

**RIVEREAST**

News Bulletin

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

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Getting Vaccinated... East Lyme resident Josh Goldstein, left, took part in one of Chatham Health's vaccine clinics this week in Colchester. He received his first dose of the Moderna COVID-19 shot and said he is ready to move beyond the pandemic. His mother Amy, right, has already been fully vaccinated, but went to the clinic to support her son. See story on page 13.

RHAM Community Mourns 'Tireless Advocate'

by Sloan Brewster

The Hebron and RHAM community was rocked this week when Vincent Colonna Jr., a RHAM school board member and a longtime beloved volunteer, died suddenly.

Colonna, 50, of Hebron, died Monday. The cause of death was not disclosed.

Colonna, who was also president of the RHAM Sports Boosters, was well-known and well-loved in the community.

Colonna – a father of four with three children graduated from RHAM and a daughter a senior at the school – played a significant role in supporting students, said Scott Leslie, the RHAM interim superintendent of schools and former principal at the high school.

Leslie described Colonna as generous and a representation of "the heart and soul of RHAM spirit."

A mainstay at games and athletic events, Colonna could often be heard over the microphone encouraging players and fans alike, creating enthusiasm for what students were doing on the basketball court or athletic field, Leslie said.

When teams qualified for tournaments, Colonna immediately picked up the phone and called the school to arrange for fan busses and pizza to build crowds at the games to cheer players from the bleachers.

"Vin was a tireless advocate for RHAM," the superintendent said. "Most of us saw that at games and events."

Passionate about all aspects of the school community, and a "selfless, unique individual who everyone knew and loved," Colonna's support reached "everything associated with

RHAM," including teachers, staff and all students, whether they were athletes or otherwise, Leslie said.

Dan Trudeau, RHAM athletic director, also used the words "selfless" and "passionate" to describe Colonna and said he was "so giving."

Trudeau echoed comments about Colonna's efforts to excite folks at games to make the experience enjoyable for the students and said he would be there at halftime raising the energy by playing music.

Leslie said music was a clear indicator Colonna had arrived.

"Vinny's presence was known before you walked into the gym or before you walked onto the soccer or football field," he said. "It was known by the music he played."

Leslie said Colonna typically played a "high-energy" blend of classic rock and rap.

When there was a lull in the game or the players needed some cheering on, Colonna would grab the mic and work the crowd. If a player completed a great play, he would let everyone know.

"You could not help but miss Vinny's presence at those games," Leslie said.

Before the games, too, he was there, working to support and stock concession stands to raise funds for the boosters and leading the organization in its efforts.

An integral part of the school community, students had regular contact with Colonna and knew he was there to support them, Leslie said.

"Vin, he was one of those individuals that had a natural affinity for kids; he knew how to con-

See *Tireless Advocate*, page 23

Bylone Hotly Criticized for Proposed Colchester Budget Hike

by Karla Santos

On Tuesday, Colchester First Selectman Mary Bylone proposed a \$16.40 million general government budget for 2021-22, an 8.24%, or \$1.24 million, increase over the current budget.

The proposed hike did not go over well with several in attendance at the meeting.

According to the budget history section of the budget packet, the increase is the largest in town in at least 13 years. Previously, in that period, the largest spending spike was a 4.55% in 2016-17.

Bylone has proposed adding two new officers to the police department at \$87,500 each, including wages, benefits and equipment.

She also has proposed dishing out \$66,400 to cover "unfunded mandates" related to the Police Accountability Bill passed by state lawmakers last July. The bill requires officers to use body and dash cameras and be trained in their use.

Also in the proposed budget, Bylone called for an increased town staff. She said she wants to add a five-hour-per-week office assistant to work with human resources, a five-hour-per-week planning clerical position and a seasonal groundskeeper to work over the summer.

In addition, Bylone proposes salary adjust-

ments to even out pay inequities and align wages to job descriptions and workload.

"We have to demonstrate the value our staff bring to the table and many of the current wage and benefit structures do not do this," Bylone said, and added the town lost several employees this year because of wages.

Bylone is planning to spend \$2.37 million in capital improvements. The \$420,570 increase from the current year includes improvements in police vehicles, field irrigation, basketball courts, the playground and a new roof for the youth center.

Bylone said she is aware the town is not in a position to fund everything she asked for, however, she stressed that she and town staff spent hours going over department head requests and reviewing town operations and the capital improvement and vehicle plans.

She said the \$16.40 million request is "not inflated."

"This is what we believe it really takes to run the town of Colchester and meet the needs of the people," Bylone said.

She also said she does not plan to cut budget items she knows are needed and that she has already removed more than \$300,000 department

head requests.

Bylone noted revenue is up and – due to state and federal funding and an increase in the Grand List – and should continue to rise.

The Public's Reaction

During the question-and-answer portion of the meeting, Colchester resident Vince Rose thanked Bylone and her team for preparing the budget and said he supports it as presented.

"I just think it's really refreshing to have a budget put out where there is an honest discussion of the costs of not investing," Rose said.

Carol Vaillancourt said she agrees with some of the expenses, particularly those that will help meet the needs of the police department. However, Vaillancourt said she is concerned about a high increase during a pandemic. She said she counts herself as an example of someone who has suffered through the pandemic and feels it's difficult to ask for such a high increase during these times.

Resident Deanna Bouchard also expressed reservations.

Bouchard said focusing on what it takes to run the town is important – but said she does not agree with such a large increase during a pandemic.

"I know many people, especially in my neighborhood, that were financially impacted by this pandemic," she said.

Bouchard said the number of people using services such as the food bank reflects the hardships people in town are facing.

She also said that while she appreciates the fact that Bylone is trying to restructure salaries, she doesn't think this is the year to do it.

Tim Vaillancourt said at a time when people are suffering, the increase is too high. He also said he disagrees with salary increases at this time.

"In our household when we don't make enough money to cover our bills, Mary, we don't spend more money and try to figure out where to get it from; we spend less money," Vaillancourt told Bylone. "You should be ashamed of yourself."

Budget Breakdown

For 2021-22, Bylone is proposing to spend \$4.09 million in general government, which reflects a \$350,461 increase from the current budget.

Bylone proposes spending \$3.41 million on

See *Criticized*, page 23

HEBRON

Fire Chief Selection Sparks Disagreement ... Pg 9

HEBRON

\$10.50M Budget Sent to Finance Board Pg 10

COLCHESTER

Town to Receive \$1.5M in Stimulus Pg 12

COLCHESTER

Route 2 Crash Prompts Lifestar Call Pg 14

REGIONAL

Local COVID-19 Cases Jump Pg 17

REGIONAL

Obituaries Pgs 24-25

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

An interesting development in the war against COVID-19 came Monday when the CDC issued new guidance saying that all of the cleaning and sanitizing of surfaces that's been going on ever since the start of the pandemic – it might not be all that necessary.

Oh, cleanliness is still a great idea, of course, but the CDC in a statement Monday said the risk of contracting the coronavirus through surface transmission is less than one in 10,000.

Now, as Yahoo News reported Monday, scientists have known for months the virus is almost exclusively airborne. That's why masks and social distancing are so incredibly important. Still, nearly every building open to the public has been quite adherent to strict sanitizing protocols. Places like schools and libraries have even closed regularly for "deep-cleaning days."

And while it's a nice sight and a calming thought, it isn't doing much to prevent COVID-19 itself.

"In most situations, cleaning surfaces using soap or detergent, and not disinfecting, is enough to reduce risk," states the new guidance, which Yahoo reported was introduced by Dr. Rochelle Walensky, the CDC director, on Monday.

Indeed, given the airborne nature of the virus, it's much more important to make sure things are properly aired out. Open doors and windows, and just in general provide a better air flow.

"If we took half the effort that's being given to disinfection, and we put it on ventilation, that will be huge," Jose-Luis Jimenez, an atmospheric chemist at the University of Colorado at Boulder, told the science journal *Nature* last month.

Now, the CDC did say Monday disinfectants are necessary "if a person known to be infected with the coronavirus has been inside the space in question within the previous 24

hours," Yahoo News reported.

As Yahoo reported, it can be difficult for restaurants and other high-volume establishments to know whether a patron is infected – especially with rapid testing being so rare. So, as Yahoo speculated, the process critics have derisively called "hygiene theater" is likely to continue.

As I'm a fan of clean, I personally don't mind if it continues – as long as better ventilation goes along with it.

* * *

As more people get vaccinated, they will likely feel better about human contact and basic socializing – which would be great for many reasons, but in particular for the terminally ill, who too often are alone.

Visiting Nurse & Health Services of Connecticut (VNHSC), a hospice program, notified me this week it is seeking volunteers to visit terminally ill patients and their families. VNHSC's required volunteer training program will start soon. VNHSC is particularly seeking Reiki practitioners, music volunteers, and patient visitors.

If interested, or for more information, contact John Roush, hospice volunteer coordinator, at 860-682-3405 or jroush@ehn.org.

* * *

I got a kick out of Sen. Mitch McConnell telling corporations Monday they should "stay out of politics." You might want to rethink that one, Mitch.

McConnell's warning came after Major League Baseball, Delta, Coca-Cola and others soundly criticized Georgia's new voting law.

"Corporations will invite serious consequences if they become a vehicle for far-left mobs to hijack our country from outside the constitutional order," McConnell said, according to the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

He didn't specify what those consequences

Editor's Desk continued on page 4



Letter of Commitment... East Hampton High School senior Sarina Michaud recently signed a letter of commitment to play soccer at Curry College in Milton, Mass. Michaud is a four-year member of the girls' soccer program, and is the daughter of Kevin and Rachel Michaud.

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

Thank You, Chatham Health!

To the Editor:

Two weeks ago, I had an appointment for my first COVID shot. The Chatham Health staff and the volunteers helping out were nothing short of amazing! Thank you Chatham Health and all the volunteers that are assisting with the process. Your time and commitment to helping the public is very much appreciated!

Kamey Cavanaugh – East Hampton

Many Thanks

To the Editor:

To our many friends, family members and neighbors, on behalf of the Westchester Congregational Church, we sincerely thank all of you for helping us with our "Turkey Dinner Grab 'n Go" fundraiser, making it a huge success. Mother Nature cooperated; it was a beautiful spring day. We wondered out loud if any of you had ventured down to Day's Pond to enjoy on your meal by the waters.

Our team has several other fun events planned for the rest of 2021 and sincerely hopes that we will soon be saying "goodbye" to COVID-19. WCC will continue to provide updated event information in this great paper for your information so please check out the "Colchester" section weekly. And of course, we will be holding our monthly tag sales on the third Saturday of every month.

**Sincere thanks to all!
Eleanor Phillips, Treasurer
Westchester Congregational Church
Colchester**

Clothing Drive Thanks

To the Editor:

The Hebron Historical Society would like to extend a big thank you to everyone who contributed to our Clothing/Textile Drive. The two-day collection was an overwhelming success, with residents of Hebron and surrounding towns participating.

We heard many positive comments and heartwarming stories of the clothes from donors and why they were finally able to "let it go."

Volunteer students and residents were a tremendous help in addition to society members; all had an enjoyable time while handling the steady stream of donations.

HHS will soon be offering a mill site tour. Information will be posted soon.

Please consider joining us! Check us out at hebronhistoricalsociety.org

**Sincerely,
Hebron Historical Society
Board of Directors**

Nelson for Planning & Zoning

To the Editor:

I want to go on record as endorsing Steve Nelson for the Planning & Zoning Board in Andover. He is an extremely qualified candidate who brings excellent credentials to this board. Steve has over 35 years of engineering experience. As vice-president of QuEST Global Services, he manages the business unit of this global engineering services company. Steve is responsible for over 500 engineers and works with a diverse group of global customers. He would not only bring technical knowledge but also the ability to work in a positive, collaborative approach with the other members of the Planning and Zoning board.

Steve and his wife moved to Andover in 2019, yet both are already active in the community and now Steve has reached out to offer his expertise on our Planning & Zoning Board. I believe Steve Nelson to be the best qualified person, so I am writing to express my support for him and my intention to vote for Steve in the upcoming May 3rd election.

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

Thank You, Walter Clark

To the Editor:

For roughly 25 years I have driven by the Clarks' house on Chestnut Hill Road. Occasionally I would stop to purchase vegetables at their roadside stand. Walter and his wife were the kindest people you could ever meet. What struck me as even more amazing was their work ethic. During the summer months of July and August, in 95-degree heat, they would be out in the fields working all day without exception. They must have been in their 80s at the time. Their work ethic was unparalleled. I was roughly 40 then and considered myself a hard worker. I was not in their league and could never have kept up. I was amazed time and time again at their resiliency as I drove by in my air-conditioned truck. They demonstrated a kind of work ethic you just don't see anymore.

When I saw last week that Walter served with distinction in World War II, I was initially surprised, but then it made sense. Walter and his wife were from the Greatest Generation. What we now consider to be unique and exceptional behavior was just normal to them.

Walter, thank you for your service and for being a role model. Everyone could learn a lesson from you. I am proud to be your neighbor.

Aaron Butler – Colchester

See Letters, page 4

Bulletin Board

In my search for relief from the unending barrage of negative news reports in these troubled times, I learned this week that to work off the calories contained in a single slice of bacon I would have to do 215 sit-ups or 43 push-ups.

While this is not what I would consider "good news" exactly, it does at least offer a brief diversion from the non-stop news coverage of COVID death counts; systemic racism; NY Governor Andrew Cuomo's "playful" (as he characterizes it) libido; the unacceptable fact that brain surgeons make more money than high school dropouts; whether transgender athletes should get Congressional medals or be publicly flogged; politicians angrily accusing one another of being minions of Satan (if you ask me, they all are); the heated debate as to whether the surge of migrants at our southern borders should be characterized as "a crisis" or merely "a situation;" and so on and so on.

Not to diminish the importance of these many issues, but let's step back from the tumult for a moment, shall we? Let's talk about something that doesn't care what color you are, or your gender or sexuality. It has no regard for the depth of one's hypocrisy or how much money you make or if you're a US citizen or not. It treats us all the same.

I refer, of course, to that irresistible (to me, anyway) conveyor of flavor, grease and calories, the king of breakfast, the crowning glory of sandwiches and salads, the one wrap-around that makes even brussels sprouts edible and scallops at wedding receptions the stuff of dreams...

Bacon.

Now it doesn't take a genius to recognize that bacon—like virtually everything that tastes really really good or is really really fun—is bad for you. Even those of us who excuse our forays into culinary sin with the mantra "everything in moderation," must admit that when it comes to bacon (the food equivalent of heroin), "moderation" is a pretty pathetic alibi.

As I noted earlier, one slice of bacon would require 215 sit-ups or 43 push-ups just to work off the calories—and that's assuming you still have heart function after ingesting the accompanying grease and fat.

There was a time in the long distant past when I could knock off 100 sit-ups and 50 push-ups and scarcely break a sweat. Sadly, that was several thousand BLTs ago. Sit-ups these days consist of moving from a prone position to an upright position on the couch and I've exchanged push-ups for pull-ups—i.e., pulling up my pants over a somewhat expanded waistline.

More to the point, who in hell eats just one slice of bacon? If you have a BLT sandwich you're talking at least four and probably five slices of bacon. That's 860 to 1,075 sit-ups. Even if you do two or three a day, that's going to take you about five years to accomplish. That's a long time between BLTs. And Lord only knows how much more the bread adds to the equation.

Now for the good news. As my wife will readily attest, I am somewhat of an expert in rationalizing bad behavior. After considerable thought, I have concluded that you don't have to experience guilt about indulging in an occasional bacon binge. Should you experience a pang of remorse when enjoying a BLT, or bacon in any of its many delightful forms or fashions, just remind yourself that compared to a Bloomin' Onion (1,954 calories, which would require a 21.96-mile hike to walk off, say experts) bacon is practically a health food.

It's all a matter of perspective, friends. Would that all our dilemmas were so easily rationalized, if not exactly solved.

Jim Hallas

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

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

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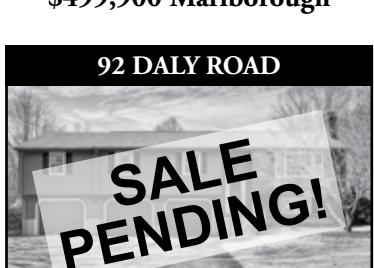
- Bill in Marlborough

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- Joe in Colchester

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★ Letters cont. from page 2

Porphyria Awareness Week

To the Editor:

April 11-17 is National Porphyria Awareness Week. The porphyrias are a group of metabolic disorders; most are genetically inherited. No race is exempt; porphyrias are found around the world, on every continent. Identified as either acute (multi-systemic neurological presentations) or cutaneous (skin manifestations), each is caused by enzyme deficiencies that result in accumulation of toxic metabolites throughout the body. The acute porphyrias are perhaps the most difficult to diagnose because they can present with a confounding combination of "over the top" symptoms that mimic numerous illnesses—and too often encourage unkind/unprofessional labels of "acting out," "looking for attention" and/or "drug seeking." Author Dinesh Puri, MD, PhD describes Acute Intermittent Porphyria (AIP) as "one of the most bizarre disorders a physician ever encounters."

That's because the aforementioned toxins can cause a raft of symptoms: recurrent unexplained severe abdominal pain; pain in chest, legs, or back; constipation or diarrhea, nausea or vomiting; muscle pain, tingling, numbness, weakness or paralysis; mental changes, such as anxiety, confusion, hallucinations, disorientation or paranoia; breathing problems; urination problems; rapid or irregular heartbeats; fluctuating blood pressure; fainting; seizures. Multiple symptoms presenting concurrently is considered an attack—which can be life-threatening.

As hard as it is for doctors to understand, consider the perspective offered by a patient who describes the dystopian life that too many acute porphyrics "live" with:

"The number one consistent thing about porphyria is: It is – except when it isn't, then it really is unless it isn't and then you can tell because the same thing happens every time – except when it doesn't and something different happens that becomes the "new thing" that happens every time until the old thing that almost never happens starts happening all the time – except when it doesn't. Now, that wasn't so hard to understand, was it?" © R. Sorum

In short, Acute Porphyria is a brutal medical ride...

Joyce Gould – Portland

Editor's Desk continued from page 2

would be – just that they'd be serious.

"My advice to the corporate CEOs of America is to stay out of politics," McConnell said. "Don't pick sides in these big fights."

The funny thing is McConnell seems to have had no problem in the past with corporations "picking sides" – as long as it's his side.

Corporate donations have played a large part in getting McConnell and many of his Senate colleagues to where they are today. As *Vanity Fair* reported, McConnell himself has received, just in the past five years, \$4.3 million in corporate donations to help fund his campaigns.

So I guess McConnell is saying he'll gladly take their money – as long as they keep their mouths shut?

Hypocrisy in politicians is nothing new – on either side of the aisle. But rarely is it quite so blatant.

* * *

See you next week.

Adieu

To the Editor:

By the time you read this I will have departed Hebron, my home for the past 36 years, and Connecticut, where I was transplanted 51 years ago. Time and taxes have done us in. We are heading for less expensive climes, and by way of this letter are saying goodbye to those we couldn't visit before leaving.

