



RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

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A Bounty of Blankets... Maci Wolfe (pictured in front, with her sister Kyla in the back) recently came up with the idea to collect blankets that Connecticut Children’s Medical Center could give to children to help them be more comfortable while undergoing medical procedures. Maci, who has juvenile arthritis and is no stranger to medical procedures, said her initial goal was 10 blankets – but within weeks she had collected more than 300. See story on page 19.

Pandemic Takes Toll On Ambulance Service

by Jack Lakowsky

“Recruitment is down, and fear is high.” East Hampton Ambulance Association Chief Donald Scranton, in a letter to the Town Council, wrote the above unfiltered summation of the primary challenge faced by the local ambulance service; the COVID-19 pandemic is deterring volunteers.

Scranton discussed the letter with the council in an April 20 budget workshop meeting.

The ambulance service is a nonprofit organization and not town-owned, Scranton said.

Despite this, Scranton is requesting \$600,000 of the town’s \$1.2 million allotment from the most recent federal stimulus package, the American Rescue Plan, so that the association can offer paid positions. Scranton said this should alleviate the current personnel shortage.

If the council approves Scranton’s request, the money will be used in halves over two years. After that, Scranton’s goal is to integrate the ambulance service into town-owned services.

If this happens, Scranton in a Tuesday talk with the *Rivereast* said the employees would cost the town about \$380,000 per year, and in his letter said overall, a town-owned ambulance service would cost up to \$1 million.

Scranton said the stimulus money can be used to help local emergency services.

“The biggest hurdle for us right now is we aren’t a town-owned entity,” said Scranton.

Scranton is looking to add two part-time employees to the association. Right now, East Hampton Emergency Medical Services (EHEMS) personnel serve as volunteers. Volunteers receive a stipend, Scranton said, but it’s not enough of an incentive to keep people long-term.

Scranton said this model is no longer sustainable. Nearby towns, such as East Haddam, offer well-paid ambulance jobs, he said.

Scranton said it’s very hard to recruit volun-

teers to a demanding, high-pressure, training-intensive, sometimes dangerous job like EMS service.

Scranton said the qualification process is lengthy and expensive. People must attend 180 hours of training (classes that can cost between \$1,000 and \$1,500) and must pass both written and practical exams.

Failure rates of this process are high, Scranton said, further compounding recruitment issues for ambulance services statewide.

Scranton said in the past, EHEMS has offered to pay a person’s training expenses. However, this effort didn’t work out well, as recruits often found paying jobs elsewhere.

Scranton said there are little to no grant opportunities for ambulance services.

Although challenged, Scranton said the local service is operating at 95% efficiency – meaning that 95% of the time, an East Hampton team is out the door at the call. The remaining 5% represents when the local service must use mutual aid from other towns.

“95% is still very good,” Scranton said. “Calls are still being covered. This [request for funds] is a proactive approach.”

Scranton has been the town’s ambulance chief since 2017. The nonprofit volunteer association has served the town since 1953.

In his letter, Scranton described the tough year EHEMS has had since the pandemic began.

“We’ve lost 10 members,” Scranton wrote. “Twenty-eight reduced their hours due to COVID-19 concerns, [or for] job interference or medical reasons, resulting in a loss of 13,110 hours of [labor].”

“We need to look to the future to provide adequate public safety and emergency services to our residents,” the letter goes on. “They deserve

See Ambulance, page 21

Social Justice Group Addresses Anti-Asian Racism

by Jack Lakowsky

The Portland Social Justice Coalition along with the town’s Task Force on Solidarity, recently hosted the first of at least two meetings geared toward discussing the nationwide rise in anti-Asian violence.

Elizabeth Hibino, a founding member of the grassroots Social Justice Coalition (SJC), last Thursday told the *Rivereast* that most SJC meetings have focused on racism faced by Black and Brown communities.

“This [discussion] wasn’t always in our plans, though it definitely should have been,” Hibino said of the Asian-American and Pacific Islander (AAPI)-focused forum.

Hibino said SJC wanted to host this discussion after the March 16 series of mass shootings in Atlanta when eight people were killed, six of whom were Asian women. A 21-year-old white man is charged with the killings.

Hibino, prior to the AAPI solidarity talk, researched the current state and history of anti-

Asian violence and racism in America.

Hibino learned that in the last year, coinciding with the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a spike in anti-Asian violence.

One of many resources Hibino shared was a *PBS Newshour* interview with journalist, author and activist Helen Zia, as well as Amanda Nguyen, CEO and founder of Rise, a non-governmental civil rights group, which was screened at the event.

According to information cited by *News-hour’s* Amna Nawaz, there have been more than 3,000 reported incidents of violence against Asian Americans since last March.

“This is not anything new,” Zia said of the violence and faced by Asian Americans. “This didn’t start with the pandemic. I think we must understand this [racism] has been happening for a very long time; it’s woven into the fabric of America.”

Zia said the rhetorical using of China as a scapegoat villain causing America’s woes, in-

cluding the COVID-19 pandemic, is fueling anti-Asian racism.

“We’re at the convergence of a terrible storm,” Zia said.

Zia said the country’s history of anti-Asian racism has been revised out of textbooks. As one of many examples she named, Zia detailed the 1982 murder of Vincent Chin, a Chinese American man who was beaten to death by two white autoworkers over the perception that Japan, not at all Chin’s heritage, was outcompeting U.S. auto manufacturers.

The two men didn’t spend a day in prison, Hibino said.

Hibino, whose husband is of Asian descent, said the history of violence against the AAPI community is largely omitted from school textbooks for many different reasons.

She said there is relatively more mention of the history of Black and Indigenous communities in schools because America’s offenses against them are more auspicious, like enslave-

ment of Black people and the genocide of Indigenous nations.

Hibino said no Portland-specific incidents of racist violence or harassment have been reported, although she cited a recent Middletown incident: an Asian student at Wesleyan University who was allegedly spit on and subjected to racist slurs.

Hibino shared excerpts of a letter penned by an Asian Portland resident who said in her childhood and young adulthood she “encountered racism on a regular basis,” including taunts from schoolmates.

The writer said the murders in Atlanta caused these painful memories to resurface.

“What would help [now] is for people to know more about Asian culture, Asian American history, for kids to be taught facts and empathy,” she wrote.

Hibino said participants felt this letter power-

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

by Mike Thompson

The internet can be a treasure trove of information – and sometimes, it can be a treasure trove of misinformation. Unfortunately for Jordana Costa, owner of Yellow Marigold Massage in East Hampton, she's been a victim of the latter these days.

Jordana recently posted on Facebook that someone keeps marking the massage business as closed on Yelp, Google and Bing. She said Yelp "won't even let me create a new page because of how many times this has been done to me."

Indeed, not only has Jordana *not* closed up shop, her shop seems to be quite busy.

"I am open, just signed another multiple-year lease at my current location and have no plans of shutting down," she wrote. "I am booked until June because my schedule has gone beyond 40 hours per week and I cannot fit more people into the schedule – not because I do not want to take new customers."

I feel bad for Yellow Marigold that this is happening. Readers may recall that, last May, the *Rivereast* ran a letter to the editor mistakenly indicating the business had closed, an early victim of the pandemic. I felt terrible that the letter was published with such an error, and immediately had reporter Jack Laskowsky do a story about the business and how it had not closed but rather had simply moved, to 27 E. High St.

And here it is, a year later, and Jordana is having issues with people going online and marking the business closed.

If interested in booking a massage – and remember, Jordana is booked until June – give Yellow Marigold a call at 860-338-9989 or email yymassage.jc@gmail.com.

Congressman John Larson, whose district includes Portland, recently passed along some very interesting information.

He shared that FEMA recently announced it will begin accepting applications for funeral assistance for Connecticut families who've lost loved ones to COVID-19.

"While no amount of money can heal the loss of a loved one, this grant program can help ease the financial strain on Connecticut families who've suffered so much from COVID-19," Larson said. "We have lost almost 8,000 Connecticut residents due to COVID-19 and this program will help bring financial relief to many of the families who have experienced loss."

Connecticut families who paid for funeral expenses after Jan. 20, 2020, for an individual whose death was likely the result of COVID-19 can apply for up to \$9,000 of assistance per funeral by calling 844-684-6333 Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. No online applications will be accepted.

Individuals may apply for assistance for multiple funerals, Larson said.

To learn more about the assistance program, go to tinyurl.com/3dh4yez3.

Considering November is still several months away, next week will be quite heavy with voting here in *Rivereast*-land.

As Sloan Brewster wrote last week, next Monday, May 3, is Election Day in Andover. While the Board of Selectmen isn't up for election this year, several other boards and commissions are – including the Board of Fi-

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Bulletin Board

I happened to see a news item about Mars exploration recently and was reminded of the infamous "Glastonbury Meteor"—at least it was infamous in our Main Street neighborhood when I was an adolescent "hoodlum" as one resident subsequently remarked to police. But let me start from the beginning.

As youngsters we played a lot of soccer and other pick-up sports in a mowed field owned by one of the kid's grandparents. Unfortunately, this field happened to abut the meticulously kept yard of an elderly individual I will refer to here as Mr. S. It seems that Mr. S. did not share the now popular dictum that "children are our future"—or if he did, he saw that future as being dark indeed.

Suffice it to say that every time a ball crashed through his shrubbery or landed on his manicured grass, the mean-spirited old cuss emerged from his lair to express his displeasure. At one point he even persuaded the owner of the field to shut down all youth activities. Naturally, this did not endear him to those of us who were the future and needed our exercise.

At about this same time, one of my associates happened to mention that his parents had recently excavated a very large rock from their yard and would like to get rid of it. Upon examination, we had to agree it was indeed a very large rock—it probably weighed 50 or 60 pounds.

Did I mention that in addition to his well-kept yard, Mr. S. had an extensive vegetable garden behind his house? Well he did.

As we admired the boulder, it occurred to someone that a message from outer space might persuade Mr. S. that the planets were aligned against him (i.e., to stop messing with us). And so, one dark summer night, four or five of us disaffected delinquents painted the word "METEOR" on the rock (lest there being any confusion as to its cosmic origins), rolled it onto an old Army blanket, grabbed the corners, and, sneaking through a series of quiet back yards, deposited the thing in the middle of Mr. S.'s vegetable garden, carefully brushing away any incriminating footprints in the freshly-turned soil. To say we were quite pleased with ourselves as we disappeared into the night would be an understatement.

Bright and early the next morning, a police officer was knocking on my parents' door.

Alas, it appeared there had been a witness to our cunning scheme. An elderly widow suffering from weak bladder insomnia had happened to glance out her window as we lugged our meteor through her backyard. Recognizing two of the better-looking skulkers, she had spent a fearful night before calling the police the next morning to report that she had seen some neighborhood "hoodlums" transporting "a dead body" through her yard under the cloak of darkness.

Meanwhile, the civic-minded Mr. S. had also contacted the local gendarmes to report that a meteor had landed smack dab in the middle of his pea plants.

Well, it didn't take the police (who had less to do in those days than they do now) long to unravel the connection between meteor and hoodlums. We were soon rounded up and directed to remove the meteor from the garden under the baleful gaze of the humorless Mr. S. And so our neighborhood's brush with visitors from space came to a close, fortunately without jail time or further damage to Mr. S.'s pea plants.

Some years later I happened to see Mr. S.'s obituary in the newspaper and I have to say I wouldn't have recognized the guy. Either he had some sort of epiphany following the meteor incident or one of the greatest fiction writers of all time composed his epitaph. Whatever the case, I was mildly disappointed, if not exactly surprised, to see there was no mention whatsoever of his encounter with the fabled meteor.

He remains one of the most curmudgeonly figures in my experience. I do think he might have been right about the future, however.

Jim Hallas



Morning Fun!... The Collaborative for Colchester's Children (C3), hosted a morning of events Saturday, April 24, at Ruby and Elizabeth Cohen Woodlands, as part of Colchester's Unplugged Weekend. The activities included Joyful Noises Play & Learn, Yoga & Mindfulness, Sing-a-long, and a spring-themed nature scavenger hunt on the trails. Pictured here are Stephanie Carli and her daughters Morgan and Aliyah.

Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Forum • Reader Foru

East Hampton Zone Change

To the Editor:

Wednesday, May 5, the East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission will continue hearing public comments on the proposed Main Street zone change from residential to commercial for the construction of a new gas station.

The developer's attorney stated the town's Plan of Conservation and Development supports the proposed zone change because Main Street and Route 16 are classified as arterial roadways. While a roadway's traffic designation has nothing to do with zoning, the town's plan is an important document and zoning is based on it.

If you have never seen the town's plan, it is a 134-page document developed by Planning and Zoning as the "vision for the future of the community." This was created in 2016 with input from town boards and community workshops.

The overriding theme in this document is preserving East Hampton's small-town feel. This is accomplished through conservation of resources and controlled development where shown in the plan. This document can provide isolated words of justification for any position but needs to be viewed in its entirety.

A portion of the plan is devoted to the old village center. East Hampton has invested much time and money to revitalize this area. If you spend time in the center, it's apparent the attraction is due to its old village charm with restored Victorian homes along its approaches. There is a sense of scale to it.

The destruction of a historic home and construction of a huge convenience mart on Main Street begins the decline of the street, not the continued revitalization of the village center. Planning and Zoning has done the hard work in developing the town plan. Now they need to stick to the plan.

Please voice your opposition to the proposed zone changes at the May 5 meeting or write to Planning and Zoning.

Kenneth Dodson – East Hampton

Hebert for Andover BOF

To The Editor:

I am writing again to the residents of Andover to ask for your vote on May 3rd, for a seat on the Board of Finance. If elected, I will continue to be present and dialed-in to all meetings taking place that will affect things in Andover. I will be fair and objective, while listening to all sides of an issue.

I will speak up representing things that I think must be discussed, even if I am the lone voice.

I will come to meetings prepared, and respond to resident emails that come my way with ideas and issues, something not always done for me.

An example of how I get involved was represented in the *Rivereast News Bulletin's* Friday, April 23, issue in the article regarding the RHAM 2021-22 budget. The article referenced a letter from me, which was read at the RHAM budget meeting. I pointed out in that letter that the advertised low per pupil expenditure number from RHAM does not add up to the requested over \$30 million budget. However, not included, but was in my letter, was that I do realize that certain factors like transportation and special education costs weren't included in the per pupil be-

cause they are not equal across districts. The tough question that I put forth, was does RHAM really need the extra \$9 million per year over and above the per pupil expenditure total, now that the enrollment has dropped so drastically? I think their total budget number should show some reduction over the years because of this.

I hope that you will consider voting for me, an unaffiliated candidate, endorsed by the Republicans, on May 3rd. I will continue to ask the tough questions and wait for transparent answers.

Thank you.

Joanne Hebert – Andover

Trees

To the Editor:

Now, more than ever, it is important to plant trees – preferably native trees. Trees make the town and your personal landscape more beautiful, provide habitat for birds and insects, create shade in an increasingly hotter environment, and they remove carbon dioxide and release oxygen. And planting trees can increase property values and reduce heating and cooling costs with the correct placement around buildings.

Trees make great gifts also. Planting a tree is a wonderful way to honor or remember mothers and grandmothers on Mother's Day and fathers and grandfathers on Father's Day.

Although a little dated, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection publication found at the following link is helpful in making native tree (and shrub) selections and in finding nurseries that may be able to help you: tinyurl.com/eyyk3sh. Several types of flowering dogwoods, for example, are found on the list, as are types of flowering cherries and plums (Note: not on the list and to be avoided are Bradford Pear trees, which are not native and can be quite invasive).

Thank you,

Denise Rodosevich – Amston

Colchester Politics

Dear Colchester Citizens:

I have been a resident of the town of Colchester for nearly 76 years. Plenty has happened in that time, especially when it comes to local government. There have been elected officials that have put the interests of the people before their own. Elected officials, from both major parties, that have brought a level of honesty and integrity in their commitment to our community. There have also been elected officials who are self-serving and arrogant to the people they are supposed to represent.

The climate in Colchester politics today is a very sour one. Our first selectwoman believes in a 5% tax increase during a pandemic is acceptable. Anyone questioning her 8% town budget increase has been lashed out at or spoken to in a condescending tone. Her past behavior extends to censoring an elected official on multiple occasions and also telling the Board of Finance chairman to "grow a pair" when he was questioning data. Many of her supporters on the various boards have also brought a very similar tone to meetings.

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

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

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

Reader Forum • Reader Forum

Andreas Bisbikos has been a bright light in this political darkness. He is not afraid to ask the tough questions, demand transparency and accountability, and call out the town bullies when he sees them. Mr. Bisbikos brings a level of honesty and commitment to his efforts. His work on the Board of Finance is a testament to that. He was the first one to take a stand for a zero tax increase last year during the onset of the pandemic. He was the first elected official to say that a 5% tax increase this year is unacceptable. He believes that Colchester should be affordable for everyone. I hope to see him continue to serve our community.

Sincerely,
Steven Schuster – Colchester

All Parts of Town

To the Editor:
This week, kids from Mr. Baran's 3rd grade class at Jack Jackter Intermediate School (JJIS) delivered potted flowers to the Senior Center's Meals on Wheels clients.

Colchester Elementary School (CES) and JJIS both completed food drives with record numbers that stocked both our local and regional food banks.

Students of all ages participated in town clean-ups this weekend throughout the town.

Over the holidays, Bacon National Honor Society (NHS) students built snowmen and sang carols for seniors isolated by the pandemic.

This is simply proof that our schools and students recognize that they are part of our larger community, and that it is our collective job to take care of each other.

Colchester has many divergent communities from senior citizens to students to young professionals and we are all part of this convoluted web of relationships. My point is that our investment in these communities will pay dividends across our town and future. For example, I don't use the playground at the RecPlex anymore, but I remember how important it was to my family.

It is now my responsibility to younger families to maintain that community space. In turn, I see that investment paying off for our schools with healthy/happy kids. (Cue Music: Circle of Life from *The Lion King* here!)

Please get involved and mark your calendars: Tuesday, May 4 – public hearing to present BOE and town budget (see ColchesterCT.gov for Zoom link)

Take care,
Amy Domeika – Colchester

Note: Domeika is a member of the Colchester Board of Education, but said she is writing as an individual.

Opposes Zone Change

To the Editor,
I am writing to add my voice to the near unanimous chorus of opposition to the Zone change proposed in East Hampton at the corner of Main Street and Colchester Avenue. The developer has proposed a change to multiple properties into a commercial zone located in the heart of a residential neighborhood along with a proposal that would destroy two homes (including one of historical significance) and create a mega gas station in place of the current small country filling station. This gas station is touted as expanding economic opportunity but would in fact reduce economic activity for the businesses in the historic village center and create significant pollution both in the potential impact on the water table, litter along historic Main Street, and light pollution for the surrounding residences.

The developer has engaged in deceptive marketing by circulating a petition supposedly "in favor" of the zone change when in reality it only asked if respondents would support a "renovation" of the current station. All 500-foot and 2,000-foot abutters who have responded to the proposed zone change are opposed and without any compelling reason to make the change, the planning and zoning commission should vote 'no.'

Sincerely,
Daniel Finn,
Owner of Finn Financial Solutions
East Hampton

Several Excellent Candidates

To the Editor:
I am writing about several excellent candidates for our Monday, May 3rd election. I found Bill Desrosiers, who is running for the Board of Finance to be hard working, steadfast, and caring about Andover. He feels residents should give back to their community in some way. With his knowledge and experience, Bill is a perfect fit for the BOF.

Joanne Hebert is a candidate for the BOF. She is new to politics but not new to the finance world. She has worked in accounting positions in schools and universities. She currently has taken an interest in town trying to voice her concerns about the two school budgets. Joanne is interested in fairness to all.

Gerry Wright is re-running for fire commissioner. When you want something done and you need someone to listen to you and your concerns Gerry is your man! A vote for Gerry is the way to make things happen in our community.

Celeste Willard is an awesome young lady who believes in our town and fairness to all. It has been my pleasure to know her for a few years. Celeste currently is filling a vacancy on the Board of Education and has made a definite impact on the board. She is running for the BOE and deserves your vote.

Dave Gostanian is a candidate for the Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate. Having known Dave many years and the good work he did serving on the RHAM BOE and how dedicated he is to our AFD, I believe he is the best person for the ZBZ Alternate.

Ylo Anson is an excellent choice for the ZBA. He is honest and makes right decisions. He will serve us with truthfulness and pride.

Cathy Palazzi – Andover
Note: Palazzi is the Andover senior coordinator, but is writing as an individual.

Andover Young at Heart

To the Editor:
Perhaps we should jump up and down, as I believe we will be able to gather at the Town Hall community room Wednesday, June 2, for refreshments and Bingo. The bus will be (I hope) about for pickup so when the time is right, call for a ride. Mark your calendars so you don't forget!!

It's been a long time, since February 2020. It will be a pleasure to see those familiar faces and be able to "chit-chat" once again and of course play Bingo.

We hope everyone has stayed safe and well. We realize things have become rather boring, but let's welcome spring with thanks and joy!

God bless everyone. See you in June.

When God answers my prayers, sometimes he says yes, sometimes he says no, and sometimes he says "You've got to be kidding."

Marge Surdam, Secretary
Andover Young at Heart

Support Andover Republicans

To the Editor:
On Monday, May 3, Andover will be having an election for people to fill positions on boards and commissions. I am writing this in support of the Republicans who are willing to join these boards and

commissions:
Joanne Hebert and William Desrosiers - Finance Board; Adrian Mandeville and Celeste Willard - Board of Education; Leigh Ann Hutchinson - Planning & Zoning Commission; Ylo Anson - Zoning Board of Appeals; David Gostanian - Zoning Board of Appeals – Alternate; Gerald Wright - Fire Commission.

These residents are willing to spend time to help make Andover a great place to live by becoming a member of these boards and commissions. Please vote for these great Republicans on Monday, May 3. Your vote will be greatly appreciated.

Carol Barton, Chair
Andover Republican Town Committee

Running for School Board

To the Editor:

On May 3, I ask voting Andover residents to consider my Board of Education candidacy. My educational experiences cover all aspects of public schooling, including: 30 years teaching in three high schools and two middle schools; holding certifications in vocational agriculture, Biology and General Science; negotiating several district contracts as union rep; driving school buses (field trips) and ServSafe certified for food preparation; camp directing two summer residential camps and responsible for hiring and managing nurses, cooks, staff and counselors and maintaining adherence to all State and Federal regulations to ensure the safety and wellbeing of campers aged 8-15 years; coordinating multiple summer and vacation camps run by EASTCONN (Andover's RESC); coaching multiple sports (girls' soccer, track, hockey,

lacrosse), and advising multiple academic teams (Science Bowl, Envirothon, MATHCOUNTS, Quiz Bowl, NASA National Student Symposium), Rube Goldberg Challenge.

