300 acts of kindness is being created by the Anniversary Committee.

To be added to church mailing lists (both email and regular mail), email [first.church.pct@sbcglobal.net](mailto:first.church.pct@sbcglobal.net) or call 860-342-3244. For more info, look for the church on Facebook at The First Congregational Church of Portland, or visit [www.firstchurchportlandct.org](http://www.firstchurchportlandct.org).

### Seeking Sites for New Trees

The Jonah Center for Earth and Art, a local environmental nonprofit organization, is looking for sites to plant new trees in Portland, funded by the organization's Replace Our Trees Fund.

The center is looking for sites within or near the town center where trees will improve a streetscape, shade a sidewalk or other pavement to mitigate "heat islands" in summer, and where the property owner or tenant can take responsibility for watering. The high priority areas are along Main Street, East Main, Fairview, Waverly, Quarry Heights, Chatham Court, and in the general vicinity of these locations, though sites elsewhere in town will be considered.

In 2020, the Jonah Center raised over \$8,000 for tree-planting in Portland and so far has spent

\$1,500. A significant amount of the tree fund remains available because site selection, site approval, and arrangements for watering have proved to be challenging, the Jonah Center said. Underground water and sewer pipes and overhead wires also play a role in identifying appropriate locations for tree planting, and the watering bags provided with new trees need weekly filling during the growing season.

Property owners who wish to receive a new tree at the Jonah Center's expense are asked to call John Hall at 860-398-3771 or use the "contact" tab on the Jonah Center's website, [www.thejonahcenter.org](http://www.thejonahcenter.org) to send an email. Additional donations to support local tree planting can be made via the website or by check mailed to the Jonah Center, 555 Main St., Portland CT 06480.

### 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).

**Dance with Miss Alicia:** Outdoor dance programs at Riverfront Park return the week of April 19. Registration is open for six-week classes in Tap/Ballet (Ages 3-6, and 5-8), Creative Movement (Ages 2-4), Rhythm Works Integrative Dance (Ages 3-7 and 6+), and Cardio Dance Exercise (Ages 7-10). Prices vary. Parks and Rec. is also accepting registrations for adult programs, including Dance Exercise Class, Stroller Fitness, and Tap Exercise. These six-week classes start the week of April 19 and cost \$66.

**Virtual Paint Night:** Thursday, April 22, 7-9 p.m., via Zoom. Paint brushes can be purchased for an add-on fee of \$5. If you have your own brushes, this is not required. Fee: \$22.

**Skyhawks – MultiSport (Baseball, Basketball and Soccer):** Saturdays, May 1-29 (no session May 21), at Riverfront Park. 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.

**Abrakadoodle – Storytellers in the Park:**

Thursdays starting May 6, at Riverfront Park. Time: 9:30-10:15 a.m. for ages 2-3; 10:30-11:15 a.m. for ages 3-5; and 4-4:45 p.m. for ages 5 and up. Fee: \$65.

**Golf Workshops with Gerry D'Amora: Junior Workshop:** The youth golf clinics for grades K-2, 3-5, and 6-8 will return next month. The May clinic meets on four Saturdays starting May 15 and costs \$85, and the June clinic meets on four Tuesdays starting June 8 and will also cost \$85. Call Parks and Rec. to save a spot. **The Ladies Clinic** starts May 13 and will meet on five Thursdays from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Cost is \$110 per participant. Space is limited.

**2021-22 Kids Blast:** Parks and Rec. is taking applications for this afterschool program for Portland kids in grades K-5. The program is based at Brownstone Intermediate School. Sign up is first-come, first-served. Applications are at [portland.recdesk.com](http://portland.recdesk.com). For more information, call Andy Dionne at 860-342-6757.

**Summer Quest:** June 28-Aug. 16. Programs include Kiddie Kamp (ages 3-5), Summer Quest Base Camp (grades 1-6), and Teen Adventure (grades 7-9). Kiddie Kamp location will be announced; the other two are at the Portland high and middle school complex. More information is at [portland.rec.desk.com](http://portland.rec.desk.com).

### Senior Center News & Notes

The Waverly Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave., remains closed to the public, though staff is still working. 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.

**T'ai Chi & Qigong:** Thursdays, 10-10:30 a.m., via Zoom, starting April 29. Cost is \$40, payable to Portland Senior Center. Call the center to register.

**Bocce:** Wednesdays at 1 p.m. at the Route 17 park. Interested in starting a bocce league? Let the center know.

**Light Aerobics:** Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 9:30-10:30 a.m., at the Route 17 park, weather permitting. Show up at the park if interested.

**Coupons for Troops:** Coupons are clipped for overseas and domestic military families. The military will accept coupons up to six months past their expiration date. To donate coupons, contact the center.

**AARP Smart Driver Virtual Course:**

### Foodshare Truck Coming

Portland Food Bank will host a Foodshare truck Monday, April 26, at 1 p.m.

Enter at Portland Library on Freestone Avenue, have your trunk open, and then exit past the senior center onto Waverly Avenue.

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

Choose Wednesday, May 5, 9:30 a.m.-1:45 p.m. (registration deadline April 21) or Wednesday, June 16, noon-4:15 p.m.; registration deadline is June 2. Fee will be \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for non-members. Email name, mailing address, phone number and AARP membership number (if applicable) to [bbleville@gmail.com](mailto:bbleville@gmail.com). Payment information will be provided prior to course. Workbooks will be mailed to participants with confirmation email.

**Watercolor Lessons with Bivenne Staiger:** Classes start May 11 at the Riverfront Pavilion or seniors may take them online through Yale Peabody Museum's Natural Sciences Illustration Program. Visit [www.peabody.yale.edu](http://www.peabody.yale.edu) for more info or email [bivenne@yahoo.com](mailto:bivenne@yahoo.com).

**Medical Rides:** Fee is \$5 per person. Two weeks' notice requested. Masks are required.

**Foot Care at the Center:** Appointments are offered from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of each month. Hand sanitizer must be used and a mask must be worn. Fee is \$35 cash or check. Call the center to schedule.

### Portland Exchange Offering Scholarship

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

Applications are at [www.portlandexchange.org/john-w-goodrich-scholarship](http://www.portlandexchange.org/john-w-goodrich-scholarship). Deadline to apply is April 17.

### Police News

4/6: Pascale Ferrara, 24, of Newington, was charged with misuse of plates, suspended driver's license, and unregistered motor vehicle, Portland Police said.

4/8: Ronald Lajoie, 63, of 19A Freestone Ave., was charged with threatening, police said.

### Zion Lutheran Church News

Zion Lutheran Church posts Sunday morning worship services on YouTube after 9 a.m. each day. Bulletins for each service are available at [zionlutheranportland.org](http://zionlutheranportland.org).

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

For more information, or if 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).

### Celebrate Poetry in Portland

This April, Portland Library is celebrating National Poetry Month and Earth Day with a downtown Poetry Walk.

Stop into the library at 20 Freestone Ave. or visit [www.portlandlibraryct.org](http://www.portlandlibraryct.org) for a sheet that lists nine downtown locations that are featuring poems about nature in their windows. Write down the names of the poems at each location and return your sheet to the library or email it to us at [portlandlibrary@portlandct.org](mailto:portlandlibrary@portlandct.org). When you return your sheet, you will be awarded a small prize. This event is open to participants of all ages.

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# Arrigoni Project Enters Phase 3 of Work

by Jack Lakowsky

Since February 2020, motorists have contended with delays and congestion caused by intensive rehabilitation of the Arrigoni Bridge, considered by many a regional landmark.

According to the state Department of Transportation (DOT), the \$46 million project will take a little less than one more year, scheduled to be completed in late February 2022.

This may still seem daunting to commuters, but the end is finally in sight; construction activities have reached their third phase, according to Portland First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield, who spoke to the *RiverEast* on Monday.

The third phase is slated to finish in September. At that time, final improvements will begin.

Construction is ahead of schedule, according to DOT information. Last December, the state predicted the contractor, Mohawk Northeast Inc., would finish Phase 2 work on April 21 of this year.

“This is a hugely important project,” Bransfield said. “That bridge is our lifeline, and it’s also Middletown’s.”

Bransfield said upon completion, the project will make for an improved Arrigoni for decades to come.

The project began pre-pandemic. However, the pandemic’s onset did little to hamper construction, Bransfield said. In fact, with people isolating or working from home, traffic was reduced to a point where work sped up, she explained.

“If anything, COVID-19 helped the project,” Bransfield said.

Phase 3 includes shifting lanes. Traffic will now move to the north side of the bridge and improvements will be made to the south side, according to the project’s website, arrigoni-bridgeproject.com. South side sidewalks and decks will be improved as well.

Crews will continue to repair the bridge’s steel, install access platforms, will move debris shields to the Stage 3 locations. More paving is also set to start this week.

Overall, work on the Arrigoni includes replacing bridge decks, superstructure and substructure repairs and upgrades, as well as a new protective 8–12-foot fence installed on both the approach and main spans of the bridge.

The fence, Bransfield explained, was included in design plans as a way to prevent tragedies. Bransfield as one example named the story of Tony Moreno, a man convicted of throwing his 7-month-old son Aaden into the Connecticut River in 2015, killing the baby. Moreno was sentenced to 70 years in prison.

Former Middletown Mayor Dan Drew pushed for the protective, preventative fence to be included in the Arrigoni’s construction as a way to prevent such horrors, and to also stop individuals looking to harm themselves.

Bransfield said the new fences won’t prevent enjoyment of the Arrigoni’s vista.

“We all will now have a structurally reliable and well-maintained bridge,” Bransfield said. “The road will be freed of potholes, and it will be much safer for pedestrians. A lot of people walk that bridge for work, exercise, pleasure.”

Bransfield said for a project of this scale, two years is a reasonable timespan.

To stay updated on the project, Bransfield and other town officials attend monthly virtual meetings with DOT, Mohawk, Middletown Mayor Ben Florsheim and other city officials, as well as the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce.

Bransfield praised the communication from and collaborative abilities of all parties involved. She said she has in the past worked on major projects with other groups where good communication was wanting, and this lack made for many headaches.

“DOT has been a pleasure, as has Mohawk,” Bransfield said. “They couldn’t be more accommodating and respectful of our residents and businesses. It’s dangerous work, and they do it with ease and keep us informed. They should win an award.”

Commuter complaints are among the topics



Construction work on the Arrigoni Bridge entered its third phase this week.

addressed by the group. Bransfield said there were more complaints when the work started, but now they are rare. Bransfield credited work crews, police and other workers who aid daily traffic flow.

Bransfield said she knows how grating it is when traffic interrupts work schedules or appointments. This reason, she said, is why she’s

impressed with how well locals have adapted to the delays.

“I really want to thank our drivers for their patience,” said Bransfield. “I think it helps to know that after this, we’ll have a safe bridge for at least the next few decades.”

For more information, visit arrigoni-bridge-project.com.

## Fair Housing Matters: A Whole Community Conversation

Portland Social Justice Coalition, in partnership with Portland Library and the Town of Portland, will present “Fair Housing Matters: A Whole Community Conversation” Thursday, April 29, at 7 p.m., via Zoom.

Attendees will learn about affordable housing; facts about Portland’s zoning regulations; personal stories about segregation in housing; and more. Panelists will answer questions from the community and explore past, current and

future steps to help make Portland a more inclusive community. Panelists will be: Mary Dickerson, Portland’s Development Planner; representatives from DesegregateCT; and Portland residents of public housing.

To register, call the library at 860-342-6770 or go to [tinyurl.com/c34m3d27](https://tinyurl.com/c34m3d27).

Those with questions in advance for the panelists should email them to [portlandsocialjustice@gmail.com](mailto:portlandsocialjustice@gmail.com).

## Trinity Episcopal Church News

Trinity Episcopal Church, 345 Main St., is holding services inside on Sundays at 9 a.m. COVID-19 safety protocols are followed, including safe distancing and wearing masks.

The church has been cleaned and sanitized and is sanitized before each service. Icons have been placed in the pews to assist with social distancing. Doors and windows are open for ventilation, and shortly a new air handling system will be in place, bringing a constant flow of fresh air into the sanctuary and parish hall, the church said.

The church is continuing its 10:30 Zoom

Sunday services indefinitely. Additional information is available at [trinitychurchportlandct.org](http://trinitychurchportlandct.org).

Stations of the Cross continue to be available on the church lawn for individuals from the community to, contemplatively or meditatively, walk with Jesus to the cross. A prerecorded narrative for the stations is available via Facebook and the church website.

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

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

## Soccer Club Taking Spring Registrations

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

**Club Soccer:** May 1-June 12. All games are at the New Portland Recreational Complex. Pre-K is \$60 and plays 8:45-9:30 a.m. Saturdays; Dribbler is \$75 and plays 10-11 a.m. Saturdays; and Kicker is \$75 and plays 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Saturday, and has Wednesday practice.

**Travel-Town Soccer:** Cost is \$100 for U9 to U15. The division will be in-house only, with individual teams practicing and playing within their own group cohort for practices and games. Specific cohorts will be determined after registration closes.

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

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# New Playground in the Works

by Karla Santos

The 1995-built playground at the Colchester RecPlex is expected to be replaced in May, thanks to a fundraising campaign held by the Parks and Recreation Department and donations from a local business – Incord.

According to Erica Piekarski, sales manager for Incord's Netform Play Division and NetPlay USA, this playground will be special because it will allow children to improve their imagination, hand-eye coordination, balance and independence.

"It really strives for an independent play as opposed to the normal, classic playground," she said.

Piekarski noted the playground Colchester has now doesn't encourage children to use their imagination.

"It won't be like any other playground anywhere near Colchester," Tiffany Quinn, recreation director for the town of Colchester, said.

Among the playground elements donated by Incord are a spinner, swings, nests, climbers, an

original freedom glider, a bouncer and an obstacle course. Piekarski said some of these items are Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) approved so children with physical disabilities will also get a chance to play in this playground.

"I love it and I wish they could have done it sooner," Piekarski said of the joint efforts.

According to Quinn, the town and Incord – a local material handling equipment supplier – have been working together for a few years.

She said two years ago, Incord donated two new pieces of playground equipment, "which the kids love."

Since then, the town has been working on adding new playground equipment. Quinn noted that the current playground in town was installed about 26 years ago.

"It's outdated; we can't get replacement parts if we need to fix it, so we can't make repairs on it," Quinn explained. "It's just time to replace the whole thing"

She praised Incord for generously working with the town to donate playground equipment.

She stressed that because of Incord's help,

the town will be able to remove all the old playground equipment and replace it with new equipment.

"We couldn't do it without them," she said. "We are so happy to work together with them."

She said the efforts are not only beneficial to the town but to Incord as well.

Incord has been in Colchester for about 13 years. Piekarski said Incord always worked closely with a German company called Huck Seiltechnik, and about three years ago, the two companies partnered to create a joint venture, a playground equipment supplier called NetPlay USA. Huck and Incord each own 50% of NetPlay USA.

One of Incord's benefits of working with the Colchester Parks and Recreation Department is to have their own product installed locally, instead of having the town bring in equipment from another state, Piekarski said.

She said another way the company benefits from donating the equipment is that they can use the effort as marketing material.

"We can use photos of the product itself for our marketing material," Piekarski said. "So it's

mutually beneficial to get our stuff out there."

She said the effort would "probably be of tremendous help for the taxpayer and a tremendous awesome play element for the children."

Quinn agreed and noted that this playground is saving the taxpayer about \$250,000 because of the donations from Incord and the fundraiser the town is running.

This fundraiser is being run to purchase "a few more pieces" of playground equipment in addition to what's being donated, Quinn said.

Part of the fundraising campaign is "Colchester Unplugged," which is taking place on the weekend of April 24. Colchester Unplugged encourages families to get off their digital devices and take part in the list of activities the town will be providing on that weekend. Businesses involved in those activities will be donating a portion of the proceeds towards the playground.

For more on Colchester Unplugged, visit [www.colchesterct.gov/youth-social-services/pages/colchester-unplugged](http://www.colchesterct.gov/youth-social-services/pages/colchester-unplugged).

To donate toward the completion of the playground, people can go to the Parks and Recreation Department website at [www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department](http://www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department) or call 860-537-7297.

## Spring Fever Tag Sale

Westchester Congregational Church is holding a Tag Sale Saturday, April 17, from 8 a.m.-noon, at the church parsonage, located at 95 Cemetery Rd., across the street from the church. Wear your mask and plan to socially distance. No early birds, please.

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

## Ahavath Achim News

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

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

There are daily prayer classes on Facebook Live.

For more information, call 860-537-2809. Office hours are 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday; 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Tuesday; 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday; and 9 a.m.-noon Friday.



## Bottle and Can Drive

The Colchester Young Republicans from Bacon Academy will host a Bottle and Can Drive Sunday, April 18, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., at Bacon, 611 Norwich Ave.

Organizers ask that people bring only returnable bottles and cans, rinsed out and bagged; glass bottles should be in their original boxes.

Proceeds will be split between the Young Republicans and the Colchester Food Bank.

## Car Wash and Bottle/Can Drive

Boy Scout Troop 109 will hold a Car Wash and Bottle/Can Drive Saturday, April 17, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at Advance Auto Parts, 179 Linwood Ave. Bring your dirty vehicle and your bags of recyclable bottles and cans to donate. Proceeds will go towards troop gear and Scouting events.

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### From the Superintendent's Desk...

#### Recovering the Learning: CPS's Plan to Rebuild Our Students' Education

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a nationwide impact on students academically, socially, and emotionally. Colchester Public Schools is formulating a solid plan for commitment in key strategic areas to strengthen our response to the pandemic's profound impact. To this end, the federal government has released stimulus funds targeted at assisting school districts in these efforts. Colchester plans to utilize ESSER III and American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) funds to support programming aimed at "recovering the learning" lost during the pandemic. Without these temporary funds, which are beyond normal operational costs, we would not be able to fill learning gaps, address individual student needs, and ensure our district is well positioned to rebound from the effects of the pandemic.

