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# News Bulletin

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Volume 45, Number 33

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

August 6, 2021



A fundraiser next Friday, Aug. 13, will benefit longtime Colchester firefighter Matt O'Connor, who was badly injured in a June motorcycle crash.

## Fundraiser to Benefit Beloved Firefighter

by Steve Goode

Matt O'Connor is a big guy, standing at 6-feet, one-inch tall and about 300 pounds. And he's got a big heart to match when it comes to helping others in need.

"That comes from my family, both my mother and father were those kinds of people," said O'Connor. "You don't help people out and think about what you are going to get in return. It doesn't matter if you know them or don't know them, if they're rich or they're poor."

But now O'Connor, 38 and a Colchester native who graduated from Bacon Academy, is starting to learn about the other side of the equation, as his family in the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Department steps up to help him in a time of great need.

O'Connor, a 24-year member of the department, was badly injured in June when his motorcycle collided with a truck near his home as he returned from a ride to benefit a New Haven firefighter killed in the line of duty and another firefighter who was injured in the same incident.

The incident has left the construction worker immobilized and unable to return to work for an undetermined period of time. O'Connor declined to discuss the specific nature of his injuries, citing pending litigation.

Since then, his friends in the fire department have started a GoFundMe page that has raised more than \$15,000 so far. Nearly two dozen of them also showed up at O'Connor's house last weekend and installed a handicapped ramp. And next they will be hosting a spaghetti dinner fundraiser for him on Friday, Aug. 13, at the firehouse at 52 Old Hartford Rd.

"I'm incredibly blessed. I can't truly express

it in words," O'Connor said. "There's times when I feel like my fire department family has been more supportive than my family."

Kaitlyn Standish, who has been at the heart of the effort and calls O'Connor her adopted big brother, said helping him out when he's down was a no-brainer.

"We wanted to step up because he'd do the same for us," said Standish, 25 and a member of the department for 11 years.

Standish said ticket sales for the spaghetti dinner have been going well and that the firehouse should be able to accommodate everyone who wants to eat there or order meals to go. The event, which will take place from 4 to 7 p.m., will also feature a raffle that will include gift cards and gift baskets donated by local businesses, she said.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids. The dinner includes spaghetti, salad and bread. Tickets will be available at the door.

O'Connor, who is expecting a child later this summer with his girlfriend Jenn Clemons, said the fact that his fellow fire department members were those who came to his aid after the crash "was a terrible experience" because he never wanted one of them to have to "scrape me off the pavement or pull me from a house."

"That's my job," said O'Connor, who plans to attend the supper.

And once he gets back on his feet, O'Connor said his job will be to repay those who helped him when he was down.

"When I get better, I want to do a better job as a person," he said. "I see it as a second chance to be even better."

## Hebron Sues Resident Over Zoning Violations

by Sloan Brewster

The Town of Hebron is suing one of its residents, following ongoing complaints from neighbors.

Town Manager Andrew Tierney said the town has taken Wayne Pouncey, owner of 648 East St., to court for not complying with local zoning regulations and moving forward with projects at the property without the appropriate permits.

Tierney, who said the situation has been going on for two years, said neighbors have called Town Hall to complain of trailers on the property, that he said, the homeowner has brought in under cover of night and also that a foundation had been poured yet no permit was issued to do so and that he hasn't received permission from the Chatham Health District to build there.

More recent complaints include that Pouncey razed an old home on the property without a permit.

"He's got the neighbors all ticked off," Tier-

ney said. "I'm frustrated, the neighbors are frustrated."

Tierney said Pouncey continues to move forward with what he is doing despite being informed by Randy Blais, zoning enforcement officer, that he is not in compliance.

"Randy tried to tell him, as a building official, [that] he's not following the rules," Tierney said.

In a phone call Tuesday, town attorney Ken Slater said Blais had issued several zoning violations, but the complaints were not remedied. He said the town filed suit against Pouncey and his wife Pamela in March of this year.

Blais said trailers have been sitting on the property since before Pouncey applied for the building permit. Photos he shared with the *Rivereast* show multiple trailers, a dumpster, debris that appears to be from construction and equipment that includes an excavator.

Most of that is no longer visible from the road. Now all that can be seen from the front is a mobile home, one trailer and a pile of building material. The rest is still on the property, however, according to Blais. He said it's now tucked away in the back behind the mobile home, which, he said, was only put in a few weeks ago.

"He kind of hid everything behind it," Blais said of Pouncey.

The trailer, which is not legally allowed on the property, is something the attorney is also working on, Blais added.

"It's not hooked up to anything that I know of, because [Pouncey] doesn't have the permits to hook up to anything," he said.

Blais said Pouncey also put in a new septic tank, for which he did not get approval from the Chatham Health District.

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Cover Story • Cover Story

★ **Hebron Sues cont. from page 1**

“Since then, he has torn the house completely down without a demolition permit, so we’re kind of stuck,” Blais said. “It’s not like you can issue a stop work order, because they’re done and gone.”

Slater said the Pounceys were issued the first notice of violation in February 2020, due to a number of structures that were on the property without the proper permits. In September 2020, when the compliance issues had not been remedied, Blais issued another notice of violation, Slater said.

Then, in March of this year, when the complaints remained unresolved and no appeals had been filed on behalf of the Pounceys, the town filed suit, Slater said.

At a status conference with the court, Slater said, Pouncey – who represented himself without an attorney – claimed to have an outstanding permit. Slater, Blais and Tierney claim the permit was denied.

Court documentation posted through Rockville Superior Court indicates that Pouncey filed for a permit in 2019 to rehab an old structure and said the storage trailers and construction materials were needed for the project.

In the court-documented answer to Pouncey’s claim, Blais said the permit was denied, adding that said denial did not entitle Pouncey to violate zoning regulations.

In a phone call Tuesday, Pouncey confirmed that he applied for a building permit in 2019, but did not recall why the town did not issue it.

“We haven’t had a whole lot of conversations,” he said of his dealings with town officials.

Tierney said the permit was denied due to unpaid back taxes.

“He hadn’t paid his taxes,” he said. “You can’t get a permit if you have back taxes.”

Tierney said Pouncey paid his back taxes earlier this summer.

According to tax records available online, Pouncey has paid taxes that were due for 2018 and 2019 and a 2017 tax lien has also been paid. According to the information, none of Pouncey’s 2020 taxes have, as yet, been paid.

Pouncey said he purchased the approximately four-acre property in 2018 with plans to rehab an existing house and build a new home. Thinking it was a simple issue of getting a permit, he purchased materials and equipment. As the weather began to turn that fall, leading into winter, he said, he needed to protect the materials and equipment, so he purchased a storage trailer.

The trailer has been on the property since, he said.

He said the town informed him his neighbors had been “complaining about the storage trailer and equipment.”

Pouncey said he had a quick retort. “Well, if you issued the permit I applied for I could do the work and the equipment and trailer would go away,” he said he told the town.

Pouncey said his neighbors have also complained of an old camper and trailer in the back of the property, which he said were left there by the previous owner.

“I bought this property in 2018; that trailer, and a bunch of other stuff that’s down in the woods, had been there for decades,” he said. “I think one of the neighbors is a descendent of the previous owner and she had decades to get rid of it.”

Pouncey said his neighbors don’t all have pristine properties either and that he does not understand why the town is “taking such a deliberate measure” against him.

“One [neighbor] has an RV and lawnmower parts in his yard and, again, that stuff has been



**This property at 648 East St. in Hebron is the subject of a lawsuit between the town and property owner.**

there for decades,” he said. “I could cite other properties, but again, I’m not looking to cause problems for other people. The violations are obvious and they’ve been that way for decades.”

When asked if his neighbors had spoken to him about their concerns, he said they had not, save a neighbor across the street who mentioned the trailers in the yard.

“But we haven’t had a whole lot of conversations,” he said. “No one has talked to me.”

Pouncey said he was planning to live in the old home while the new one was being built. When he started doing some non-permit work on the old place, which had been vacant for years, he realized it was in worse shape than he had known and needed extensive repairs.

He said he has since taken the old house down and dug a foundation for the new house, but claims he has not poured the foundation.

Pouncey said he has worked with the health district and that someone from the district had inspected the septic system but that it had taken years to coordinate a time for them to do so.

Slater said the town is waiting for the court to assign a trial date for the lawsuit.

He said the town is seeking civil penalties up to \$100 a day for the violations, plus an additional \$2,500, full compliance, court costs and attorney fees.