My ability to be a 'team player' was well-proven while serving with distinction on the Windham Water Commission for 10 years. Our team of Democrats, Republicans and Independents, working collegially and compatibly with each other and the excellent water works staff, dramatically improved the drinking water to where it now regularly earns 'best treated drinking water' honors in Connecticut.

During that decade as a water commissioner, groups opposing passage of UConn 21st century (a billion-dollar state grant) widely spread multiple falsehoods about UConn, one example being UConn had contaminated our drinking water with radioactive pollution. Writing letters to the editor and pamphleteering neighborhoods, I effectively corrected the anti-science misinformation, much of which came from several misguided Mansfield Democrats at that time.

Riverast readers who know of my active engagement with anti-science, Trump-first Republicans need not worry that I harbor any bias against true Republicans. I have never parroted one party's doctrine over another's but stand behind the facts wherever they be.

Edmund Smith – Andover

Peer Intervention

To the Editor:
After the death of George Floyd, many believed that, much like the founding fathers' attitude toward the articles of confederation, it would be better to start from scratch when it comes to the United States

See Letters, page 4

2

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Reader Forum • Reader Forum

★ Letters cont. from page 3

police force. As illogical as it may seem to some, it's indicative of a larger problem: the American public is fed up with the current states of affairs. There are constantly articles and headlines about how another Black man or woman was shot by police, or brutally beaten, or falsely accused of a crime. Something must change, and that change must come from within the police force.

So how do we solve the systemic problems that come with police officers in the United States? Sara Rahr, the director of Washington state's criminal justice training commission, proposes we use the police themselves. A longtime proponent of "peer intervention" training, Rahr believes that George Floyd's death has only strengthened the case for this to be implemented nationwide. Peer intervention training would make it so that other officers are responsible for checking their fellow man in blue, and would seek to eliminate the "no snitch" culture in the police force.

It makes sense, too. Most of us have seen the videos that circulated of the bystanders attempting to communicate with former officer Derek Chauvin. While his full body weight was on Floyd's neck, Chauvin relied on his fellow officers to keep the crowd at bay. Peer intervention training would change this by making it the other officers' responsibility to check Chauvin and any other officer acting inappropriately.

While we certainly can't scrap the police force, we all know that there are some serious problems with our current standards. If we can't change now, when will we?

Sincerely,
Paul Perkins – Colchester

Wholly Inappropriate

To the Editor:

In regards to the proposed zone change at the corner of Route 16 and Main Street, East Hampton:

Changing the zone from residential to commercial would be detrimental to the rural character, small town charm, and pedestrian friendly corner of our historic Main Street.

All three properties in the proposal including the Food Bag gas station itself are zoned residentially. The proposed demolition of 3 buildings to enable construction of a 4,500-sq. ft., 1.93-acre, 23-parking spot gas station is wholly inappropriate for the surrounding neighborhood.

The increase in traffic, littering, air pollution, light pollution and noise pollution are only some of the consequences this proposed mega gas station would bring about.

There is no need for a giant gas station at the corner of 16 and Main. There are plenty of gas stations in the area to choose from, including a brand new gas station only a quarter mile away.

The East Hampton Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) stresses how important the small town charm and rural character are to the future of East Hampton. This huge and unnecessary addition, would take away from the small town feel we experience in our beautiful and quiet town.

Planning and Zoning board members of East Hampton: please vote 'no' to this proposed zone change.

Respectfully,
Brian Avery – East Hampton

Editor's Desk continued from page 2
nance, Board of Education and Planning and Zoning Commission. Ballots can be cast from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. in the community room at Town Hall.
The next day, Tuesday, May 4, is RHAM referendum day. Folks in Andover, Hebron and Marlborough will head to the polls to vote on the regional school district's 2021-22 budget. Voting hours are again 6 a.m.-8 p.m. In Andover, the polling location is again the community room at Town Hall; in Hebron, it's Hebron Elementary School; and in Marlborough, it's Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall El-

False Narratives

Dear Colchester Residents:

In last week's *Rivereast*, Susan Demma (who lives with Police Commission Chair Jim Stavola) perpetuated a series of lies against Selectman Taras Rudko and myself regarding our support for the police. Ms. Demma made the claim that I do not support additional policing in our community. Nothing could be further from the truth.

First and foremost, it was Selectman Rudko and I who broke the news on social media regarding the removal of the School Resource Officer position. Superintendent Jeff Burt and First Selectwoman Mary Bylone publicly admitted that they were in favor of removing the position. They kept their decision secret from the public for months. If it wasn't from the public pressure that came from us breaking the story, the SRO position would be gone.

In regards to adding two additional officers, everyone on the Board of Finance agreed to a phase in approach. The concern I raised was that the crime stats being presented in a past town budget did not line up with crime stats in the current proposed town budget. There were gross discrepancies in the data. A claim was made that call volume has gone up over the years, when the opposite appears to be true based on the data provided. Furthermore, state crime stats indicate that crime in Colchester is on the decline. Apparently questioning data discrepancies and pointing out facts is the true crime these days.

Throughout my tenure on the Board of Finance, I have always supported the police department and the safety of my community. It is disheartening that a strong supporter of the first selectman is trying to discredit the honesty and integrity of those who are of a different political affiliation. Unfortunately, I'm not surprised.

Sincerely,
Andreas Bisbikos
Colchester Board of Finance

Note: While Bisbikos is a member of the Colchester Board of Finance, he is writing as an individual.

Honoring the Flag

To the Editor:

In recent months, we have seen all manner of United States' flag display. So, maybe it is time to review just what is the proper, honorable, and acceptable way to display the flag. Recently we have seen flags flown from the bed of pickup trucks, from their tailgates, and the back end of other vehicles, absorbing the vehicle exhaust in those positions. The only acceptable way to fly the flag on a vehicle is to clamp the staff on the right front fender. Here are some more points to review and some websites to read and verify.

- The United States flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, water, or merchandise.

- The United States flag should never be used as wearing apparel, bedding, or drapery. This includes face masks.

- No part of the United States flag should ever be used as a costume or athletic uniform. This includes face masks.

- The United States flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever. (It should never have anything superimposed on it, like the picture of a political candidate.)

ementary School.

But wait, there's more. Also next Tuesday, Hebron taxpayers can vote – also from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. at Hebron Elementary – on the 2021-22 town budget. Sloan Brewster has a story reviewing that budget vote in this week's *Rivereast*.

Hopefully the weather will be nice when it comes for folks to head to the polls next week. And good luck to all running in Andover.

See you next week.

- The United States flag flown at night must be properly illuminated.

- The United States flag must almost never be flown during inclement weather. It can be flown if it is a weatherproof fabric. (<https://www.usa.gov/flag> <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/4/8> <https://www.legion.org/flag/faq>)

This is all in spite of a certain political party seemingly adopting, absconding, kidnapping, the United State flag as their symbol alone. It is not.

Tricia Heldmann – Colchester

Zone Changes

To the Editor:

On May 5, we will revisit the zone change discussion which was cut short on the April 7 meeting. Please consider signing the petition to oppose this change as well as attending via Zoom invoice how changing the zoning will be detrimental to our small-town charm as well as the direct vicinity and the historical structures surrounding what long distance company Atlantic Marketing would like to build, a mega gas station.

This will be an unwelcome underused eye sore, will ruin local commerce and eliminate local businesses and reduce the number of jobs, and will be obsolete in a decade. It will make a small intersection more dangerous as well as affect the water table. Please consider attending via Zoom in May 5.

Sincerely,
Kaitlin Finn,
Lifelong Resident of EH

Defending Historic Belltown

To the Editor:

The residential area along Main Street's Historic District in East Hampton is currently under threat by Atlantis Marketing, who has petitioned the town to rezone the residential area to commercial. Atlantis intends to convert the residential area into a mega gas station, while destroying existing homes of historical value. In order to develop this property, Atlantis would need to demolish the homes currently on the lots to be rezoned.

The Belltown Historic District encompasses "roughly Main St. between W. High St. and CT 16, and portions of cross streets W. High, Barton Hill-Summit, and Skinner" according to the National Register of Historic Places ([nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm)) and is of significant historical value to Connecticut for its architectural, industrial, economic, and social history. East Hampton's own Plan for Conservation and Development states that the "major development issues facing East Hampton include: guiding more appropriate residential development; attracting appropriate commercial and industrial development; and improving the appearance of commercial and industrial development; protecting the quality of surface and ground water."

The construction proposal in the application calls for increased gas pumps, including underground tanks, a 4,500-sq. ft. convenience store with drive-thru window, sitting on nearly two acres – almost 500% larger than the existing Food Bag location. This expansion encompasses – and destroys – multiple current residential lots, while increasing traffic at a residential intersection within short distance of Memorial School, Belltown Daycare, and dozens of historic homes. Giving away the history and charm of Belltown Historic District for an expansion of a dying, and already overserved, fossil fuel industry is not in the best interests of East Hampton, either short- or long-term. Please make your voices heard at the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting on May 5.

Jordan Werme – East Hampton

Setting the Record Straight

To the Editor:

I'm responding to the letter to the editor posted by Susan Demma in last week's paper. First, a definition. Merriam-Webster: a liar – "One who lies; a person who knowingly utters falsehood; one who deceives by false report or representation."

At no point was public policing suggested as a replacement; however, I discussed it as an effective force multiplier with the FS, Resident Trooper and Stavola. It was added to the budget book as a program, so there is consensus on the implementation of a program.

Numbers matter. In the presentation supporting

two additional police officers the numbers didn't match the previous year's budget book. In fact, crime and call volume have been trending downward.

I clearly stated my support of the additional two officers to reduce their burden; however, I don't believe the public should have a false expectation that the additions will reduce crime. In fact, the FS, Resident Trooper and Stavola all believe that the number of officers to have a proactive policing capability is far greater than two.

I have always supported our law enforcement, whether that was for past funding or for calling out our elected officials and administrators for attempting to remove the town's SRO.

I have, however, made a mistake. When Mr. Stavola interviewed before the BOS for the position of Police Commissioner, Rosemary Cole, Denise Mizla and Mary Bylone all spoke highly of Mr. Stavola's previous service on that commission. What they neglected to reveal was that he was removed for ethical violations. As a result of that important omission, I voted to support Mr. Stavola, and that was a mistake.

By the way, Demma and Stavola cohabit the same address in Colchester.

Taras W. Rudko – Colchester

Note: Rudko is a member of the Colchester Board of Selectmen, but is writing as an individual.

Capital Gains Taxes

To the Editor:

It is soon to be Election Day for our local towns' operating and education budgets. To get or, confiscate, this money, our real estate property is taxed.

Property tax is based on the assessed value of the property. The assessed value estimates a reasonable market value based on prevailing local market conditions and the assessor's opinion. Property assessments are conducted every three or four years.

On a nationwide scale, Connecticut homeowners pay the fourth-highest property taxes in the U.S. The state's average effective property tax rate is 2.14%.

Connecticut is unusual in that the towns/cities are responsible for administering property taxes.

Owners of real estate are usually making a long term, many years, investment.

Taking the about facts, it is apparent that the town taxes the unrealized gains of our property value and the unrealized gains are determined by the town assessment. It is possible to contest the assessment but it is usually impossible to win the contest short of a costly experience in the nearest Superior Court room.

Please also note that we pay a sales tax to buy, and a capital gain tax when we sell. (Not to the town.)

Interesting to note this is a lose-lose situation for town and owner.

The more you tax, the less you get. This means the owner paying a lower tax has a high capital gain and if the value of the property increases with lower taxes the tax revenue increases for the town with the next owner of the property. That is why capital gains should be on realized gains only. (Why maintain your property to increase the assessed taxed value?)

The proof of this is the following often-heard statement: "I wouldn't live in that town; the taxes are too high."

Victor Congdon – Portland

Disturbing Zone Change

To the Editor:

As an East Hampton resident, I am deeply disturbed by Atlantis Marketing Group's requested zone changes to the corner of Route 16 and our historic and scenic Main Street. Every single structure in that area, including the existing service station, is zoned residential, and has been for thirty years. This is a neighborhood, not a strip mall. Our existing residential zoning exists precisely to prevent such needless, soulless, unwanted over-development as AMG is seeking to create.

This zone change, if pushed through against the clear and fervent opposition of the surrounding community, will not just cause irreparable environmental and aesthetic damage, it will mar the history, charm, and beauty that makes East Hampton a uniquely wonderful town. It does my heart good to see the dozens of signs all over town opposing this change, and the almost two hundred pages in letters of opposition that have already been submitted to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

I look forward to joining all my neighbors and fellow local small business owners at the May 5th,

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Reader Forum • Reader Forum

7 p.m. on Zoom, Planning and Zoning Commission meeting where we will continue the important and worthy work of saving our town from unwanted spot commercial zoning.

Respectfully,
Kate Avery – East Hampton

Supports Tripp

To the Editor:

This November, Portland will have a change in leadership as we elect a new first selectman. I was very happy to see Jim Tripp announce his candidacy last week. And of course, this past Saturday I found him doing what he does best: volunteering his time for a cleanup project on the Air Line Trail so that Portland residents can continue to enjoy this great outdoor recreation site.

I have known Jim for a number of years and served with him on the Board of Education. I truly admire Jim's commitment to the town of Portland and community service. He has demonstrated this commitment over and over through both his long list of volunteer work, as well as an elected member of both the Board of Education and the Board of Selectmen. Jim is kind, patient, extremely dedicated, and will bring a great deal of business and community service experience to the position.

Over the coming months leading to our local election in November please take some time to listen to Jim and his ideas and vision for moving Portland forward. I can guarantee that you will see him out and about meeting with and listening to all Portland residents.

Please join me in supporting Jim Tripp as our next first selectman.

Andrea Alfano – Portland

Not Entirely Peaceful

To the Editor:

BLM a peaceful movement? Not entirely. Infiltrated by nefarious elements whose presence BLM does not refute, BLM apparently welcomes the frightful intimidation in support of their cause. During last summer's rioting it was difficult to differentiate between the rabble and the righteous in the TV news footage. And without mainstream media coverage of the rioting, looting and burning, the differentiation was impossible for those averse to non-mainstream Fox News.

In their comments, before the Derek Chauvin trial was even decided, Biden and Harris spoke of the "protests" last summer without mentioning the riotous looting and burning, an omission that can be construed as implied endorsement of the rabble.

Peter Kushkowski
"Almost Heaven"
Portland

Keep Zone Residential

To the Editor:

On May 5, the East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission will continue the public hearing on the zone change application by Atlantis Marketing, requesting a zone change from residential to commercial for 157 Main St. and 1 & 5 Colchester Ave. (Route 16) in order to expand the current Food Bag/Citgo gas station. The expansion would double the number of gas pumps and quadruple the building size to include a drive-thru restaurant/convenience store.

As a resident living about 500 feet away from the current store I strongly oppose this request for a zone change. Residential zones exist for a reason – to protect the residential character and integrity of a neighborhood. Having a small commercial operation that is grandfathered in at the current location was acceptable, and everyone that has bought a house here knew what they were getting in the neighborhood. No one here signed up for a large scale commercial operation that will cause much traffic, light, and noise and trash pollution. This is why zoning regulations exist, to protect residents and home owners from unanticipated commercial development that is not appropriate.

At the April 7 P&Z meeting, I learned that the property that the Citgo station occupies was zoned residential in 1990. The commission and the citizens of East Hampton had the foresight then to make it more difficult for business zoning to encroach on residential areas, not easier. I urge today's commissioners to uphold that promise to the residents, and to preserve the residential neighborhood on our historic Main Street. If you agree with me, please let your voices be heard at the next P&Z meeting or write a letter opposing residential to commercial zone changes to the P&Z Commissioners c/o Jeremy Decarli, jdecarli@easthamptonct.gov.

Irene Kuck – East Hampton

DTC-Endorsed Candidates

To the Editor:

Candidates endorsed by the Andover Democratic Town Committee include Democrats and unaffiliated individuals with experience, leadership skills and the desire to give back to our community.

Our candidates have a combined experience of 51 years in education, 35 years in engineering, an MBA in finance, operating budgets of over \$3.5 million, supervising a diverse group of over 500 employees on a global scale, a BA in criminal justice, as well as technical expertise.

Our Board of Education candidates have taught subjects including biodiversity, math and problem-solving, participated in science competitions, a Master Naturalist program teaching the ecosystems of Connecticut, animals and plants that inhabit our area, and current conservation issues affecting our wildlife and natural resources.

The Andover Democratic Caucus and Democratic Town Committee has endorsed the following candidates for the May 3, 2021 municipal town elections:

Board of Finance: Marc Brinker and Robert Eng-

land

Board of Education: Gerard Cremé and Ed Smith.
Planning and Zoning Commission: Steve Nelson and Brian Briggs.

Planning and Zoning Alternate: Susan England.
Zoning Board of Appeals: Gerard Cremé and Walter Weir.

Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate: Mary Holer.
Fire Commissioner: Scott Yeomans.

These candidates are professionals willing to volunteer their skills and knowledge towards the improvement and advancement of Andover. Most of all, these people want to bring unity and cooperation between boards. Progress comes from working together; being open to ideas and opinions that may differ from your own. Our main goal is to do what is best for Andover. Please vote for our Democratic and unaffiliated candidates on May 3.

Questions can be sent to the Andover Democratic Town Committee at: andoverctdems@gmail.com

Catherine Magaldi-Lewis, Chair
Andover Democratic Town Committee

Thank You

To the Editor:

The Seeds of Hope Mission Group at the Congregational Church of East Hampton would like to thank this year's sponsors and supporters for helping us put on another successful Seeds of Hope race/walk Saturday, April 24, on the Air Line Trail. Without all of you this race could not happen and we appreciate that many of you continue to be with us year after year.

Thank you to Edwards Financial Services, Eric Thompson and Barbara at DATTCO, Spencer Funeral Home, Greco Design, Suburban Stationers, Carl Guild Realtor, Attorney Ken Barber, Cibula Plumbing and Heating, Turnkey Solutions and Alan Hurst.

We hope in 2022 we can safely resume our mission trips and spread more Seeds of Hope.

Seeds of Hope Mission Group
Congregational Church of East Hampton

Colchester Budgets

To the Editor:

On May 4, the revised 2021-22 Colchester town and school budgets will be presented at a public hearing.

Since the first Public Hearing on April 6, the Board of Finance has had nearly 30 hours of board and citizen discussion over six meetings reviewing and changing the revenue and expense amounts. With one more workshop scheduled before the public hearing, the board has voted to send a budget to public hearing that uses a combination of some increased revenue projections, Board of Education reduction of \$275,000, town reductions of about \$172,000 and the use of fund balance to reduce the proposed amount to be raised by taxes by \$835,000. The mill rate on the budgets originally presented was plus 1.77 mills, after the Board of Finance changes, they are at plus 1.00 mil or +2.95%. There was no increase in the 2020-21 mil rate.

After the presentations of the revised budgets, taxpayers and voters can ask questions and make comments on the budgets presented. Plan to attend to comment on the changes and the current tax increase as presented.

The Public Hearing will be via Zoom and begin at 6:30 p.m. Check the town website for the link.

Although there is still some discussion of the following dates to take place after the submission of this letter to the paper, the current calendar shows

taxpayers voting at the annual town budget meeting planned for May 19, after which point the voters and taxpayers will vote at a referendum planned for May 27. Any updates to these dates will be posted on the town website.

Rob Tarlov, Chairman
Board of Finance

Update on State Budget

To the Editor:

As the budget process gets underway, the revenue package recently approved by the Finance Committee is a sign that new taxes are very much on the table.

Combined with a spending package approved by the Appropriations Committee, these bills form the basis from which legislative leaders negotiate on a two-year budget. That budget must win the governor's approval before the session ends at midnight on June 9.

The revenue bill was advanced on a party-line vote, with all Democratic members of the committee voting in favor of nearly \$1.9 billion in new taxes over the next two years.

This includes proposed sales taxes on recreational marijuana and online gaming (both which are yet to be legalized), a new consumption tax, a capital gains surcharge, a statewide property tax and a mileage-based highway fee for certain tractor trailers and heavy trucks.

While there are some aspects of the bill that I support – like a child tax credit for families, sales tax relief for restaurants, and tax-exempt status for personal IRAs – I can't help but object to new taxes for Connecticut residents at a time when the state already expects to receive nearly \$2 billion in federal aid and is carrying a \$3 billion rainy day fund balance into 2021.

Compare this proposal, introduced without any Republican support in the legislature, with the last state budget.

In 2018, Republicans and Democrats were near-equal partners during budget negotiations. At the negotiating table, we fought to include critical fiscal responsibility measures in the final budget that yielded as much as \$3 billion in savings for the state.

Thankfully, we're still early on in this process. But the sooner those conversations take place, the better the end result for our residents.

Sincerely,
State Rep. Robin Green
R-55th District

Note: The 55th Assembly District covers Andover, Bolton, Hebron and Marlborough.

Residents Need the Facts

Dear Colchester Residents,

To understand our town budget, and its fiscal impact on our citizens, residents need the facts.

The grand list rose 1.5% equal to \$620,000 of new tax dollars. Blume Energy's fuel cell will provide Colchester an additional \$455,000 of revenue per year for 20 years beginning 2022 or 2023.

The town budget assesses residents' needs and postponed many capital improvements. The budget focuses on all Colchester citizens.

Our Town will benefit from two new policemen. Through phased-in hiring, the budgeted amount will equal the cost of one policeman this year.

Our children will benefit from the irrigation of one

of the fields (phase-in plan), the fixing of a basketball court and the replacement of playground equipment. These repairs and improvements focus on our children's safety. InCord has donated most of the new playground equipment. The budget will pay for installation costs.

A modest increase was added to the Open Space account. Open Space preserves the rural and agricultural beauty of Colchester. A small sum will be added to sponsor a health fair for seniors and our community. There is no money in the budget for the proposed new senior center.