This took place very quickly and the last three weeks have been a whirlwind. It is with myriad bittersweet memories that we have sold our home and departed for life's next great adventure.

I'd like to thank Carole Saucier, Mike Thompson and Jim Hallas from *Rivereast* for their consistent support of my writing and business ventures. And the extended Braman family for inviting me to Hebron in the first place, and the Porter and Warner families for their friendship while I was here. I can't forget my vet buddies, Bill "Sawdust" O'Donnell, Rich Anselmo, and Dan Arnini; all were fixtures at the Legion booth at the Harvest Fair and valued friends. The Steinmillers calling out "Fried Dough!" at the Maple Fest is a treasured memory.

Nor will I forget the VFW chili booth, and my wife and I cleaning pots after hours in 1991, the year I was post commander. I really miss the SAL's annual Venison Football event under Mike Porter's presidency. And who can forget the Republican Town Committee? I will especially miss the Carrs, the Dominskis, the Coxes, and our entire West Street neighborhood, a perfect place to live and raise a family. With Adam and Carly on one side and Mike and Kimberley on the other, we were blessed with good neighbors.

In closing, I am gone, but if you were my friend, I hope to see you again, further on up the road!

Ron Winter – Hebron

Brinker for Board of Finance

To the Editor:

It gives me great pleasure to write a letter in support of my neighbor, Marc Brinker, for the Andover Board of Finance. Marc was elected to the Board of Finance (BOF) in 2019 and then elected by the BOF to be the chair. He takes his role of chair very seriously. He says that

his main function is "to keep board meetings running smoothly, maintain fair and legal meetings, and ensure that all viewpoints and opinions are heard."

Marc is the director of manufacturing operations for Opus Inspection Inc. in East Granby. He has worked for this company for 19 years and he is directly responsible for three departments with annual budgets of \$3.5 million. Although he has taken part in several finance courses through UConn's MBA program, he strongly believes that the most important role he brings to the table is his experience managing multi-million-dollar budgets and his ability to bring together diverse groups with different goals and challenges to create mutually-beneficial outcomes.

Marc and his wife, Jennifer, who has been a teacher for 34 years, have lived in Andover for three years and have four grown children.

Marc has the experience of successfully serving Andover on the BOF as the chair for the last two years, as well as the technical expertise through his professional training and formal education to successfully meet and exceed the expectations of this role.

Thank you,
Charlotte Nelson – Andover**No-Excuse Absentee Ballots**

To the Editor

The 2020 elections were successful in Connecticut in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic due to no-excuse absentee ballots. Many people assume that this is now permanent, but that is not the case. In fact, our state constitution must be amended to change current laws, and there are two bills now pending in the legislature to expand voting access. Bill HJ 58 will make no-excuse absentee ballots permanent. Bill HJ 59 will allow early in-person voting. Republicans have introduced an opposing bill to prevent the secretary of state from making voting easier, as was done in 2020.

If you want to make no-excuse absentee ballots and early voting the norm in Connecticut, urge your state representatives and senators to vote for HJ 58 and 59 as soon as possible.

Nancy Goodwin – Portland

Great Library Programs

To the Editor:

Marlborough's Richmond Memorial Library is providing us with adventures from around the country! My wife and I have been singing and dancing with them. Doors have opened to experiences and knowledge delivered virtually via Zoom I didn't expect a library would and could provide. If you are curious, I suggest you go to this link: richmondlibrary.info/calendar/

I cannot promise there will be singing and dancing again, but if you pay attention to what appears on their website, and is written up in the *Rivereast News Bulletin*, you may be as surprised as we were to discover opportunities to learn by doing, seeing, listening, and engaging with people from Marlborough, as one of our presenters was, or from other parts of the country. One program provided information which will lead to a museum in the Berkshires on one of this country's religious experiments, the Shakers, and another to a source of native plants for our gardens. There is great variety for many ages.

And there are other resources available virtually through them too.

Check them out!

Dave Porteous – Marlborough

East Hampton Past

To the Editor:

For over 30 years, from the 1940s through the 1970s, the East Hampton Chamber of Commerce actively supported our community businesses and was a vibrant positive force promoting a number of aspects of our town, including cultural enrichment. Whether it was lack of interest, declining numbers or deterioration of the Village Center, the local Chamber dissolved. Fortunately, the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce has become East Hampton's voice to represent business interests. Even through the past year during the pandemic, monthly East Hampton-Portland Division meetings are open to the public on Zoom the first Wednesday of each month.

In the heyday of our local chamber, the members along with many talented local performers presented The Belltown Jubilee on May 9th and 10th in 1969. This musical revue, staged in two acts and six scenes, featured over 45 performers with support of 27 production and stage workers. I smile when I think of Ed Barton as Hobo Dusty singing "Cruisin' Down the River," with George Loos as Hobo Wary Willie. Barbara Warzecha performed in the Tavern Scene, singing "Those Were the Days" with Bill O'Neill as the Waiter. Diane Tokarz with her mom Roby Lange and sister Linda danced "The Black Bottom." The chorus, which included Nikki O'Neill, Ann McLaughlin, Mary Loos, Judi Hughes and 36 others, sang a number of familiar songs – oldies but goodies. From all accounts the Jubilee was an amazing success.

The program booklet, with ads supported by nearly every local business as well as friends from surrounding communities, was spiced with humorous quips such as, "The younger generation will soon find out that the Man from U.N.C.L.E. is the tax collector." Yes – those truly were the days!

Dean Markham – East Hampton

Vote for Gerry!

To the Editor:

I am writing in enthusiastic support for the candidacy of Gerard J. Cremé for his re-election to the Andover Board of Education (BOE). Gerry has served as the vice chair of the BOE for more than five years and has done a tremendous job. He provides a unique and important voice to the BOE that must continue to be represented by Gerry.

Gerry was a fourth-grade and fifth-grade teacher in South Windsor for 17 years before Parkinson's sidelined his career and, prior to that, he owned a flower shop in West Hartford for almost 20 years. Wanting to continue to be involved with students in his unplanned retirement, Gerry mentored students at Andover Elementary School (AES) and was selected by the BOE to fill a mid-term vacancy before then being elected four years ago to continue serving on the BOE as its vice chair.

AES needs Gerry's words of wisdom and compassion on the BOE when it deliberates. I greatly appreciate that Gerry always is prepared for BOE meetings and is the first to volunteer to serve on its committees, from the Superintendent Search Committee last spring to the two contract negotiation teams last summer and winter.

Please vote for Gerry on May 3rd to keep his critical voice on the Andover BOE! Thank you!

Sincerely,
Shannon O. Louden, Esquire
Andover

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

RANKED #1 in HEBRON!**Countryside Realty of Hebron
Ranks #1 in 2020!**

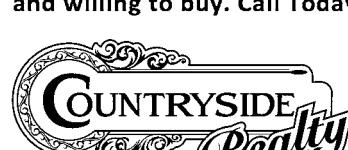
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Kevin Rarey, Publisher

Mike Thompson, Editor

Carole Saucier, Office Manager

Staff Reporters:

Sloan Brewster—Hebron, Andover & RHAM

Karla Santos—Colchester & Marlborough

Jack Lakowsky—East Hampton & Portland

Advertising Representatives:

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

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Reader Forum • Reader Forum

'Mainstream Media'

To the Editor:

An interesting phrase is overused in public discourse: "mainstream media". We should define such highly-used terms; after extensive analysis I can report that "mainstream media" means "news sources I disagree with."

That's all.

When people tell you the truth is to be found on some obscure website, but that "the mainstream media are covering it up," you can be 99.99% certain that their "truth" is pure nonsense. If you hear, "That's what they want you to think," it's this same balderdash.

When some MSNBC or Fox News talking head describes a story "the mainstream media was too timid to cover," it means they have some fact-free, sensationalized idea with no credible expert support. For believers, the very fact that the experts disagree is itself evidence it must be true – pure delusion.

The phrase was once used equally by the left and the right, but the left has moved to on to "corporate-owned media," which means mostly the same thing. These days "mainstream media" connotes "journalism that doesn't agree with my preconceived conservative ideas."

People using "mainstream media" imply they have access to highly-credible, well-hidden sources the rest of us have overlooked. That's almost never true. Instead it means that because they don't like the facts, they will proclaim falsehoods that suit them better. Think global

warming deniers. Think anti-vaxxers.

You see this everywhere. A recent letter was a good example, suggesting that Ponzi-schemer Martin Armstrong was locked up not for fraud and not because he wouldn't return his ill-gotten gains, but because he wanted to keep his source code private. I'm sure the writer would tell you that the mainstream media got all this wrong. Hint: you can believe the normal press, court filings and many rebuttal websites over Armstrong's own pages.

Sincerely,
Scott Sauyet – Andover**Briggs an Excellent Candidate**

To the Editor:

Brian Briggs is an excellent candidate for the Andover Planning and Zoning Commission.

He is deeply involved in Andover as he is a PTO member, coaches Andover Youth Basketball and is a member of the Recreation Commission. He understands the need for community involvement in current and future decision making. We need his people and problem-solving skills on the Planning and Zoning Commission. Brian will help Andover move ahead in

the future when elected.

I strongly support Brian Briggs for the Andover Planning and Zoning Commission and urge you to vote for Brian on May 3.

Sincerely,

Anne Cremé – Andover

Note: Cremé is vice chair of the Andover Planning and Zoning Commission but said she is writing as an individual.

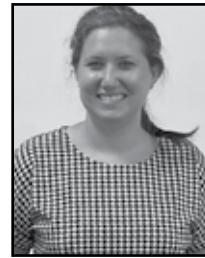
See Letters, page 6

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RE7-19-20

Reader Forum • Reader Forum

★ Letters cont. from page 5

Alternative Vision

To the Editor,

Progressives spend their lives standing on their heads while telling the rest of us that we're upside down. Whatever connection they have with reality is to an alternative version. Everything they support and do always produces the exact opposite of their stated intent.

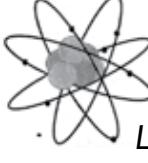
In order to defeat racism, we must all become racists. Prejudging everyone you encounter on the basis of their race demonstrates you aren't a racist. Regarding and treating people as individuals proves you are a racist. "Beam me up, Scottie!"

Joe Stevens can't write a letter without resorting to red-herring and straw-man arguments, among other logical fallacies. His bizarre rebuttal to my letter was replete with nonsensical insinuations of things found nowhere in my letter. The closest he came required torturing an MLK quote into its opposite meaning.

Stevens absurdly obsesses about the Capitol incursion as an insurrection and attempted coup. He repeatedly decries the alleged assault on a policeman with a flag while ignoring the murder of an unarmed woman by an officer who remains un-named. He's not only silent regarding the more than 700 police injured (many killed) during the BLM/Antifa riots, but supports this as an expression of the "unheard voices." When 60 Secret Service agents were injured during the siege of the White House, his only objection was Trump's defiantly crossing the street for a photo by the burned-out church.

We're not climate deniers, but those fallaciously calling us that are climate liars. Fabricating and falsifying data to align with fraudulent hypotheses represents the antithesis of science. Empirical data proven to be flawed should be discarded, not adjusted. Over 40% of daily measurements utilized in calculating average temperature are estimated, even when the actual readings are available. The field of climatology is largely a corrupt facade.

Sam Prentice - Andover

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men are created equal" meant all "humans." Today, to be "politically correct" we need to say, "all men, women, gay, transgender, other, etc."

What are we allowing our country to become?

Biden commented how wrong it is to not allow people to be given water while waiting in line to vote. The new law does not prohibit people from having water in line. In fact, they can bring their own water, buy water, or receive free water from an unattended receptacle at a self-service water stand.

This big to-do about the new Georgia voting law is to help the Democrats push through HR 1. If you don't know what that is about, look it up.

Gary Gile - Andover

On Being a Bee

To the Editor:

There is a symbiotic relationship between native bees and plants; they have a history of adapting together in their native environment to the benefit of each. These adaptations may make them less likely to visit the types of non-native flowers often sold by nurseries. Some of this is based on the bee shape and size "matching" with flower shape and size. Flowers entice bees with the strategy of pollen depth. Pollen brushes onto the bee as it goes down for nectar and delivers it to the male and female parts of one flower or to other flowers.

Another strategy is color. Pollinators can see flowers in UV ranges which helps them to see the center of a flower. Bees can see blue, green

orange yellow and UV. Butterflies are near-sighted and see most colors and for hummingbirds, red is the bloom color of choice.

To keep the web of life alive, pollinators have preferred landing places and flowers are designed to accommodate them. Bees grip their flowers with their feet, sometimes even upside down as they feed on the nectar and collect pollen. Bumblebees like tubular shapes and have no problem getting pollen from hard to reach places such as the tomato flower. Hummingbirds are best in flight and like flowers shaped like trumpets, which is in accordance with the structure of their beaks. They need space to hover around the bloom while they drink the sweet taste of nectar.

So fellow gardeners, make plans to plant more flowering plants that are native to the Northeast and avoid exotic, unnatural colored flowers or double-petaled cultivars. Try to think like a bee. Where would you like to dine in comfort of your home land and get the best meal?

Michele Sinkez
Green Garden Gang
Amston

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Senior Center News & Notes

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

AARP Income Tax Assistance: A reminder for those people with appointments: When arriving for your appointment, remain in your vehicle; a volunteer will come out to obtain your paperwork. Arrive 15 minutes early if possible, and if you have a cell phone, bring it.

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

T'ai Chi & Qigong with Tom Cushing: A new session begins April 29 and classes will be held Thursdays, 10-10:30 a.m., via Zoom. Cost is \$40 per session, payable to Portland Senior Center. Call the center to register.

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

Light Aerobics: Class will start Monday, April 12, weather permitting, and will be held Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 9:30-10:30 a.m., outside at the Route 17 park. If interested, just show up at the park.

Spring Fling Concert: Thursday, April 15, 7 p.m., via Zoom, with singer/songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, therapeutic musician and member of the local band "Seat of Our Pants,"

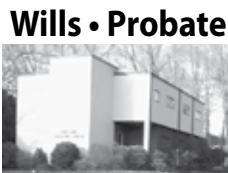
No Brush Pick-Up This Year

The town will not be doing brush pick-up this year. It will resume pick-up in spring 2022 and will then continue every other year.

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

Ronald W. Kutz, Esq.

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Scholarship Offered by Garden Clubs

Applications are due April 10 for a \$500 scholarship being offered by The Garden Clubs of Portland.

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

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

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



Birth Announced... Joshua and Jessica (Castelli) Shelberg of East Lyme have announced the birth of a daughter, Charlie Louise. Charlie was born March 4 at Lawrence & Memorial Hospital. Grandparents are Steven Castelli of Portland and David and Joanne Shelberg of East Haddam. Charlie joins big brothers Cole, 6, and John, 3. Photo by J-Marie Photography.

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 Portland.

There is no fee required to enter this contest. The top three winners will be announced at a virtual awards ceremony on May 27 at 6 p.m. on the Zoom online streaming platform. Each of the three will be presented with a certificate and will have the option of performing their poem during the ceremony.

The poems will be compiled with other top poems from the contest and published in a bound book by the Parks and Rec. Department. Once the book is made, it will be added to the catalog of Portland Library and put on display.

Poems can be entered into the contest by using Portland Parks and Recreation's RecDesk Registration Software. Call 860-342-6757 or email adionne@portlandct.org for help submitting your poem.

Entries will be accepted through May 17.

Portland Exchange Offering Scholarship

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

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



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Soccer Club Taking Spring Registrations

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

Club Soccer: Runs May 1-June 12 (seven-week season). All games are at the New Portland Recreational Complex. Cost and schedule: Pre-K sessions (\$60): 8:45-9:30 a.m. (Saturday only); Dribbler sessions (\$75): 10-11 a.m. (Saturday only); Kicker sessions (\$75): 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. (Saturday games and Wednesday practice). Full-team uniforms for Dribbler and Kicker divisions and shirts and balls for

Trinity Episcopal Church News

Trinity Episcopal Church, 345 Main St., will hold a Morning Prayer inside this Sunday, April 11, at 9 a.m. All COVID-19 guidelines will be maintained. All will be required to wear masks and maintain social distancing. The church will have doors and windows open for proper ventilation.

The church is also continuing its 10:30 Zoom Sunday services indefinitely. Additional information is available at trinitychurchportlandct.org.

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

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

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

pre-kindergarten are included in the registration fees and will be available for distribution prior to and during the first day of play.

Travel-Town Soccer: Cost per travel registrant is \$100 for U9 to U15. The Travel Division will be in-house only, with individual teams practicing and playing within their own group cohort for practices and games. Specific cohorts will be determined after registration closes. PSC will also hold additional foot skill, shooting and goalie training throughout the season; this additional training is included in the registration fee.

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

Celebrate Poetry in Portland

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

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

The library is open for brief visits. The number of visitors is limited; people should call 860-342-6770 for an appointment before visiting.

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Foodshare Truck Coming

Portland Food Bank, located at 7 Waverly Ave., will host a Foodshare truck Monday, April 26 at 1 p.m.

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

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

Bill Peterson Memorial Scholarship

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

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

Applications are at www.bluesombrero.com/portlandsoccerclub under the Community Link drop-down, and are due May 1.

Resident Achieves Circle of Success

James McCabe, MBA, CFP, a private wealth advisor with McCabe & Associates, a private wealth advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services in Portland, has qualified for the company's Circle of Success annual recognition program and will be honored for this achievement.

To earn this achievement, McCabe established himself as one of the company's top advisors. He has 30 years of experience with Ameriprise Financial.

For more information on McCabe & Associates, call McCabe at 860-342-1756 or visit the Ameriprise office at 329 Main St.

Correction

The picture of drummers drumming amid brownstone several issues back was wrongly captioned by the photographer. It took place at Quarry View, 311 Brownstone Ave., at the quarry's north edge. Quarry View should reopen by mid-April.

First Congregational Church News

ated by the Anniversary Committee.

United Church of Christ churches throughout the country are coming together to provide assistance to people suffering from all over the world through the annual collection for One Great Hour of Sharing. Donations can be made by sending a check to the church, payable to "First Congregational Church," earmarked for One Great Hour of Sharing or by leaving a check in the "Drop Box" at the Nursery School entrance.

The church is celebrating its 300th anniversary in 2021, and to commemorate this special occasion, members are invited to write an act of kindness they have completed on a paper heart and return it to the church office or leave it in the "drop box" by the Nursery School entrance. A display of 300 acts of kindness is being created.

The church recently launched a weekly e-newsletter, *The Weekly Word*. Anyone wishing to be added to the mailing lists (both electronic and Postal Service) of this congregation should email first.church.pct@sbcglobal.net, or leave a message at 860-342-3244. For more information, look for the church on Facebook at The First Congregational Church of Portland, or visit www.firstchurchportlandct.org.