Slater also alleges that more recent activity has taken place at the site including Pouncey pouring a foundation, taking down a building without a permit and putting in footings for a mobile home, also without a permit. He said that may result in the town filing additional paperwork with the court and seeking additional awards.

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## I Read it All

To the Editor:

I am writing to let Mr. Denley know that I read all of the junk mail published in the *Rivereast* opinions section.

**Brian Robinson – Marlborough**

## Falsifying History

To the Editor:

Blatantly, openly, and shamelessly, Trumpist Republicans are falsifying history. Don Denley states, “Here are the facts relating to the Jan. 6 incident at our nation’s capital: Ashley Babbitt was the only casualty that fateful day.” I reviewed numerous dictionary definitions, and ‘casualty’ always included people or things killed, wounded, injured, harmed or badly affected. Thus, all four people who died during that riot, and four officers who took their lives afterwards, were casualties. Confidence in our democracy was a casualty. The 140 injured police officers, as estimated by Washington, DC police chiefs, were casualties. Don says Officer Brian Sicknick, who was pepper-sprayed and died from stroke a day later, was not a casualty? The official police statement was “died in the line of duty, courageously defending Congress and the Capitol.” The American Heart Association states, “Even a slight increase in stress and anxiety levels may raise stroke risk.” Officers Jeffrey Smith, Howard Liebengood, Kyle De-Freytag and Gunther Hashida took their own lives, suffering from trauma and survivor’s guilt. Don believes their widows are making it all up. He only stands with police when it fits his ‘BLM is evil’ mantra; still claiming, without any evidence, that BLM infiltrated and incited the rioting MAGA mob.

To Don, only Ashley Babbitt was a martyred patriot that day who “went to DC to protest” and was “just attempting to enter the Capitol building” – though “(illegally).” Don laments harm done to Ashley Babbitt’s family? Because she was “killed,” “unarmed” while the officer who shot her did not yell “stop or I’ll shoot”? Don, replay that video with audio on, and all

the other videos showing the police officers being attacked and abused – and you come away thinking she was the only hero that day?

Don’s all-consuming ‘own the libs’ bias guarantees delusional propaganda every *Rivereast* letter he writes.

**Edmund Smith – Andover**

## Dennler for Board of Finance

To the Editor:

My name is Bernie Dennler and I’m running for a six-year term on the Board of Finance. I’m a lifelong resident of Colchester, and I currently serve as vice chair of the Colchester Board of Finance. I was appointed by my fellow Board members at the start of the pandemic to fill a vacancy and was elected vice chair that summer.

While serving on the BOF, I fought to increase firefighter staffing while keeping taxes flat during the height of the pandemic. I helped redevelop the town’s fund balance policy to make sure ‘rainy day’ funds are used sustainably. I have been an advocate for replacing our badly aging fire trucks, reducing the tax burden on residents by bringing in new businesses, preserving open space, and maintaining special education programming for at-risk students.

Prior to joining the Board of Finance, I served as vice chair of the Economic Development Commission. I remain an advocate for responsible economic development that matches the character of our community.

Currently I work as the Office Manager to the First Selectman of a neighboring municipality. As a Board of Finance member, I use my professional municipal experience and training to help guide the Board of Finance as it works to affordably balance Colchester’s needs. I’m used to talking to residents of all political affiliations and beliefs and always welcome constructive dialogue. As a board member, I strive to foster conversation and cooperation between members, especially across party lines where common ground can be hard to find.

This fall I’m seeking election to the Board for the first time. On Nov. 2, it would be an honor if



**Eagle Project...** Cody Voelker, left, a Life Scout in Troop 57 in East Hampton, recently completed his Eagle Scout project – the installation of a bicycle repair stand on the Air Line Trail located at the Cranberry Bog off of Smith Street. He’s shown here with his godfather, John Basso.

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you would grant your vote to Bernard Dennler III for Board of Finance.

**Bernard Dennler III – Colchester**

## Thank You Colchester!

To the Editor:

On July 20, I was endorsed by the Republican caucus to run for the Board of Selectmen in the upcoming 2021 municipal election. Thank you to everyone who believes in me enough to support my nomination. It was truly humbling. I am beyond excited to join such an amazing slate of candidates, headed by Andreas Bisbikos as the candidate for first selectman.

The caucus drew a historic number of Republican voters. Our democracy only works when there is citizen engagement. It was incredible to see the town hall so packed that it became standing room only! More importantly, it was awesome to see how united the Republicans are in charting a new path forward. And while the caucus was a Republican-only event, this isn’t about the party. It’s about the citizens of Colchester.

My promise to you is that you will always be at the forefront of my decision-making process. In fact, you will be my only consideration. My loyalty lies with you and you alone. I am not one to worry about party or appearance. I am not a politician. I’ve been rather outspoken about my dislike for politicians. Ironic, isn’t it?

Colchester is a fantastic place to live. One of the best life decisions my wife and I made was

choosing Colchester to raise our three children. I wouldn’t want to raise our family anywhere else. And, should I earn your vote, I will help ensure that Colchester is put on a path of success so that our children can also enjoy all it has to offer.

I look forward to meeting with many of you throughout the next few months and talking to you all about our vision for Colchester. A vision which can be succinctly summarized as “people before government.”

**Jason LaChapelle – Colchester**

## Support the Senior Center

To the Editor:

I ask all to join me in support of the creation of a modern, functional senior center. I support the need so much, I volunteered to be on the Building Committee and was honored to be selected by the Board of Selectmen. I invite anyone to attend one or more of our public meetings to witness for yourself, the effort and detail to which we are going, to ensure the creation of the most economical asset for the Town of Colchester. Bring your questions, suggestions or concerns; there are two agenda options for public comments.

We have pared the design down from a two-story, \$14M building to a modest one-story estimated \$9.5M building. I know it sounds like a lot but in today’s standards, it is modest and in line with neighboring senior center costs. When the cost is bonded, the individual costs are mini-

## Bulletin Board

A couple of weeks ago I dropped my favorite rechargeable flashlight over the side of my canoe to be lost forever. Saddened, but resigned, and being of the persuasion that Santa helps those who help themselves, I immediately went online to look for a replacement.

Naturally, I wasn’t able to find the exact type I’d lost, so I settled on a different model marketed by a well-known company based right here in Connecticut (though in retrospect, I’m inclined to think this particular product is actually manufactured in some part of the world where no one gets unduly concerned about fatal factory fires and random explosions).

The package containing my newly-purchased light ended up on my doorstep a couple or three days later. I was much excited until I consulted the accompanying product information and found I had apparently invited the Satan of the flashlight world into my normally tranquil life. I never realized it before, but it seems the English refer to these things as a “torch” for a reason.

According to the informational sheet attached to my brand-new rechargeable lithium battery-powered flashlight:

\*Lithium batteries are small, compact and ideal for providing long-lasting power to the unit. However, they must be used and charged properly. Improper use can result in serious injury, fire or death. (This was the first clue that my innocent quest for a simple rechargeable flashlight might be the consumer safety equivalent of signing on to be a door-to-door Bible salesman in Pakistan.)

\*Lithium-ion batteries can explode in the presence of a source of ignition. Do not use the product in the presence of an open flame. (In other words, do not bring your flashlight to solstice celebrations, bonfires, Girl Scout s’mores parties or California.)

\*Do not place this lithium-ion battery powered unit in fire or apply heat to it. (I’m not sure why I’d go to the trouble of spending close to 30 bucks on a new flashlight and then place it in a fire, but okay.)

\*Do not subject this lithium-ion powered unit to strong impact or shocks. The battery in this unit contains safety and protection devices, which, if damaged, may cause the battery to generate heat, rupture or ignite. (Okay, now I’m getting a little irritated. Does this mean I can’t use my new flashlight to beat my lawn tractor to death after unsuccessfully searching for 20 minutes for the cotter pin that fell out of the mower deck and into some dark corner? Good thing this same flashlight company also makes hammers.)

\*Do not expose this lithium-ion battery powered unit to water or salt water, or allow the battery to get wet. (That brilliant solar flare you just saw on the horizon? Not to worry. It’s just me being immolated by my new flashlight. I went out after dark to check the mail and it started raining. It’s my own fault. I should have checked the weather report.)

\*Avoid storing this lithium-ion battery powered unit in the basement, bathroom or other areas of the house that are or may become wet or humid or where moisture may concentrate. (I’m thinking I’m going to have to build this thing its very own reinforced concrete bunker.)

