



# RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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

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**Wrestling Champ...** Jackson Heslin of Marlborough holds his national championship "Stop Sign," which he won last month. The 14-year-old wrestler is now headed to an international championship this fall in Mexico. Jackson is pictured with his coach John Knapp, left, and father Matt Heslin, right. See story on page 22.

## RHAM Budget Sails to Victory, Easily Wins

by Sloan Brewster

RHAM's combined \$30.65 million 2021-2022 budget, an increase of 1.67% or \$501,991, passed easily at Tuesday's referendum, winning all three towns.

Both the operations and the capital budgets won over voters. The \$30.35 million operations budget won by total of 846-427. In Hebron, the spending package won 495-276; it took Andover by a 124-88 tally; and it substantially won Marlborough, 227-63.

The \$299,500 capital budget also saw a clear victory, winning 858 'yes' votes to just 410 'no' ones. It took Hebron, 500-269; Andover, 129-80; and Marlborough, 229-61.

The operating budget represents a 1.83% or \$545,853 increase over the current year. Capital spending, meanwhile, was a \$43,862 or 12.77% decrease over the current year.

Hebron, with 609 students at RHAM – the most in the school – will contribute \$14.2 million to the operational budget. Andover, with 223 students, will owe \$5.2 million and Marlborough, with 470 students, will dole out \$10.96 million.

For capital improvements, Hebron will pay \$140,076; Andover will pony up \$51,304; and Marlborough will owe \$108,120.

Interim Superintendent of Schools Scott Leslie, in a phone call Wednesday, said he was "thrilled" the budget passed and did so "so resoundingly."

He said the success was evidence of the work the RHAM Board of Education had put in and speaks to its commitment to be part of the three towns rather than a district separate from them. He said that was also made clear by the board's decision in March to return the entire \$753,931

surplus from the 2019-20 year's budget to the three towns.

Leslie attributed the higher than usual surplus to the COVID-19 pandemic, which put students in remote learning from March of last year through the close of school in June and resulted in unanticipated savings in such things as transportation.

"Returning the full amount of the surplus in response to request from the towns, I hope made a statement in how much the district wants to work with the towns," he said.

He said the budget supports education and capital needs and the board did a great job in crafting it.

"I think it was a great budget," he said. "I'm really very pleased. I'm glad that we were able to craft a budget that seemed to meet the needs of our community. I think the RHAM board did a fantastic job this year managing a budget in a really challenging time."

RHAM Board of Education Chairwoman Stephanie Bancroft was also quite happy with the victory, saying the school board is "thankful for the overwhelming support" of the budget.

"Scott Leslie and his staff provided us with excellent information throughout the budget process, and we appreciate their hard work," she said. "Thank you to [town officials] for their cooperation and feedback. We are grateful to work for a community that supports our excellent schools."

Leslie said the board has started to work on some capital improvements, namely a list that was initially part of the budget request but was moved up and funded through unspent money in the current year's budget.

Capital items in the budget that passed this week, such as air conditioning for the high

See RHAM Budget, page 29

## Portland a Potential Model for Zoning Reform

by Jack Lakowsky

Naji Chester-Payne, lifelong Portland resident and member of the Portland Social Justice Coalition (PSJC), recently spoke highly of both his hometown and his residence at one of Portland's public housing properties, Chatham Court.

"Chatham Court has been perfect for me," Chester-Payne said in last week's PSJC event, "Fair Housing Matters: A Whole Community Conversation," held with activist group Desegregate CT.

In the discussion panelists including Portland's Development Planner Mary Dickerson, Vice President of the Middlesex Chamber of Commerce Jeff Pugliese and Desegregate CT Partnerships Coordinator Robby Hill, along with PSJC members and Portland locals, discussed how to make more affordable and inclusive the town's housing supply.

Chester-Payne lives in one of the town's affordable housing locations.

"The word 'public' always sounds bad," Chester-Payne said. "Anything that starts with that doesn't sound 'top notch.' Public transportation, public bathrooms, people degrade these things like they don't measure up."

Chester-Payne said this misconception of public utilities as inferior needs to change, as it also causes inaccurate assumptions about the people who access these resources.

Chester-Payne said although he has experienced racism in town, he said the benefits of living in Portland far outweigh this ugliness.

Chester-Payne said as a single dad, he wouldn't want to raise his daughter anywhere else. He said the town has helped him grow as a father.

"There are a lot of good people in this town who've helped me out so much throughout the

years," Chester-Payne said.

Chester-Payne said Portland has also allowed him to better himself. He worked at Dunkin' Donuts for years before becoming a personal trainer and forklift driver. Chester-Payne also writes poetry and is heavily involved in town activities. He said the helpful people of Portland helped him reach these goals.

Despite these advances, Chester-Payne said he has a hard time finding an affordable home in the town he wants to see his daughter grow up in.

"That's why I'm on this committee," Chester-Payne said. "To help figure out [a solution]."

Chester-Payne is not alone in having trouble finding more space for his family. According to Hill, the difficulty Chester-Payne and so many others face stems from Connecticut's longstanding one-size-fits-all residential zoning

See Zoning Reform, page 29

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**Working Together**

To the Editor:  
When I first formed the Back to Basics party several years ago, my intent was to get the town to focus on prioritizing our needs over our wants. This meant concentrating our attention on education, infrastructure and public safety.

After several conversations with Ryan Curley, I found that we had a great deal in common on how to move Portland forward. We decided that the best way to achieve our goals was to join forces and work together.

I am pleased to announce that I will be running for a seat on the Board of Selectmen on the Republican ticket. I am looking forward to working with Ryan and the board to accomplish the goals that Back to Basics originally set out to do.

I am also happy to announce that Back to Basics will be endorsing Ryan Curley for first selectman as well. Please join us and support us this November.

**Shaun Manning – Portland  
Candidate for the Board of Selectmen**

**TANGO2 Thanks You**

To the Editor:  
We would like to thank the entire *Riverest* community for supporting the first TANGO2 Craft and Vendor Fair this past Saturday at EHHS and the Po's Rice and Spice fundraiser on April 29th. On Saturday over 30 vendors participated with their amazing products and there was a great turn out of volunteers and shoppers to support local businesses as well as the TANGO2 Research Foundation. Special thanks to Stacey Gibson who coordinated the Fair. Over \$4,000 was raised for the rare disease foundation that we started in 2018 when our son was diagnosed with the life threatening disease called TANGO2.

In addition, our deepest appreciation goes to all that dined at Po's Rice and Spice on the 29th. We were able to raise \$1,236, which Po then generously matched, giving us a donation of \$2,472! Thank you to Lynn MacDonald for coordinating this deliciously successful event with Po. What a difference this makes. All proceeds will go towards funding research to find treatments and a cure. We are so appreciative of the kindness, generosity and support from this community.

Gratefully yours,  
**Mike and Kasha Morris – East Hampton**

**Come on Over**

To the Editor:  
I recently reached out to Back to Basics candidate Shaun Manning and we had several great conversations on how we can best move Portland forward. It turns out that we have a lot in common. We both want improved economic development, better infrastructure, and we are both passionate about education. At the end of our conversation, I asked Shaun to join our team as a candidate for the board of selectmen and he accepted.

With Shaun's business background and knowledge of the town, he will be a great asset to Portland on the board of selectmen. Shaun has my full support and backing and will be part of the Republican ticket this November.

As first selectman, this is what you can expect more of should I win in November. I will always reach out and work to find common ground, no matter the political party. There is just too much work to be done to be divided.

We're stronger together, so come on over.  
**Ryan Curley – Portland  
Candidate for First Selectman**

**Spirit of Old Home Day**

Dear Community Member,  
Please hold the date Saturday, July 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.!!

You have probably heard by now that our traditional 2021 OHD celebration has been canceled. However, unlike last year we have an exciting new idea to keep us in the spirit.

Introducing "The Spirit of Old Home Day at Home." We will have a reverse parade.

We are asking you to decorate your homes, businesses or neighborhoods. Civic organizations make sure you participate too. Think of parade floats. More details will be shared as the date gets closer.

This event is free. All it requires is your imagination and a sense of town pride!

Park & Rec is going to manage the registration and voting. The library will also be partnering with us to provide maps designating the address of the participants.

The folks riding around admiring your efforts will be asked to vote for one address for eight different categories. There will be prizes!

**Pam Joslyn,  
On behalf of the East Hampton  
Old Days Committee**

**Mother Nature's Day**

To the Editor:  
Before the pandemic hit, I had visions of the Green Garden Gang hosting a Mother's Day sale of native trees. I envisioned a flatbed truck stationed at the Old Town Hall with native Dogwood, Redbud, Birch and Maple trees standing tall, and regal as town folk gathered to claim their pre-ordered tree. The idea behind the sale was to honor both our biological mothers and mother nature, without which life would not be as we know it.

Mother's Day in the U.S was created by Anna Jarvis in 1908 and became an official U.S. holiday in 1914. Mother's Day traditionally involves presenting moms with flowers, cards and other gifts as tokens of appreciation honoring the sacrifices mothers made for their children.

In researching the definition of Mother Nature, the Merriam-Webster dictionary defined it as: nature personified as a woman considered as the source and guiding force of creation. Wikipedia defines Mother Nature as a personification of nature that focuses on the life-giving and nurturing aspects of nature by embodying it, in the form of the mother. The definition I most related to came from a new source for me, Educalingo, the dictionary for curious people. There, the definition of Mother Nature is Nature viewed as the generous provider of all things. And there, simply was the connection I had in mind are not our biological mothers the providers of our life? Is not true that nature is the ecological source of all life?

With this framework in mind, I propose we mark this Mother's Day with a new memory. Let's share the pleasure of planting a tree or perennial shrub with our moms, to celebrate her perennial love and support and to commemorate the life-giving functions of nature

**Michele Sinkez – Amston**

**Biden Bans Bovines**

To the Editor:  
As all American patriots and Fox News viewers know, our fake President Sleepy Joe recently issued an executive order banning meat,



putting another nail in the coffin of American masculinity. Not only an outrage, this step on the slippery slope to soy-sucking socialism is blatantly unconstitutional.

As the Burger Court found in its 1952 ruling *Browned Brisket v. Bored of Marination*, our beautiful Second Amendment enshrines our right to meat: "A well-marinated Chalupa being necessary to a free steak, the right to beef and rare carnage shall not be unfridged."

This is only the latest assault on our God-given rights. First the public school Marxist, Lemmonist nutzies dictated Meatless Mondays. What's next? Tofu Tuesdays? Weenieless Wednesdays? Surf and Turfless Thursdays? Fryless Fridays?!

We knew they were coming for our guns; now they're coming for our grills!

As Larry Kudlow, former advisor to our dear leader Donald J. Trump, noted: "Soon we'll be drinking plant-based beer." What? Beer brewed with barley, hops and malt? Never! Like all red-blooded, red meat-loving real American men, I prefer meat-based beer. Like Pabst Blue Ribbon, or PBR, which obviously stands for Pork, Beans and Rabbit.

All true Americans must rise up and march on our grocery stores to fight for meat. The Fourth of July is right around the corner. And a Fourth BBQ without meat would be as un-American as an assault on the capitol without bear spray and "Camp Auschwitz" T-shirts.

We need only look for inspiration to those who first fought for our free-range freedom. As Patrick Henry said, "Give me liberty and/or cattle-fart methane!" Or, as Christopher Gadsden said and as remains emblazoned on the flags that still fly in the face of sissy tyranny, "Don't Tread on Meat!"

**Christopher Michael "Meathead" Congdon  
Colchester**

**Budget Thanks**

To the Editor:  
Portland registered voters, as well as Portland property owners, may cast their ballots on the

*See Letters, page 4*

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\*According to The Greater Hartford Association of Realtors and the Connecticut SmartMLS\*

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

by Mike Thompson

I was thrilled to read that the Colchester Senior Center is opening back up to the public.

During this dreadful pandemic, much has been made – for very good reason – about high school and college seniors having those milestone final years basically taken away from them. But I don't feel enough attention has been paid to those at the other end of the spectrum: those who lost an extremely big part of their own lives when their senior centers shuttered last March.

For a lot of seniors, town senior centers are their only real chance to socialize. They're a lifeline to classes, programs, trips, and even simply exercise they might not otherwise get. I know they've been missing them.

Slowly but surely, as we learn more about how COVID-19 is and isn't spread, and as more people get vaccinated, life is starting to return to some semblance of normal. Yes, some things will still be Zoom-only, for the time being. And yes, people still may need to wear masks in some settings, at least until we know more about transmission rates among the vaccinated, but so what? If it means being able to resume cherished activities that were taken away from me 14 months ago, I'd be all for it.

So I'm very happy to see Colchester seniors have their center back. It's another sign that the light of the end of that long, dark tunnel we've been stuck in – that light is drawing closer and closer.

Jack Lakowsky has a very interesting story this week. The Chatham Health District – the regional entity that serves as the municipal health department for the *Rivereast* towns of Colchester, East Hampton, Hebron, Marlborough and Portland – has received a \$60,000 grant from the state to help educate the public on the COVID-19 vaccines, and the vaccination process.

Vicki Han, public health nurse for the Chatham Health District, said, "The funding will

be used to get to those hard-to-reach folks, to educate on the vaccine and to lessen vaccine hesitancy."

I certainly hope it works. Connecticut is doing well overall when it comes to people getting vaccinated; Gov. Ned Lamont announced Monday Connecticut was the first state in the country to have 50% of adults (age 18 and up) fully vaccinated, and he also announced that 69% of adult residents have gotten at least their first dose. Still, it could be better, especially if we want to reach that herd immunity threshold of 80% protected, either through immunization or prior infection.

Han said vaccine demand in the Chatham Health District has slowed precipitously – and chalked a lot of that up to what she called "misinformation" about the vaccine.

She told Jack that people are misinformed largely through social media, but also through person-to-person conversation – and she admitted it's damaged the vaccination effort.

"It's very hard to bust myths," she said.

Hopefully the additional education about the vaccines will help to dispel those myths. I'm a big proponent of the vaccines; I feel, and science has shown, they're safe, effective, and I view them as a crucial way to get back to daily life. I'm glad the state is helping Chatham get the word out.

Kudos to Marlborough native and RHAM alum AJ Pollock, who had a heck of a game for the Los Angeles Dodgers on Sunday. He slugged two homers – one a grand slam – and drove in an incredible eight runs, as the Dodgers clobbered the Milwaukee Brewers, 16-4.

As I've written here before, I've met AJ and he's a heck of a guy, so I was quite happy for him. He had gotten off to a somewhat slow start this year, but Sunday's outburst helped his numbers nicely. Going into Wednesday's games, AJ now has four homers and 15 RBI

**Editor's Desk continued on page 6**

**Bulletin Board**

I had a dentist's appointment the other day. Now I really like my dentist and his minions. If it weren't for them, I'd be probably be putting my steaks through a blender so I could eat them with a spoon.

On the other hand, I can't help but notice that dentistry has changed quite a bit over the years. There was a time (what some of us demented old gas bags sometimes insist on referring to as "the good old days") when the dentist would poke around in your mouth for a few minutes with a rusty file while you nearly drowned in your own saliva, maybe fill a cavity with some poisonous mercury compound and send you on your way with a bill for \$30.

No longer. Today, a visit to the dentist is considerably more complex with a wide variety of new instruments that whine and spray water, paint-on fluoride treatments, painless drilling and regular in-house X-rays of your cranium just in case you're not already getting enough radiation from your cell phone.

My most recent visit to the dentist began weeks earlier with repeated reminders on my phone and computer that I had an appointment on such and such a date at such and such a time. Some adults might consider this inference that you're a scatter-brain moron to be a bit insulting. I actually appreciate it as it breaks up the monotony of text messages from Eastern Europe informing me that the warranty on my car has expired and I'd better call them right away. Also, I once forgot I had an appointment, so I really can't take the high ground on this one.

The reminders were accompanied a few days before my appointment by a lengthy health questionnaire I was asked to fill out before showing up for my cleaning. This consisted of about a thousand questions (actually, there were 50) ranging from "are you allergic to metal?" (seriously) to "have you ever bounced a check?"

Okay, I made up the part about the check, though it would seem to be a reasonable question considering the escalating costs of dentistry these days. It's certainly more appropriate than whether I'm "trying to get pregnant." I'm not, by the way, not that it's anybody's business.

Now I fully understand that completing the questionnaire in advance is intended to streamline the process, so that we're not sitting around in the waiting room with a pencil puzzling over what a "bisphosphonate" could possibly be or bothering the receptionist by calling out across the room to ask how you spell "gonorrhea." I mean, she's busy enough.

And, as the questionnaire itself assures us, while some questions may seem unrelated to getting your teeth cleaned, your oral well-being is tied in with your overall health, so it's helpful for the dentist to know if, for instance, you've had a stroke or contracted rabies since your last visit, either of which can have a significant impact on saliva output, I understand.

Also (though they don't say this), sharing your risk factors makes it less likely that EMTs will be required to transport you or your corpse out on a stretcher past other patients waiting their turn in the reception area. Avoiding these situations is a simple courtesy as some people find such scenes upsetting. Also, having an ambulance parked outside your dental practice is not particularly good for business.

Having said all this, I realize that yes, times change—in this case, mostly for the better. And I do appreciate the new "painless" dentistry. At least it's painless until you get the bill.

**Jim Hallas**



**Sprucing Up Saner Road... Robb Fraulino and his children RJ, 10, and Anabella, 8, had noticed a lot of litter on Saner Road while they were out riding their bikes – so, the three spent Thursday, April 23, picking up garbage on the road. They wound up with 22 bags of trash! Pictured from left are Anabella, RJ and Robb Fraulino.**

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

★ *Letters cont. from page 3*

2021-22 annual budget in person, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Monday, May 10, at the Middle School, located at 93 High St.

The selectmen – Mike Hernandez, Lou Pear, Mike Pelton, Rick Sharr, Jim Tripp, Ralph Zampano and myself – worked together on a bi-partisan basis and unanimously voted to send this budget to the voters. The impact to the mill rate for next fiscal year is an increase of 1.86%, or 0.67 mills. The entire budget is available for review at the Portland Library, the Town Clerk's office or online at [www.portlandct.org](http://www.portlandct.org).

My sincere appreciation goes to each selectman. You consistently work together for everyone in Portland, and I am honored to serve with each of you. Thank you for your leadership, and all that you do for our town.

Sincerely,  
**Susan S. Bransfield**  
Portland First Selectwoman

**Monitor Classrooms**

To the Editor,

On a recent blog post, I saw the suggestion that public school classrooms be monitored in similar fashion to the requirement that police wear body cams. I thought this was an excellent idea. Teachers' insistence for remote-learning over in-person learning has already established a sound basis for this.

Parents and taxpayers have the right/responsibility to audit the lessons being taught to their children in these classrooms – after all, we're

paying for it. With all of the controversial things being proposed to be promulgated in the schools, we deserve to be able to witness just what our tax dollars are paying for. This pandemic has enabled the technological platform for this to take place.

Not only will interested and concerned taxpayers be able to observe what is being taught in every class, but students who are ill or unable to attend school on any given day will still be able to receive their instructions from home. What reasons could anyone provide in opposition to this great idea? The expense for virtual/remote learning has already been accounted for.

Privacy issues will be avoided if the cameras are just focused on the respective teachers and not the students. Accomplished teachers, proud of their educational skills, should relish in the opportunity to display their wares for all to see. Besides the mere auditing capabilities, streaming the class lessons would afford educational opportunities to all who partake of them.

Even prior to the pandemic, schools had very good reasons to be prohibitive in restricting outsiders access to their buildings. But the available technology remedies those concerns as physical entrance is no longer necessitated. Everyone can partake in the educational process firsthand.

As a retired person, I would love the opportunity to further my learning and receive additional education.

**Sam Prentice – Andover**

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**Biden's Cradle-to-Grave**

To the Editor:  
This American Families Plan editorial was extracted from the 4/28/2021 Wall Street Journal.