Facts from the assessor: a one mill increase on the average residential assessment would be \$165. The mean residential assessment tax bill would not increase more than \$13.09 in any one year due to the proposed bonding chart for the fire apparatus and senior center combined. (year 5 on, no impact or decreases)

Some citizens provide "facts" on social media; please check their accuracies. You may do that by emailing townbudget@colchesterct.gov, where a town professional will provide an accurate answer, or attending the public hearing on May 4.

Complete knowledge and understanding of our town budget will ensure approval at referendum.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Coyle – Colchester

Note: Coyle is a member of the Colchester Board of Selectmen, but said she is writing as an individual.

Less Equals More

To Marlborough Taxpayers:

In the Marlborough section of last week's *Riverast*, there is the article entitled "Finance Board Sends Budget to Voters." The article reflects how some capital items slated for next year would be moved to the current fiscal year and paid for with a proposed budget surplus for this fiscal year. The article also reflected how the RHAM surplus, change in amount of money going into reserves and rearranging budget items would help reduce the overall town budget increase resulting in lowering the current mill rate from 36.27 to 35.84. There was an example of how the reduced mill rate would lower the taxes paid on property assessed at \$250,000. I am not questioning any of these budget actions. What I am questioning is that the information in the article implies that taxpayers will pay less in property taxes for the next fiscal year.

The article left out one very important component when determining one's property tax: reassessment. In the example of the property assessed at \$250,000, the property tax would be less only if reassessment keeps the property at its current assessment. I doubt this happened. Reassessment on my little 1,150-sq-ft. home increased the value by \$6,700. Using the lower mill rate, my taxes increase by \$186. While the article implies that your taxes will be less due to the lower mill rate, in actuality, you'll probably be paying more.

I would urge you to calculate your property taxes for next year using the new reassessment amount and mill rate (new reassessment/1,000*35.84=new tax amount).

The budget vote is on Tuesday, May 4th from 6am-8pm at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School.

Cliff Dennis – Marlborough

See Letters, page 21

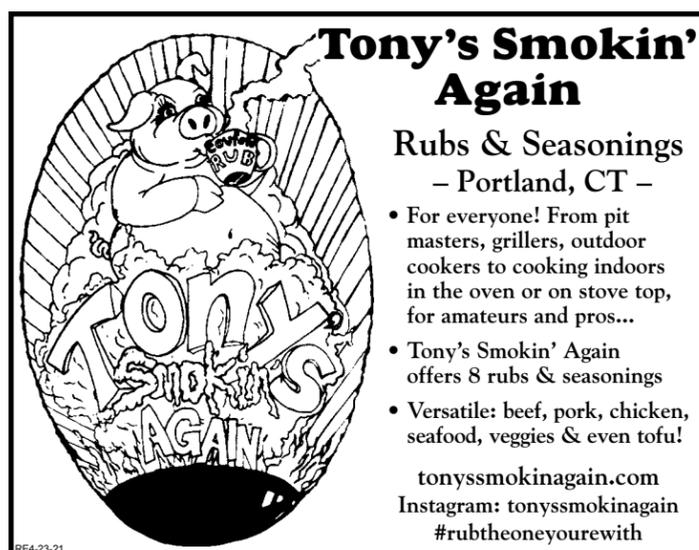


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Arrest Made in Fatal Car Crash

by Jack Lakowsky

Adam Lopez, a 41-year-old Hartford man, was charged last week with second-degree manslaughter in connection with a car crash last fall that claimed the life of a Portland woman.

Traci Carey, 51, died in the Nov. 5 head-on collision. She left behind two young daughters. The girls had already lost their father in 2005, when he died of cancer.

In addition to manslaughter, Lopez was charged with improper passing, failure to drive in a proper lane, driving with a suspended license, operating an unregistered car and insufficient insurance.

In Connecticut, manslaughter in the second degree carries a maximum jail time of 10 years and is a Class C felony.

Lopez himself incurred a serious head injury in the crash and was helicoptered to Hartford Hospital.

Lopez is currently in custody with a \$250,000 bond, according to the state judicial website.

Lopez has not yet entered a plea. He is due in court May 10.

On Nov. 5, Carey's Honda Fit was struck near the intersection of Route 17/Glastonbury Turnpike and Apple Tree Lane by a Honda Accord driven by Lopez. Route 17 was closed for several hours.

While Portland Police did not return calls for comment for this story, Officer Daniel Brown said last fall the crash investigation was hampered by the fact that no witnesses saw the exact moment of impact. Good Samaritans intervened in the wreck, but their testimonies were about conditions following the collision, he said.

Brown said although civilian intervention can be an asset, he stressed that emergency officials need to be called first before a Samaritan tries to help.

"I know I wouldn't be able to just stand by

and do nothing," Brown said at the time. "Call 9-1-1, then see if there's anything you can do."

Shortly after Carey's death, her two daughters, both in their early 20s, along with friends and family, organized a GoFundMe page to help pay for expenses associated with laying their mother to rest.

As of Tuesday afternoon, donations have reached \$18,245 of the \$25,000 they're looking to raise. The page can be visited at www.gofundme.com/traci-carey-memorial-fund.

Money raised from the GoFundMe will also help the young women pay for their ongoing college education and housing. All donations will go directly to the pair.

"At this time when our world is filled with such uncertainty and unrest, we hope you can help us show Nicole and Tarrah that there is also tremendous goodness and love," the GoFundMe description reads.

The page describes Carey as a beautiful and loving mother "whose world revolved around her daughters."



Adam Lopez

Exchange Club Golf Tourney

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

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

Red Cross Blood Drive

There will be an American Red Cross Blood Drive Thursday, May 13, from 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m., at St. Mary Church, 51 Freestone Ave.

Donors will receive a \$5 Amazon.com gift card by email, and will be automatically entered for a chance to win a travel trailer camper that sleeps five.

Appointments can be made by downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

Church Collecting for New Horizons

The Missions Board of First Congregational Church will host a collection of items Saturday, May 8, from noon-2 p.m., in the church parking lot at 554 Main St. Items will be donated to New Horizons in Middletown, an agency assisting victims of domestic violence in Middlesex County.

The New Horizons Emergency Shelter is open 24/7 for individuals and their families. Each year, the agency helps over 1,000 women, children, and men by providing community education, support groups, individual counseling, court advocacy, and a confidential hotline service. Consultation to the Community Health Center's clinical provider teams is always available as well.

Many items are needed, such as, for children, art supplies for a range of ages, educational games, coloring books, bikes, hula hoops, and other outdoor games and activities. Gift cards to outings for children are also sought, as are gift cards for adults to purchase groceries, gasoline and clothing. Uber cards and pre-paid phones and minutes are also helpful, the church said. Also needed: household items such as dishes, pots and pans, silverware, coffee makers; new towels, washcloths and pillows; and personal hygiene items.

For more information, call the church at 860-342-3244.

Parks and Rec. News & Notes

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

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 have returned. The May clinic will meet on four Saturdays starting May 15 and costs \$85, and the June clinic will meet 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.

Boat America – Online Boating Safety Course: May 17, 18 and 24, 6:30-9 p.m., via Zoom. Fee: \$60; additional participant fee is \$55 each.

Community Garden 2021: All are welcome to grow their favorite vegetable, flower or herb. The garden is located in Bransfield Park

on Rose Hill Road. Gardeners can purchase a 10x10 plot for the summer for \$30. Plots are limited; register online or contact Parks and Rec. as soon as possible to reserve one.

Virtual Paint Night: Thursday, May 20, 7-9 p.m., via Zoom. The theme is Van Gogh Sunflowers. Each participant will receive a canvas board and paints for the evening. Fee: \$22. Paint brushes can be purchased if needed for an add-on fee of \$5.

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. Applications are at portland.recdesk.com. For more, 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.recdesk.com.

Skyhawks: Registration is open for summer sports camps, such as Mini-Hawk, Sports and Games, Tennis, Track and Field, and Flag Football with USA Football. These programs start in July, but register soon.

Youth Poetry Contest

The Portland Parks and Recreation Youth Poetry Contest is open to children in grades 5 and 6 who live or attend school in town.

Entries will be accepted through May 17, and the top three winners will be announced May 27 at an awards ceremony on Zoom. Each winner will have the option of performing their poem during the ceremony.

The winning poems will be compiled with other top entries and published; the book will be added to the catalog of Portland Library and put on display.

For more information, visit portland.recdesk.com or contact Andy Dionne at 860-342-6757 or adionne@portlandct.org for help submitting your poem.

Police News

4/13: James Dixon, 64, of Middletown, was charged with driving under the influence and driving an unregistered motor vehicle, Portland Police said.

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Bill Peterson Memorial Scholarship

Portland Soccer Club is offering the \$500 Bill Peterson Memorial Scholarship to a high school senior headed to college or a post-high school institution – and applications are due May 1.

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

For applications, go to tinyurl.com/y6c2by2z.

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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 is continuing its 10:30 Zoom Sunday services indefinitely. More information is at 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.

For more information or to make an appointment with the Rev. Darryl Burke, email trinitychurchportlandct@gmail.com or call 860-342-0458.

Portland • Portland



Dorothy Black Caden Mazzotta Justin Renk Kylie Walsh

Four PHS Seniors Honored

Portland High School seniors Dorothy Black, Caden Mazzotta, Justin Renk and Kylie Walsh were recently honored by the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS).

Renk and Walsh received the CAS Scholar Athlete Award. The Scholar Athlete Program annually recognizes two high school seniors – one boy and one girl – whose academic and athletic careers have been deemed exemplary.

Renk is the son of Jennifer and Jeffrey Renk and has been a member of the cross country and

track teams. Walsh is the daughter of Kristin and Peter Walsh, and has been a member of the PHS cheerleading and tennis teams.

Black and Mazzotta, meanwhile, are this year's CAS High School Arts Award winners. Annually, CAS honors two outstanding seniors from each of the member schools in the state who excel in the performing or visual arts. Scholarship and leadership are also criteria in selecting the award recipients.

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.

On Sunday, May 2, worship will be held at 10 a.m. in the Memorial Garden behind the church, weather permitting. New members will be received into the fellowship of the church on that date. Social distancing and masks are required and attendees should bring a chair. In the event of inclement weather, the service will be held in the sanctuary, with only the participants present. The indoor service will be available on the church's YouTube channel as it is taking place. All services (both outdoor and indoor) will be available on YouTube for those who wish to worship at a later time. Information regarding

whether the service will be held outdoors or indoors will be available on the church website, www.firstchurchportlandct.org, on Saturday.

The church's facilities board will sponsor a spring clean-up of church grounds on Saturday, May 1, beginning at 9 a.m. Also on Saturday, church member Beau Doherty will lead a Spring Wildflower Walk at Henry Buck Trail at 9:30 a.m. This trail offers many different wildflowers in one location. A caravan of cars will leave the church at 8:30 a.m.

To join church mailing lists (both email and regular mail), email 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 the church website.

Renters' Rebate Program

Select people are able to apply for Renters' Rebate; the period to apply runs through Sept. 30.

People are eligible if they have been a state resident for at least one year and were either age 65 or older on Dec. 21, 2020, or 50 and over but the surviving spouse of a renter who was eligible at the time of death. People may also qualify if they are under the age of 65 but eligible for permanent total disability benefits under Social Security. Qualifying income guidelines must be met.

Strict guidelines will be followed for appointments, and masks must be worn. Call Mary Pont at The Waverly Center in Portland at 860-342-6760 to make an appointment.

Garden Clubs' Plant Sale

Portland Garden Club and the Portland River Valley Garden Club will hold their annual Plant Sale Saturday, May 15, in the parking lot at 265 Main St., next to the Town Green and Police Station. The sale will run from 8:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. or whenever all plants are sold.

Many of the plants will be perennials from the gardens of members of the two clubs. There will also be an assortment of annuals, groundcovers, herbs, and vegetable plants for sale. The sale will also feature a variety of gently-used garden related items.

Admission is free, with all proceeds benefiting the garden clubs' projects. Masks and social distancing rules will apply. Rain date is Sunday, May 16. For more information or to donate plants, call Sue at 860-685-0593 or Amanda at 860-262-0036.

Zion Lutheran Church News

Zion Lutheran Church, located at 183 William St., is planning to hold outdoor, in-person worship this Sunday, weather permitting, in the upper parking lot behind the church. Because of continually- changing conditions, check the church website, zionlutheranportland.org, for the most current information.

Attendees should wear a mask and bring their own chair. The church building will not be open for restrooms or other reasons. Attendees should also use caution in the parking lots as they will both be used for entering and exiting the church grounds. If the weather is questionable, cancellations will be announced by email and on the church website.

A recording of each week's service is posted

online by 9 a.m. the following Monday. Search "Zion Lutheran Church Portland CT" on YouTube and on Facebook. Bulletins for each service are on the church website.

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

Sara Stall-Ryan is pastor. The community is welcome to 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 or visit zionlutheranportland.org.

Portland Library News & Notes

Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave., has announced the following. Registration required unless noted. For more info and full program descriptions, visit www.portlandlibraryct.org or call 860-342-6770. The library is also on Facebook and Instagram.

Library Reopens: Face masks for those over the age of two, social distancing and use of sanitizer upon entering are required. Browsing is allowed and walk-ins are welcome, though appointments are recommended, as the number of visitors is limited. Call ahead to book an appointment. Computers and wireless access in the building are available by appointment. Curbside delivery of requested items continues; call the library, or reserve items online.

Holiday Closing: The library will be close Monday, May 31, for Memorial Day.

Museum Passes: Many area museums and attractions are now open and the library offers several passes for free or discounted admission. To reserve a pass, go to the library website and click on 'Museum Passes' or call the library.

2020 Federal Tax Forms: Forms and instructions are available at the library; forms are due May 17 this year. Come into the library to get them or request curbside delivery.

Youth Programs: Online Storytime: Tuesdays at 10 a.m., May 4-June 8, via Zoom. Registration is required for each week; space is limited. Supplies can be picked up in advance. A Zoom link will be provided within 24 hours of each program.

Family Craft Night: Mother's Day Flowers and Vases: Wednesday, May 5, 7 p.m. This

craft has steps that are appropriate for all ages and family members. Supplies can be picked up in advance; a Zoom link will be provided within 24 hours of the event. Registration is required and space is limited.

Teen Program: Sherlock in a Box Take-Home Escape Room: Teens in grades 6 and up are invited to pick up an at-home escape room kit to solve on their own. Sherlock Holmes has recently discovered that Professor Moriarty is planning on releasing a deadly virus inside Parliament in London. There is an antidote locked in a safe in his mansion, and you must unravel the clues and find the code to unlock the safe.

A Taste of Tourism: Thursdays through May 13, 3:30 p.m., via Zoom, for grades K-5. Registration required; space is limited.

Adult Programs: All held via Zoom. Join through the Zoom link on the Library webpage. The ID is 8603426777 and the Passcode is Portland.

Mystery Lovers Book Club: Tuesday, May 18, 1 p.m. *Still Midnight* by Denise Mina will be discussed.

Eco-Safari of the Connecticut River Watershed: Tuesday, May 25, 6:30 p.m. Conservation biologist Jim Arrigoni, from the Connecticut Audubon Society, will lead a virtual tour of the Connecticut River watershed. This program is supported by the Friends of Portland Library.

Portland Forum: Thursday, May 27, 7 p.m. *Lost Kingdom: Hawaii's Last Queen, the Sugar Kings, and America's First Imperial Venture* by Julia Flynn Siler will be discussed. Books are available at the library.

KoC Takeout Dinner

The Freestone Council Knights of Columbus will serve a takeout pasta dinner Wednesday, May 5, at the Church of Saint Mary, 45 Freestone Ave. Servings are from 4-6 p.m.

Dinner includes homemade pasta and meatballs, salad and roll. Cost is for \$10, or \$30 for a family serving. Proceeds support the Knights' charitable giving.

No preorder is necessary. On the day of the meal, chefs are available at 860 342- 2713 for any questions. For home delivery of dinners, call John McNickle at 860-342-1415.

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Colchester • Colchester

National Day of Prayer Returns May 6

Tuesday, May 6, marks the 70th anniversary of the National Day of Prayer and Colchester will hold its 12th annual celebration of the day at 6 p.m. on the Town Green.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, last year's event was relocated to the parking lot of Abundant Life Church off Route 16, using conference call networking. This year's event will return to the Town Green, with the expectation of social distancing and masks.

Participants will pray for government, military, fire department, police department, media, businesses, schools, churches and families. Several area pastors and lay leaders will guide the prayers.

For more information, contact Colleen Bjorbekk, New London County coordinator for the National Day of Prayer, at bjorbekcol@comcast.net or 860-537-1609.



Colchester will hold its 12th annual celebration of the National Day of Prayer on the Town Green Thursday, May 6, at 6 p.m., on the Town Green. Pictured here is Jon Brown, the worship leader at Abundant Life Church, at last year's event.

Children's Programs at Cragin Library

The following programs are offered for children at Cragin Memorial Library. While the library is currently open, it is not hosting any in-person programming. For more information and full program descriptions, call the children's department at 860-537-7201. The library is located at 8 Linwood Ave.

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

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

Milestone Moments: Fridays at 10:30 a.m. on Facebook and YouTube. Activity bags will be available for many sessions.

Baby Storytime Sign-Ups: Tuesdays, June 1-29, 10:30 a.m., at Cohen Woodlands. Best for ages birth-2 years. Registration required and space is limited; registration opens May 3.

Weather cancellations will be listed on Facebook. Physical distancing will be required and masks will need to be worn upon arrival, departure, and any time being socially distant isn't possible.

Horse Take & Make Craft Bag: Saturday, May 1. Pick up a horse book from the library's display as well.

May the Fourth be With You: Tuesday, May 4. It's *Star Wars* Day. Head to the library for a Take & Make Craft Bag.

Potato Head Take & Make Craft Bag: Monday, May 10. Create your own Potato Head.

Foodie Fun: Pool Krispie Treats: Saturday, May 15, 10:30 a.m., for kids and teens. Pick up the Take & Make Bag and watch the video on the social media channels.

Farm Puppet Take & Make Craft Bag: Monday, May 17, all ages.

Popsicle Take & Make Craft Bag: Monday, May 24. Decorate a paper Popsicle.

Giving Garden to Start Season

The Colchester Giving Garden will soon start its ninth season of growing and donating fresh vegetables. All produce grown is donated to the town food bank and area soup kitchens.

This is a volunteer-run entity, and no experience in gardening is necessary to volunteer. Also, organizers are accepting monetary donations to help improve and expand the garden. Donations can be recognized with a written note if desired.

For more information on volunteering or donating, email colchestergivinggarden@gmail.com.

Cragin Book Club

The Cragin Book Club will meet Monday, May 24, at 6 p.m., at the library, 8 Linwood Ave. Jane Harper's *The Dry* will be discussed. Copies are available for checkout at the Adult Circulation Desk.

If the weather is good, the club will meet at the Colchester Giving Garden, which is located behind Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave. Bring a chair. If the weather is bad, the club will meet via Zoom. To register for the Zoom link, go to tinyurl.com/4yvkb9.

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

Climate Today and in Earth's Past

Cragin Memorial Library will present "Ch-Ch-Changes: Climate Today and in Earth's Past" Thursday, May 20, at 6 p.m., via Zoom.

Tom Reershemius from the Yale Peabody Speakers Bureau will delve into the record of climate through Earth's history to find evidence for past changes, and ask what – if anything – is different this time.

This session will not be recorded. To sign up, go to tinyurl.com/45u69tc. For more information, call 860-537-5752.

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.

While the building remains closed to the public, there is in-person Sunday worship at 9 a.m. each week. Attendance is limited to 40 people total. Reservations are required. Call or email the church office by Friday at 9 a.m. to reserve a spot. Worship is also broadcast each Sunday via Facebook Live.

Worship videos are at www.colchesterfederatedchurch.org under the Worship & Sermons tab. Updated information is also on the church's Facebook page.

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Senior Center to Reopen to Public May 3

by Karla Santos

Gerrie Transue – a Colchester senior who enjoys staying active in the community – misses volunteering and participating in the in-person activities at the Colchester Senior Center, which has been closed to the public since the COVID-19 pandemic began over a year ago.

But it won't be long until Transue sees her friends and participates in those activities again – as the Colchester Senior Center, located at 95 Norwich Ave., will reopen to the public effective May 3.

"I think we are all very happy that it's reopening," Transue said. "We are waiting with bated breath. So many activities, so many of our friends, we haven't been able to participate with, and so this is something we've been looking forward to for over a year."

She said what she misses the most about the senior center is seeing her friends.

"I miss the people that work there because of course they've become friends to us," Transue added.

She noted that the virtual programs are not the same as attending them in person, which is also why she's thrilled about reopening.

She said she feels this is the right time for reopening.

"I have great confidence that the staff at the senior center will do everything to keep us as safe as they can," she said.

She explained that despite the restrictions that will be in place, she thinks "it's important for us to see each other."

Patty Watts, senior center director, told the *RiverEast* that although the facilities have not been opened to the public since March 2020, senior center staff has maintained services.

"We found other ways to deliver the services throughout the pandemic," Watts said.

One of those has been meals. Seniors had been able to go in the senior center building and dine with each other. That hasn't been the case since the pandemic began – but they've still been receiving sustenance.

Watts explained the senior center has three ways through which it is providing meals. With the grab-and-go meals option, seniors with transportation can go to the center and pick up a meal. The senior center also offers home-delivered meals for seniors who need transportation assistance, and the Meals on Wheels program, which is specific for people who are considered to be homebound.

Another service the senior center was able to offer in the early stages of the pandemic was wellness check calls.

"All of our nearly 1,400 members received personal phone calls on a regular basis from the staff members," Watts said.

The senior center also implemented virtual programming with platforms such as Zoom. Watts noted that a lot of the activities the senior center held in person prior to the pandemic, were being offered virtually throughout the pandemic.

A service the senior center has been able to continue to hold in person – with the necessary restrictions – is one-on-one social services appointments.

The senior center has also been able to open up for other special occasions such as Medicare open enrollment events, COVID-19 vaccine clinics in cooperation with the Chatham Health District and free tax preparation appointments.

"We are excited to reintroduce some in-person programming and take that next step towards being fully reopened," Watts said.

She noted many members of the senior center participated in the virtual activities offered throughout the pandemic – but technology has played a role in it.

While many of the senior center members are familiar with technology such as smart phones, other members are not into technology.

"So that's a challenge and we had to kind of think outside the box to provide some low tech programs so we could include people," Watts said.

She said the senior center staff arranged the delivery of activity packets to seniors' homes including puzzles, games and coloring sheets.