\*Do not leave this lithium-ion battery powered unit in direct sunlight, or use or store the unit inside cars in hot weather. Doing so may cause the battery to generate heat, rupture or ignite. Using the battery in this manner may also result in a loss of performance and a shortened life expectancy. (At this point, I’m thinking the shortened life expectancy is likely to be my own.)

\*Do not touch lens while operating. (Jesus. What’s going on here?)

\*Re battery replacement: Recycling is required. Failure to comply with local state and federal regulations can result in fines or imprisonment. (All I wanted was a damn flashlight. Now you want to send me to prison?)

\*Never throw water on a burning lithium-ion battery! If a lithium-ion battery does catch on fire it will burn even more violently if it comes in contact with water or even moisture in the air. A fire extinguisher must be used. (Oh, great. Now every time I go to use the flashlight I have to bring a fire extinguisher along? For crying out loud, I’ve only got two hands.)

Well, after reading through all these assorted warnings, I decided that maybe I don’t need a rechargeable flashlight after all—at least not this model. There’s just one problem: how do I get rid of this household equivalent of a handheld nuclear weapon? I can’t burn it. I obviously can’t drown it. If I throw it in the trash, I’m likely to end up in prison.

There’s only one really suitable option left. I’ll wrap it up and give it to my brother-in-law for Christmas. Without the accompanying information sheet, of course. He’s going to love it.

**Jim Hallas**

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

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

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## News Bulletin

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**Published Every Friday by The Glastonbury Citizen**

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mal to each taxpayer.

Please make sure to support the seniors in town (55 and over) and vote yes for this project. If you're not already there, age 55 comes quickly!

**Ron Silberman – Colchester**

*Note: Silberman is a member of the Senior Center Building Committee but said he is writing as an individual.*

## Old Home Day Thanks

To the Editor:

Here are the winners of East Hampton's Old Home Day Reverse Parade. Thanks for voting and congratulations, everyone!!

Best in Theme or Spirit: The Hairitage and friends; Best in Theater: The Greenwald/Joslyn family and friends; Best in Music: Boy Scouts; Best in Recycle: Marcia Nichol and friends (Edgemere condos); Best Use of Air: Milton family and friends (Melburn Avenue); Most Original: Milton family and friends;

Best in Show: Dexter's.

Honorable mention goes to: Coughlin family (Long Hill Road), Cronin family (Abbey Road), Meacham family (Mott Hill Road), Strickland family (White Birch Road), Lost Spring Farms, The Tavern on 66, Paul's and Sandy's Too, Belltown Auto, Senior Center.

Thanks to everyone who participated; it was a blast!

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

## Your Vote Counts

To the Editor:

Colchester's town budget fell victim to summertime fun with the defeat by four votes last Tuesday. Turnout was extremely low.

With election season right around the corner, voters must be aware that political motivations to defeat future referenda may not be driven by the actual affordability, or even the needs of the public.

In the midst of your busy lives, please pay attention to what is going on in town, and no matter what, make your voice heard. Our town is too special to sacrifice. Your vote counts.

**Sincerely,  
Monica Swyden – Colchester**

## Thank You, Colchester!

To the Editor:

I am so appreciative of the RTC, fellow Republicans, friends, neighbors, and family who voted for me for the Board of Selectmen candidacy at the caucus. I am looking forward to serving the community as a member of the board and will do my due diligence to review the agendas/research that come forth to the board members. It is important to collaborate with my fellow board members to achieve what is best for the town.

**Debbie Bates – Colchester  
Candidate for Board of Selectmen**

## Astounding Hypocrisy

To the Editor:

Last week illustrated another astounding level of hypocrisy and conspiracy from the *Rivereast* wrecking crew. Sam Prentice began peddling the notion since Biden shut down the Keystone pipeline Americans will be required to purchase oil from Russia and the Middle East. The reality is the XL project was never completed, and most of that Canadian tar oil was designated for foreign markets. Therefore, there is little if any economic impact on U.S. consumers. Prentice also renewed his anti-vax rhetoric, examining the science of mask-wearing, vaccines and mandates. His thought process goes something like this: if the masks work, then why the six feet? and if both the mask and six feet work, why the vaccines? This half-baked line of questioning is akin to asking: if the airbags work, then why the need for a seatbelt? and if both the airbag and seatbelt work, then why the need for brakes?

Another member of the flat earth society struggled to defend Ashli Babbit, one of the insurrectionists who stormed the capital on Jan. 6. The fact is, Ms. Babbit was part of a coordinated mob of domestic terrorists who were smashing windows, ramming doors, and violently attacking the police to occupy the building and stop the certification of a legitimate election. Unfortunately, her involvement in subverting democracy led Ms. Babbit to being shot by capital police. However, Mr. Denley suggests her "killer" was an "assassin" and that Ms. Babbit was "just breaking and entering." He then implies the extremists, who severely beat officers with American flags and attempted to overthrow the government, were really BLM and Antifa protestors. Apparently, Denley would like us all to believe that Democrats dressed up and dis-

guised themselves as MAGA nuts to storm the capital and stop an election which they had already won.

**Joe Stevens – Hebron**

## Support for New Senior Center

To the Editor:

I am writing to urge the voters of Colchester to vote 'yes' in the upcoming referendum to approve the building of a new senior center in town. Our senior center plays an important role in the lives of all Colchester seniors no matter what their income level is.

The staff at the senior center is very welcoming and works hard to provide numerous program offerings during the week. I love that I can go to the center to either take part in an activity as an attendee or as a volunteer. I personally have participated in programs in the arts, crafts, music, movies, games, exercise, income tax preparation, chapter meetings of the local AARP group, intergenerational activities with the local schools, and healthy cooking demonstrations.

A new center would allow more space for these activities. Many times programs need to be postponed because there simply isn't enough room to accommodate them at the same time. In addition, as more seniors have been using the center parking has become an issue. There simply is not enough room for everybody to park in the current parking lot and it can be difficult to maneuver when it is overflowing with cars.

As you can see, the Colchester Senior Center has something for everyone and a new building that is that is modern with updated technology would be able to provide services to more people. Many of us have lived here for a long time and have gladly supported Colchester schools for years and would love to have the younger generations support us now.

Thank you for helping Colchester's seniors as we move into the future.

**Sincerely,  
Irene Watson – Colchester**

## Thanks, School Bus Drivers!

To the Editor:

I would like to say a big "Thank You" to our school bus drivers. When our children were young, I drove a van for Nichols Bus. It was a great job and fit perfectly into our schedule. As we all know, life is much different now. Our drivers are highly trained, not only in driving but in caring for the children.

As school begins, take a moment to give these drivers a "thumbs up"! Our community is very lucky.

**Barbara Moore – East Hampton**

## American Independent Party

To the Editor:

I wrote 2-3 issues ago on the Keystone Pipeline being shut down and some consequences of what might happen. Here is what happened after my last letter on the pipeline:

The price of an oil barrel went from about \$60 to a range of \$70-\$75 per barrel. The price of regular gas was about \$2 per gallon. Now the price of regular gas is \$3-\$3.20 per gallon. This is the "bad" news.

The "worse" news is the cost of a gallon of home heating oil. I think it will be higher; how high, I don't know. But it will not be lower.

Think of this veteran (who has a "forward" thinking) next time you order oil. Keeping warm is going to cost you more. (Send President Biden a "thank you" note.)

I wish I were wrong, but my brain is full of question marks.

**Sincerely,  
Lambros Lambrinides – Portland**

## Friends of the Enemy

To the Editor:

Smallpox, polio, whooping cough, cervical cancer, hepatitis, rabies, influenza: some of the deadly viruses that have been prevented (sometimes cured) through vaccinations. Now we have a proven weapon against a common enemy but many Americans have refused to fight back, and COVID-19 has been given "freedom" to mutate into a more virulent form, causing a surge of new cases, with many resulting in death.

The CDC is accused of sending mixed messages about mask-wearing. Well, as the virus changed, the message had to change along with it. The simple truth: if people had protected themselves and others by getting the vaccine, we would not be going back to having to wear masks.

If the virus could smile, it would be doing so now. It has no brain, yet it is outsmarting us; it has no hands, yet it has the upper one.

When I say it is "outsmarting us," I am refer-

ring to those who have refused to be vaccinated, thus putting themselves and the rest of humanity at risk. Why? Mostly through unwarranted fear, ignorance, misinformation, or twisted thinking.