Here is how we envision utilizing these funds in support of our Recovering the Learning Plan:

1. **Backfill Lost Learning and Continue Intervention:** A critical investment of these funds will be to provide short-term programming for students to address lost learning. We are formulating our approach for providing necessary academic and emotional supports to those students most impacted by the pandemic. The hiring of intervention and support staff, as well as the expansion of after-school programming will provide us with the staff needed to "catch-up" students who experienced the greatest loss. These positions will be temporary (two years), and the persons who fill them will be dedicated to closing any learning gaps that were formed in the past year.

2. **Accelerate the Core:** We will also utilize ESSER III and ARPA funding to hire additional and critical instructional staff to provide universal access to foundational programs such as preschool for all students. Ensuring access to high-quality instruction at ages 3 and 4 will ensure that students have a smooth transition into kindergarten and that they are provided with a solid base from which to learn for years to come. The use of temporary staff for intervention is crucial to fulfilling the needs of our students.

We also plan to continue our flexibility in responding to the needs of our students in the ever-changing environment of this pandemic, while simultaneously striving to reach long-term planning goals. Some of these initiatives include the purchase of additional educational materials and implementation of rapidly evolving safety and health technologies and practices to maintain the healthiest school environments possible. As we enter the next era of our pandemic response, we will continue to prioritize the academic, social, emotional, and physical well-being of our school community. I am grateful to teachers, staff, and the entire community of Colchester for coming together to provide the best possible learning experience for our students.

Warmest regards,  
Jeffrey E. Burt  
Superintendent of Schools



**Pet Drive...** Colchester Elementary School student Kendall Scholl, from Joann Records' second-grade class, organized a school-wide pet drive collecting pet food, treats, toys and supplies for the Connecticut Humane Society. More than 900 items were donated. The school celebrated reaching her goal with a "Bring a Stuffed Animal to School" day.

### Food Box Distribution

Abundant Life Church, 85 Skinner Rd., will continue to distribute 30-pound boxes of fresh produce, dairy and meat products Fridays, April 16 and 23, starting at 2 p.m.

There are no financial criteria to receive a Farmers-to-Families food box. 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.

### Food, Stuff, Energy and Water

The Colchester Commission on Aging will host "Food, Stuff, Energy and Water," presented by the students of the Bacon Academy Environmental Club, on Earth Day, Thursday, April 22, at 6 p.m., via Zoom. The students will share ways to reduce solid waste.

For the Zoom link, call Colchester Senior Center at 860-537-3911.

### Polish Dinner, Polka Music

St. Joseph's Polish Society, 395 S. Main St., will have a special homemade Polish dinner Saturday, June 13, and people can either get the food to go or stay, dine on the club pavilion, and listen to live polka music by The Maestro's Men.

Dinner includes pierogis, golumpkies, kielbasa, and rye bread with butter. Dinner will be available from 1-2:30 p.m. only, but music will be performed from 1-5 p.m.

Tickets are \$18 and must be purchased in advance, at the club, on Monday-Friday after 4 p.m. or Saturday and Sunday after noon. Call 860-537-2550 for more information.

### Images of America Book-Signings

*Images of America: Colchester* author Gary Walter is signing copies of the book Sundays in April, from noon-2 p.m., at the Colchester History Museum, 24 Linwood Ave.

The book features almost 200 images of Colchester from the late 19th through mid-20th centuries. Copies are \$20, or can be ordered by mail for \$23; proceeds benefit the Colchester Historical Society.

### Cragin Book Club

The Cragin Book Club will next meet Monday, April 26, at 6 p.m., at the Colchester Giving Garden, located behind the Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave. Mary Robinette Kowal's *The Calculating Stars* will be discussed; copies are available at the adult circulation desk at the library, 8 Linwood Ave.

In case of inclement weather, the club will meet via Zoom. To register for the Zoom link, go to [tinyurl.com/5h66837h](https://tinyurl.com/5h66837h).

For more information, call the library at 860-537-5752.

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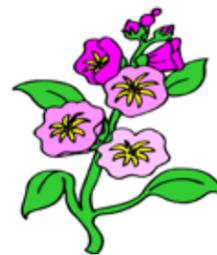
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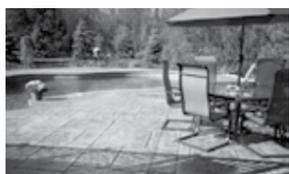
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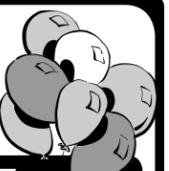
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# Food Box Program Benefits Residents

by Peter Dane

Every Friday morning since Feb. 2, a large truck has been arriving at the Abundant Life Church on Skinner Road in Colchester, usually before 9 a.m., carrying 30-pound boxes of food. The Farmers-to-Families food boxes are for distribution to people in the River East communities and beyond in need – need that has increased markedly in the time of COVID-19.

Pastor Charles Brown of Abundant Life, who has been overseeing the program for more than two months, said the loads range from just under 1,200 to more than 1,300 boxes. He estimates 450,000 pounds of food have been distributed – approximately 225 tons – with two more weeks to go, today and April 23.

The operation at Abundant Life, an Assemblies of God congregation, is one small part in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farmers to Families Food Box Program, begun last May during the Trump administration and continued this year under President Joe Biden. The program benefits farmers, who collectively have lost business on a massive scale because of the plunge in sales to restaurants, schools and other institutions, and people throughout the country, many of whom didn't need such assistance until the pandemic cost them jobs and income.

In the morning each Friday, the boxes are loaded in quantity, sometimes full pallets, onto

large vehicles to be taken to area community centers, service clubs and other locations where people can pick them up, or to be loaded in smaller amounts and vehicles for more targeted distribution within the *Rivereast* area and other communities. The afternoon is for people driving cars, vans and pickups to go through a line and pick up from one to four boxes, sometimes more, for themselves, family members and neighbors they know have need.

The content of each box is largely the same, varying only slightly week to week: A gallon of milk, a bag of potatoes, a bag of apples, a block of cheese, onions, plain yogurt, a bag of chicken or chicken and beef meatballs, and uncooked poultry or meat, usually chicken.

The destinies of those boxes are all *Rivereast* communities and other locations well beyond. One member of Brown's congregation is from Enfield and picks up boxes each week for people in her community. Likely other boxes

picked up by people from Colchester and nearby end up with their family and friends in other far-flung communities.

To understand just how this local effort fits into the overall program, the Department of Agriculture estimates it will have distributed more than 150 million food boxes nationwide when the nearly year-long program concludes at the end of this month.

Brown notes that, to help him at one of Eastern Connecticut's corners of the program (an-

other Assemblies of God church in Groton is a distribution point), he has 10 to 15 volunteer helpers on-site each Friday, most but not all members of his congregation. A couple regulars bring their own children, adults and kids.

"The program is extremely taxing but has been very fruitful, and people have come in tears thanking us," he said.

*Dane is a Colchester resident and a volunteer with the Farmers-to-Families food box program.*

## Parks and Rec. News & Notes

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

**Spring Guide to Online Shopping:** Available at [www.colchesterct.gov/community-events](http://www.colchesterct.gov/community-events).

**Cupcake Champion:** Saturday, April 24, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. All baking and decorating will be done at home, on Zoom. Final cupcakes need to be delivered to the judges at Town Hall. Registration deadline is April 16.

**Spring Clean-Up – and Sunflowers:** Choose

a location in town, then choose a time over the weekend of April 24-25 to clean up that area. All participants will be mailed a package of sunflower seeds, which they're encouraged to plant on their own property. Register online.

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

## Abundant Life Church News & Notes

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

**Weekly Sunday Service:** Social distancing guidelines are followed. Sunday School is 9:30 a.m., with the main service beginning at 10:30 a.m. Call the church to attend. The service is also broadcast live each week on Facebook, and includes a special children's program. Visit [www.facebook.com/groups/abundantlifeCT](http://www.facebook.com/groups/abundantlifeCT) or look for the church on Facebook. For more information, call the church.

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

## School Budget Process

The Colchester Board of Education's proposed 2021-22 budget has been submitted to the Board of Finance, which will hold budget workshops, open to the public, on April 19 and 20.

On April 21, the finance board will meet to send the budget to public hearing. The budget public hearing to present the proposed town and school budgets is scheduled for May 4.

The workshops and hearings will all be held over Zoom and begin at 6:30 p.m. Zoom links will be posted on the town website, [www.colchesterct.gov](http://www.colchesterct.gov).

The referendum will be held Thursday, May 27.

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**Physical Therapy Helps...**  
by Kirsti Stennett, P.T.

**HEALING THE EFFECTS OF HEEL SPURS**

It is easy to take the hard work our feet do every day for granted when they are working perfectly. But even the smallest issue can become problematic and make everyday tasks such as walking and standing incredibly painful. Bone spurs are one such problem. For some individuals, usually over the age of 50 with a history of foot pain, a "hook" of bone, called a spur, can form on the heel bone of the foot. The spur has developed due to tightness in the small intrinsic muscles of the foot that anchor at the heel, irritating and inflaming the tissues that attach there. While surgery is sometimes advised, physical therapy can offer non-surgical interventions that can reduce and resolve the symptoms. Use of manual techniques to reduce irritability where the tendons attach to the heel spur, manual stretching both soft tissues and the ankle and foot joints can help regain range of motion. The use of orthotic therapy can also support the foot and reduce tissue irritation. Our Foot Leveler Orthotic devices are a 3D scanned product that don't require a prescription and available by appointment in our Lisbon office.

Many people who have heel spurs also have plantar fasciitis, which can contribute to the pain. This condition occurs when the connective tissue, known as the plantar fascia, becomes inflamed and painful. The plantar fascia runs from your heel to your toes and supports the arch of your foot. 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. Physical therapists may use ultrasound, electrical stimulation, ice, or cold laser to decrease pain and inflammation caused by heel spurs.

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**••• SATURDAY, APRIL 24<sup>TH</sup> 9AM-1PM •••**

# Town Needs Millions Worth of New Fire Vehicles

by Karla Santos

Last week, Sean Shoemaker, interim fire chief, announced that the town is looking to spend \$4.39 million for fire apparatuses.

This project will be funded through a bond. Shoemaker, in a presentation during a virtual informational session, said more than a year ago the town identified the need for new fire apparatuses and formed a committee to address the issue.

The plan is to purchase five vehicles to replace those the town has been using for longer than is safe, Shoemaker said.

He noted that much of the fleet will be built to common specifications, allowing for standardized maintenance and training, which will result in savings for the town.

One of the vehicles being replaced is the ET-428, a 1982 truck that brings water from fire headquarters. The 38-year-old truck is an open cab, which means jump seats in back for firefighters are open to the air, Shoemaker explained.

"Should something happen, there's no protection for those firefighters," he said, adding that the truck is beyond the stage where it can be refurbished.

In addition, this truck isn't National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)-compliant; it has none of the safety equipment built into mod-

ern fire trucks, such as road protection, anti-lock brakes, airbags or stability to control; and its chassis is no longer factory supported. He said modern fire trucks have much of the safety equipment that modern cars have.

Another piece of equipment being replaced is the HT-128, the pumper that brings water from Company Two. According to Shoemaker, this 1987 truck has annual pump test failure, plumbing and valve failures and a rotted water tank.

The ET-328 is also being replaced. This 1988 truck is a pumper from headquarters and is also non-NFPA compliant with a chassis that's no longer supported and an open cab.

Shoemaker said the truck was put out of service after the steering system failed last Thursday, just before the presentation.

"This apparatus absolutely has no more time left in it," Shoemaker said.

He said some of the repairs the truck has already undergone were "nothing more than a Band-Aid" that was affixed to try and get more time out of it.

The ET-128, the main pumper from headquarters is also being replaced. This 2001 pumper has major structural failures in the body and subframe, Shoemaker said. The frame's rail is rotting, the body has major cracks and failures and there are pump and piping failures.

Shoemaker said the L-128 is also being replaced. This 1997 truck is the first ladder truck for the entire town and the only ladder truck the fire department has. Shoemaker said this apparatus is beyond its 20-year service life and has a rotting frame rail and fails an annual pump test.

The average age of each of these five trucks is about 30 years. Shoemaker said that generally front-line fire apparatuses are kept on front lines for about 20 years and then are put in reserve for another five years before being replaced.

"The time has come to replace this," Shoemaker said. "The town of Colchester has gotten more than its money's worth out of these. We have stretched the life of these."

During the presentation, Shoemaker explained what engines, engine tanks, tankers and tower ladders are and why they are needed in a fire department.

The estimated cost for these five pieces of equipment is \$4,393,672.

The plan is to have the proposal go to referendum in June. Shoemaker said that if the pro-

posal passes at referendum, the town can start to get the fire equipment around this time next year.

During the meeting, there was an opportunity for citizens to make comments and ask questions.

First Selectman Mary Bylone spoke during the meeting and said that the town has waited too long to address this problem. She said it is a lot of equipment to replace.

"If we had been doing this on an ongoing basis, we'd be in a different situation," she said.

She said this equipment is important not only so fire crews have what they need to respond to emergencies, but also so Colchester residents can count on the right vehicle being available if they ever need it at their homes.

Shoemaker plans on having more informational sessions regarding the purchase of this equipment. He will also be hosting a "show and tell" event regarding the needed equipment. The exact dates of these events will be posted on the town's website [www.colchesterct.gov](http://www.colchesterct.gov).

## Woman Charged with Stealing from Church

A Norwich woman was recently arrested and charged with stealing more than \$2,500 in checks from the donation bin of Calvary Chapel of South Eastern Connecticut, located in Uncasville, state police said.

Colchester Police helped out in the investigation as well, as some of the alleged victims are Colchester residents.

Elizabeth Greene, 34, of Norwich, was arrested last month and charged with third-degree larceny, sixth-degree larceny and third-degree forgery, police stated in a press release.

Police said that, in 2019, Greene took the checks from Calvary Chapel and altered the 'pay to' line to her name. She cashed 10 checks, for a total of \$2,580, police said. Police said Greene was part of the church cleaning staff.

According to police, in July 2019 they received a forgery complaint from one of the alleged victims, a Colchester resident. Po-

lice said the alleged victim reported depositing five checks in the donation box of the church earlier that month, totaling \$2,025. Upon learning the checks were stolen, the alleged victim reported what happened to the church's office manager.

Police said they spoke with the church's office manager who said the church had been contacted by four additional people who also said they were victims. The four – three of whom were Colchester residents – reported to police a total of \$655.

Police said that, in August 2019, they spoke with Greene over the phone, asked her some questions, and scheduled an interview with her during the same week. Greene then canceled the interview.

Police finally arrested Greene last month, on March 9.

According to the state judicial website, Greene is currently free on bond, and is next due in court April 29.

## No-Till Gardening

Mark Gostkiewicz of Tri Gable Lea Farm will instruct on the ins and outs of No-Till Gardening in a special Zoom presentation Thursday, April 29, at 6 p.m., via Zoom.

This program is free and will not be recorded. To sign up, go to [tinyurl.com/wpa5rf7v](http://tinyurl.com/wpa5rf7v).

For more information, call 860-537-5752.

## 'Your Journey Together'

C3 will offer the workshop "Your Journey Together" on Thursdays, April 22-June 3, from 7-8:30 p.m., at the Colchester Youth Center.

The workshop will show parents how to use ordinary everyday routines, activities and interactions as resilience-building opportunities. Register at [tinyurl.com/56a67xjf](http://tinyurl.com/56a67xjf).

## Colchester Federated Church News

Colchester Federated Church is an Open and Affirming church located at 60 Main St. Pastor is the Rev. Lauren Lorincz. The church office is open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., by appointment only. To schedule, call 860-537-5189 or email [cfc06415@gmail.com](mailto:cfc06415@gmail.com)

The church remains closed to the public until further notice. Virtual worship is at [www.colcheterfederatedchurch.org](http://www.colcheterfederatedchurch.org) under the Worship & Sermons tab. Updated information is also on the church's Facebook page.

## Tag Sale Donations Sought

Bacon Academy Project Graduation is looking for donations for its tag sale fundraiser scheduled for Saturday, April 24, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at St. Joseph's Polish Society, 395 S. Main St.

Donations of new, gently-used and clean items are requested, including housewares, clothing, small furniture items, toys, books, etc. No television sets, mattresses, outdated computer equipment/electronics or children's car seats will be accepted. Donations will be accepted by event coordinator Kellee Ratzler at 35 Mountain Rd. Sunday, April 18, from 9 a.m.-noon, and Tuesday, April 20, from 4-7 p.m. Larger, bulkier furniture items can be donated on the morning of the tag sale at the event location.

Email [Kellee.ratzler@yahoo.com](mailto:Kellee.ratzler@yahoo.com) for more info or to volunteer for the sale.

## Fire Calls

From April 4-10, the Colchester Hayward Fire Department responded to 29 calls: 22 emergency medical calls, four fire/fire-related calls, and three motor vehicle crashes (all single-car crashes). Calls included:

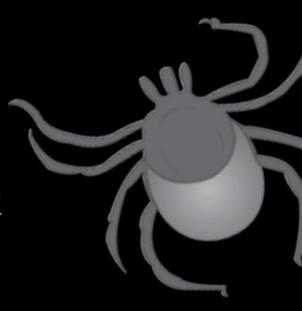
Fire: fire alarm, one; brush fire, two; structure fire, one.

Medical: sick person, two; difficulty breathing, one; fall injury, four; unconscious, two; lift assist, two; cardiac distress, three; back pain, one; injured person, one; abdominal pain, one; allergic reaction, two; diabetic emergency, one; mental disorder, one.

CHFD provided mutual aid once last week, to Hebron, and received it twice, both from Gardner Lake.

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

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

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## 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](http://easthamptonrec.com).

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

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

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

## RTC Wants You

The East Hampton Republican Town Committee is looking for people to run for the Board of Education and Town Council in this fall's election.

The RTC meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at Robert's LakeHouse. For more information contact Chairman Russell Bonacorso at 203-464-4292 or [ehctgop@gmail.com](mailto:ehctgop@gmail.com).

## Christ Episcopal Church News

Christ Episcopal Church, 66 Middle Haddam Rd., Middle Haddam, holds Sunday services via Zoom each week at 10 a.m. Virtual Sunday School is at 11 a.m., also via Zoom.