The White House talking points pitch this in the smothering love of the welfare state: "making care affordable"; free medical and family leave; "free education"; two years of "universal preschool"; "invest in the care workforce." Subsidies and millions of new care givers, all licensed and unionized, will nurture you through the challenge of earning a living and raising a family.

One question to ask is: Haven't we tried this before? What is Head Start if not government pre-school education and child care? Weren't school lunches and the Women, Infants and Children program supposed to prevent child hunger? Food stamps, welfare checks, childcare subsidies and a supplement to earned-income, plus public housing. Weren't all of these programs and more from previous decades supposed to end poverty?

Why did the trillions of dollars spent on those programs fail? And if they didn't work, why do

we need more?

The permanent child-tax credit expansion would cost \$1.6 trillion over 10 years, according to our friends at Cornerstone Macro. The White House says it only costs \$420 billion, but that's because it only includes four years through 2025. The new entitlements ramp up slowly but explode in the later years, while the tax increases are immediate and won't raise the revenue they expect.

The Biden New Deal isn't a deal at all. Most of its programs are free handouts on the model of the 1960s Great Society.

But a more potent political target may be the bill's tripling down on a welfare state that disdains the dignity of work and seeks to make Americans the wards of government.

My personal opinion after working hard during my lifetime to survive is for readers to obtain the entire article and contact your representatives.

**David Morrison – Hebron**

**Cleaning Up Litter**

To the Editor:

Eversource Energy provided an opportunity for volunteerism on Earth Day. My children, RJ and Anabella, 10 and 8 respectively, ultimately chose our road, Saner Road, because of the amount of litter we noticed as we rode our bikes. Thursday's weather forced us to postpone our cleanup to the following day, April 23.

We left with six bags and the belief this would take about three hours. My kids, not knowing any different, agreed with my assessment. An hour and a half after beginning we returned home to grab eight more bags; another hour and a half later we realized that we were again going to come up short and the second time we came back with 20 bags. We were also about four hours into the cleanup of this one-mile stretch of Saner Road from Route 66 to the intersection of Dickinson Road. I had thought that if we finished early, then we would continue to Chapman. I was amazed how far off I was in my calculations. We scoured both sides of the road and up to 20 feet into the woods. We barely finished by 3 p.m.; almost seven hours, including preparation time. We were motivated throughout the day by town residents that beeped, waved, and stopped to thank them for their efforts.

My kids had fun and impressed themselves with the amount of trash they collected; the 22 bags stuffed with miscellaneous litter debris filled the back of the F250. Some interesting litter included: various car parts (fender pieces, headlights, coil springs, mirror, oil filter), a home stereo, a few old newspaper boxes, cable wires, and even a bunch of roofing shingles. I asked them at the end if they would do it again; they said that they would. Hopefully this becomes a tradition for them and spreads beyond their road.

**Robb Fraulino – Marlborough**

**Embarrassing Plan**

To the Editor:

Mr. Wayne Rand's prototype house plan selected for Long Hill Road Estates, LLC, which was presented to the Middle Haddam Historic District Commission at its April meeting, is an embarrassment to the commission and the Middle Haddam populace. A petition with 300+ signatories demonstrates vigorous opposition to the eight-lot subdivision, with 7 driveways, that is being ushered through the system.

The proposed generic tract house is constructed of synthetic materials and devoid of any exterior embellishments. Not even a chimney! The plan ranks far below what would be appropriate for the MHHDC to approve, and that is why it was so strongly opposed.

Mr. Rand, you can do much better, as evidenced by a carefully-planned small custom development you built on Old Flatbrook Road some years ago. The generic plan that you presented in Middle Haddam is one of the reasons the historic district commission was created in 1977 – to prevent cookie-cutter housing developments within its borders.

The village is nationally important for its rich maritime history as well as its period architecture that reflects this history, and we need to protect our collective heritage.

Why don't you propose fewer houses built to look historic, similar to the nice neighborhood you created on Flatbrook Road? This would be more lucrative for you in the long run, and much more in keeping with the spirit of Middle Haddam.

There are always qualified buyers for a quality custom-designed house in Middle Haddam.

**Sincerely,  
Ronald W. McCutcheon – Middle Haddam**

**What I Learned**

To the Editor:

I have to admit I find it rather amusing. Peter Kushkowski claims the media was pushing a fake reality of mostly peaceful protests and ignoring what he saw as the reality of anarchist looting and burning. When I reply that the research backs up these "fake reality" accounts, Victor Bonanno chides me for not noting the media's depictions of violence.

They need to get their story straight. What I'm hearing is that the media is presenting a violent, destructive, mostly peaceful movement. Hmmm.

Mr. Bonanno does get one thing right: I do not own a TV. (Technically I do, but with no antenna or cable, it's just a device for playing DVDs, streaming Netflix, etc.) I get my news from newspapers, magazines, radio and the internet. What I learned from these sources was that this was the most widespread protest movement in U.S. history; that the movement was a sincere attempt to change a culture of police brutality, especially towards Black men; that there were numerous incidents of violence, looting, and burning; that a frightening amount of the violence was perpetrated by the police on unarmed protesters; that another significant portion of it was created by counter-protesters; that the total property damage was high; that the former guy in the White House and allies tried to spin this as an anarchist, violent movement; that perhaps 6 percent of the events had any associated violence or property damage.

There were around 40 protests in Connecticut during this time. The only incident of violence I recall was when a car drove into the crowd of protesters and some protesters confronted the driver about it. Of course we saw the violence across the country, and of course there was a lot of it, but it involved a small fraction of the overall movement.

**Sincerely,  
Scott Sauyet – Andover  
See Letters, page 6**

**Corrections & Clarifications**

A story on the cover of last week's *Rivereast* covering the Portland Social Justice Coalition's discussion of the Asian American/Pacific Islander community incorrectly stated where to register for the upcoming May 12 continuation of this discussion. Email portlandsocialjustice@gmail.com to register for the event.

\*\*\*

A story also on the cover of last week's *Rivereast*, covering the East Hampton Ambulance Association's COVID-19-related challenges, incorrectly stated that the association was looking to become a town-owned entity. Instead, it will remain independent, but with its budget supplemented by the town.

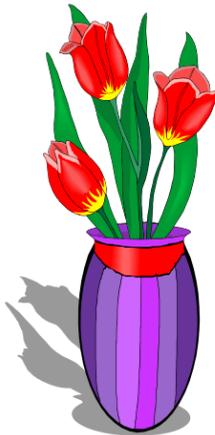
Also, the story mentioned the association is looking to hire two part-time employees, but did not add that these hires would be 24/7.



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Reader Forum • Reader Forum

★ Letters cont. from page 5

### Freedom?

To the Editor:  
According to some readers of the Forum, NASA, OSHA, NOAA, the Pentagon, etc., are all "climate liars" and only the Fox "News" ranting-heads are reporting the truth. Flash: Unlike PBS and Meet the Press, Fox is not news at all; it is far-right, dangerous propaganda.

For example, Fox's Tucker Carlson ranted that making a child wear a mask is child abuse. Well, what does he call choosing to expose a child to a deadly virus and its dire consequences? Temporarily wearing a mask pales in comparison.

On the subject of mask-wearing, Rand Paul is still ranting about losing his "freedom" to infect his friends, family and society at large with the aforementioned virus. The virus doesn't care about Rand's personal idea of "freedom." If allowed to do so, it will be "free" to keep on spreading.

Based on false information, the founder of a private school in Miami banned staff who chose to protect themselves and others by getting the COVID-19 vaccine. Freedom?

Then there's the Fox accusation that President Biden plans to limit red meat consumption in America to one burger a month, which has sparked conservative outrage. In fact, Biden had nothing to do with Martin Heller, a researcher whose findings were misused in order to make the false claim that his study was part of Biden's plan to combat climate-change.

Liberals, or if you prefer, "progressives," are accused of being climate alarmists. Well, it seems that many conservatives are meat and gun alarmists. "Waaa! Biden is going to take away our burgers and then our guns!" – neither of which will ever happen.

Despite the fact that Biden won the election, there are many who deny it and are waiting for the second-coming of their whining, tantrum-throwing, megalomaniac hero, spurred on by the ranting-heads at Fox "News."

Thank you,  
Maureen Heidtmann – East Hampton

### Supports Tripp

To the Editor:  
I am writing on behalf of Jim Tripp's candidacy for first selectman of Portland. I have known Jim for many years, and we have had several opportunities to work together, includ-

ing the Parks & Recreation Commission and our effort to build the Portland Recreational Complex. In addition, we have worked together as fellow selectmen, as Board of Selectmen Water and Sewer subcommittee members, and as volunteers side by side.

Jim's great passion for helping make Portland an even better place to live is evident in all he does. I have seen this not only in his roles in representing the town, such as on the Board of Education and Board of Selectmen, but also in his leadership in the Brownstone Quorum and the Portland Lions Club volunteer organizations. He does so in a manner that smartly utilizes the resources available. His keen sense of numbers and data analysis has helped us work through the challenges we faced when the Portland Recreational Park buildout hit unexpected costs. Jim has applied those same skills as we have worked to balance the water and sewer budgets and now plan for their future.

Portland's first selectman manages a \$36 million budget as well as 68 employees. Jim's professional experience with managing large budgets and large groups lends itself to his transitioning very nicely into the role. On a personal note, he has been a good friend you can depend on. Please take time to listen to what Jim has to say about Portland, how he is contributing to Portland's success and what his vision is of the town's future. I am very confident Jim can be very successful as first selectman for the Town of Portland.

Ralph Zampano – Portland

Note: Zampano is Portland deputy first selectman, but he said he is speaking as an individual.

### Thanks from Lake Friends

To the Editor:  
On behalf of the Friends of Lake Pocotopaug, thank you East Hampton! We were overwhelmed by the number of volunteers who participated in the annual Lake Clean-Up Day on April 24 to help clean up around our beautiful lake! It was great to see all those bright yellow shirts around the lake. They collected over 75 bags of trash and almost filled the dumpster with debris collected. A special thank you to Ace Hardware for the trash bags and gloves.

Catherine Nelson, member  
Friends of Lake Pocotopaug

### Thank You, Belltown Tavern

To the Editor:  
Many thanks to Belltown Tavern for hosting the East Hampton Middle School PTO fundraiser last week. We are so grateful to chef/owner Thomas Chmielecki, PR manager Katherine

Flood and the entire staff for their partnership and enthusiasm. Thomas generously donated a percentage of the evening's sales to support EHMS for which we are extremely thankful!

East Hampton Middle School PTO

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Many volunteers recently pitched in to help the Air Line Trail Committee spruce up the trail. Among the volunteers were several members of Girl Scout Troop 60463. From left are Logan Kehoe, Molly Reilly, Kim Kehoe (troop leader), Caroline Clark, Maddie Vardon, Isabel Grzegorek, Cassie Hodge and Shannon Hodge (troop helper).

### Air Line Trail – Spring Update

The Portland Air Line Trail (ALT) Committee has been active this spring, sprucing up the trail in anticipation of another busy season.

On Saturday, April 24, the ALT Committee was assisted by volunteers were able to clean up trash, sticks, trim branches, cut back invasive growth and tighten signage over the 2.5 miles of trail. A mix of volunteers, including members of the Republican and Democratic town committees, Board of Selectmen, First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield, Girl Scout Troop 60463, and

residents worked together to complete tasks.

ALT volunteers also recently partnered with Portland Garden Club in preparing part of Keegan Hill as a wildflower pollinator garden. With assistance from the Portland Public Works and Park & Recreation Departments, volunteers were able to place four truckloads of compost in preparation of seeding in the coming weeks.

To get involved with future work groups for the ALT, contact Riz Rizzo at theriz4@sbcglobeal.net or 860-342-2780.

### Honor Society Inductee

Julia MacKinnon of Portland, a student at Eastern Connecticut State University, was recently inducted into the Kappa Delta Pi, the international honor society for education. MacKinnon is a senior majoring in English.

### St. Mary Church News

St. Mary Roman Catholic Church is located at 45 Freestone Ave. The church office can be reached at 860-342-2328. Office hours are 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday. For more information, visit [www.stmaryportlandct.org](http://www.stmaryportlandct.org). Pastor is the Rev. John Antonelle.

**Weekend Masses:** 5 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sunday. Wearing of masks is required. Social distancing and COVID-19 protocols are followed. The 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass is livestreamed each week; visit the parish website for more information.

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

**Confession:** Saturday at 4-4:45 p.m., or call Antonelle for an appointment.

**Other Programs:** For information on faith formation programs, baptisms, blessings of marriages, Knights of Columbus, the St. Mary Ladies Guild and more, call the church office.

Editor's Desk continued from page 4 on the season.

But instead of focusing on his own accomplishments, AJ after the game focused on its importance for his team, which had only once in the previous seven games.

"As a team, we just needed to be able to breathe a little bit," AJ told reporters. "It's been a rough couple of weeks for us."

My baseball-loving heart will always be first and foremost for the Mets, but I hope the Dodgers have a successful season – and that more outstanding games like that are in AJ's future.

See you next week.

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# Town Planning Modified Summer Concert Series

by Jack Lakowsky

Nate Foley, director of Portland Parks and Recreation, said he and everyone behind planning this year's upcoming Riverfront Park Summer Concert Series are quite optimistic about the state's easing of pandemic restrictions come May.

Starting May 19, Connecticut will end all pandemic restrictions, except mask requirements.

Given this encouragement, and the ongoing vaccination effort, the town decided to revamp the series, which was canceled last year due to the pandemic – what would have been its ninth anniversary.

It will look a little different than previous years, with four performances instead of five. Foley said this was to allow the town more time to ensure they offer a pandemic-friendly event, and to allow for more vaccinations.

Performances are scheduled for July 20 and 21, as well as Aug. 3 and 10, all with tentative start times of 6:30 p.m., all at Riverfront Park.

Rain dates are Aug. 17 and 24, with start times of 6 p.m.

All concerts are free.

Foley said previous pandemic restrictions, especially the 200-person capacity limit, would have made planning the shows extremely difficult.

Foley said 2019 estimates put attendance between 1,300 and 1,500 visitors over the course of five shows, or about 350-500 people each event.

Foley said town civic groups use the event as a way to update residents on their work.

The Brownstone Quorum, a local group that helps guide the town in its use of riverfront properties and helps fund the series each year, also uses the event to update the town on its work.

Foley said planners are still deciding what pandemic restrictions to enact for concertgoers.

"We're going into this with a safety-oriented mindset," said Foley.

Whether the food truck that normally vends during the concerts will do so this year is also to be determined, Foley said.

Foley recommended that residents and attendees be mindful of the pandemic's ever-changing state.

"I think after this past year, we're all realizing anything is possible, and that all plans can change," Foley said. "You can't dismiss that."

Foley acknowledged that as state restrictions ease, there's a chance COVID-19 cases could spike.

"If the numbers in Portland were to increase, we would work with the selectmen on how to make a safe choice on whether concerts need to be canceled," Foley said.

Foley also said if cases in surrounding towns also rebound, that would be also cause for such a discussion.

When asked if he thinks people will either be excited to get out of their overfamiliar homes or hesitant to leave due to the continuing pandemic, and thus reducing show attendance, Foley said he thinks both could happen.

"I don't think there's a right answer [to that] for now," Foley said.

Foley said he and concert planners are overjoyed to be able to offer the series, as several local annual milestone events have both this year and last been affected or canceled, such as the town-wide tag sale, which has been pushed to August, and the Portland Fair, which was canceled outright last year.

Luke Guilmette, a guitarist for the series-regular Great Hill Mountain Band, last week told the *Riverast* that before the pandemic, the group played at least one show per month throughout the year.

Guilmette said all the bands' shows were canceled last year, and the band hadn't even gathered back together to rehearse until recently.

Guilmette said this didn't do much to affect how the band plays.

"We've been together for 27 years," Guilmette said. "Playing together is second nature at this point, we're all very pleased with how seamless it was."

Guilmette said for the evening after his interview, the band was going to get back into some

of its "trickier" tracks.

"I'm cautiously optimistic," said Guilmette. "We're starting now to look for places to play; it's a bit of a process."

Guilmette explained that the band doesn't know how its usual venues across the state have fared throughout the economic slump stemming from COVID-19's havoc.

"A lot of places we played might not [be hosting] live music; they may not feel they can afford it," Guilmette said. "Places have had to close, and we don't know how all that's going, so we have to go out and look."

All Great Hill Mountain Band players are from Portland.

Guilmette said the band has played at least a majority of the series since its inception, give or take a few off-years.

"[The series] is one of our favorites," Guilmette said. "It's a beautiful venue and always has a great crowd. We're gonna keep playing as long as they'll have us."

## First Congregational Church News

First Congregational Church of Portland is a member of the United Church of Christ denomination, and is an Open and Affirming congregation. It is located at 554 Main St. Worship services are held each week on the church's YouTube channel. Virtual church school is offered weekly.

On Sunday, May 9, the Mother's Day worship service will be held at 10 a.m. in the Memorial Garden behind the church, weather permitting. Social distancing and masks are required and attendees are invited to bring a chair. In the event of inclement weather, the service will be held in the sanctuary with only those leading the service present. If the service is

held indoors, it will be available on the church's YouTube channel as it is taking place, as well as posted on YouTube for those who wish to worship at a later time. If the service is held outdoors, it will be available on YouTube later in the day for those who wish to worship remotely. Information regarding whether the service will be held outdoors or indoors will be available on the church's website on Saturday.

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

## Youth Poetry Contest

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

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

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

For more information, visit [portland.recdesk.com](http://portland.recdesk.com) or contact Andy Dionne at 860-342-6757 or [adionne@portlandct.org](mailto:adionne@portlandct.org) for help submitting your poem.

## Knights to Award Scholarships

Knights of Columbus Freestone Council 7 will award three \$1,000 scholarships this spring to any high school senior from Portland who is furthering their education at a college, university or technical school. The application is available at the area high schools or by requesting an application at [scholarship@rsitg.com](mailto:scholarship@rsitg.com). All Portland residents graduating this year are eligible.

The Knights' monthly Dinners 2 Go was successful enough for the Knights to be able to continue the funding of their annual scholarships for the fifth year.

Deadline for applications is May 25; awards will be announced in June.

## Trinity Episcopal Church News

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

The church is continuing its 10:30 Zoom Sunday services indefinitely. More information is at [trinitychurchportlandct.org](http://trinitychurchportlandct.org).

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

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

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

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Shaun Manning, left, has announced he's no longer running for first selectman, and is instead supporting the Republican candidate, Ryan Curley, right.

### Manning Drops Out of Race, Backs Curley

Back to Basics party candidate Shaun Manning has announced he will no longer be running for first selectman, and is instead throwing his support behind Ryan Curley, the Republican candidate for the position.

Manning will instead run for the Board of Selectmen as part of the Republican-endorsed slate. Furthermore, Manning also announced that Back to Basics will endorse Curley for first selectman as well, providing Curley with a second ballot line.

In a video to be published this week on

Facebook, Curley introduced Manning as a "local business leader who is well known and well respected in the Portland community." Curley went on to express his desire and eagerness to work with his onetime rival turned ally, saying that they both "shared a common vision for improving the town."

Manning agreed and said that "after speaking with Ryan and seeing that we both shared a common vision for the future of Portland, we both decided that the best way to accomplish our goals was to join forces."

### Parks and Rec. News & Notes

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

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

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

**Community Garden 2021:** All are welcome to grow their favorite vegetable, flower or herb. The garden is located in Bransfield Park on Rose Hill Road. Gardeners can purchase a 10x10 plot for the summer for \$30. Plots are limited; register online or contact Parks and

Rec. as soon as possible to reserve one.

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

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

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

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

### Church Collecting for New Horizons

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

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

able as well.