For example, a California restaurant that has a no-mask policy inside its dining room has gone a step further into the abyss of idiocy. "We have zero tolerance for treasonous, anti-American stupidity," a sign reads outside Basilico's Italian restaurant.

Since when is it treasonous to defend oneself and country from a dangerous foe? Actually, it is you, Mr. Basilico, and the Trumpicans who are spreading lies that aid and abet the enemy, allowing it to spread and kill fellow Americans. It is nothing short of collusion. You are Friends of the Enemy! So, raise your glasses, salute each other! Chances are you'll all meet again to toast each other in the ICU – but it will be difficult while intubated!

**Thank you,  
Maureen Heidtmann – East Hampton**

## Supports New Senior Center

To the Editor:

I'm an active senior citizen in my mid-80s who proudly joined the Colchester Senior Center approximately 11 years ago. It's wonderful to have so many activities to pick and choose from and a great staff to work with. You meet lots of new friends and enjoy each other's company.

I prefer exercises, tai chi, and line dancing, all of which are held in the Veterans' Room. When it rains, we contend with leaks from the ceiling (being caught in waste baskets). Having a new senior center would eliminate this problem and many other problems of an outdated facility. Even during the COVID pandemic we were able to continue our activities on Zoom, and some are still on Zoom.

Frequent holiday parties and birthday parties are celebrated along with special entertainment hired by the center. They always have good healthy food choices if you desire to eat there, at reasonable prices. There are also lots of day trips and extended trips for members to enjoy.

A larger facility and a newer facility would be of benefit to seniors as well as community members to share for get-togethers. When the September referendum comes, to vote for a new senior center, I hope everyone will vote in favor of it. All seniors would appreciate it and the Town would have a community building to share with them. It would be a Godsend to all people living in the Town of Colchester. Thank you for your support.

**Barbara McKelvey – Colchester**

## Portland, Not Politics

To the Editor:

I will be running with the Republican Party for a seat on the Board of Selectmen, and am excited for the opportunity to represent my fellow citizens and give them a voice in our town government. It is time for our government to concentrate the taxpayers' money on our needs over our wants. I will be focusing on three critical areas of government: education, infrastructure and public safety.

You may remember when I ran for first selectman in 2019, I was vocal about Portland's water needs and economic development, not only on Main Street, but along the Route 66 corridor as well. When I am elected, I will work hand in hand with Ryan Curley and the board on

achieving our goals finding a water supply and upgrading our water infrastructure and bringing water to Route 66. I will also work with businesses along Main Street to make it easier for them to do improvements to their properties. I hope to see you soon as I visit my neighbors throughout Portland, and look forward to hearing your input and answering your questions.

It's about Portland, not politics.

**Sincerely,  
Shaun P. Manning  
Candidate for Portland Board of Selectmen**

## Not the Right Spot

To the Editor:

The March 7, 2019, Hebron town meeting ended with the Town of Hebron agreeing to purchase an 88-acre piece of land that is notoriously wet. The hope, of some, is to put in place a new public works facility and more.

For years, in meeting after meeting, tempers fly with regards to this property. The land in question is a large watershed surrounded by wetlands. 24/7 365 days a year this land filters clean drinking water that ultimately finds its way to the Raymond Brook Marsh.

"The Raymond Brook Marsh is Hebron's most valuable potential large yielding aquifer, this has been identified in the Aquifer Protection Zone in the Zoning Regulations, and should continue to be monitored and protected by regulation and other measures." (2014 Town of Hebron Plan of Conservation.)

In story after story on the news all across the globe, people are telling tales of drinking water problems. Do we want to be one of those stories or do we want to stand up for our water now?

Is the Raymond Brook Marsh still valuable to Hebron's population?

A large part of the appeal of Hebron is written in our Inlands, Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations dated July 1, 1981 with updates from 2005. Nothing about water has changed since then and these regulations were written to protect lands just like this 88-acre parcel which in turn will protect the Raymond Brook Marsh.

While it is important for The Public Works to get a new facility, this is not the right spot for it. Protecting our wetlands must come first.

At present, the reputation of the Town of Hebron ultimately rests on how it treats this land and its citizens downstream.

**Jean Tulimieri – Amston**

## Running for BAA

Dear Colchester Residents:

I'm Ian Lilly and I'm running for the Board of Assessment Appeals on the Democratic team. I've lived here since 2006 and Colchester's sense of community has encouraged me to give back more.

I served our country in the U.S. Army during a time of war. I was part of the first wave into Iraq as an infantry soldier in 2003. Since then, I've served as the assistant administrator for the Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Fund, holding various leadership roles on the state, district, and town levels within The American Legion Post 180.

I currently serve on the Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z). The P&Z Commission has given me insight and knowledge on town development and challenges that residents face.

My Bachelor of Science is in manufacturing management from Goodwin University. I graduated with honors and was awarded the "Academic Achievement Award."

*See Letters, page 6*

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★ **Letters cont. from page 5**

Currently, I work as a Stagehand/Entertainment Rigger for the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) Local 84 Hartford and have held elected office within my organization as members representative. I've also served as a district aide and staffer for Congress.

I'm one of only 16 individuals in Connecticut who passed the Entertainment Technician Certification Program (ETCP) Certified Arena – Rigger. This certification is earned through vetting work history that confirms technical experience.

I am a proud public servant with a passion for helping those in need to overcome adversities and create better lives for themselves. I will bring my skills, knowledge, and life experiences in making decisions to the Board of Assessment Appeals.

With your support, I look forward to serving Colchester on the Board of Assessment Appeals. I ask for your vote on Nov. 2.

**Sincerely,  
Ian Lilly – Colchester**

**Seeking Reelection**

Dear Colchester Residents:

I'm Rosemary Coyle, running for reelection to the Board of Selectmen on the Democratic Team. It's been an honor to serve Colchester.

I've worked hard to delve into the issues that make Colchester what it is today and the reasons why we chose to live here – our educational system, incredible first responders, our businesses, our farms, our historical heritage, our open space, our citizens and so much more. I've supported decisions that have impacted all these aspects of our town.

My entire professional career, I worked in the public sector as a teacher and advocate for public education. The quality of our educational system and the resources and support we provide our schools are always a high priority for me.

An ongoing goal has been senior issues, including building a new senior center (SC). I chaired the SC Subcommittee that recommended purchasing the property on Lebanon Avenue for a new SC. As liaison to the SC Building Committee, I'm working with the committee to bring a new SC proposal to referendum for town approval.

As a member of the Fire Apparatus Subcommittee, we recommended the vehicle re-

placements to the BOS and BOF that went to referendum. Thank you, Colchester voters, for passing it.

As a selectman, we often face the challenges of needs versus the cost to the taxpayer. I attend Board of Finance meetings to make better decisions. I'll continue to be a voice for sound financial decisions that support the needs of Colchester.

I believe in working in a bipartisan manner to achieve consensus and success. I'm always willing to share my knowledge and experience.

It would be an honor and privilege to represent you again on the Board of Selectmen. I ask for your support and vote on Nov. 2.

**Sincerely,  
Rosemary Coyle, Selectman  
Colchester**

**Safety First and Always!**

Dear Citizens of Colchester:

I am so grateful for the community support for our firefighters! Last week, you sent a clear and resounding message around the importance of our first responders and our need to focus on safety in our community when you came out and voted an overwhelming 'yes' on the referendum to fund replacement of our outdated and antiquated fleet of fire apparatus.

I met with the Fire Department leadership shortly after taking office and listened to examples of repeated requests for updated fire equipment, which never seemed to get included in plans for replacement. I listened to the stories of failed pump tests, costly repairs and unsafe structural issues with the current fleet. I was thankful we were able to borrow an engine from a neighboring town while significant, costly repairs were done to one of the engines. Some of the issues seemed almost too difficult to imagine.

I remember asking myself, how did we get to this point where multiple vehicles all needed to be replaced at the same time? We have equipment that should be in a museum or used for a parade, yet we expect it to respond to a real fire! You can only ignore these needs for so long and it was apparent we had gone well beyond the time for replacement. The deputy chief told me "We have kicked the can so far down the road, we might as well be wearing flip-flops for all the good it has done us!"

It will take about a year to get the equipment built and delivered, but this is a major achieve-

ment whose time is now and thanks to the people of Colchester, it is a reality in the very near future.