The Rev. Ann Perrott is Priest-in-Charge. For more information or if in need of pastoral assistance, call the church at 860-267-0287 or visit [www.christchurchmiddlehaddam.com](http://www.christchurchmiddlehaddam.com).

## Quilt Show, Plant Sale Coming

Haddam Neck Congregational Church will hold a Quilt Show and Ladies Aid Plant Sale Saturday, May 8, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday, May 9, from noon-5 p.m., at the church, 408 Quarry Hill Rd., Haddam Neck.

The show is a church fundraiser. Masks will be required and visitors will be asked to stay six feet apart. This year, only the church will exhibit quilts and visitors will be limited. There will be no food service, but baked goods will be available to take home.

For more information, contact Lisa Malloy at 860-267-2713 or [elizabethhartmalloy@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethhartmalloy@gmail.com), or Franky Dallas at 860-267-4513.

## Lake Clean-Up Day Coming

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

Volunteers are welcome. Dumpsters will be placed at Sears Park. Metals, tires (no rims), wood and plastics can be brought to the park to be put in the dumpsters. All COVID-19 rules apply. Lake Pocotopaug T-shirts, garbage bags, gloves, directions and assignments will be available at the park.

Full details are available at [www.flpeh.org](http://www.flpeh.org). For more information, call Joe Carbonell at 860-917-7366 or email [vicechairman@flpeh.org](mailto:vicechairman@flpeh.org).

## Bits and Pieces Sale

The Ladies Aid of Haddam Neck Congregational Church will hold a Bits and Pieces Sale the days of the church quilt show, May 8 and 9. To prepare, the group is currently collecting donations of fabric, yarn and notions such as thread, trim and quilting supplies, magazines and books related to quilting.

To make donations, call Darcy Yuille at 860-301-4994.

## Submissions Sought for New Magazine

Ages 12 and up are invited to submit original works for Epoch Arts' new student-led magazine, themed "Inspiration and Encouragement."

Submissions can include photography, paintings, poetry, short stories, original songs or other forms of writing. All visual art mediums are acceptable (painting, photography, drawing, sculpture, digital, prints, fiber art, collage or installation art). Deadline for submissions is April 26. Send submissions with title, name of artist and age. "Adult" is 18 and older.

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

**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.

**Sears Park Summer Camp:** June 21-Aug. 3, at Sears Park. Fee: \$165.

**Animal Exploration:** July 19-23, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., at Memorial School, for ages 4-9. Fee: \$110.

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

## Congregational Church News

The Congregational Church of East Hampton, UCC, located at 59 Main St., holds in-person services at 10 a.m. each week. All are welcome. Masks, hand sanitizing and social distancing are all required. Services will continue to be available via Zoom; visit [cc-eh.org](http://cc-eh.org) to access.

Sunday school classes have also resumed in person.

The Teen Youth Group will meet Friday, April 23, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Students in grades 6-12 are welcome.

For more information, visit [cc-eh.org](http://cc-eh.org) or call 860-267-4959 during office hours, Tuesday-Friday from 8 a.m.-noon. In case of pastoral emergencies, the Rev. Jim Latimer can be reached at 610-568-2480.

## East Hampton 'Big Easy' Raffle

East Hampton Rotary Club is raffling off lifetime admission to the Big E.

Tickets are \$10 each. Grand prize is a Big E Golden Ticket – lifetime entry for two to The Big E; parking included. Second prize is four one-day tickets to the Big E, and third prize is a \$50 gift card for Thorncrest Farm in Goshen.

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

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

## Epoch Arts to Present Original Play

Epoch Arts' Breaking Silences group will perform an original one-act play, *Across the Line*, Saturday, April 24, at 1 and 5 p.m., and Sunday, April 25, at 1 p.m., rain or shine, at the new outdoor stage. Epoch is located at 22 Skinner St.

*Across the Line* deals with the fear of not being accepted, silence, anger, compassion and strength.

Tickets are \$12 and must be purchased at [www.epocharts.org](http://www.epocharts.org). Space is limited, and masks are required.

## Seeds of Hope

The Congregational Church of East Hampton mission group, Seeds of Hope, will hold its annual 5K/10K/Fun Walk Saturday, April 24. Registration must be done in advance, at [first-mile-fitness.com](http://first-mile-fitness.com).

On race day, race bags can be picked up beginning at 7:30 a.m. at the church, 59 Main St. The race will begin at 9 a.m., at the entrance to the Air Line Trail, located at Cranberry Bog on Smith Street. Participants should park at the church; transportation will be provided to and from the trail head.

Masks are required for all attendees and all COVID-19 safety protocols will be in place.

Awards will follow the race at Cranberry Bog. All race proceeds will help Seeds of Hope members pay for their next mission trip. For more information, call Lisa at 860-918-1170.

## Spring Sidewalk Cleanup

The merchants of the East Hampton Village Center will host a Spring Sidewalk Cleanup in the Village Center Saturday, April 24. Volunteers will meet at East Hampton Public Library, 105 Main St., at 9 a.m.

Garbage bags and rubber gloves will be provided, or bring your own protective gloves along with a rake. For more information, email Melissa Pionzio at [mapionzio@comcast.net](mailto:mapionzio@comcast.net).



In 2020, John Purple of the East Hampton Conservation & Lake Commission, right, presented Catherine "Cap" Egan Nelson of Lakewood Road with the Lake-Smart Award for making improvements on her and her husband Craig's property to benefit Lake Pocotopaug. Now it's time for this year's awards. *Podskoch Photo*

## Lake-Smart Award Time

It's time once again for folks with lake or watershed property to have their property evaluated and earn a Lake-Smart Award.

The East Hampton Conservation & Lake Commission (C & LCC) started the Lake-Smart Award Program for property owners living on Lake Pocotopaug or in the surrounding watershed. The purpose is to encourage property owners to improve the quality of Lake Pocotopaug by doing projects to prevent infiltration of phosphates, nitrates, pesticides, and other impurities from entering the lake. Those that achieve seven requirements will receive a Lake-Smart Award sign they can display on their property. It is hoped the program will not only improve the quality of the lake but also encourage neighbors to make improvements to their property.

Six families in the Lake Pocotopaug Watershed who have received the Lake-Smart Award in 2020: Pam Joslyn and Gary Greenwald of Hale Road, John Roche Family and Ellen Braun Family, both on Raymond Road, Cap and Craig Nelson on Lakewood Road, Don Burr on Bay Road, and Lynn & Marty Podskoch on O'Neill Lane.

Some of the seven criteria property owners will be evaluated on are: Do they have a "buffer

zone," rain gardens, diversion ditches, etc., that contain stormwater runoff before it reaches the lake? Do owners refrain from using chemical fertilizers containing phosphates and nitrates or using pesticides and herbicides. In mowing their lawn, do they maintain the level of their lawn at 2 1/2-3" and use a mulching blade instead of bagging grass clippings? Do they cover bare soil areas with mulch or plantings? Do they refrain from feeding water fowl and discourage them from coming onto their property? Finally, do they prevent leaves and grass clippings from entering the lake?

Those wishing to be evaluated for the award should contact the Jeremy Hall of the Parks & Recreation Department (860-267-7300 or [jhall@easthamptonct.gov](mailto:jhall@easthamptonct.gov)) or Jeremy DeCarli of the Planning and Zoning Department (860-267-7450 or [jdecarli@easthamptonct.gov](mailto:jdecarli@easthamptonct.gov)). An appointment will be arranged for a C&LC member(s) to visit the owners and help them evaluate their property. If there is a deficiency, owners will be given suggestions on improving their property. If they achieve all the goals, they will receive a Lake-Smart Award. We can all work together to have a cleaner lake.

## Lions and Hogs Poker Run

Lions of District 23C invite everyone to the "Lions and Hogs Poker Run" Sunday, April 25, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., to raise funds for the Lions Clubs International Foundation.

The Poker Run will have three "loops" to choose from – one that starts in Old Saybrook, one in Niantic and one in Danielson. All three will end at Carter Hill Farm in Marlborough, and will feature multiple stops along the way.

Registration is \$25 for five cards (one card drawn at each stop); folks may also buy an additional card at Carter Hill for \$10 to replace

a card. Choice of prizes: six lobsters, \$100 Kohl's gift card, Connecticut River dinner cruise for four on the Blue Heron or the rental of a dragon barbecue grill where the smoke comes out of his mouth. Players will receive a free hot dog and soft drink at Carter Hill Farm, where a lunch will also be available to purchase with music by Rock Landing.

For more info, email Lions Mary Krogh at [govmary23c@aol.com](mailto:govmary23c@aol.com) or Shari Ann Colquhoun at [sheriann8@yahoo.com](mailto:sheriann8@yahoo.com).

## Teen Wins Arts Commission Grant

The East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission (EHACC) has awarded East Hampton High School senior Brendan Owen a \$200 grant to support his capstone project, a multifaceted assignment that serves as a culminating academic and intellectual experience for students.

For his project, Owen will purchase reusable bamboo utensils for this year's East Hampton High School freshman class, to help decrease the carbon footprint and increase sustainability in the East Hampton Public School system. Through research, Owen learned that thousands of pieces of plastic utensils are used and thrown away at the high school each month. He said he hopes the school district will consider switching entirely to metal silverware.

The EHACC said it was very impressed with Owen's passion for the environment and desire to preserve the planet for future generations. The grant money will help pay for the bamboo utensil sets, and Owen's ideas will be presented during the annual Capstone Exhibit, hosted by East Hampton High School before the end of the school year.



Brendan Owen

East Hampton • East Hampton

# Lake Cleanup Coming April 24

by Jack Lakowsky

The Friends of Lake Pocotopaug and the East Hampton Conservation Lake Commission will host the town's annual Lake Pocotopaug Cleanup Day Saturday, April 24.

Cleaning begins at 9 a.m. starting at Sears Park on North Main Street.

Joe Carbonell, vice chairman of the Friends of Lake Pocotopaug, said that, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the town approved the lake cleanup, as it is outdoor, and groups will be spread throughout the lake area.

State pandemic restrictions limit mass gatherings, indoor or outdoor, to 200 people. Carbonell said he'd be thrilled if 200 people showed interest in picking up litter around the lake – but added it's not likely that many will sign on. He said normally about 70 people join the effort.

"They go out to different neighborhoods, concentrating on one or two streets," Carbonell said.

Carbonell said the cleanup will occur rain or shine, and all pandemic protocols—masks, distancing—apply.

The Friends members will hand out brightly-colored shirts to volunteers and will also supply gloves and garbage bags, as well as directions and area assignments.

Carbonell said one change stemming from the

pandemic is that the cleanup group won't get to enjoy a little pre-cleaning, coffee and doughnut camaraderie.

Although he wasn't sure of an exact year, Carbonell said the cleanup goes back to the early 2000s. He said since that time, there has been a slight decrease in the amount of litter, but that the group still collects a lot.

Carbonell said each year, a 30-cubic-yard dumpster is filled with trash collected around the lake. Dumpsters will be provided, and organizers will take care of final disposal or, when applicable, recycling, of items gathered.

Carbonell said he is blown away by the amount of miniature drink bottles, called "nippers" by most Nutmeggers, that the group collects every year. He said because there is no recycling return on the mini bottles, there is little incentive to keep them.

And this is from just one cleanup effort. According to East Hampton Public Works Director Matt Walsh, town crews annually collect between 150 and 175 cubic yards of material from town roadways, about seven or eight dump truck hauls.

Walsh went on to say lake catch basins collect between 50 and 60 cubic yards of material semi-annually, or about six dump truck loads of waste

prevented from entering Pocotopaug.

Carbonell said the town's public works crews are the unsung heroes of East Hampton.

East Hampton Town Manager David Cox said on top of catch basins and general litter pick-up, the town and the Chatham Health District monitor water quality.

Carbonell said the cleanup also has an optic benefit; people drive by seeing brightly-dressed locals giving their time and energy to keeping their neighborhood free of waste and debris and are discouraged from negating the effort.

Carbonell said students can participate as a way to meet their community service requirements.

If volunteers fill a bag and can't carry the

weight for a long period, they don't need to worry – Carbonell said a truck will be making rounds among groups to collect their bags.

Carbonell said for the past year, the pandemic has disrupted much of the Friends of the Lake's activities, especially fundraising events.

"I'm really hoping we're back into full swing next year," Carbonell said, saying the pandemic has interrupted many beloved local traditions – including the Old Home Day parade.

Carbonell said the Friends are currently looking to perform their annual "Blessing of the Fleet," when boaters parade their vessels to be blessed by a local priest and a minister, although plans for it have not been finalized.

## Senior Center News & Notes

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

**Virtual Lunch Bunch:** Every other Monday at 12:30 p.m., via Zoom. Register online. Next date is April 19 and will feature a talk with a representative from Hemphill Farms, a family-owned potato farm in Maine.

**Movie Group via Zoom:** Tuesday, April 27, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* will be discussed. Register online or call the center.

**Conference Call Bingo:** Friday, April 30, 10 a.m. The center has a telephone number people can dial into to play; staff will be the Bingo caller. Call the center to register and schedule a

time to pick up your Bingo cards.

**Statewide Virtual Senior Center Program:** Friday, April 30, 1-2:30 p.m., via Zoom. This presentation on state waterways will include sea shanties performed by Tom Callinan. Call the center to register.

**Creative Crafts/Acrylic Pour Pots:** Wednesday, May 12, 1 p.m., outside at the senior center. Space is limited; register online.

**Lunch on the Patio with Staff:** Twice monthly, the center will draw two names to join two staff members for a free lunch outside. Call to submit your name or register online. Dates to be determined soon.

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

**Volunteer Shopping:** The center has a program where a volunteer will shop for you. If interested or for more info, call 860-267-4426 or email [jewing@easthampton.gov](mailto:jewing@easthampton.gov).

## From the Desk of the State Representative...

This session in the Education Committee, I supported two pieces of legislation aimed at establishing clear minimum guidelines and standards for remote learning to ensure quality education and establishing social-emotional learning to adequately provide mental health support for all Connecticut students.

An Act Concerning Virtual Learning (SB 977), would require the state Department of Education to create uniform standards for online learning by July, as well as conduct an audit of the remote learning programs being used by school districts across the state and report their findings. The department would also determine what should and should not be considered an excused absence from online classes and approve the virtual learning platforms being used by districts.

The social-emotional learning proposal, An Act Concerning Social and Emotional Learning (HB 6557), would work to integrate the principles of social-emotional learning and restorative practices into the provision of public education in Connecticut while adequately addressing the need for mental health counselors in our schools.

According to testimony from the Connecticut School Counselor Association, 75% of students are not receiving the attention, care and proactive interventions of a school counselor and a comprehensive school counseling program.

Remote learning can be very isolating, and we have seen the impacts that a lack of socialization can have on students through this pandemic. Not only are they struggling with these new feelings, they do not always have the resources to address them. This is a great first step in helping our students cope and move forward.

Both pieces of legislation were overwhelmingly approved in the Education Committee and now move forward for further General Assembly debate. Visit my website at [RepHaines.com](http://RepHaines.com) to stay updated on these proposals and more.

State Rep. Irene Haines  
(R-34)

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*Tim Feegel, Service Manager*

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# Planning Board Requests Historic Home Site Walk

by Jack Lakowsky

At an April 7 meeting of the East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission, dozens of residents opposed a proposed zone change for the Citgo gas station at the corner of Route 16 and Main Street.

Residents through spoken and written testimony expressed their feelings in a public hearing about the application to expand the gas station, which would add gas pumps as well as square footage to the building.

Many were concerned about the proposed demolition of the neighboring Strong House on Main Street, a site on the National Historic Registry built in the 1850s and part of the Belltown Historic District.

Attorney Scott Jezek represented the applicant, Atlantis Marketing. Atlantis Marketing Business Development Manager Jack Belowich also spoke to PZC.

In a previous interview with the *Rivereast* and in the meeting, Jezek and Belowich said the Strong House has no actual historic character due to decades of refits and renovations to fit different uses, including as a multi-family apartment building.

After two hours of discussion, and with more than a dozen people queued to speak, PZC decided to continue the hearing to its May 5 meeting, saying the evening's other items needed attention as well.

East Hampton Land Use Official Jeremy DeCarli read or summarized 46 different letters of opposition.

Writers were concerned about an increase in traffic, light, noise and air pollution, commercial creep, their property values, the quiet enjoyment of town, the idea of spot zoning, the project's compliance with the town's Plan of Conservation and Development, the high number of gas stations already in town, and the maintenance of Belltown's historic, rural character.

Several of those against the project were Village Center business owners, concerned the new gas station would actually take traffic away from their locations, as commuters will stop at the larger store, which sits at a "gateway" into town, and not drive further into downtown.

There are three petitions against the zone change and subsequent construction. Hundreds of locals from within a 500-foot radius, between that and a 2,000-foot radius, as well as residents from outside that area, have signed them.

One letter supported the zone change, saying it will increase tax revenue to the town, and that no new entrances are proposed.

Atlantis conducted its own survey. In it, dozens of residents signed in support of the change. However, multiple residents decried this survey, saying it was misleading because it asked those surveyed if they favored a "renovation" of the store, not a redevelopment.

At the start of the meeting Jezek, through his clients' right to do so, asked each PZC member to state if they have signed any petitions or given interviews to any media about the issue. Jezek said he asked because several outlets, including the *Rivereast*, the *Middletown Press* and Fox61, have covered the issue.

Commissioners unanimously said no. Belowich said overall media coverage has been one-sided, with the *Rivereast* being the only outlet to reach out to Atlantis for comment.

Because of this, Belowich said he and the company have been portrayed largely as ambitious out-of-town developers, unwilling to engage with media or with the community. Belowich said he has lived in Danbury since 1989 and has raised his family in Connecticut.

Belowich said a full set of plans for the site hasn't yet been developed. The zone change, he said, is just one step in a lengthy process that would still need to clear the town's Design Review Board.

Belowich said Atlantis must still develop more detailed plans and said in fact, demolition of the Strong House is not a given going forward, and that there are many more hurdles for the applicant to clear.

"I'd like to invite anyone to visit the house, and you'll see all historic value has been altered," Belowich said. "It has no true historic relevance. It's been in disrepair for a long time."