In addition, the senior center held weekly conference call Bingo; as long as seniors had a phone, they could call in and participate.

"We really took on the challenge of trying to meet the needs of all of our seniors," Watts said.

said.

When Watts was asked what the most exciting part about reopening is to her, she said, getting to see the seniors again.

"We've really missed our people," Watts said. "We are a part of their lives but they are a part of our lives too and they are the best part of what we do."

Watts noted that not being able to see the seniors and interact with them in person has been a "real challenge" for the staff of the senior center.

"Anyone that works with elder adults does it because they love people and so not being able to see them has been the biggest challenge," Watts said.

According to Watts, she has been working closely with the Chatham Health District and First Selectman Mary Bylone to determine the reopening date and the safety protocols that will be implemented at the senior center.

She said all of the senior centers within the Chatham Health District worked in collaboration to put together a regional reopening plan.

She said knowing that many seniors have been vaccinated against COVID-19 has played a role in the reopening decision. The senior center will continue to take precautions such as wearing masks, social distancing and hand washing to ensure a safe reopening.

For more information, call the Colchester Senior Center at 860-537-3911.

Car Wash Saturday

A Car Wash will be held Saturday, May 1, from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m., at Advanced Auto Parts on Linwood Avenue. Donation is \$10, which benefits the Bacon Academy Girls Lacrosse team through the Boosters Club.

Mother's Day Flower Sale

Boy Scout Troop 72 will hold its 20th annual Mother's Day flower sale Friday and Saturday, May 7 and 8, adjacent to the Colchester Hayward Fire Department headquarters on Old Hartford Road. Hours are Friday from 5-8 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. or whenever sold out.

For sale will be a variety of hanging baskets and individual potted plants, all supplied by a local grower. All proceeds will go to support Scout camping and youth training activities.

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Lydia Lormand, DO, FACOG, is a board-certified physician specializing in obstetrics and gynecology. She completed her ObGyn residency at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, Massachusetts, after earning her Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from New York College of Osteopathic Medicine, and her

Bachelor of Science degree from Binghamton University. As a resident, she received the Practicing the Art of Medicine Award, which is given to the chief resident who displays a strong ability to integrate the foundation of evidence-based medicine with clinical intuition, empathy, and compassion.

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

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Parks and Rec. Summer Day Camp

Parks and Recreation will hold its Summer Day Camp June 28-Aug. 20 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. People may also call 860-537-7297 for more information.

Polish Dinner, Polka Music

St. Joseph's Polish Society, 395 S. Main St., will have a special homemade Polish dinner Sunday, 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.

Paint Your Own Pottery Event

All Colchester Senior Center members are invited to come to the center, 95 Norwich Ave., on Monday, May 10, to create a planter or vase. There are two sessions, at 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Pottery pieces are \$10 each. Call to register at 860-537-3911. Space is limited.

Norton Park Gifts

All are invited to become part of North Westchester history and the new Norton Park at 348 Westchester Rd. in Colchester on the site of the former C.H. Norton Paper Mill along the Jeremy River.

People can purchase an engraved brick (two sizes) for the commemorative walk or an engraved granite capstone to be placed on the low walls of the former mill for additional seating. The installation of these items will be in Phase 2 of the project, likely in 2022.

The purchase of these park commemorative items is tax-deductible. In addition to the donation acknowledgement letter, a certificate for the gift purchase may be requested with the order.

To download the Norton Park Gift fundraising flyer and form, go to www.colchesterct.gov/norton-park-committee. The flyer link is in left green margin. Information about the park, its design and a public forum presentation may be found on the same site.

Senior Center News & Notes

Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave., has announced the following. For full descriptions, call 860-537-3911, email csc@colchesterct.gov, or visit www.colchesterct.gov/senior-center. Also, the center has reopened. Refer to the senior center newsletter to see if programs are being held in-person, virtually or via conference call. The center will be closed daily from noon-1 p.m. for the disinfection of the building.

Monday, May 3: 8:30 a.m., Garden Club meeting; 9 a.m., Exercise with Anne on Zoom; 10 a.m., Sittercize on Zoom; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign with Ruth on Zoom; 2 p.m., Live Well Workshop Conference Call; noon-9 p.m., Mel's Downtown Creamery Fundraiser.

Tuesday, May 4: 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi on Zoom; 11 a.m., Adult Coloring; 1:30 p.m., Conference Call Bingo.

Wednesday, May 5: 10 a.m., Making Memories on Zoom; 10 a.m., Walking Group meet-up at the Air Line Trail; 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit Video; 10:30 a.m., Charitable Crafts; 1:30 p.m., The History of Cinco de Mayo on Zoom.

Thursday, May 6: 9 a.m., Exercise with Anne on Zoom; 10 a.m., Sittercize on Zoom; 10:30 a.m., Shopping Trip to Waterford; 11 a.m., Senior Yoga on Zoom; noon, Chair Massage; 1 p.m., Knit & Crochet.

Friday, May 7: 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit - Video; 10 a.m., Reel Friends Movie Club - *Age of Adaline* (rated PG-13); 10:30 a.m., Hearing Screening by Appointment; 11 a.m., Senior Yoga on Zoom; 1:30 p.m., Bingo; 2 p.m., New Member Welcome on Zoom.

Upcoming Programs: Garden Club: Monday, May 3, 8:30 a.m. The group will meet at the senior center the first Monday of each month to maintain the front and side gardens. All are welcome. Rain date is the following Monday.

"Communities of Strength" Zoom with the First Selectman: Monday, May 17, 2 p.m. First Selectman Mary Bylone as she recaps achievements and highlights of the town's battle with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Book Club Discussion: Tuesday, May 18, 10:30 a.m. *The Book Women of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson will be discussed. Copies are on reserve at Cragin Memorial Library. Come having read the book. Registration requested.

Welcome Back Lunch To-Go: Wednesday, May 19, 11:45 a.m. The Colchester Lions are offering a free grab-and-go lunch, catered by Noel's. To reserve a meal, call the office by May 12. Meals may sell out quickly.

Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body: Wednesday, May 19, 2 p.m., via Zoom, offered by the Commission on Aging and the Alzheimer's Association. Kristopher Sortwell, MSW, CBIS will speak about research in the areas of diet and nutrition, exercise, cognitive activity and social engagement. Registration required.

Step By Step Painting: Lakeside Sunset: Thursday, May 20, 1:30 p.m. This month, paint a sunset on the lake. Materials are \$20 or you can provide your own paint and canvas and join for free. Call the center to register.

Colchester's Historic Structures: Then and Now: Friday, May 21, 10:30 a.m., via Zoom. Gigi Liverant of the Colchester Historical Society will present.

Knit & Crochet: Thursdays at 1 p.m. All are welcome; use the center materials if you don't have your own. Registration required.

Walking Group: Wednesdays at 10 a.m., weather permitting. The group meets at the Air Line Trail entrance on Route 85 in Amston.

Care Corner with Select Physical Therapy: Tips on staying healthy at home are posted every other Thursday on the senior center's Facebook page.

Learn Sign Language with Ruth: Mondays, 11 a.m.-noon, via Zoom.

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

Ahavath Achim News

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

Friday night Zoom service, 6:30 p.m.; Saturday morning Zoom service, 10 a.m.; Tuesday, Talmud class, 6:30 p.m. on Zoom; Tuesday, Kabbalah class, 8 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.

Physical Therapy Helps...

by Kirsti Stennett, P.T.



PELVIC FLOOR PAIN

A woman's bladder, bowel, rectum and uterus are all supported by a group of muscles called the pelvic floor. These and surrounding muscles and soft tissue are often a source of pain and discomfort in many women regardless of age, or whether or not they have given birth. Pelvic pain can have many origins, but pelvic physical therapy can be helpful when the pain is related to a musculoskeletal source, such as due to muscular or scar tissue tightness/tenderness and/or muscular weakness. Pelvic physical therapy is performed by licensed physical therapists who have gone through additional specialized training in pelvic floor muscle assessment and treatment.

You deserve to have a relationship with your physical therapist that is built on the foundation of trust and empowers you to take back control of your pain or injury. If you feel the same way, schedule an appointment with one of our physical therapists today. Remember, you have the right to choose where you receive care, where it is convenient and the most comprehensive. At ECRC-Physical Therapy "Experience you can trust to get results."

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REG-2-21

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Police News

4/2: Matthew Jones, 26, of 95 Main St., was issued a summons for speeding, possession of less than half an ounce of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia, East Hampton Police said.

4/8: Nunez Aparicio, 29, of Manchester, was issued a summons for failure to obey a stop sign, misuse of plates and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, police said.

4/9: Sean Haas, 30, of Uncasville, was arrested and charged with operating under the influence, operating under suspension, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of less than half an ounce of marijuana and possession of heroin, police said.

4/12: Jaret Cooper, 39, of 74 Roberts Rd., Marlborough, was arrested for failure to drive right, operating under the influence, possession of a controlled substance and risk of injury to a minor, police said.

4/14: Four juveniles of East Hampton, one 13-year-old and three 12-year-olds, were arrested, police said. Two of the juveniles were charged with second-degree breach of peace and second-degree threatening, and the two others were charged with second-degree threatening, police said.

4/17: Ian Crowley, 36, of Hartford, was arrested and charged with failure to drive right and driving under the influence, police said.

4/17: Shalani Mckenzie, 32, of Middletown was arrested and charged with driving under the

influence, failure to drive right, failure to obey an officer's signal and possession of less than half an ounce of marijuana, police said.

4/19: Morgan Krajewski, 20, of 176 Young St., was arrested and charged with failure to drive right, driving under the influence and possession of less than half an ounce of marijuana, police said.

4/20: A 15-year-old juvenile of East Hampton was arrested and charged with third-degree assault and second-degree breach of peace, police said.

4/21: After an investigation into a car vs. pole crash with no serious injuries on East High Street, Robert A. Dickenson, 60, of 6 Daniel St., was arrested and charged with driving under the influence, operating a motor vehicle without a license and failure to drive right, police said.

4/21: After an investigation into a car vs. stone wall crash on Abbey Road, David Skwiot, 56, of 4 Abbey Rd., was arrested and charged with driving under the influence and failure to drive right, police said.

Also, from April 12-25, officers responded to five motor vehicle crashes and 18 alarms, and made 44 traffic stops, police said.

Tag Sale Save the Date

East Hampton's Town-Wide Tag Sale, sponsored by the Chatham Historical Society, will be held Saturday, June 19. Watch for more information, or call 860-267-4732.



Digger's Family Fun Day... Haddam Neck Covenant Church invites all to Digger's Family Fun Day Saturday, May 22, at 1 p.m. There will be a puppet show with Digger, his barnyard friends and Farmer M, a petting zoo and various crafts including children making their own puppet. RSVP by May 14 by calling the church office at 860-267-2336 or emailing officehnce@sbcglobal.net.

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Tim's Tips

Tim Feegel, Service Manager

Happy Spring! We're finally seeing some beautiful, seasonal temperatures so here are some safe driving tips for this time of year:

Slow down for spring showers. Did you know that roads are the most slippery when it first begins to rain? This is caused by the rainwater mixing with contaminants on the road, such as oil and grease. Make sure to increase your following distance to allow for proper braking.

Watch for animals on the move. Animal activity increases during the spring. For some, this is mating season and for others, they're waking up from their long winter slumber. Remember, deer are most active at dawn and dusk.

Share the road with motorcycles. Because of their speed and size, motorcycles may quickly come in and out of your blind spots. Always take a second to look now that motorcycles are out on the road. In addition, be courteous. Motorcycles have the same right to be on the road. If you end up following a motorcycle, maintain a safe following distance of at least four seconds.

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EHPD, Eversource Warn of 'Ruthless' Scammers

by Jack Lakowsky

The East Hampton Police Department has in recent weeks posted two warnings to Facebook about scammers trying to con money from residents by posing as Eversource officials.

East Hampton Police Chief Dennis Woessner on Monday told the *Rivereast* that these con artist callers are often very sophisticated and convincing when they tell would-be victims their electricity will soon be disconnected for lack of payment.

The chief said one East Hampton resident fell victim to a scammer and gave out personal information, but luckily the person was able to stop the transaction before any money exchanged hands.

"Once is too many times," Woessner said.

Woessner said people across all ages are receiving the fraudulent calls.

Eversource, in an April 21 statement, provided information about the cons to police departments across the state.

"Eversource representatives never demand instant payment over the phone, require the use of pre-paid debit cards, or request customers to meet [for] a payment," Eversource's tips read.

"Never provide personal [financial or bank] information to any unsolicited person on the phone, at the door or online, even if they seem legitimate," the utility goes on to say. "[S]ome sophisticated scammers can manipulate their caller ID to say the caller is [Eversource.]"

The company said customers scheduled for shutoff from nonpayment receive written notice

with information on how to maintain their service.

The company said customers can verify that they are indeed speaking with an Eversource employee by asking for basic information about their account.

Eversource Vice President and Chief Customer Officer Penni Conner said the scammers often sound legitimate. Conner said the scammers are sophisticated and ruthless.

Finally, Eversource advises anyone who believes they are the target of a scam to immediately call local law enforcement.

To these tips Woessner added that people should ask the caller for a call back number, then search the number on the internet or look at their latest electric bill and see if the number matches their personal records, or Eversource's.

Woessner said in none of the incidents reported in East Hampton did a scammer go so far as to show up to an individual's home.

However, the *Rivereast* reporter for this story has personal knowledge of their elderly family member in North Stonington who nearly fell victim to an Eversource-poser. The scammer learned the person's address and arrived at the house for unclear reasons.

Luckily, a family member was present to rebuff the scammer and call the police. The *Rivereast* decided it was pertinent to include this information for senior readers who live alone.

Woessner said scammers will ask for credit

card numbers or personal checking account and bank routing numbers. Some scammers will transfer potential victims to different "departments" to affect an air of legitimacy, the chief said.

The chief said combatting these scam operations is difficult.

"They route their phones through multiple systems, which makes them hard to track," Woessner said. "They could be overseas for all we know."

The chief said scammers know how to "spoof" phone numbers, making someone's caller ID indicate that a scam call is from a local area code, like "860" or even one as specific as East Hampton's "267."

In February, Patch.com reported that these scam calls have started plaguing Connecticut

businesses as well.

Eversource officials told Patch that scammers even use names of real Eversource employees, and that they will sometimes offer victims discounts on their bills as well.

Some have received fraudulent emails with the Eversource logo, Patch reported.

Eversource also said these calls have increased throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and so have fake texts, emails, and physical visits.

Customers are encouraged to contact the utility at 800-286-2000, whether they receive a call, text, email, or if someone arrives at their door, to verify it is indeed Eversource. For more help on how to protect personal information and avoid becoming a victim of utility scams, visit Eversource.com.

Senior Center News & Notes

East Hampton Senior Center, 105 Main St., is closed, but staff is available at 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. Contact the center to receive a copy of its email or regular mail newsletters. Note: All online program registration is now at MyActiveCenter.com; call the senior center for assistance.

Virtual Lunch Bunch: Every other Monday at 12:30 p.m., via Zoom. Register online. Next date is May 3.

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

Conference Call Bingo: Friday, May 14, 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.

Movie Group via Zoom: Tuesday, May 25, 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.

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.

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: If interested in having a volunteer shop for you, call 860-267-4426 or email [jewling@easthampton.gov](mailto:jewing@easthampton.gov) for more information.

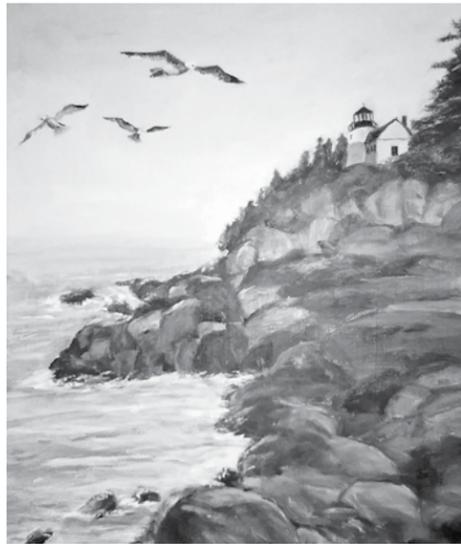
Paintings by Carole

Marlborough artist Carole Jeffries will exhibit her artwork in the new gallery space at East Hampton Town Hall, 1 Community Drive, through May 28. All are invited.

Since retiring from insurance work, Jeffries has spent much of her time oil painting with all that it entails – studying with many teachers, finding and photographing possible subjects, sketching, planning, painting and repainting, and finally showing and selling paintings in art shows and galleries. She has won a number of awards, including first prize in the 2019 East Hampton Art Association show. That painting is now on display on the easel inside Town Hall.

As a resident of Marlborough for over 50 years, Jeffries said she always feels inspired and encouraged by nature. As she said, "Art is all around us. I hope to express and share my love of our beautiful world in my paintings. This is what I have long dreamed of doing, there is always so much more to see, to learn, and to paint."

Information will be available at the gallery if you wish to purchase or commission a painting by Jeffries.



Marlborough artist Carole Jeffries will exhibit her artwork in the new gallery space at Town Hall through May 28.

'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. Register at belltownspringsprint5k.itsyourrace.com.

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

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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 third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at Robert's LakeHouse. For more information contact Chairman Russell Bonaccorso at 203-464-4292 or ehctgop@gmail.com.

Haddam Neck Covenant Church News

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

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

Bible Study: Hosted by Cowger every other Thursday, 7-8:30 p.m., via Zoom. All are welcome.

Barbecue Chicken Dinner Drive-Thru Takeout Event: Saturday, June 12. Watch for more info.

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

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Road Closure for Fire Hose Testing
The East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department will perform its mandatory pressure testing of all fire hoses Tuesday, May 11 (weather permitting). An annual certification requirement, this testing will be conducted in the area of the fire department's pump house at the western end of Walnut Avenue.
As a result, Walnut Avenue will be closed to through traffic between Main and Watrous streets from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Residents are advised to use alternate routes.

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 or visit www.ypcca.org.

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Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration for 2021-22 is open to children who turn 5 by Jan. 1, 2022. To register, visit tinyurl.com/d7t8hvxx. Once forms are completed, parents/guardians will need to schedule an appointment with the Board of Education office by calling 860-537-7267.

Grab-and-Go Meals Offered

Through the end of the school year, Colchester Public Schools will offer free breakfast and lunch to all students and to all children 18 and younger; meals include entrée, fruit, veggie, and milk. Pick-up is at Bacon Academy, in front of the auditorium doors, on Mondays and Thursdays from 10-10:30 a.m. For more information, contact nutrition coordinator Leanne Ranheim at 860-537-9421 ext. 381 or iranheim@colchesterct.org.

Shredding Old Tax and Personal Records

Boy Scout Troop 72 will host a shredding event Saturday, May 22, from 9 a.m.-noon, in the parking lot of Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave., to allow people to safely shred confidential medical and financial records. Cost is \$5 for a bag the size of a plastic grocery bag and \$10 for boxes the size of a case of copy paper. A bulk price can be negotiated for larger quantities of records. Proceeds support Troop 72. Contact Al Letendre at letendrej@sbcglobal.net for more information.

St. Andrew Church News

St. Andrew Catholic Church holds weekly Mass Saturdays at 4 p.m. and Sundays at 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. The church is located at 128 Norwich Ave. Social distancing is in place; pews are sectioned off, and available seating is marked. Attendance is limited to 100 people per Mass. The only entrance to the church is on the parking lot side. Hand sanitizer, and face masks covering both nose and mouth, are required of all.

The dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains in effect until further notice. For more information, call 860-537-2355 or visit www.standrewcolchester.org.

Ukrainian Catholic Church News

All are invited to worship each week at St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, 178 Linwood Ave. The church offers Eastern Rite Divine services. Church doors are open for Divine Liturgy on Saturdays at 4 p.m. and Sundays at 9 a.m.; the Sunday service is bilingual. For more information, call the church at 860-537-2069.

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RivereastNewsBulletin

Abundant Life Church News & Notes

Abundant Life Church, a Christ-follower church that believes salvation through Jesus Christ, is located at 85 Skinner Rd. For more information, call 860-537-3082 or visit AbundantL.com. **Sunday Services:** Sunday School is at 9:30 a.m. and the main service is at 10:30 a.m. Social distancing guidelines are followed. 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 or look for the church on Facebook. For more information, call the church. **Power of Prayer:** If in need of prayer, 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.

Fire Calls

From April 18-24, the Colchester Hayward Fire Department responded to 33 calls: 31 emergency medical calls, one fire/fire-related call (a fire alarm), and one motor vehicle crash (a single-car crash). Medical calls included: Sick person, seven; difficulty breathing, three; fall injury, six; diabetic emergency, one; lift assist, one; choking, one; cardiac distress, three; stroke, one; mental disorder, three; medical alarm, one; injured person, one; seizure, one; back pain, one; alcohol disorder, one. CHFD provided mutual aid once, to Bozrah, 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, 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.

President's List

Colchester residents Bryanna Camp, Rossmary Cartier, Stephanie Plateroti and Izabela Vernali made Goodwin University's fall 2020 President's List, for scoring a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Westchester Church News

Westchester Congregational Church, 98 Cemetery Rd., holds in-person worship Sundays at 10 a.m. Services are also available on Zoom; visit westchestercongregation.org for login info. Pews are labeled for distancing, masks are required and hand sanitizer is available. There is no singing, but music is played. The church has a small white wooden Blessings Box in its lower parking lot, with non-perishable food items and other items. All are welcome to give or take a few items. Sunday School is not in person yet, but the church emails video links and mails out packages of worksheets to children. Email westcongregation@gmail.com or call 860-267-6711 to request Sunday School items.

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

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Fireside Fundraiser... Fireside Supply Inc. held a fundraiser recently and raised \$500 to donate to Colchester Food Bank. Pictured are Colchester Youth and Social Services administrative assistant Amber Albee, Social Services coordinator Stephanie Turbes, and the owners of Fireside Supply Inc., John and Heidi Tarquinio.