In Solidarity with AAPI Community

On Wednesday, April 14, at 6:30 p.m., the Portland Social Justice Coalition will host a community conversation on Zoom entitled "In Solidarity with our AAPI Community Members."

A brief video about the history and causes of anti-Asian racism will be presented. Participants will be invited to engage in a conversation about how community members can stand up against racism and increase support and justice for the Asian American community.

Email Portlandsocialjustice@gmail.com for more information or for the Zoom invitation. More about PSJC can also be found on Facebook by searching for the Portland CT Social Justice Coalition.

Zion Lutheran Church News

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

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

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

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

For more information, or if you are in need of pastoral assistance, call 860-342-2860, email zion.lutheran@snet.net or visit zionlutheranportland.org.

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).

Hebron • Hebron

New Fire Chief Selection Leads to Disagreement

by Sloan Brewster

Hebron has a new fire chief – but the appointment didn't come without some controversy.

At last Thursday's Board of Selectmen meeting, the board approved the retirement of Fire Chief Nick Wallick "with regret" and voted 4-1 to appoint Peter Starkel of Columbia to the post.

The one 'nay' was John Collins, who said he felt blindsided by learning of previous assault charges that had been filed against Starkel.

Farewell to the Old Chief

In a phone call Tuesday, Wallick, who is 66, said he had been fire chief for about eight years and joined the department in 1999. He said he has enjoyed working with the town and the folks at Town Hall.

"It was all good," he said. "It was all a good experience. We saw some fires and saw some successes and so on and so forth."

Wallick submitted his formal letter of resignation last week, Town Manager Andrew Tierney said. He had initially announced his desire to retire last year but "was gracious enough to stay once COVID hit."

"For over eight years he's gone down and above and he served this community very well, and he deserves recognition for that," Tierney told selectmen when he announced Wallick's retirement.

Before accepting his resignation, selectmen bid Wallick adieu and lauded him for his service.

Board of Selectmen Chairman Daniel Larson, who is also a member of the fire department, said he had seen Wallick climb through the ranks and become chief and was "proud and honored" to have worked with him.

Selectman Marc Rubera, who is also a police sergeant in town, said he had been to a lot of scenes with Wallick and has appreciated his "dedication and professionalism."

Rubera said there were several firefighters on the virtual meeting to support Wallick and thanked them for making the community safer and gave the same nod to Wallick.

Though he has let go of his position as chief, Wallick said he will remain a firefighter in town but will focus on teaching at the state fire service. He said he joined the volunteer department as a way of doing community service and helping people.

Welcoming the New Chief

Wallick was also part of the team that selected Starkel to replace him, and told selectmen Starkel was among 10 applicants from around the state who sought the position. From that pool, he was one of three finalists.

In the fire service for 37 years, Starkel has been a firefighter, EMT and instructor at the Eastern Connecticut Fire School, Wallick told the board. He is the Connecticut Director for the Association of Fire Chiefs, was on the committee that developed a paramedic advisory board and is deputy fire coordinator for the Tolland County Mutual Aid Fire Service.

Starkel was deputy chief of the Columbia Fire Department for six years and chief for 11, has

completed 20 to 25 training courses, and carries many certificates and certifications.

Wallick said the panel unanimously agreed Starkel was the best candidate for the job and that they had worked together on scenes, including those involving death, and he felt he was a good fit for the department.

Larson said he had known Starkel since 1981, has worked mutual aid calls with him and that he was a fine choice to carry on the "chief's traditions and responsibilities."

A Google Search

Selectman John Collins said that while he had met Starkel at an emergency meeting last year and was impressed with him, he had found something concerning online.

"I did a Google search," he said.

He said when he put Starkel's name into the search engine, he uncovered assault charges.

Tierney said the state police had vetted the charges during a background check and advised him there was no reason Starkel could not take the job.

Starkel told selectmen he had informed Tierney of the charges, which he said were due to a family dispute. He further told the board he had been to counseling and that based on that, there were no charges on his record.

According to information on the state judicial website, though, Starkel was charged with third-degree assault, second-degree unlawful restraint and disorderly conduct in July of last year. The case is listed as pending, awaiting disposition and has a court date scheduled in December.

In a phone call with the *Rivereast* on Tuesday, Starkel said the charges still showed on the judicial website because he had one more counseling session to complete the following day; he said once he completed that session, he would return to court and the charges would be cleared, and he would "put everything to rest."

"We've followed the court's recommendation and then some," he said.

Collins, after selectmen rejected his request to table the decision so the board could look into the matter, voted against appointing Starkel to the position.

All the other board members voted in favor of the appointment.

In an email to the *Rivereast*, Collins said Tierney was not providing adequate information for the board to make important decisions and that the charges, in his experience, "would be a consideration when hiring any employee, public or private."

He said he voted against the appointment because the board needed more information "to make a reasonable and responsible decision."

He said much the same thing at the meeting

last week.

"This should have been brought up to us," he told his fellow board members. "It's like the number one signal I am sending to the community is that we're expected to be a rubber stamp to this town manager."

Rubera came to Tierney's defense, pointing out that police completed a background check and determined the charges would not impact Starkel's employment and said Tierney was acting based on that investigation.

"Nobody on the board is qualified to do a background check," he said. "If [police] had any concerns, they would have brought them up."

Larson also chimed in and said if the police "are happy" with the results of their investigation, "I'm happy."

Collins again repeated that he would not "rubber stamp decisions."

Tierney – at the meeting and in a phone call with the *Rivereast* – repeatedly reiterated that state police assured him there was nothing in Starkel's record to prevent him from doing the job or that he would bring any potential liability to the town.

He said he was acting in his capacity as the chief executive officer of the town and that, per charter, he appoints someone to a given position and the board confirms that appointment.

"That's my job as the town manager," he said. "I did all the leg work. I did all the interviews and I make sure I bring the best information forward."

According to Section 801 of the town charter, which is available online, the Town Manager is responsible for appointing administrative officers.

Tierney said he did not include details about the charges in the information packet for the meeting because it was not something he wanted

on the website. He said he gave out the packet nearly a week before the meeting and that board members could have contacted him for specific information about Starkel, adding that any other board member would have called him if they had concerns or questions.

"The most qualified person got the job and he was thoroughly vetted and four out of five board members agreed, like they do pretty much every time," he said. "It's not a rubber stamp."

St. Peter's News & Notes

St. Peter's Episcopal Church, located at 30 Church St., has issued the following pieces of news:

Services on April 11: Will be held at 8 and 10 a.m. inside the church, observing the COVID-19 protocols. The 10 a.m. service will be broadcast. Recorded services are available on stpetershebron.com, on the church's Facebook page, or on the church YouTube channel, accessible at tinyurl.com/ydy6s4dn.

Plant Sale: Saturday, May 8. Mailed-in orders with drive-thru pickup.

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

Outreach: Monthly Food Donations: Are collected for various local food pantries; items may be placed in the brown bin outside the Parish Hall. **Prayer Shawl Ministry:** This is a knitting group that provides shawls to parishioners suffering bereavement or illness. Contact the church for more information.

For more information, visit stpetershebron.com, search for St. Peter's Hebron on Facebook, or contact the church office at 860-228-3244 or office@stpetershebron.com.

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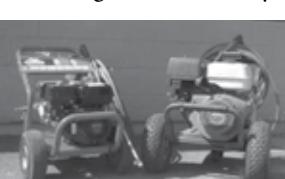
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Hebron • Hebron

Selectmen Send \$10.50M Budget to Finance Board

by Sloan Brewster

Hebron's Board of Selectmen has passed a \$10.50 million general government budget onto the Board of Finance, a \$773,457, or 7.96%, increase over the current year's spending plan.

Combined with the local Board of Education's \$12.17 million budget and the town's \$12.77 million levy for the RHAM budget, the total proposed spending plan comes to \$36.64 million, a 2.53%, or \$904,766, increase over the current year.

On March 30, at a budget workshop, selectmen approved the budget, which is now in the hands of the finance board. The Board of Finance met Wednesday to mull the numbers.

The numbers include an \$8.21 million government budget; \$868,877 in capital improvement projects exceeding \$75,000; a \$125,000 contribution to open space; a \$152,022 contribution to capital projects; a \$50,000 contribution to revaluation, and \$1.086 million in debt service.

While the town found some savings, including in insurance, since Town Manager Andrew Tierney presented his original \$10.43 million spending proposal on March 1, the numbers

are higher as AHM contributions have been switched from the RHAM budget to the town's and because of "a few other budgetary changes," Finance Director Elaine Griffin said. She said the additional changes were due to better estimates.

If passed as presented, the budget would bring the mill rate to 36.56, a .23 mill increase from the current 36.33 mill rate, Griffin told selectmen and finance board members.

Selectman John Collins, the sole dissenter in the vote to approve the budget, decried the increase and said there should be no tax increases during a pandemic. He further criticized that there have been town spending increases for two years running.

Last year the increase was 7.7%, he said.

"I see taxes as a taking, when people work hard," he said. "It's just wrong."

Griffin attributed increases in government spending to a new full-time position in the Parks & Recreation Department, which she said would cost the town \$80,000 for salary and benefits. She said \$30,000 of the increase is for the police department; another \$30,000 is for the

fire department; \$20,500 covers COVID related expenses; and \$77,000 is for AHM.

Collins reiterated his dismay and again stated that he would oppose the budget and said there should be a change in vision in the town and officials should think creatively to make government more efficient.

Selectman Marc Rubera cut in to ask where Collins would find savings.

"What are you going to cut – fire, the police? Plowing? What are you going to cut?" he asked "You're talking nebulously. What specifically do you think we should cut from the budget?"

Collins replied that he was "not going to wear down this road" but said the board had not held "a robust discussion of policy."

In an email to the *Rivereast* this week, Collins said he was an outsider on the board and disagreed with on a number of issues, including spending.

He also said the Board of Selectmen should be more transparent.

"I strongly support the schools and their budgets, but I don't think the town office budget should be increasing at close to 8 percent a year, which is what is happening, and I'm hearing that more bonds and debt are coming," he said. "I think information should be available to citizens, on request, and selectmen certainly should be given information, especially concerning budget matters, when they request it."



Palm Sunday Procession – Donkeys Included!... The Rev. Michael Philippino and Deacon Ben LoCasta, of The Church of the Holy Family, processed with donkeys to commemorate the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, March 28. The donkeys, Chewbacca and Dominique, were provided by a parishioner, Regina Molnar of Donifer Farms. From left are LoCasta and Phillipino with the donkeys.

Residents Sought to Serve

The Board of Selectmen is seeking residents to serve on various town agencies.

There are vacancies for regular members of: the Planning and Zoning Commission, Commission on Aging, Library Board of Trustees, Green Committee, Public Building Committee and the Commemoration Commission.

There are also vacancies for alternate members of: the Planning and Zoning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Conservation Commission, Public Building Committee, Historic Properties Commission, Green Committee and the Economic Development Commission.

People interested in joining a particular board or commission should attend one of its meet-

ings and talk with the chairman about the time commitment involved.

Also, there is a vacancy for a Hebron resident to serve on the Catchment Area Council 15 for Amplify - North Central Regional Mental Health Board. A vacancy also exists for a Hebron representative on the Central Regional Tourism District Board of Directors. The mission of the district is to promote leisure, business, group and corporate travel to the region.

All Hebron residents who are registered voters are eligible. Letters of interest may be sent to The Town Manager's Office, Town of Hebron, 15 Gilead St., Hebron, CT 06248. For more information, call 860-228-5971.

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Cathyann Schulte, left, and Kristen Merrill

Local Realtors Receive Awards

Cathyann Schulte and Kristen Merrill of Countryside Realty of Hebron were each awarded The Five Star Award for Real Estate Agents in March, as featured in *Connecticut Magazine*. The award is given to agents that score high among clients and industry peers.

Schulte has received this honor for 11 straight years.

Countryside Realty is located at 30 Main St. and can be reached at 860-228-8512.

Bottle/Can Drive April 10

Troop 28/1028 Hebron Scouts BSA will hold a Bottle/Can Drive Fundraiser Saturday, April 10, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., in the Ted's Supermarket parking lot in Hebron. The fundraiser will go to benefit the Scout organization, to make Scouting affordable and attainable for all interested boys and girls.

Snofolk Seeking Summer Fun

The Town Center Project is currently accepting sponsorships for hosting a Snofolk for the summer. SnoFolk can be in a garden, yard or anywhere you can think of.

Express your interest and your bid via email to ttcp@thetowncenterproject.org or via Facebook at facebook.com/towncenterprojectinc. Highest bidder wins choice.

Christ Lutheran News & Notes

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

Sunday Worship: Sundays at 9 a.m., an in-person Divine Service is held. All are invited. Worship is liturgical but casual. For current safety protocols and the latest pandemic announcements, visit www.clchebon.org/open. Details on online streams of the service are at www.clchebon.org/online.

Online Sunday Bible Study: Sundays at 7 p.m. To attend, go to global.gotomeeting.com/join/713476005. You can also dial in by calling 312-757-3121, followed by the access code: 713-476-005.

Caring Shepherds: The Next Open Pantry will be on April 10; call Caring Shepherds ministry for more information at 860-494-0431. Caring Shepherds will also be at 877 Main St. in Willimantic Saturday, April 17, handing out hygiene kits, Bibles and supplies at 11 a.m. Caring Shepherds shares the gospel and provides free basic need items to those in need.

Sunday School: Sundays at 10:30 a.m., in person and also livestreamed at facebook.com/CLCHebon.

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

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

Yard Work Help Available for Seniors

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

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

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

Hebron Cemetery Spring Cleaning

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

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

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

Help Hebron Bloom

The Green Garden Gang (GGG) is looking for new members.

The GGG is a group of interested citizens working together to establish pollinator-friendly habitat and food sources for bees, birds and other insects along a series of corridors throughout town. The GGG facilitates the creation and maintenance of nearby pesticide-free native planting sites to create a functional Pollinator Pathway in Hebron.

The Pollinator Pathway garden at the Raymond Brook Preserve off Kinney Road is partially planted, but volunteers are needed to plant some additional 40 native plants in early May.

Existing gardens that need to be maintained are the center island of the Douglas Library parking lot and the Pollinator Pathway garden in front of the Old Town Hall, where simple weeding and occasional watering are required.

Also, two more Pollinator Pathway gardens are in the early planning stages at Stonecroft Village and on the Air Line Trail near the railroad mural off Route 85.

For more information or to share your availability preferences, contact Michele Sinkez at sinkezmichele@gmail.com or 860-205-1481, or visit facebook.com/greengardengang.

Open Call to Apply for Grant Funds

Town departments, boards and commissions, and faith communities/houses of worship are all invited to apply for Hebron's Greater Together Community Fund. Letters of interest are due April 30.

Amounts from \$500 to \$10,000 will be awarded in grant funds to selected proposals. All projects must benefit the residents of Hebron. More details on project guidelines and how to apply are at hfpg.org/hebroncf.

A letter of interest is due April 30. Se-

lected applicants will be invited to submit a project application or grant proposal by May 1. Grant awards will be announced by June 1. Those with questions should email them to hebroncommunityfund@gmail.com.

Tax-deductible contributions to any of the 29 Greater Together Community Funds are still welcome. For more information about the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, visit hfpg.org or call 860-548-1888.

Donations Sought for April Book Sale

time at 860-228-9312 ext. 312.

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

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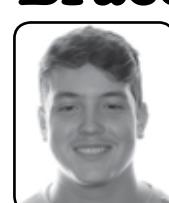
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Colchester • Colchester

Church Opens Doors for Vaccine Clinic

by Karla Santos

For decades, Colchester Federated Church has served the local community as a place of worship. But on Monday, the scene at the church was different as a crowd of community members and medical personnel gathered for one reason: to help crush COVID-19.

Chatham Health District, the Medical Reserve Corps and Colchester Federated Church have partnered to offer COVID-19 vaccine clinics on a weekly basis – and just this week, on Monday and Wednesday, more than 600 people were vaccinated at the site.

Chatham Health District Director Russell Melmed explained that the vaccine schedule may fluctuate periodically as vaccine allocation changes.

He said that if Chatham Health continues to get mostly the Moderna shot, they will run clinics twice a week – one for first doses and one for second doses. If the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, which requires only one dose, becomes regularly available, the health district may run just one clinic per week at the church, with additional pop-up clinics in other places across the district.

Melmed said the appointments for this week's clinics filled up in eight minutes from the time they made the clinic available.

Today, April 9, Chatham Health is also running a second-dose vaccine clinic in East Hampton for educators and child care staff. Melmed said he is expecting 800 people at today's clinic.

The church is the only permanent vaccine site run by Chatham Health.

"I feel really fortunate, because a lot of work

goes into setting up and taking down clinics," Melmed said.

He said the church allows the health district to leave the set-up in place – and even some supplies, chairs, signs and tables can stay at the site.

That way, when the team members go to run the clinic, they don't have to spend time unpacking cars and trucks.

"Having a semi-permanent space here really makes us more efficient with our time," Melmed said. "Our volunteers get comfortable with the space and flow and the set-up, so it's great. It really is so great to have this space available to us all the time."

Melmed said the space at the church allows Chatham Health to run up to 10 vaccination stations – servicing up to 500 people in a day, if that much vaccine is available.

Before running the clinics at the church, Chatham Health was running pop-up clinics all over the district, which covers Colchester, Hebron, East Haddam, Marlborough, East Hampton and Portland. Chatham Health made the pop-up clinics available with the purpose of being closer to the seniors who wanted to be vaccinated.

Melmed said Chatham Health is now getting an increased supply of vaccines. He noted they used to have a baseline allocation of 200 doses per week, but now that number has grown to 600 doses.

Those who are looking to get a vaccine through Chatham Health must register with the Vaccine Administration and Management System at tinyurl.com/y3br69uh.

Chatham Health also has an online call down list that they use when they have extra doses available at the end of each clinic. Those who wish to be contacted by Chatham Health if they have an extra dose can fill out a form at tinyurl.com/xt8kdsj.

Dr. Janice Lee was part of the Medical Reserve Corps group that helped run Monday's clinic. She said she felt "very good" to be helping out.

"We are all trying to do our part," she said.

Although there were many people getting their shot on Monday, the process went smoothly, she said, and noted the crowd was much younger than at previous clinics.

Lee said her message for those who have doubts about the vaccine is "get vaccinated."

She stressed that although some people experience side effects after being vaccinated, these are normal, and "it's not worth getting COVID."

Monday was a sunny day, and smiles could be seen through the eyes of people as they walked out of the church after getting a dose of the vaccine.

That was the case for Josh Goldstein, 23, who took advantage of the historic moment and was photographed at the church's parking lot to save the memory.

"I could not be happier," Goldstein said about getting his first dose of the vaccine.

He said the process was "as smooth as could be," and noted the individuals running the clinic were helpful in guiding those being vaccinated through the necessary steps.

First, individuals had to go through a registration area, and then to vaccine and observation rooms.

For Goldstein, it was a surprise to be able to get vaccinated so early in the year. He said he was expecting vaccines to become available by the fall for his age group.