PZC Chairman Ray Zatorski and other commission members took Belowich up on his offer, saying they'd like to see, and judge, the house for themselves.



A sign protesting the Citgo zone change. Many of these signs have popped up along Main Street, the Village Center and surrounding area.

Belowich went on to say that in fact, keeping Citgo's current residential zoning contradicts the town's POCD.

The store sits at the intersection of two out of eight main, arterial roads in East Hampton. Areas along these arteries are slated in the POCD for economic development, Belowich explained.

Jezek added that the site was zoned for commercial use from the 1960s, when East Hampton first adopted its zoning regulations, until the 1990s.

Of the two residential buildings also affected by the requested zone change, Jezek said there is one tenant in the house to the north of the store.

The zone change faces fierce opposition. Nearly 20 residents opposed the change during public comment.

East Hampton Housing Authority Director Jodi Brazal spoke against the plan, asking for more information on who will be displaced by a store expansion.

Brazal said the store uses wells, and there is no plan to switch a larger operation to public water supply.

"The amount of water needed for more food prep and more restrooms would be a considerable strain on our [wells]," Brazal said.

Brazal said she was concerned about an increase in litter, saying she already picks up many scratch-off tickets and snack wrappers from her front yard near Citgo.

Brazal went on to say that PZC can't overlook the town's housing issues. She said the town is already struggling to meet state affordable housing requirements, and so should focus on developments serving this need, not another commercial site.

East Hampton resident Adam Knouse also opposed the zone change.

Knouse said he and his family recently moved to East Hampton from Manchester, where he lived for decades.

After living in Manchester, a town far larger than East Hampton, Knouse said he's seen "what small zone changes here and there can do." He said overdevelopment prompted him and his family to leave Silk City for Belltown.

Knouse said he has managed gas stations in the past. He said their primary revenue flows from retail sales of snacks and drinks, not from selling gas.

"I know how much trash they produce," Knouse said.

Atlantis said it plans to plant green spaces. Knouse said this is a platitude, and that gas station green spaces turn brown quickly, as no one wants to pay money or effort to maintain them.

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## 'Substantial Amount' of Heroin Seized from Local Man

by Jack Lakowsky

Luke Noll, 29, of 32 Middle Haddam Rd., Middle Haddam, was arrested April 10 and charged with possession of narcotics and drug paraphernalia after police found him passed out behind the wheel of his 2004 Jeep Cherokee.

On Tuesday, East Hampton Police Chief Dennis Woessner said normally individuals are found with one or two bags of heroin but in this case, Noll's vehicle is alleged to have contained 40 bags of the addictive narcotic.

Noll was alone on the vehicle and parked in an empty business parking lot, according to police. He appeared to be under the influence of "some type of drug." Noll was released on \$500 bond and has a court date of June 29 at Middletown Superior Court.

East Hampton police K-9 Ardo alerted an officer to the heroin's presence.

A concerned citizen called police the night of April 10 to ask for a wellbeing check to be given to a man apparently sleeping in their car in a parking lot.

Woessner said Noll's intent for the heroin – whether he meant to sell, use, or a mix of both – is unclear.

"Forty bags is a substantial amount," Woessner said. "However, if this person has a habit of using ten bags a day, that supply will only last four days."



East Hampton police with the aid of a police K-9 took these 40 bags of heroin from a Middle Haddam man last weekend.

Woessner said this was a larger seizure than normal, but added that he wouldn't describe it as a particularly large amount.

Noll was found with a needle, police said. "East Hampton, like all towns, is not immune to drug use," said Woessner. "We've had in the past several medical [calls] where we had to use Narcan on someone who overdosed on something."

Woessner said as far as drug use rates throughout the town, the department isn't seeing an uptick, but there is a steady stream of the drug into town and into the region.

"We're sandwiched between routes 66 and 16, we're a gateway between Middletown and Route 2," the chief said. "We get a lot of people traveling back and forth."

## National Drug Take-Back Day

The East Hampton Prevention Partnership and the East Hampton Police Department will let residents dispose of unused drugs at a local edition of the National Drug Take-Back Day Saturday, April 24, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at Town Hall, 1 Community Drive. Volunteers and members of the police department will be waiting in the circle drive to collect drugs as you drive through.

If unable to attend, there is a collection box in the lobby of EHPD, also located at 1 Community Drive. Hours are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Tuesday, 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m.; and Saturday, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

## Haddam Neck Covenant Church News

Haddam Neck Covenant Church, located at 17 Haddam Neck Rd., invites all to Sunday worship at 9 a.m., online at [www.facebook.com/Haddam-Neck-Covenant-Church](http://www.facebook.com/Haddam-Neck-Covenant-Church) or in person with masks, social distancing and safety protocols. Pastor is the Rev. Tom Cowger.

**Puppet Ministry:** Each Sunday, the church's Puppet Ministry features Digger the Dog and some of his friends from Farmer M's Red Barn to help Cowger explain the meaning of the message topic.

**Bible Study:** Hosted by Cowger every other Thursday, 7-8:30 p.m., via Zoom. The study group looks at various versions of a Bible passage and applies the imagination tool from our Contemplative Prayer study to gain a deeper understanding of what is happening in the passage. All are welcome.

**Famous Barbecue Chicken:** The church is planning another barbecue chicken dinner drive-thru takeout event in June. Watch for reservation information.

**Office Info:** The church office can be reached at 860-267-2336. Office hours are Monday-Friday, 12:30-4:30 p.m. The new church website is at [www.hncovenantchurch.org](http://www.hncovenantchurch.org).

## YPCCA Taking Enrollment for Summer

The Young People's Center for Creative Arts is accepting enrollment for its 2021 summer theater camp, to take place at East Hampton High School during July. This summer's play is the Broadway hit *Mamma Mia!*, based on the music of the band ABBA.

Auditions for the musical will take place at EHHS in June. It is not mandatory to audition to participate in the camp; everyone is in the show whether they audition or not. Students will be asked to sing, dance and read at the auditions.

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

For more information, call 860-754-6145, email [info@ypcca.org](mailto:info@ypcca.org) or visit [www.ypcca.org](http://www.ypcca.org).

## Police News

3/27: Angela Marie Faraci, 67, of 72 Middletown Ave., was issued a summons for operating under suspension and operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, East Hampton Police said.

4/2: Darrell Stevens, 34, of 150 Young St., was issued a summons for misuse of plates and operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, police said.

4/5: Sheleena Perry, 34, of Groton, was arrested and charged with third-degree larceny, police said. Police said the charge stemmed from an investigation into a home health care aid stealing jewelry from her client.

4/9: David Cossey, 48, of 1 Middletown Ave., was arrested and charged with second-degree failure to appear, police said.

Also, from March 15-April 11, officers responded to 13 motor vehicle crashes, two motor vehicle thefts and 17 alarms, and made 89 traffic stops, police said.

## Pair of Fundraisers for TANGO2

Two fundraisers are coming up to benefit the fight against the rare disease TANGO2.

On Thursday, April 29, Po's Rice & Spice will donate 15% of total sales for the entire day to benefit the TANGO2 Research Foundation.

Then, on May 1, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., there will be a Craft & Vendor Fair at East Hampton High School. More than 20 vendors, crafters, and bakers will be offering items such as garden and home décor, jewelry, textiles, and more.

For more information, to get involved, or to make a donation, visit the TANGO2 Research Foundation at [www.tango2research.org](http://www.tango2research.org).

## 'Belltown Spring Sprint' Returns

East Hampton High School Project Graduation will hold the Belltown Spring Sprint Sunday, May 2, on the EHHS grounds, 15 N. Maple St.

Kids' Fun Run starts at 9:15 a.m., and cost is \$5. The 5K Run/Walk starts at 10 a.m., and cost is \$20 for adults and \$10 for ages 18 or younger. To register, visit [belltownspringsprint5k.itsyourrace.com](http://belltownspringsprint5k.itsyourrace.com).

For more information, email Melissa Curylo at [ehhsctprojgrad@gmail.com](mailto:ehhsctprojgrad@gmail.com).

## Garden Club to Meet

The Belltown Garden Club will meet Monday, April 19. This is the annual garden work night for garden clean-up of various locations in town where the club maintains gardens.

An email sent out to club members will inform as to time and location for cleanup duty, and then members will go to the Congregational Church Fellowship Hall for a business meeting and pizza. For information on this meeting contact projects chairperson Sue Hewes.

The club is a member of Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut and National Garden Clubs. For more information, call President JoAnn Hewitt at 860-267-4129.

## East Hampton Library News & Notes

East Hampton Public Library, 105 Main St., has announced the following. For more information, Zoom links, and full program descriptions, call 860-267-6621 or visit [easthamptonpubliclibrary.org](http://easthamptonpubliclibrary.org) or [facebook.com/EastHamptonLibrary](https://facebook.com/EastHamptonLibrary).

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

**Weekly Activities for Kids: Stories and Songs:** Wednesdays at 10 a.m. via Zoom, for ages 1-5. **Family Bedtime Stories:** Mondays at 6:30 p.m., via Zoom, for ages 3-8. **Mindful Movements:** Thursdays, 10 a.m., via Zoom, for ages 3-8.

**Virtual Afterschool Programs: Footprints, Fribrarys, and Fundays:** Programs are at 4 p.m. over Zoom. Registration required. Schedule: Footprints, for grades 2-3, April 30; Fribrary, for grades 4-5, April 23, May 7 and May 28; Monday Funday, for grades 6-8, April 19

and May 24.

**Science Explorers: Project Bags for Grades 2-5:** Tuesday, April 20, 10 a.m. This session's kit features renewable energy and the water cycle. Registration is required; the library will let you know when kits are ready for pickup.

**Teen Advisory Tuesday:** April 27, 3 p.m., via Zoom, for grades 8-12. Teens will plan and create events and programs, and provide input to expand the library's YA/Teen collection.

**Adult Programs: Author Event! Martha Hall Kelly:** Tuesday, April 20, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom. Kelly will discuss her latest book, *Sunflower Sisters*. Books will be available for sale and borrowing prior to the event at the library. Registration required.

**Book Club:** Tuesday, April 27, at 6:30 p.m., and Thursday, April 29, at 2 p.m., both via Zoom. *Sunflower Sisters* will be discussed. Register online for the Zoom link.

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

RHAM • RHAM

## Lions Offer Scholarships

The Hebron Lions Club is offering three scholarships – two for \$4,000 each and one for \$2,000 – for those who will attend a four-year college or two-year college or trade/career school program

To qualify, applicants must be high school seniors, residents of Hebron or active members in good standing in the RHAM Leos Club, and must plan to attend a college or technical/career school in the 2021-22 school year.

Recipients will be selected based on financial need, scholastic achievement, extracurricular

activities, community service and other criteria established by the Hebron Lions Club Scholarship Committee.

Applications are at the RHAM High School guidance office and [www.HebronHarvestFair.org/scholarships](http://www.HebronHarvestFair.org/scholarships). Email completed forms to [Richard.Griswold@HebronHarvestFair.org](mailto:Richard.Griswold@HebronHarvestFair.org), or mail to Hebron Lions Club, c/o Richard Griswold, Chairman, Hebron Lions Club Scholarship Committee, 347 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT 06248.

Applications are due May 14.

## Socially-Distanced Empty Bowls Event

RHAM High School students will hold their third Empty Bowls event Saturday, May 1, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., outside the front of the high school, in the student drop-off area. (Rain date is May 2.)

Timed tickets for bowls are sold at [tinyurl.com/f8nefdb](http://tinyurl.com/f8nefdb), and deadline to purchase is April 29. Also at the website, people may purchase shirts with a logo designed by former student Owen Schwartz. Bowl tickets are \$10, short-sleeve shirts are \$10, and long-sleeve shirts are \$15. All proceeds benefit the Hebron Interfaith Food Bank, Marlborough Food Bank and Andover Congregational Church Food Pantry.

Guests will choose a handmade ceramic bowl to take home as a reminder that there are always empty bowls in the world. Ticket-holders should pull up to the student drop-off area at the front of the school to check in, pick out a bowl and pick up shirts. Additional monetary and food donations will also be accepted.

## Soccer Registration Ends April 17

Through April 17, kids ages 3-16 can register for RHAM Youth Soccer. All skill levels are invited. Current COVID-19 guidelines will be in place.

For more information or to register, visit [clubs.bluesombrero.com/rhamyouthsoccer](http://clubs.bluesombrero.com/rhamyouthsoccer) or find the club on Facebook at RHAM Youth Soccer.

## Youth Baseball Spring Swing

The RHAM Youth Baseball Spring Swing golf outing will take place Friday, May 14, at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron. Registration starts at 10 a.m., followed by a putting contest at 11 a.m. and a shotgun start at noon.

Following the golf, there will be a gathering and cocktail hour at 5:30 p.m., and dinner, awards, raffles and auctions at 6:30.

Registration includes putting contest, a food truck lunch, Booming Long Drive and Closest to the Pin contests, happy hour and dinner. Cost is \$150 per individual or \$500 for a foursome. Cost for dinner only is \$30.

Sponsorships are available: Hole/Tee sponsor – \$150; Platinum sponsor – \$500, includes two individual registrations, two bracelets and tee signage; Tourney sponsor – \$800, includes four individual registrations, four bracelets and tee signage.

To register, visit [www.rhamyouthbaseball.com](http://www.rhamyouthbaseball.com). Call Rob at 860-670-511 or Jason at 860-682-5972 for more details on becoming an event sponsor.

## Collection, Disposal of Unwanted Medications

AHM Youth and Family Services will hold a local drop-off site for the National Drug Take-Back event Saturday, April 24, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at Marlborough Elementary School, 25 School Rd., Marlborough.

All are invited to drop off unwanted medication from households, to prevent it from being abused by children, teens and adults. The medication will be safely disposed of by state police.

The event will be run in partnership with AHM, Troop K, the Marlborough Police, the Marlborough, Andover, Hebron and Columbia elementary schools, and the RHAM middle and high schools.

For more details, call AHM Prevention Coordinator Brendan Grimm at 860-228-9488 ext. 22.

## AHM Spring Programs

AHM Youth and Family Services is offering a variety of programs this spring. Visit [www.ahmyouth.org](http://www.ahmyouth.org) for details about spring youth theater for grades K-6, summer youth theater for grades 7-12, in-person preschool summer camp, in-person Health Matters programs, and for a schedule for the SMART recovery groups for teens, young adults and families.

Also, for young families, AHM's Family Resource Center will offer Play and Learn groups Thursdays, April 29-June 3, 10:30-11:30 a.m., at Veterans Memorial Park in Hebron (rain dates are Fridays at the same time). Fee is \$25. There will also be a Wednesday session of the from April 28-June 2, 10:15-11:15 a.m., at Gilead Hill School in Hebron. Fee is also \$25.

FRC will also host First Steps in Music Tuesdays, May 4-25 (with rain dates of June 1 and 8), 10:45-11:30 a.m., at Burnt Hill Park. Fee is \$60 per family. Lastly, KinderRHAMa preschool registration for the 2021-22 school year is open.

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# Carter Hill Told to Limit Noise

by Karla Santos

At its April 1 meeting, the Zoning Commission directed the owners of The Farm at Carter Hill to follow stricter conditions in order to reduce the levels of noise on the property line of the popular business.

The additional requirements were put in place after some Roberts Road neighbors complained of music being too loud at the local business, which features a restaurant and an event venue that frequently draws music acts.

While Zoning Commission Chair Kevin Asklar said he is unsure about what the decibel readings from last year were, he said that to his understanding, "The readings that [were taken] last year, they fall within the regulations."

The way the farm, which is located on Route 66, at 86 East Hampton Rd., is supposed to monitor its sound level by having an outside vendor go to the farm with calibrated decibel readers that would tell them how loud the music is, Asklar explained. Then, the farm would send a report of the readings to the town. The decibel readings at the farm must be at or under 55.

As a point of context, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 55 is just under the decibel level generated by normal conversation or an air conditioner. The CDC said prolonged exposure to noise above 70 decibels – the level typically generated by a washing machine or dishwasher – may start to damage hearing, and loud noise above 120 decibels – the equivalent of standing beside or

near sirens – can cause immediate harm to one's ears.

During the meeting, the commission agreed on a resolution to approve the farm's schedule of events for the coming season, as it does every year – although with some new conditions.

The first condition is that the 2020 engineering report, detailing sound levels at the property last year, be provided to the commission within 30 days of the meeting. The farm owners are also required to monitor the sound level at the property line through July 1, and provide an engineering report of those results to the commission by Aug. 1. They also must continue monitoring the sound of all of their outdoor music events through the end of the year. In addition, the farm owners are required to experiment with the positioning of speakers to reduce the noise at the property line. Lastly, they have to provide an updated list of their special events open to the general public such as music events, comedy nights and dinners among other events.

The Farm at Carter Hill is owned by Hazel and Mitch Lichatz. Last week, Mitch Lichatz told the *Rivereast* that to rectify the problem, in about two weeks, he will have four or five decibel readers permanently installed around the property. With that, the farm ownership will be aware of the sound level, not only during events, but 24 hours a day. In addition, those levels will be in front of the bands playing at the farm to ensure they are staying within the

55 decibel limit.

Lichatz said he is also working on installing about 100 six-foot-tall arborvitae trees to act as a noise buffer.

The Zoning Commission "didn't even ask for us to do that, but we are doing it," he said.

The *Rivereast* went out to the farm last week and took a ride on a golf cart to witness the measurements of the business' decibel readers from various areas of the property.

There were no events at the farm at that time; the only noise that could be heard was from vehicles going by on Route 66 and the sound levels were from 41 to 61, even in front of the stage. Lichatz said the property line is about 100 feet from Roberts Road, the closest residential street. He added that from the property line to the stage is another 1,000 feet.

Asklar told the *Rivereast* that every year, the business, under its special permit, is required to go in front of the commission with an application that lists the dates for all of their events for the year. Asklar noted that as part of the process, the application goes into a public hearing, allowing neighbors to express their concerns.

Asklar said some neighbors last year complained about the music from the farm being loud. Those complaints were addressed at the

April 1 Zoning Commission meeting, as the farm's public hearing before the commission each year is typically when issues from the previous year are discussed.