Resident Joins Real Estate Brokerage

Colchester resident Lisa Cullen Bourcier recently joined Carl Guild & Associates, a full-service, independent real estate brokerage located in East Hampton and Colchester. "We're honored Lisa chose Carl Guild & Associates," said broker/owner Carl Guild. "She has extensive knowledge of real estate transactions, Connecticut markets and excellence in customer service." Bourcier's mother, Linda Cullen, has been in the real estate business since she was a teenager. In 2006, Bourcier became a licensed agent, joining the Cullen Team. She has been involved with the East Hampton school system for more than 12 years, growing her network of community contacts. In between real estate and education, Bourcier, a longtime Colchester resident, has spent her time raising her three children, who are now grown. She explained, "This presents me with the perfect time to return to my passion: real estate." "I've always worked in customer service in some capacity," she said. "Now that my kids are grown, I'm ready to get back into serving the community with their real estate needs." Bourcier said she's also ready to flex her

ability to manage stress, which she said she developed raising three children, in addition to working with seventh-graders and earlier, majoring in psychology. "There is definitely some psychology involved in real estate," she explained. "You have to be patient, understanding, compassionate and caring, and know how to manage your clients' stress levels, so they have an easier experience buying or selling a home." Of her initial meeting with Guild, Bourcier said, "I connected instantly with him. He's laid back but motivated and I love that; I can see how my goals and his will align, especially with his emphasis on community service and giving back." As an agent, Bourcier said she plans to leverage all the philanthropic events and initiatives at the brokerage, as well as the technology Carl Guild & Associates offers, such as Slack for communicating with staff and members of the team. "I always like to take in new perspectives," she said. "Your skills, experience and knowledge are what differentiate you from other real estate agents and like I said, I'm ready to return to the industry – and clientele – I love."

On it.

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

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



Let's come together to take action against racism and fight for racial justice for the Black community. Visit lovehasnolabels.com/fightforfreedom



East Hampton • East Hampton

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.

Adult and High School Pickup Soccer: Tuesdays through June 1, 6:30-7:45 p.m., at East Hampton High School. Fee: \$10 to drop in.

Morning and Afternoon Adventure: This before and after school program at Memorial School has availability.

Cardio Kickboxing: Mondays through June 2, 4:45-5:30 p.m., at the Sears Park gazebo. There is a \$15 drop-in fee each week.

Running Camp for Middle Schoolers: Wednesdays, June 16-Aug. 11, 6-7:30 p.m., at the EHHS track, for grades 6-9. Fee: \$80.

Nerf Blaster and Fairy Garden Camps: June 21-25 at Memorial School, for grades K-3.

Nerf Blaster meets 9-11 a.m. and is \$100; Fairy Garden meets 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and is \$110.

STEAM Camp: June 21-25, 9-11 a.m., at Memorial School, for grades 2-3. Fee: \$110.

Track and Field Clinic/Camp: June 21-25 at the EHHS track. Fee for 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. is \$250, and fee for 8:30-11:30 a.m. is \$150.

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

Just Being Me: July 12-16, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at Memorial School, for ages 8-14. Fee: \$180.

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.

Special Town Meeting Monday

A special town meeting will be held at Town Hall, 1 Community Drive, and via Zoom on Monday, May 3, at 6:30 p.m., to consider a purchase of land on Christopher Road.

The parcel is located adjacent to 20 Christopher Rd., and would be acquired from the Jane S. Christopher Family Trust and the Ronald Christopher Revocable Trust for a purchase price of \$142,500. The purchase of the Christopher Pond property would be funded through proceeds of a grant the town received from the state, as well through funds allocated in the town's Capital Improvements Plan.

For those attending the meeting in person, Town Hall will open at 6 p.m. In accordance with current guidelines, Town Hall can accommodate approximately 50 people. Those

choosing to attend and vote electronically via Zoom should log in at least 30 minutes prior to the meeting to be checked in. Upon logging in, attendees will be in a "waiting room" until they are let in whereupon they will be required to show their identification to the camera and to verify the attendee's address.

Only devices with a camera will be allowed to be used for voting attendees. Each device logged into the meeting via Zoom will receive no more than one vote per question.

Those wishing to listen to the meeting, without voting, can phone into the meeting using the Zoom phone in number and access code.

Zoom login information will be provided at www.easthamptonct.gov; click the link on the homepage calendar for the town meeting.

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Affordable Housing: Myths, Benefits and Solutions

Monday, May 10 7:00-8:30 pm
Pre-registration required–tinyurl.com/948pxa9f
Visit glastonburymlkci.org for more information.

Jointly sponsored with Open Communities Alliance (OCA) and TALK (Truth in Action with Love and Kindness)

Marlborough • Marlborough

Girl With Juvenile Arthritis Aims to Make Others Comfy

by Karla Santos

Maci Wolfe – a 10-year-old with juvenile arthritis – worries about others while she deals with her own illness.

Maci, a Marlborough resident, recently had the idea of running a blanket drive to make children more comfortable while they go through medical procedures. She said she came up with the idea because whenever she goes through a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), she gets a blanket that makes her feel “very comfortable,” she said.

She explained that with the help of her mother, she set up an Amazon Wish List to let people know of the effort.

Maci started the blanket drive April 1 with the original goal of getting 10. Then, she raised the goal to 100 and since then she has collected 374 blankets—and counting.

A lot more people than Maci expected supported the blanket drive, something she said that makes her feel “good.”

Her plan is to donate the blankets to the Connecticut Children’s Medical Center so patients can use them for comfort like she has done. Children get to take the blankets home when they go to this medical facility.

Lisa Wolfe, Maci’s mother, said the at age 2, her daughter was diagnosed with juvenile arthritis.

“So we’ve been in and out of Connecticut Children’s [Medical] Center probably quarterly since she was 2,” Wolfe explained.

She said that just in the last 13 months Maci has had to have three MRIs, including checking the status of the arthritis in her jaw. In the most recent MRI, which she had at the beginning of March, medical professionals wanted to repeat an MRI they had done earlier so they could re-check her condition.

Because she has had to visit the hospital often for her examinations, Maci was concerned that she was taking more blankets than she was

returning to the hospital and didn’t want to take away from other kids.

Wolfe said her daughter asked if the family could collect blankets “to kind of restock” the hospital’s shelving. Wolfe originally gave her daughter \$100 to buy blankets and bring them to the hospital and suggested reaching out to a few family members to see if they would also like to donate some blankets.

“So we set up the Amazon Wish List so our friends and family could help if they wanted to contribute,” Wolfe said.

She noted that within 10 hours of creating the list, they had collected 63 blankets.

“I think that two days later we were over 100,” she said. “It’s been really amazing because it’s really all provided from the generosity of our friends and family.”

She added blanket donations have also come in from folks the family does not know, who learned about the drive through a wish list posted on Facebook.

“Blankets are coming in, I think, from some other moms and dads who have had to have a child at CCMC, and they understand a little bit of comfort goes a long way,” Wolfe said.

In addition, she said they have even been receiving blankets from family and friends they haven’t talked to in years.

She also said they have received notes supporting Maci and what she is doing.

Wolfe explained there is a Child Life Team at the hospital whose role is to improve the experience of the children. Part of what they do is they provide children with blankets, toys or devices that would help distract them during procedures.

“They give you a blanket to cuddle with and then [when] you go home you can bring the blanket with you,” Maci said.

She said she came up with the idea of running a blanket drive because the blankets she was given at the hospital made her feel comfortable



Maci Wolfe, surrounded by boxes of blankets that will be donated to the Connecticut Children Medical Center. Wolfe wants the blankets to help children feel comfort as they go through medical procedures. The family is still collecting blankets; those looking to donate can go to tinyurl.com/yt66zyu4.

and she doesn’t want other children to miss out.

Wolfe explained that juvenile arthritis is an autoimmune disease where an individual’s immune system attacks itself. She said that in Maci’s case, she has swelling and inflammation in many of her major joints such as knees, ankles and jaw. She said this is a lifetime condition as so far there is no cure for it.

Maci has to take weekly injections to keep things under control.

Wolfe explained to the *Rivereast* that her family is “no stranger to fundraising.” Her daughter

also has a team called Maci’s Minions that participates in a walk to cure arthritis, which raises money for the Arthritis Foundation annually, Wolfe said.

Maci has gone above and beyond in her efforts to help other children feel better while she deals with her own condition and her mother said she is proud of her for being that way.

The family is still collecting blankets; those looking to donate can do so by going to tinyurl.com/yt66zyu4.

Richmond Library News & Notes

Richmond Memorial Library, located at 15 School Drive, is closed to the public, but many services are 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. Overdue fines are not accruing at this time.

Carnivorous Plants and Virtual Tour of Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gar-

dens: Thursday, May 6, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom, presented by the Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens in Pittsburgh, Penn. Email richmondprograms@gmail.com to register.

The Bobcat: Connecticut’s Secretive Wild Animal: Tuesday, May 18, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom. Certified Master Wildlife Conservationist Paul Colburn will present. Learn about the natural history of bobcats in the state, including an overview of habitat, diet, behavior, reproduction, and current research efforts. Mountain lions will also be discussed.

Remove Items from Cemeteries

Residents are asked to remove any personal items and decorations from town cemeteries prior to May 8, for the town’s cemetery cleanup for Memorial Day.

Any items found to be in violation of cemetery rules and regulations or a hindrance to maintenance will be removed. These items include shepherd hooks, wind chimes and pots. Consult marlboroughct.net for a complete listing.

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 today, 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.

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 9:30-11 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.

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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).

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.

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.

Arts Center Tag Sale

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 are required. On-site parking is available.

There is more variety to choose from than in past years, the arts center said.

\$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).

Church Tag Sale

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.

Congregational Church News

Services at Marlborough Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, are livestreamed Sundays at 10 a.m. through the church website, mcc.marlb.org. In-person worship is held at the pavilion at Lake Terramuggus the third Sunday of the month.

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

This Sunday, May 2, church pastor the Rev. Bob Faulhaber will lead worship. All are invited to a virtual Holy Communion where Faulhaber will give a blessing and serve communion in which worshippers, watching the livestream at home, can participate by providing their own elements of bread and beverage.

Mission-giving through June goes to the AHM Mental Health Fund; send checks made payable to MCC, with "Second Quarter Mis-

sions," 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. 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 the twice-monthly Junior Youth Group. For more information, contact Gwen Lawson at gwendolynn78@yahoo.com.

Phone messages are checked at 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. Safety protocols are in place and masks are required. The shop continues selling on eBay at bit.ly/MCCEbay.

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 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.

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

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.

Zumba: Thursdays through June 3, 6:30-7:30 p.m., virtually and in the conference room at Fire Station No. 2. There is a \$12 drop-in fee each week.

Red Cross Blood Drive

There will be an American Red Cross Blood Drive Thursday, May 6, from 1-6 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center, 17 School Drive.

Donors will receive a \$5 Amazon.com gift card by email, and will be automatically entered for a chance to win a travel trailer camper that sleeps five.

Appointments can be made by downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

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★ Letters cont. from page 5

Peaceful and Thoughtful?

To the Editor: The first assumption I reached in reading Scott Sauyet's letter titled "Mainstream Media," in response to a letter written by Peter Kushkowsky on mainstream media, is that Scott does not own a TV. The news that I and millions viewed on CBS, NBC, ABC and CNN showed a different picture than Scott quotes "peaceful and thoughtful." Scott, why do you ask "How much violence did Peter witness directly?" I assume Peter was home viewing TV in disbelief at what was transpiring in Minneapolis as the looting, vandalism and burning of businesses and private property was occurring. Protest quickly spread nationwide and to 2,000 cities and towns in over 60 countries in support of BLM movement.

While 93% were peaceful, many cities escalated to riots, looting and burning of private property. Arson, vandalism and looting between May 26 and June 8, a span of 14 days, caused \$2 billion in insured damages nationally; 1,500 businesses were destroyed in Minneapolis alone. How does Scott write this was peaceful and thoughtful activism? Am I missing something? I understand the plight of the African Americans but to write lies in your article of April 23 is difficult to fathom.

Yet while most of the country will eventually move on from the turmoil, Minneapolis will be among the cities facing the greatest difficulty in recovering from the financial devastation that the riots left behind. The economic fallout will haunt it for decades to come.

Victor G. Bonanno – Portland

Absurd Whitewashing

To the Editor: I must thank Sam Prentice for clearly demonstrating my point.

I said those discussing "mainstream media" falsely imply they have access to highly-credible, overlooked news sources. His response claims the mainstream media "collude with one another to provide fabricated party-line narratives while embargoing anything portraying contrary information." There we have it. Thank you, Mr. Prentice.

This merely pretends his ideology is not thoroughly contradicted by the facts. There's absolutely no substance.

He speaks passionately about the death of Ashli Babbitt. As I recall, he has never written to condemn the police for their many killings of unarmed Black men. There have been quite a few of those lately. Perhaps you've noticed? Is this simply because he sees assaulting our capitol in order to overturn an election as a much less heinous crime than selling loose cigarettes, having a broken tail light, or walking in one's grandmother's backyard?

I do not condone her killing. Police killings should be extremely rare; this situation wasn't dire enough. But it was a close call. I agree with the Justice Department's decision not to charge the officer (http://link.sauyet.com/20). However, Mr. Prentice's whitewashing is beyond absurd. He says she was "surrounded by officers who could have arrested her at any time" when the video clearly shows her to be the first through the barricade between the insurrectionists and the police protecting members of Congress.

I did label her "seditionist." Perhaps that wasn't fair. I'm sure most people violently attacking our government center – busting doors, assaulting police, threatening the lives of senators and representatives, in order to prevent the legal transfer of power – I'm sure many such people are perfectly nice and on most days would never even *consider* trying to overthrow our government.

Scott Sauyet – Andover

Hopeful for Hutchinson

To the Editor: I have known Leigh Ann Hutchinson for many years and I think she has always demonstrated her best interest of the Town of Andover through the many positions she has held and has always served the town well. I ask you to support Leigh Ann in her quest to continue to serve on the Andover Planning & Zoning Commission. I believe she will continue to serve Andover well.

Please vote for Leigh Ann Hutchinson on May 3. Sincerely, William Hegener – Andover

Unconscionable in Colchester

To the Editor: For the past month the town of Colchester has been locked in a heated debate over the First Selectwoman's proposed 8.3% budget increase. In a good year this increase is massive. In a year where we're

still reeling from the effects of a global pandemic, it's unconscionable.

The argument from the Democrats seems to be that they didn't raise the budget, or taxes, last year so they are owed an increase this year. What an offensive suggestion. Elected officials are never owed our hard-earned money. Helping the citizens of your town survive a pandemic is not a debt to be repaid, it's your civic duty as an elected leader.

Even worse, a sizable amount of this budget is to cover the costs of decisions this administration made with little to no oversight by the Board of Finance. When questioned by Andreas Bisbikos (BoF) about this on an April 21 budget meeting, the first selectwoman became visibly angered and lashed out at Andreas. Watching an elected official, especially one that's so happy to raid our pockets, become angered at the suggestion of transparency is gravely concerning but unsurprising. This administration has still failed to implement the transparency software adopted by our previous first selectman, after all.

Thankfully a few Republican board members have taken a hard stance against this budget, mainly Taras Rudko and Andreas. They've both come under fire

recently for questioning the need for new police officers, but isn't that why they're there? Since when are our board members expected to just blindly accept everything they're told? Asking for answers about the budget is not an attack on the first selectwoman; it's their job.

They must continue their fight. The people of Colchester deserve that much, and a great many of us are standing with them.

Jason LaChapelle – Colchester

Supports Hutchinson

To the Editor: I would like to voice my support for Leigh Ann Hutchinson, who is running for a position on the Planning and Zoning Commission. She has served on various boards before and knows what the commitment to a position involves.

As a lifelong resident of Andover, I am sure she has ample motivation to fulfill the duties of the job.

Sincerely, Lauren M. Carrara – Andover

See Letters, page 23

Cover Story • Cover

★ Ambulance cont. from page 1

and expect this." Scranton said with the state's minimum wage increasing, "the risks behind this job are not outweighing the benefits."

Scranton said remaining volunteers have shouldered the extra work and are at risk of burning out.

Scranton said along with high-pressure situations, volunteers also contend with bad weather, hazardous substances and, of course, COVID-19. In fact, Scranton wrote that East Hampton EMS responders were potentially exposed to COVID-19 almost 1,000 times.

Of the approximately 1,000 calls the service received between March 2020 and April 2021, more than 360 were for COVID-19 symptoms.

Scranton wrote these exposures were the main reason for membership decline. One member was hospitalized, and has not yet been cleared to return.

Another major issue of a low staff number is the response time when called by local police and firefighters.

Scranton said East Hampton is exceptional in that members of its police force are trained as first responders.

However, there is training EMS personnel have that police don't, according to East Hampton Police Chief Dennis Woessner.

Scranton wrote that in some instances, an officer waited up to 30 minutes for an ambulance crew.

In an extreme case, EHPD had to wait for an hour with a patient who had difficulty breathing, and whose oxygen tank was nearly depleted. Police contacted the ambulance service to see how

this issue can be addressed. Woessner last week told the *Rivereast* that the challenge in a delayed ambulance is the patient's, not the officer's.

"It does potentially prevent us from responding to other calls," Woessner said, but added, "The extra time it takes to get the victim of an emergency to the correct hospital is the bigger issue."

Scranton said EHEMS equipment and infrastructure are in good shape and currently, there is no need to replace or repair this capital.

However, this won't make much difference if staffing is inadequate. Scranton said in the extreme case, EHEMS wouldn't be able to meet demand and the town would have to contract an outside, likely for-profit vendor. Scranton said this would be pricier than a town-owned service.

Organizing a regional service, Scranton said, is another possibility, though he thinks the staffing problem must be solved with a multi-pronged approach.

No matter what solution is reached, Scranton said his ultimate goal is to ensure emergency services are readily available to residents, at all times.

"People call 911 because it could be the worst moment of their life," said Scranton. "If someone calls 911 because they want an ambulance, they should be able to expect the best service."

"My biggest concern is getting someone out there," Scranton continued. "I don't care who gets there; patients aren't concerned with what town's name is on the side of the ambulance, as long as it shows up to the door in a timely fashion."

Cover Story • Cover

★ Racism cont. from page 1

fully. She said it was "eye-opening for many of us white folks who have not experienced racism."

She said one participant, who identifies as African American, said after that letter was read that he could have signed his own name to it, recalling an encounter he had with a group of police officers while he was jogging, and "the fear that he can still remember very clearly."

"To me, this dialogue emphasized the interconnected experiences of people of different races," Hibino wrote in an email.

Hibino said the model minority myth also plays in a role in the omission of Asian American history. She said there's an expectation that Asian Americans be quiet, unassuming, industrious, and that she knows Asian Americans who have said they are expected to not "rock the boat."

Nguyen said stop the rampant public attacks against Asian Americans, mainstream media must dedicate more resources to and redefine their narratives of the community.

"The core issue is visibility," Nguyen said. "These are happening because there are people who are ignorant, who don't know us because of the tools of repression that shape people's views of other communities. My call to action is to humanize us by getting our stories out there."

Nguyen went on to say that elected officials at local, state and federal levels must do more to address anti-Asian violence and racism.

"When you 'other' a group of people, there's a higher chance of violence [against said group]," Nguyen said.

Nguyen said AAPI women have been especially objectified and fetishized in America.

"Peace is not the absence of physical conflict," said Nguyen. "To heal, we must learn and acknowledge where we're at now."

Hibino said ultimately, the town's willingness to learn and evaluate its own biases has given her hope. In a follow-up email, Hibino said the town still wants very much to learn more about equitability and social justice.

Hibino said difficult, raw conversations like this forum are the key to progressing and creating a better future. The State of Connecticut, at least, is attempting to integrate more inclusive curriculum into the state's public schools, she said.

This year state lawmakers will vote on a bill similar to last year's legislation requiring schools to introduce learning geared specifically toward the histories and cultures of Black and Brown communities.

This new legislation is specifically for grades K-8.

Along with introducing content related to

AAPI peoples, the bill also includes language for including in schools curriculum on Native Americans, LGBTQ and gender identities studies, climate change, personal finance management and financial literacy, and military service and the experiences of veterans.

If passed, the state's schools would consult with appropriate experts on how to best convey learning about the above groups.

According to Portland First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield, these tough-but-necessary talks will continue in town.

Bransfield on Tuesday told the *Rivereast* that she and the Board of Selectmen are looking at how to make the town's solidarity task force a mainstay, most likely by making it a town committee.

Bransfield said seeing the productivity of the group, with activities including a town-wide survey and the development of an informational pamphlet, along with the community's embracing this work, that need has been proven.

One suggestion made by the task force that Bransfield is taking steps to honor is annual anti-bias and equity training for herself and the selectmen.

"It's very healthy for our community to have this task force," said Bransfield. "They bring in a diverse group with many different perspectives, and I learn new something new each time I attend an event."

The Portland SJC and Solidarity Task Force will hold a follow-up Zoom discussion Wednesday, May 12, at 6:30 p.m. A Zoom link will be available on the Portland website, www.portlandct.org.

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Town Presents \$12.66M Budget Request to Residents

by Sloan Brewster

On Wednesday, the Board of Finance approved a \$12.66 million budget to put before voters at next week's budget town meeting.

The board tweaked the numbers since the budget hearing last week to account for a change in the state's Educational Cost Sharing (ECS) grant that will translate to \$67,000 less in revenue than previously anticipated.

The board also found \$5,000 more in savings due to combining positions in the building department.

The proposed budget represents a 3.83% increase in taxes and would bring the mill rate from the current rate of 35.61 to 36.97 mills.

Andover's \$5.22 million levy toward RHAM's \$30.65 million request – an increase of 2.1% or \$501,991 over the current year – represents a \$108,054 decrease over the current year's levy due to a reduction of 90 Andover students in the school's overall population, Board of Finance Chairman Marc Brinker said.

"It's not because they're spending is going down, in fact it's going up," he said. "The main reason that [the levy is] going to go down for us is that the representative population of students is going down."

Brinker said one thing that was helpful in offsetting budget increases was that the RHAM Board of Education returned \$130,731 in surplus from the 2019-20 budget to the town.

The contribution to RHAM is the largest portion of the budget and something over which the finance board has no control, Brinker said.

Brinker informed folks that the finance board had voted to reduce the budget request for Andover Elementary School from \$4.12 million to \$4.08 million, a \$175,608 or 4.5% increase over

the current year.

The \$93,000 in school debt is shrinking and will retire at the end this year, Brinker said.

Brinker said the town's \$3.46 million portion represents a 1.6% increase over the current year.

The board changed the original request by making reductions in salaries and benefits, including combining the town and school finance departments, reducing the tax collector to part time, combining the assistant town clerk and building department administrative functions and assigning the senior coordinator position to the assistant assessor.