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

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

### Portland Library News & Notes

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Renters' Rebate Program

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Free Paper Shredding Event

The Lower CT River Council of Governments will hold a paper-shredding event Saturday, May 22, from 9 a.m.-noon, at the East Hampton WPCA, 20 Gildersleeve Drive, East Hampton. The collection is open to residents of the RiverCOG region, which includes Portland and East Hampton.

Residents may bring up to five bags or boxes of confidential paperwork for shredding; no commercial paper and no books, cards, magazines, etc. Visit [rivercog.org/household-hazardous-waste](http://rivercog.org/household-hazardous-waste) for more information.

### Social Justice Coalition Community Conversation

The Portland Social Justice Coalition (PSJC) will host a community conversation on Zoom Wednesday, May 12, at 6:30 p.m., via Zoom.

"Solidarity with Our AAPI Community Members: Action Steps" is a follow-up to last month's viewing and discussion about anti-Asian racism. Participants will discuss steps that can be taken in Portland to increase education and awareness about Asian-American/Pacific Islander history and culture, and to combat racism. May is Asian Pacific Heritage Month; learn more at [asianpacificheritage.gov](http://asianpacificheritage.gov).

All are welcome to join in the conversation. Email [portlandsocialjustice@gmail.com](mailto:portlandsocialjustice@gmail.com) for the Zoom link.

### Garden Clubs' Plant Sale

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

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

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

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# Despite Online Complaints, No Negative Comments at Hearing

by Karla Santos

Although many Colchester residents have complained about the proposed budget over social media, in a public hearing Tuesday, no residents expressed disappointment in the numbers.

More than 18 citizens spoke during the hearing, giving about 25 remarks, none of which pointed any discontent about the budget.

There were also numerous comments made by Board of Finance members, the First Selectman, superintendent of schools and members of the education board.

All of those who spoke either did so in support of the budget, asked questions or made a clarification, but no one spoke in opposition.

Before the meeting was opened to public comment, First Selectman Mary Bylone gave an update on her budget, which has gone down to a 7.1% increase from an originally proposed 8.24% spike.

The total proposed \$16.23 million budget for 2021-22 represents a \$1,076,679 increase over the current budget.

According to Bylone, the main drivers of the operating budget are two new police positions, police costs for body and dash cameras and related training, additional staff hours in human resources, planning and first selectman clerical support and seasonal help in public works.

The capital budget includes the increasing replacement of police vehicles, field irrigation, basketball courts, the youth center roof, and the playground.

Board of Education chair, Mary Tomasi, also spoke briefly about the school budget. She explained that in April, a \$42.47 million education budget was proposed for 2021-22. That number represents a 2.78% increase over the current school year.

Tomasi explained the proposed education budget had to be cut after the Board of Finance asked the Board of Education for a \$275,000 reduction.

With the requested cut, the proposed Board of Education budget is now \$42.19 million.

Some parents spoke during the public hearing in support of the education budget and stressed how hard the pandemic has been on children.

One of the residents that took part in the public hearing was Russell Melmed, a Colchester resident, who said he was in favor of the town and school budgets.

Melmed spoke specifically about the roof of the youth center and referred to the budget priorities set by Bylone.

"If the priorities for this budget are to provide a safe and secure environment and maintain properties and communities, I think that checks a couple of those boxes right there and that youth center needs probably more than just a roof," Melmed said.

Town resident Vince Rose also spoke in support of the town and Board of Education budgets.

"I'm just calling to voice my strenuous support in favor of passing both budgets as is," Rose said.

He noted that most people agree that this has been an "extremely hard" year for everyone including students and that residents owe it to the students to put forward a budget that supports teachers, staff and others involved in the education and growth of the students.

Resident John Chaponis made comments as a citizen, but noted that he represents one of the unions that negotiates with the town. Chaponis said this budget season he has heard a lot of talk around labor because the budget includes

raises to some town employees. He explained that there are cost savings in retaining employees who are trained in their profession and gave examples of why it is important to hire and retain not only professionals but also those with experience in municipal government.

Chaponis, who also serves as the town assessor, noted that about 10 years ago, he had an employee leave his office to work for the town of Coventry, which is smaller but offered a \$10,000 raise for fewer work hours and a pension.

Chaponis said since then, he has replaced that employee twice. He said he takes time to train new employees and then they leave.

"That employee is still employed for the town of Coventry and probably would've been here if we had addressed their salary," he said. "Town of Colchester employees are not overpaid when you compare them to other towns. I think there's a misconception that the town of Colchester is running around trying to write blank checks when it's really not the case."

Chaponis said he supports the budget as presented and particularly wants to see the town make the investments needed at the Police Department.

The Board of Finance was supposed to vote on the budgets Wednesday but at Tuesday's public hearing, it was announced that the board was going to reschedule for at least a week from Wednesday.

## Climate Today and in Earth's Past

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

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

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

## Colchester Federated Church News

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

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

Worship videos are at [www.colchesterfederatedchurch.org](http://www.colchesterfederatedchurch.org) under the Worship & Sermons tab. Updated information is also on the church's Facebook page.

## Paint Your Own Pottery Event

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

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

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

At the close of Teacher Appreciation Week, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the teachers of Colchester Public Schools for their outstanding response in facing an unprecedented challenge this year. Teachers rose to the task with passion, caring, and commitment. I am continually grateful for their flexibility and professionalism as we enter a more hopeful phase of the ongoing pandemic. Teachers are the very heart of our district, and I am proud to work alongside such a dedicated group of individuals.

Navigating an ever-changing pandemic required everyone in the district to rise to the challenge. Paraprofessionals support both students and teachers, providing routine and stability that makes all the difference. Administrative and office professionals in schools, central office, and pupil services gracefully keep absolutely everything in the district virtually running for administrators, teachers, staff, parents, and students. The benefits we all reap from this talented group are immeasurable. Our food services staff expanded their roles to serve students throughout our community during the past year. Their unwavering commitment to meet the needs of students is the true meaning of community. Our information technology department quickly mobilized and secured technology access for both students and staff. The Facilities department, along with custodians, disinfected our buildings and employed a wealth of safety protocols to help us follow all safety protocols.

The nursing staff took care of students and staff this year like never before. We know healthy students are better learners, and nurses made our learning environments healthier and safer for all. Our finance and human resources staff keep the hiring process and the business of the district running smoothly. Principals, assistant principals, and district directors are the educational leaders who are committed to ensuring the success of students and staff alike. Our principals foster environments where students can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. They lay the foundation for teachers and staff to do their very best work.

I am proud to lead these consummate, caring professionals who go above and beyond every single day.

Warm Regards,  
Jeffrey E. Burt  
Colchester Superintendent of Schools

### Abundant Life Church News & Notes

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

**Sunday Services:** Sunday School is at 9:30 a.m. and the main service is at 10:30 a.m. Social distancing guidelines are followed. Call the church to attend. The service is also broad-

cast live each week on Facebook, and includes a special children's program. Visit [www.facebook.com/groups/abundantlifeCT](http://www.facebook.com/groups/abundantlifeCT) or look for the church on Facebook. For more information, call the church.

**Power of Prayer:** If in need of prayer, 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.

### Children's Programs at Cragin Library

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

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

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

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

**Baby Storytime Sign-Ups:** Tuesdays, June

1-29, 10:30 a.m., at Cohen Woodlands. Best for ages birth-2 years. Registration required and space is limited; registration opens May 3. Weather cancellations will be listed on Facebook. Physical distancing will be required and masks will need to be worn upon arrival, departure, and any time being socially distant isn't possible.

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

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

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

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

### Cragin Book Club

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

If the weather is good, the club will meet at the Colchester Giving Garden, which is located behind Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave. Bring a chair. If the weather is bad, the club will meet via Zoom. To register for the Zoom link, go to [tinyurl.com/4yvkxmb9](http://tinyurl.com/4yvkxmb9).

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

### Gardening for Frogs & Toads

All are invited to join Cragin Memorial Library Thursday, May 27, at 6 p.m., via Zoom, as Margery Winters from Roaring Brook Nature Center explains how to make your garden more amphibian-friendly.

This program is sponsored by the Colchester Garden Club, Colchester Land Trust, and Friends of Cragin Memorial Library. To sign up, go to [tinyurl.com/k4fncdw](http://tinyurl.com/k4fncdw). The library does not record virtual programs.

For more information, call 860-537-5752.

### Fire Calls

From April 25-May 1, the Colchester Hayward Fire Department responded to 33 calls: 28 emergency medical calls and five fire/fire-related calls. Calls included:

Fire: fire alarm, three; smoke investigation, one.

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

CHFD neither provided nor received mutual aid last week.

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

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

### Honor Society Inductee

Eastern Connecticut State University's Mathematical Sciences Department recently inducted 19 students into the Connecticut Beta Chapter of the Kappa Mu Epsilon National Mathematics Honor Society.

Among the inductees were Colchester resident Caroline Banning, a junior who majors in mathematics.

### Students Honored

Eastern Connecticut State University's Department of Health Sciences held its Health Sciences Awards Ceremony on April 22. The ceremony combined the years of 2020 and 2021 and inducted 36 students into the Phi Theta Delta Honor Society, awarded 23 teaching assistants and distributed awards based on class.

Among the students honored were Colchester residents Jake Corsa and Megan Gabriel. Corsa, a senior majoring in health sciences, is a 2021 inductee. Gabriel, a junior majoring in health sciences, received an Outstanding Juniors award for allied health.

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# Police Commissioners' Complaints Come Full Circle

by Karla Santos

A full circle of complaints have been made amongst police commissioners after a discussion that took place during the commission's April 26 meeting.

According to Carol Vaillancourt, a member of the police commission, she felt offended by comments made by an officer during the public meeting, and the response to her complaint was another complaint by the Police Commission against herself.

One of the ways in which Police Commission Chairman, Jim Stavola, attempted to resolve the complaint was through an executive session that took place Monday. However, Vaillancourt did not attend the session because she wants to be able to discuss her complaint publicly.

"Commissioner Stavola is abusing his power

and bullying me by calling this executive meeting on Monday," Vaillancourt told the *Rivereast*. "I purposely sent my complaint to the officer supervisors and the Ad Hoc Committee for Diversity & Inclusion because Chairman Stavola and Selectman Bylone were in attendance and chose silence when the offending comment was made."

Denise Turner, chairman of the town's ad-hoc Diversity and Inclusion Committee clarified that the town does not have an official Diversity and Inclusion Commission at this time.

"The ad-Hoc Committee for Diversity and Inclusion is in the process of creating the official commission, which we hope will come to fruition very soon," she said. "The ad-hoc committee has no power to take any action on any

matters that may present."

Vaillancourt's original complaint was a letter to Sgt. Michael Rondinone, Resident Trooper Sergeant, where she expressed her concern regarding a statement that was made by a police officer during the Police Commission meeting April 26th.

Rondinone said he is still investigating Vaillancourt's complaint and that he was not the person who released it to the police commission.

She said that Officer Bryan Kowalsky made a reference about "the past commissioners that sometimes the running joke in his office was that they were going to make decisions for the water department when they didn't know anything about water."

Vaillancourt said that Kowalsky also mentioned that Stavola was the only chairman with prior police knowledge.

She said she found the comment to be "alarming and offensive," as she interpreted it as if it implies that civilians have no business being on the commission.

"All commissioners I have worked with have spent countless hours attending meetings, doing research, participating at special functions all for the better of our community," Vaillancourt said. "These actions are to be commended not ridiculed or to make fun of."

She said that in the past, the commission was not very successful and noted that its goals have remained the same. Vaillancourt said a lack of support from the management yielded a lack of results.

In addition, she said she feels the Colchester Police Department only responds to topics brought up by current commissioners with past police experience.

"Although I find value in having ex-police

officers at the table I also see the value of civilians," she said.

She said she personally felt attacked by the comments from Kowalsky.

"He made me feel, as a woman civilian having no police experience on the commission, that it discredits all the long hours of hard work that I have done for the police department and town for the past four years," Vaillancourt said.

Vaillancourt noted the Police Commission is made up of five members; two are former police officers and three are civilians, two of them, civilian women.

Vaillancourt was the chair of the Police Commission for about two years. Although she doesn't clearly remember the specific dates she said she believes she served in that capacity from about November 2018 to about September 2020.

After Monday's executive session, Stavola announced how they would proceed with the complaint. He said the Police Commission, by majority vote, has found that Vaillancourt has violated numerous Police Commission by-laws and state statutes stemming from her complaint against Kowalsky.

The violations were sent to the Board of Selectmen for further review and possible action.

Because of those results, Vaillancourt filed another complaint against Stavola and expected it to be addressed in yesterday's Board of Selectmen meeting, after press time.

Stavola, meanwhile, told the *Rivereast* he can't disclose the specific violations made by Vaillancourt because they were discussed during an executive session. He said he can't comment on the issue because it is still being investigated and that the reason he handled Vaillancourt's complaint with an executive session is that policies require an executive session.

## Norton Park Gifts

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

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

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

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

## Tag Sale May 15

Westchester Congregational Church will hold a Tag Sale Saturday, May 15, from 8 a.m.-noon, at the parsonage, located at 98 Cemetery Rd. Wear your mask and plan to be physically distant from others.

Donations of good-quality usable items can be dropped off on the parsonage porch before May 14. No clothing, large appliances or large furniture can be accepted.

## Giving Garden to Start Season

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

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

For more information on volunteering or donating, email [colchestergivinggarden@gmail.com](mailto:colchestergivinggarden@gmail.com).

## Mother's Day Flower Sale

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

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

## Parks and Rec. Summer Day Camp

Parks and Recreation will hold its Summer Day Camp June 28-Aug. 20 for kids entering grades K-7 in the fall.

Hours are 8 a.m.-3 p.m.; extended care is available from 3-5 p.m. for an extra fee. In case of inclement weather, Parks and Rec. will use a school for the day.

More information, including registration, the camp calendar and daily activities, is at [www.colchesterct.gov/day-camps](http://www.colchesterct.gov/day-camps). People may also call 860-537-7297 for more information.

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### Honor Society Inductee

Eastern Connecticut State University recently inducted 16 students – including two Colchester residents – into Upsilon Pi Epsilon, the Connecticut Alpha Chapter of the International Honor Society for Computing and Information Disciplines.

The two Colchester inductees were junior Jakob Behlke and senior Raymond Harwood. They are each computer science majors.

### Preschool Info

In lieu of C3's Preschool Expo event, information and resources about local child-care and early education programs and preschool activities are available on the Collaborative for Colchester's Children website at colchester3.org.

For more information, email c3info@colchesterct.org.

### Senior Center News & Notes

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

**Monday, May 10:** 8:30 a.m., CoA Meeting; 9 a.m., Exercise with Anne on Zoom; 10 a.m., Sittercize on Zoom; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign with Ruth on Zoom; 1 p.m., Paint Your Own Pottery; 2 p.m., Live Well Workshop Conference Call.

**Tuesday, May 11:** 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi on Zoom; 11 a.m., Adult Coloring; 1:30 p.m., Home Run Bingo (conference call); 7 p.m., Senior Center Building Committee meeting on Zoom.

**Wednesday, May 12:** 10 a.m., Making Memories Program on Zoom, Walking Group meet-up at Air Line Trail, Sit & Be Fit – Video; 10:30 a.m., Charitable Crafts; 2:30 p.m., Senior Center staff meeting.

**Thursday, May 13:** 9 a.m., Exercise with Anne on Zoom; 10 a.m., Sittercize on Zoom; 10 a.m., Foot Clinic; 10:30 a.m., Shopping Trip to Waterford; 11 a.m., Senior Yoga on Zoom; noon, Chair Massage; 1 p.m., Knit & Crochet.

**Friday, May 14:** 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit – Video, Reel Friends Movie Club – *The Bucket List*; 11 a.m., Senior Yoga on Zoom; 1:30 p.m., Bingo.

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

### Police News

4/29: State Police said Juan D. Hernandez, 35, of 107 Nutmeg Circle, Colchester, was arrested and charged with risk of injury, violation of protective order, third-degree assault and second-degree threatening.

5/1: State Police said Daniel C. Omara, 31, of East Haddam, was arrested and charged with second-degree failure to appear.

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

**Celebrate Older Americans Month: A Statewide Virtual Event:** Friday, May 21, 1 p.m., via Zoom. Connecticut Healthy Living Collective, AARP, and CASP are bringing another statewide virtual event. This month's event will feature Cindy Eastman, author of *Flip Flops after 50: And Other Thoughts on Aging I Remembered to Write Down*. Admission is free; registration required.

**Memorial Day Picnic Lunch To-Go:** Friday, May 28, 11:45 a.m. Harry's Place will cater a lunch featuring choice of hamburger, cheeseburger or hot dog, with fries and onion rings on the side, and some patriotic party favors. Meals are \$5 each. Registration with payment due May 21.

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

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

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

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

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

### Ahavath Achim News

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

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

There are daily prayer classes on Facebook Live.

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

### Local Student Honored

Eastern Connecticut State University's communication department held its annual Celebration of Excellence on April 28. This event inducted 30 new students into the Lambda Pi Eta national honor society for communication and recognized additional students for excellence in radio, journalism, television, video production, research and leadership.

Among those honored was senior Caleigh Graff of Colchester, who majors in communication. Graff received Excellence in Research.

### 'Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body'

Kristopher Sortwell, MSW, CBIS, eastern region director of education and outreach for Alzheimer's Association Connecticut Chapter, will present "Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body: Tips from the Latest Research" via Zoom Wednesday, May 19, at 2 p.m. This is sponsored by the Colchester Commission on Aging.

Sortwell will discuss research in the areas of diet and nutrition, exercise, cognitive activity and social engagement. June is Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month.

Call the Colchester Senior Center for the Zoom link at 860-537-3911.

### Soccer Club Fall Registration

Online registration for the Colchester Soccer Club 2021 fall season (mid-August through October) is now open. Register by May 31 to avoid a \$50 late fee. Visit colchestersoccer.org and login, or create a new account, to find registration options. Email Tim Daniels with any questions at president@colchestersoccer.org.

The Recreation League is open to players from PreK-12th grade looking to play soccer in a fun, supportive environment based on equal participation. Practices and games are held in town, with grades 2 and up participating in game play against other Colchester teams within their age division. CSC is still seeking a parent volunteer for the 3rd/4th Divisional Coordinator in the Rec. program. If interested in this position, contact Bill Beeler at vp.recreation@colchestersoccer.org.

The Travel League is open to players from ages U9-U14/U15 who are seeking a more competitive experience based on maximizing player development. This league involves local travel for games, multiple away tournaments, additional costs, and increased time commitment. If interested in the Travel program, register players by May 15 so registrations can be reviewed. Travel player evaluations will be on an as-needed basis this year due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions.

Mail applications to Town Clerk, 127 Norwich Ave., #101, Colchester, CT 06415. Applications may also be returned to Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave., via the drop box outside the building; returned in person at the town clerk's office at Town Hall, or emailed to dogowners@colchesterct.gov. Email can only be done with a credit/debit card and there is an additional \$2 convenience fee to use the card.

### Top Dog Contest and Registration

The town will hold its 29th annual "Top Dog" Contest, with the top prize the number one dog tag from the town clerk's office, and a basket donated by John Gagnon's Pet Resort.

To enter the contest, you must register your dog for the 2021-22 license year. Return the application with payment by 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 26. The drawing will be held May 28, and the winner will be notified. The application can be found at colchesterct.gov.

A copy of a current rabies vaccination certificate and, if it is not listed on the rabies certificate, a current spay/neuter certificate must be included. Checks/money orders should be made payable to Town of Colchester. License and tags will be mailed after the normal registration period begins June 1.

License year runs July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022. Cost for spayed/neutered dogs is \$8, and for non-spayed/non-neutered, cost is \$19.

For those who don't wish to enter the Top Dog contest, the normal registration period begins in June.