At the April 1 meeting, about five Roberts Road residents voiced their complaints regarding the noise coming from the farm. They said they could hear the music at their homes.

However, other Roberts Road residents also spoke during the meeting and said they either didn't hear noise from their homes, or that the amount of noise they did hear wasn't disruptive.

Asklar noted that, overall, the town received more than 200 emails in support of the farm and its events.

The commission also directed the Lichatzes to monitor the decibel readings at the property line, to ensure they meet the regulations. Asklar said this should help the farm "keep peace in the neighborhood and not disturb the neighbors during their live music outdoor events."

Lichatz said when he and his wife were reading the letters of support that were sent to the town, they were "overcome emotionally."

"We had such an outpouring because we want to make this place for everybody," he said.

The farm is open to the public every May to October, from Thursday through Sunday.

## Richmond Library News & Notes

Richmond Memorial Library, located at 15 School Drive, is closed to the public, but many services still being offered. For more information and full program descriptions, call the library at 860-295-6210 or visit richmondlibrary.info.

**Curbside Pickup:** Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The **book drop** is open for returns; items are quarantined for 72 hours before being checked in. Overdue fines are not accruing at this time.

**Take & Make Kits:** Kids ages 4-10 can pick up a kit with instructions and materials to make a braided polar animal heart. Available while supplies last.

**Financial Wellness Wednesday – "Estate Planning Over 50":** Wednesday, April 21, 6 p.m., via Zoom. Email richmondprograms@gmail.com to register.

**Earth Day Celebration:** Thursday, April 22, 4 p.m., in the Blish Park pavilion, for families with kids age 4-10. Masks must be worn and social distancing measures adhered to. Registration required; email richmondprograms@gmail.com to do so.

**Teen Take & Make:** Throughout April (while supplies last), ages 11 and up can make arrangements to pick up a kit that includes instructions and materials to make their own edible books.

## Congregational Church News

Marlborough Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, and pastor the Rev. Bob Faulhaber invite all to an in-person worship service Sunday, April 18, at 10 a.m., on the pavilion at Lake Terramuggus. Wear a mask and bring a chair.

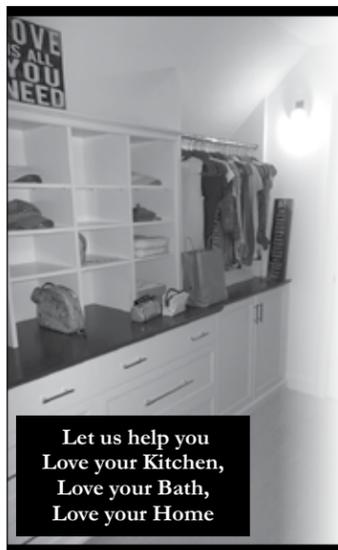
Mission-giving in April goes to the AHM Mental Health Fund; send checks made payable to MCC, with "Second Quarter Missions," in the Note line, to: P.O. Box 57, Marlborough. The Senior High Youth Group sponsors the Drive-Thru Café, now held twice monthly. All meal preparation is done at the church, following strict food and COVID-19 safety guidelines. Donations for this project may also be made through the church; note

'Drive-Thru Café' on the check.

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

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

Second Blessings Thrift Shop is open Saturdays from 9 a.m.-noon; shelves are restocked every week. Safety protocols are in place and masks are required. The shop continues selling on eBay with new items listed each week at <https://bit.ly/MCCebay>.



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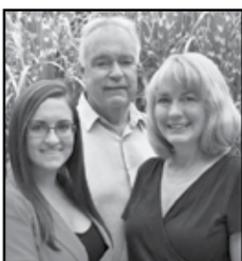
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## Republicans' Spring Plant Sale

The Marlborough Republicans are selling geraniums and hanging plants, which will be ready for pickup in the Town Hall parking lot Saturday, May 8, from 9:30A-11 a.m.

Geraniums are available in a variety of colors including red, pink, fuchsia and white. Cost is \$7 each. Hanging plants are available in several different varieties and are \$25 each. To order, call Louise Concodello at 860-295-0201, Barbara Murray at 860-295-0792 or Sue Stolfi at 860-593-4763.

A limited number of plants will also be available to buy the morning of the plant sale.

## Lions to Raffle Kayak

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

Raffle tickets are \$20 each and will be sold at various locations until April 30, and can also be purchased from Lions Club members. The raffle drawing will take place at Blish Park at noon May 1. Winners need not be present.

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

## Church Tag Sale Coming

Marlborough Congregational Church, 35 South Main St., will hold its annual tag sale Saturday, May 1, from 9 a.m.-noon.

The Great Hall will be filled with a variety of household and seasonal items, linens, vintage, toys and games, collectibles, framed artwork, electronics, small appliances, clothing and more. A bake sale, sponsored by Dorcas Women's Fellowship, will be held outside.

Safety precautions will be observed, with masks required.

## Scholarship Offered

Marlborough Elementary School is offering a \$500 scholarship in honor of Paula Netto to a graduating high school senior and resident of Marlborough who has attended the elementary school.

The applicant must be pursuing further education. The scholarship is given to a student who has an exemplary history of community service. Copies of the application are at the RHAM High School guidance office and at Richmond Memorial Library.

Applications must be postmarked by Saturday, May 1. For more information, email Melissa Jordan at [salvia601@aol.com](mailto:salvia601@aol.com).



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### Marlborough Lions ‘Round the Lake 5K

The Marlborough Lions will hold their annual ‘Round the Lake 5K Road Race on Sunday, May 30. The race, now a registered 5K, will utilize electronic timing and computerized race results. The race starts promptly at 10 a.m., with a staggered start to space out the runners.

Appropriate social distancing will be implemented. Runners will start near the entrance to Blish Park on Park Road and will proceed on a course which circles Lake Terramuggas.

Entry fee is \$20 by May 13 and \$25 thereafter; however, there will be no same-day registration. Shirts will be guaranteed for those that register by May 13, with additional shirts provided after that date if available. There is also a \$50 pack-

age for groups of immediate family members participating in the race. Proceeds will support the Lions and their charitable donations.

Various businesses have provided race sponsorships of \$100, \$250 and \$500, and their information will be printed on the shirts handed out to runners.

For more info or to register, or in interested in being a sponsor, contact Lion Tom Reiser at 860-295-8374 or TGReiser@comcast.net, or Jean Paul Bolduc at 860-295-9150. Registration forms are also at various locations in town, including Liberty Bank, and people can also register at www.plattsys.com.

### Parks and Rec Programs

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

**Youth Programs: Kids Sewing – Stretch and Sew Leggings:** Wednesday, April 21, 5:30-7 p.m., for ages 8-18. Class instruction is virtual. All materials provided. Fee: \$43/resident, \$48/non-resident.

**Tiny Twirlers Dance Class:** Choose Mondays, April 26-June 7 (no class May 31), 5:30-6 p.m., or Saturdays, May 1-June 12 (no class May 29), 8:40-9:10 a.m. For ages 2-3 with caregiver. Classes held at Dance Dynamics in Hebron. Fee: \$85.

**Mad Science – Mad Labs:** Tuesdays, April 27-June 15, for 3:15-4:15 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center, for grades K-6. Fee: \$150/resident, \$155/non-residents.

**Horseback Riding Lessons:** For ages 5 and up, English or Western-style instruction. Days and times are flexible. Fee: four lessons for \$175/residents, \$180/non-residents.

**Adult Programs: Dog Obedience – Polite Dog Manners:** Tuesdays, April 20-May 25, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Fee: \$120/resident, \$125/non-resident.

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

**Kids Intro to Machine Sewing 101:** Tuesdays, May 4-25, 5:30-7 p.m., for ages 8-18. All

participants must have their own sewing machine. Class instruction is virtual. Fee: \$103/residents, \$108/non-residents.

**Kids Fishing Derby:** Saturday, May 8, 9-11 a.m., at Blish Park, for ages 4-15. Registration is \$10. Prizes will be awarded for biggest fish, smallest fish and first fish caught.

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

**May Adult Programs: Sewing – Know Your Machine:** Wednesday, May 5, 5:30-7 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center, for ages 18 and up. Fee: \$38/resident, \$43/non-resident.

**Adult Sewing PJ Pants:** Monday, May 10, 5:30-7 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center, for ages 18 and up. All materials included. Fee: \$43/residents, \$48/non-residents.

**Home Decor Sewing 101 – Valance:** Wednesday, May 12, 5:30-7 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center, for ages 18 and up. Fee: \$43/resident, \$48/non-resident.

**Sunset Yoga:** Tuesdays, May 18-June 22, 6-7 p.m., at Blish Park. Fee: \$70/residents, \$75/non-residents.

### Tag Sale Coming

The Marlborough Arts Center’s Tag Sale will be Saturday, May 1, on the lawn of the center, 231 N. Main St. Masks and social distancing will be maintained. Watch for more details.

### Cemetery Cleanup

The annual spring cleanup at Marlborough cemeteries will take place Saturday, May 1. Volunteers are welcome and should meet at Marlboro Cemetery on East Hampton Road at 9 a.m.

Prior to the cleanup, people should remove any decorations in violation of cemetery rules and regulations. These items include shepherd hooks, wind chimes and past holiday decorations.

### Yard Work Help Available for Seniors

AHM Youth and Family Services is accepting applications from Marlborough senior citizens age 60 or older to utilize the CHOREs Program.

Teens will work two hours per job at a senior citizen’s residence doing outdoor chores. For complete program information, go to tinyurl.com/cws6bdmd. Applications are at Marlborough Senior Center.

Contact Jenn Boehler at 860-228-9488 ext. 31 or jenniferb@ahmyouth.org for more information.

### Watercolor Classes at Arts Center

Marlborough Arts Center, 231 N. Main St., will hold watercolor classes, taught by local artist Mary Horrihan Thursdays, 7-9 p.m., from April 22-May 26, at the center. All attendees must wear a mask.

Fee is \$120. To register, visit www.marlbou.org, download the form and mail it along with a check made payable to ‘Marlborough Arts Center’ to Marlborough Arts Center, 231 N. Main St., Marlborough, CT 06447.

For more information, email Mary Horrihan at mehorrigan@comcast.net.

### \$1,000 Scholarship Available

The Marlborough Education Association is accepting applications for its annual \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating RHAM High School senior. To be eligible, the student must also be a Marlborough Elementary School graduate and must use the funds to further their education.

Applications are due by Friday, May 7. For more information, look on Facebook for CEA-Marlborough (@ceamarlb).

### Open-Air Concerts to Resume

Free musical concerts on the lawn of Marlborough Arts Center, 231 N. Main St., are returning in June; concerts will be one Saturday per month.

COVID-19 regulations are observed; masks and social distancing required. Although admission is free, a \$10 donation is suggested. Parking is available on site.

Watch for more information.

### Pasta Dinner

All are invited Wednesday, April 21, and every third Wednesday of the month, to American Legion Post 197, 128 East Hampton Rd. (Route 66), for a monthly drive-thru pasta dinner fundraisers.

Meals will be served from 4-6 p.m. Cost is \$10 per meal; a family pack of four meals is \$30.

This month’s proceeds go toward the purchase and installation of a new Nautical Flagpole and Flags for Post 197.

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### Scholarship Available

The Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department Women’s Auxiliary is offering a scholarship to any graduating high school senior who lives in town. Applications are available online through the RHAM High School guidance department.

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

### Pasta Dinner May 13

The Marlborough Education Association will hold its fifth annual Pasta Dinner takeout style on Thursday, May 13. Dinners will need to be picked up between 5 and 6:30 p.m. at the elementary school cafeteria.

Cost is \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors and children, and \$20 for a family of four. Gluten-free pasta is available for an additional \$2. Proceeds support the MEA Scholarship Fund.

Tickets must be purchased by Thursday, May 6. For more information, look on Facebook for CEA-Marlborough (@ceamarlb).

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# \$12.64M Budget to Public Hearing Next Week

by Sloan Brewster

The Board of Finance has sent a proposed \$12.64 million 2021-22 budget to public hearing; the hearing will take place next Wednesday, April 21, at 7 p.m., via Zoom.

Of the total proposed spending package, \$9.97 million – \$556,075, or 5.9%, more than the current year – would be raised through taxes, bringing the mill rate from 35.61 to 36.71, a 3.10% increase.

The board approved the numbers at a special workshop last Wednesday.

Since receiving the \$12.84 million budget request, which included \$3.48 million to run the town, \$4.16 million for Andover Elementary School and a \$5.29 million levy to cover Andover's portion of RHAM's \$30.71 million spending package, the finance board has made some tweaks.

On March 31, to ease the pain on taxpayers, the board elected to move \$250,000 from excess funding into the spending plan.

It also voted to take \$25,000 from the tree removal fund. Last week, however, after a discussion with Town Administrator Eric Anderson on how much the town needs to take down dead trees, the board decided to return the \$25,000 to the fund, which totals \$50,000.

According to Anderson, last year, the town removed approximately 500 trees. This year, he said, there are even more, possibly double that.

He spoke of a tree on town land that fell last year and destroyed a shed and playscape on private property and reminded the board that last year power lines were hit in multiple spots.

The biggest issue, according to Anderson, is ash trees killed by the emerald ash borer. The

trees, which dot the landscape, fall quickly about a year after they die while other trees can wait five years to come down after they go, he said.

"Honestly, if you gave me \$150,000 I could easily spend that addressing tree work," Anderson said. "We've had road closures and power outages on something like eight separate occasions."

Finance board member Curt Dowling, who is also a local firefighter, spoke of two fatalities caused by trees coming down on cars – one in Hebron and one in Andover on Route 6.

"I highly recommend that we put back the money," Dowling said.

Selectman Scott Person said a 50-foot branch had struck a car in Mansfield, killing a woman.

The board unanimously agreed to put the money back into the fund.

The board also decided to return \$2,500 into the Board of Finance legal fund. It had taken out the money in March but, on Chairman Marc Brinker's recommendation, put it back.

Brinker said he had changed his mind about keeping the small amount in the budget in that it was a good safety net in case the board ever needs legal advice, adding that it was unlikely the board would use it and it would go back to the town in the end anyway.

The board also decided not to cut \$176,000 from the budget to pay for the resident state trooper. Members had been considering eliminating the position since the middle of last month.

Board members joked about the charged town meeting in 2018 when the trooper was last

proposed as a cut and voters soundly decried the idea.

"The last time we proposed this, essentially we were releasing Genghis Kahn on the town," Finance Board member Robert England said.

Finance board member Dave Hewett said he thought he was "still bleeding a little bit from that meeting," eliciting a bout of laughter from fellow board members.

The board and Anderson discussed the benefits of the resident trooper, including that the person helps with local crime investigations, such as last year's vandalism to the library mural and the 2015 shooting death of resident Jason Marchand that took place at Andover Lake. In 2017, former resident Michael Fortin was convicted of manslaughter in the crime, and sentenced to 32 years in prison.

The trooper also runs the DARE program at the elementary school, is on the Juvenile Review Board at AHM Youth and Family Services, gives talks to senior citizens and tends to be available around the clock, they said.

"You have one guy in town that you can get involved with and know," Anderson said. "I got one guy that I can call 24/7 and even when he's

not on duty, he can find someone."

They also did some math, calculating the cut would only result in a .654-mills saving.

A motion to remove the line item failed four to two with England and Linda Fish voting to cut the position and Chair Marc Brinker, Vice Chair Diane Choquette Dowling, Hewett voting not to do so.

The board also reduced the \$4.16 million school budget request by another \$44,000.

Since the budget was presented, it has been reduced a couple of times.

In March, the numbers were adjusted by \$24,000 as the town will be paying for services to AHM.

The numbers were also reduced when Superintendent of Schools Valerie Bruneau found savings in insurance costs, education board chairman Shannon Loudon said in a call Tuesday.

The latest cut brings the final number to \$4.08 million, a \$175,608 or 4.5% increase over the current year.

The budget will be presented at the virtual town budget meeting next Wednesday, April 21, at 7 p.m.

## Spring Tag Sale

Andover Congregational Church, 359 Route 6, will hold its Spring Tag Sale Saturday, May 15, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. If you wish to rent a space on the lawn, 10x10 spaces are \$15 each.

Donations will be collected Tuesdays, May 4 and 11, from 3:30-5:30 p.m. each day, at the church. No large furniture, textbooks, illegal or broken items. For more information, call the church at 860-742-7696.

## Items Sought for Library Auction

The Andover Friends of the Library group will hold its annual auction in July, on a date yet to be determined. Organizers are currently looking for donations of gift certificates or items that can be added to gift baskets.

Call Carol Lee 860-989-6988 to arrange for pick-up of items or bring them to the Town Office Building.

## Absentee Ballots Available

The municipal election will take place May 3, and any Andover elector who will not be able to vote in person can request an absentee ballot.

For an application, go to [tinyurl.com/4syvkmr3](http://tinyurl.com/4syvkmr3) or call the town clerk at 860-742-0188 ext. 218.

## Open Call to Apply for Grant Funds

Andover's Greater Together Community Fund Advisory Committee is seeking project proposals. Up to \$10,000 will be awarded in grant funds to one or more proposals. All projects must benefit residents of town.

For more information, visit [hfgp.org/Andover](http://hfgp.org/Andover) or call Andover Greater Together Community Fund Advisory Committee co-chair Dianne Grenier at 860-742-3033. Project applications or grant proposals are due June 1.

## Senior Citizen News & Notes

The following news items have been announced for Andover seniors.

**COVID-19 Vaccinations:** Call 877-918-2224 to register for your 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. If you have a caregiver, they may come with you. Temperatures will be taken by the driver. Masks must be worn in the van.

**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.

## Congregational Church News

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

The service also streams live on the church's Facebook page (First Congregational Church, Andover, CT). For more information, call the church office at 860-742-7696, email [andoverctchurch@gmail.com](mailto:andoverctchurch@gmail.com) or visit [www.andoverctchurch.org](http://www.andoverctchurch.org).

**Bible Study:** Tuesday mornings both via Zoom and at the church (observing CDC guidelines regarding social distancing and masks). If interested in attending via Zoom, call the

church and leave a message and church pastor the Rev. Rose Nilson will send you the meeting link.