**Sincerely,  
Mary Bylone  
Colchester First Selectman**

**Eagle Project Thanks**

To the Editor:

My name is Cody Voelker and I am a Life Scout in Troop 57 in East Hampton. I have been working on my Eagle Scout project for two years which involves the installation of a bicycle repair stand on the Air Line Trail located at the Cranberry Bog off of Smith Street. My Eagle project also includes installing road crossing signs on the Air Line Trail crossing gates to identify the adjacent roads.

I would like to acknowledge and personally thank all those who helped me complete my Eagle project: Mr. Brian Holdt at Air Line Cycles for his assistance in the purchase of the bike stand, Butler Construction for their help with obtaining a concrete pad for the bicycle stand base, to Mr. John Basso, my godfather, for his hard work, time and effort preparing and installing the site and the pad, to the scouts of Troop 57 and my Scoutmaster for their time and helping me with my project, and my parents for your support of me always and in my scouting journey to the rank of Eagle. I especially extend a personal thank you to state Rep. Irene Haines for her efforts to assist me in gaining State approval of my Eagle project bicycle repair stand site.

Again, I thank each of you for supporting and helping me complete my Eagle Project for the East Hampton Community and everyone who rides and walks the Air Line Trail.

**Cody Voelker – East Hampton**

**On Trump**

To the Editor:

Trumpist true believers deny the insurrection that occurred on Jan. 6.

Six Trumpist senators and 120-plus Trumpist representatives voted against election certification. Trump instigated this insurrection by repeating his big lie. True believers accepted the oft-repeated lie promulgated through social media and conservative talking heads.

Some letter writers to this paper deal only in ad hominem attacks against other letter writers. This is shameful. Opinions are posited by some as undeniable truths; climate deniers, anti-vaxxers, autocratic worshippers bend the knee to Donny T. Wake up, grow up. Democracy is at stake!

**Ed Gyllenhammer – Portland**

**Affordability**

Dear Colchester Residents:

Our current first selectman began this budget season celebrating an 8.24% town budget increase and advocating for an overall 5% tax increase during a pandemic. Next year, reevaluation will affect your taxes. Rising costs due to inflation is affecting everything from food to energy prices. Is big government spending by out of touch leaders the solution to your pocketbook?

As the next first selectman, I will aim for a zero tax increase each year in office. I will begin day one conducting a top to bottom review of each department to identify savings and areas to strategically invest in. Key challenges in each department will be identified and long-term solutions will be presented in order to avoid massive bonding projects and fiscal cliffs.

There will be a strong push to utilize and invest in the latest technology to reduce cost while modernizing efficiency in town hall. Investing in digital technology will drive future technological transformation efforts and keep Colchester at the forefront. We must recruit digital-savvy employees (and elected officials) to bring Colchester into the 21st century.

I will also strategically and responsibly use our remaining ARPA funding, the revenue from Bloom Energy, and our unassigned fund balance to ease the tax burden on the citizens. I will strengthen our relationship with Bloom Energy and their new partner Heliogen to bring a new era of clean energy and new revenue into Colchester. Our current first selectman was against Bloom Energy investing in Colchester, as she called it "another tombstone in the Silicon Valley Cemetery of dead unicorns" in an Oct. 31, 2019, article of the *Norwich Bulletin*.

We must ensure that Colchester is affordable for everyone. Strategic spending and investing, not reckless spending and massive tax increases will get us there.

**Sincerely,  
Andreas Bisbikos – Colchester**

**Seeking Reelection to BOE**

Dear Colchester Residents:

I want to thank the Colchester Democratic Party for endorsing my candidacy for the Board of Education. With the support of the Colchester community, I look forward to continuing my work as a Board of Education member; actively collaborating with the Colchester Public School community and taking a leadership role as a Board of Education member.

*See Letters, page 22*

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**It Takes a Village!...** Although they were operating under a pandemic situation, the Jack Jackter Intermediate School PTO board members, committee chairs, and parents still managed to raise over \$10,000. That funding is invested back into the school for educational supplies, playground equipment, in-school programming, library books, and some events during the year. The PTO is looking for members for the Book Fair Committee, which kicks off this fall. For more information, contact PTO President Tricia Dean at [ppeters4615@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ppeters4615@sbcglobal.net). Pictured from left are PTO Vice President Jackie Lucco, Dean, Treasurer Melissa Hlasyszyn, Shelby Vance, Lauren Faber, Secretary Tanya Grimm, Kelly Perry and Amy Markovitz.

### 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](mailto:csc@colchesterct.gov), or visit [www.colchesterct.gov/senior-center](http://www.colchesterct.gov/senior-center). Programs taking place via Zoom are indicated with a (Z).

**Monday, Aug. 9:** 8:30 a.m., Commission on Aging meeting; 9 a.m., Making Memories, Exercise with Anne (Z), Sittercize (Z), Pet Therapy; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign with Ruth; 12:30 p.m., Mahjongg, Bridge; 1:30 p.m., New Senior Center Info Session; 2 p.m., Live Well (Conference Call).

**Tuesday, Aug. 10:** 9 a.m., Making Memories, Senior Golf League; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi (Z); 12:30 p.m., Pinochle; 12:30 p.m., CHOICES Counseling by appointment; 1:30 p.m., Bingo; 7 p.m., Senior Center Building Committee meeting (Z).

**Wednesday, Aug. 11:** 8:30 a.m., Walking Group; 9 a.m., Making Memories Program; 10 a.m., Adult Coloring; 1 p.m., Festival of Trees planning meeting; 2:30 p.m., Senior Center staff meeting; 7 p.m., evening tour of Colchester Senior Center; 7 p.m., AARP Digital World (Z).

**Thursday, Aug. 12:** 9 a.m., Exercise w/ Anne (Z), Sittercize (Z); 10 a.m., Wii Bowling; 10:30 a.m., Shopping Trip to Lisbon departs; 11 a.m., Yoga (Z); noon, chair massage; 12:30 p.m.,

Dominoes; 1 p.m., Knit & Crochet.

**Friday, Aug. 13:** 9 a.m., Coffee, Tea and SMP Panel (conference call); 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit; 10:30 a.m., Choral Group; 11 a.m., yoga (Z); 12:30 p.m., Reel Friends Movie Club – *Jojo Rabbit* (rated R); 1:30 p.m., Bingo.

**Upcoming Programs: Choral Group Returns:** Fridays beginning Aug. 13, 10:30 a.m. The group will prepare for its winter concerts. All are welcome; no musical training is necessary.

**Financial Fraud Bingo Presentation:** Monday, Aug. 16, 1:30 p.m. This twist on Bingo will help you learn about common financial frauds that you need to look out for. Kathleen Titsworth from the state Department of Banking will talk about some of the most common scams. Prizes will be given for each winner. This game is free; register by Aug. 9.

**Everything You Didn't Know About Your Senior Center:** Thursday, Aug. 19, 1:30 p.m. Learn the role the senior center plays in the community with senior center director Patty Watts. The presentation will include the history of senior centers in the country, all of the missions of a multi-purpose senior center, current trends and the possibility of a new senior center for Colchester in the near future.

### Movie in the Park

Colchester Youth and Social Services and Colchester Recreation will offer a family Movie in the Park Friday, Aug. 20, beginning at 8 p.m. (or dusk), at the RecPlex pavilion. *How to Train Your Dragon* will be shown.

Be sure to bring a blanket or chair, bug spray and a flashlight. For more information, call 860-537-7297 or visit [www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department](http://www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department).

### Ukrainian Catholic News

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

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

### Setback in September

St. Joseph's Polish Club's Setback League will begin Thursday, Sept. 16, at 7 p.m., in Colchester. Teams of two compete in the league for 28 weeks followed by playoffs and a league banquet where prizes are awarded.

To sign up or for more information, call Deb Crider at 860-204-1555 or Cindy Hardy at 860-537-6140.

### Police News

7/28: John Marinoccio, 62, of 3 Quail Rd., was charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol/drugs and failure to drive upon right, police said.

8/2: James Breen, 57, of 15 Park Rd., was charged with disorderly conduct and interfering with a police call, police said.