Seth Kaplan was also at the clinic Monday getting his first dose of the vaccine. He said "it feels great" to be vaccinated and noted he was never hesitant about it. For Kaplan, getting an appointment early in April was also a surprise. He praised those running the clinic for making the process "straight-forward."

Melmed said people who have had their vaccine should be mindful that there are a lot of people who have not been vaccinated. He said there's also a small number of people who the vaccine will not work for "and you don't know who that is."

"The vaccines are very effective, more than 90% effective in some cases, but that means that 10% probably won't be effective so we still want to make sure we are wearing our masks, that we are keeping our social distance, and that we are limiting our interaction with people outside of our household as much as possible."

He noted that people who have been vaccinated can feel much more comfortable that if they do get sick, it is going to be a very mild illness.

The Rev. Lauren Lorincz, pastor at Colchester Federated Church, said members, church staff and lay leaders were honored to be able to help the community by offering the church building as a vaccination site.

"Hosting vaccine clinics is one small way that we at Colchester Federated Church could help our community during the pandemic," Lorincz said. "It's a way to provide some hope and healing, to be a good neighbor here in Colchester. We live in a wonderful town, and it's important to look out for one another."

Lorincz said she felt fortunate to have the staff and volunteers of the Chatham Health District running these clinics in benefit of the local community.

Abundant Life Church News & Notes

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

Food Truck: Today, April 9, from 2-4 p.m., in the church parking lot, boxes of food will again be handed out to anyone in need. There is no charge. Cars will line up in the parking lot and boxes will be loaded into your trunk or car. Boxes may include milk, chicken, potatoes, apples, onions, cheese, butter and yogurt. Food is supplied by the USDA Farmers to Families Food Box Program. The program will run through April 23.

Weekly Sunday Service: Social distanc-

ing guidelines are followed. Sunday School is at the church at 9:30 a.m., with the main service beginning at 10:30 a.m. Call the church if you would like to attend. The service is also broadcast live each week on Facebook, and includes a special children's program. Visit www.facebook.com/groups/abundantlifeCT or look for the church on Facebook. For more information or if unable to connect, call the church.

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

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Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration for the 2021-22 school year is at www.colchesterct.org.

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

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

Images of America Book-Signings

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

Images of America: Colchester features almost 200 historic images to tell the story of Colchester during the late 19th into the mid-20th century. The Colchester Historical Society is selling the book for \$20; proceeds benefit the society. Copies can also be ordered by mail for \$23 each.

The Colchester History Museum is located at 24 Linwood Ave., adjacent to Cragin Memorial Library. There is free parking behind the museum and library.

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.

Book Bingo

Cragin Memorial Library's Book Bingo card for April is Science Fiction.

The library invites all to try this program to find a new read. Get a bingo and you will win a prize and be entered into a raffle for a gift card to a local business. Complete a full card and you will be entered into the big end-of-year drawing.

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

Food, Stuff, Energy and Water

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

Anyone interested in joining us can register for the link through the Colchester Senior Center by calling 860-537-3911.

Route 2 Crash Prompts Lifestar

A one-vehicle crash on Route 2 Sunday night left a 25-year-old man with serious injuries, prompting Lifestar to be called to the scene.

The victim, a Norwich resident, ended up being transported via Lifestar to Hartford Hospital through Lifestar because of the injuries sustained during the accident. Sgt. John Such, patrol supervisor at Troop K, told the *Rivereast* he did not know the specific injuries sustained in the crash, but said the victim was in stable condition as of Tuesday afternoon.

According to a state police press release, the crash happened around 10:34 p.m. Sun-

day, when Jones was traveling eastbound on Route 2 near exit 21. Police said Jones was driving in the left lane when the vehicle ran off the roadway to the left side of the road and crashed with the median embankment. The vehicle then crashed with a tree and then rolled various times. Police said that during the crash, Jones was ejected from the vehicle into the grass shoulder area of Route 2. Jones' injuries were considered serious, police said.

The crash is currently under investigation. Anyone with information is asked to contact State Trooper Sebastian Nesci at 860-465-5400 ext. 4071.

Parks and Rec. News & Notes

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

Basic Dog Obedience: Saturdays, April 10-May 15, 9-10 a.m. or 10:15-11:15 a.m., at Ruby Cohen Woodlands. First session is humans only. Only one dog per handler. Instructor is Kevin Williams of Paws to the Wall Dog Training. Proof of rabies and distemper vaccinations required for all dogs, and the Bordetella vaccination is also recommended. Fee: \$150/residents, \$155/non-residents. For adults age 18 and up. Minimum number of participants is four and maximum is eight.

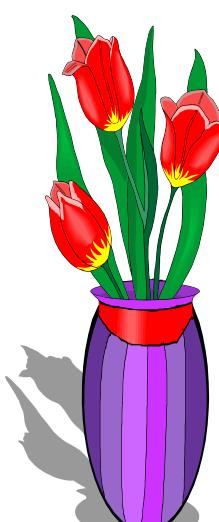
Spring Guide to Online Shopping: Available at www.colchesterct.gov/community-events. The guide features local artisans. Online ordering and payment as well as local pickup/delivery are options with each vendor.

Cupcake Champion: Saturday, April 24, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Residents can participate in teams of two. All baking and decorating will be done at home, on Zoom. Final cupcakes need to be

Police News

4/1: State Police said Frank M. Scrivano, 62, of Windham, was arrested and charged with first-degree failure to appear.

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USDA Farmers to Families Food Box Distribution

Abundant Life Church, 85 Skinner Rd., will continue to distribute 30-pound boxes of fresh produce, dairy and meat products each Friday from 2 p.m. until the supply is gone.

The Colchester program began the first Friday in February and has already discharged nine tractor-trailer loads, each containing around 1,200 boxes. Abundant Life is a City-Serve hub that supplies churches and other nonprofit organizations across the state, and then provides several hundred boxes to the local community. St. Vincent de Paul Place in Norwich, Amazing Grace Food Pantry in Middletown, and the Covenant Soup Kitchen in Willimantic have been recipients of deliveries from Abundant Life. Tim Marvin of D H Marvin & Son Inc. continues to facilitate the efficient unloading process each week as well as several contractors from the church.



Parishioners of all ages continue to volunteer weekly, regardless of the weather.

Box distribution will continue each week through April 23. There are no financial criteria to receive a Farmers to Families Food Box. Remain in your car and a volunteer will load your box into your trunk.

For more information contact Abundant Life Pastor Charles Brown at c.brown26@mac.com or 860-303-0416.

Senior Center News & Notes

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

Upcoming Programs: Senior Golf League Meeting on Zoom: Tuesday, April 13, 10:30 a.m., via Zoom. This is an informational meeting to discuss the 2021 golf league season at the Chanticlair Golf Course in Colchester. This is a co-ed league and new members are welcome. Call the senior center for more information.

Springtime Treasures of Washington D.C.: Wednesday, April 14, 2 p.m., via Zoom. With Friendship Tours, explore some favorite treasures of Washington D.C., including the Cherry Blossoms in full bloom, the Hillwood Estate, Dumbarton Oaks, East Potomac Park and more. Registration in advance is required; contact the senior center.

Norton Park Info Session on Zoom: Thursday, April 15, 1:30 p.m., via Zoom. The Norton Park Committee will discuss the history and development plans for Norton Park on Route 149 in Westchester. The link to join can be found in the monthly Zoom link table.

Grant-Subsidized Preschool

Colchester's School Readiness Program is offering grant-subsidized preschool for the 2021-22 school year – and is seeking Colchester residents who want a five-day-per-week program but may find it difficult to pay for preschool.

For the application and more information, go to colchesterct3.org/school-readiness.

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 westchestercongchurch.org for login info.

Due to COVID-19, pews are labeled for safe physical distancing, masks are required, hand sanitizer is available, and there is no singing, but music is played.

The church has a small white wooden Blessings Box in its lower parking lot, with non-perishable food items and other helpful items for anyone who needs them. All are welcome to 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 westcongchurch@gmail.com or call 860-267-6711 to request Sunday School items.

Shredding Old Tax and Personal Records

Residents and businesses of Colchester and area towns can safely shred their old tax, medical and personal records Saturday, May 22, from 9 a.m.-noon, in the parking lot of Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave.

Boy Scout Troop 72 will have certified shredding company Pro Shred in place to accept and safely shred your financial records. People can actually watch the items being put into the shredder and destroyed. There is no need to take off paper clips or staples.

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.

Funds raised will be used to help Troop 72 continue to award summer camp scholarships, purchase new equipment and maintain a high quality outdoor program. Contact Al Letendre at letendrej@sbcglobal.net for more information.



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Spring is Here... Colchester Garden Club members have sprung into spring with the planting of 14 town planters in the downtown area with spring daffodils, tulips, hyacinths and pansies. CGC members also worked for weeks on a community service project to cut, paint and letter wooden hearts in appreciation of essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic that have been set out with the town planters and selected garden areas, as well as a thank you at the Colchester Community Board at the town green. For more information on the CGC or to join, email colchestergardenclub@yahoo.com.



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Children's Programs at Cragin Library

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

Baby Activity Videos: Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. on Facebook and YouTube. There will be book suggestions, baby bounces and more. Often, activity bags will be available at the children's circulation desk to accompany the videos. The library is located at 8 Linwood Ave.

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

Milestone Moments: Fridays at 10:30 a.m. on Facebook and YouTube. Learn skills designed to help children succeed when they start school. Take & Make Bags will be available for many sessions. Each video will be geared towards achieving a goal and supporting growth.

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, by calling 860-537-7201. Weather cancellations

will be listed on Facebook. Physical distancing will be required and masks will need to be worn when arriving and departing or anytime that being socially distant isn't possible.

May Programs: 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 the Take & Make Craft Bag you are looking for.

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

Foodie Fun: Pool Krispie Treats: Saturday, May 15, 10:30 a.m., for kids and teens. Make this beach-themed treat. 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. Create a story that goes along with your animals.

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

Live Well Workshop Conference Call

Colchester Senior Center is starting the Live Well Program Monday, April 12, at 2 p.m., via conference call, with Vickie Han and Nancy McAuliffe from the Chatham Health District.

This is a free six-week program that teaches techniques and strategies to those who are living with, or may be caring for someone with ongoing health conditions like diabetes, depression, heart disease, arthritis, pain, anxiety, and others.

Space is limited. Call the senior center to register at 860-537-3911.

Fire Calls

From March 28-April 3, the Colchester Hayward Fire Department responded to 34 calls: 19 emergency medical calls, 12 fire/fire-related calls, and three motor vehicle crashes (all single-car crashes). Calls included:

Fire: fire alarm, four; wires down, two; service call, one; gas leak, one; trees down, one; brush fire, two; appliance fire, one.

Medical: sick person, two; difficulty breathing, three; fall injury, two; seizure, two; lift assist, three; medical alarm, two; cardiac distress, one; stroke, one; back pain, one; injured person, one; alcoholic disorder, one.

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

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.

No-Till Gardening

Are you interested in planting your first vegetable garden, but aren't sure how to go about it? If so, Cragin Memorial Library invites all to a special presentation Thursday, April 29, at 6 p.m., via Zoom.

Mark Gostkiewicz of Tri Gable Lea Farm will instruct on the ins and outs of No Till Gardening. He will explain how to plant a garden that will require little digging, the types of materials/mulches to use, when to start your project, and how to plant.

This free program is sponsored by the Colchester Garden Club and Friends of Cragin Memorial Library, and will not be recorded. To sign up, go to tinyurl.com/wpa5rf7v.



Scholarship Awarded... Benjamin Petrosky of Colchester, a Norwich Technical High School senior, has been awarded the Dominion Nuclear Full Scholarship for the fall of 2021.

Tag Sale Donations Sought

Bacon Academy Project Graduation is looking for donations for its tag sale fundraiser scheduled for Saturday, April 24, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at St. Joseph's Polish Society, 395 S. Main St. The event will be held under the pavilion at the rear of the parking lot.

Donations of new, gently-used and clean items are requested, including housewares, clothing, small furniture items, toys, books, etc. No television sets, mattresses, outdated computer equipment/electronics or children's

car seats will be accepted. Donations will be accepted by event coordinator Kellee Ratzer at 35 Mountain Rd. Sundays, April 11 and 18, from 9 a.m.-noon, and Tuesdays, April 13 and 20, from 4-7 p.m. Larger, bulkier furniture items can be donated on the morning of the tag sale at the event location.

Email Ratzer at Kellee.ratzer@yahoo.com for more information or to volunteer to price items or work at the tag sale.

St. Andrew Church News

St. Andrew Catholic Church holds weekly Mass Saturdays at 4 p.m. and Sundays at 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. The church is located at 128 Norwich Ave.

Social distancing remains in place; pews are sectioned off to maintain six feet, in all directions, between individuals and/or households. Available seating is clearly marked. Seating is limited to 100 people per Mass. The only entrance to the church is on the parking lot side.

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

The dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains in effect until further notice.

For more information, call 860-537-2355 or visit www.standrewcolchester.org.

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

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

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

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Local COVID Cases Jump By 25

by Jack Lakowsky

According to a pandemic update from Town Manager David Cox, 25 new cases of COVID-19 were diagnosed in East Hampton between March 14 and March 27.

Although still in the “orange” alert of the state’s pandemic framework, the town is very close to a red alert. All other Chatham Health District towns are in the red, except for East Haddam.

A town goes red at a 15/100,000 case ratio.

East Hampton has an average positivity rate of almost 14 per 100,000. In the latest reporting period, this makes for an average of about two cases per day.

Added to the total 717 cases reported on March 19, the new cases make for a total of 742 diagnoses of COVID-19 since the pandemic hit East Hampton.

Luckily, no more deaths were reported. The pandemic has killed 19 East Hampton residents, according to information from Cox.

There is some momentum on the vaccine front, however; as of March 15, the state Department of Public Health reported that about 4,700 residents, or 37% of the town, have received at least a first dose of vaccine.

East Hampton Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith on Monday told the *Rivereast* a “majority” of school district staff will be fully vaccinated by the end of this week. Staff vaccinated at a March 6 clinic will get their booster shot today.

All residents older than 16 are eligible for vaccination.

“Even after a resident has been vaccinated, they are reminded to remain vigilant and to wear a face covering when in public places and, in particular, when visiting businesses or governmental offices,” Cox wrote in his pandemic update.

The East Hampton school district also saw a jump in cases. As of March 31, 70 students were in quarantine, along with three staff, according to an update from Smith.

Thirty-seven Center Elementary School students were in quarantine due to in-school exposure as of Wednesday, March 31. Between Center, Memorial Elementary School and East Hampton Middle School, five COVID-19 cases

were diagnosed in students.

No cases were found among staff.

Since the start of the school year in the fall, 86 COVID-19 cases have been diagnosed among students, along with 25 staff.

In total, 1,059 East Hampton students have, at some point, quarantined since the start of the school year.

Smith on Monday said some hardware changes to the school, including touchless sinks and air-conditioned classrooms, will remain permanent.

“What the state tells us is that until all kids are vaccinated, schools might still need masks,” Smith said.

No vaccination has yet been approved for use in children, Smith said, so as of now, it’s difficult to predict how long pandemic-prevention protocols will be observed.

Smith said widespread staff vaccination will help prevent school shutdowns, as schools more often have to switch to remote learning because of high numbers of quarantined staff, as opposed to high numbers of actual COVID-19 cases.

Smith said schools are hoping Coronavirus cases or quarantines won’t further deny end-of-high school events to East Hampton High School’s Class of 2021.

With this in mind, and considering that events can be held outside, both senior prom and graduation are scheduled for May 15 and June 18, respectively.

Senior prom will be held outdoors at St. Clements Castle on Route 66. Masks will be required, and food will be table-served.

“Our seniors were denied so much this year,” Smith said. “We feel we can do prom safely.”

Unfortunately for East Hampton’s youth – although maybe not for parents – no slow dancing will be permitted, Smith said.

“I guarantee a good, fun prom, but we’re strongly encouraging social distancing,” said Smith. “I’m sure students will in very creative ways match their masks with their outfits.”

Chatham Health District Director Russell Melmed said although spring has sprung and restrictions have been eased, it is no time for incaution.

“As cases creep up in East Hampton, it’s a reminder that yes, even though the weather’s better and vaccines are rolling out and we’ve done a good job at protecting the vulnerable, there’s still a long way to go,” Melmed told the *Rivereast* Wednesday morning.

Although he said he can’t share specific information, Melmed said local clusters are trending among younger people between 14 and 24.

“This is concerning because what it suggests is that families and parents are being more permissive in allowing their kids to socialize,” Melmed said.

He said this rush to socialization is at least in part caused by the perception people have about the state’s reopening, and of the vaccine rollout; positive messaging is lowering concern.

Melmed said the pace of vaccines and any progress so far should be celebrated, but added that it’s also time for everyone to double-down

on their own restrictions, including not contacting directly people outside of a person’s home or daily cohort.

Until between 70 and 80% of Connecticut is vaccinated, Melmed said, the virus will have plenty of places to go.

Vaccinating that high a percentage of the population is easier said than done. Twenty percent of the state’s population is below 16, he said. No vaccines have yet been approved for this young group. So as of now, he said, it makes sense that nearly every single person over the age of 16 in the state will have to be fully immunized if the virus is to hit a dead end.

This, of course, operates on the assumption that every Connecticut adult will want a vaccine in the first place, Melmed said.

Russell said the state is giving about 200,000 doses per week, and that about 1 million shots in all have been given.

Rotary Scholarships Available

The Rotary Club of East Hampton invites local high school seniors from East Hampton and Marlborough as well as adult learners to apply for one of several scholarships – and applications are due April 10.

All residents are eligible, regardless of what high school they attend (public or pri-

vate). Applicants can be attending any college, university, trade school, vocational program, or veteran-focused program.

Applications can be obtained through the high school guidance office or at www.easthamptonrotary.org, and can be emailed to scholarshipapp@yahoo.com.

Lions and Hogs Poker Run

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

The Poker Run will have three “loops” to choose from: Loop 1 will start in Old Saybrook, include stops in Haddam, Portland, East Haddam and end at Carter Hill Farm, 86 E. Hampton Rd. (Route 66) in Marlborough; Loop 2 will start in Niantic, include stops in Waterford, Montville, Colchester and end at Carter Hill; and Loop 3 will start in Danielson and include stops in Canterbury, Coventry, Columbia and end at Carter Hill.

For more information, contact Lion Mary Krogh at govmary23c@aol.com or Lion Shari Ann Colquhoun at sheriann8@yahoo.com.



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East Hampton • East Hampton

Eighth-Grade Girls Basketball Team Crowned Champions

by Jack Lakowsky

East Hampton's eighth grade girls travel basketball team won the 2021 Travel League Championship March 28, following a 41-27 victory over Meriden.

Team coach Chris Cascio said the win was especially gratifying for players. Meriden, he said, is a skilled team and has beaten East Hampton in the past.

Cascio told the *Rivereast* on Monday that the trophy is also special this year due to the pandemic.