**Food Pantry:** Mondays from 5-7 p.m. Bring your own bags. CDC guidelines are observed and masks are required. The senior pantry is open every other Wednesday from 9-9:30 a.m.; next date is April 21.

**Foodshare Van:** Comes to the church every other Wednesday from 9-9:30 a.m.; next date is April 28.

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

## PTA Craft Fair

The Andover Elementary School PTA will host a craft fair Saturday, May 15, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., in the school parking lot. Masks are required. The fair will feature crafters from across the state.

## Preschool Screening

The Andover Board of Education will hold a screening Friday, May 14, for 3- and 4-year-old resident children, focusing on speech, language, cognitive, and motor development.

For an appointment, contact the director of special education at 860-742-7339 or [maioranoh@andoverelementaryct.org](mailto:maioranoh@andoverelementaryct.org).

## Yard Work Help Available for Seniors

AHM Youth and Family Services is accepting applications from Marlborough senior citizens age 60 or older to utilize the CHOREs Program.

Teens will work two hours per job at a senior citizen's residence doing outdoor chores. For complete program information, go to [tinyurl.com/cws6bdmd](http://tinyurl.com/cws6bdmd). Applications are at Town Hall.

Contact Jenn Boehler at 860-228-9488 ext. 31 or [jenniferb@ahmyouth.org](mailto:jenniferb@ahmyouth.org) for more information.

## Kentucky Derby Tea

Andover Congregational Church, 359 Route 6, will hold a Kentucky Derby Tea Saturday, May 1, from 2-4 p.m., featuring an assortment of teas, a basket raffle, and homemade treats. There will also be a prize awarded for the attendee with the finest hat.

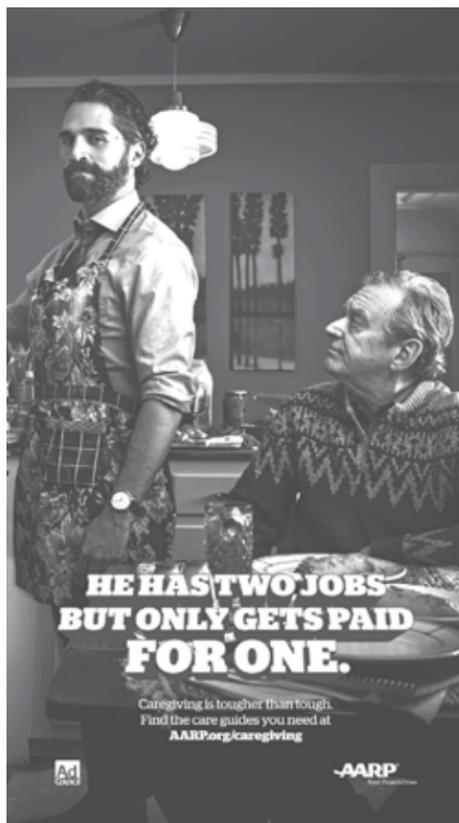
Admission is \$10 and reservations are required. Call the church at 860-742-7696 to reserve seats.

In preparation for the hat contest, an opportunity to create a hat will be offered Friday, April 23, from 5:30-8 p.m., at the church. Hat, decor and food will be provided. Admission is \$10 at the door.

## Farmers Market to Return

The Andover Farmers Market is starting Wednesday, May 5, from 4-7 p.m., outside at First Congregational Church on Route 6. There will be several farmers, bakers, a food truck and music. Face masks required.

The market will continue the first Wednesday of each month through October. The final market will be Saturday, Nov. 6, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.



## Election, Budget Referendum Coming

Andover will hold its municipal election Monday, May 3, and the RHAM budget referendum Tuesday, May 4. Voting for both will take place 6 a.m.-8 p.m. in the community room at Town Hall.

For more information, go to [tinyurl.com/73v9sa5h](http://tinyurl.com/73v9sa5h).

## Items Sought for Tag Sale

There will be a tag sale to benefit the Andover senior lunch program Saturday, May 22, in the parking lot of the Old Firehouse on Center Street – with 100% of funds raised going to the program.

Organizers are looking for donations of items to sell. To donate, call Carol Lee 860-989-6988.

## Reflective Address Markers

Reflective address markers will be available to Andover residents at no charge Saturday, May 8, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Andover Volunteer Fire Department on School Road.

## Mother's Day Plant Sale

The Andover Volunteer Fire Department will hold a Mother's Day Plant Sale Thursday, May 6, through Sunday, May 9, at the firehouse on School Road. Hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, and 10 a.m.-noon Sunday.

There will be many plants to choose from, including tulips, azaleas, hyacinths, hydrangeas, daffodils, pansies, roses, gardenias, herb bowls, spring baskets, hanging plants and more.

## Library Friends Offer Scholarship

The Andover Friends of the Library is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to an Andover high school senior. Applications are due May 2, and 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.

## Scholarship Applications Available

The Andover Norton Children's Fund Commission is offering the \$1,000 Chester D. Norton and the \$1,000 F. Kendall and Frank H. Brown scholarships, to help high school seniors from Andover finance their post-high school education at an accredited two- or four-year college/university or technical school.

Preference for the Brown scholarship may be given to a student pursuing a history major.

Deadline to apply is May 1. For applications, go to [tinyurl.com/yp368spv](http://tinyurl.com/yp368spv) or email Charlotte Nelson at [charnelson14@gmail.com](mailto:charnelson14@gmail.com). The Norton Commission will meet in early June to select the recipients of the two scholarships.

Reader Forum • Reader

Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story

★ **Letters cont. from page 5**

have been speaking up about key issues. My 30 years of employment include 10 years in the private sector as an office manager of a busy sales and service organization, along with 20 years of working in the field of education as an administrative assistant and in accounting positions involved in budgeting, grants, purchasing, human resources, benefits and insurance issues. This experience qualifies me to step right into this role seamlessly.

My focus will be to keep Andover's taxes and increases as low as possible since we are a residential town with the impact of increases directly felt by homeowners. I would like to make sure that tax dollars are spent where the need truly is in town and shared by all stakeholders, including our senior citizens and our youngest citizens. People that know me will attest that I am tireless, intelligent, kind, and driven for what I believe in and not afraid to speak up. I also promise to always carry myself with professionalism and class while representing our town.

I hope that you will vote for me on May 3rd so that I can officially take my seat at the table of Andover's Board of Finance. Thank you.

**Joanne Hebert – Andover**

**Memorial Day Parade**

To the Editor:

As the month of May approaches we take the time to pause and remember our men and women who have fallen in defense of our freedoms. Portland is planning to have a COVID-19-safe Memorial Day Parade on Sunday May 30, starting at 2 p.m. from Victoria Road in the Gildersleeve section of Main Street, and continuing down Main Street to the downtown area.

If you have any questions, please contact our parade organizer, Sara Sterry Rutter, at 860-342-2815 or 860-250-2041, or email ssterryrutter@yahoo.com

**Thank you,  
Susan S. Bransfield  
Portland First Selectwoman**

**Thrilled With Biden**

To the Editor:

I wake up every morning shaking my head that Donald Trump is no longer our commander in chief. Joe Biden is incompetent – the most inept president to ever occupy the Oval Office – and he's a liar!

He told us to our face that Georgia has changed its voting laws specifically to exclude minorities and that the polls would now close at 5 p.m. CNN would call it "misinformation." I call it a blatant lie. Georgia polls will close at 8 p.m. like they always have.

Biden's new "open border" policy has led to a mass immigration of illegals from all over the world entering our southern border. It costs \$60 million per week to house just the minors, never mind the adults. Now Joe is proposing cash payments if they will leave and go back to their home country.

Major League Baseball under pressure from BLM, Antifa and the Progressive Socialist Left have moved the All-Star Game and \$60 million of business from Atlanta to Colorado. Sun-trust Park is located in Cobb County, a modest suburb where many of the folks that live there would have benefited. At first I was livid, then I heard that Stacey Abrams – the anti-white activist – announced that she did not support the decision and that the game should remain in Atlanta and her home state. I knew she was playing both sides and then it came out that she and others were planning to use the game as a stage to demonstrate (and perhaps loot and riot) in opposition to the new voting laws that require you to show an ID before you can vote or obtain an absentee ballot. You have to show an ID to pick up your tickets at the "will call" window but the left opposes voter ID. Gee, I wonder why?? You need ID to cash a check, or board a plane. Are they fearful that African-Americans are not savvy enough to obtain one?

Joe Biden will be a failure but he will continue his quest to make America last.

**Don Denley – Andover**

**Mainstream Media**

To the Editor:

Mainstream Media does not mean "news sources I disagree with." It actually means news sources that is most listened to or viewed by people.

It amazes me how narrow-minded people are in how they view the world. They will never be open to even consider that perhaps what they consider "truth" is no more than a position that another group wants you to believe to have their way.

I will not believe anything CNN says because

of one news coverage they did on the hurricane in Florida a couple years ago. The "newscaster" was standing almost waist deep in a "flooded" street interviewing a woman. A short distance away on the street corner two city workers were ankle deep in the same water. How can that be? It reminds me of the Latin phrase "Falsus in uno, falsus in omnibus" meaning "false in one thing, false in everything."

Another Latin phrase, "cui bono," meaning "who benefits," which is a good way to help determine where the truth is. One may want to consider this when determining who is a "credible expert," whether one is referring to a "scientist," a politician, person in the medical profession, a billionaire, or even a pharmaceutical company.

My purpose in writing my letters is not to persuade another to my way of thinking; rather, to provide open-minded individuals a link to opposing views that will give them choices/options in formalizing their belief system.

We all have our biases. It's when we choose to be closed-minded and only consider one point of view that we allow our biases to rule us.

I can't cover all that I would like to say in just 300 words, which is why I set up my website. My friend wrote an article "Ready or Not" [the Biblical End Times]: garygile.com/r-n.pdf.

**Gary Gile – Andover**

**A Healthy Yard**

To the Editor:

There is growing interest in having a yard that welcomes butterflies, birds, and other life. But how can one have a lawn and yard without using herbicides, fertilizer, and pesticides?

To keep loved ones and drinking/ground water safe plus help birds, bees and more, some tips may help: spreading new seed over the lawn each year (spring is ideal) fills in any gaps (preventing unwanted weeds). White clover seeds combined with a "water saver" grass seed (requiring less water, from a CT seed company) has been helpful these past drought-filled years. Keeping grass high, a minimum of 3 inches, and cutting only 1/3 of height at a time helps. Instead of hot sun, favor mowing in evening so grass can recover overnight and bees have retired for the day. Mulching mowers (electric push and riding mulching mowers are fantastic) mulch leaves, grass, and twigs to feed and add moisture to lawn.

If mowing lawn for hours each week does not seem to be the best use of your time, consider planting areas with highbush blueberries, aronia, and other beautiful native shrubs that

provide berries for people and/or wildlife with very little requirements. Please check [www.mass.gov/guides/native-shrubs-for-plantings-as-wildlife-food](http://www.mass.gov/guides/native-shrubs-for-plantings-as-wildlife-food).

Native trees are a must for enjoying a yard by people and wildlife. Beneath them and perhaps between native shrubs, you may wish to have low maintenance native groundcovers. Please check [choosenatives.org/articles/plant-native-ground-covers-make-america-green](http://choosenatives.org/articles/plant-native-ground-covers-make-america-green)

**Ann Zitkus, member  
Hebron Conservation Commission**

**Vote for Cremé**

To the Editor:

In a few weeks we will have the opportunity to exercise our civic duty and vote for new Andover Elementary School (AES) Board of Education (BOE) members. I'm writing this letter to encourage everyone to get out and vote! In doing so, I also strongly encourage you to vote for Gerard (Gerry) Cremé.

Gerry is a genuine and thoughtful person who knows what it takes to operate a school. Gerry spent 18 years as a teacher in South Windsor and though he's been retired for many years now, still committed to schools through serving as a mentor. Often as I was either dropping my children off at school or signing in to volunteer, I'd see Gerry as he was coming in to mentor students.

Gerry is a tireless advocate for schools and faithful citizen to his town. He believes you can't just sit around and wait for things to happen, you need to be an active part of making them happen. As such, since 2016, he has served on the AES BOE and most recently as vice chair. Over this past summer he worked diligently on the superintendent search committee, dedicating many hours to ensure the right candidate assumed the position for our school. He asked clear goal-oriented questions and offered a calm perspective as he always brought the team back to thinking of the most critical aspects of what we were looking for in the candidate – someone who knows and understands children, someone who is a collaborative leader, and someone who will work hard to understand this community and its needs. His insight and ability to view circumstances objectively have made him an asset to the BOE and will continue to do so in the future.

I encourage you to cast your vote for Gerry Cremé.

**Lori Blake – Andover**

★ **Comeback cont. from page 1**

to Strumskas, "saved us." The Lions also decided to cut their budget by delaying plans for some improvements planned for the fairgrounds.

While he didn't have final numbers for how much the organization brought in last year, Strumskas said in the end, it was able to maintain the tradition of supporting local groups in need – which, he said, is "a big component" of the Lions' mission.

\*\*\*

But folks don't have to wait until fall to get their hands on some hot, greasy fair food. Strumskas said another food truck fair and truck show will take place on the fairgrounds in May.

The Lions have partnered with Wishes on Wheels for the event. The nonprofit Wishes on Wheels was formed in 1999 by a few friends in the trucking industry who wanted to do something to help The Make-A-Wish Foundation, co-founder Mark Picard of Bolton told the *Rivereast* for a previous story. So, the friends created a convoy, raising \$11,000 for the foundation in the first year, with 70 trucks participating.

The event has grown and in recent years has been at Rentschler Field in East Hartford, with 639 trucks participating in 2019 and 2,000 to 3,000 people attending. That year's event brought in \$100,000 for the foundation, Picard said.

Because of COVID-19, the festival was canceled last year, but some of the trucks made appearances at area food truck fairs.

The Wishes on Wheels trucks will be on hand again at the May event. Folks can drive through after ordering food and check out the "amazing trucks," Strumskas said. Money raised will support the Lions and Make-a-Wish.

The event will take place on Saturday, May 22, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Lions Fairgrounds on Route 85 in Hebron.

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## Obituaries

### Amston

#### Vincent D. Colonna Jr.

Vincent D. Colonna Jr., 50, of Amston, passed away unexpectedly Monday, April 5. He was the husband of Lisa (Boehler) Colonna. Born in New Haven, he was the son of Vincent D. Colonna Sr. and Mary Ann (Bartolotta) Colonna.

Vincent graduated from Fairfield College Preparatory School and earned his bachelor's degree from Providence College. He was director of sales at Colonna Insurance Services. He was an active member of The Worship Center, deeply involved throughout the Hebron community, and an advocate within the RHAM School system. Many students and parents will always remember his role as "DJ Vinny" for multiple sporting events. He will always be in their hearts.

In addition to his wife and parents, Vincent is survived by his three sons; Matthew, Nicholas and Michael Colonna; his daughter, Marissa Colonna; his brother, Jeffrey Colonna and his wife Corey of Georgia and their three children, Julia, DJ, and Emily; two sisters, Andrea Evans and her husband Richard of Guilford and their three children, Mary, Tania and Kimmy; Tania Beck and her husband Glenn of Texas and their children, Mary, Hannah, Raphe and Cheyenne; his in-laws, Don and Pat Boehler of Glastonbury; his brother-in-law, Todd Boehler and wife Jenn of Hebron and their two children, Josh and Jake. He has many aunts and uncles and cousins who will miss him dearly, including his many good friends from childhood, high school and college.

Friends called Friday, April 9, at Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury. Private funeral services were held Saturday, April 10, at The Worship Center, 99 Marjorie Circle, Hebron.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to [gofund.me/5c0a7689](https://gofund.me/5c0a7689).

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

### East Hampton

#### Charles A. Caesar III

Charles (Chuck) A. Caesar III 70, of East Hampton, passed away Wednesday, April 7, at home. He was born Nov. 4, 1950, in Hartford, and raised in East Granby. He was the son of the late Charles A. Caesar Jr. and Irene (Scott) Caesar.

He is survived by his wife of 33 years, Layne (Bridget) McLennan; son, Anthony M. Caesar of East Hartford; stepson, Craig E. McLennan of Manchester; and brother, Kenneth N. Caesar of Suffield.

Trucking and Chuck went together. He was employed for 40 years by Roncari Industries and Tilcon. He had his own rig for years crossing the country and taught tractor trailer driving. In addition to his love of truck driving, was his love for his Harley motorcycle on which he spent many an hour. He was also a lifetime member of the NRA.

At his request there will be no services. The



family will gather for a private interment. In lieu of flowers a memorial donation may be made to the American Truck Historical Society.

Online condolences and memories can be left at [www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

### Colchester

#### George Raymond Bucko

George Raymond Bucko, 80, of Lake Hayward, Colchester, passed away peacefully Saturday, April 10, at home surrounded by his loving family. Born Feb. 26, 1941, in Pittsburgh, Pa.; he was a son of the late Andrew and Helen (Dzara) Bucko.

In 1959 George enlisted in the United States Navy. He served our nation for 22 years until his retirement in 1981. Following his Navy career, he worked at Electric Boat as an engineer until his retirement in 2001. George was a devout and loving man who was a communicant of Our Lady of the Lakes Church in Oakdale. He was a Past Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus, and would also spiritually comfort residents of Harrington Court as a Eucharistic minister. His charitable works included volunteering at Habitat for Humanity and delivering food to those in need at St. Vincent de Paul Place in Norwich.

He is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Janet (Pawlowski) Bucko of Lake Hayward; his daughters, Nancy (James) Chamberlin of Marco Island, Fla., and Bonnie (Mark) Tomick of Lebanon; son Aaron (Kim) Bucko of East Lyme; his siblings, Andrew (Linda) Bucko of Pittsburgh, Pa., Ray Bucko of Hazlet, N.J., Gerard (Nancy) Bucko of Harrisburg, Pa., Helen Bucko of Pittsburgh, Pa., and James Bucko of Pittsburgh, Pa.; his eight grandchildren, Hunter, Anna, Garrett, Amanda, Avery, Kaleb, Jack and Evan; and numerous other extended family and friends.

In addition to his parents, he is predeceased by his sister-in-law, Maureen Bucko.