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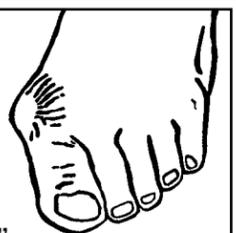
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**RTC Wants You**

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

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

**CCEH Spring Market**

The Congregational Church of East Hampton will hold its annual Spring Market Saturday, May 29, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., on the church grounds at 59 Main St. The market will include vendors, crafts, tag sale, plant sale and food, and the Belltown Garden Club will be selling annuals and perennials.

Masks will be required as well as distancing. Sanitizer will be available.

For more information or to reserve a vendor spot, call Lisa at 860-918-1170.



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**Haddam Neck Covenant Church News**

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

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

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

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

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

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### Parks and Rec. News & Notes

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

**Adult and High School Pickup Soccer:** Tuesdays through June 1, 6:30-7:45 p.m., at East Hampton High School. Fee: \$10 to drop in.  
**Morning and Afternoon Adventure:** This before and after school program at Memorial School has availability.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Raffle to Support New Community Garden

The East Hampton Rotary Club is selling raffle tickets and 100% of the net proceeds will be donated to the Community Garden, where the majority of the produce will be given to The Food Bank but folks can have a garden too, limited plots.

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

Purchase tickets by visiting easthamptonrotary.org; scroll down and see the Golden Ticket on the right hand side. The drawing is Saturday May 8, at 6 p.m. at Sears Park and the winner need not be present. Ticket sales end at noon Saturday.

Also on May 8, Rotarians are asking for help from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. as they clean up the grounds where the Community Garden will be, which is next to the Cranberry Bog, at the entrance to the Air Line Trail. Kevin and Kim Keily are allowing the use of their property for the garden. Gardening tools are needed.

The Community Garden is in collaboration with Rotary, the Garden Club and Parks and Rec. If interested in a plot or want to make a donation, visit easthamptonct.myrec.com/info/activities/default.aspx, click on 'Programs' and look for 'Community Garden.' Like East Hampton Community Garden on Facebook.

Questions can be sent to Pam Joslyn at pjoslyngreenwald@gmail.com.



**Cleaning Up Belltown...** East Hampton Scout Troop 8 and some parents volunteered April 24 to help with Lake Clean-Up Day.

### Senior Center News & Notes

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

**Virtual Lunch Bunch:** Every other Monday at 12:30 p.m., via Zoom. Register online. Next date is May 17.

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

**Conference Call Bingo:** Friday, May 14, 10 a.m. The center has a telephone number people can dial into to play; staff will be the Bingo

caller. Call the center to register and schedule a time to pick up your Bingo cards.

**Movie Group via Zoom:** Tuesday, May 25, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* will be discussed. Register online or call the center.

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

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

**Volunteer Shopping:** If interested in having a volunteer shop for you, call 860-267-4426 or email jewing@easthampton.gov for more information.

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### East Hampton Library News & Notes

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

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

**Weekly Activities for Kids: Stories and Songs:** Wednesdays at 10 a.m. via Zoom, for

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

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

**Adult Program: Pots with Pizzazz:** Tuesday, May 25, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom. Learn how to brighten shady spots and create focal points for vistas. Register online.

### Volunteers Sought to Serve

The town continues to look for volunteers to serve on various boards, commissions and agencies. Groups with vacancies for either full members or alternates are:

Arts & Culture Commission, Clean Energy Task Force, Conservation-Lake Commission, Design Review Board, Ethics Commission, Inland Wetlands Watercourses Agency, Library Advisory Board, Middle Haddam Historic District Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals.

Applications are available in the Town Manager's Office at 1 Community Drive or at www.easthamptonct.gov/home/pages/volunteers-nee ded.

### Congregational Church News

The Congregational Church of East Hampton, UCC, located at 59 Main St., holds in-person services at 10 a.m. each week. All are welcome. Masks, hand sanitizing and social distancing are required. Services are still available via Zoom; visit cc-eh.org to access.

Sunday school classes have also resumed in person.

The Teen Youth Group will next meet Saturday, May 22, from 9 a.m.-noon, to help with cleaning up the church grounds. Grades 6-12 are welcome.

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

### Draft Horse Rescue Rummage Sale

CT Draft Horse Rescue will hold a Rummage Sale Saturday, May 15, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., at the rescue, located at 113 Chestnut Hill Rd.

Swap Consignments in Portland has donated clean women's clothing in sizes XS to XL, accessories, and children's clothing to be sold to benefit the rescue. Prices are \$2 per clothing item and \$2 and \$4 for other items. CDHR volunteers have also donated items for a tag sale.

Shopping bags will be supplied or you may bring your own. In compliance with COVID-19 restrictions, social distancing will be observed, attendance will be limited and patrons and staff must wear face coverings.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/ctdraftrescue.

### Road Closure for Fire Hose Testing

The East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department will perform its mandatory pressure testing of all fire hoses Tuesday, May 11 (weather permitting). An annual certification requirement, this testing will be conducted in the area of the fire department's pump house at the western end of Walnut Avenue.

As a result, Walnut Avenue will be closed to through traffic between Main and Watrous streets from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Residents are advised to use alternate routes.

### Free Paper Shredding Event

The Lower CT River Council of Governments will hold a paper-shredding event Saturday, May 22, from 9 a.m.-noon, at the East Hampton WPCA, 20 Gildersleeve Drive, East Hampton. The collection is open to residents of the RiverCOG region, which includes Portland and East Hampton.

Residents may bring up to five bags or boxes of confidential paperwork for shredding; no commercial paper and no books, cards, magazines, etc. Visit rivercog.org/household-hazardous-waste for more information.

### Water System to be Flushed

The Royal Oaks Water System will be flushed from Tuesday, May 18, through Thursday, May 20.

The town said its water department periodically flushes its water lines to ensure that the valves are in good working order and to maintain water quality. Flushing will be between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. There may be a temporary drop in pressure and possible discoloration of the water during flushing operations. Discoloration is not harmful and should clear up quickly, the town said. Customers are advised to avoid using washing machines, dishwashers or other water using devices during flushing operations.

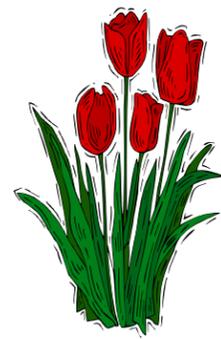
After flushing is complete, running the cold-water faucet for five minutes will help to clear discolored water, the town said. If discolored water or low pressure persists into the next day, call the water department at 860-267-2536.

### Quilt Show, Plant Sale Coming

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

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

For more information, contact Lisa Malloy at 860-267-2713 or elizabethhartmalloy@gmail.com, or Franky Dallas at 860-267-4513.



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# Opposition to Citgo Zone Change ‘Daunting’

by Jack Lakowsky

Scott Jezek, an attorney representing the owners seeking a zone change at the Citgo on the corner of routes 16 and 66, acknowledged that the opposition the proposal faces is “overwhelming and daunting.”

Jezek made his comments during Wednesday night’s Planning and Zoning Commission public hearing, where many residents again voiced disapproval of the proposed residential-to-commercial zone change for the Citgo. The meeting was held via Zoom.

The firm Atlantis Marketing, an LLC of Atlantis Management Group, seeks to significantly expand the building, and to add gas pumps and drive-thru food service.

A major point of contention from residents is the proposed demolition of the neighboring Charles Strong House, an 1800s-era home that is listed in the Belltown Historic District.

PZC closed the public hearing Wednesday and will resume discussion at its June 2 meeting. It may vote on the matter but is not required to at that meeting.

In late April, PZC had a site walk of the Strong House.

At Wednesday’s meeting, East Hampton Land Use Official Jeremy DeCarli read of dozens of letters citing varied concerns, including commercial creep, increased potential for car crashes, setting a precedent friendly to spot zoning, and damaging the rural character of the Main Street residential and business areas.

Many also said gas stations will in a decade or so become obsolete due to advances in renewable energy technology.

Jezek told the commission that “a clear perspective is needed” in deciding the gas station’s fate. He said, based on rulings from the Con-

necticut Supreme Court, town zoning boards must give equal weight to both their Plans of Conservation and Development and to public opinion.

“You must balance the preservation of status quo and the pressure for economic growth,” Jezek said. “It’s not a popularity contest.”

Jezek reiterated that a zone change is not the final step in the process to building a new structure. The company would have to file more detailed site plans and must also get approved by the town’s Design Review Board.

Jezek submitted a commissioned architect’s report on the Strong House. That report said the house has no significant historical value other than its age and name.

The report, from Fellner Architects of East Haddam, said due to multiple renovations, including a front porch, new stairs and extra doors, the house has no true historic character. The report went on to say the house does not meet the aesthetic of that time.

Jezek also questioned whether the house is included in the Belltown Historic District in the first place.

Mark McMillan, who works as a historian for the state Department of Transportation and also serves on the state’s Historic Review Board, an oversight board for historic sites, said the house is listed in both state and federal registries.

“Google it,” McMillan said. McMillan questioned the credibility of the architect’s report.

Another major argument from the Citgo owners is that the town’s Plan of Conservation and Development identifies six main, arterial roads in town, two of which meet at the gas station. Jezek said these places are slated for further economic development.

East Hampton locals from all over town, both abutters to the gas station and those from fur-

ther away, have signed petitions, written letters, and spoken in PZC meetings to express their displeasure with the plan.

According to resident Brian Avery, a petition against the Strong House demolition has garnered more than 700 signatures. He counted 40 lawn signs protesting the zone change, as well as 81 letters of opposition.

One longtime Belltown resident, Mark Dunlop, said the last time such a large group took part in town zoning proceedings was when Stop

& Shop came to town.

One speaker questioned the legitimacy of Atlantis Marketing itself.

PZC Chairman Ray Zatorski picked up on this and asked for information on the company.

Atlantis development manager Jack Belovich said Atlantis Marketing is a subsidiary of Atlantis Management Group based in Mount Vernon, N.Y., with a regional office in Berlin.

According to the Atlantis website, the company is a “leading gas station developer.”



**Cleaning Up the Lake...** Many volunteers participated in the annual Lake Clean-Up Day on April 24, to help clean up around Lake Pocotopaug. Volunteers collected over 75 bags of trash and almost filled the dumpster with debris collected. Pictured are Friends of Lake Pocotopaug members Joe Carbonell, Joe Feest and Kevin Kuhr.

## Digger’s Family Fun Day

Haddam Neck Covenant Church invites all to Digger’s Family Fun Day Saturday, May 22, at 1 p.m. There will be a puppet show with Digger, his barnyard friends and Farmer M, a petting zoo and various crafts including children making their own puppet.

RSVP by May 14 by calling the church office at 860-267-2336 or emailing officehnc@sbcglobal.net.

## Paintings by Carole

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

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

## Bethlehem Lutheran Church News

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church holds weekly services at 10:15 a.m. each Sunday, with fellowship following. Communion blessings are held; participation only requires a piece of bread. All are welcome; log-in information is at [www.facebook.com/BethlehemEH](http://www.facebook.com/BethlehemEH).

## Epoch Arts Summer Session

Epoch Arts is bringing back its in-person summer session in July; this year there will be two weeks of offerings, based on ages: July 19-23 for grades pre-K-5, and July 26-30 for grades 6-10.

Both sessions will feature breaks in outdoor classrooms. Class sizes will be small, social distancing regulations will be followed and masks are required. Classes are held at 27 Skinner St.

Space is limited. For full details and to register, visit [www.epocharts.org/classes-registration](http://www.epocharts.org/classes-registration).

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### Haddam Neck Fair to Return

After missing last year due to the pandemic, the Haddam Neck Fair is returning – and will be held over Labor Day Weekend, opening Friday, Sept. 3.

Rated as a Major Fair, this is a country and agricultural fair that has many events similar to those of a hundred years ago. There will be traditional events such as cattle and beef shows, goat and sheep contests and poultry and rabbit classes. Pulling contests for ponies, horses and oxen will be held, as well as pulling contests for tractors and trucks, and even a pedal pull for the kids.

Other events include photo and baking contests, a quilt contest, spinning and weaving, arts and hobbies, a dog agility competition, a baby show and a general store for purchasing items produced entirely in Haddam Neck by Haddam Neckers.

Contests offered all three days will include skillet throwing, redneck strongman and beard contests, and a variety of events for children. Live music will play on Friday, Saturday and Sunday at the Bandstand, and a 5K road race will run Sunday morning. In addition, there are rides, concessions, traditional fair food and walk around entertainment.

The fair will abide by any COVID-19 regulations in effect at the time.

Additional information is available at [haddamneckfair.com](http://haddamneckfair.com).

### Bits and Pieces Sale

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

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

### Christ Episcopal Church News

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

The Rev. Ann Perrott is Priest-in-Charge, the Rev. Joanne Neel-Richard oversees Children's Ministry, and Martha Alimi is the music director. For more information or if in need of pastoral assistance, call the church at 860-267-0287 or visit [www.christchurchmiddlehaddam.com](http://www.christchurchmiddlehaddam.com).

# Entertainment

### Honor Society Inductee

Eastern Connecticut State University junior Joshua Hull was recently inducted into Pi Sigma Alpha, the international honor society for political science.

Hull is majoring in political science.

### Save the Date for Tag Sale

Applications for the Town-Wide Tag Sale, sponsored by the Chatham Historical Society, are now available.

Applications are available at East Hampton Public Library and at the town clerk's office at Town Hall. Tag sales are held at the applicant's own yard on Saturday, June 19, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. There will be some spaces available on the museum grounds at 8 Bevin Blvd.

For more information, call 860-267-4732.

### Woman Joins Local Real Estate Company

Carl Guild & Associates recently announced real estate sales professional Kara Pedersen has joined the East Hampton-based brokerage. Pedersen is a Middlefield native.

"We're thrilled to welcome Kara to Carl Guild & Associates," said Carl Guild, broker/owner of Carl Guild & Associates. "She's the ideal agent for buyers seeking homes with tremendous renovation potential, and for sellers who need a consummate staging professional by their side."

Pedersen is a home design enthusiast; she said she appreciates all types of architecture and loves the challenge of a fixer-upper. "My husband and I have been updating our very own fixer-upper," she explained. "The project has fueled my desire to turn a house with potential into a beautiful home for my clients."

As a Home Staging Resources-certified professional home stager and redesigner, and a RESA (Real Estate Staging Association) member, Pedersen will work with sellers to increase the appeal of their home to attract more buyers.

In 2020, Pedersen earned an interior design certificate from Paier College of Art in Hamden, as well as an interior design certificate from the New York Institute of Art and Design. Pedersen's new business, Simply Kara Nicole, LLC, will focus on home staging and redesign.



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**White Marble Pork Chop...18.99**  
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*Check out our Mother's Day Breakfast Specials on Facebook*

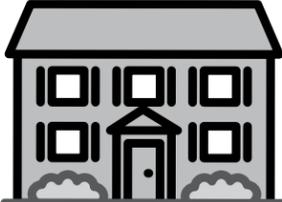
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# Teen Headed to International Competition

by Karla Santos

When he was 6 years old, Jackson Heslin of Marlborough started wrestling “just for fun.”

But over the next eight years it grew to be a bigger and bigger part of his life, and last month Jackson, now 14, won a national wrestling competition in Wisconsin – a victory that will enable him to compete internationally in October.

On April 23, Jackson took part in a wrestling tournament in Wisconsin – the United States of America World Team Trials – and won the national championship in Greco-Roman; a victory that placed him in the U15 Division of the Greco-Roman World Team. There are 10 participants in Jackson’s age group.

“He’s the number one for his age and weight,” Jackson’s father, Matt, proudly explained.

Jackson will compete in the Pan-American

games, an international competition taking place in Mexico City, Mexico in October.

Helin’s recent victory does not stop there.

Matt Heslin explained there are two types of international competitions for Olympic wrestling: Greco-Roman and Freestyle.

On the same weekend, April 24 and 25, Jackson also took part in the 15-and-under Freestyle tournament, which he won in fifth place.

For Jackson, the success in wrestling came as a surprise as he said he wasn’t expecting to make it that far in his wrestling career.

“It’s pretty awesome; I never thought I would be one of those people,” Jackson said.

He started wrestling at age six in the RHAM Coyotes, a wrestling club in Hebron.

He said he started wrestling “just for fun” but

wrestling is an essential part of his life now.

He wants to continue to wrestle and compete in college wrestling specifically in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I.

Jackson said winning and trying to be the best are his motivation as he continues to wrestle.

Matt Heslin said his son’s accomplishment teaches Jackson to never give up and to always believe in himself.

“If you do those two things anything is possible,” Matt Heslin said.

Matt Heslin said seeing his son grow as a wrestler is special and wants to support his future goals.

“I’d like to see him follow whatever it is that he sets for himself,” he said.

According to Matt Heslin, Jackson is a 2020 Connecticut State Champion. He was the 2019

New England Champion, and at that championship, he was also voted as New England’s most outstanding wrestler. He was competing with 500 additional children, Matt Heslin said.

While Jackson wrestled in Connecticut his whole life, he and his coach John Knapp have been in California for the past nine months training at the Regional Olympic Training Center, Matt Heslin said.

Jackson has been homeschooled ever since.

Matt Heslin said his son benefits from training in California because of the good wrestling program offered there, the coaches, and the talented children he gets to be around.

## Honor Society Inductee

Heather Lord of Marlborough, a student at Eastern Connecticut State University, was recently inducted into the Kappa Delta Pi, the international honor society for education.

Lord is a graduate majoring in secondary education.

## \$1,000 Scholarship Available

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

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

## Parks and Rec Programs

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

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

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

**Horseback Riding Lessons:** For ages 5 and

up. Days and times are flexible. Fee: four lessons for \$175/residents, \$180/non-residents.

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

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

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

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

## Remove Items from Cemeteries

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

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

## Community Shredding Event

The Conservation Commission will host a free Community Shredding Event Saturday, May 22, from 8 a.m.-noon, at the Town Hall parking lot, located at 26 N. Main St.

Residents interested in shredding their personal records are welcome to participate; no commercial documents, please. There is no cost to participate, but residents will be asked to show a picture ID. Food donations for Marlborough Food Bank are welcome.

## CERT Training Starting Soon

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training is a program that teaches basic disaster management and response skills to prepare individual citizens and their families before a disaster strikes – and Marlborough CERT training will be starting soon. All are eligible.

Classes will be held from 2-5 p.m. on Sundays, May 16, 23, June 6, 13, 27, and July 11 and 18. Training may become classroom-style if it is deemed safe to do so during the pandemic. There will also be some “in the field” training.

The class is free, but registration is required; do so by May 11. More information will be given as the class progresses. To register, send an email along with your name, address and phone number (cell recommended), to CERT leaders Todd Gianetti at [Toddswl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Toddswl@sbcglobal.net) or Ashley Jacques at [ashley.jacques8@gmail.com](mailto:ashley.jacques8@gmail.com). For more information, contact Gianetti or Jacques.



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# Budget Passes by Wide Margin

by Karla Santos

On Tuesday, a successful budget referendum took place in Marlborough as voters decided to approve the \$26.05 million budget for 2021-22.

A total of 287 votes were placed, with 241 in favor and 49 opposed.

A short town meeting on Monday was followed by Tuesday's referendum at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School.

On April 21, the finance board adopted the budget, which reflects a \$229,947 or 0.89% increase from current year spending. The approved budget calls for a mill rate of 35.84, which is down from the current year's 36.27 mills.

Based on the new mill rate, someone with property assessed at \$250,000 would pay \$8,959 in taxes compared with the current year's \$9,068.

First Selectman Greg Lowrey said he was pleased with the referendum results.

"I am grateful for the efforts of the poll workers, including Selectman Traversa," Lowrey said. "I also want to thank the superintendents David Sklarz and Scott Leslie for their responsiveness during the budget process."

Lowrey noted the town and region "benefit from the cooperative negotiations" among the boards of selectmen, education, finance, RHAM board of education, and the Hebron town manager and Andover town administrator.