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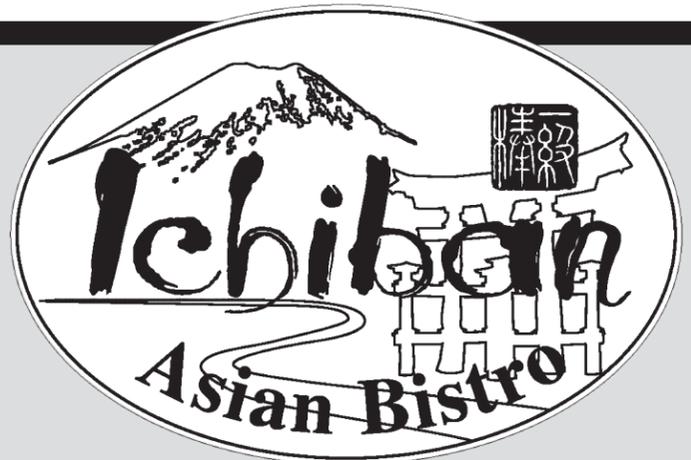
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### Barbecue Dinner

On Saturday, Aug. 7, St. Joseph's Polish Society, 395 S. Main St., will host a barbecue chicken dinner featuring the band The Outriggers. Tickets are \$20 per person. Dinner will be served from 5-6 p.m., and The Outriggers will perform from 6-10 p.m., outside in the pavilion. Tickets can be purchased at the bar Monday-Friday, 4-10 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, noon-9 p.m. Call 860-537-2550 for more information.

### Soccer Club Registration Underway

Registration is now open for the Colchester Soccer Club Recreation Summer Camp taking place Aug. 16-20, from 9 a.m.-noon. The location is to be determined, but will be a field in town. The camp is open to children in grades two and up. Cost is \$75. The camp will be run by the club's director of coaching, with the assistance of the Bacon Academy soccer coaches and players. Kids will be split into age-appropriate groups. Log in or create your account at [www.colchestersoccer.org](http://www.colchestersoccer.org). The camp option will show in your account. Email Bill Beeler for more information at [vp.recreation@colchestersoccer.org](mailto:vp.recreation@colchestersoccer.org).

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### Ahavath Achim News

Congregation Ahavath Achim, 84 Lebanon Ave., has announced the following schedule: Friday night service, 6:30 p.m.; Zoom; Shabbat morning 10 a.m. hybrid service; Tuesday, Talmud class, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Kabbalah class, 8 p.m. 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.

### Westchester Church News

Westchester Congregational Church, 98 Cemetery Rd., has lifted most COVID-19 restrictions for in-person worship services on Sundays at 10 a.m. Masks are not required for those who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. The services are also available on Zoom; visit the church website at [westchestercongregationchurch.org](http://westchestercongregationchurch.org) for login information. The church has a small white wooden Blessings Box in its lower parking lot, with non-perishable food items and other items. All are welcome to give or take a few items. For more information, email [westcongregationchurch@gmail.com](mailto:westcongregationchurch@gmail.com), visit the church website, or call 860-267-6711.

### Senior Trip to Amish Country

Colchester Senior Center will travel to Pennsylvania Amish Country Nov. 30-Dec. 2. This three-day tour will start with a meal in the home of an Amish family. There will also be a guided tour of the Amish countryside, and a stop at Kitchen Kettle Village. The trip also includes tickets at the Sights & Sounds Theatre for a new production of *Queen Esther*. The trip will feature two breakfasts, two dinners, a two-night hotel stay, theatre tickets, deluxe motorcoach, tour escort, and gratuity. Cost is \$599/person, double occupancy. Call the senior center for more information at 860-537-3911 or stop by the center, 95 Norwich Ave., to register in person.

### Special Ed Records Disposal

The Colchester Board of Education will destroy any and all special education records of students who graduated or would have graduated with the following classes: the Class of 2014 or the Class of 2015. Also, suspension and expulsions records, with the exception of expulsions related to deadly weapons and/or firearms, are expunged and destroyed after a student graduates. These records will be destroyed on Aug. 15. If any student, as described above, would like a copy of their special education records, they must request a copy of the records prior to the destruction of the records on Aug. 15. Forward all requests to Kathleen Perry, 380 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT 06415, or by calling the Department of Pupil Services at 860-537-3103. Upon request, records will be available for pickup at the Department of Pupil Services.

### Christian Life Chapel News

Christian Life Chapel, located at 392 S. Main St., holds worship in-person at 10 a.m. Sundays. Follow the church on Facebook for the livestream. For more information, call Pastor Don Rivers – the church's bi-vocational pastor, who also serves as president for "Racing with Jesus Inc." – at 860-398-9119 or visit [christianlifechapel.org](http://christianlifechapel.org).

### Summer Day Camp

Summer Day Camp is held at the RecPlex through Aug. 20 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Extended camp hours from 3-5 p.m. are also available for an additional fee. Activities include the splash pad, games, arts and crafts, and more. Grants are available for Colchester children who qualify for free/reduced lunches; call for more information. Register online at [www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department](http://www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department) or call Colchester Recreation at 860-537-7297.

### Double Tag Sale Aug. 21

There will be a Back-to-School Kids' Clothing Tag Sale Saturday, Aug. 21, at the Westchester Congregational Church meeting hall (98 Cemetery Rd.) from 8 a.m.-noon. At the same time, across the street at the church parsonage (95 Cemetery Rd.), will be the church's regular monthly Tag Sale. Donations for both events (clean and in good condition, please) are welcome and may be left on the porch of the parsonage at 95 Cemetery Rd.

### Book Club to Meet

The Cragin Book Club will meet Monday, Aug. 30, at 6 p.m. Diane Chamberlain's *Necessary Lies* will be discussed. Copies are available for checkout at the Adult Circulation Desk at the library, 8 Linwood Ave. Weather permitting, the club will meet at the Colchester Giving Garden, which is located behind the senior center at 95 Norwich Ave. Please bring a chair. In case of inclement weather, the club will meet via Zoom, at [tinyurl.com/bkclubaugust](http://tinyurl.com/bkclubaugust). This program is free, but registration is required. To register, call 860-537-5752.

### Car Crash Leads to Minor Injuries

Two were transported to the hospital when a car went off the road on Route 2 Sunday, police said. Shortly after 3 p.m. Aug. 1, police said, Angelo Lopez, 20, of New Bedford Mass., was traveling east on Route 2 in Colchester when he lost control of his 2013 Ford Fusion and went off the road into a wooded area on the right side of the road. Lopez was transported to Backus Hospital with suspected minor injuries. His passenger, Javier Matos, 19, of Hartford, was transported to Hartford Hospital, also with minor injuries, police said. Lopez was issued a warning for failing to drive in the proper lane, police said.

## Manchester OBGYN Associates Welcomes Dr. Lydia Lormand



Lydia Lormand, DO, FACOG, is a board-certified physician specializing in obstetrics and gynecology. She completed her ObGyn residency at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, Massachusetts, after earning her Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from New York College of Osteopathic Medicine, and her Bachelor of Science degree from Binghamton University. As a resident, she received the Practicing the Art of Medicine Award, which is given to the chief resident who displays a strong ability to integrate the foundation of evidence-based medicine with clinical intuition, empathy, and compassion. As a women's healthcare provider, Dr. Lormand's mission is to provide comprehensive healthcare to women through puberty, the reproductive years and menopause, and to make women feel comfortable and try to take away the fear and anxiety that can associated with ObGyn care. In her spare time, Dr. Lormand enjoys reading murder mysteries, traveling, scuba diving, playing volleyball and spinning.

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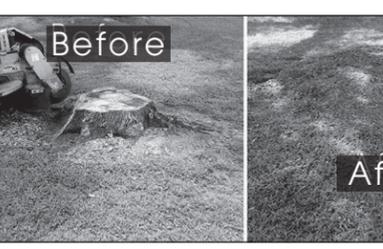



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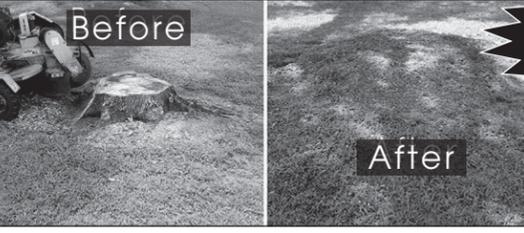
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### Colchester Federated Church News

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. The office can be reached at 860-537-5189 or cfc06415@gmail.com.

Worship services are Sunday mornings at 9 a.m.; masks required. For those wishing to worship from home, the service will be broadcast via Facebook Live each Sunday at 9 a.m.

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.

Twelve-Step Meetings: AA meets in the church library Monday-Wednesday and Friday at noon and Thursday at 10 a.m., and at 7:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. On Saturdays at 9:30 a.m., Al-Anon meets in the Jerusalem Room and AA meets in the Stage Room.