Calling hours will be held today, April 16, from 4-7 p.m., at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A funeral Mass will be held tomorrow morning Saturday, April 17, at 10 a.m., at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Graveside services with full military honors will be held Monday, April 19, at 10 a.m., directly at the State Veterans Cemetery on Bow Lane in Middletown.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that memorial donations be made in George's memory to the Gary Sinise Foundation, Brain Trauma Foundation and/or Habitat for Humanity.

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

### East Hampton

#### Robert M. Puzzo

Robert M. Puzzo, FLMI, 68, of East Hampton, passed peacefully Wednesday, April 7, after a long illness.

He leaves behind his beloved wife of 42 years, Susan (Pehlert) Puzzo; his daughter, Robin Puzzo of Atlanta, Ga.; his son and daughter-in-law, Chris and Colleen Puzzo and grandson Ronan of Malden, Mass.; his brothers and their wives, Joseph and Sandra Puzzo of West Hartford, Lawrence and Margaret Puzzo of Niantic, and Peter and Donna Puzzo of Lynn, Mass.; and brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Dr. Daniel and Allison Knapp of Sarasota, Fla. In addition, he leaves



behind 13 nieces and nephews and their spouses, and nine grand nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his son, Robert Michael Puzzo Jr.; brother, Francis; his parents, Joseph Sr. and Philomena (Staino) Puzzo; and brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Jon and Cynthia (Pehlert) Wilkinson.

Born Dec. 29, 1952, in Hartford, he called Glastonbury his home throughout his youth. His interests included the Boy Scouts, achieving the Eagle Scout designation, and he became an accomplished pianist. He served St. Paul's parish in Glastonbury during his youth as a musician and youth leader. He enlisted in the Coast Guard in 1970 to proudly serve his country during the Vietnam War, becoming a LORAN specialist stationed in Sandy Hook, N.J., and the Marshall Islands in the Kwajalein Atoll. Bob's interests included chess, scuba diving, snorkeling, spear fishing, underwater photography, and golf.

Bob was an accomplished IT project manager in the life insurance and financial services industry, earning an FLMI while living and working in Chicago. Bob's career with EDS took him to India, South Africa and Taiwan. Bob returned to Connecticut with his family and struck out on his own, starting two IT consulting companies. He was looking forward to retirement and spending time with his fantastic grandson when his illness took him from his family and friends all too early. He was loved. He will be missed.

Friends called Sunday, April 11, at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton.

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

### Colchester

#### Michelle Tracey Malloy

Michelle Tracey Malloy, 35, of Jewett City, passed away unexpectedly Tuesday, April 6, leaving extensive family and friends in shock and sorrow. Michelle was born Dec. 10, 1985, in Brattleboro, Vt., to Barbara (Johnston) Watson and James T. Malloy.

Michelle grew up in Colchester and spent much time in Marlborough in the loving care of godparents Mike and Linda Malloy. She had been living for some years now in Jewett City. Michelle attended Colchester Public Schools, graduating from Bacon Academy in 2003. During her school years, Michelle enjoyed many friendships and forged lifelong bonds with her best friends and their families. Jessica Niemczyk, Jeanine Simpson, Rachel (Lee) Monaco, Myra (VanCederfield) Meyes, and Michelle shared celebrations, hardships, adventures and mischief for over 25 years.

After graduation, Michelle worked as a waitress in various local establishments. Michelle's most recent and longest employer was Ruby Tuesday in Lisbon. She loved her job, especially the many close and caring friends she shared her life with in the "Ruby" family.

Michelle was creative from a very early age. Throughout her life she shared her love through her drawings, poems, and her silliness with her friends and family. She also enjoyed cooking and baking for everyone. Michelle had a keen intelligence and quick wit. She was well-read and was a fun competitor in any kind of game. Michelle was a unique spirit, generous and loyal to her friends and family. She had gifts and beauty that many of us were lucky enough to experience.

She will be forever loved and remembered by her mother and stepfather, Barbara and Chuck Watson of Glendale, Ore.; her brother, James Malloy and fiancée Melihna Marshal and niece Mila of Colchester; maternal grandmother, Glo-



ria Johnson of Windsor Locks; her close aunts, Donna Johnson and wife Sande Hartdagen and special aunt and godmother Linda Malloy, all of South Windsor. She also leaves her loving aunts and uncles, Linda Anderson (David) of Ocala, Fla., David Johnson (partner Lori) of Springfield, Mass., Jeanne Johnson of Monson, Mass., Milton Ainsworth of Broad Brook, Tommy Johnson (Mai) of Windsor Locks, Marie Gratton of Charlotte, N.C., John Johnson (partner Dee) of Windsor Locks; as well as numerous other extended family and friends, including her Ruby Tuesday family and Missy Phelon and son Xavier of Norwich.

She was predeceased by her paternal grandparents, Frank and Rosalie Malloy, special uncle and godfather, Michael Malloy; uncles Pat and Richard Malloy; favorite aunt Tina Ainsworth; uncle Paul Gratton; her cousin, Marshall Anderson; and close friend, Lisa Phelan.

Care of private arrangements have been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that memorial donations be made in Michelle's name to the Connecticut Children's Medical Center ArtReach Program, or donate a book to your local library in memory of Michelle.

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

### Colchester

#### Bruce Arlen Stauffer

An uncommonly kind man is gone and is, no doubt, mourning from beyond the fact that the UConn Husky ladies did not capture this year's NCAA basketball crown. Bruce Arlen Stauffer, 85, husband of Georgia (Mull) Stauffer, died at his Colchester home Saturday, April 10, of complications from Parkinson's disease. His family is relieved his suffering is over, but he'll be sorely missed and oft remembered with a smile and a chuckle.

Stauffer was born in Lancaster, Pa., to Harold and Thelma May (Hunchberger). He was a 1953 graduate of Shillington High School, where he was on the baseball team and played trumpet in the band. He played both many years beyond high school. Bruce went on to Wyoming Polytechnic Institute, where he studied mechanical engineering. Years later, he would delight in driving his kids past a McDonald's on the former WPI site and tell them, "That's where I went to school!"

Stauffer met a young nursing student named Georgia at a monthly dance hosted by Reading Hospital. Due to the lack of male nursing students, the hospital extended invitations to WPI students. Bruce and Georgia danced, were engaged a year later, and married in 1957. Bruce graduated from Lehigh in 1960 with a BS in mechanical engineering, but he missed graduation to start a job at Pratt & Whitney, where he would work for more than 40 years. His career there would define his life and deeply impact the lives of his family. He loved Pratt and was a Pratt man through and through. While there, he earned a master's from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, played on the company baseball and bowling teams, and made many lifelong friends. He worked on the 747 and F-111 engines and loved to report to his family over dinner the results of bird strike tests – the shooting of bird carcasses into a running engine to see how the engine would hold up.

In the early '70s, Bruce was chosen to be the liaison between Pratt & Whitney and the Swedish company Stal Laval, overseeing the two companies' collaboration on an industrial turbine. He traveled to Sweden for extended periods and over many years, including a year with his family. They met many dear and lifelong friends while there. While Bruce never quite mastered the language, he had a few Swedish words and phrases he loved to toss out, deliberately and humorously mangling the pronunciation as he would do forever more with other languages as he travelled the world.

When he retired from Pratt, he went on to consult for Belcan, a job that took him to Germany, Poland, South Korea, Japan, and England. He made friends everywhere.

Bruce and Georgia were longtime residents of Manchester, where they raised their three children. After the kids left home, they moved to Scotland, where they bought an historic house built in 1752, which they named the Nathan Fuller House after the original owner, who continued to "live" with them throughout their 27 years there. They ran a bed and breakfast for 24 years, were active in the local historical



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**Obituaries continued**

society, and helped to run the annual Highland Festival.

When the house proved too much for them, they moved to North Woods in Colchester, where, once again, Bruce made many friends and, ever handsome, caught the eye of some of the female residents. For many years, Bruce and Georgia participated in the annual Boar's Head Festival at Asylum Hill Congregational Church, where Bruce gamely donned a costume with tights. He looked great.

Bruce was known for being somewhat grumpy and abrupt in speech, but he also had a great sense of humor and was goofy, gentle, kind and generous. He never missed his daughters' swim meets, adored his grandchildren, and doted on his many cats. They stayed by his side to the end. When a shin injury ended his baseball "career," he took up golf, joined the Minnechaug Golf Course, and continued to play into his early 80s. He remained a baseball lover his entire life, rooting for the Red Sox, never the Yankees. He and Georgia were avid fans of the UConn women's basketball team and attended the Final Four playoffs five times.

Bruce was a devoted customer of Sharpe Hill Vineyard, Harry's Place in Colchester, and Starbucks anywhere he could find one. He loved root beer floats, sticky buns, ham, and blueberry pie, bridges, clocks, watches, and BMWs. For years, he and Georgia drove their BMW to the annual BMW Oktoberfest at various locations around the country. And when his youngest grandson turned 1, Bruce gave him a ride-on Z3 roadster.

Bruce hated growing old. During a stint in rehab following a stroke last year, he mutely said he couldn't wait to leave because he "was surrounded by old people." An avid walker, he never could accept the loss of his mobility. But he delighted in shocking others with a toothless grin when his dentures broke.

Bruce is survived by his wife, Georgia; son, Keith Stauffer and his wife Lori; daughter, Lee-Ann Dance and her husband Glenn; daughter, Sandra Jezowski and her husband John; his six grandchildren, Lindsay Ferrer and her husband Tony, Melissa Stauffer and her husband Kevin Whittaker, Taylor Dance and his wife Britta, Michelle Byrne and her husband Michael, Casey Malone, and William Dance; and his two great-grandchildren, Austin and Abigail Byrne. He would have delighted in the anticipated arrival of a third great-grandchild due to Lindsay and Tony in July.

Bruce was predeceased by his brother, Lance. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you consider a donation to the Scotland Highland Festival Scholarship Fund at Scotland Festival & Games, P.O. Box 212, Scotland, CT 06424, or The Asylum Hill Congregational Church Boar's Head Festival, 814 Asylum Ave., Hartford, CT 06105.

Calling hours will be held at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home in Colchester Monday, April 19, from 4-7 p.m. All COVID-19 guidelines will be followed.

The UCONN Lady Huskies should know they will always have a heavenly fan rooting for them.

**Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover Story • Cover**

**★ Obscenity cont. from page 1**  
understood and that she called Amanda Gibson, Anderson's assistant, the next day to clarify. She said she wanted the swears "bleeped" and did not expect the entire comment to be erased. Loudon said she was concerned the expletives would result in the FCC fining the town.

"The sole intent was for the legal integrity of the town," she said.

Murray isn't buying it, however, and said YouTube, where the video of the meeting is posted, isn't regulated by the FCC and has a policy of not putting ads on content with nasty language.

**Apologies**

At Monday's selectmen meeting, Loudon apologized for what she said.

"I would like to publicly apologize for my inappropriate and disrespectful words that were unintentionally captured," she said, explaining that she was in her car and did not know her phone was not muted.

Loudon said she had also apologized to Brinker.

Loudon said she had "reflected quite a lot on what occurred" and that she should have contacted Murray privately to express her dismay with "how he has persistently, publicly denigrated the Board of Education, and, by extension, me as its chairwoman, for what he believes is how the Board of Education has not done its job properly for six years."

Mandeville, after Loudon's apology, called her out for hypocrisy.

In February, Loudon took issue with the way Mandeville and Murray spoke to Superintendent of Schools Valerie Bruneau during a finance board meeting when they expressed frustration that the board had not adequately scrutinized its budget.

Loudon at the time said she was upset by the "incredibly disrespectful treatment of my superintendent."

"I was called out in the paper for talking to someone, certainly not swearing at someone. I just find it ironic that that person is seeking forgiveness for something that is so egregious, I can't describe it," Mandeville said. "The hypocrisy of this is just deafening."

Loudon, in turn, said Mandeville and Murray have, in private conversations with her, used expletives to describe elected officials - so, she felt, they were the ones being hypocritical.

She said thought she was speaking privately when her profanity-laced comment was heard and that it "was unintentional and regretfully captured for all to hear."

"I certainly regret what I said but my feelings

of upset with Selectman Murray's persistent, intentional, public criticisms remain," she said.

Other speakers at the meeting addressed the matter in public comment.

Joanne Hebert said she was shocked and that folks holding public office should hold themselves in a respectful manner.

Georgette Conrad said she "very shocked" by the language.

"I just think it's inexcusable," she said.

One thing several speakers, including Loudon and Murray agreed on was the desire for all the arguing to stop.

Loudon said she wanted all of this back-and-forth public attacking between members of the boards to stop and has asked as much during three recent education board meetings.

Murray said he did not want the situation politicized, and that he wanted the "bickering editorials and articles in the *Rivereast*" to stop.

"People really need to consider the damage done to the town when they engage in such behavior," he said. "It accomplishes nothing but foster hate and division between all of us."

Selectman Paula King said much the same thing

Mandeville, at the meeting and in a phone call with the *Rivereast* Monday, said the matter was for the school board to address.

"They have to decide whether or not she's the person they want to be the face of the elementary board," he said. "I think that that board is strong. It's a really good board, there's a great group of people on it. I think they just picked the wrong person to lead them."

The Board of Education scheduled a special meeting scheduled Wednesday to discuss Loudon's performance. Loudon said the meeting was her idea to discuss her performance as chair in executive session and hear the board's "feelings."

"While my inappropriate words were unintentionally captured in my capacity as a private citizen, I am the chairwoman of the BOE and I deeply regret how poorly this has reflected on the BOE," Loudon wrote in an email.

**LEGAL NOTICE  
MARLBOROUGH ZONING COMMISSION  
NOTICE OF ACTION**

The Marlborough Zoning Commission at its meeting of April 1, 2021, took the following action:  
**APPLICATIONS CONTINUED; PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED:** Application #Z-04-21 -Special Permit - Bill G. Jonbalaj (Applicant) 21 Austin - HGB LLC (Property Owner) - South Main Street (Between 11 & 19 South Main Street) & Johnson Road - Village Cluster Residential Planned Development. A site walk is scheduled for April 15, 2021 at 5pm. A public hearing is scheduled for June 3, 2021 at 7pm.  
Application #Z-05-21 - Special Permit - Jones Hollow Associates, LLC (Applicant/Property Owner) - 382 Jones Hollow Rd. - Congregant living facility, residential care home. A public hearing is scheduled for May 6, 2021.  
**APPLICATION APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS; PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED:** Application #Z-02-21 - Special Permit - Mitch and Hazel Lichatz (Applicant/Property Owner) 86 E Hampton Rd - music events, comedy nights, dinners.  
KEVIN ASKLAR, ZONING COMMISSION CHAIR  
Dated at Marlborough, CT this 12th day of April.

**LEGAL NOTICE  
MARLBOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION  
PUBLIC HEARING**

The Marlborough Planning Commission will hold the following Public Hearing Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 7:00 PM. Commission members and the Public should utilize the teleconference line.  
Meeting Call in Phone Number - 877 - 304 - 9269  
Meeting Code Number - 423694#  
Application #P-21-01 Erik S Young (applicant/Property Owner) 351 So Main St. - To subdivide property into two lots.  
Mark Stankiewicz, PLANNING COMMISSION CHAIR  
2TB 4/16, 4/23

**LEGAL NOTICE  
TOWN OF ANDOVER  
BOARD OF FINANCE  
PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2021 7:00 P.M.**

Pursuant to Andover Town Charter section 802 (C), and Executive Orders 7B and 9H of the Governor of the State of Connecticut, the Public Hearing of the Board of Finance of the Town of Andover is scheduled to be held in hybrid fashion starting by telephone or computer at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 and therefore:  
The Electors and Citizens of the Town of Andover are hereby notified that a Public Hearing of the Board of Finance on a proposed budget for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 will be held via Zoom application on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. to receive input from the public.  
Dated at Andover, CT this 5th day of April, 2021  
Andover Board of Finance  
**Directions to join the virtual meeting via the Zoom platform:**  
**Join by Computer:**  
<https://zoom.us/j/95820539431>  
**Join by Phone:** +1 646 558 8656  
**Meeting ID:** 958 2053 9431  
**Passcode:** 383671  
1TB 4/16

**COLCHESTER ZONING  
BOARD OF APPEALS  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS**

The Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a virtual public hearing on April 20, 2021, at 7:00 P.M. to hear and consider the following petition:  
1. Application No. ZBA 2021-001 of Eric Cummings, Breaks Unlimited (Applicant) and Frank B. Adams (Owner), 109 Loomis Road (AKA 111 Loomis Road, to approve location for Automobile General Repairs pursuant to CGS §14-54 (Tax Map 03-19/Lot 020-003) in the AC Zone.  
At this hearing interested persons may appear or be heard and written communications will be received. The application is on file for public review on the Planning & Zoning Commission Webpage and in the Planning & Zoning Department, Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT. Respectfully submitted,  
Laurie Robinson, Chairman  
2TB 4/9, 4/16

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

The East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission held a regular meeting on April 7, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom to consider the following:  
Application PZC-21-005: JCG Properties, LLC., 9 Middle Haddam Road, for a 2 lot subdivision Map 01C/Block 9/ Lot 5. Approved  
Application PZC-21-006: James Marino, Deer Meadow, for a Special Permit for an Accessory Apartment Map 35/ Block 95/Lot 7-44. Approved with conditions  
Application PZC-21-008: Po's Rice and Spice, 97 Main St., Site Plan Modification for 2 concrete pads, a stone patio, fencing, gravel parking lot and greenery Map 06A/ Block 57/Lot 1A. Phase 1 approved for concrete pad for freezer, stone patio and walkway.  
Ray Zatorski, Chairman  
Note\* any question re: Applications and Maps are on file in the Land Use Office 860-267-7450.  
1TB 4/16