Marlborough voters also approved the town's portion of RHAM operations with 227 favorable votes and 63 in opposition. RHAM's capi-

tal budget was also met with victory with 229 favorable votes and 61 opposed.

Marlborough's portion of the RHAM school district's 2021-22 operating budget is \$10.95 million and its contribution to RHAM capital is \$108,120.

The local Board of Education budget totals \$7.85 million, a 2.73% increase over the current year.

Overall, education expenses, between the local and RHAM school boards, drive more than 70% of the overall town budget. Town operations make up another 20%, with the rest going to capital, debt and contingency expenses.

The approved 2021-22 budget is a significant decrease from the one First Selectman Greg Lowry first pitched in March. That one called for a 2.01% increase from current year spending.

Ruth Kelly, vice chair of the Board of Education, said she's glad the budgets passed at referendum. She said the town and education budgets were "reasonable" considering that we are still in the middle of a pandemic.

She said one of the things she enjoyed the most about this budget season was that the town and education board really worked as a team to put together a budget that was reasonable and good for the people.

However, Kelley said she would have liked to see a better turnout.

"I was disappointed that it was such a small turnout for a budget," she said.

## Congregational Church News

Services at Marlborough Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, are livestreamed Sundays at 10 a.m. through the church website, [mcc.marlconchurch.org](http://mcc.marlconchurch.org).

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

Mission-giving in May goes to the AHM Mental Health Fund; send checks made payable to MCC, with "Second Quarter Missions" in the note line, to: P.O. Box 57, Marlborough, CT 06447. The Senior High Youth Group spon-

sors the Drive-Thru Café. All meal preparation is done at the church. Donations for this project may also be made through the church; note 'Drive-Thru Café' on the check.

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

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

Second Blessings Thrift Shop is open Saturdays from 9 a.m.-noon. The shop sells name-brand jewelry, handbags, seasonal, houseware, giftware and more. Shop often as new merchandise is added every week. Donations are accepted during shop hours. Safety protocols are in place and masks are required. The shop continues selling on eBay at [bit.ly/MCCebay](http://bit.ly/MCCebay).

## Republicans' Spring Plant Sale

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

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

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



St. John Fisher Church teens completed over 500 Acts of Kindness in five hours Tuesday, April 20, to benefit many area organizations and charities.

## Church Teens Perform 500 Acts of Kindness

St. John Fisher Church teens completed over 500 Acts of Kindness in five hours Tuesday, April 20. The beneficiaries of the teens' actions include the Marlborough Food Bank, Marlborough Health Care Center, House of Bread, Immacare, The Hartford Catholic Worker, Adelbrook and the St. John Fisher Community Garden.

With help of donations from parishioners and staff at St. John Fisher and community partners such as Big Y, East Hampton Stop and Shop and Marlborough Pizza, the group made bagged lunches, care bags for shelters, welcome baskets for people transitioning out of homelessness, and other projects benefitting people in Marlborough and beyond.

"How lucky we are to have incredible young people in our community who were willing to give up a day of their spring vacation to use their hands and hearts to benefit others," said Jennifer O'Neill, director of youth ministry at St. John Fisher.

One of the teen participants, Grace Neumuth, 16, said, "I am happy that our youth group can

work together and help people in need so they don't feel alone, especially during this difficult time."

For more information about St. John Fisher and its ministries, call the church at 860-295-0001.

## Richmond Library News & Notes

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

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

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

## President's List

Nicole Rudder of Marlborough made Goodwin University's fall 2020 President's List, for scoring a perfect 4.0 GPA.

**Happy 21st Birthday, Taylor Rae!!!**  
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### Open-Air Concerts to Resume

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

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

Watch for more information.

### Yard Work Help Available for Seniors

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

Teens will work two hours per job at a senior citizen's residence doing outdoor chores. For complete program information, go to [tinyurl.com/cws6bmdm](http://tinyurl.com/cws6bmdm). Applications are at Marlborough Senior Center.

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

### St. John Fisher Church News & Notes

St. John Fisher Roman Catholic Church is located at 30 Jones Hollow Rd. Pastor is the Rev. Thomas J. Sas. The church office can be reached at 860-295-0001.

**Weekend Masses:** 4 p.m. Saturday and 9:30 a.m. Sunday. Wearing of masks required. There is a limit of 44 parishioners each Mass; registration required (on the church website via a live link available Thursday mornings). Contact the parish office with questions. Weekend Mass is also available on the parish website starting at 4 p.m. Saturdays.

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

### Pasta Dinner May 13

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

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

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

Email your classified line ads to [sandy@glcitizen.com](mailto:sandy@glcitizen.com) & call 860.633.4691 to pay with Mastercard or Visa

## Recount in Andover Leads to Same Winners

by Sloan Brewster

Close votes led to a recount in Andover's municipal election this week.

The initial numbers the town gave out, however, did not include absentee ballots.

When Town Clerk Carol Lee realized the tally had not included the full total, she quickly called the *Rivereast* to make a correction. Based on the new numbers, she said there would still be a recount.

A recount is mandated if there are fewer than 20 vote differences in any race, she said.

The races for the Board of Finance, Board of Education, Planning & Zoning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals were recounted.

The recount, which took place Wednesday morning, took about half an hour, said Assistant Town Clerk Mattea Whitford, who manned the office while Lee oversaw the recount.

"The numbers were exactly the same," Whitford said. "Everything was the same going through the recount."

About nine people that were not election officials watched as the numbers were tallied, Whitford said.

In the end Democrat Marc Brinker, 57, current chair of the Board of Finance took 244 votes and will remain on the board.

Rob England, 44, Democrat, with 244 votes will also remain on the board.

New to the board will be Joanne Hebert, 59, an independent endorsed by the Republican Town Committee. Hebert received 232 votes.

Republican Bill Derosiers, 61, with 225 votes, lost his bid for a seat on the board.

Democrat Gerard Cremé, education board chair, keeps his seat with 213 votes; as does Republican Celeste Willard, who took in 232 votes. Republican Adrian Mandeville, who is also on the Board of Selectmen, will be the newbie to the board. Mandeville received 175 votes.

Democrat Edmund Smith, with 172 votes, lost his bid for a seat on the board.

As far as the Planning & Zoning Commission goes, Republican Leigh Ann Hutchinson, with 257 votes, keeps her seat and Democrat Steven Nelson, 57, with 213 votes will be seated.

With 212 votes, Brian Briggs, a Democrat, lost his bid for a seat.

Democrat Susan England, with 296 votes will be an alternate on the board. She ran unopposed.

For Zoning Board of Appeals, with 231 votes, Walter Weir keeps his seat and Republican Ylo Anson, with 232 votes, gets a seat.

Cremé, who also ran for the education board, received 230 votes and does not get a seat on the board.

The seat for Zoning Board of Appeals alternate goes to David Gustanian, with 220 votes while Mary Holer lost her bid with 181 votes.

For Board of Fire Commissioners, Democrat Scott Yeomans, with 300 votes and Republican Gerry Wright, with 273 votes, will both be seated.

The recount involved an examination of every ballot, according to Lee, who explained the process beforehand, those with additional marks were hand counted and the rest were put through the ballot tabulator.

Lee said the last time there was a recount in town was four years ago.

The *Rivereast* managed to get comments from a couple of election winners before the paper was printed.

Brinker said he was honored to keep his seat, which he had originally gained through an appointment.

He said the board has "lots of work" to do in the next few years, including looking for alternate ways to find funding, such as bonding. While not a fan of bonding for roadwork, he said that is something the town may need to consider.

"The senior center building site, that's moving forward; that's going to take bonding," he said.

Brinker said he looks forward to working with the other board members.

Mandeville said he was "glad that the people got past this hypocrisy," referring to concerns from some Democrats that he was running for a seat on the education board while also holding one on the Board of Selectmen.

"Ironically, the Dems put the Board of Ed chair up for another position," Mandeville said.

Cremé, the Board of Education chairman, ran for a seat on that board and won and also bid for a seat on the Zoning Board of Appeals – but lost.

Mandeville said he wondered if the opposition was because it was a Republican that was running for the additional seat "or was it just because it was me."

### Farmers Market to Return

The Andover Farmers Market is held the first Wednesday of each month through October, from 4-7 p.m. each week, outside at First Congregational Church on Route 6. The market includes farmers, bakers, a food truck and music. Face masks required.

The final market will be Saturday, Nov. 6, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

### Marlborough Lions 'Round the Lake 5K

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

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

Entry fee is \$20 by May 13 and includes a T-shirt; fee is \$25 thereafter and shirts are not guaranteed. There is also a \$50 package for groups of immediate family members partici-

pating in the race. Proceeds will support the Lions and their charitable donations.

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

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

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This spring, the Andover Conservation Commission will plant a monarch butterfly way station along the rail trail.

### Conservation Commission to Plant Monarch Way Station

This spring, the Andover Conservation Commission will plant a monarch butterfly way station along the rail trail: a patch of milkweed plants for female Monarch butterflies to lay their eggs on, and for the larvae to munch as they grow.

The way station will be planted near the parking area at the end of Center Street. Native wildflowers that provide nectar for the monarchs

and other butterflies will also be planted. To let the flowers grow, the area will not be mowed during the summer, except for a mower's width adjacent to the rail trail.

To be involved in the Way Station project, contact Carrie Crompton of the Andover Conservation Commission at [barolk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:barolk@sbcglobal.net).

# AES Talent Show Goes Virtual

by Sloan Brewster

Last week, virtual learning took a backseat to virtual performing, with a local talent show featuring students from Andover Elementary School.

Every year for “many, many years,” the AES Parent Teacher Association has sponsored a talent show, said organizer Paula King, who has one daughter in the school.

Last year, with the pandemic clashing with most entertainment and the sudden onslaught of virtual everything, the show went remote. This year, amid continued concerns over the spread of the virus, the online version returned.

Students have had an interesting year this year, King said.

“They were thankfully in the building [for school] but there’s not a lot of opportunities for events and field trips,” she said. “The PTA felt we’re still going to do the talent show and other things we do for the kids.”

King, who has coordinated the talent show for the past five years, said she and other PTA members began promoting it to families in February, looking for talent, getting information out to students that they could perform and getting ideas about what talent they were interested in doing.

Parents were told they could work with their children on making videos of their performances, she said. At the end of March, the kids were finalizing their talent ideas and starting to work out kinks and perfect their performances, readying for the end of April deadline to upload their videos.

The videos were then compiled and King and two fellow organizers – Celeste Willard and Lucie Wilson – added a surprise skit of their own to the mix.

Last year, the moms did a skit of a Zoom reunion in lockdown in which they performed a version with rewritten lyrics of the song “It’s a Hard Knock Life” from the musical *Annie*, King said. This year, they took on a Tik Tok – or as they called it Tic Tac – video. In the parody, the moms were sitting around a table chatting when Willard asked if the others knew what “Tic Tac” is.

King pulls out a container of Tic Tacs and offers them to the others. Then her daughter, fifth grader Rebecca King, pops out of an adjoining room and snidely informs the three women “it’s Tik Tok.”

The moms proceed to make a “Tic Tac” dance video, in which King alleges she was “dancing like a dork on purpose.”

The scene cuts to AES sixth grader and Master of Ceremonies, Mason Talaga, who warns that at least one of the moms shouldn’t expect to find a lucrative dance gig.

“Mrs. King, do not, I mean, do not quit your day job cause those dance moves are...well...,” he said.

King said Mason came up with most of his emcee content, putting his own spin on introductions of performers and commentary he gave between acts. In each slot, he is in a new location, doing something different. His varied bits included sitting comfy on a hammock wearing cool shades while leaning on a giant ball, which he later tosses; hanging and then jumping from the bottom of a staircase; standing at the top of stairs; shooting hoops; hitting a baseball and sitting in a tree.

Mason shared credit for the arrangements and commentary.

“Mrs. King not quitting her day job that’s easily me, but Mrs. King came up with the rest of them,” Mason said.

Mason said while he enjoyed preparing for his sketches, he had the most fun watching the videos put together by fellow students.

Mason’s dad, Mike Talaga, credited King with inspiring Mason to take the emcee role. That said, he said the humor behind Mason’s bits is a trait passed from father to son.

“I’m a joker but he takes it to a new level,” Talaga said. “He’s got a really good personality.”

Talaga said as a family, they watched the video, which is available on YouTube.

“We thought it was great, put together really good,” he said.

He said Mason, who will be a seventh grader at RHAM Middle School next year, is the last of his three kids at AES.

“[The video’s] a good memory to have,” he said.

The 36-minute video features singing, including on a Segway; Irish step dancing; kids maneuvering quads or riding motor bikes and bikes over jumps and through the woods; bouncing tricks with a ping pong ball; a kid swinging and hiking while buried in a screen; fancy moves with a hockey stick and graduating sixth graders doing various activities while singing to George Ezra’s “Shotgun.”

Some students enhanced their videos, changing the backdrops or adding filters.

One act that impressed all viewers interviewed by the *Rivereast* was the show’s first-ever ventriloquist, second-grader Sawyer Thompson, who performed with her friend Pauly the Parrot.

Ben Slater, a fourth-grader at the school who took a few minutes to share his thoughts about the show with the *Rivereast*, said Sawyer “was pretty good,” especially as she is only in second grade and succeeded in saying Pauly’s part without moving her lips.

## Senior Citizen News & Notes

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

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

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

**Rides to Medical Appointments:** Call Palazzi to reserve a ride. All seniors, veterans, and ADA individuals are welcome. If you have a

caregiver, they may come with you. Temperatures will be taken by the driver. Masks must be worn in the van.

**Shopping:** Transportation is available for shopping on Tuesdays at 7 a.m. Masks must be worn and temperatures will be taken by driver before clients can access the bus. Call Palazzi for a ride.

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

## Craft Fair Participants Sought

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

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

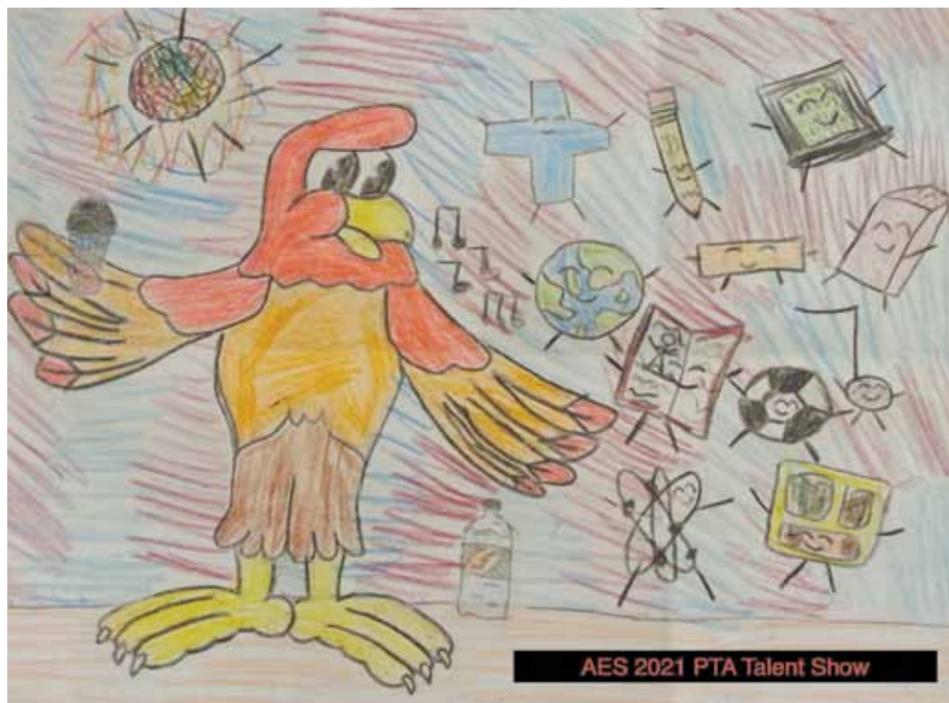
Call the church at 860-742-7696 and leave your contact information for an application.

## Yard Work Help Available for Seniors

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

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

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



With this picture, Michaela Winne won an Andover Elementary School contest to draw a photo for the cover of the program for school’s the annual talent show. The virtual show is available at [https://youtu.be/\\_KALdiftXIY](https://youtu.be/_KALdiftXIY)

Ben said his favorite act, however, was the lip-syncing sixth-graders because “the song just kept sticking in your mind.”

Ben said he would have danced if he had opted into participating in the show. His mother, Sue Slater, said Ben enjoys making up dance moves and has been in other school performances.

Slater said the students did a great job, especially since they had to videotape their numbers rather than performing live in the school gymnasium. She said the video was put together smoothly with no hiccups and she was glad younger students were involved in the production.

While it was nice to sit and watch from the comfort of their living room, Slater said one thing was missing – interaction with other families in the audience.

Isabella Mendoza, a fifth-grader, also took a few minutes to give the *Rivereast* her impressions of the show. Her favorite part was the

risky moves on the quads and bikes, which she said “were really cool” and “interesting.”

She also liked the singing.

Just before the last video clip is a rendition of Bruno Mars’ “Count on Me,” with new lyrics written by AES Principal John Briody. King and AES music teacher Madelyn Stewich did vocals, Briody played drums and sang and Board of Education member Shannon Louden was on piano and vocals.

Louden said she showed up for what she thought was going to be a rehearsal and was ill prepared for the filming, but it was all good.

“That’s my favorite thing in the world, music and singing,” she said. “It was just fun, it was just so fun.”

The show comes to a close with the sixth-graders giving their farewell number, “...riding shotgun underneath the hot sun.”

Anyone interested in “sailing along” to the video can check it out on YouTube at [https://youtu.be/\\_KALdiftXIY](https://youtu.be/_KALdiftXIY).

## Congregational Church News

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

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

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

tend via Zoom, call the church and leave a message and church pastor the Rev. Rose Nilson will you the meeting link.

**Food Pantry:** Mondays from 5-7 p.m. Bring your own bags. CDC guidelines are observed and masks are required. The senior pantry is open every other Wednesday from 9-9:30 a.m.; next date is May 19.

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

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

## PTA Craft Fair

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

## Got Monarch Butterflies?

Andover Public Library invites people to tag along on Tuesday, May 11, at 12:30 p.m., as Master Gardener Carrie Crompton plants a collection of butterfly-attracting plants along the Andover Rail Trail section near Center Street – the Monarch Way Station.

This way station is part of a nationwide effort to help monarch butterflies remain and flourish in our home gardens and open spaces. Questions will be welcomed and answered by Compton as she progresses through her planting. If you’d like to help with the planting, bring your gloves, trowels, and tick/bug repellent.

Parking is available on Center Street; meet near the trail. All COVID-19 protocols will be in place. Rain date is Thursday, May 13, also at 12:30 p.m. For more information, call 860-742-7428.

## Items Sought for Senior Tag Sale

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

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

## Mother’s Day Plant Sale

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

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

## Adult Show & Tell

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

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

## Spring Tag Sale

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

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

## Preschool Screening

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

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

## Obituaries

### Hebron

#### Raymond Orvin Craven

Raymond Craven, MD, passed away peacefully in Hebron in the early hours of Thursday, April 22. He was born in 1936.

After several years in Newtown as a practicing urologist an avid Little League coach, Ray and his wife, Judith Kovach Craven, moved to Hebron several years ago and settled into a home they built and loved. On their wooded property, Ray had plenty of space to let the dogs roam and work outside. Judith and Ray shared a love of country dancing, the outdoors and dogs. Ray also enjoyed playing bridge and tennis.

Judith introduced Ray to breeding bullmastiffs. Typically, they had two or more of these gentle giants roaming their home. Thunder, one of the last of the original bloodline, died only a week before Ray, and was likely the first to welcome Ray to the other side of the rainbow.