Vacation Bible School: Aug. 9-13, from 9 a.m.-noon. This is a free program open to all children ages 5 (by Aug. 9) through fifth grade. Registration will run through July 31. Space is limited; masks are required for all participants. Visit the church website to register.

### Fire Calls

From July 25-31, the Colchester Hayward Fire Department responded to 48 calls: 34 emergency medical calls, eight fire/fire-related calls, and six motor vehicle crashes. Calls included:

Fire: fire alarm, three; service call, four; wires down, one.

Crashes: two-vehicle crash, four; single-car, one; three-vehicle, one.

Medical: sick person, eight; difficulty breathing, two; fall injury, four; cardiac distress, three; mental disorder, one; lift assist, two; poisoning, one; injured person, two; overdose, one; stroke, three; seizure, one; abdominal pain, one; medical alarm, one; unconscious, one; diabetic emergency, one; alcohol disorder, two.

CHFD provided mutual aid four times – once

each to East Haddam, Marlborough, Hebron and Salem – and received it twice, from Gardner Lake and East Haddam.

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.



**Are You Ready for Some Football?... Colchester Cougars youth football is back!** After a canceled season in 2020, the teams have started practicing on the town green and registration remains open for football and cheer. Residents of Colchester, East Haddam, Salem, Bozrah and Lebanon are eligible. Cheer and tackle football are for ages 6-13. Flag football is open for 4-5. Visit [colchestercougars.org](http://colchestercougars.org) for more information and to register.

### Bacon Class of '61 Reunion

Bacon Academy Class of 1961 will hold its 60th class reunion this August.

On Sunday, Aug. 22, the class will visit the Colchester History Museum and the old Bacon Academy building. On Monday, Aug. 23, a reunion luncheon celebration will be held at the Gelston House in East Haddam. An informal gathering is planned at Captain Scott's in New London on Wednesday, Aug. 25.

Call Patricia Nardella at 860-537-1092 for attendance information.

### Colchester Choir & Orchestra Returns

The Colchester Choir & Orchestra (CCO) will begin rehearsals Sept. 2, for its 20th anniversary season.

Director/founder John Ringo stated, "After having to cancel our entire season last year due to the pandemic, it feels wonderful to have rehearsal and concert dates in place. We're all excited to bring the music back."

Concerts will be held at Bacon Academy auditorium Oct. 17, Dec. 4, March 13 and May 14. Visit [www.colchesterchoirorchestra.org](http://www.colchesterchoirorchestra.org) for more details, or watch for announcements in the *Rivereast*.

### Lions Carnival to Return

The Colchester Lions Carnival on the Green will be held Wednesday, Aug. 18, through Friday, Aug. 20, from 6-10 p.m. each night, and Saturday, Aug. 21, from 4-9 p.m.

Pre-sale tickets for \$22 are available at Dime Bank in Colchester, Noel's Market and Mel's Downtown Creamery Colchester location while supplies last or until Tuesday Aug. 17. Cash or checks only; no refunds/returns on pre-sale tickets.

Bracelets during carnival will be \$25 and offered during all hours of operations all four days.

### 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.

### Dean's List

Colchester residents Natalie Carroll and Rissa Currie made the spring 2021 Dean's List at the University of Maine.

### Vendors Sought for Snowflake Bazaar

There are still crafter spots available at Westchester Congregational Church's annual Snowflake Bazaar, which this year will take place Saturday, Nov. 6, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at Markham Meadows Campground in East Hampton. The 8x10 spots are \$25 each.

The bazaar will feature food, music and raffles. For more information, call Melissa Engel at 860-267-9738.



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**LEGAL NOTICE**

A certified list of Democratic party-endorsed candidates for the Town of Colchester for election as First Selectman, Selectmen, Town Treasurer, Board of Finance (Full Term), Board of Finance (Two Year Term), Board of Education, and Board of Assessment Appeals is on file in my office at 127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, CT and copies thereof will be available for public distribution. A Primary will be held September 14, 2021 if the required primary petition(s) for opposition candidate(s) is filed, pursuant to Sections 9-382 to 9-450 of the Connecticut General Statutes, not later than 4:00 p.m. on August 11, 2021. Petition forms, instructions and information concerning the procedure for filing of opposing candidacies, including schedules, may be obtained from Karen Romero, Democratic Registrar of Voters, Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, CT 06415.  
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**LEGAL NOTICE**

A certified list of Republican party-endorsed candidates for the Town of Colchester for election as First Selectman, Selectmen, Town Treasurer, Board of Finance (Full Term), Board of Finance (Two Year Term), Board of Education, and Board of Assessment Appeals is on file in my office at 127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, CT and copies thereof will be available for public distribution. A Primary will be held September 14, 2021 if the required primary petition(s) for opposition candidate(s) is filed, pursuant to Sections 9-382 to 9-450 of the Connecticut General Statutes, not later than 4:00 p.m. on August 11, 2021. Petition forms, instructions and information concerning the procedure for filing of opposing candidacies, including schedules, may be obtained from Sheila Tortorigi, Republican Registrar of Voters, Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, CT 06415.  
Gayle Furman, CCTC  
Town Clerk of Colchester

1TB 8/6







# Planning Officials Present Village Center Analysis

by Jack Lakowsky

Jeremy DeCarli, East Hampton's Planning and Zoning official, told a group of local business owners and residents that a draft of the Village Center Planning Project should be ready around Labor Day in September.

When the draft is ready, DeCarli will present the plan to the public in another meeting.

DeCarli and a grant-funded intern from Central Connecticut State University, Chris Roberts, presented a questionnaire in a Tuesday night public meeting to be used as a guiding tool in the first leg of their work.

Those interested in letting their thoughts on how planners should proceed can visit the Land Use Department's page on the town's website, where a link to the questions is posted.

Questions include what people want done with parcels on both Main Street and Walnut Avenue and goes on to ask the feelings on the importance of sidewalks, walking and biking friendliness, connection to the Air Line Trail, fixing blighted buildings, as well as adding benches and light posts and trash cans.

Roberts explained a technique he used to gauge the current state of the Village Center. It's called a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis.

As strengths in the center, Roberts listed the sense of business community, the diversity of the types of businesses, its draw of out-of-towner dollars, high customer traffic and what he called the area's "historical" charm.

Weaknesses Roberts listed were infrastructure, poor communication of parking locations,

lack of signage, lack of local awareness of the center and the dearth of trash and recycling receptacles.

Redevelopment of old mill buildings and brownfields-an effort the town has begun, adding bike/pedestrian infrastructure and further incorporation of the Air Line Trail, the improving connectivity to it, were opportunities Roberts listed.

As threats to safety and development, Roberts named the area's heavy traffic and poor walkability, and blighted properties.

"The more information we can get, the better," DeCarli said in the meeting.

Pressing issues plaguing the center include low water quantity and quality, as well as the blighted brownfields mentioned above, especially on Watrous and Summit streets.

Buildings there are currently the focus of a restoration effort wherein the town is hoping to partner with a private developer to bring the properties - including, among others, 1 and 13 Watrous, 3 Walnut and 13 Summit - back to productivity.

To help resolve longstanding water problems, the East Hampton Town Council in June formed a subcommittee to address the issue. A request for qualifications (RFQ) has been issued.

DeCarli said those efforts certainly factor into the center planning project, but this work is more geared toward tackling actionable things, like

## Police News

7/28: Molly Rothchild, 29, of 23 Main St., was arrested and charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and three counts of violation of probation, East Hampton Police said. During the same incident, Jeremy Gorman, 28, of the same address, was issued a summons for misuse of plates and operating and unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, police said.

8/2: Russell Roly, 32, of Glastonbury, was arrested and charged with criminal violation of a protective order.

Also, from July 26-Aug. 1, officers responded to three motor vehicle crashes, 13 medical calls and eight alarms, and made 37 traffic stops, police said.

## Bethlehem Lutheran Church News

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church holds live in-person services Sundays at 10:15 a.m. All are welcome. Enter via the front door and ushers will assist you.

For those not ready to attend in person, the livestream link will be at the church's Facebook page, at [www.facebook.com/BethlehemEH](http://www.facebook.com/BethlehemEH).