He said there was a possibility no gameplay would occur whatsoever; the state canceled games for the team's usual shoreline league.

"It really looked like we weren't gonna play," Cascio said.

Luckily, East Hampton's own Sports on 66 stepped up to the plate. Or, rather, the foul line. Sports on 66 opened its doors to local basketball teams, allowing them to form a local league.

Cascio said in a normal season, teams play between 15 and 20 games. This year, they played 10, finishing the season with a 9-1 record.

Cascio said players were unbothered by pandemic safety protocols. Twice a week, players practiced masked. Masks were worn during gameplay as well. Spectators were disallowed until playoffs.

In fact, Cascio said, the team's performance improved this year.

In a strange way, pandemic restrictions made games more inclusive. Cascio said every game was livestreamed on Facebook, which he described as a "huge success."

"My dad in Florida could watch his grandkid play," said Cascio.

He said the livestreaming of games is likely to continue in East Hampton, as well as in other towns.

Cascio the pandemic prevented fundraisers for the team this season. However, this didn't hamper the team. Cascio said basketball is a relatively cheap sport to fund, as it doesn't have the pricey regalia and equipment of football or baseball.

Several of the champions talked with the *Rivereast* about their win.

Cascio's daughter, Charlotte Cascio, said she thought this season wouldn't happen.

"Thanks to Sports on 66 for letting us have our season, and thanks to the coaches for coaching us," she wrote. "I really wanted this last season, and it happened for us. So thank you to each person."

Player Madison Hall, a veteran of the team, said this season was one of the team's best.

"We all put in a bunch of work and effort and worked hard at every practice and game for this win," she said. "Everyone did amazing, and worked their hardest, even during COVID-19."

Hall said wearing masks during practice and gameplay made "this win feel like a much bigger accomplishment for our team."

Kat Johnson said the past basketball season was "one of the best ever."

"Not only did everyone, including me, improve drastically, we were able to grow an even stronger bond as a team," Johnson said. "Everyone gained many skills."

Meanwhile, Edna Pinaud, grandmother to a player, thanked coaches for setting up game livestreams, allowing her to see her "granddaughter and her teammates play basketball," allowing enjoyment of every game.

East Hampton Schools Athletic Director Mike Mercaldi said East Hampton's girls' basketball teams will be "on the rise for years to come," especially considering the high school's female team recently won its second of two consecutive championships.

"COVID makes any program hard to run," Mercaldi said. "The eighth-grade team had a great year and has improved each year since the players were in sixth."

Cascio expressed gratitude to his assistant coaches, and to all involved in helping make this season a success.

Cascio acknowledged that due to the pandemic some parents may be hesitant to enroll their child in a team.

"I'd say to hesitant parents: Talk to organizers to make sure their precautions are good," Cascio said. "No one wants to risk their kid's health. If the right precautions are taken, and they're done well, [school leagues] are a pretty safe environment."

Cascio said youth will encounter more people in a normal school day than they would on a court or a field.

"It's really important for kids to get involved," he said. "Playing on a team is about much more



The East Hampton eighth grade girls' travel basketball team has won the 2021 Travel League championship. Pictured from left are, back row, coaches Chris Cascio and Craig Salamone; middle row, Charlotte Pinaud, Ally Jacobsen, Liana Salamone, Gabby Wiesner, Kate Ireland and Olivia DeMartino; front row, Charlotte Cascio, Maddie Hall and Kat Johnson. Photo by Chris Cascio.

than the sport itself. It teaches how to overcome adversity. Just wearing masks through these taught them something about that. It teaches life skills like teamwork and good sportsmanship, and how to keep practicing, accept mistakes and

improve."

Cascio said even if all gameplay was totally nixed, it would also be a learning opportunity on how to sacrifice personal wants and goals for the good of the community.

Senior Center News & Notes

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

Virtual Lunch Bunch: Every other Monday at 12:30 p.m. for an hour, via Zoom. Register online. Next date is April 19. This month will feature a talk with a representative from Hemp Hill Farms, a family-owned potato farm in Maine. Register online.

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

Movie Group via Zoom: The last Tuesday of each month from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., starting April 27. Would you be interested in joining a monthly group of movie buffs to discuss different movies of choice? At April's meeting, view and discuss *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*. Register online or call the center.

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

Volunteer Shopping: The center has a program where a volunteer will shop for you. If interested or for more information, including how to arrange payment, call 860-267-4426 or email jewing@easthampton.gov.



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RE4-9-21

East Hampton • East Hampton

Separate Arrests for Car, Street Sign Thievery

by Jack Lakowsky

With two separate arrests over two major local incidents, March 30 was a busy day for the East Hampton Police Department.

According to a police press release from police, last week saw the arrest of a group of juveniles for allegedly stealing several traffic signs from the area of Tammie Ann Drive and Country Lane.

Along with larceny, members of the group were charged with second-degree reckless endangerment which, according to East Hampton Chief of Police Dennis Woessner, is a serious charge.

Of the five juveniles, two are from Middletown, one from Berlin, and two from East Hampton. Four will appear in Middletown juvenile court, while the individual from Berlin will appear in the juvenile court in New Britain, all scheduled for later this month.

On the same day, a 21-year-old Hartford man named Jonathan Rosado was arrested at Middletown Superior Court in connection with a local June 2020 car theft and is charged with burglary and theft of a credit or debit card.

In a Tuesday phone call, Woessner said the alleged sign stealing is not an isolated incident, adding that although he could not connect the five to existing cases, sign-stealing has happened before in town.

A concerned citizen last Tuesday night called police to alert them to the stealing.

"They took a stop sign, which puts people's lives in danger," Woessner said.

This danger is why the youths were charged with the serious crime of reckless endangerment.

The group is also alleged to have taken street signs. This, Woessner said, can delay emergency response teams.

Woessner said the department's timely response was made possible by the caller's quick thinking and said the public's help is especially needed in cases like this.

"Because we recovered the signs, the only [cost to the town] is the labor to reset the signs," said Woessner.

As to the Rosado case, Woessner said in June 2020 a group of three individuals alleg-

edly stole a car from a Belltown neighborhood and then used that vehicle to prowl about and take items from unlocked cars.

Rosado, along with his two unknown accomplices, was captured on home video using the taken car to pull up to another house and take a payment card from a different car.

The vehicle has since been returned to its owner, Woessner said.

Local police lifted Rosado's fingerprints from the door handle of the car the card was taken from. Police sent the prints to the Connecticut State Police Forensic Lab. Woessner said the lab's backlog caused the year-long delay in identifying Rosado's fingerprints.

EHPD issued a warrant when the results came back. Police then arrested Rosado at the Middletown Superior Court. Rosado is currently incarcerated for a separate charge, Woessner said.

Rosado was unwilling to name his accomplices, Woessner said. Without his cooperation, the search for the other two has hit a "dead end" said the chief.

The other two individuals concealed their identities, said Woessner.

"The only video of any value was the one showing Rosado," Woessner said.

Woessner said several incidents of unlocked cars being searched through and/or taken entirely have occurred since last June.

"People are getting a little better about locking their cars, but we're not at 100%," said Woessner. "This is happening all over Connecticut. East Hampton is not immune."

People are sometimes concerned that locking their car will spur auto-theft-hopefuls to smash car windows.

Woessner said with the extreme exception of a recent incident of window breaking at a Newington apartment complex, smashing of windows is rare and very unlikely.

The distinction, he said, is that the Newington incident happened in a complex where cars were far from their owners' units.

"It's different in a residential area," Woessner said. "If someone comes here to do this, they don't want to make noise. That's why they're out at 2 a.m."

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. YPCCA is a non-profit theater arts camp.

Mornings at YPCCA are devoted to workshops in such artistic endeavors as Show Choir, Stage Combat, Comedy Improvisation and Shakespeare. Afternoons are spent rehearsing for a full-length musical production – which

Belltown Spring Sprint Returns in May

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

Kids' Fun Run starts at 9:15 a.m., and cost is \$5. The 5K Run/Walk starts at 10 a.m., and cost is \$20 for adults and \$10 for ages 18 or younger. 5K runners who register by April 10 receive a free T-shirt.

To register, visit belltownspringsprint5k.it yourrace.com. For more information, email Melissa Curylo at ehhscprojgrad@gmail.com.

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Marlborough • Marlborough

Congregational Church News

The Sunday worship service at Marlborough Congregational Church is livestreamed every Sunday at 10 a.m. through the church website, mcc.marlcngchurc.org, and follows the usual order of Sunday worship.

Regular participants include church pastor the Rev. Bob Faulhaber, Carolyn Brodinski, organist Dave Mulligan, and other musicians and participants from the church and community. All worship services are also available for viewing through on YouTube.

Mission-giving in April will go to the AHM Mental Health Fund. To donate, make your check payable to MCC, note "Second Quarter Missions," and mail it to the church at P.O. Box 57, Marlborough. The Senior High Youth

Open-Air Concerts to Resume

Free open-air musical concerts on the lawn at Marlborough Arts Center are returning after a successful summer last year. Starting in June, various groups will perform one Saturday per month.

COVID-19 regulations are observed, with everyone masked and maintaining social distancing. Although admission is free, a \$10 donation is suggested. Parking is available at the arts center, 231 N. Main St.

Future newspaper announcements will have more details, as will the website at www.marlbrougharts.org.

Group sponsors the Drive-Thru Café, now held twice monthly. All meal preparation is done at the church, following strict food and COVID safety guidelines. Donations to the group for this project may be made through the church; note "Drive-Thru Café."

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

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

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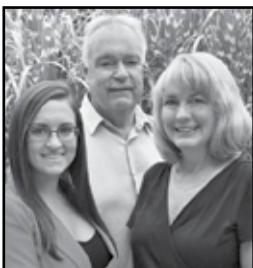
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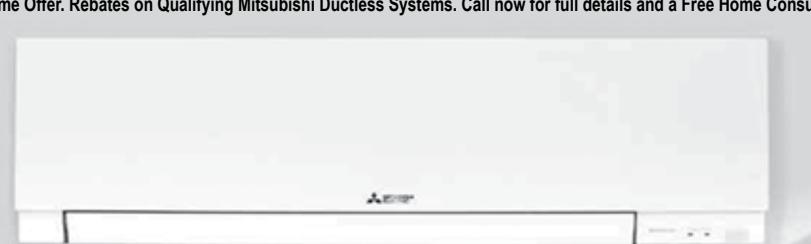
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Parks and Rec Programs

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

Youth Programs: Soccer Shots: Saturdays, April 17-June 12, at the West Road Baseball Field. Mini, for age 2, is 3-3:45 p.m., and Classic, for ages 3-5, is 3:45-4:30 p.m. Fee: \$100/residents, \$105/non-residents.

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

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

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

Horseback Riding Lessons: For ages 5 and up, English or Western-style instruction. The lessons are private and are an hour in length. Lesson days and times are flexible; the instructor will contact you to set up. Fee: four lessons for \$175/residents, \$180/non-residents.

Adult Programs: Dog Obedience – Polite Dog Manners: Tuesdays, April 20-May 25, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center.

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

Beginner level classes for dogs 5 months and older. Fee: \$120/resident, \$125/non-resident.

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

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

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

May Adult Programs: Sewing – Know Your Machine: Wednesday, May 5, 5:30-7 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center, for ages 18 and up. Do you own a sewing machine and have no idea where to start? Learn the basics of machine operation while making a small take-home project. All materials included. Fee: \$38/resident, \$43/non-resident.

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

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

Scholarship Applications Due Soon

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

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

Applications can be obtained through the high school guidance office or at www.easthamptonrotary.org, and can be emailed to scholarshipapp@yahoo.com. All applications are due April 10.

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. The use of the rack at Blish Park is limited to Marlborough residents, but the raffle for the kayak is open to everyone.

Raffle tickets are \$20 each and will be sold at various locations until April 30, and can also be purchased from Lions Club members. The raffle drawing will take place at Blish Park at noon Saturday, 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.

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.

Andover • Andover

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

Scholarship Applications Available

The Andover Norton Children's Fund Commission is once again offering scholarships for high school senior from Andover, to help finance their post-high school education.

The commission is accepting applications now for the \$1,000 Chester D. Norton and the \$1,000 F. Kendall and Frank H. Brown scholarships. Application deadline for each is May 1. The Norton Commission members will meet in early June to select the recipients of the two scholarships, as well as the allocation of funds for next year's back-to-school needs.

To be eligible, an applicant must be an Andover resident and a graduating high school senior, and must be attending 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.

A link to the scholarship applications can be found on the Andover town website, the Norton Children's Fund Commission Facebook page, and on the School Counseling Scholarship Information page of the RHAM High School website. People may also email Charlotte Nelson at charnelson14@gmail.com for a link to the application.

church office at 860-742-7696, email andoverchurch@gmail.com or visit www.andoverchurch.org.

Bible Study: Tuesday mornings both via Zoom and in person at the church (observing CDC guidelines regarding social distancing and masks). If interested in attending via Zoom, call the church and leave a message and church pastor the Rev. Rose Nilson will send you the meeting link.

Food Pantry: Mondays from 5-7 p.m. Bring your own bags. CDC guidelines are observed and masks are required.

Foodshare Van: Comes to the church every other Wednesday from 9-9:30 a.m.; it will next be there April 14. The senior pantry is the opposite Wednesdays; it is next open April 7, also from 9-9:30 a.m.

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

Yard Work Help Available for Seniors

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

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

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

Absentee Ballots Available

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

Applications for the absentee ballot are available online, in person at the town clerk's office at Town Hall, or an application can be mailed to you if requested by calling the town clerk at 860-742-0188 ext. 218.

Farmers Market to Return May 5

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.

There will be five more markets the first Wednesday of the month through October, from 4-7 p.m. each month. The final market will be Saturday, Nov. 6, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Attendees should wear face masks.

Library Friends' Membership Drive

The Andover Friends of the Library group has launched a membership drive/annual appeal.

To join this 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, which helps support Andover Public Library, donations are: \$3 senior/student, \$5 individual, \$10 family, \$25 business, \$150 lifetime, \$500

Guess the Norton Number Challenge

This year, Andover's "Norton Children's Fund Commission" is awarding \$25 gift cards to the four children who make the closest guess to how many items are in the Guess the Norton Number container. Andover Elementary School Principal John Briody will collect guesses Friday, April 16, and the winners will be announced after the spring break.

Chester D. Norton was a farmer in Andover. Local legend has it that when he was a child his family couldn't afford the eyeglasses he needed and a kindly gentleman provided the family with funds for the glasses. Many years later, when drafting his will, Norton remembered that act of kindness and left one of his own. His will specified that first his estate was to be left in trust to his wife Emily to spend as she deemed necessary. Upon her death or remarriage, he bequeathed that whatever may remain of his estate should include \$12,000 to be left to the town of Andover; \$3,000 for the church, \$3,000 for the school, \$3,000 for the library and \$3,000 for the children of the town. Only the interest on these

funds is to be spent each year.

Norton died in October 1891 at the age of 74. His wife Emily was 19 years younger and survived him by 24 years, dying in 1915.

At a Town Meeting in 1937, the townspeople of Andover established the Norton Children's Fund Commission to administer the funds from Chester D. Norton's will for the town.

The commission currently meets twice a year (May and November) to expend the interest income from the Norton Children's Fund in accordance with Norton's will. Over the years these funds have provided Andover children with cod liver oil, tonsillectomies, shoes, galoshes, slippers, eyeglasses, eye exams, dental work, camp registrations, Christmas gifts, back-to-school supplies and small scholarships for continued education.

Donations to the Norton Children's Fund can be made by sending a check to: Norton Children's Fund, Andover Town Hall, 17 School Rd., Andover, CT 06232.

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Collection, Disposal of Unwanted Medications

Since 2011, AHM Youth and Family Services has coordinated, through its prevention committee Coalition for a Healthy Empowered Community (CHEC), a local drop-off site for the National Drug Take-Back event. The most recent event held last fall netted 281 pounds of medications for safe disposal.

Twice a year, AHM staff and volunteers partner with Connecticut State Police Troop K to host the event. The next Take-Back Day will be held Saturday, April 24, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at Marlborough Elementary School, 25 School Rd., Marlborough. This year's Take-Back event will be run in partnership with AHM, Troop K, the Marlborough Police, the Marlborough, Andover, Hebron and Columbia elementary schools, and the RHAM middle and high schools. The event is made possible each year nationally through

the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency, (DEA).

Take-Back events are held in communities across America twice a year to help remove unwanted medication from households, thereby reducing the chances those drugs are then abused by children, teens, adults. The medication is then safely disposed of by the state police.

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

Youth Baseball Equipment Swap

On Saturday, April 10, from 9 a.m.-noon at Veterans Memorial Park, RHAM Youth Baseball will hold an equipment swap, drop and grab. Stop by and pick up what you need.

Suggested items to donate include: USA bats (must have "USA" printed above the grip), gloves, catchers' gear, cleats (in good shape), baseball pants (cleaned and with no holes), belts, batting helmets (if inside padding is intact), baseball bags (in good shape).

Early drop-off, before April 10, is available at 17 Carver Lane, Hebron. Please leave items on front porch.

Note: After the swap, items will be donated to Savers in Manchester. They will not be kept for future pick-up.

Project Graduation Planning Underway

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

For information and meeting dates, visit ahmyouth.org, click on "Menu" and select "Project Graduation," or contact Jenn Boehler at 860-228-9488 ext. 31 or jenniferb@ahmyouth.org.

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Cover Story • Cover Story

★ *Tireless Advocate cont. from page 1*

nect with them and how to inspire them, he had that gift of personality that people are drawn to, including our kids," Leslie said. "The kids really saw Vin as a champion."

When he spoke out in support of RHAM at Board of Education meetings – at which he was a regular attendee even before being elected to the board in 2019 – it was clear his concern was the well-being of students.

"He spoke directly to our kids," Leslie said. "The kids saw that. They couldn't help but act enthusiastically to the causes that he championed."

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

AHM Spring Programs

AHM Youth and Family Services is offering a variety of mental health, prevention, youth and family development, and juvenile justice programs this spring.

For senior citizens to schedule youth workers to assist with home projects through the CHOREs program, or for families to schedule an appointment for child, youth and family counseling, call the AHM offices at 860-228-9488.

For teens, young adults and families looking to attend the SMART Recovery Groups, visit www.ahmyouth.org for the schedule or call 860-228-9488.

For young families, AHM's Family Resource Center (FRC) will offer Play and Learn groups Thursdays, April 29-June 3, 10:30-11:30 a.m., at Veterans Park in Hebron (rain dates are Fridays at the same time). Fee is \$25 for the six-week session. There will also be a Wednesday session of the Play and Learn groups, from April 28-June 2, 10:15-11:15 a.m., at Gilead Hill School. Fee is also \$25 for the six-week session. FRC will also host First Steps in Music Tuesdays, May 4-25 (with rain dates of June 1 and 8), 10:45-11:30 a.m., at Burnt Hill Park. Fee is \$60 per family. Lastly, KinderRHAMa preschool registration for the 2021-22 school year is open.