Ray will be sorely missed by his entire family, who include his three children (Dan, Sue and Jim) and Judith's family, who embraced Ray as a wonderful grandfather and man (Heather, Dan, Nick, Katie, and Andrew and his family). Judith was a devoted wife and will appreciate continued support from her Hebron friends, as she hopefully carries on with the activities that she and Ray enjoyed during their rich two decades together.

Ray is also survived by his brother Don and Don's family, as well as the family of his sister Happy (who predeceased Ray).

Ray's family looks forward to years of sharing great Ray stories and hope to continue Ray's legacy of kindness, service and positivity.

As of now, no formal public memorial service will be scheduled.

### East Hampton

#### Irene E. Anderson

Irene E. Anderson, 94, of East Hampton, widow of the late Clifford L. Anderson, passed away Monday, April 26, at Middlesex Hospital. Born May 14, 1926, in Eastford, she was the daughter of the late Clifford and Ruth French.

Irene grew up in Eastford. She married Cliff in 1949; they made their home in Woodstock until moving to East Hampton in 1965. She had worked in the food service at Cobalt Lodge and had volunteered with Meals on Wheels. Irene was an active member of the Haddam Neck Covenant Church.

She is survived by her son, Raymond Anderson and wife Sandra of Tennessee; daughters, Katherine Yantosh and husband Thomas of Rockfall, Janet Marino and husband Sebastian of Florida; two sisters, Dorothy Horton and Lorraine Howlett; five grandchildren, Jonathan, Shane, Kimberly, Rebecca, Ashley; and great-grandchildren, Lucas, Finnian, Lillian, Allyson, Lianna, Serena, Mason, Trenton and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was predeceased by brothers Milton (Kenneth) French, Russell French, and sisters Arlene (Peggy) Bowen and Betty Perry.

A funeral service was held Sunday, May 2, at Haddam Neck Covenant Church, East Hampton.

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



### Colchester

#### Dorothy Ann Mrowka

Dorothy Ann Mrowka, 78, of Colchester, passed away at home Thursday, April 29. She was born in New London Oct. 13, 1942, to the late Joseph and Stella (Zawisza) Ploszaj.

Dorothy's schooling took her all the way through earning a master's degree in business administration, which led to a long and successful career as a computer programmer for Aetna Insurance. She married her beloved husband, Lucien C. Mrowka, on Jan. 12, 1974. The couple shared 38 years of marriage before he predeceased her May 17, 2012.

Dorothy moved to Colchester in 1973 and fast became a pillar of the community. She was a member of St. Andrew Church, where she served with the Ladies Guild and the First Friday Rosary Guild. Dorothy was also very involved with the Colchester Democratic Committee and the Federation of Democratic Women. She served as the registrar of voters for 25 years and was twice awarded the Ella T. Grasso Award. She was a member of the St. Joseph's Polish Society and Auxiliary and a life member of the Colchester Grange No. 78. Many couples made their wedding vows with Dorothy acting as a justice of the peace.

Dorothy loved baking and decorating cakes for family birthdays and other occasions. She also enjoyed knitting and many who knew her now own a blanket which was hand made by Dorothy. In short, Dorothy gave her time and talents selflessly to one and all. She was a kind, generous and loving woman who touched so many lives and will not soon be forgotten.

Dorothy is survived by her son, Jeffrey R. Watson of Colchester; her daughter, Tammy and her husband Ricky Keller of Colchester; her brother, Joseph J. Ploszaj of Salem; her sisters, Peggy Fedus of Chelmsford, Mass., and Mary Lou Johnson of Groton; her two beloved grandchildren, Tyler Keller of Colchester and Taylor Watson of Union; and many wonderful nieces and nephews, extended family members and friends.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was predeceased by her son, David Thomas Watson.

Calling hours for Dorothy were held Thursday, May 6, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The Funeral Mass will be celebrated today, May 7, at 10:30 a.m., directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester, with burial to follow in St. Joseph Cemetery, Colchester.

In lieu of flowers, please make memorial donations to the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Department, 52 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, CT 06415.

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

### East Hampton

#### Todd Owen Ducas

Todd Owen Ducas, 57, of East Hampton, formerly of Rockville, passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by his loved ones on the evening of Saturday, May 1. Born Dec. 26, 1963, in Hartford, he was the youngest son of the late John and Barbara (Goodwin) Ducas. Todd was raised in Glastonbury and had worked as a sprinkler fitter at many different fire suppression compa-



nies, the most recent was Hart Mechanical of Glastonbury.

Todd is survived by his daughter, Christina Ducas of Vernon; son, Brian Ducas of Vernon, his fiancée Amy Wright and her daughter and son-in-law Amanda Wright and Benjamin Briggs; his two brothers, Jeffrey O'Hara of Florida, John "Jack" Ducas of East Hampton; his sister, Candace Hartzell and her husband Gary of North Carolina; nephew, Chuck; niece, Jennifer; grandnephew, Samuel; and many close friends.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his brother, James Ducas.

Todd led an active lifestyle, where he could be found sailing, fishing, and swimming around Napatree Point and Block Island, hiking the state forests, and riding his motorcycle on a sunny day. He loved adventuring outdoors, especially skiing the double black diamond trails in Colorado and Vermont. He was a hard worker, and worked hard to play hard.

Todd enjoyed spending his free time working on his dirt bikes and riding around the woods. When Todd was at home, he loved relaxing on the back deck with his chickens while listening to music, or watching movies with his family and kitties.

Calling hours will be at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Tuesday, May 11, from 4-6 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the animal shelter of the donor's choice, in tribute to Todd's love for animals.

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

### Colchester

#### Joan Beverly Lynn

Joan Beverly Lynn, 89, of Colchester, passed away at Middlesex Hospital Hospice Tuesday, April 27. She was born in Bridgeport May 5, 1931, a daughter of the late Wilbur and Agnes (Kalalian) Tillson. She married her beloved husband, Alexander Lyn, Jr. in 1948. The couple shared 35 years of marriage before he predeceased her June 19, 1983.

Joan was a woman of strong faith, attending the Colchester Bible Baptist Church. She loved flowers and beautiful gardens. Joan enjoyed reading, doing puzzles and word searches, watching TV, playing cards, and shopping. Most importantly, she will be remembered as a devoted family woman who was peaceful, independent, and kind.

She will be sadly missed but always remembered by her children and their spouses, Craig Lynn of New Hampshire, Randy and Cindy Lynn of Lebanon, David Lynn and Shawn Brimmer of Salem; a sister, Kathleen Tripp of Ohio; a daughter-in-law, Hilda Haney of Florida; 17 grandchildren, Lisa, Kevin, Michael, Jacki, Derek, Staci, Bill, Megan, Emily, Scott, Matthew, Michael, Chris, Josh, Adam, Mason, Cameron; many great-grandchildren; a great-great-grandchild, numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was predeceased by a son, Jeffrey; a brother, Bill Tillson; and a sister, Pat Leone.

The funeral service will be held Saturday, May 8, beginning at 10 a.m. with a calling hour, at the Colchester Bible Baptist Church, Chestnut Hill Road, Colchester. The funeral service will follow at the church at 11 a.m. Burial will follow in Linwood Cemetery, Colchester.

The family requests that donations in her memory may be made to her church.

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



### East Hampton

#### Bryan Peter Hebler

Bryan Peter Hebler, 42, of East Hampton, passed away Friday, April 30, after a courageous eight-year battle with cancer. He was surrounded by his loving family.

Bryan is survived by his wife, Lindsey Balisano-Hebler, and their sons, Walker Patrick and Blake Thomas Hebler. He is also survived by his parents, Peter and Laraine Hebler; his brother, Jeffrey Hebler, sister-in-law, Staci Hebler and nephew, William Hebler; his sister, Lauren Hebler, her fiancé Kevin Hill and nephew Connor Hill and niece Kendall Hill; his father-in-law, Patrick Balisano; and his large extended family and friends who will miss him immensely.

Bryan was predeceased by his grandparents, Kenneth and Nancy Hebler, Henry and Barbara Higbee and mother-in-law and friend Annmarie Balisano.

Bryan was a loving, devoted husband and father, a caring and compassionate soul who loved skiing, snowboarding, golfing, fishing, NRA and fantasy football. Bryan loved traveling to the Caribbean with his wife and friends. He always had the next trip planned before the first trip was completed. Bryan was an avid Giants and Yankees fan and loved watching his boys play football and baseball.

Bryan loved deeply. He never wore his emotions on his sleeve and was a man of few words, but you knew if he loved you. Bryan loved playing video games with his boys and friends. He was ecstatic when he found out he was having boys! Bryan was employed by Hitachi Vantara.

Our family would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the many family and friends who visited him in his last days.

Calling hours will be Wednesday, May 12, from 5-8 p.m., at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making charitable contributions to Amy's Angels, a local organization near and dear to Bryan, Lindsey, Walker and Blake.

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

### East Hampton

#### Mary Catherine Hamel

Mary Catherine Hamel, 92, of East Hampton, died peacefully Saturday, April 24, at Chestelm Health and Rehabilitation in Moodus. Born April 21, 1929, in Plainfield, Vt., she was the daughter of the late Wayland and Albina (Buley) Hamel.

Mary grew up in Vermont and proudly served her country in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, where she worked as a clerk in the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. Mary retired from the U.S. Post Office, where she worked as a clerk and a sorter after 25 years.

Mary was a member of the 3rd Connecticut Regiment Ancient Fife and Drum Corps of East Hampton. She was an avid Hartford Whalers Fan, Boston Red Sox fan and New Britain Red Sox Fan. She enjoyed tag sale-ing, knitting and crocheting.

She is survived by her three daughters, Albina Wright (Dave) of Missouri, Tish Jacobson of East Hampton, Mary Frances Ballelli of Pennsylvania; a brother, Arnold Hamel of Arizona; a sister, Letitia Rydjeski of Vermont; four grandchildren, Michael Jacobson (Tammie), Keith Jacobson (Margo Ramsdell), Erika Williams (Todd), Vanessa Johnson; two step-grandchildren, Will Wright (Jessica), Dawn Perry; and 12 great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her brother, Anson Hamel.

The family would like to thank the entire staff of Chestelm for the loving care they gave to Mary.

A graveside service with military honors will be held Tuesday, May 18, at 2 p.m., in the Connecticut State Veterans Cemetery in Middletown. A memorial service will be announced at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to any veterans' charity of the donor's choice or to the Alzheimer's Association at 200 Executive Blvd. Southington, CT 06489.

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



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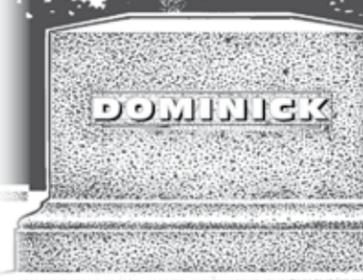
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**Obituaries continued****Hebron****Camille Grace Beck**

Camille Grace Beck, affectionately known as "Gramma," 81, previously of Glastonbury and Hebron, and Fort Myers, Fla., passed away peacefully after a courageous battle with Alzheimer's Saturday, April 24.



Camille was born and raised in Rome, N.Y., daughter of Leonard and Louise Carissimo, and was part of the large and loving Vaccaro family, who descended from Potenza, Italy. She was predeceased by her first husband, Jerald Gloss and their infant daughter Suzanne, and second husband of 48 years, Joseph Beck Jr.

Camille was a devoted wife, grandmother and great-grandmother. She was an avid golfer, reader, card player, knitter as well as the matriarch of the family and had an immense love of baking. No Christmas was ever without the vast selection of homemade cookies, pizzelles and pasticcetti.

Camille had a long career supporting high-level Hartford executives at companies such as Colt Firearms, Kaman Corporation and her much-loved tenure with the Hartford Whalers. She would generate hearty laughter each holiday season from her off-tune delivery of her "Five Golden Rings" line in the family's annual rendition of the Twelve Days of Christmas.

She is survived by her children, Melissa Rath and husband Howard of Hebron, Lonette Gloss of Hebron, and Joseph Beck III and wife Nicole of Smithfield, R.I.; her grandchildren, Kelsey and husband Aaron, Corey and husband Kevin, Alexandra, Samantha, Aidan, and William; her step-grandchildren, Jacob, Macey and Maggie; and her great-granddaughter Mackenzie (Corey and Kevin) as well as another great-granddaughter (Kelsey and Aaron) due in October. She also leaves behind her sister, Paula Borruso and husband Anthony of Fort Myers, Fla., and many beloved nieces, nephews and cousins.

Services will be private at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Douglas Library of Hebron, CT, 22 Main St., Hebron, CT 06248; the library can also be reached at 860-228-9312 or douglaslibrary.org.

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

**East Hampton****Willie C. Fuqua**

Willie C. Fuqua, beloved husband of Elizabeth Roberts Fuqua, passed away at home Saturday, May 1. He was predeceased by his first wife, Judith Page Fuqua.



Born in Soperton, Ga., on Dec. 12, 1936, to Hazel Cook Fuqua and Ira Fuqua, Willie graduated from Treutlen County Training School, attended Hampton University, and earned a bachelor's degree from South Carolina State University. He moved to Connecticut in 1956 where he later earned a master's degree in secondary education and music education from the University of Hartford.

Willie's 35-year career as music teacher at Riverview School, Middletown, created an impact on the lives of hundreds of students from kindergarten through 12th grade. He also taught at Greater Hartford Community College.

While living in East Hampton and Middle Haddam, Willie was an active member of the East Hampton Democratic Town Committee and served on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Willie used his music talent in extended areas. He was choir director at St. Andrew's Church in Meriden. He also directed the choir at Christ Episcopal Church in Middle Haddam for 35 years and continued afterwards as a choir member. Willie loved his Christ Church family.

Being a faithful member and volunteer at Christ Church since 1970, Willie served many years as a delegate to the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut, a delegate to the Middlesex Deanery, and served on the vestry at Christ Church.

Willie enjoyed much throughout his life. His family was of the utmost importance to him and he loved spending time with his children, Betty's children, extended family, and friends. He was a passionate supporter of University of Connecticut women's basketball team and was a 25-year season ticket holder to the University of Connecticut men's basketball games. Willie was a devoted fan of the New York Mets for 50 years. He also enjoyed reading, gardening, and

doing yard work.

Willie had many loved ones and dear friends. Mourning his loss are his wife, Elizabeth Fuqua; his children, Jennifer Fuqua (Michael) of Middletown, Sean Fuqua of Los Angeles, Dr. Jeanne Fuqua (Sherif) of New Haven, and Doris Farmer of Dublin, Ga. Also mourning his loss are Betty's sons, John Herbst and his daughter, Mira, of Adelaide, South Australia; and Peter Herbst (Hauns) of Boston. He leaves two special people, Margaret Zhang and Justina Ye, who entered his and Betty's lives 14 years ago.

Willie was predeceased by his sisters, Lois Smith and Iradell Carter, and by his brother, Richard Fuqua. He is survived by brothers and sisters, Gloria Eppinger, Henry L. Fuqua (Barbara), Gene Fuqua (Bertha), Charles Fuqua, Mary Warner (Thomas), Marian Ealey (Rod), Patricia Lovett (Colbert); and many nieces, nephews, grand-nieces and grand-nephews. Willie's Christ Church family was so loved by him and they will also miss him immensely.

Calling hours were at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Wednesday, May 5. Burial was private. A celebration of Willie's life will be held at a later date, following the CDC's COVID-19 guidelines, and will be announced in The Hartford Courant.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making donations to Christ Episcopal Church, Box 81, Middle Haddam CT 06456.

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

**Haddam Neck****Betty Alden James**

Betty Alden (Holmquist) James, 85, of Haddam Neck, went to be with Jesus Thursday, April 29. Betty was born Sept. 29, 1935, in Wethersfield, and moved to Haddam Neck as a child, where she enjoyed playing baseball in the fields, working at the Haddam Neck Fair and enjoying walks to Quarry Hill. She made many childhood friends in Haddam Neck, many whom she still kept in contact with.



Betty had a sense of adventure all of her life, living life to the fullest, and was always excited to try anything – from boogie-boarding to slacklining to rope-swinging to her annual sled-riding adventures in Maine. Her love of basketball started when she played in high school and continued through her life, and you may have heard her cheering for the women's UConn Huskies if you happened to drive by when they were playing.

Betty attended Middle Haddam School up through sixth grade and graduated from East Hampton High School in 1953. She graduated from Willimantic State Teachers College (now Eastern Connecticut State University) with a teaching degree and most recently was excited to return and tour the campus with a special friend. She began her career teaching on the Quonset Point naval base in Rhode Island. She then taught five years of kindergarten at Quidnesset Baptist in Rhode Island, and taught third-fifth grade at Fellowship Christian School in Middletown for 15 years. She loved substitute teaching at East Hampton Memorial School pre-k through third grade and taught well into her retirement years. Her students loved her and will always remember her as being a tough and fair mentor, full of compassion, laughter and so much love.

Betty was the widow of the late Pastor William James, and devoted herself to the work of God. She taught Sunday school (even battling with technology to teach on Zoom up through last week!). She was the choir director at East Hampton Bible Church and directed many cantatas there. She loved playing organ and piano in church, home, and anywhere one was available. She played piano most recently at Cornerstone Bible Church and looked forward to playing along with the worship band. Her outreach ministries included Second Chance Ministries in Rhode Island in the 1960s to her more recent work in Chatham Court Sunday school.

Her work for God didn't stay in the churches or even in the other organizations she was a part of. She was famous for her Bible verses written on index cards, leading prayer chains of people from all different churches, and, especially, her dynamic prayer list that almost everyone she knew was on. She loved the youth of Epoch Arts, and was an ardent supporter of all their events and programs. She was known for her encouraging words and wisdom to the youth and loved to work at their annual tag sale.

Betty leaves behind her sisters, Judy Holmquist and Barbara Hallberg and her brother-

in-law Milton Hallberg. She lost her only brother, Carl, in 1954. She had five children whom she loved and prayed for daily, Billy James and wife Lynn, Sharon Gilbert and husband Jeff, David James and wife Jody, Rebecca Atwood and husband Michael, and Elizabeth Namen and husband Omar. She was extremely proud to be Nana of 11 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. She was the beloved aunt and great-aunt to many nieces and nephews and honorary Nana or Aunt Betty to countless others. Her family will miss her scrapbooking, delicious jelly, her mittens and handmade Christmas and birthday presents. Her granddaughters loved making Christmas cookies with her every year and reading the Crippled Lamb.

Betty's favorite Bible verse was Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." While her family greatly mourns her passing, we are comforted in the knowledge that she is at peace and we know she is singing her favorite hymn, "It is Well with My Soul," with Jesus in Heaven.

Services will be held Saturday, May 15, at 1 p.m., at Haddam Neck Congregational Church, 408 Quarry Hill Rd, Haddam Neck (seating available indoors and outside). Masks and social distancing will be required.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Epoch Arts.

**Colchester****Kenneth Frank Verrill**

Kenneth Frank Verrill, 45, of Colchester, passed away in Farmington Friday, Feb. 19, due to multiple complications created by the devastating and rapid progression of leukemia, which he had battled for the last three years. He fought his best fight and beat some odds through his valiant journey, with that special sense of humor and optimism we all loved so much.



Born in Hartford on May 17, 1975, to Richard and Lynda (Nelkin) Verrill, Kenny grew up in Colchester and loved playing baseball and softball, where his talent shined throughout his life. For his last season in Babe Ruth, he was coached by his older brother, Kevin. For many years, Kenny worked for the family business known as Fenceman and Sons in Colchester. Most recently, he worked for Eagle Fence & Guardrail in Plainville, where he was a proud union member of LiUNA Local 611. Several years ago, Kenny found himself at a crossroads, which resulted in being incarcerated for a period of time. He worked to right his wrongs, and while there he made many meaningful and lasting friendships.

Kenny is remembered by many to have a strong happy spirit, was accepting of everyone, his great smile, conversations, and loved to make people laugh. To his family, Kenny was the sparkle in their eyes, the smile on their faces, and the glow in their hearts. Kenny gave the gift of life 15 years ago to his sister, Kelly, by donating stem cells to her when she also battled leukemia.