The finance board also reduced the snow removal budget by \$10,000

Brinker told residents at a public hearing last week that if there's an unanticipated or sudden snow event, more money can be added to the account through contingencies in the budget, but that the new amount reflects the average cost for snow removal.

Factors that led to the increase over the current year include that the town took over the full payment to AHM Youth and Family Services. Previously that cost was divided between schools and towns. This way, according to Brinker, is more transparent. Another increase was related to making the public works supervisor position salaried versus hourly.

Election costs were also increased this year due to the need for additional COVID-19 related measures, Brinker said.

The \$850,000 Capital Improvement Plan Budget includes \$50,000 toward the future community center, \$75,000 for the Fire Department, \$110,000 for the Public Works Department, \$300,000 for roads, \$50,000 for tree

removal, \$120,000 for the Bunker Hill Bridge, \$100,000 for bridges and culverts and \$45,000 for building maintenance.

Brinker said roads, bridges and culverts in town sorely need fixing as infrastructure has been all but ignored in past years. In addition, there are nearly 1,000 dead trees that have to come down lest they fall during storms and lead to more power outages.

"There's been storms with power outages for days," he said. "That's directly related to dead trees."

The finance board also opted to use \$225,000 from savings to offset the hit to taxpayers, Brinker said.

For the past two years, the town has cut into savings to keep taxes down but this is the last year it can be done, Brinker said.

"We cannot go to that bucket anymore; that well is dry," he said. "This is a tough decision to actually use this fund balance. We don't like to use it for recommended expenditures."

Some speakers raised concerns that the AES budget was too high and complained about classroom sizes they said were too small, including several with only 10 students.

Cathy Desrosiers, former selectman, was among those disgruntled by class size in town.

"I do think the school budget is high for the amount of children in the school," she said. "It's high and the classrooms are too small. As a parent I wouldn't want my children to be on classroom that small, to be honest with you."

Desrosiers was also among speakers with concerns about the condition of local infrastructure.

"Why aren't we bonding for the roads, the bridges and getting ourselves ahead so you're not nickeling the taxpayers year to year?" she asked.

Board of Finance member Robert England answered that while he's not against bonding, "it throws off the debt service obligation."

"We've been crippled by money. We've not been able to do projects," Desrosiers said. "Why are we always afraid to bond for the town's needs?"

She said she hopes the town would consider doing so in the future.

The budget will come to a vote at the annual budget meeting next Thursday, May 6.

Adult Show & Tell

Andover Public Library will host a session of Adult Show & Tell Wednesday, May 26, at 7 p.m., via Zoom.

Do you have an interesting talent, hobby, or collection in which you think others would be interested? Then you're invited to come share it. There's no need to sign up in advance. Contact the library for Zoom login info at 860-742-7428 or andoverctpubliclibrary@gmail.com

Patio Storytime at Library

Patio Storytime begins at Andover Public Library, 355 Route 6, Wednesday, May 5, at 10:30 a.m. This event will be held outside on Wednesdays, weather permitting. Bring your own pillows or blankets for seating. Masks should be worn and social distancing observed.

In case of inclement weather, cancellation notices will be posted to the library's Facebook page, facebook.com/AndoverPublicLibrary.CT, by 10 a.m. that day.

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.

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.

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 hfpg.org/Andovercf 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.

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.

Andover Veteran Brick Fundraiser

The town is selling bricks for two walkways to be installed at Andover Veterans Monument Park.

The Veterans Memorial Walkway bricks are available to active military and veterans, and the Supporters of Veterans walkway bricks are available to Andover residents.

More information and order forms are at www.bricksrus.com/donorsite/agentorangeadvocate. Forms are also available in the town clerk's office. All proceeds will be used for improvements at Veterans Monument Park.

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.

Items Sought for Senior 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 at 860-989-6988.

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 Town Hall.

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

Teens Sought for CHOREs Program

AHM Youth and Family Services is taking applications from Andover teens aged 14-18 for the CHOREs program. Teens will earn \$12 per billable hour and will work up to two hours per job at a senior citizen's home; due to COVID-19, only jobs outside the home will be scheduled until further notice.

For more information, contact Jenn Boehler at 860-228-9488 ext. 31 or jenniferb@ahmyouth.org, or visit ahmyouth.org, click on "menu" and select CHOREs from the list of offerings.

Senior Citizen News & Notes

The following news items have been announced for Andover seniors. If you want to attend any event, call senior coordinator Cathy Palazzi 860-916-6122 to register.

Bingo: Seniors will play Bingo Wednesdays, June 2 and 16, at 12:30 p.m. Call Judy Knox at 860-642-6824 to sign up. Registration required.

COVID-19 Vaccinations: Call 877-918-2224 to register for your shot. If you need a ride, call Palazzi.

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. Tempera-

tures will be taken by the driver. Masks must be worn in the van.

Shopping: Transportation is available 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.

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.

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.

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 maio-ranoh@andoverelementaryct.org.

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 or call the town clerk at 860-742-0188 ext. 218.

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 or email Charlotte Nelson at charnelson14@gmail.com.

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.

Honor Society Inductee

Jessica Golemba of Andover, a student at Eastern Connecticut State University, was recently inducted into the Kappa Delta Pi, the international honor society for education.

Golemba is a junior majoring in elementary education and English.

Craft Fair Participants Sought

Andover Congregational Church, 359 Route 6, invited local artisans to participate in the church Craft Fair Saturday, June 12, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

High-visibility 10x10 spaces are available on the lawn. Spaces are \$20; fee is non-refundable.

Call the church at 860-742-7696 and leave your contact information for an application.

Some Senior Activities Resuming in Andover

by Sloan Brewster

Andover seniors are getting back to fun. Cathy Palazzi, volunteer senior coordinator, and Roberta Dougherty, Andover senior services municipal agent and assistant to the assessor, have been busy planning outings for town seniors, who haven't gathered as a group since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic last March.

"For over a year the seniors haven't been allowed to do anything – get together, talk, visit; nothing in person," Palazzi said. "Now we're going to be able to do a few things."

Because the seniors haven't been getting together, or doing any of the things on their long list of regular activities, there's money in the activities account that needs to be spent before the end of the fiscal year, the women said.

While there's a list of jaunts planned, Palazzi said no particular excursion is even necessary.

"If I were to say we're not going anywhere, just getting on the bus and going for a ride, they would be thrilled," she said. "They want to go outside, see their friends, chat."

While there will be out and about sprees for lunch or other entertainment, sometimes the plan will be lunch in the gazebo at Town Hall, Dougherty said, adding that she is hopeful more folks will get involved and will "come out and play."

She's also hopeful they'll be able to take advantage of the big new TV in the community room and hang out to watch movies.

"We're excited, can't wait to get everybody out there to enjoy," she said.

Town Manager Eric Anderson gave the women the go-ahead to make the plans as long as folks participating are vaccinated and follow safety measures including mask wearing, social distancing and getting their temperatures taken.

With an at-risk population, even one case would be a problem, so it's crucial to follow the protocols, Palazzi said.

"We don't want one case," she said.

The fun, which is generally scheduled for Fridays, starts on May 7 with lunch at Maine Moose in Columbia.

Prior to the pandemic, Mary Duval, was an active participant in senior activities and did the group's publicity. She is looking forward to the

luncheon at the eatery, which, she said, was "always fun."

Since last March, Duval said she hasn't gotten out much. She even opted out of working at the polls in November, something she said she always looks forward to doing.

"I don't need any more drawers or cabinets or closets organized," she said. "I was pretty much a loner for the whole year and it's not always easy."

While Duval said she buried herself in books and found plenty to do to keep busy, she said the seniors are a close knit group and she misses seeing her friends, so she already signed up for all the activities.

"I'm fully vaccinated, so I'm looking forward to going out," she said. "I will be so glad to get back at whatever is seen as normal."

For May 14, Dougherty booked a private movie showing for seniors. They'll be able to see *War with Grandpa*, starring Robert DeNiro, at Rave Cinemas at Buckland Hills in Manchester.

Dougherty, who gave a caveat that all plans could change unexpectedly if things on the COVID-19 front worsen, said she's hoping to plan another movie get-together in June.

On May 21, the seniors will be taking a trip to Madison "for a really nice outdoor lunch" at Lenny and Joe's, Dougherty said. And on May 28, it's lunch at Robert's LakeHouse in East Hampton.

The group is "big on food," Dougherty said. "We like to celebrate with food and enjoy with food," she said.

In June, bingo starts up on the first and third Wednesday of the month in the community room at Town Hall.

There will be new bingo cards, which will be sanitized after each play and while in the past, it was standard to have a guest speaker or some entertainment during the games, that part won't be restarting quite yet, Palazzi said. There will be refreshments, though, such as cupcakes and coffee, which will be served individually to keep folks from reaching for treats or beverages on shared plates or carafes.

On June 4, there will be an outdoor luncheon

with a hot meal from Andover Pizza on the grounds at Town Hall.

Though the event hasn't been officially booked yet, June 11 is the hoped-for date for the next movie. June 18 will see another outside lunch with sustenance from Andover Pizza.

On June 25, the plan is to see the roses in bloom at Elizabeth Park, in West Hartford then grab lunch at Jimmie's Pizza on Farmington Avenue.

While she's looking forward to the trip to Elizabeth Park, DuVal said it's all really about catching up with folks "and just seeing my friends again. I haven't seen my friends in over a year now."

Tiu Anson said she and her husband Ylo are planning to take part in the new line up. Anson, who said she never gets bored because she is

always embroidering or creating designs for embroidery, said the best part would simply be getting back together with her friends and acquaintances. She couldn't even hone in on a favorite activity.

"All of it is a favorite, when you think about it," she said.

Anson added that Palazzi was very thoughtful and puts "so much energy" into taking care of the seniors.

"I think if every town had a Cathy, they would be happy," she said.

Reservations are required for all events. For more details or to sign up for any event besides bingo, call Palazzi at 860-916-6122.

To sign up for bingo, folks should call Judy Knox at 860-944-7131.

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 or visit www.andoverctchurch.org.

Bible Study: Tuesday mornings via Zoom and at the church (observing CDC guidelines regarding social distancing and masks). To at-

tend via Zoom, call the church and leave a message and church pastor the Rev. Rose Nilson will 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 May 5.

Foodshare Van: Comes to the church every other Wednesday from 9-9:30 a.m.; next date is May 12.

Shine 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.

Obituaries

Portland

Michael Lombardo

Michael Lombardo, 81, of Portland, devoted husband of Mary (Kelly) Lombardo for 53 years, passed in peace Monday, April 26, with his wife and three daughters by his side. Michael was born in Sicily, Italy, son of the late Santo and Giovanna (Amodio) Lombardo, and immigrated to America at the age of seven. He graduated from Bulkeley High School, Class of 1958.

Michael was a proud veteran of the United States Marine Corps. He was a founding member of Our Lady of Peace Church, East Hartford where he served as lector and was involved in numerous parish functions. Michael was a faithful member of the Church in each of the communities where he resided.

Prior to his retirement, he worked as an electrician for Northeast Utilities for 37 years. Michael was an avid sports fan; an enthusiast of the Boston Red Sox, UConn women's basketball, New York Jets, and the Hartford Whalers. He took great pride in his lawn and home projects and could often be found under a car, at his work bench, building a deck or manicuring his lawn.

Michael would drop anything to help a neighbor or his family with their home projects. His greatest accomplishment, however, were his three daughters, as evidenced by the active and loving role he took in each of their lives. Anyone who knew Michael could see he had tremendous pride for his 11 grandchildren and enjoyed cheering for them on the baseball, soccer or lacrosse fields, wrestling mat, basketball court, swimming pool, or at a dance recital. Throughout his life, Michael was known for his quiet nature, gentle demeanor, kind smile, and admired for his skills and work ethic.

Michael will be sadly missed by his loving wife, Mary; daughters, Eileen Moynihan and her husband Patrick of Portland, Katie Stein and her husband Jonathan of Madison, Lauren Kasperowski and her husband Derrick of Portland. He will also be dearly missed by his 11 grandchildren who were the light of his life: Patrick, Riley, Quinn and Ronan Moynihan; Jack, Sam, Noah and Max Stein; and Mary, Kevin and Megan Kasperowski.

He leaves behind his loving sisters Lucy Motta and the late John Motta of Wethersfield, Anne Giuliano and her husband Vincent of Florida; and several nieces and nephews. His children and grandchildren will forever be grateful for the value of faith and family that he and Mary instilled.

Calling Hours will be held today, April 30, at



Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown, from 4-7 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Saturday, May 1, at 10 a.m., at the Church of Saint Mary, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland. Friends and family are invited to go directly to church on Saturday morning. Burial with military honors will follow at the Swedish Cemetery, High Street in Portland. The service will also be livestreamed on stmaryportlandct.org.

Those who wish may send memorial contributions in his name to the Church of Saint Mary, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland, CT 06480.

To share memories or express condolences online, please visit www.biegafuneralhome.com.

Amston

Marjorie O'Loughlin

Marjorie "Marj" O'Loughlin of Amston has passed away. Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., the daughter of the late Freda (Rogerson) Clark and Daniel J. Clark, she graduated from Mercy Business College and worked as an executive secretary. She married John J. O'Loughlin in May 1955 and later became a stay-at-home mom to raise their four children.

She relocated to Sparta, N.J., in 1973, returned to school in 1980, and earned an AAS degree and RN in 1982. She was employed as a staff nurse, later becoming a nursing supervisor, until her retirement in 1994.

John and Marj moved to Amston/Hebron, in 2003 and were active communicants at Church of the Holy Family in Hebron. John died in 2007.

She is survived by three children, Brian and wife Julie, Susan Townley, Kevin and wife Heather, daughter-in-law, Teri Nofer; 12 grandchildren, Seth, Paul, Lauren, Kevin, Erin, Andrew, Eric, Kira, Tia, Chase, Madi, and Mason; and her great-grandson, Miles.

In addition to her parents and her husband, Marj was predeceased by her brothers, Philip Clark and Richard Clark; her sister, Sister Patricia Mary Clark (RSM), and her son, Denis.

Services for Marj were held Thursday, April 29, at the Church of the Holy Family, 185 Church St, Amston. A Mass followed that morning. Burial was Thursday at State Veterans Cemetery, Middletown.

The family requests that flowers not be sent to the funeral home or church; instead, make a donation to the charity of your choosing in honor of Marj.

Funeral services have been entrusted to the care of the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home. For online condolences, please visit: <http://www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com>

Obituaries continued on next page



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

★ Letters cont. from page 21

Vote 'Yes' on All Questions

To My Fellow Residents of Hebron:

On May 4, we all have the opportunity to have our voices heard as we go to the polls to vote on the 2021-22 Hebron town/school budget.

Planning for the budget began in the fall of 2020 with our dedicated town and school staff assembling the items and funds needed to support our town and our children for the next fiscal year. Many difficult decisions were made in determining what will be included in next year's budget.

Even while looking at increased debt due to the sewer system and bridge repairs, along with increased costs due to COVID-19 and a \$200,000 reduction in revenues from the State of Connecticut, your staff and elected officials were able to keep your taxes flat from 20-21 to 21-22.

Bottom line: your tax bill next year will not increase.

It took many hours of work plus some creative alternatives from many people to craft such a responsible budget. I will be supporting this budget by voting 'yes' to all four questions on the ballot, and I ask you do the same.

In light of full disclosure, I am a 16-year member of the Hebron Board of Finance. However, I am writing this letter as a private citizen with the best interest of my family and town in mind.

A fair and honest budget helps maintain the country charm and property values in Hebron but most importantly to me I can rest assured my granddaughter will continue to receive a high-quality education!!!

Please vote 'yes' on all questions May 4th!

Mal Leichter – Amston

Candidate for PZC

To The Editor:

My name is Brian Briggs and I am a candidate for the Planning and Zoning Commission in the upcoming election in Andover on Tuesday. I have lived in Andover for the last 13 years raising two wonderful daughters. I have experienced positive and negative aspects of the town's planning and zoning throughout this time and this has motivated me to take an active role in providing leadership in the town's future planning, zoning and developmental needs going forward.

During the past 13 years I witnessed the proposed gas infusion station and was instrumental in making sure it did not step foot into our community. I have been vocal in supporting a Community Center that supports the senior citizens in our town who have been continuously cast aside for well over 10 years now. We have seen lots of talk but no action for the seniors in our community. Furthermore, I advocated for the implementation of the Long Hill Soccer fields.

My main goal is to assure that we continue to support the rural character of Andover and make it safe, beautiful, and representative of all residents and not just a few.

My mission is to support the town in moving forward with the planning and zoning needs of Andover that have been neglected for so long and make sure that we develop a solid Plan of Conservation and Development that protects our natural environment including Andover lake, farmlands, and our cultural and historical landmarks.

If I am voted in on May 3, I will work tirelessly for all members of the community.

Thank you!

Brian Briggs – Andover

Mr. Biden's Big Blunders

To the Editor:

In the past few days, President Biden canceled the completion of the Keystone Pipeline. Secondly, he stopped drilling for oil on federal lands. His excuse is we're going "green." Gosh, don't we all wish? And, he says something about setting "goals" about nine years down the road. Has he thought about if we miss his "goals"?

Well, here's my take on the situation. If we "do" or "don't" meet "his" nine-year goal, we still need oil. That means getting oil from the "North Slope" using the Keystone Pipeline – if it's ever completed. And if we find oil on federal lands we should cap the wells and uncap them if we need the oil – both are insurance, something Mr. Biden never heard of.

Biden is not a petroleum engineer and has no common sense of building a sensible energy policy. His policy is if we lack green, we freeze.

In case you're interested, China is our biggest polluter, with about 25% of the world's total. China is working on 10 nuclear power reactors to replace coal-fired plants. It's more for show. It will help very little; they still will be a big polluter – my opinion.

Second polluter is India, also about 25%, and burns coal, oil and lots of charcoal for cooking. What they're doing for "green," I honestly don't know. Nuclear will be in my opinion be of little help.

Third is Brazil, with its illegal depletion of its "rain forest," which the government has been unable to stop. Fifteen percent is the figure the forest could absorb "bad" stuff and convert into oxygen.

The figure for the world's cars and truck pollution is about 16% (we've come a long way on this one since 1973).

I hope I have enlightened you...

Sincerely,

Lambros Lambrinides – Portland

P.S.: PHS Class of 1963, Ward Tech. College, UofH Class of 1971 – G.I. bill. Here since 1947.

Obituaries continued

Colchester

John Richard Howard III

John Richard Howard III of Colchester passed away suddenly in his home Wednesday, April 14, at the age of 53. John was born July 7, 1967, to John Howard II and Ruth Howard in Norwich.



John spent his life in service of his family and three loving children. He leaves behind Shawn and his wife Jamie, Alyssa and her partner Joe, and Jacob. He also leaves behind the mother of his children, Denise, with whom he had a very special closeness. In addition, he will be missed by his dear friend Mike and his many pets.

John was a dynamic character who above all things loved his children. His purpose in life was to be a father and he did so with unyielding love, dedication, and humor. His family meant more to him than anything else, something he often reflected on. He was unendingly proud of his children and always tried his best to support them in all that they did.

John was a father to many pets over the years. He was a warm lover of animals, and cherished his time spent with his dogs and cats. John was also a lover of classic automobiles. He could often be found under the hood of a car when he wasn't spending time with his family.

Anyone who knew John knew that he was the most loving father a family could ask for, and he will be missed dearly.

A celebration of John's life will be held at a later date. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Friends of Animals charity of Darien.

Portland

Anna Fairbank

Anna (Pitruzzello) Fairbank, wife of the late Franklin Denis Fairbank, passed away Thursday, April 22, after a long battle with dementia. Born Nov. 26, 1932, to the late Vincenzo and Uliana (Emanuele) Pitruzzello, Anna grew up a lifelong resident of Portland before moving to Middletown in the last few years of her life. She attended St. Mary's School in Portland and graduated from Portland High School.



Anna was a beloved staple and friendly face in the Portland school system for 39 years, working in the high school's guidance office where she made many lifelong friends. Her greatest strength was her innate ability to be kind and encouraging to anyone she crossed paths with. Her optimistic outlook on life was infectious and never failed to put a smile on your face. Full of quips, humor and energy, she was always the first to lend a helping hand or remind you that, no matter what, "family is everything." She will be truly missed by all who knew her.

Anna leaves behind a family that she loved dearly. She leaves her daughter and son-in-law, Elizabeth (Betsy) and Richard Borg of Portland, and her son and daughter-in-law, Thomas and Stefania Fairbank of Newington. She leaves four cherished grandchildren (who affectionately referred to her as "Ma"), Christy Borg of

New York City, Christopher Fairbank of Middletown, Lindsey Fairbank and Matthew Fairbank of Newington, and a great-granddaughter, Evelyn Rae Fairbank of Middletown. She also leaves her brother-in-law, Richard Fairbank of Worcester, Vt.; sisters-in-law, Penny Sieffert of Travelers Rest, S.C., and Judith Randazzo of Port St. Lucie, Fla.; as well as her many nieces and nephews.

She is predeceased by her first son, William David, who passed away as a toddler and changed her perspective on life. She is also predeceased by all of her siblings, Mary Morello of Rocky Hill, Salvatore (Tootie) and Vincent (Jimmy) Pitruzzello of Portland.

The family is grateful to Anna's exceptional caregiver, Annmarie Edwards and her team of aides from Sharon's HomeCare, that cared for Anna and kept her safe during her long battle with dementia. The family would also like to thank Middlesex Health Hospice Care for their support and guidance as well as the staff and community at Heritage Commons in Middletown.

A private graveside service will be held at the State Veterans Cemetery in Middletown, where Anna will be laid to rest with her husband of 60 years. There will be no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her name to the Portland Volunteer Fire Department Company No. 2, PO Box 132, Portland, CT 06480 or to the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, P.O. Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284.

Portland Memorial Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

East Hampton

Bradley John D'Avignon

Bradley John D'Avignon, 31, of East Hampton, formerly of Bristol, Vt., passed away peacefully Thursday, April 22, at Middlesex Hospital, from complications of pneumonia, spending his last few hours in the comfort of his closest friends and family.



Born Dec. 31, 1989, in Middlebury, Vt., he was the son of William and Debra (LaMothe) D'Avignon of East Hampton. Bradley attended school in Bristol, Vt., until his family moved to Connecticut in 2001. He was a graduate of East Hampton High School in 2007, where he placed in the top 10 of his class. He graduated from Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston in 2011, with a Bachelor of Science degree in computer networking. Bradley had most recently worked as a Network Administrator for Zygo Corp.