Check www.ahmyouth.org for details about

In 2019, the *Rivereast* witnessed that ripple effect when Colonna rose in support of a turf field and students stood to chant and applauding him.

Colonna represented what makes RHAM a potent and strong community and made a strong and positive impact, Leslie said, making a point to add that there are many other parents for whom the school is grateful.

"I'm not sure that the shoes that Vin walked in are going to be replaced any time soon," he said, however. "He always represented the best interests of our kids. I'm going to profoundly

miss that and our kids are going to profoundly miss that as well."

Stephanie Bancroft, RHAM Board of Education chair, said Colonna was a champion for kids and making sure they had all they needed. With a great head for insurance, he was the board's go-to on business, did a tremendous amount of volunteering and "was just everywhere."

Colonna worked at Colonna Insurance Ser-

vices in Hamden, a business that was started by his father, Vincent Colonna Sr.

"It's a huge loss for the board but it's a huge loss for the community," Bancroft said.

A *GoFundMe* to support Colonna's children has been organized, and as of press time Thursday had raised \$50,000. To donate, go to tinyurl.com/yee8xcb4.

Cover Story • Cover

★ *Criticized cont. from page 1*

public safety, a \$326,302 increase from the current budget.

The proposed \$3.86 million public works budget reflects a \$217,229 increase from the current budget.

Bylone proposes spending \$1.70 million in community and human services, an increase of \$109,757 from the current budget.

Bylone is looking to spend \$3.34 million on debt and transfers, an increase of \$127,831 from the current budget.

Goals

Bylone shared some goals, including her desire to make Colchester a destination where people would want to live, visit and invest.

She also mentioned priorities that would help meet the needs of the community, including

providing a safe and secure environment, maintaining properties and communities, and supporting community culture and growth.

"The goals should drive the budget, not the budget drive the goals," Bylone said. "We need to figure out what we want to be, what we have to do to get there and then find the money to execute the plan."

She said being fiscally responsible is not the same as not spending money and the town should focus on spending money on the right things. In addition, she said some of the spending she requested is for maintenance and some is for supporting "smart growth," which, she said, would keep the community competitive and attract businesses and home buyers.

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AHM Offering CHOREs Program

AHM Youth and Family Services is taking applications from Andover, Hebron and Marlborough 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, visit ahmyouth.org, click on "menu" and select CHOREs from the list of offerings. Seniors 60 years or older who are interested in this program should contact their town's senior center.

For more information, people may also contact Jenn Boehler at 860-228-9488 ext. 31 or jenniferb@ahmyouth.org.

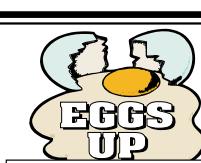
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Obituaries

Andover

Richard D. Houle

Richard D. "Bubba" Houle, 64, of Andover, beloved husband for 39 years of Teresa (Fontanella) Houle, passed to a new beginning Sunday, March 28. Born May 17, 1956, Bubba grew up in Bristol and in 1984 moved to the home he and his wife, Teresa, built in Andover. Employed by Admiral Moving & Storage, Inc. for the past 14 years, Bubba also worked at Barrie Moving & Storage for over 25 years.



Bubba will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by his wife, Teresa, his daughter Alexandra – who was his pride and joy – and his favorite son-in-law Zack Konopka of Mansfield, as well as his devoted dogs, Sookie and Layla. Predeceased by his mother, Catherine A. Houle and his father-in-law Richard N. Fontanella, who Bubba missed daily, he is survived by his father Roland and wife Rita Houle of Bristol. Bubba will be sorely missed by many family members, including his beloved mother-in-law Marie Fontanella and her partner Victor Harriman of Manchester; his sister, Kathy Schluter of Charlton, Mass.; and his brothers and their spouses, Robert and Mary of Bristol, Raymond and Gail of Marlborough, Ronald and Tammy of Bristol, and Russell and Suzanne of Wolcott.

He also leaves behind two sisters-in-law and their husbands, Rita and Donald "Donzie" Simons (his fishing buddy) of Hebron, and Gemma and Alan "Aldo" Ebstein of Old Saybrook, as well as his jocular cousin William "Dork" and Mary Paquette of Wallingford, along with numerous nieces and nephews: Nikki and Tyler DiGiovanni, Connecticut; Brian and Meghan Simons, Connecticut; Tony Ebstein and Tessa Lee, Montana; Jake Ebstein and Hannah Glass, Massachusetts; Phil and Lena Houle, New Hampshire; Rob and Jen Houle, Connecticut; Mike and Meghan Houle, Massachusetts; Brittany and Justin Olson, Connecticut; Dani and Scott Kirby, Connecticut; Erika Houle, Connecticut; Krista and Wayne Krupa, Massachusetts; Patrick Gormley, Florida; Gabriella and Gianna Houle, Connecticut.

Bubba will also be fondly remembered by many co-workers, especially his long-time friends Greg Flanagan and Steve Atkinson, as well as Mike McGuire, with whom Bubba spent countless days/weeks on the road.

A colorful character with a mischievous sense of humor, Bubba enlivened family gatherings and was known for infusing conversations with silly, irreverent and sometimes inappropriate wisecracks – each one delivered with an impish smile and quiet chuckle, some living on as "Bubba-isms." A tough guy with an admirable work ethic and heart of gold, Bubba was always willing to lend a helping hand and rarely walked away from a fight – most notably kicking ass in the 2008 match: Bubba vs. Pancreatic Cancer. Appreciative of life's simple pleasures, Bubba enjoyed home improvement projects, tending the lawn and garden, playing cornhole, and relaxing on the deck with a cocktail and Teresa. He and Teresa also loved exploring the New England coastline, especially Cape Cod and Maine. A 1974 graduate of Bristol Eastern High School where he played football, Bubba maintained a lifelong passion for the game, never missing the annual Thanksgiving Day contest against archrival Bristol Central High School.

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Since his absolute favorite pastime was fishing – especially when accompanied by 12 good buds – it's fitting that we honor Bubba with contributions to CTRiver.org. Bubba's family and friends will celebrate his life in June with a "Bubba Burger and Beer Fest."

Colchester

Robert M. Stokes

Robert M. Stokes, 89, of Colchester, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family, after a valiant third battle with cancer, Tuesday, April 6. Born June 13, 1931, in Detroit, Mich.; he was the son of the late Joseph and Simione (Lipbrecht) Stokes.



In 1952, he served our nation by enlisting in the United States Army during the Korean War. He received marksmanship awards, and received an honor award from the U.S. Navy for his excellent work on submarine missiles. In his younger years Robert excelled in bodybuilding, and won the Mr. San Diego title in a competition. He was an avid computer builder and operator; he built his own computer and would entertain his friends and family by making animated videos of them singing and dancing. Electronic engineering was his passion throughout his life; for over 38 years he worked at Interstate Electronics until his retirement in 1997.

He is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Marianne Stokes of Colchester; his children, Patricia (John) Wagner of Colchester, Nancy LoPriore of Hope Valley, R.I., Tami (Gilles) Gaudreau of Plainfield, Michael (Laurie) Stokes of Groton, Christina Stokes of Pawcatuck, Julianne de Medici of Las Vegas, Nev., Elaine (Michael) Joseph of Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; grandchildren, Shawna, Tanya, John Robert, Becky, Brian, Sam, Jimmy, Eric, Travis and Aaron; 17 great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews; and numerous other extended family and friends.

In addition to his parents, he is predeceased by his son, Shawn Rene Stokes; his brother, Joseph Stokes Jr.; and sister, Jeanne Wand.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated today, April 9, at 10 a.m., directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in memory of Robert to the American Cancer Society, the Diabetes Foundation, or Hospice Masonicare of Mystic.

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

East Hampton

Harold Saltus Jr.

Harold William Saltus Jr., 86, of East Hampton, husband of the late Barbara Ronna Saltus, passed away Dec. 20, 2020, at Douglas T. Jacobson State Veterans Nursing Home in Port Charlotte, Fla.



Born in Burlington, Vt., he was the son of the late Harold William Saltus Sr. and Evelyn Rose Boutin of East Hampton. He was predeceased by his brother, Richard F. Saltus of East Hampton.

He graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School. He proudly served in the U.S. Air Force in Korea and the Connecticut National Guard. He attended the University of Hartford and the University of Connecticut. He was the manager of LynnGrace of Middletown, manager/owner

of The Cobide Company and H & B Industries in Cobalt. He was also an officer in the Connecticut State Police/D.E.P for 20 years.

Harold enjoyed skiing, sailing and playing card games with family and friends. He also loved walking through the mall with his wife of 28 years, holding her hand. He was a member of the Shoreline Sailing Club and captain of his boat, Tonic.

Harold is survived by his brother, Robert A. Saltus of East Hampton; his children, Harold William Saltus III of Madison, Wis., Cynthia Saltus of Naples, Fla., Deborah Butler of Lusby, Md., and Desiree Faehr of Theiheim, Germany; along with eight grandchildren, Tyler, Ethan, Justin, Jessica, Grayson, Weston, Nathan and Ashley.

A private ceremony will be held in May.

East Hampton

James Leonard Grace

James "Jim" Leonard Grace, 68, of East Hampton, passed away Monday, March 29, at Hartford Hospital, due to complications from heart surgery. Born June 25, 1952, Jim was the son of the late Leonard and Florence (Sluzinski) Grace. He grew up in Newington and graduated from Newington High School in 1970.



Jim was a diligent worker and worked at the W.Y. Bogle Corporation, Better Brands Foods, and finally for many years at the Nabisco Company, where he continued working until his retirement. Jim was a huge fan of building and flying model airplanes and the movie *Top Gun*. He was a strong gun enthusiast, member of the NRA, and was extremely proud of his Harley-Davidson motorcycle. One of his all-time favorite things was to cruise with his motorcycle buddies. His daughters remember his smile, his wry sense of humor, his love for "Walking in Memphis," and continuous wisecracks.

Jim is survived by his daughters, Heather Shubert and her husband Josh of Hamden, and Amy Phelan and her husband Quinn of Fuquay Varina, N.C.; two granddaughters, Ashlyn and Kendra of Hamden; and three grandsons, Nolan, Joseph and Cian of Fuquay Varina. He is also survived by his younger brother, Richard Grace and his partner Edward Mokrzeky, of Hadley, Mass.

Unfortunately, due to the safety constraints of COVID-19, there will be no services held in person at this time, but we ask that you keep your memories of Jim strong, and he would absolutely want you to remember him laughing and joking with you. A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the American Diabetes Association at www.diabetes.org in Jim's memory under "Memorial Donations," or sent to the American Diabetes Association, P.O. Box 7023, Merrifield, VA, 22116-7023. A form is available on the website to make a memorial donation by mail.

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

Portland

Ami L. Martin

Ami Lynn Martin of Portland passed away peacefully at Middlesex Hospital with family by her side Monday, March 29, at age 50, after having suffered a rapid progression of lung cancer.



Ami was born in Bangor, Maine, in 1970, but lived most of her life and attended school in Portland. She had moved to Florida and then to Tennessee before returning to Portland with her five children in 2009. She was a carpenter and performed numerous jobs as Martin Design & Build Construction. She loved working with her hands and she loved helping people. People knew her driving around in her white Toyota Highlander filled to the brim with tools and "stuff", which she loved. She loved people of all walks of life and had no problem striking up a conversation. Mostly she loved her children.

She is predeceased by her father Terence Martin, and her loving companion, Thomas Deberi, who died in 2016. She is survived by her parents, Pamela and Lee Nordstrom of Portland; her brother, Christopher Martin of Colombia, South America; her three sons, David Melton and his companion Krista Claussner of Moodus; Scott Spicer and his companion Angie Leigh of Portland and Zackery Spicer of Portland; her two daughters, Chelsi Johnson and Loe Martin, both of Portland.

The family would like to especially thank Dr. Emmanuel Kenta-Bibi of Middlesex Health Family Medicine for his ongoing support and coordinated care for Ami. The family would also like to thank Elizabeth Mariano of Connecticut Oncology, Dr. David Gasalberti of Middlesex Radiation Oncology, Dr. Hilary Onyuke of UConn Health Neurosurgery and Dr. Chris Yi of Middlesex Health Palliative Care, and lastly for the help received by Harford Home Health Care Services.

Graveside services will be held Friday, April 16, at 11 a.m., at the Swedish Cemetery on William Street, Portland. All are welcome.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 188, North Haven, CT, 06473 or Saint Vincent de Paul, 617 Main St, Middletown, CT, 06457.

The Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St, Portland, is in charge of arrangements.

Haddam Neck

Thomas A. Law Celebration of Life

A Celebration of Life for Thomas A. Law will be held Saturday, May 1, at 11 a.m., at Third Congregational Church's Memorial Garden, 94 Miner St., Middletown, CT (weather permitting). The service will be followed by burial at Miner Cemetery, down the street from the church. Reception to immediately follow back at Third Congregational Church.

Law, of Haddam Neck, passed away Feb. 21 at the age of 81.

East Hampton

Mildred E. Stankowski

Mildred E. Stankowski, 90, of Moodus, formerly of East Hampton, widow of the late Frank Stankowski, died Saturday, April 3, at Hartford Hospital. Born Dec. 10, 1930, in Middletown, she was the daughter of the late Elliot and Mary (Hutchins) Wilcox.

She is survived by her son, Gene Stankowski and wife Margarita of Moodus; her daughter, Deborah Stankowski of Moodus; her adopted son, Gary Stankowski of Moodus; five grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her daughter, Brenda Stankowski.

A private graveside service will be held at the CT State Veterans Cemetery in Middletown.

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

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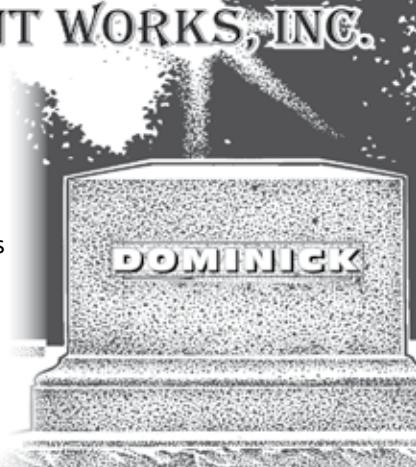
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RE10-16-20

Obituaries continued

Portland

Matthew Serra

Matthew Serra, 39, of Manchester, formerly of Portland, beloved husband of Kristin Serra, passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, March 31.

Matthew was born August 4, 1981, in Meriden, son of Gerald and Gladys (Cruz) Serra. He was a resident of Portland for many years before moving to Manchester to start his life with his soulmate in 2013.

Matthew was a graduate of Vinal Tech, where he excelled in automotive studies. He was formerly employed with Electro Methods Inc. and found his second home at Portland NAPA with Karl, where he worked for many years.

The simplest pleasures in life brought Matthew great joy; fixing cars, spending time outdoors riding his quads, going on fishing trips, spending time with family, and scuba diving. Prior to meeting his wife, he created lifelong bonds with friends who lovingly referred to him as "MattSerra." In recent years, he most enjoyed traveling and finding adventure with his wife, catching sunsets, and being near the ocean. Making moments into memories was

important to him.

Of all the titles that Matthew held, one of his favorites was "Uncle Matt" to his eight nephews and four nieces as well as his goddaughter. Spending time with them and watching them grow up brought him great happiness.

Matthew will be remembered by his smile, his mischievous sense of humor, contagious laughter, witty comebacks, and his unconditional kindness to those he held close to his heart. Matthew was greatly loved and will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

In addition to his wife and his parents, he is survived by his brother, Leo Rosado and his wife Krista of Portland, and three sisters: Ashley Perruccio and her husband Jordan of Cromwell, Stephanie Serra and her boyfriend David Archer of Truckee, Calif., and Jayde Margison and her husband Greg of Middletown; his nieces and nephews and his closest friends, who will continue to honor his legacy by living their lives to the fullest.

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

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LEGALS**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON**

Notice is hereby given that the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency held a meeting at 6:30 p.m. on March 31, 2021 to consider the following:
IW-21-004: JCG Properties, LLC., 9 Middle Haddam Road, Cobalt, for a 2-lot subdivision of property containing wetlands Map 01C/Block 9/Lot 5 - Approved
Jeffry M. Foran, Chairman

1TB 4/9

**TOWN OF ANDOVER
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Town of Andover's Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m., Monday, April 19, 2021 to solicit comment on the application of 57 Hende Rd., LLC to deposit fill and construct a single family home in a Flood Zone in accordance with Section 10.4.9 of the town's Zoning Regulations. The address of the proposed activity is 57 Hende Road, aka Assessor's Map 28/Block 3/ Lot 12. The Public Hearing, which is to be held virtually on a web-site platform, can be accessed by following the directions below:
Join by Computer:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85600994380>
Join by Phone:
+1 646 558 8656
Meeting ID: 856 0099 4380
Passcode: 021725
Comments may be submitted during the public hearing or, submitted to the Building Office located in the Town Hall, 17 School Road, or electronically to zoning@andoverct.org 24 hours prior to the hearing.
Jim Hallisey
Zoning Agent

2TB 4/2, 4/9

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

Notice is hereby given to all property owners connected to the sewers in East Hampton that the second installment of the sewer use payment is due and payable on April 1, 2021. The last day on which to pay without penalty is May 3, 2021. Payments received May 3, 2021 and later, including payments postmarked May 3, and later, are considered past due and will be subject to an interest penalty of 1.50% per month, or a fraction thereof, 18% per annum, from the due date of the tax, as required by Connecticut General State Statutes 12-130 and 146. The minimum interest charge is \$2 on each tax bill. A returned check fee is \$20. Payments legibly postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service on or before April 1, 2021 are considered on time regardless of when they are received by the Collector of Revenue.
As owners of property, taxpayers are responsible to see that taxes are paid when due. Failure to have sent or received a bill does not exempt the taxpayer from payment of all taxes, interest charges and collection costs, as per Conn. Gen. Stat. 12-130 and 12-146. Interest is charged on all late payments. There are no exceptions.
Please make checks payable to Town of East Hampton. Payments may be mailed to Collector of Revenue, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424. Pay online by visiting our website at www.easthamptonct.gov. Note: Your sewer account number is required when making a payment online.
Hours of collection are: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, Tuesday 8:00 am – 6:30 pm and Friday 8:00 am – 12:30 pm.
Respectively Submitted,
Scott Clayton
Public Utilities Administrator

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

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

The second half of the East Hampton Sewer Use bills due on April 1, 2021. The last day to pay the Sewer Use fee for the April 1, 2021 installment without a penalty is May 3, 2021. Payments received May 3, 2021 and later, including payments postmarked May 3, and later, are considered past due and will be subject to an interest penalty of 1.50% per month, or a fraction thereof, 18% per annum, from the due date of the tax, as required by Connecticut General State Statutes 12-130 and 146. The minimum interest charge is \$2 on each tax bill. A returned check fee is \$20. Payments legibly postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service on or before April 1, 2021 are considered on time regardless of when they are received by the Collector of Revenue.
As owners of property, taxpayers are responsible to see that taxes are paid when due. Failure to have sent or received a bill does not exempt the taxpayer from payment of all taxes, interest charges and collection costs, as per Conn. Gen. Stat. 12-130 and 12-146. Interest is charged on all late payments. There are no exceptions.
There are multiple payment options:
Pay by Mail: Please make checks payable to Town of East Hampton. Payments may be mailed to Collector of Revenue, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424.
Pay Online: Visit www.easthamptonct.gov. Note: Your sewer account number is required when making a payment online.
Pay by Drop Box: There is a drop box located in the front of the Town Hall at 1 Community Drive. Do not leave cash in the drop box unless you have arranged it with the Collector of Revenue.
Pay in Person: When paying in person at the Tax Office at the Town Hall, all taxpayers must adhere to the CDC guidelines. This includes wearing a mask upon entering the building and practicing social distancing.