He will be sadly missed, but always remembered with love, by his devoted parents, Richard and Lynda; son, Kory; grandson, Ryder and his mother Samantha; brother Kevin Verrill, his children Kylee, Tanner, Hunter, their mother Sheryl, and great niece Paisley; sister, Kelly and Jim Martinez, children, Rick (Bink) and Dorothy; uncles and aunts, John and Deb Nelkin, Teri Davis and Vincent Savalle; special friends, Jill Bourassa, Patience Collins, Geno Caquette, Maria Balaban, and the Nelkin Road Nudniks; along with numerous other family members and friends.

He was predeceased by his special grandparents, Albert and Jane (Cummings) Verrill; and his two best friends, Austin Doyle, who also lost a battle to leukemia; and his well-loved Grandma Dot, whom he shared a special bond with.

Three words Kenny lived by: Trust. Strength. Optimism. Staff at UConn Jack Dempsey Hospital provided Kenny upstanding care with compassion, did their best along with Kenny to beat this and ensured he was comfortable.

Graveside funeral services will be held Saturday, May 15, at 11 a.m., at Linwood Cemetery, Linwood Avenue, Colchester.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations in his memory be made to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society ([www.lls.org](http://www.lls.org)) or Vilalobos Pitbull Rescue ([www.vrcpitbull.com](http://www.vrcpitbull.com)).

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

**Middletown****Paul Joseph Rebot**

Paul Joseph Rebot, born Sept. 22, 1945, passed away Sunday, April 11, at Englewood Community Hospital in Englewood, Fla.



He leaves behind his dedicated wife of 52 years, Carol Laude Rebot of Middletown; his son, Joseph Raymond Rebot and his wife Hilary Tanner Rebot. He also leaves behind his daughter, Bethanne Leokadia Rebot. He leaves behind Joseph and Hilary's daughters, Malia Carol Rebot of Southington and Aubrey Grace Rebot of Burlington. Also Paul leaves behind his daughter Bethanne Leokadia Rebot's children, Hannah Sage Konior and Gabriel Scott Konior.

Paul first started his educational career as a teacher in the Meriden school system. He then followed his teaching in the Middletown school system. He then trained to become a school administrator at Keigwin Middle School for many years. He then became vice principal of Woodrow Wilson Middle School. While being vice principal of Woodrow Wilson Middle School he also was the special education director for children with special needs.

He worked locally as president of the Middletown School Administrators of Middletown. He was vice president of the Connecticut Federation of School Administrators and the director of negotiations for many school systems across the state of Connecticut, dedicating his time and energy to negotiate contracts for many administrative contracts for many administrator locals statewide.

Paul also worked for the American Federation of School Administrators across the country, far and wide. He was tirelessly lobbied at the state capitol on behalf of educators fighting for education rights and bills being passed on behalf of all educators. He was on the current police headquarters building committee to be placed on Main Street in Middletown.

Paul was a dedicated basketball, softball, Little League, track and football coach through the years. He was well loved by administrators, teachers, educators, support staff, students, staff, and members of many of his athletic teams. He finished his career at Middletown Adult Education proudly. He will be sorely missed by all of those near and far. Paul and Carol especially enjoyed attending the Woodrow Wilson Basketball tournaments.

A memorial Mass will be held Saturday, May 8, at St. Mary's of Czestochowa at 11 a.m. Private graveside service to immediately follow at Calvary Cemetery.

**East Hampton****Bryan Peter Hebler**

Bryan Peter Hebler, 42, of East Hampton, passed away Friday, April 30, after a courageous eight-year battle with cancer. He was surrounded by his loving family.

Bryan is survived by his wife, Lindsey Balisano-Hebler, and their sons, Walker Patrick and Blake Thomas Hebler. He is also survived by his parents, Peter and Laraine Hebler; his brother, Jeffrey Hebler, sister-in-law, Staci Hebler and nephew, William Hebler; his sister, Lauren Hebler, her fiancé Kevin Hill and nephew Connor Hill and niece Kendall Hill; his father-in-law, Patrick Balisano; and his large extended family and friends who will miss him immensely.

Bryan was predeceased by his grandparents, Kenneth and Nancy Hebler, Henry and Barbara Higbee and mother-in-law and friend Annmarie Balisano.

Bryan was a loving, devoted husband and father, a caring and compassionate soul who loved skiing, snowboarding, golfing, fishing, NRA and fantasy football. Bryan loved traveling to the Caribbean with his wife and friends. He always had the next trip planned before the first trip was completed. Bryan was an avid Giants and Yankees fan and loved watching his boys play football and baseball.

Bryan loved deeply. He never wore his emotions on his sleeve and was a man of few words, but you knew if he loved you. Bryan loved playing video games with his boys and friends. He was ecstatic when he found out he was having boys! Bryan was employed by Hitachi Vantara.

Our family would like to extend our deepest  
*See Obituaries, page 29*



RHAM • RHAM

Cover Story • Cover

## Middle School Honor Roll

RHAM Middle School has announced its honor roll for the third quarter of the 2020-21 school year.

### High Honors

**Grade 8:** Amr Ahmed, Christopher Averso, Colby Bell, Elizabeth Borsh, Kaleigh Burgess, Leyah Butterfield, Eliza Erami, Emily Grillo, Izabella Henderson, Trevor Hooker, Rojas Huapaya, Kate Landry, Xavier Lizarraga, Danielle Lynch, Ella Mayo, Juliet McShane, Spencer Neale, Melanie Plausse, Conner Rabbitt, Caitlyn Russo, Oliver Sarosh, Riley Sawyer, Lydia Smedley, Frank Teodosio, Troy Thibdeau, Graysen Van Dyne, Isabelle Wiktorowicz, Benjamin Zigmund.

**Grade 7:** Brooke Arcari, Ellie Ballard, Meadow Banta, Finn Blake, Natalie Costello, Brenna D'Amico, Lucy DeCorleto, Maeve DeDonato, Allison DiBuono-Lemke, Justin Dooley, Patrick Dowd, Mikayla Erba, Luke Farrington, Shekinah Fashola, Liam Galligan, Logan Giannelli, Julia Gorborino, Brooke Gorgone, Clara Grove, Jake Guerriero, Ella Hatzikostas, Kaitlin Hobin, Zoe Jacques, Aubree Jordan, Inara Kermalli, Tate Knox-Siliva, Brody Kokofski, Mason Kompanik, Nina Krawczyk, Isabelle Kreamer, Aria Lagace, Aidan McDonald, Christopher Medina, Emily Migliaro, Addison Mike, Reese Montstream, Grace Moulton, Abigail Nalette, Trevin Nembhard, Carmela Orfitelli, Honorah Plourde, Nolan Plourde, Audrey Roberts, Paige Rosa, Landon Roy, William Ryan, Evan Shamber, Isabelle Sobieralski, Talula Stomberg, Emily Suroviak, Liam Tarallo, Julia Teodosio, Justin Tyrol, Aimee Viele, Kimee Viele, Lillian Worthen, Cecilia Zito.

### Honors

**Grade 8:** Carys Akerlind, Luke Auteri, Jack Ayer, Caden Bellmore, Stella Boutillier, Cullen Brodeur, James Bucior, Juliette Butler, James Carroll, James Celio, Haley Cone, Rachel

Cook, Casey Cooke, Anthony Correira, Penelope Curran, Taylor Cyr, Geoffrey Davis, Corey Dunion, Lilyana Farrelly, Sean Fenton, Natalie Groves, Giulia Gugliotti, Evelyn Gutierrez, Isabella Hustus, John Hutton, Caitlin Johnson, Campbell Kelly, Brianna Kjellquist, JayCee Lanagan-Rekas, Edward Lavioe, Scott Leonard, Gavin Lim, Cara Magro, Jared McHugh, Jake McLaughlin, Lexie McLeod, Arianna Metzger, Jordyn Miller, Adam Nardone, Jack Olbrias, Jackson Oliveira, Abigail Parks, Ella Parsadanov, Lauren Peters, Allison Petraitis, Madison Pinto, Alison Polochanin, Jayson Quick, Emma Renaldi, Ava Rojas, Benjamin Ryan, Caitlin Rydel, Jake Sauer, Emma Skoog, Maria Skorski, Jake Soboleski, Eli Spinelli, Evan St. Amand, Matthew Stipanov, Mya Strumskas, Jillian Sullivan, Skylar Swanson, Skylar Szeps, Samantha Thompson, Neve Tyler, Annalise Tyminski, Grace Veltri, Emerson Waldron, Jacob Wazer, Robert West, Peyton Winman.

**Grade 7:** Zoe Albert, Gage Alos, Jack Anderson, Gianna Assunto, Ethan Boisvert, Aubrey Brainard, Emily Brauer, Maxwell Brophy, Hunter Brown, Wyatt Cawley, Alejandro Chalfant, Carly Charron, Victoria Ciesla, Jacob Covell, Cayden Crawford, Audrey Eckert, Sadie Egan, Harley Emmons, Fiona Evans, Leighton Fenn, Anthony Fushino, Daren Gagnon, Nicole Goldstein, Tucker Haines, William Kemp, Alexander Kowalski, Madeline Kryjak, Kenna MacDonald, Emerson Melquist, Jack Meola, Julian Monroe, Mark Morris, Reagan Pancio, Sophia Perkins, Jake Pinkham, Gavin Richards, Aaron Rodriguez, Kaylee Sandhu, Jason Schattle-Champagne, Vaughan Scorsio, Alexandra Slyk, Maia Stock, Jordan Summerer, Zoe Syme, Anna Tartaglione, Michael Thatford, Brady Topulos, Helena Turk, Makayla Walker, Meredith Weir, Cash Wilson, Marina Wood, Gianni Wursthorn, Daniel Yeomans, Dylan Young, Lilah Zem.

Cover Story • Cover

### ★ RHAM Budget cont. from page 1

school training and locker rooms, will be completed next year, he said.

Leslie said timeframes for completing the various projects will depend on the availability of parts, which vendors are running into issues

finding. Scheduling will also depend upon when school is in session or students are on breaks.

"We're getting everything started," Leslie said. "We'll schedule them as quickly as we can."

## Obituaries continued

### ★ Obituaries cont. from page 27

gratitude to the many family and friends who visited him in his last days.

Calling hours will be Wednesday, May 12, from 5-8 p.m., at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making

charitable contributions to Amy's Angels, a local organization near and dear to Bryan, Lindsey, Walker and Blake.

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



Regional • Regional

# Chatham Health Gets \$60K for Vaccination Education

by Jack Lakowsky

Vicki Han, public health nurse for the Chatham Health District, said Monday state funds recently awarded to the regional health district will be used to help educate the public on the COVID-19 vaccines, and the vaccination process.

"The funding will be used to get to those hard-to-reach folks, to educate on the vaccine and to lessen vaccine hesitancy," Han told the *Riverast* in a Monday phone call.

The Chatham Health District serves as the municipal health department for the *Riverast* towns of Colchester, East Hampton, Hebron, Marlborough and Portland, as well as East Had-dam.

Han said hesitancy in the area is not quite as bad as elsewhere, but that Chatham is finding "pockets" of wary locals.

Han said hesitancy is not the only factor causing people to delay their vaccination. She said some are still having trouble navigating the state's online Vaccine Administration Management System (VAMS).

In addition, Han said public health districts "haven't yet fully distinguished if there are a large number of homebound individuals" who still need a vaccine. She said so far, a small number of homebound people have been lo-

cated in Chatham.

All the above, and more, are people who Chatham is going to try to reach with the state Department of Public Health's \$60,000 Vaccine Equity Partnership Funding (VEPF) grant. In an email, Chatham Health Director Russell Melmed said the money will be used over four months to conduct intensive vaccine equity outreach work.

Melmed wrote the money is timely, as demand at large public vaccine clinics has subsided, and that Chatham needs to shift focus to targeting harder-to-reach groups with community-based pop-up clinics.

Han said Chatham will look to hire one or two part time outreach specialists.

"Because misinformation is out there, a good solid education is what we want to keep putting out," Han said.

Han echoed Melmed, saying demand at Chatham's clinics recently came to a halt. She said 300-dose clinics have dwindled to as a low 20 doses given.

However, Han also said one upcoming Chatham clinic has around 300 signed up.

"We're just taking it week-to-week," she said.

Han said people are misinformed largely through social media, but also through person-

### ★ Zoning Reform cont. from page 1

policy.

Hill said more than 90% of the state's residential zones allow by right single-family housing, not requiring much of a review process.

Hill said developments of multifamily homes, which tend to be more affordable than single-families, face extensive review processes in most towns, and are often restricted.

"When you restrict those, you restrict affordability," Hill said.

Hill is a coordinator for Desegregate CT, a research and advocacy coalition that meets with state lawmakers to lobby for zoning and land use reform.

Members of Desegregate include the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, the Connecticut Sierra Club, the National Organization of Minority Architects, the Hebron Coalition of Diversity and Equity, and the Town of Mansfield.

In all, 68 organizations make up Desegregate, Hill said.

Desegregate CT helped draft the state's Senate Bill 1024, which seeks to remediate the problems of exclusionary zoning, increase the state's affordable housing supply and to help integrate Connecticut's highly segregated cities and towns.

Hill said Connecticut is one of the most segregated states in the country, divided between majority-minority cities and mostly white suburbs. He said 70% of the state's Black population lives in 17 of its 169 towns.

Hill said Fairfield County is the single most segregated region in the nation.

Hill said this is no accident. He said throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century, state governments created residential segregation through racist policies and redlining.

He said such poor policy has since been outlawed, but that the negative results of this racism exist to this day, and that municipalities have continued to perpetuate this inequitable home market.

"Black people have lost out on decades of home equity appreciation," said Hill. "Black people were denied the 1950s housing boom that white people had."

Hill said this prevents Black and Brown people from accumulating generational wealth.

Hill said the Fair Housing Act of 1968 helped this somewhat, but that towns continue to entrench wealth with exclusionary zoning.

Hill explained that the phrase "exclusionary zoning" encompasses land use practices that limit housing supply, drive up home prices, block affordable housing developments like apartment buildings, set unreasonably high development standards, require a high minimum acreage and enforce onerous review policies.

Consequences of exclusionary zoning including low housing supply with high prices and preventing low to middle-income people, especially Black and Brown people, from moving to higher-income towns. This, Hill said, is how the state has become so segregated.

Hill said SB 1024 will improve housing equity, the state's housing market, and will help the environment by reducing deforestation for new homes. The bill was recently voted out of

committee and has received a report from the state's Office of Legislative Research.

Hill said if passed, the bill would enact modest changes, including easing the process of adding accessory dwelling units (in-law apartments) to homes, reducing parking mandates and creating a model code for zoning.

One change the bill proposes would be to eliminate the term "character" from all zoning policy language. He said in theory, to preserve "character" is to conserve an aesthetic, but instead is often used to support biased opinions and not as a lens to features of a given development.

The bill proposes replacing "character" with "architectural site standards and historical context." He says this is a more explicit standard by which to judge developments.

Hill said overall, the public is far more attuned to redlining and exclusionary zoning issues.

Hill said, with the town's relatively diverse housing stock and willingness to help alleviate the state's low housing supply, Portland could be a model for zoning reform.

Hill said in Desegregate's surveys, 71% of respondents replied in-favor of SB-1024, with 100% of young people approving.

### Local Headway

Development Planner Mary Dickerson said Portland officials have been discussing affordable housing since 2006, when the Board of Selectmen at the time wanted to provide housing opportunities to low and middle-income people while retaining the integrity of the town's single-family homes.

The resulting regulation, Dickerson said, allowed in-law apartments by right.

There was also an allowance made for converting some of Portland's very old, very large homes to multi-unit properties. This added housing diversity while preserving and making productive aging giants that many could not afford to live in otherwise.

Dickerson said in 2002, there were 269 affordable units in town, about 7% of the town's stock. That figure has since risen to 349, about 8.6%, up 29% in about 20 years.

Dickerson added that the town's water and sewer service allows for denser populations.

Dickerson said although Portland is in a good place to do so, meeting the state's mandate that 10% of a town's housing supply must be affordable will still be a challenge.

"On paper at least, we're doing a good job," Dickerson said. "The demand for rentals is there."

Dickerson said earners of all levels want the same things of where they live; safety, good schools, a sense of community and quality town amenities like libraries and trails.

Dickerson said a common misconception is that adding rental units lowers people's home values, when in fact they have a neutral or positive affect on local home values, a point Hill also emphasized.

"The presence of multifamily homes is a sign of revitalization," Hill said

to-person conversation.

Han said conspiracies surrounding the vaccine have damaged the effort.

"It's very hard to bust myths," she said.

Han said distributing information will likely be a multipronged effort, with use of social media, local housing authorities, brochures, local churches and door-knocking.

"In our grant proposal, we said we need to reach people with diverse needs," Han said.

In a press release, Gov. Ned Lamont said the state Department of Public Health selected 27 towns and regional health departments to receive shares of more than \$13 million in federal grant money.

Connecticut received the money to ensure underserved communities receive vaccines equitably, according to the statement.

Other activities funded include employer canvassing, calling and texting, peer-to-peer training, public service announcements, train-the-trainer programs and canvassing immigrant communities. The money can also be used to support transportation services, vaccinating homebound and homeless individuals and to fund fixed site or mobile vaccination operations.

As of April 29, more than 1.87 million Con-

necticut residents have received at least one shot of a COVID-19 vaccine. Over 1.32 million individuals have received either both doses of the Pfizer/Moderna vaccines or the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

More than 78% of people 65 years of age and above in Connecticut, considered the most vulnerable to severe illness or death from COVID-19, are fully vaccinated, according to Lamont's statement.

For more on Connecticut's COVID-19 vaccine program, visit [ct.gov/covidvaccine](http://ct.gov/covidvaccine).

## Hey, Take a Hike!

All are invited to join members of the Meshomasic Hiking Club on one of their upcoming hikes throughout the *Riverast* area.

Hikes are offered year-round each week, both on weekends and mid-week. A list of May and June hikes – including hike leaders' names and phone numbers – is at [meshomasicclub.org](http://meshomasicclub.org).

The Meshomasic Hiking Club is a member-supported volunteer organization. Visit the website for more information or call Diane at 860-985-1861.

# LEGALS

**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 darce@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

**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON  
LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Regular Meeting at 7 pm on May 10, 2021 via Zoom meeting (see Town website for details) to consider the following:

Application ZBA-21-005: Philip Rea, 63 Blue Heron Drive, to reduce the side setback from 25' to 23' to construct a 12' x 16' deck Map 24/Block 64/Lot 20-11  
Matthew Walton, Chairman

2TB 4/30, 5/7

**LEGAL NOTICE  
TOWN OF ANDOVER**

The Town of Andover is looking for volunteers to serve as Regular Members and Alternate Members of the following Land Use Commissions: Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission, Planning and Zoning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals.

Please submit your letter of interest to the Building and Land Use Department at 17 School Road, Andover, CT 06232 or buildingadmin@andoverct.org.

2TB 4/30, 5/7

**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON,  
CONNECTICUT  
INLAND WETLANDS & WATERCOURSES  
AGENCY WETLANDS AGENT APPROVAL**

Pursuant to CGS Section 22a-42a(c)(2) the following application has been approved by the duly authorized agent of the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency of the Town of East Hampton for an activity within the Upland Review Area.

**Number:** IW-21-010  
**Applicant:** Sipaphay Sundara  
**Location:** 3 Old Skinner Street  
**Activity:** Install a 15'x30' pool and a 5'x7' deck in Upland Review Area  
Jeffrey M. Foran  
Duly Authorized Agent  
Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency

1TB 5/7

**COLCHESTER CONSERVATION  
COMMISSION  
WETLANDS AGENT APPROVAL**

Pursuant to CGS Section 22a-42a(c)(2) the following application has been approved by the duly authorized agent of the Conservation Commission of the Town of Colchester.