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

At the April 8, 2021 meeting and in accordance with Zoning Regulation Section 7.3.7, the Planning & Zoning Commission took the following actions with regards to proposed improvements within the Town Center Village District (TCVD) Overlay Zone:  
APPROVED Canopy Signage with Illumination for Portland Ale House, 188 Main St as proposed by the applicant and recommended by the TCVD Design Consultant. Application of Portland Ale House. Property of 188 Main Street, LLC. Assessor's Map 19, Lot 41, Zone B-3, Village District Overlay.  
APPROVED Wall-Mounted Sign for the Primavera Pizzeria Restaurant, 222 Main St as proposed by the applicant and recommended by the TCVD Design Consultant. Application of My Town LLC DBA Primavera Pizzeria. Property of JJ Sullivan Properties, LLC. Assessor's Map 19, Lot 49, Zone B-3, Village District Overlay.  
APPROVED Freestanding Signage with Illumination on an Existing Pole for The Sanctuary Center, LLC, 242 Main Street, and recommended by the TCVD Design Consultant. Application of Timothy Tynan, d/b/a The Sanctuary Center, LLC. Property of Samuel Eddinger. Assessor's Map 28, Lot 31, Zone B-3, Village District Overlay.  
Dated at Portland, CT, this 13th day of April 2021  
Robert Ellsworth, Chairman  
Planning & Zoning Commission  
1TB 4/16

**LEGALS**

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

At the April 8, 2021 meeting, the following action was taken:  
APPROVED PZC Application #20-11: 634 Main Street. Section 8-24 Referral to the Board of Selectmen for the sale of surplus real estate of the Town of Portland. The Town is proposing the sale of a parcel known as 634 Main Street, a .37 acre lot with a vacant structure built in 1935 that formerly served as a fire house and police station. Application of Town of Portland. Property of the Town of Portland. Assessor's Map 66, Lot 1, Zone R-10.  
Dated at Portland, CT, this 13th day of April 2021  
Robert Ellsworth, Chairman  
Planning & Zoning Commission  
1TB 4/16

**LEGAL NOTICE**

STOR-U-SELF will sell at PUBLIC AUCTION at 127 Main St, Portland, CT 06480,  
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Michael Sabino, Unit 429, Boxes, Furniture, exercise equipment, TV  
Carla Hass, Unit 473, Furniture  
Kelvin Perry, Unit 314, Bags  
At 3:00PM, Tuesday, April 27th, 2021, at the premises of STOR-U-SELF, 127 Main St., Portland, CT. 06480. 860-342-1445  
By Paul L. Maglio Auctioneer: Storage Auction Solutions.  
STOR-U-SELF reserves the following rights: (1) to bid at the public auction; (2) to refuse any and all bids; (3) to cancel the auction at any time for any reason.  
2TB 4/9, 4/16

**LEGAL NOTICE  
TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON  
PUBLIC HEARING**

The East Hampton Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the East Hampton Town Hall Meeting Room, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424. The Council will review an amendment to Chapter 45 Finance and Budget of the Code of the Town of East Hampton. The amendment refers to Article IV Budget Meetings and Referendums, Section 45-10 to revise the timeline for the annual budget meeting to allow sufficient time for the Town Council to adequately review, receive public comment and approve for submission to Town meeting, the General Government and Board of Education budget resolutions for succeeding year budgets. Residents who wish to comment are encouraged to attend via Zoom as there will be limited seating due to COVID-19 restrictions. The Zoom login information will be included with the Public Hearing agenda posted on the Town website. A copy of the proposed ordinance amendment is available in the Office of the East Hampton Town Clerk and on the Town website at [www.easthamptonct.gov](http://www.easthamptonct.gov).  
EAST HAMPTON TOWN COUNCIL  
James Brown, Chairman  
Dean Markham, Vice Chairman  
Tim Feegel  
Derek Johnson  
Barbara Moore  
Mark Philhower  
Kevin Reich  
1TB 4/16

**LEGAL NOTICE  
MIDDLE HADDAM HISTORIC  
DISTRICT COMMISSION MEETING  
Thursday, April 22, 2021  
6:30 pm (Zoom call)**

Public hearing will be held to consider the following:  
Application 546 for a Certificate of Appropriateness at Long Hill Road (Long Hill Estates) --- to construct 2100 SF colonial style house with 24 x 24 garage on 18 + acres --- for applicant Wayne Rand.  
Application 547 for a Certificate of Appropriateness at 67 Middle Haddam Road -- to replace flat roofing material with metal, and to convert closed-in porch on side of house back to exterior with screen door --- for applicant Scott Giovannelli.  
Application 548 for a Certificate of Appropriateness at 57 Middle Haddam Road -- to do significant repairs to include replacing the roof and demolishing the rear staircase to allow for converting the house back to a single family -- which may later require work in other areas, e.g. brick chimney, rear clapboards, windows and doors to the rear of the house --- for applicant George Selmont.  
Application 549 for a Certificate of Appropriateness at 97 Middle Haddam Road --to construct and install post and beam garden shed (9x11) along south property line (pending building permit) to include concrete site prep, installation of gable vents, swing-out door, and flower boxes --- for applicant Casey Donnelly.  
The foregoing applications are available for public review at the East Hampton Building Department. At this hearing interested persons may be heard and written communications will be received.  
Dated: April 14, 2021  
Regina Starolis, MHHDC Clerk  
1TB 4/16

**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON  
LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals held a Regular Meeting at 7 pm on April 12, 2021 via Virtual Meeting (Zoom), to consider the following:  
Application ZBA-21-004, Miguel & Julianne Roman, 51 Highland Terrace, for a variance to reduce the front setback from 50' to 25' to construct a 20' x 40' pool with a concrete patio around the perimeter of the pool Map 18/Block 44/Lot 23G-1. Approved  
Matthew Walton, Chairman  
1TB 4/16

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63 Norwich Ave. – \$625 month for 2nd fl space for office or other services possible right off the town green. Many businesses surround you & you share with a bank, insurance, and civil engineer. There is one large open area of 500 sq ft w/ 2 possible entrances so can use as 2 private offices or waiting area & office area.  
43 Hayward Ave. – \$825 plus utilities for this great downtown location for your business in this beautiful historic building above restaurant. This second floor space includes front & rear entrance & large open area with side alcove area for break room or files & 2 large office areas for private meetings or conference rooms. Come see this space today to make your presence known in Colchester.

Also available shared flex office space from \$100 month

860-214-1147 • [www.skyview-realty.com](http://www.skyview-realty.com)  
35 Hayward Ave., Colchester, CT 06415

RE-16-21

## HOUSING DISCRIMINATION IS ILLEGAL For Help Call 888-247-4401

If anyone refused to rent to you because of your source of income, race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, religion, marital status, age, disability or because you have children, you may have been the victim of illegal housing discrimination. Contact the Connecticut Fair Housing Center.



# EMPLOYMENT

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

**LOCAL SEPTIC COMPANY LOOKING FOR DRIVER WITH CDL CLASS B LICENSE** to pump septic tanks. State of Connecticut Sub Surface Sewage Cleaner's license preferred but not required. Starting pay \$21-\$28/hour plus benefits package. Call (860) 267-6102.

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

**MARLBOROUGH COOPERATIVE NURSERY SCHOOL HIRING HEAD AND ASSISTANT TEACHERS.** PT salary. Play-based learning at parent run school. Visit [www.marlbroughcoop.org](http://www.marlbroughcoop.org) for more info.

**WESTSIDE MANOR IS SEARCHING FOR ATTENDANTS** to our 2nd and 3rd shift, 3PM-11PM and 11PM-7AM shifts. Attendant Responsibilities: Housekeeping, Meal Prep and medication administration required for the position. Medication Certification a plus but not necessary. Benefit of Attendant: Medical (Full time) Dental (full time). Interviews are done by appointment only following strict COVID guidelines at our location Monday thru Friday. Please call us at 860-267-4401 to schedule an interview today! We are a COVID free facility, 9 West High Street, East Hampton. Job Type: Full-time/Part-time. Salary: \$14/hr. to \$18/hr.

**PART TIME FRONT DESK HELP NEEDED.** Monday, Wednesday, Thursday afternoons from 2pm to 6pm with the possibility of additional hours Monday through Friday, 8:15am-12pm. Please call 860-267-6688 to inquire.

**WEEKEND MORNINGS, SATURDAY EVENING.** Personal care and gardening. Call 860-537-3243

**SKILLED CARPENTER WANTED FOR BUSY PROPERTY MANAGEMENT CO.** 3-5 YEARS EXPERIENCE. Must have reliable transportation. \$18-\$22 per hour depending on experience. contact: JOHNVA@ADVANCECO.NET

**HELP WANTED LANDSCAPING.** Driver's license and mowing experience required. Good pay. Grundman Landscape, Colchester. 860-267-1510

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

**PCA NEEDED FOR QUADRIPLAGIC MAN.** Morning and evening shifts available. Must be strong enough to assist large male. Reliability essential. Covid vaccinated desirable. Glastonbury. 860-573-4128

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

**COLCHESTER GARDENING COMPANY NEEDS FT/PT GARDENERS.** Experienced great but not required. Great starting wage, great environment. email resume or letter of interest to goyetteroy@frontier.com

**PT WAITRESS NEEDED,** also dishwasher needed weekend days. Apply at Eggs Up restaurant on Rt.66 in Portland.

**DISHWASHER WANTED-** Part time, 25-29 hours. Competitive pay. Nights and weekends. More hours and responsibilities possible for the right individual. Phone Sadlers Ordinary at 860-295-0006

**LANDSCAPE & IRRIGATION CO. POSITIONS AVAILABLE.** Positions available include Foreman, and General Laborers. All applicants must have valid CT Drivers License, clean driving record and own transportation. Competitive pay based upon experience. To fill out application/schedule interview call 860-633-5766.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT FOR A BUSY GLASTONBURY PAVING COMPANY.** 40 hours. Must be extremely organized, good communicator and friendly. Will train. Benefits. 860-633-7004 or email info@constantinepaving.com

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

**PCANEEDED,** part-time, personal care, cooking, cleaning, errands. Every Saturday and Sunday morning, 6-9am plus backup for other mornings available. Experience preferred. \$16.25/hr. Temp to perm. Background check and drug test required. 860-949-7016

**SEEKING HIGH ENERGY SERVERS (2yrs+)** for patio season and beyond. Nights and weekends required. Email intro and work experience to eatatsadlers@gmail.com

**PART TIME ASSISTANT NEEDED IN EAST HAMPTON.** No experience necessary, will train. Hours are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, 8:15am-11am and 2:45pm to 6pm and Friday 8:15-11. Call 860-267-6688

**ASSISTANT PRO SHOP MANAGER,** Minnechaug Golf Course. FT Must be able to work some weekends & to close. Free Golf. Salary negotiable. 860.432.3334. Ask for Rick.

## WANTED

### Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Assisted Living

Colebrook Village – Looking for an LPN that wants to join a dynamic, talented, and dedicated team. Duties will include but are not limited to the following: providing care to our residents, speaking with physicians, families & supervising the C.N.As. Must like to have fun at work. FT & PT, 2nd and 3rd shifts available. Please email: [kcifaldi@colebrookvillage.com](mailto:kcifaldi@colebrookvillage.com)

CT-16-21

## WANTED

### C.N.A Senior Living CNA in Hebron CT

Colebrook Village – FT and PT positions are available for all shifts!! Must be compassionate, committed to resident center quality care, a team player and have fun while providing the highest level of hospitality in any senior living. This community has been COVID free and remains so!! Must have a current Certified Nursing Assistant Certificate in accordance with state requirements. Please email: [kcifaldi@colebrookvillage.com](mailto:kcifaldi@colebrookvillage.com)

CT-16-21

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EDUCATION: 2021-22 Teaching Vacancies

The Marlborough School District (PreK-6) is accepting applications for three (3) elementary teaching vacancies for the 2021-2022 school year. Interested candidates should apply with a letter of interest, application, resume, transcripts, appropriate CT certification and 3 recent letters of reference by May 14, 2021 to Dr. David Sklarz, Superintendent, Marlborough School District, 25 School Drive, Marlborough, CT 06447. For application see website, [www.marlbrough.k12.ct.us](http://www.marlbrough.k12.ct.us) (Employment Opportunities) or call 860.295.6236. EOE

1TB 4/16

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EDUCATION: SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER

Resource Room (1.0 FTE) – Marlborough Elementary School is accepting applications for a special education teacher with experience in academic/behavioral supports, inclusion strategies ABA Therapy, DTI and autism. Please send letter of interest, application form ([www.marlbrough.k12.ct.us](http://www.marlbrough.k12.ct.us), Employment Postings, Certified Application or call 860.295.6236), resume, transcripts, copy of appropriate CT certification and 3 current letters of reference by May 14, 2021 to Dr. David Sklarz, Superintendent, Marlborough School District, 25 School Drive, Marlborough, CT 06447 EOE

1TB 4/16

### TOWN OF HEBRON DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

The Town of Hebron is seeking a full time Director of Planning and Development. This highly responsible, professional and administrative work plans, organizes and performs planning services in the functional areas of land use, zoning, community development, economic development, housing, population trends, community potable water and wastewater needs, transportation, and related municipal planning areas; performs supervisory function of Planning and Development Department; and coordinates land use management and development review. Master's degree in urban/city planning or closely related field and eight years planning experience required. Certification as a Planner by the American Institute of Certified Planners required or ability to achieve within one year. Base salary range starting at \$90,000 DOE plus full benefits package. Please send letters of interest, resume and Town of Hebron employment application to the Town Manager, Town of Hebron, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT 06248, by May 14, 2021. For more details visit <https://hebronct.com/contact-us/employment/>. Position will remain open until filled. The Town of Hebron is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

1TB 4/16

### Summer Help Wanted

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

Town Clerk  
P.O. Box 29  
26 North Main Street  
Marlborough, CT 06447

8TB 3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30

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

Complete job description and application are available online at [www.marlbroughct.net](http://www.marlbroughct.net) (> Departments, >Town Clerk), or in person from the

Office of the Town Clerk  
PO Box 29  
Marlborough, CT 06447

#### JOB SUMMARY

Engages in hands-on planning, organization and supervision of the highway maintenance crew in the construction, repair and maintenance of the Town's highway infrastructure and fleet vehicles to provide a safe well maintained, environmentally sound roadway network for the public. **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED**

The skills and knowledge required would generally be acquired from a minimum of a high school diploma or equivalent, and ten (10) years of progressively responsible experience in highway maintenance or construction work. Candidates must possess five (5) years of experience in supervising union and non-union employees and good interpersonal and supervisory skills. The position requires a minimum of five (5) years of experience in the operation and maintenance of heavy construction and maintenance equipment, or any equivalent combination of education and skills that demonstrates possession of the required knowledge, skills and abilities to perform the functions of the position. **SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS**

- Able to obtain a Transfer Station operator's certification within one year of employment.
- Possess a CDL Class B with endorsement N. (Restrictions E, F, K and L will not be allowed)
- Certification as a Tree Warden is preferred, or ability to obtain certification within one year of employment.

#### FILING REQUIREMENTS

Interested candidates should submit a fully completed Application for Employment, Resume, and Cover Letter to: Office of the Town Clerk  
PO Box 29  
26 North Main Street  
Marlborough, CT 06447

**The Town of Marlborough is an Equal Opportunity Employer**  
We consider applicants for all positions without regard to race, creed, religion, gender, national origin, disability, age, marital status, sexual orientation, or any other legally protected status.

4TB 3/26, 4/2, 4/9, 4/16

### TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON Building Code and Enforcement Official

The Town of East Hampton is accepting applications for the full-time position of Building Code and Enforcement Official. This position is responsible for town-wide code inspection and compliance. The successful candidate will be an energetic, motivated, self-starting, customer-service-oriented individual, as well as a team player capable of leading a small office.

Extensive experience in building construction, including site preparations, building systems and mechanical systems, experience as an inspector or designer of building and construction or an equivalent combination of experience and training is required. Considerable ability to interpret state and local codes, regulations and ordinances including current CT building-related codes, A.D.A, zoning, etc. Must be licensed as a Building Official by the State of Connecticut within six (6) months of appointment. Supervisory skills required. This is a bargaining unit position. \$75,630.44 - \$88,976.88 per year commensurate with experience and education, plus benefit package.

Interested candidates are required to send a cover letter along with a resume, and employment application to the Town of East Hampton, Department of Human Resources, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424, no later than May 7, 2021, or until filled. [www.easthamptonct.gov](http://www.easthamptonct.gov). EOE/M-F/AA.

1TB 4/16

## Now Hiring!

**Assistant Animal Control Officer**  
Town of Manchester  
\$14 - \$15/hr – 16 hrs/wk  
Open until filled  
[www.townofmanchester.org](http://www.townofmanchester.org)

CT-16-21

### Summer Camp Counselor Parks & Recreation Dept. Town of Portland, CT (EOE) Deadline: 5/7/2021

Town is accepting seasonal employment applications for the Summer Camp Program (June to August) Monday thru Friday, 7:15 AM to 6:00 PM; flexible hours, starting rate \$12.00, subject to criminal history background check. Qualifications: Junior staff must be age 15 upon employment; Adult staff must possess HS diploma or GED; Prior experience, First Aid & CPR certificate preferred. Duties include: instruct, monitor & lead children (ages 3-14) in games, arts, crafts, sports & outdoor recreational activities; maintain the health/safety of assigned group of children; follow daily schedules, report to trips & activities on time; communicate with children, parents & staff; uphold discipline & prevent disturbances within the recreational area; plan & implement activities; work closely with Camp Director & supporting staff; document/report accurate records of attendance, incidents and injuries. Seasonal Recreation Employment Applications available online: [www.portlandct.org](http://www.portlandct.org) Mail completed application to: First Selectwoman's Office, P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480-0071

1TB 4/16

# EMPLOYMENT

**WE ARE HIRING FULL-TIME MECHANIC**

Must have small engine experience, your own tools, and the ability to lift 100 lbs. This is a full-time, 40+ hours per week job with uniforms, medical insurance & a 401k.

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- Driveways Installation & Repairs

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**WE ARE HIRING!**  
**HELP WANTED: TWO POSITIONS**

Well established septic cleaning company looking for a full-time help. CDL class B license / tanker endorsement. Applicant must have and maintain a clean driving record. \$24.00/\$29.00 per hr. In addition we are looking for an individual to help with certain jobs, maintenance of property, etc. We offer health, dental and life insurance 90 days after employment. Paid holidays and vacations. Office located at 80 Middletown Ave., East Hampton  
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