Bradley had a strong passion for music, and enjoyed his time playing in the band Jackson Hill with his friends. He was an avid Bruins fan, and tried to watch every game. Bradley found happiness while golfing with friends, walking a dog at Salmon River, and whenever he had a cat curled up in his lap. Bradley was a kind, clever, easy-going soul, and he will be deeply missed by his friends and family.

Besides his mother and father, Bradley is survived by his maternal grandmother, Shirley LaMothe of Vermont; his sister, Allison Christianson and her husband Daniel of Ledyard; and his beloved niece, Norah Christianson.

A funeral service was held at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Thursday, April 29. Friends called Thursday, prior to the service. Interment will be held at Mount Saint Joseph Cemetery in Bristol, Vt., on Saturday, May 1.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Connecticut Humane Society.

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

Colchester

Florencia M. Cabanillas

Florencia M. Cabanillas, "Florence," 88, of Colchester, passed away at home, with her beloved children by her side, Saturday, April 24. Born in Chuquibambilla, Peru, on Jan. 1, 1933, she was a daughter of the late Francisco and Contantina (Valle) Ayala.



Florence married Luis E. Cabanillas Dec. 21, 1968, in Hartford. The couple lived in Wilimantic for a time before moving to Colchester where they made their home and raised their family. They shared 46 years together before he predeceased her on November 13, 2015. Florence was a talented crafter who enjoyed knitting and crocheting. She was also an excellent cook who enjoyed making special dishes for her children and family. Most importantly, she will be remembered as a fiercely devoted mother who put her children above all else.

Florence will be sadly missed but remembered with love by her son, Luis and daughter, Karol Cabanillas, both of Colchester; a sister, Reyna Ayala and three brothers, Milton, Gregario and Leoncio Ayala, all of Peru; a cousin, whom she referred to as her sister, Livia Valenzuela of Salem; and many extended family members and friends.

A funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester, on Wednesday, April 28. Burial followed in the New St. Andrew Cemetery in Colchester.

Florence loved animals and in keeping with her wishes, the family requests that donations in her memory be made to Protectors of Animals, www.poainc.org.

The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with care of arrangements. For online condolences, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Marlborough

Nick Christmas

Nick Christmas, 51, of Marlborough, passed away Wednesday, April 21, at Middlesex Hospital, from complications due to COVID-19. Born Jan. 22, 1970, in Springfield, Mass., he is the son of Joan Christmas and the late Leo L. Christmas.



As a teen, Nick was a member of the Glastonbury Police Explorers and when old enough enthusiastically joined both the Glastonbury and Marlborough volunteer fire departments.

"Nicky" graduated from RHAM High School in 1989 and then enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. He served as Air Force Security Police during Desert Storm at Griffiss AFB in Rome, N.Y.

After the Air Force, he went on to be a State of CT Corrections Officer. He started out at Somers Correctional facility and ended his career in transportation at the North Base Correctional Unit, where he retired after 22 and a half years. He loved his job as a corrections officer; he always had a great respect and rapport with the inmates. During those years, besides raising a family, Nick also opened Zac's Video Games in Colchester (where he employed half of Colchester's teenagers) and worked as a rep for Lawrence Eyewear. After retirement, not being able to sit still, he went on to work at Champagne Motors as a registry driver and then as Lawrence Eyewear representative.

Nicky loved life and family and we know as he left, and his first grandchild Peyton was born,

she fulfilled the circle of life. He truly lit up every room he entered and always made sure to reach out by phone or in person to all family members and friends. His greatest joys were his three children, Zach, Nicole and Luc.

Nicky loved golfing and playing cards with his father, brother, cousins and friends. He loved trying new places to eat and meet new friends. His big bear hugs were the best and he was always there for anything you needed. No one was a stranger to Nicky and he made sure to get to know anyone he came in contact with on a personal level. He really cared about all people and showed it through his loving and unique sense of humor that only Nicky had.

Nick is predeceased by his father, Leo L. Christmas, and grandparents, Gabrielle and Arnold Messenger, Helen and LeRoy Christmas, and his cousins, Buddy Christmas and Tony DiFranco.

Nick is survived by his love, Starr Kernozek of Wilimantic; mother, Joan Christmas of Marlborough; son, Zachary Christmas and Rebecca Whittemore of Andover; daughter, Nicole and Jose Martinez and granddaughter Peyton of Meriden; son, Lucas Christmas of Moodus; brother, Steven and Brenda Christmas of Marlborough; sister, Wendy and Shawn Dietz of Marlborough; sister, Kelly and Ryan Wolfe of Wallingford; and eight nieces and nephews. He is also survived by a huge family of uncles, aunts, cousins, nieces/nephews and many, many friends.

Funeral services will be private, and a celebration of life will be held at a later date. Friends may call at walk-through calling hours on Wednesday, May 5, from 4-7 p.m., at Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury. In order to adhere to current COVID-19 mandates, masks are required and six feet of social distancing will be maintained.

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

East Hampton

Robert E. Bartoletti

Robert E. Bartoletti, 70, of East Hampton, beloved husband of Claire (Couture) Bartoletti, passed away peacefully at his home, surrounded by his loving family. Born Jan. 10, 1951, in Hartford he was the son of the late Emil and Nell (Valvonis) Bartoletti.



Robert was raised in West Hartford and graduated from Conard High School in 1969. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Hartford. Robert had worked as an electrical engineer for Stanadyne Precision Instruments for over 20 years and then for Schneider Electric Motion in Marlborough for 10 years.

Besides his wife Claire, he is survived by his three daughters, Sarah and Sean Hayes of Glastonbury, Carrie and Jason Anderson of Marlborough, Rachael and Kevin Clavette of Hebron, and his six beloved grandchildren, Myles and Reid Hayes, Jack and Ben Anderson and Henry and Roman Clavette.

Bob's love of bluegrass led him to become a talented self-taught musician, with a passion for the mandolin. He loved to putter around the house and in his guitar shop, where he spent countless hours playing music and tinkering with instruments. He also loved to go boating and fishing, and has patiently taught his daughters and grandchildren to fish as well. Boating with the love of his life, Claire, was one of his favorite things to do, both fresh and saltwater. They loved to cruise out on the sound and enjoy the salt air and sunshine.

Bob and Claire were high school sweethearts, and would be celebrating their 45th anniversary this June. They shared an epic love as best friends and soulmates.

Bob had a huge heart and loved his family fiercely. He will be so missed by all of the people in his life.

Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, today, April 30, from 5-7 p.m. Funeral services will be private with entombment in Holy Cross Cemetery in Glastonbury.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society at LLS.org/donate.

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

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Reader Forum • Reader Forum

★ Letters cont. from page 23
An Irreplaceable Resource

To the Editor:
What sets East Hampton apart from other towns in the area? East Hampton's historical and rural character sets it apart and is an irreplaceable resource.

Main Street is home to fantastic and very unique independent small businesses that are owned by East Hampton residents.

I purchased my home 15 years ago with plans to start a family because of the unique quality and character of Main Street East Hampton.

Sincerely,
Ryan Bothamley – East Hampton
I Have Resigned

To the Editor:
My name is Peter Zawisza and for the last 20 years I have been on the Conservation-Lake Commission here in East Hampton.

Recently, the entire commission was asked to appear before the reappointment committee so they could evaluate all the members.

After I left the meeting I reflected on how they did not mention any of the work the commission had done in securing grant money to work around the lake.

I still have not been notified if I was reappointed. I have learned the Joe Carbonell was not reappointed, and has resigned.

On the other hand, the reappointment committee did decide to reappoint Wes Jenks back on the commission in October, not last month with the rest of the commission members.

This is who the reappointment committee has chosen to be a part of the Conservation-Lake Commission moving forward, a "come if it suits me" meeting attendee over the hardest-working member of the commission.

Peter Zawisza – East Hampton

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF HEBRON
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Reclaim and Pave
Webster Lane, Hickory Drive,
Walnut Drive
RFP 2021-05

The Town of Hebron is soliciting proposals from qualified vendors to provide reclaiming and paving at Webster Lane, Hickory Drive, and Walnut Drive.

1TB 4/30

Golden Age Games

To the Editor:
In 2020, we had a hit from COVID-19; it hit us with many people dying, and many in hospitals as well.

Even today we still have COVID-19 rules, even though we have taken a shot to help us get rid of it.

I think by New Year's Day of 2021, a new poster was published to tell all veterans games were back on again, in Madison, Wisc.

I have been a member of the games for 18 years, without missing them. Most who know me always say to me, "What's going on with your games?"

Believe me, I do hope to start another raffle this summer, to prepare for Sioux Falls, N.D., in 2022.

Martin Lopez, Veteran
Colchester

Birds and the Trees

To the Editor:
The life of birds was a topic of conversation at a recent Green Garden Gang Birds, Bees, and Seeds fundraiser.

According to Dr. Susannah B. Lerman of the Ecological Landscaping Alliance (ELA) "Trees and other vegetation deliver numerous essential ecosystem services in urban and suburban communities.

We know that trees have the capacity to provide habitat for birds where they can build their nests, stay protected from predators and the elements.

This is all good for wildlife and environmental sustainability. But trees make communities more livable for people; they add beauty and create an environment that benefits our mental health.

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
LEGAL NOTICE
Notice of Hearing

The East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a regular meeting on May 5, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM to consider the following:

- Application PZC-20-024: Paula Free, 249 West High St., for a special permit per Sec. 8.4 Motor Fuel Filling Station with a proposed convenience store in the Commercial Zone, Section 5.2. Map 06/Block 12/Lot 1B
Application PZC-21-007: Atlantis Marketing, 157 Main Street, 1 Colchester Ave., and 5 Colchester Ave., for a zone change from R-2 to Commercial Map 07A/Block 56/ Lots 21,22,24
Application PZC-21-009: Long Hill Estates, LLC., for an Eight (8) Lot Subdivision on Long Hill Road. Map 06/Block 12/ Lot 8.

2TB 4/23, 4/30

Town of Portland
Notice of Referendum
Monday May 10, 2021

Pursuant to Chapter 12, Section 1201, of the Charter of the Town of Portland and Chapter 90 and 152, of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut, as amended.

"SHALL THE GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET AS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AT ITS MEETING OF APRIL 7, 2021, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022, AMOUNT BEING \$36,151,533, BE ADOPTED?"

YES NO
Notice is hereby given that the location of the polling place is:
Portland Middle School
93 High Street
Portland, Connecticut

Absentee ballots are available at the Town Clerk's Office at 33 East Main Street, Portland, Connecticut during business hours.
Absentee ballots will be counted at the polls. Optical Scan Voting Tabulators will be used. The polls will be opened at six o'clock in the morning (6 A.M.) and will remain open until eight o'clock in the evening (8 P.M.).
ATTEST: Ryan J. Curley
Town Clerk
Dated at Portland, Connecticut this 8th day of April, 2021.

2TB 4/30, 5/7

vide space definition and landscape continuity. Trees impact deeply on our moods and emotions, providing psychological benefits impossible to measure.

Let's welcome more trees to Hebron.
Michele Sinkez – Hebron

Running for First Selectman
Dear Portland Residents:

It is with great excitement that I am officially announcing my candidacy to be the next first selectman of the Town of Portland. I have been an active volunteer in the Portland community for over 20 years.

I am running to be first selectman of Portland because I want to leverage my management and leadership experience, demonstrated over 20 years of volunteer service, and 30 years of business experience, to lead Portland into the future and address the challenges we will face in the coming years.

LEGAL NOTICE
Town of East Hampton
Town Council
Tuesday, May 11, 2021
East Hampton Town Hall Town Council
Chambers and Virtual via Zoom
6:30 p.m.

The East Hampton Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the fiscal year 2021 – 2022 Town Budget.

1TB 4/30

Portland Board of Selectmen
Legal Notice of Decision

In accordance with Section 1213 of the Portland Town Charter, at a regular meeting held on April 21, 2021, the Board of Selectmen adopted the following ordinance:

- Code of Ordinances
Chapter 13: Parks and Recreation
Section 13-4 Parks and Recreation Facilities and Fields
Rental Permit Fees

Fee Schedule
Each applicant shall complete a rental application and pay to the Parks and Recreation Department a rental fee for usage of a Town-owned facility/field/pavilion that is under the authority of the Parks and Recreation Department.

1TB 4/30

LEGAL NOTICE
MARLBOROUGH CONSERVATION
COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING
Senior Center (17 School Dr.)
& Teleconference

Teleconference Number 877 – 304 – 9269 / Access Code 423694#
The Conservation Commission will hold the following Hybrid Public Hearing on Monday, May 3, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

Application #16-20 – Bill G. Jonbalaj (applicant) 21 Austin – HGB LLC (Property Owner) South Main Street (Between 11 & 19 South Main Street) & Johnson Road – Special Permit – Village Cluster Residential Planned Development.

The room capacity will be limited due to Social Distancing requirements and masks are mandatory for those who attend in person. Written testimony will be received at the public hearing and written testimony can be sent to the Building /Land Use Department at Town Hall ahead of the public hearing.

2TB 4/23, 4/30

and concerns, sharing my ideas, and earning your support.

Jim Tripp
Current member of the Board of Selectmen
Candidate for Portland First Selectman

Need for More Police

To the Editor:
A recent letter to the editor by a person attending a Colchester Board of Finance meeting stated that she "was stunned to hear that two residents spoke in opposition to the need of hiring more police officers for the town of Colchester."

A police officer's primary job is to investigate crime and arrest criminals. If you think that reducing the time that it takes for a police officer to arrive at your home or business after it was burglarized by 5 or 10 minutes then by all means double the police force, regardless of costs.

Maybe we should look into other possible deterrents, such as locking all our doors and windows, installing motion-activated cameras on our streets or posting the name of your insurance company on your windows.

Frank Blume – Colchester

LEGAL NOTICE
MARLBOROUGH ZONING
BOARD OF APPEALS
PUBLIC HEARING

The Marlborough Zoning Board of Appeals will hold the following Teleconference Public Hearing on Wednesday, May 12 at 7:00 P.M.

Teleconference Number 877 – 304 – 9269 / Access Code 423694#
APPLICATION #ZBA-2-21 – Kyle & Stephanie Smigala (Applicant/Property Owner), 34 James Lane is seeking variance of Article Three A.1, Minimum Requirements, Article Three A.3 Conformity of Buildings & Land, Article Three A.5 Reduction of Lot Areas or Minimum Required Yards, Article Three A.9 Minimum Required Yards, Article Six D.2.c Rear Yard Setback, in order to construct a pool with a Rear Yard Setback of 18 feet where 50 feet is required.

2TB 4/30, 5/7

Legal Notice
Annual Town Budget Meeting
and Budget Referendum
Town of Portland, Connecticut

The Annual Town Budget Meeting will be held in person at the Portland Middle School-Cafeteria, 95 High Street (COVID safe protocols will be adhered to) and via Zoom A – www.portlandct.org Monday, May 3, 2021 at 7:00 PM, EDT

The Budget Referendum will be held at the Portland Middle School-Band Room, 93 High Street Monday, May 10, 2021 from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM, EDT. Contact Town Clerk's Office for Absentee Ballots

Table with 2 columns: Category and Amount. Includes General Government (\$1,503,122), Public Safety (\$2,203,075), Public Works (\$2,350,400), Planning and Development (\$164,773), Health and Human Services (\$358,925), Portland Library (\$748,650), Employee Fringe Benefits (\$3,231,855), Risk Management (\$202,000), TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT (\$10,762,800), EDUCATION (\$22,182,879), Debt Service (\$2,292,099), Sundry (\$913,755), TOTAL OTHER EXPENDITURES (\$3,205,854), TOTAL GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET (\$36,151,533)

The estimated mill rate would be 35.01, an increase of 0.63 mills over the FY 2020-2021 mill rate of 34.38. The estimated mill rate is subject to adjustment based on approved State of Connecticut Budget revenues to the Town.

2TB 4/23, 4/30

**LEGAL NOTICE
MARLBOROUGH ZONING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING**

The Marlborough Zoning Commission will hold the following Zoom Public Hearing Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 7:00 PM. Zoning Commission and the Public should utilize the Zoom line. To join the Zoom video meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/99967584126?pwd=cUJlOVZlZGZlbnU5ZjZdERGSyS9jQT09>
Meeting ID: 999 6758 4126 Passcode: p2Zy0h
Phone into meeting: 1 646 558 8656
Meeting ID: 999 6758 4126 Passcode: 088820
Note: Phone in has its own passcode different from the video conference passcode.
Application #Z-05-21 – Special Permit – Jones Hollow Associates, LLC (Applicant/Property Owner) – 382 Jones Hollow Rd. – Congregant living facility, residential care home
Kevin Asklar, ZONING COMMISSION CHAIR 2TB 4/23, 4/30

**Town of Hebron
Public Information Meeting Notice
5/12/21**

POSTED ON: APRIL 30, 2021
Subject: Main Street (CT RT 66) and Wall Street (CT RT 316) Intersection Improvements
The Preliminary design has been completed for the Town of Hebron's project to make improvements to the Main Street / Wall Street intersection in Hebron Center. The project would construct new left turn lanes on Wall Street and on Main Street. Also new traffic signals would be installed controlling all four approaches into the intersection. And crosswalks and pedestrian buttons would be installed on all four corners. This project was approved for funding under the State of Connecticut's LOTCIP Program. The goal of the project is to make the intersection function more efficiently particularly during peak hours, as well as improve pedestrian safety and usability of this intersection.
The Town of Hebron will conduct a virtual public informational meeting on Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 3:00 PM to present the project design and receive citizen input on this project.
To view this meeting, please note the following link to the virtual meeting:
Public Information Meeting - Main Street / Wall Street Intersection
Wed, May 12, 2021 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (EDT)
Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/706971101>
You can also dial in using your phone.
United States: +1 (872) 240-3311
Access Code: 706-971-101
New to GoToMeeting? Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/706971101>
It is the Town of Hebron's and the State's policy to keep persons informed and involved when such projects are undertaken.
Anyone interested in obtaining further information may do so by contacting the Town Planner at 860-288-5971 x 137. 1TB 4/30

**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF ANDOVER**

The Town of Andover is looking for volunteers to serve as Regular Members and Alternate Members of the following Land Use Commissions: Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission, Planning and Zoning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals.
Please submit your letter of interest to the Building and Land Use Department at 17 School Road, Andover, CT 06232 or buildingadmin@andoverct.org. 2TB 4/30, 5/7

**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Regular Meeting at 7 pm on May 10, 2021 via Zoom meeting (see Town website for details) to consider the following:
Application ZBA-21-005: Philip Rea, 63 Blue Heron Drive, to reduce the side setback from 25' to 23' to construct a 12' x 16' deck Map 24/Block 64/Lot 20-11
Matthew Walton, Chairman 2TB 4/30, 5/7

**TOWN OF ANDOVER
LEGAL NOTICE
ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING**

The Electors and Citizens qualified to vote in town meetings in the Town of Andover are hereby notified that the Annual Budget Meeting for the Town of Andover will be held at the Andover Elementary School in the Gymnasium – 35 School Road on Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. For the following purposes:
1. To choose a Moderator for said meeting
2. To receive the budget for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 as prepared by the Board of Finance
3. To approve a budget for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022
4. Adjourn
Copies of the Budget are available in the Town Clerk's Office. Voting by absentee ballot is not permitted for this meeting. Face masks are required for all attendees and 6 feet of social distancing per person except for those living together in a residential unit.
Dated at Andover, CT this 12th day of April, 2021.
Andover Board of Selectmen 1TB 4/30

**LIQUOR PERMIT
Notice of Application**
This is to give notice that, I,
GLORIA PRIAM
**11 SHAILOR HILL RD
COLCHESTER, CT 06415-2510**
Have filed an application placarded 04/20/2021 with the Department of Consumer Protection for a CONNECTICUT CRAFT CAFE LIQUOR PERMIT for the sale of alcoholic liquor on the premises at:
**11 SHAILOR HILL RD
COLCHESTER, CT 06415-2510**
The business will be owned by:
PRIAM VINEYARDS LLC
Entertainment will consist of: Acoustics (not amplified), Concerts, Disk Jockeys, Live Bands, Plays/Shows, Comedians, Magicians
Objections must be filed by: 06-01-2021
PRIAM VINEYARDS 2TB 4/23, 4/30

**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
RECOVERED PROPERTY**

The East Hampton Police have recovered the following items as lost property. If you are the owner of the following property, please contact the East Hampton PD at (860)267-9922 during business hours.
Item 1. Large metal cart
Item 2. Paw Patrol Backpack/contents
Item 3. Purple "Animal Rescue" Purse and Brown Nail Kit
Item 4. Citizen Women's Gold Color Watch
Item 5. Set of Keys w/Light Purple Carabiner
Item 6. Black Box w/ Jewelry
Item 7. Black iPhone 2TB 4/23, 4/30

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING ANTIQUES & OLD STUFF. Costume jewelry, pottery, bottles, crocks, jugs, toys/games, glassware, silver plated items, signs, typewriters, sewing machines, bar items, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, oil lamps, knives, hunting, fishing, military, Masonic, fire dept. and more. Donald Roy 860-874-8396.