**Application Number:** WA2021-368  
**Applicant:** Russell Kowalski  
**Location:** 31 Lakeview Dr.  
**Activity:** Deck w/in URA  
Jay Gigliotti  
Authorized Agent

1TB 5/7

**LEGAL NOTICE  
MARLBOROUGH ZONING  
BOARD OF APPEALS  
PUBLIC HEARING**

The Marlborough Zoning Board of Appeals will hold the following Teleconference Public Hearing on Wednesday, May 12 at 7:00 P.M. ZBA members, the Applicants and Public will utilize Teleconference line.

**Teleconference Number 877 – 304 – 9269 / Access Code 423694#**

APPLICATION #ZBA-2-21 – Kyle & Stephanie Smigala (Applicant/Property Owner), 34 James Lane is seeking variance of Article Three A.1, Minimum Requirements, Article Three A.3 Conformity of Buildings & Land, Article Three A.5 Reduction of Lot Areas or Minimum Required Yards, Article Three A.9 Minimum Required Yards, Article Six D. 2.c Rear Yard Setback, in order to construct a pool with a Rear Yard Setback of 18 feet where 50 feet is required.

Interested parties can review the applications on the Town of Marlborough Website and submit testimony at the public hearing. Written testimony can be sent to Building@marlboroughct.net prior to the meeting.

Alan Miller/ ZBA Chair

2TB 4/30, 5/7

**TOWN OF PORTLAND  
INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION  
LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION**

At the May 4, 2021 regular meeting, the Inland Wetlands Commission took the following action:

Approved Application #20-04: 183 Great Hill Pond Road. Map 35 Lot 66-1. Zone RR. Request to locate proposed well, driveway, porch/deck, and drainage piping within the 100' upland review area for construction of a proposed single family dwelling. Application and property of Carmelo Lombardo.

Dated in Portland, CT. this 5th day of May 2021  
Richard Morin, Chairman  
Inland Wetlands Commission

1TB 5/7

**LEGAL NOTICE  
TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON**

At the regular meeting of the East Hampton Town Council held Tuesday, April 27, 2021, an ordinance amending Chapter 45 Finance and Budget; Article IV Budget Meetings and Referendum; Section 45-10 of the Code of the Town of East Hampton was adopted. The ordinance is available in the Office of the East Hampton Town Clerk and shall take effect 20 days after publication.

**EAST HAMPTON TOWN COUNCIL**  
James Brown, Chairman  
Dean Markham, Vice Chairman  
Tim Feegel  
Derek Johnson  
Barbara Moore  
Mark Philhower  
Kevin Reich

1TB 5/7

**COLCHESTER CONSERVATION  
COMMISSION  
WETLANDS AGENT APPROVAL**

Pursuant to CGS Section 22a-42a(c)(2) the following application has been approved by the duly authorized agent of the Conservation Commission of the Town of Colchester.

**Number:** WA2021-369  
**Applicant:** David Kozak  
**Location:** 151 Pickeral Lake Rd.  
**Activity:** Pool & Landscaping within URA  
Jay Gigliotti  
Authorized Agent

1TB 5/7

**LIQUOR PERMIT  
Notice of Application**  
This is to give notice that, I,  
**PATRICIA VALE**  
110 BLUE HILLS DR  
GUILFORD, CT 06437-3642  
Have filed an application placarded 05/06/2021 with the Department of Consumer Protection for a RESTAURANT LIQUOR PERMIT for the sale of alcoholic liquor on the premises at:  
**9 ROSE HILL RD**  
**PORTLAND, CT 06480-1247**  
The business will be owned by:  
**NEXUS FOOD & WINE LLC**  
Entertainment will consist of: Acoustics (not amplified), Disc Jockeys, Karaoke, Live Bands  
Objections must be filed by: 06-17-2021  
PATRICIA VALE

2TB 5/7, 5/14

**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 April 28, 2021 via ZOOM to consider the following:

IW-21-006: Grasshopper Landscaping, LLC., 41 Meeks Point Road, to install a paver walkway and steps on south side of house, install a 10' x 10' gazebo with crushed stone base, install stepping stones under deck to fence, install (2) retaining walls with steps, install a 20' x 4' paver walkway from garage door to deck steps and to install a stone pillar fence along Meeks Point Road. Work is within the Upland Review Area. Map 10A/Block 83/Lot 8. Approved

IW-21-007: Po's Rice and Spice, 97 Main St., install 2 concrete pads, a stone patio, fencing, gravel parking lot and greenery in the Upland Review Area Map 06A/Block 57/Lot 1A. Approved

IW-21-008: Long Hill Estates, LLC, Long Hill Road, for an 8- lot residential subdivision within an upland review area. Map 06/ Block 12/ Lot 8. Approved  
Jeffrey M. Foran, Chairman

1TB 5/7

**Town of Portland  
Notice of Referendum  
Monday May 10, 2021**

Pursuant to Chapter 12, Section 1201, of the Charter of the Town of Portland and Chapter 90 and 152, of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut, as amended. Notice is hereby given to the electors and the citizens qualified to vote in Town Meetings of the Town of Portland that a Referendum will be held on May 10, 2021 between the hours of 6:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. for the purpose of voting on the adoption of a budget for the Town of Portland.

"SHALL THE GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET AS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AT ITS MEETING OF APRIL 7, 2021, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022, AMOUNT BEING \$36,151,533, BE ADOPTED?"

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Notice is hereby given that the location of the polling place is:  
Portland Middle School  
93 High Street  
Portland, Connecticut

Absentee ballots are available at the Town Clerk's Office at 33 East Main Street, Portland, Connecticut during business hours.

Absentee ballots will be counted at the polls. Optical Scan Voting Tabulators will be used. The polls will be opened at six o'clock in the morning (6 A.M.) and will remain open until eight o'clock in the evening (8 P.M.).

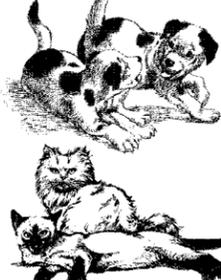
ATTEST: Ryan J. Curley  
Town Clerk  
Dated at Portland, Connecticut this 8th day of April, 2021.

2TB 4/30, 5/7

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WANTED TO BUY**

**BUYING ANTIQUES & OLD STUFF.** Costume jewelry, pottery, bottles, crocks, jugs, toys/games, glassware, silver plated items, signs, typewriters, sewing machines, bar items, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, oil lamps, knives, hunting, fishing, military, Masonic, fire dept. and more. Donald Roy 860-874-8396.



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**RivereastNewsBulletin**

**"Pet of the Week"**

**Howie** is a 7-8 year old bully breed mix (maybe some American Bulldog), who weighs about 80 lbs and has medium energy. Howie loves everyone, takes treats very gently, enjoys his kongs filled with yummy surprises and loves his back and belly scratched. Howie is a pleasure to walk and will trot right along with a toy in his mouth. Because of Howie's size and strength, Howie needs a home that has big dog experience. Dog saavy kids over 12 years old for Howie.

**Theo** is a 16 month old Boston Terrier who weighs 29 lbs. This handsome boy is tall and leggy like a super model and isn't afraid to stand up and check out what's on the counter. He knows basic commands but needs a family that has patience and is willing to continue working on his training. He loves to play with toys and go on long walks but also enjoys snuggles on the couch! Theo would prefer an ADULT ONLY home. Theo has been good with friendly dogs he has met so far.

**For more information on adopting CATS or DOGS, call 860-569-0722**  
**VOLUNTEERS & FOSTER HOMES NEEDED - For information call: 860-569-0722**

**Protectors of Animals, Inc.** A non-profit, all volunteer animal rescue organization, rescuing abandoned, abused and impounded cats and dogs. Check us out on our website - [www.poinc.org](http://www.poinc.org)  
144 Main St., Unit O, E. Hartford, CT 06118

# EMPLOYMENT

**PT AND FT POSITIONS FOR EXPERIENCED, RELIABLE AND CARING DAYCARE AND PRESCHOOL TEACHERS.** Please call Belltown Discovery Center in East Hampton 860-267-0303 for more details.

**GLASTONBURY PIZZA HOUSE NEEDS COUNTER HELP, EXPERIENCED INSIDE HELP AND DRIVERS.** Please come in to fill out an application, 30C Hebron Ave., Glastonbury. 860-368-7916 John.

**COME JOIN OUR AWESOME DENTAL TEAM!** Modern, progressive, family, cosmetic, and prevention orientated 2 doctor practice. Open 6 days and 2 nights. Responsibilities include answering phones, making financial arrangements, scheduling appointments and helping us deliver topnotch customer service to our patients in a safe environment. Part time hours include two evenings per week and alternating Saturdays. Dentrix and dental experience preferred. If you are a compassionate and responsible individual who would like to join our super friendly family please apply to Indeed or mail your resume to P.O. Box 193, Colchester, CT 06415 or email to Thecdg@sbglobal.net.

**ANGELO'S BAKERY HELP WANTED FOR CUSTOMER SERVICE.** Our hours of operation are Tuesday-Saturday 7-3:30 and Sunday 7-1. If you are available any of these hours come and fill out an application. Also need dishwasher. No phone applications accepted. Apply at Angelo's Bakery, 32 Halls Hill Road, Colchester, CT

**SEWING ASSISTANT** - part time position available immediately in my drapery workroom located in Haddam. Position may become full time in September if that is wanted. Sewing experience is required, will train the right person. NON SMOKER. Call 860-306-4252 Susan

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

**FT WORK AVAILABLE FOR EXPERIENCED CONSTRUCTION WORKER** for new home construction. Must have own transportation. Call Michael 860-302-7935

**SKILLED CARPENTER WANTED FOR BUSY PROPERTY MANAGEMENT CO.** 3-5 YEARS EXPERIENCE. Must have reliable transportation. \$18-\$22 per hour depending on experience. contact: JOHNIV@ADVANCECO.NET

**TREE CREW MEMBER WANTED** small, well established tree company, looking for 1 more crew member. Good pay, paid vacation, retirement plan. Drug free. CALL 228-7297

**WELDER/FABRICATOR:** Custom Sheet Metal Fabrication, light structural, min 5-10 yrs exp & SHEET METAL MECHANICS, APPRENTICES & HELPERS: Steady work, good benefits. Call for interview. 860-828-3762

**PART-TIME OFFICE HELP NEEDED.** Possibility of full-time. Computer knowledge is a must. Quickbooks a plus. Call 860-295-9566

**QUARRY RIDGE GOLF COURSE IN PORTLAND IS NOW HIRING ALL POSITIONS.** Head chef, bartenders, waitstaff, kitchen staff, line cooks, grounds crew, customer relations, and more. PT/ FT flexible positions. Please call 860-788-2845 or email qrgolfpro@gmail.com

**SHEET METAL MECHANICS, APPRENTICES & HELPERS:** Steady work, good benefits. Call for interview. 860-828-3762

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

**Production Worker Wanted**

**Part time, all shifts. Must be 18.**

**Apply at MPS Plastics, 351 N. Main Street, Marlborough, CT.**

RES-7-21

**NOW HIRING FOR THE 2021 SEASON**

**Pro Shop Counter Staff**  
**Outside Operations (Cart Attendants and Starters)**  
**Greens Maintenance Crew**  
**Line and Prep Cooks, Dishwashers, and Front of House staff**  
**Snack Bar Attendants**

Must be reliable, friendly, and hospitality oriented.

Applications are available at On the Rocks Restaurant or in the Pro Shop  
1 Hopyard Road, East Haddam, CT  
Candidates may also submit a resume to [hr@sandri.com](mailto:hr@sandri.com)

RES-7-21

# EMPLOYMENT

## TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAMWORK

### C.N.A Senior Living CNA in Hebron CT

Colebrook Village – FT and PT positions are available for all shifts!! Must be compassionate, committed to resident center quality care, a team player and have fun while providing the highest level of hospitality in any senior living. This community has been COVID free and remains so!! Must have a current Certified Nursing Assistant Certificate in accordance with state requirements. Please email: [kcifaldi@colebrookvillage.com](mailto:kcifaldi@colebrookvillage.com)

## TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAMWORK

### Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Assisted Living

Colebrook Village – Looking for an LPN that wants to join a dynamic, talented, and dedicated team. Duties will include but are not limited to the following: providing care to our residents, speaking with physicians, families & supervising the C.N.A's. Must like to have fun at work. FT & PT, 2nd and 3rd shifts available. Please email: [kcifaldi@colebrookvillage.com](mailto:kcifaldi@colebrookvillage.com)

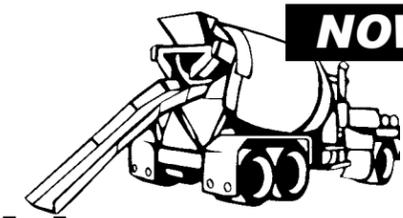
Email your classified line ads to [sandy@glcitizen.com](mailto:sandy@glcitizen.com) & call 860.633.4691 to pay with Mastercard or Visa

## WE ARE HIRING FULL-TIME MECHANIC

Must have small engine experience, your own tools, and the ability to lift 100 lbs. This is a full-time, 40+ hours per week job with uniforms, medical insurance & a 401k.

**TO APPLY:**  
Call Tony or Cody at Gano's Power Equipment  
**860-537-3431**

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CT LIC# 0648345

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|---|--|



Website: [promoldplastics.com/general-application/](http://promoldplastics.com/general-application/)  
91 Lower Main Street, Portland, CT

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# REAL ESTATE

## RENTALS

**GLASTONBURY CENTER – 2 Bdrm \$1,290 Inc. Heat / Hot water.** Excellent condition. Large 2 bdrm; Lvg room; 1 bath; large kitchen with dishwasher, hardwood floors. Private parking lot; laundry in building; large storage area. Heat and hot water included. Perfect for someone looking for a well-kept apartment. \$1,290/mo. 860-798-7403.

**GLASTONBURY SECOND FLOOR BARN FOR RENT** for storage and yard storage. For details call 860-368-1681

**GLASTONBURY OAK ST. AREA 4 ROOMS,** 1 bath, heat, appliances, 1st floor, large yard. Parking + storage \$1,195. per month + sec. deposit 860-342-1023

## VACATION RENTALS

**CHARLESTOWN BEACH, RI -** All the amenities of home. Large screen porch, outside deck with gas grill, cable TV/Wifi, very private, large lot, 5-min. to beach, sleeps 6. Renovated bathroom. 860-306-3850, leave message. Dogs allowed.

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RivereastNewsBulletin

## Duplex Condominium FOR SALE BY OWNER



**57 Flatbrook, East Hampton • Asking \$169,900**  
House is located on a dead end road. Set back in secluded acres just steps from the airline trail. Home is move-in ready. Newer installed wood floors greet you throughout the first floor. Updated Full and Half bath, newer stainless steel appliances new hot water heater. Large master bedroom with double closets of which one is a walk in. Addition space available in the lower level with the convenience of a full walk out. Please do a drive by the property before scheduling a walk-through due to Covid also secure mortgage pre-qualification prior.  
**PLEASE CALL 860-670-0368**

## HOUSING DISCRIMINATION IS ILLEGAL For Help Call 888-247-4401

If anyone refused to rent to you because of your source of income, race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, religion, marital status, age, disability or because you have children, you may have been the victim of illegal housing discrimination. Contact the Connecticut Fair Housing Center.



## YOUR AD SHOULD BE HERE!

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



### Penfield Hill, Portland – \$334,900

Ca. 1827 Federal Farmhouse on spacious 1.9 acre corner lot in beautiful Penfield Hill location! This 3-4 bedroom 8+room Federal farmhouse boasts 4 fireplaces, wide board oak floors, original windows & doors, plus all updated utilities, kitchen & baths. Includes 2 car garage & workshop/studio/barns, private enclosed stone patio.

**Margaret McCutcheon Faber**  
**860-301-5856**  
TOWN & COUNTRY REALTORS

## NEW LISTING!



### 87 Bartlett St., Portland • \$600,000

Gorgeous 4 bed/4 bath colonial set on 5.3 acres with a rich history! Drive down the brand new paved mountain-laurel lined driveway to your oasis. Beautiful grand foyer and elegant glass French doors throughout first floor. Kitchen has granite countertops and a brand new LG refrigerator. Listen to the birds or have a luncheon on the 3-season, screened-in, fully furnished sun porch! Three story staircases to walk-up open attic. Wood floors, walk-in closets and a plethora of storage space throughout. This move-in ready home and property are truly one of a kind! 3-car garage/2-story barn for many uses. Play in the flat yards, grow your own vegetables in a large fenced-in garden, pick your own blueberries, tap your own maple trees, raise animals, or use personal walking/hiking trails out to your own streams and pond. The in-ground pool is just simply luxurious- new filter and pool cover. So many activities to enjoy on your own property! Additionally, a brand new washer and dryer installed within. Furnace and hot water heater both updated in 2017.

**Inquire to schedule your walk through, call or text Matt at (860) 559-6621**



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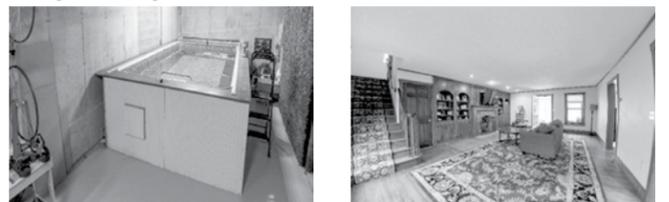
Get your **FREE** price analysis by texting “value” to **860.300.3861**

**BOYDEN Real Estate CO** 232 S. Main Street Colchester, CT 06415

## NEW LISTING! 180 Middle Haddam Rd., Portland



Set back off the country road you will find this beautiful 5+ Bedrooms/3.5 Bathrooms Colonial that has everything you want & need, plus more! This unique property has 4065 square feet of Living space, 3 car garage, and an additional 465 square foot living area in the basement which has 12 foot ceilings along with an indoor pool. Yes, this property has an indoor pool! The large open space Bonus Area, has its own separate entrance & full bathroom and is perfect for an in-law suite, college students private area or whatever you can imagine. The Master suite has plenty of space, with a walk-in closet and gorgeous Master Bathroom. The kitchen has granite countertops, custom cabinets and the Living Room and the Family Room both have fireplaces and plenty of space to enjoy with family and friends throughout the year. The four seasons room is another spot to just sneak off to and take in the sunlight and relax. The outdoor area consists of a patio with stamped concrete, deck, pool, hot tub and your own soccer field in the backyard with plenty of lighting to enjoy throughout the night. Offered at \$599,900



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Garden Walls	Brick / Bluestone	Hydroseeding	Weeding / Pruning	Spring / Fall Cleanup	Stump Removal
Steps / Repairs	Relevel / Rebase	Grading Yard Drains	Mulching / Edging	Organic Fertilizing	Bush Removal

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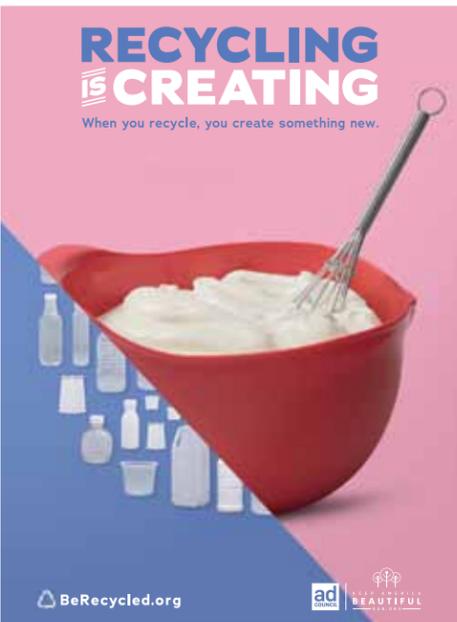
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