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

**Public Notice
Inland Wetland Agent Approval**

On 3/30/2021 the Inland Wetlands Agent of the Town of Portland issued a permit for Application #20-05A to rebuild a 10' x 12' shed on an old stone foundation in its original location, as shown from previous existing maps, within 100 ft of the upland review area located at 11 Farrell Road to applicant Vincent Barbetta.
This permit may be appealed to the Town of Portland Inland Wetlands Commission in accordance with the provisions of Section 12.2 of the Town of Portland Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations.

1TB 4/9

**LEGAL NOTICE
MARLBOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION
NOTICE OF ACTION**

The Marlborough Planning Commission at its meeting of March 23 2021, took the following action:
APPLICATION CONTINUED; PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED:
Application #01-21 – Erik Young (Applicant/Property Owner) – 351 So Main St. – 2 Lot Subdivision. A public hearing is scheduled for April 27, 2021 at 7pm.
Dated at Marlborough, CT this April 6, 2021.
Mark Stankiewicz, PLANNING COMMISSION CHAIR

1TB 4/9

**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH**

Board of Finance Public Hearing
Monday, April 19, 2021
Via Zoom
7:00 p.m.

The Marlborough Board of Finance will hold a Public Hearing Monday, April 19, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom to discuss the fiscal year 2021-2022 Town Budget.
At this hearing, interested persons may be heard. A copy of the proposed budget is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk and on the town website at www.marlboroughct.net. Information to log into the meeting will be available on the Public Hearing agenda.

1TB 4/9

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

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**COLCHESTER ZONING
BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS**

The Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a virtual public hearing on April 20, 2021, at 7:00 P.M. to hear and consider the following petition:

- Application No. ZBA 2021-001 of Eric Cummings, Breaks Unlimited (Applicant) and Frank B. Adams (Owner), 109 Loomis Road (AKA 111 Loomis Road, to approve location for Automobile General Repairs pursuant to CGS §14-54 (Tax Map 03-19/Lot 020-003) in the AC Zone.

At this hearing interested persons may appear or be heard and written communications will be received. The application is on file for public review on the Planning & Zoning Commission Webpage and in the Planning & Zoning Department, Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT. Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Robinson, Chairman

1TB 4/9, 4/16

**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 April 12, 2021 via Zoom meeting (see Town website for details) to consider the following:

- Application ZBA-21-004: Miguel and Julianne Roman, 51 Highland Terrace, to reduce the front setback from 50' to 10' to construct a 20' x 40' IG pool with concrete patio Map 18/ Block 44/Lot 23G-1
Matthew Walton, Chairman

2TB 4/2, 4/9

**TOWN OF COLCHESTER
LEGAL NOTICE**

The Historic District Commission will hold a virtual public hearing on April 12, 2021, at 7:00 P.M. to hear and consider the following petitions:

- Town Green Improvement Project – Modify Certificate of Appropriateness (2021-01)** – To modify Certificate of Appropriateness (2020-02) for improvements of the Community Connectivity Program grant including renovation of the main path, erection of a new bus shelter and installation of new cast iron light posts, benches and trash receptacles on the Town Green.

At this hearing interested persons may be heard and written communications received. A copy of this petition is in the Planning and Zoning Department, Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, and may be inspected during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday).

Historic District Commission
Ellen Sharon, Chair

2TB 4/2, 4/9

LEGAL NOTICE

STOR-U-SELF will sell at PUBLIC AUCTION at 127 Main St, Portland, CT 06480,
All the personal property stored in its facility by:
Nisa Purvis, Unit L3, Cloths
Michael Sabino, Unit 429, Boxes, Furniture, exercise equipment, TV
Carla Hass, Unit 473, Furniture
Kelvin Perry, Unit 314, Bags
At 3:00PM, Tuesday, April 27th, 2021, at the premises of STOR-U-SELF, 127 Main St., Portland, CT. 06480. 860-342-1445
By Paul L. Maglio Auctioneer: Storage Auction Solutions. STOR-U-SELF reserves the following rights: (1) to bid at the public auction; (2) to refuse any and all bids; (3) to cancel the auction at any time for any reason.

2TB 4/9, 4/16

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 8
RESCHEDULED VIRTUAL HEARING
ANDOVER, HEBRON, MARLBOROUGH**

Join with Google Meet
meet.google.com/xav-tysm-tbm

Join by phone
(US) +1 267-625-2694 (PIN: 592752166)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY ON MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2021, AT 7:00 P.M. TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING:

- "TO PRESENT AND DISCUSS THE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 8 PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2021-2022."
- "TO PRESENT AND DISCUSS THE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 8 PROPOSED CAPITAL BUDGET FOR 2021-2022."

DATED AT HEBRON, CONNECTICUT, April 7, 2021
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 8
Stephanie Bancroft
STEPHANIE BANCROFT, CHAIRPERSON
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 8 BOARD OF EDUCATION

1TB 4/9

Town of Portland

Legal notice is hereby given to the water and/or sewer usage customers of the Town of Portland that quarterly bills are due and payable April 15, 2021. Payments not made in full on or before May 17, 2021 will be subject to interest of 1.5% per month from the due date.

Failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the charge. Please contact the Water/Sewer department if you do not receive your bill at (860) 342-6735 or by email darc@portlandct.org

Due to the limited access of the Town Hall to the public please feel free to leave your payment in the drop box located to the right of the back door at the Town Hall, which is located at 33 East Main St., Portland, CT or by mail at the address listed below.

Town of Portland
Water/Sewer Dept.
P.O. Box 71
Portland, CT 06480-0071
Cynthia L. Gotta, CCMC
Town of Portland
Collector of Revenue

3TB 4/9, 4/23, 5/7

**LEGAL NOTICE OF SPECIAL
TOWN MEETING**

**Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.
Waverly Center, 7 Waverly Avenue,
Portland, CT 06480**

The electors and those persons eligible to vote in town meetings of the Town of Portland, Connecticut, are hereby warned and notified that Pursuant to Section 503 (a) of the Town Charter, a special Town Meeting will be held by the Board of Selectmen on April 21, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. in the Waverly Center for the approval for the Town to enter into Energy Efficiency Services Projects:

ITEM 1. To Approve and Authorize the Town of Portland, for the benefit of the Town's Brownstone Intermediate School (BIS), Valley View School (VV), and Portland High School (PHS), to enter into Municipal Loan Agreements with Eversource as part of Energy Efficiency Services Projects for the three locations. The loan agreements are expected to be for four (4) years. The total expected project costs are projected to be for BIS \$213,305; for VV \$169,917; and for PHS \$7,167. Eversource is expected to provide an incentive of \$127,324 for BIS, \$111,879 for VV, and \$3,584 PHS. Therefore, the loan amounts are anticipated to be \$85,981 for BIS, \$58,038 for VV, and \$3,583 for PHS. The monthly payments will be approximately \$1,792 for BIS, \$1,210 for VV and \$75 for PHS for 48 months. The project will be completed by Environmental Services Corporation (ESC) under the State Department of Administrative Services Contract #18PSX0104 (Energy Efficiency Retrofits and Energy Cost-Saving Services for Existing Buildings). The work at the BIS and VV will include a lighting upgrade to reduce long term utility costs, to make pipe insulation/blankets enhancements to reduce heat loss and to complete steam trap repairs and replacements to prevent excessive heat loss. The work at the PHS will be to add controls to the refrigeration units to assist at controlling temperatures within the units allowing for less energy consumption and replace the EC motors inside the refrigeration units with high energy efficiency motors to allow for less energy consumption.

A copy of the resolution to be voted on is available for public inspection in the Town Clerk's Office and on the Town's website at www.portlandct.org

Dated this 8th day of April 2021
Attest: Susan S. Bransfield, First Selectwoman

1TB 4/9

The Town of Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission (IWWC) will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 13th, 2021 at 7:00PM to hear testimony and comments on the following application(s):

IWWC20-36: Erik Loteczka and George Correia, 26 Old Farms Rd (Andover, CT), application to construct a wetland crossing for a proposed driveway and new house construction.

Directions to participate in the Zoom Meeting will be provided on the IWWC regular meeting agenda for Tuesday, April 13th, 2021, and can be found here: <https://www.andoverconnecticut.org/calendar>

Comments, questions or concerns may be presented at the public hearing or submitted in writing to the Andover Building Office, 17 School Road, Andover, Connecticut at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. Any individuals who need access to a public computer can contact the Building Office at (860)742-4036 at least twenty-four hours prior to the meeting.

1TB 4/9

**LEGAL NOTICE of PUBLIC HEARING
Board of Selectmen
Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 6:30 pm
Waverly Center, 7 Waverly Avenue,
Portland, CT 06480**

Pursuant to Sections 406 and 503 (i) of the Town Charter, the Portland Board of Selectmen shall hold a public hearing on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 6:30 P.M. in the Waverly Center to obtain public comments and questions, both orally and in writing, on the proposed Town Ordinance Chapter 13-Parks and Recreation, Section 13-4 "Fee Schedule." 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. The schedule of Parks and Recreation Facilities and Fields Rental Permit Fees shall be set from time to time by the Board of Selectmen in accordance with Section 404.3 of the Portland Town Charter. Such schedule of fees will be on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

A copy of the proposed ordinance is available for public inspection on file in the Town Clerk's office and online at www.portlandct.org.

Dated this 8th day of April 2021
Attest: Susan S. Bransfield, First Selectwoman

1TB 4/9

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Town of Marlborough
Full-Time Maintainer
Department of Public Works

The Town of Marlborough is accepting applications for the position of full-time Maintainer in the Department of Public Works. This is a 40 hour/week position, Monday through Friday from 7:00am to 3:30 pm., and offers a competitive starting wage and comprehensive benefit package. This is a Collective Bargaining Unit position.

The successful candidate will work under the supervision and direction of the Public Works Supervisor performing a wide range of facility, grounds and road maintenance duties. A complete job description and application is available from the Marlborough Town Clerk, or online at www.marlboroughct.gov.

Candidates will be considered based on knowledge, skills, abilities and previous experience. Candidates will be required to pass a thorough background investigation and physical exam, including a drug screening. An application and current resume must be received by the Marlborough Town Clerk, 26 North Main Street, P.O. Box 29, Marlborough, CT 06447 by noon Friday, April 16, 2021.

The Town of Marlborough is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
4TB 3/19, 3/26, 4/2, 4/9



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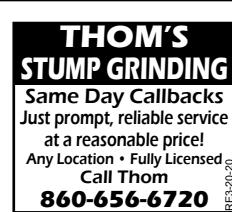
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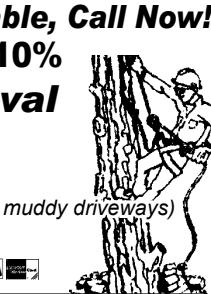
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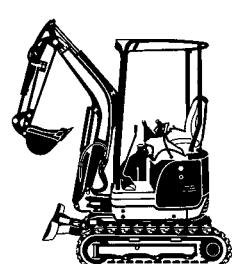
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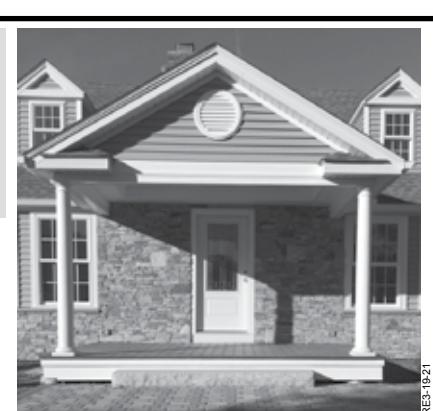
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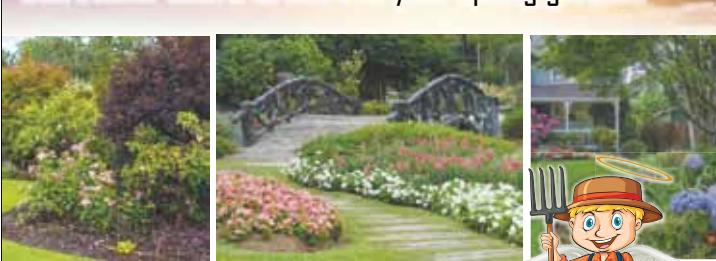
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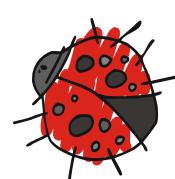
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MOVING SALE! Garage items, furniture, books, etc. Everything must go! 51 Highway Circle, Colchester. Saturday, April 10th from 9am to 2pm.

TAG SALE - April 10th, 8:30-3:00, 148 Dara Drive, Colchester. Household items, sporting goods, baseball cards, Airsoft items, boat trailer, flat screen TV.

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Fair Housing Matters: A Whole Community Conversation

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

April is Fair Housing Month and this event will kick off a series of panel discussions. Attendees will learn: who is most impacted by the affordable housing shortage; why Connecticut is one of the most segregated states in the country; facts about Portland's zoning regulations; personal stories about the impact of segregation and the housing crisis.

Panelists will answer questions from the

community and explore steps Portland has taken in the past, as well as what we can do now and in the future to be a more inclusive community. Panelists will be: Mary Dickerson, Portland's Development Planner; representatives from DesegregateCT; and Portland residents of public housing.

Registration is encouraged. Call Portland Library at 860-342-6770 or visit portlandlibraryct.org, click on "Calendar," "Fair Housing Matters" on 4/29 and "Sign Up."

Those with questions in advance for the panelists should email them to portlandsocialjustice@gmail.com.

St. Mary Church News

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

Weekend Masses: 5 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sunday. Wearing of masks is required. Social distancing and all COVID-19 regulations are followed.

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

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

Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Faith Formation Program: Classes are held virtually at this time. For more information, call Faith Formation Director Susan Ferraiolo at 860-342-2308.

Holy Hour Benediction: First Friday of every month following the 12:10 p.m. Mass.

Mass in Honor of Blessed Mother: First Saturday of every month at 9 a.m.

Baptisms: First and third Sunday of every month at 1:30 p.m. Call the parish office to make arrangements.

Reconciliation (Confession): Saturday at 4:45 p.m. If this time is not convenient, contact Antonelle.

Blessings of Marriages: During Masses on the first weekend of every month.

St. Mary Ladies Guild: Meetings held every third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m., with the exception of winter months. For more information, contact President Marilyn McGrath at 860-342-1137.

Knights of Columbus: All practicing Catholic men are invited to contact Mark Creighton at 860-308-0603 to join.

Community Outreach: Food may be brought to the church office for the Portland Food Bank.

Portland Library News & Notes

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

Library Reopens: The library is allowing entry for brief visits to browse and borrow books, use computers and more. Face masks for those over the age of two, social distancing and use of sanitizer upon entering are required. Call ahead to book an appointment before your visit; walk-ins may be allowed but cannot always be accommodated due to limits on the number of visitors allowed in the building. Computers and wireless access in the building are available by appointment. Masks for those over the age of two, social distancing and use of sanitizer upon entering are required. Call for more information. Curbside delivery of requested items also continues. Call the library, or reserve items online and you will receive a notice or call when your materials are available.

Museum Passes: Many museums and attractions are now open and the library offers several passes for free or discounted admission. Passes include: the Basketball Hall of Fame, Children's Museum/Roaring Brook Nature Center, CT River Museum, Eric Carle Picture Book Museum, Mystic Seaport, New England Air Museum, New England Carousel Museum, Florence Griswold Museum, New Britain Museum of Art and the Wadsworth Museum. To reserve a pass, go to the library website and click on 'Museum Passes' or call the library. Always check with the individual museum for the most up-to-date information. The Friends of the Portland Library support the museum pass service.

Youth Programs: Nutmeg Voting: Stop into the library to vote on the 2021 Nutmeg Nominees or submit your favorite title in your age group to portlandlibrary@portlandct.org. Nominees have been divided into four categories: Elementary (grades K-2), Intermediate (grades 3-5), Teen (grades 6-8), and High School (grades 9-12). Visit the Portland Library website for a complete list of nominees. Winners will be announced May 15, and next year's nominees will be announced May 1.

Online Storytime: Tuesdays through April 27, at 10 a.m., via Zoom. Registration is required for each week and space is limited. Supplies can be picked up in advance; a Zoom link will be provided within 24 hours of each program.

April Vacation Program: Paper Quilling: Wednesday, April 14, 3:30 p.m., via Zoom, for grades 3 and up. Learn paper quilling, the art of taking thin strips of colored paper, rolling them into a coil, pinching them to form a shape and then gluing the shapes together to create paper designs and objects. Registration required; space is limited. Supplies can be picked up in advance.

A Taste of Tourism: Thursdays, April 22-May 13, 3:30 p.m., via Zoom, for grades K-5. Each week, explore the cultures, landmarks and traditions of a different country in the world through stories, games and crafts. Registration is required; space is limited.

Teen Event: Mini Meetup: Monday, April 19, 3:30 p.m., via Zoom, for grades 6 and up. Making Shrinky Dinks, mini art masterpieces and some "teen-y" bite-size treats. Registration required; space is limited. Supplies can be picked up in advance.

Family Craft Night: Butterfly Shadow Boxes: Wednesday, April 21, 7 p.m., via Zoom. This activity has steps that are appropriate for all ages, although adult supervision is required. Registration required; space is limited. Supplies can be picked up in advance.

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

Portland Forum: Thursday, April 22, 7 p.m. April's book discussion will be on *Red at the Bone* by Jacqueline Woodson. The book deals with a variety of issues, including class, racial prejudice, sexual desire and orientation, parenthood and loss.

Hoots, Screeches and Moans in the Night!: Wednesday, April 28, 7 p.m., via Zoom, presented by Ginny Apple, a master wildlife conservationist. In this Portland-River Valley Garden Club conservation program, Apple will talk all about owls. Zoom ID is 8603426777 and the Passcode is Portland.