PETS

AKC LABRADOR PUPPIES - Available May 10th, 2021! First shots, dewormed, and vet checked. \$1500. - Call (860) 267-2604



ADVERTISERS

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

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Carolyn Kress 860-908-4716



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THE FUTURE OF REAL ESTATE

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 Danielle Casey 860-202-6203 daniellecaseyhome@gmail.com	 Kamey Cavanaugh 860-398-0483 kameycavanaugh@gmail.com	 Deva Childs 860-796-7796 devachilds@gmail.com	 Laura Beth Collinson 860-262-2753 laurabethrealty@gmail.com	 Kira Coon 860-575-3177 kiramcoon@gmail.com	 Angela Crane 860-365-0342 angelacraneactor@gmail.com	 Hilary Culver 860-310-9715 hilaryculver@gmail.com				
 Emily Cyr 860-805-0451 emilycyrrealtor@gmail.com	 Allison Dillon 860-301-0955 abdillon@snet.net	 John Drury 860-466-0077 john@harrs.com	 Faith Farina 860-373-6993 faithfarina1@gmail.com	 Fred Ferguson 860-638-9362 fredfergusonct@gmail.com	 Patrick Florio 603-557-6663 patrickfloriore@gmail.com	 Sharon Fox 860-805-6917 sharonfoxrealtor@gmail.com	 Lynn Gardiner 860-729-1215 lynngardiner5@gmail.com	 Jay Gigliotti 860-235-3570 jgigliotti.cga@gmail.com	 Diane Gombieski 860-977-4857 gombieski@snet.net	 Matthew Gworek 860-882-8650 mgworekrealty@gmail.com
 Jim Harrington 860-966-9966 jim@harrs.com	 Jeff King 860-710-1323 jeffkingrealtor1@gmail.com	 JP Landrey 860-559-5340 jplandrey@comcast.net	 Sandra Lindstrom 860-334-5815 sandrallindstromrealtor@gmail.com	 Mike Mallon 860-338-5037 mjmallon1@live.com	 Catherine McNarry 860-306-4436 catherinemcnarry@gmail.com	 Lynn Minnick 860-989-7267 lynnminnickrealtor@gmail.com	 Bill Nelson 860-395-9139 william.m.nelson@comcast.net	 Christopher Passera 860-657-6578 cmpassera64@gmail.com	 Kara Pedersen 860-575-5904 karapedersen@gmail.com	 Filipe Pereira 860-990-9103 filipe@wemanagect.com
 Alex Pike 860-930-4164 alexpikeactor@gmail.com	 Lea Poresky 860-368-9437 caitlinreillyct@gmail.com	 Caitlin Reilly 203-667-7436 leaporesky@gmail.com	 Lauren Reis 413-896-3126 laurenreisrealty@gmail.com	 Preston Roth 860-662-0735 RothHomesRealty@gmail.com	 Barbara Royea 860-334-8714 BarbaraLovesHomes@gmail.com	 Koreen Ryan 860-250-6799 koreenryan1@gmail.com	 Kristina Segura 860-639-1681 seguraactorrealtor@gmail.com	 Jamie Smigel 860-759-9310 jamiesmigel.ct@gmail.com	 Candice Smith 860-917-4784 candicesmithproperties@gmail.com	 Tania Sones 860-918-5100 sonesrealtor@gmail.com
 Stacy Soracchi 860-534-0333 stacysoracchi@gmail.com	 Michael Varni 860-335-7380 michael@harrs.com	 Meaghan Vendetta 860-874-3396 meaghanvendetta@gmail.com	 Daniel Walsh 860-841-0183 danwalshsells@gmail.com	 Candy Webb 860-377-7510 candywebbrealtor@gmail.com	 Cieara Yanaros 860-754-7048 ciearasellct@gmail.com	 Gladys Yeager 860-944-9772 gladysyeager@sbcglobal.net	Carl Guild, Broker / Owner 41 West High St. 121 Broadway East Hampton Colchester 860-539-5373 www.CarlGuild.com carlguild@gmail.com			

REAL ESTATE

RENTALS

ROOMMATE WANTED TO SHARE CONTEMPORARY 4 BEDROOM HOME IN EAST HAMPTON. Contact 860-559-5578 for additional details

Glastonbury Center – 2 Bdrm \$1,290 Inc. Heat / Hot water. Excellent condition. Large 2 bdrm; Lvg room; 1 bath; large kitchen with dishwasher, hardwood floors. Private parking lot; laundry in building; large storage area. Heat and hot water included. Perfect for someone looking for a well-kept apartment. \$1,290/mo. 860-798-7403.

GLASTONBURY OAK ST. AREA 4 ROOMS, 1 bath, heat, appliances, 1st floor, large yard. Parking + storage \$1,195. per month + sec. deposit 860-342-1023

VACATION RENTALS

CHARLESTOWN BEACH, RI - All the amenities of home. Large screen porch, outside deck with gas grill, cable TV/Wifi, very private, large lot, 5-min. to beach, sleeps 6. Renovated bathroom. 860-306-3850, leave message. Dogs allowed.

ONE OR TWO BEDROOM CONDO FOR RENT IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA. 24/7 security, \$1100./\$1550. week. Includes one companion ticket, 5 miles from all attractions. Tel: 860-267-4657

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

GOLF DRIVING RANGE PROPERTY FOR LEASE IN COLCHESTER. Call Rich at 860-537-4093

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LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION!



COLCHESTER \$414,900
19 Ashley Lane – Elegant Country Colonial with Contemporary Flair & Fine Custom Craftsmanship. Over 4.5 acres in a quiet cul-de-sac with only a handful of homes in the development 3 beds 2.5 bath, 2 car garage 2 hours to NY & Boston.

For more info, text Nick Long 860-334-2868

STOP PAYING RENT!



COLCHESTER \$199,900
72 Windham Ave. – Highland woods 3 bed 1.5 bath duplex in a private area walking distance to amenities and town center 2 hours to NY and Boston.

For more info, text Nick Long 860-334-2868

2 FAMILY - GREAT PRICE!



PRESTON \$174,900
48 Route 2A – Location, location, location. Updated duplex halfway between Foxwoods & Mohegan Sun. Direct water views of Hallville pond. Large eat-in kitchen, washer dryer hook-up in basement. Quality tenants in place. Property grosses \$2400/month.

Call Kevin to preview 860-884-3302

NICELY REMODELED



EAST HADDAM \$197,500
130 Falls Road – You could walk to Moodus Reservoir from this remodeled vintage bungalow complete with newer roof, windows and mechanicals. Updated electric and plumbing. Antique charm with all the recent improvements make this home a steal at \$197,500.

Call Scott to preview 860-608-0769

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REA-30-21

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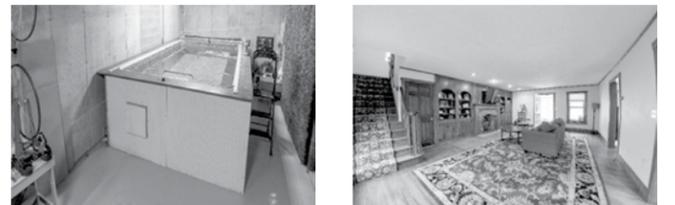
If anyone refused to rent to you because of your source of income, race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, religion, marital status, age, disability or because you have children, you may have been the victim of illegal housing discrimination. Contact the Connecticut Fair Housing Center.



NEW LISTING! 180 Middle Haddam Rd., Portland



Set back off the country road you will find this beautiful 5+ Bedrooms/3.5 Bathrooms Colonial that has everything you want & need, plus more! This unique property has 4065 square feet of Living space, 3 car garage, and an additional 465 square foot living area in the basement which has 12 foot ceilings along with an indoor pool. Yes, this property has an indoor pool! The large open space Bonus Area, has its own separate entrance & full bathroom and is perfect for an in-law suite, college students private area or whatever you can imagine. The Master suite has plenty of space, with a walk-in closet and gorgeous Master Bathroom. The kitchen has granite countertops, custom cabinets and the Living Room and the Family Room both have fireplaces and plenty of space to enjoy with family and friends throughout the year. The four seasons room is another spot to just sneak off to and take in the sunlight and relax. The outdoor area consists of a patio with stamped concrete, deck, pool, hot tub and your own soccer field in the backyard with plenty of lighting to enjoy throughout the night. Offered at \$599,900



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CIT4-29-21

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1.63 acres with gentle running brook accompany this one owner, impeccably maintained home. 3 BR's, 2 Full BA's, huge Kitchen with island & skylight, pretty cabinets, DR with access to large deck, newer oak floors, updated bath, lower level w/fp & woodstove, newer furnace, roof in 2016, newer windows & well pump. The screened porch offers more light filled living space! New adjustable awnings allow light in or out! Not your typical Raised Ranch!!! All Columbia residents have access to Columbia Lake! Join our real estate team member Karen Coton and view this special property close to Route 66 which is convenient to Hartford, UCONN, or Willimantic. Dir: Rte. 66 to Old Willimantic Rd.

4 Main Street, Hebron
860-228-9451
Roderic "Mac" McCorrison, Broker

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EMPLOYMENT

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

PART-TIME OFFICE HELP NEEDED. Possibility of full-time. Computer knowledge is a must. Quickbooks a plus. Call 860-295-9566

ANGELO'S BAKERY HELP WANTED FOR CUSTOMER SERVICE. Our hours of operation are Tuesday-Saturday 7-3:30 and Sunday 7-1. If you are available any of these hours come and fill out an application. Also need dishwasher. No phone applications accepted. Apply at Angelo's Bakery, 32 Halls Hill Road, Colchester, CT

LANDSCAPE & LAWN MAINTENANCE CREW MEMBERS: Landscape company is seeking experienced and motivated individuals to join our team. Minimum of 3 years experience in all fields of landscape work. Have a valid driver's license with a clean record. Be able to pass a drug test and background check. Ability to work outside in all weather conditions and capable of lifting 50 lbs or more. Compensation is based on experience. Please call 860-342-0352.

PRODUCTION WORKER, part time, all shifts. Must be 18. Apply at MPS Plastics, 351 N. Main Street, Marlborough, CT.

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

R.N.'S: Join the nursing team at Staff Mates Homecare, Hebron, CT and enjoy pleasant working conditions, individualized orientation, a challenging case load, and flexible work schedule. 1 year nursing exp. required, home care preferred. Send resume to HR.SMHC @comcast.net.

FT EMPLOYEE NEEDED TO SELL AUTO PARTS AND PPG PAINT. MARK'S UNITED AUTO PARTS, COLCHESTER. Please call Mark at 860-558-2643

SUPERINTENDENTS AND LABORERS with experience in commercial, industrial, and institutional construction for general contractor located in the Hartford area. Full-time positions with benefits and room for advancement. Email resume and/or qualifications to: employee150@yahoo.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

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

SEEKING HIGH ENERGY SERVERS (2yrs+) for patio season and beyond. Nights and weekends required. Email intro and work experience to eatlatsadlers@gmail.com

QUARRY RIDGE GOLF COURSE IN PORTLAND IS NOW HIRING ALL POSITIONS. Head chef, bartenders, waitstaff, kitchen staff, line cooks, grounds crew, customer relations, and more. PT/ FT flexible positions. Please call 860-788-2845 or email qrgolfpro@gmail.com

PT WAITRESS NEEDED, also dishwasher needed weekend days. Apply at Eggs Up restaurant on Rt.66 in Portland.

SKILLED CARPENTER WANTED FOR BUSY PROPERTY MANAGEMENT CO. 3-5 YEARS EXPERIENCE. Must have reliable transportation. \$18-\$22 per hour depending on experience. contact: JOHN.V@ADVANCECO.NET

PT AND FT POSITIONS FOR EXPERIENCED, RELIABLE AND CARRYING DAYCARE AND PRESCHOOL TEACHERS. Please call Belltown Discovery Center in East Hampton 860-267-0303 for more details.



Laboratory Technician / Maintainer 5 DPW-WPCF
Town of Portland, CT (EOE)
Deadline: 5/21/2021

Full time 40 hours M-F + stand-by on rotating basis; \$29.79 per hour; AFSCME union; fringe benefits. Work involves: WPC laboratory testing & process control in compliance with state & federal requirements. Subject to pre-employment drug/alcohol testing, DMV background check. Qualifications: Associates degree or equivalent in chemistry, biology or environmental science, +2 years progressively responsible experience in laboratory testing work, including 1-year waste water facility, or equivalent education/experience. Valid CT Driver's License, Class I Wastewater Operator Certification, Class I Wastewater Analysis Certificate. Send Town application to: First Selectwoman's Office, P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480

1TB 4/30

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.

TO APPLY:
Call Tony or Cody at Gano's Power Equipment
860-537-3431

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We Offer to You:

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- PTO
- Health Benefits

Scan to apply:

Website: promoldplastics.com/general-application/
91 Lower Main Street, Portland, CT

REA-30-21

EMPLOYMENT

Summer Help Wanted

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

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

TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAMWORK

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

TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAMWORK

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.A.s. Must like to have fun at work. FT & PT, 2nd and 3rd shifts available. Please email: kcifaldi@colebrookvillage.com

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
PLEASE CALL FIRST: 860-267-6102

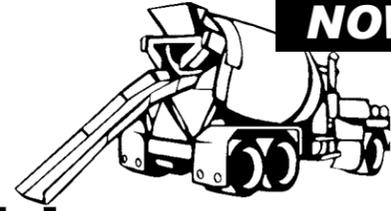
HELP WANTED - LANDSCAPING

Must be 18+ years old & have a valid driver's license. Positions currently available within our commercial mowing division, construction, mason division, and general landscape maintenance. Foreman positions available. Good pay with overtime.

Thompson Landscape Improvement
Call 860-659-1438

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CT LIC# 0648345

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Installation & Repairs
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- Floors
- Sidewalks
- Steps / Porches

SPRING

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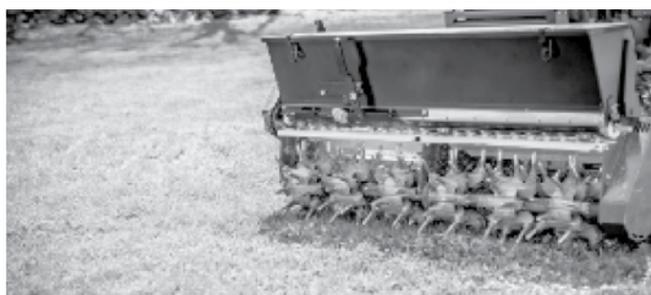


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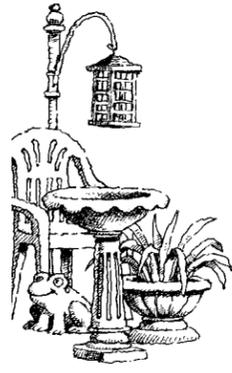
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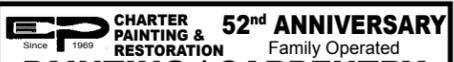


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TAG SALES
 ANNUAL TAG SALE, MARLBOROUGH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, 35 S. Main St., Sat., May 1, 2021, 9am-noon. Household, collectibles, furniture, toys, vintage, clothing, and bake sale. Safety precautions observed with masks required.
 TAG SALE - 16 Cedar Ridge Rd., E. Hampton. Saturday, May 1, 8:30-2. Adult/kid/baby clothes, toys, decor, linens, and lots of other stuff.
 CRAFT AND VENDER FAIR - Craft items, Thirty One, Color Street Vendors & more at East Hampton High School on May 1st, 9-1. Craft fair supports TANGO2 Research. Stamp & scrapbook tag sale too. Come and support!
 HUGE TAG SALE - Marlborough Arts Center, 231 North Main Street, 8am-1pm. Indoor/Outdoor. Rain or shine. Lower level parking Masks please.
 MOVING SALE - 20 Appletree, Portland, May 1&2, 9-3. Furniture, household, artwork/frames, tools, sports, toys. Everything goes, make an offer. No early birds.
 GARAGE SALE - Saturday, May 1 from 9-3 at 45 Michele Drive, Portland. Household items, tools, dorm fridge, guitars, books, games, camping tent, some furniture. Rain or shine. Masks preferred.
 COUNTRY COLLECTIBLES - Liquidation Tag Sale in back barn. Everything must go! May 1, rain or shine. 9-4 at 317 Waterhole Road, East Hampton.
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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, the Rev. Joanne Neel-Richard oversees Children's Ministry, and Martha Alimi is the music director. For more information or if in need of pastoral assistance, call the church at 860-267-0287 or visit www.christchurchmiddlehaddam.com.

Volunteers Sought to Serve

The town continues to look for volunteers to serve on various boards, commissions and agencies. Groups with vacancies for either full members or alternates are:

Arts & Culture Commission, Clean Energy Task Force, Conservation-Lake Commission, Design Review Board, Ethics Commission, Inland Wetlands Watercourses Agency, Library Advisory Board, Middle Haddam Historic District Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals.

Applications are available in the Town Manager's Office at 1 Community Drive or at www.easthamptonct.gov/home/pages/volunteers-needed.

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 required. Services are still available via Zoom; visit cc-eh.org to access.

Sunday school classes have also resumed in person.

The Teen Youth Group will next meet Saturday, May 22, from 9 a.m.-noon, to help with cleaning up the church grounds. Grades 6-12 are welcome.

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

Lake-Smart Award Time

The East Hampton Conservation & Lake Commission (C&LC) is inviting folks with lake or watershed property to have their property evaluated and earn a Lake-Smart Award.

The purpose of the program is to encourage property owners to improve the quality of Lake Pocotopaug via projects that 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.

Golf and Yoga Outing

The East Hampton High School Sports Boosters Club will hold its annual golf and yoga outing Thursday, June 24, at Fox Hopyard Golf Club in East Haddam.

Various options for participation in the golf tournament and yoga session are available. Registration and sponsorship information is available at ehsboosters.com or by calling Chris at 860-227-9941.

Hootenanny for Horses

There will be a Hootenanny for the Horses at Autumn Ridge, the CT Draft Horse Rescue (113 Chestnut Hill Rd.), Saturday, June 5, from 6-9 p.m.

There will be farm tours from 6-7 p.m. and live music from 7-9 p.m. Performers are Mary Ellen Cowles, Ken Stroebal, Joe Gilbert, and Karen Stein and Lance Grandahl. The musicians are acoustic singers/songwriters and play their own material as well as covers from Joni Mitchell, Paul Simon, The Low Anthem and more.

Picnics, lawn chairs and blankets are allowed. Tickets are limited, and are \$25 per person (free for kids 10 and under) and must be purchased online at www.ctdraftrescue.org/hootenanny-forhorses. More information and COVID-19 protocols are also on the website.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor (300 words or less) should be emailed to bulletin@glcitizen.com. Please include your full name and town of residence. A phone number must be provided (not for publication).

Open House

The Chatham Historical Society is resuming its monthly Open Houses on the first Sunday of each month. The museum and 1840 one-room schoolhouse on Bevin Boulevard will be open to the public on Sunday, May 2, from 2-4 p.m.

This month will feature a new display of early doctors in East Hampton. This includes a timeline of when they practiced, a couple of their doctor bags and photos. Masks are still required and social distancing observed.

Draft Horse Rescue Rummage Sale

CT Draft Horse Rescue will hold a Rummage Sale Saturday, May 15, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., at the rescue, located at 113 Chestnut Hill Rd.

Swap Consignments in Portland has donated clean women's clothing in sizes XS to XL, accessories, and children's clothing to be sold to benefit the rescue. Prices are \$2 per clothing item and \$2 and \$4 for other items. CDHR volunteers have also donated items for a tag sale.

Shopping bags will be supplied or you may bring your own. In compliance with COVID-19 restrictions, social distancing will be observed, attendance will be limited and patrons and staff must wear face coverings.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/ctdraftrescue.

Library Open House Today

Middle Haddam Public Library will hold an open house Friday, April 30, from 3-6 p.m., to welcome the public back to the renovated library located at the corner of Knowles Road and Route 151 in the Middle Haddam section of town.

All should wear a mask and social distance. The building, which has been in constant use as a library since 1906, offers a spot to find a book, hold a meeting, study or catch up on work.

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, or Franky Dallas at 860-267-4513.

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 and the East Hampton Connecticut Rotary Club Facebook page.

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

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 or 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. The library is waiving all fees and fines.

Weekly Activities for Kids: Stories and Songs: Wednesdays at 10 a.m. via Zoom, for

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.

Draft Horse Rescue Open House

All are invited to celebrate the fourth anniversary at Autumn Ridge, the farm for the Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue (113 Chestnut Hill Rd.) Sunday, May 23, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Admission is free.

There will be vendors, raffles, and food by Drafty Donuts. Parking will be in the hayfield or along the street, if needed. This event is rain or shine.

CDHR is a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving the lives of neglected or abused draft horses as well as those heading to slaughter. For more information, visit www.ctdraftrescue.org or www.facebook.com/ctdraftrescue, or email ctdraftrescue@aol.com.

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, May 7 and 28; Monday Funday, for grades 6-8, May 24.

Adult Program: Pots with Pizzazz: Tuesday, May 25, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom. Learn how to brighten shady spots and create focal points for vistas. Register online.

Honor Society Inductee

Macey Dugan of East Hampton, a student at Eastern Connecticut State University, was recently inducted into the Kappa Delta Pi, the international honor society for education.

Dugan is a junior majoring in elementary education and liberal studies.

Resident Receives Award

Eastern Connecticut State University freshman Grace Michalowski, of Haddam Neck, was among the students recognized when the ECSU Music Program held its annual Honors Recital and Award Ceremony April 16.

Michalowski, who majors in music, is a recipient of the Freshman Award.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church News

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church holds weekly services at 10:15 a.m. each Sunday, with fellowship following. Communion blessings are held; participation only requires a piece of bread. All are welcome; log-in information is at www.facebook.com/BethlehemEH.

Resident Participates in College Production

Ryan Mayhan of Middle Haddam was a member of the video and sound team, working on pre-recorded video sequences for the recent Spring Theatre production of *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* at Hamilton College in Clinton, N.Y.

Mayhan, a junior majoring in cinema and media studies, is a graduate of Hillsdale High School.

President's List

The following East Hampton residents made Goodwin University's fall 2020 President's List, for scoring a perfect 4.0 GPA:

Matthew Bergeron, Jennifer Harris, Lauren Haydon, Ginneane Kirk, Meygan Mandeville, Marissa Mills-Burt and Chelsea Pike.

Epoch Arts Summer Session

Epoch Arts is bringing back its in-person summer session in July; this year there will be two weeks of offerings, based on ages: July 19-23 for grades pre-K-5, and July 26-30 for grades 6-10.

Both sessions will feature breaks in outdoor classrooms. Class sizes will be small, social distancing regulations will be followed and masks are required. Classes are held at 27 Skinner St.

Space is limited. For full details and to register, visit www.epocharts.org/classes-registration.

Class of '67 Reunion

East Hampton High School's class of 1967 will celebrate its 54th class reunion Saturday, June 12, at 5 p.m., in the Piano Room at The Dublin, 42 E. High St. Cost will be "pay as you go," with ordering off the menu.

A headcount is needed, so if attending call Rita at 860-797-1092, Lauralei at 860-424-2284 or GERALYN at 860-682-2067.

Athletic Hall of Fame Nominations

The East Hampton Athletic Hall of Fame is accepting nominations through Sept. 15 for its 2021 induction class. The Hall of Fame recognizes people and teams that have "made a significant impact to the athletic landscape of East Hampton."

The induction banquet will be Friday, Nov. 5, at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron. For more information or to submit a nomination, email Tom Seidl at seidlt@sbcglobal.net.

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