**WHEN
WILL
THIS
exhaustion
fade?**

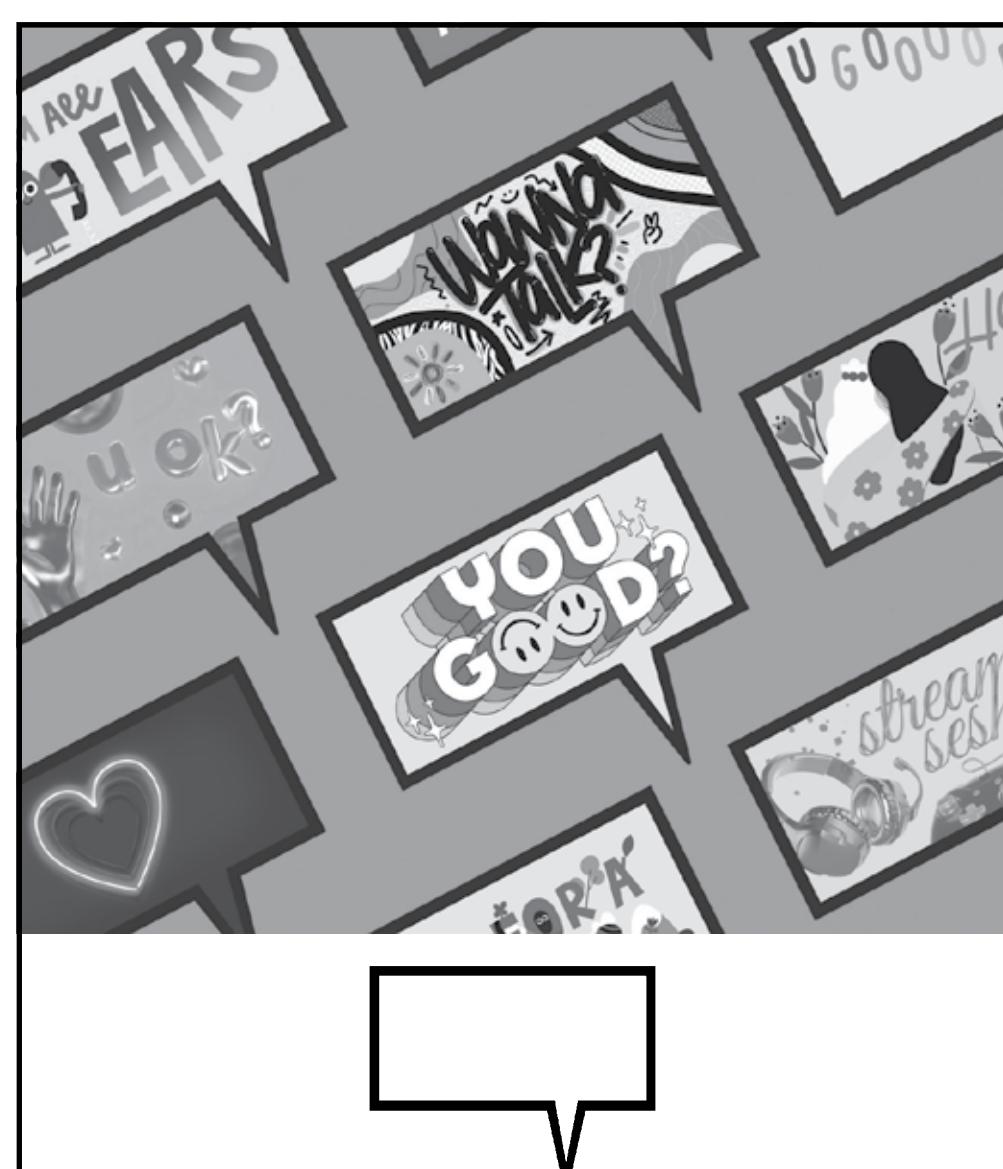


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Get re-energized with things that bring joy—like art, cooking, exercise, or friends.

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Reach out to a friend about their mental health.

Find more ways to help at SeizeTheAwkward.org

SEIZE THE AWKWARD



East Hampton • East Hampton

East Hampton Library News & Notes

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

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

Weekly Activities for Kids: Stories and Songs: Wednesdays at 10 a.m. via Zoom, for ages 1-5. No registration required. **Family Bedtime Stories:** Mondays at 6:30 p.m., via Zoom, for ages 3-8. This program combines stories, songs and literacy activities. Siblings, pajamas, and stuffed animal friends welcome. No registration required; just drop in. **Mindful Movements:** Thursdays, 10 a.m., via Zoom, for ages 3-8. This is an early literacy program for child and caregiver that combines singing, dancing, and whole body movement. Siblings welcome. For weekly reminders and recordings, register online.

Virtual Afterschool Programs: Footprints, Friarys, and Fundays: Programs are at 4 p.m. over Zoom. Registration required. Schedule: Footprints, for grades 2-3, April 9 and 30; Friary, for grades 4-5, April 23, May 7 and May 28; Monday Funday, for grades 6-8, April 19 and May 24.

Families Bake Pie: Wednesday, April 14, 4 p.m., via Zoom, for ages 6-12. Make a banana cream pie. You'll need the following: graham crackers, half a stick of butter, sugar, 2-3 bananas, one can sweetened condensed milk, plain Greek yogurt, cream cheese and heavy cream. Have an electric mixer on hand, and a pie dish.

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 some of his friends from Farmer M's Red Barn to help Pastor Tom explain the meaning of the message topic.

Bible Study: Cowger hosts a Zoom study enOffice Info: The church office can be reached at 860-267-2336. Office hours are Monday-Friday, 12:30-4:30 p.m.

The church website is www.hncovenantchurch.org

East Hampton 'Big Easy' Raffle

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

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

Congregational Church News

The Congregational Church of East Hampton, UCC, located at 59 Main St., is now open for in-person services every Sunday at 10 a.m. Masks are required, as well as hand sanitizing and social distancing. All are welcome. Those unable or not ready to attend in person can access all services via Zoom by going to cc-eh.org.

Sunday school classes have also resumed in-person.

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

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

Registration required.

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

Teen Advisory Tuesday: April 27, 3 p.m., via Zoom, for grades 8-12. In this online program, teens will plan and create events and programs, and provide input to expand the library's YA/Teen collection. Teen Advisory Board requires a monthly commitment and participation; registration required.

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

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

Pots with Pizzazz: Tuesday, May 25, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom. Jana Milbocker will give a presentation on creating pots with pizzazz. Learn how to brighten shady spots with pops of color, create focal points for vistas and welcoming entry gardens with stunning container groupings. Register online.

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



Epoch Arts' Breaking Silences group is gearing up to perform in an original production, *Across the Line*. Pictured are some of the girls that will be involved with the show: Lauren Kelly, Alicia Colegrove, Ruby Grace Casey, Hannah Morgan, Moira Slater and Mary Rainville.

Epoch Arts to Present Original Play

Epoch Arts has announced that, with the building of a new outdoor stage, the girls of Breaking Silences are gearing up to perform in an original production, *Across the Line*. The play will be performed rain or shine Saturday, April 24, at 1 and 5 p.m., and Sunday, April 25, at 1 p.m.

The girls have been working this year with the theme, "There are two sides to every story." They have discussed the word "diversity" and what it means to sit down and talk with someone of an opposing view. Discussions have focused on what it takes to be a good listener, knowing that people don't have to see the world the same way or agree with each other in order to value one another.

Across the Line is an original one-act play of a one-sided story that is at "war." It deals with aspects of the fear of not being accepted, silence, anger as well as compassion and strength.

Spring Sidewalk Cleanup

In honor of Earth Day, the merchants of the East Hampton Village Center will host a Spring Sidewalk Cleanup in the Village Center Saturday, April 24.

Volunteers will meet at East Hampton Public Library, 105 Main St., at 9 a.m. Garbage bags and rubber gloves will be provided, or bring your own protective gloves along with a rake.

For more information, email Melissa Pionzio at mapienzio@comcast.net.

Mary Rainville is a senior in the Breaking Silences group and has created her character based on what the "other" side feels.

"My character in the play is an outsider," she said. "She has been told that her opinion is wrong and that she cannot live peacefully unless she submits to the other side. Instead of being angry or wanting to fight, she just wants peace in diversity, with people being allowed to think differently than each other. I love doing the show, and being able to do my senior show means a lot to me. With COVID, I was really afraid we wouldn't be able to do anything. It is so incredible to be able to work together with all the girls and create something like this."

Audience members must buy tickets online, and must wear masks to the performance. Tickets will go on sale Saturday, April 10, at www.epocharts.org. Due to social distancing, space is limited for the three shows.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church News

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

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

Seeds of Hope

The Congregational Church of East Hampton mission group, Seeds of Hope, will hold its annual 5K/10K/Fun Walk Saturday, April 24. Registration must be done ahead of time at firstmile-fitness.com; there will be no in-person registration the day of the race.

On race day, pick up your race bag beginning at 7:30 a.m. at the church, 59 Main St. The race will begin at 9 a.m., at the entrance to the Air Line Trail, located at Cranberry Bog on Smith Street. Transportation will be provided to and from the trail head. All participants should park at the church. Awards will follow the race at Cranberry Bog.

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

All proceeds from the race will help to defray out-of-pocket costs for Seeds of Hope members when they are safely able to make their next mission trip.

For more information or to register, go to firstmile-fitness.com or contact Lisa at 860-918-1170.

EHVFD Quarterly Report

In the first quarter of 2021, the East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department responded to 74 requests for emergency services; 16 medical calls, 16 fire and CO alarms, nine structure fires, nine brush/outside fires, nine motor vehicle accidents with injuries, six chimney fires, and a series of other calls involving gas leaks, power lines and smoke investigations.

Additionally, the EHVFD provided mutual aid assistance to fight brush, chimney and structure fires in Marlborough (2), East Haddam (2), and once each to Colchester, Haddam Neck, Portland and Berlin. With the exception of Berlin, East Hampton also received mutual aid several times during the first quarter from those departments listed above.

EHVFD said it helps first responders when home addresses are clearly marked in a visible, conspicuous manner, preferably at curbside. The EHVFD offers distinctive reflective address signs for sale, and order forms are on the department's Facebook page.

Pair of Fundraisers for TANGO2

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

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

Then, on May 1, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., there will be a Craft & Vendor Fair at East Hampton High School. More than 20 vendors, crafters, and bakers will be offering items such as garden and home décor, jewelry, textiles, and more – all while supporting the fight against TANGO2 disease. Vendors include: It's So Ranunculus Flower Shoppe, Ydanis Bakery, Walt Jedziniak Photography, Thirty-One, Color Street, and others. There will also be a bake sale and a scrapbook, stamp and craft tag sale.

If interested in having a table or donating new or gently-used crafting supplies, contact Stacey at Staceygibson619@gmail.com before April 16.

For more information, to get involved, or to make a donation, visit the TANGO2 Research Foundation at www.tango2research.org.

Parks and Rec. News & Notes

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

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

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

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

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

Girls Volleyball Clinic: Tuesdays, April 20-May 25, at EHMS, for grades 6-8. Fee: \$100.

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

Hebron • Hebron

St. Peter's Lasagna Dinner

St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 30 Church St., will hold a community dinner Saturday, April 17, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. or until sold out. The menu will include spinach or meat lasagna, Italian sausage, tossed salad and garlic bread, as well as assorted desserts at the dessert table. Cost is \$14 per meal.

This will be a takeout-only dinner, with no preorders or reservations. The takeouts will be served on a first-come, first-served basis, from the paved lot at St Peter's. Servers will come to your car, take your order, and deliver it to your back seat or trunk. Patrons will not get out of their car. Servers will have masks and gloves when serving dinner.

Have the correct cash ready for your dinner, or a check made out to St. Peter's Church, to

help lessen the time each patron takes to go through the line.

The church said it apologizes to all who were turned away from the previous dinner. The church had prepared 200 dinners for that meal, but this month it is preparing 300, in the hopes of accommodating more patrons. Each car will receive a ticket representing the number of meals they wish to purchase. When 300 tickets are given out, the dinner will be sold out.

A portion of each meal sold will go toward supporting the Windham Region No-freeze Hospitality Center.

For more details, call the church at 860-228-3244 or visit www.StPetersHebron.com.

Gilead Congregational Church News

Gilead Congregational Church, an Open and Affirming Congregation located at Gilead Street and Meeting House Road, has announced the following. For more information, visit gileadchurchucc.org, email gcc@gileadchurch.net, or call Pastor Denise Esslinger at the church office at 860-228-3077.

Sunday Worship: In-person worship has resumed. This week's service will be held at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary. Safety protocols will be in place and are detailed on the church website. Those who wish to attend should email the church office to sign up, as seating is limited in order to maintain social distancing.

Services will continue to be livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube. People can watch on either YouTube or Facebook. For YouTube, go to www.bit.ly/GileadChurchUCC. Click on 'subscribe' to be notified of future livestreams or new videos. For Facebook, go to tinyurl.com/GileadChurchUCC. Recordings of services will be available on either platform after the service.

Bible Study on Zoom: Wednesdays at 9:30

a.m., led by the Rev. Bob Woodward. The group is discussing the Book of Ruth, and will then begin Jonah. All are invited; come when you can. For more info, or assistance with Zoom, contact the church office.

Silver Lake Summer Camp: Silver Lake's offerings for the summer 2021 conference season are listed at www.silverlakect.org, along with downloads of the forms needed for registration. Also, the church's Women's Fellowship will pay the \$150 deposit for any young person from the congregation who would like to attend Silver Lake; speak with Margaret Gibbs (860-384-4327) for more information on the offer.

Face Masks Available: The church still has adult-sized and some child-sized face masks available. They are in a basket on Sunday mornings, or you may contact the church office at 860-228-3077 or gcc@gileadchurch.net. Some lanyards are also available, on which the elastic of the mask can be hooked. The lanyards are "breakaway," which means they will release by simply pulling the neck latch apart.

The Worship Center News & Notes

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

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

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

Praise and Prayer Night: Held at the firepit every third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. This night is dedicated to worship and praying for everyone in need in families, church and community.

Douglas Library News & Notes

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

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

Adult & Teen Crafts: In the lobby is the monthly Take & Make craft bag. April features a flower seeds sprouting project. The kit includes seeds, soil, and plastic pot. Kits available for pickup during normal business hours; only one per household.

Out of Rushmore's Shadow: Friday, April 16, 1 p.m. In this virtual presentation, storyteller Lou Del Bianco will portray his grandfather, Luigi Del Bianco, and talks about his unsung contribution as chief carver on Mount Rushmore, which turns 80 this year.

Lotus Flower Lantern Craft Zoom Workshop: On Thursday, April 22, via Zoom, the Korean Spirit and Culture Project will walk participants through the creation of a lotus flower

lantern and share information about Korean history and culture. There is no charge to participate, but registration required. For ages 13 and up.

Teen Trivia – Decades: Friday, April 16, 2 p.m. Teens will answer trivia questions themed around the '80s, '90s, '00s, and '10s. The winner gets a prize. Registration required.

Teen Advisory Board: Friday, April 30, 2-3 p.m., via Zoom. Teens will help plan fun things to do at the library. Registration required. See the Teen Volunteering page on the library website for more information.

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

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

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

Church of the Holy Family News

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

Livestreamed Masses continue every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Visit holymfamilyhebron.org for more information. The church can be reached at 860-228-0096.

Church Collecting for Homeless Shelter: The church collects items year-round for the Windham Region No Freeze Hospitality Center, which provides assistance to homeless adults. The center requests waterproof two-person tents, sleeping bags, tarps (green or brown; no blue), tent rope, small flashlights with corresponding

batteries, and insect repellent, for clients living outdoors after the overnight program ends on May 1.

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

Senior Center News & Notes

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

COVID-19 Vaccine Information: The public directory of vaccine clinics is at www.211ct.org/vaccineclinics. All clinics require an appointment to be made in advance. People may also call 877-918-2224 from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. seven days a week to schedule an appointment, or try the Harford Healthcare Vaccine Registration Line at 860-827-7690. Local seniors may also call Hebron's COVID-19 hotline at 860-228-5977 to help schedule an appointment.

Senior Transportation: Available for seniors 60 and over and adult disabled individuals. Transportation is for medical care, personal needs care, grocery shopping, or other pre-approved needs. Dial-a-Ride service operates Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. COVID-19 guidelines will be followed, and all passengers must wear a mask during transportation and will be asked screening questions prior to their ride. Fares are charged; contact the senior center for a fee schedule. Appointments must be scheduled a minimum of 24 hours in advance; new riders need to schedule their first appointment a mini-

Dean's List

The following local residents made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Manchester Community College:

Amston: Melissa M. O'Reilly, Jadyn D. Nemhard, Skylar L. Popp and Daniel Slayton.

Hebron: Marina A. Espinoza, Adam J. Lisee, Emmaline C. Parsell and Ericka B. Sandstrom.

Resident on College Baseball Team

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

Synodi is a pitcher and majors in English.

Resident Receives Award

Hebron resident Jim Celio, a sales associate with Century 21 AllPoints Realty, was recently honored with the 2020 Century 21 President's Producer Award. The annual award is bestowed upon those Century 21 System sales affiliates that earn the Century 21 Centurion award and the Century 21 Quality Service Pinnacle Producer award in the same calendar year.

The Centurion Producer award honors Century 21 System sales affiliates that earn \$282,000 in sales production or 66 closed transaction sides within the calendar year.

To earn the Century 21 Quality Service Pinnacle Producer Award, a sales affiliate must receive completed customer surveys for at least 50% of their transactions surveyed from Jan. 1-Dec. 31, with an average survey score of at least 95% for two consecutive years.

"We are thrilled to recognize Jim Celio's work for this momentous achievement," said Michael Miedler, president and chief executive officer of Century 21 Real Estate. "This is an outstanding honor since only a small percentage of affiliated agents in the United States received this award for sales."

Calling all Musicians

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

All levels of musicians are welcome, and all genres. Performers will line Main Street, bringing back the "Mile of Music." To sign up or for more information, visit facebook.com/towncentrerojectinc or www.thetowncenterproject.org.

Church of Hope News & Notes

Hebron Church of Hope, 1 Main St., holds worship Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Church of Hope is a biblically-driven Christ-centered church.

Worship is in person and via livestream on the church website. For more information, and the guidelines for in-person worship during the pandemic, visit www.hebronchurchofhope.org.

The church office is closed until further notice. Pastor Jordan Brown is available to meet by appointment. Use the church website to set up a time.

For more information about Hebron Church of Hope, visit the website or look for the church on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.

Tax Abatements Available

Applications for property tax abatements are available to Hebron residents. Per town ordinance, property taxes can be deferred when they exceed 8% of total household income from any source.

For example, if the total household income from any source totals \$30,000, the property tax liability would be capped at \$2,400. The abatement would be for any property taxes that exceeded \$2,400. The abatements would apply to the upcoming tax year beginning July 1.

Under the ordinance, taxes that are abated would be repaid when a property is sold or transferred through probate. Abated taxes would accrue at an interest rate which is significantly less than what is charged for delinquent taxes (18%). The interest rate is currently 1.5% and is reviewed annually by the Board of Selectmen.

If interested in the program, contact the town manager's office at 860-228-5971 for an application. Deadline is June 1.

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