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## Applications for Jim Morris Scholarship

Applications for the sixth annual East Hampton Ambulance Association Jim Morris Scholarship are currently being accepted. The scholarship is available to East Hampton or Haddam Neck residents who have completed one year of studies in an Allied Health program at a four-year college or community college. In addition, members of the East Hampton Ambulance Association, or their family, who are furthering their education are also eligible.

Since 2014, when the scholarship was formed, \$27,000 has been awarded to students with majors such as paramedics, physician's assistants, physical therapy, nursing, doctors and other health care studies.

Applications must be postmarked or delivered by Sept. 30. Applications received after that date will not be considered.

For applications, go to [www.ehems.org](http://www.ehems.org) and click on 'Scholarship,' or call 860-267-9679. Completed applications should be sent to: Liz Whitty, Scholarship Chairperson, East Hampton Ambulance Association, P.O. Box 144, East Hampton, CT 06424.

Tax-deductible donations, to help continue these scholarships, are also welcome, and can be made out to: The East Hampton Ambulance Scholarship Fund, earmarked 'Scholarship,' and sent to Whitty at the same address.

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improving sidewalks and lighting, or aesthetic improvements, such as adding plant beds.

In late July, DeCarli said his office received from the state chapter of the American Planning Association a \$1,500 grant to hire an intern from CCSU.

Village Center business owners welcomed the plan, DeCarli said. They told the town to track speeding in the center, and to paint in crosswalks.

As a first step, the town is taking inventory of existing infrastructure, down to the last public garbage can.

DeCarli said work the town can do is somewhat limited, as it doesn't own much property in the center. However, there are relatively easy, inexpensive, actionable items the town can put on its work agenda.

"For example, we can control the sidewalks and make it easier for walkers to get to the center from the Air Line Trail," DeCarli said.

"We can make it visually nice, make our center a 'center,'" DeCarli said.

DeCarli said East Hampton is looking to Chester's downtown area as a model.

"We're lucky in that the center already has

good bones," DeCarli said.

The state has a master plan for the Air Line Trail, DeCarli said. State conservation officials want the trail to connect from its start in East Hampton to its end in Thompson, making for a hiking path that crosses half the state.

DeCarli said the Village Center is the sole business area that connects directly to the trail. Improving wayfinding signs and walkability, DeCarli said, will make easier going between the trail and the town's businesses.

DeCarli said he expects the most visible work to take place between Summit and Skinner streets.

"I've had this job for about five years," DeCarli said. "We've heard time and again that the town should do more with the Village Center."

DeCarli said the town's other business area, on Route 66, is better able to self-support, as it's on a main corridor.

"Business owners [in the center] have taken the time to keep their properties in good shape, appealing to visitors and residents," DeCarli said. "Improving sidewalks and signages to attract business is good for all in town."

## 'Better Tomorrows' Fundraiser for CDHR

All are invited Sunday, Aug. 22, at The Farm at Carter Hill (86 East Hampton Rd., Marlborough) from 3-7 p.m., to "Better Tomorrows," help raise funds for CT Draft Horse Rescue and its current and future horses.

There will be live music, a cash bar, food, a 50/50 raffle, games and more. The event will take place rain or shine. Tickets are \$25 per person and can be purchased at <https://tinyurl.com/hrr5ar6p>.

CDHR is a nonprofit organization, located in East Hampton, that is dedicated to saving the lives of neglected or abused draft horses, as well as draft horses heading for slaughter. For more information on this event or on CDHR in general, visit [www.facebook.com/ctdraftrescue](http://www.facebook.com/ctdraftrescue).

## Epoch Arts Accepting Tag Sale Donations

Epoch Arts will accept tag sale donations from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays, Aug. 7, 14, 21 and 28, at Epoch, located at 27 Skinner St.

Items not accepted include: computers and any accessories including monitors, printers, keyboards and mouse, televisions, child car seats, cribs, mattresses, bed frames, couches, encyclopedias, textbooks, large exercise machines, old-style phones and cell phones.

Epoch Arts is a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization dedicated to helping young people communicate, collaborate, create and celebrate through experiencing, hands-on, the arts.

For more information on the tag sale, call Judy Holmquist at 860-918-0784 or visit [www.epocharts.org](http://www.epocharts.org).

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REB-6-21

East Hampton • East Hampton

# No Update from State on Masks in Schools

by Jack Lakowsky

With COVID-19 on the resurgence in the state, and vaccines for children under 12 still months away, many are wondering just what the mask situation will look like when schools open their doors in less than a month.

But, Superintendent of East Hampton Schools Paul Smith on Tuesday told the *Rivereast* there was no update to share from a meeting with state leaders he attended this week.

Smith said the governor will make his stance known sometime midmonth.

"I think they're waiting a few weeks to see if the spread of the [Delta] variant goes down," Smith said regarding his impression of the plans of the state Department of Public Health (DPH) and the state Department of Education.

Smith said the meeting largely focused on how schools can become vaccination centers if they so wish. Last week, Smith said because the district has already hosted several vaccination clinics, and because one can now simply walk into a local CVS for a dose, no school clinics are planned for East Hampton.

Smith added that, as of now, there will be no COVID-19 testing in schools.

Last week, prior to the meeting with the state, Smith said that, due to the pandemic's extremely dynamic, unpredictable nature, he will wait to make firm decisions on what school mitigation strategies will look like in the fall.

The superintendent's reticence stems from the inconsistent guidance schools, and the public, have received, Smith said of issuances from the state, as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

"The CDC started by saying only unvaccinated people needed masks, and then the [American Academy of Pediatrics] said everyone should wear masks, then the CDC came back and said

again only unvaccinated should wear masks," Smith said.

The day Smith spoke with the *Rivereast*, the CDC said everyone should wear masks indoors.

The CDC's most recent guidance was posted July 27. The agency is recommending universal mask-wearing in schools, as well as in public indoor spaces in regions experiencing high levels of transmission, which is the current case for all of Connecticut.

Smith said whether mask mandates are passed or not, the district will proceed logically, with a cool head.

Schools won't offer remote learning next year, Smith said, and the state isn't as of now asking them to.

"No snap choices," Smith said of the district's guiding principle.

Smith said, based on emails to his office and Facebook comments – which, he said, does not necessarily represent the whole of the town's opinion – parents and the community are split on whether they want masks in schools.

Ultimately, the power to require masks lies with state and federal officials.

"If the state mandates the CDC's recommendations, then we will have to use masks in schools," Smith said, going on to say he supports the freedom of families to make their own choices but that, masks or not, the most valuable education a student can get is at their classroom desk.

"We're going to fall back on mandates from the governor or the state," Smith said. "If there are no mandates, we'll do our own thing."

Smith said in-person learning allows schools to monitor emotional and mental health of students, the observation of which will be a "high priority" for schools in the coming year.

Schools also have to deal with any learning stu-

dents may have lost while quarantined and/or learning at home.

A few months ago, Smith told the East Hampton school board that Belltown students' math performance was a bit below the scores of nearby towns. To fix this, schools are using stimulus funds to hire STEM specialists to help catch kids up.

Schools will offer a "full tilt" of sports and clubs, Smith said. He said extracurriculars go a long way to foster student enthusiasm and sense of belonging.

Belltown schools will adhere to guidelines from the Connecticut Interscholastic Conference (CIAC), the governing body for the state's secondary school athletics in addition to those of state and federal bureaus.

Schools are determined to welcome students back to fully reopened buildings, Smith said, reiterating that schools will proceed as logically as possible to achieve this end.

Last week, Gov. Ned Lamont in a press conference told reporters he would "tend to track" with CDC statements, but that he has yet to decide on the matter.

"Give me another [few weeks] to see whether we're Florida or we're Connecticut," Lamont said. "If we're Connecticut, I think we give a bit more discretion because we've earned it."

The state has provided schools with interim suggestions for COVID-19 prevention.

Lamont's communications director, Max Reiss, said the "best action all of our students over the age of 12 and educators could do to support a safe return to school is receive [a vaccine]," Reiss said.

The shift in guidance comes as the highly contagious Delta variant, now the dominant strain in Connecticut, rampages across the country. Some states, largely in the south, are dealing with case numbers eclipsing those of the pandemic's 2020 peak.

## Lobster Fest Returns in September

East Hampton's Fowler-Dix-Park Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5095 and its Auxiliary will host the 16th annual Lobster Fest on Saturday, Sept. 25, from noon-5 p.m., on the grounds of the VFW post on North Maple Street. The VFW Lobster Fest raises funds for the upkeep of the post as well as to serve the needs of veterans.

Ocean-fresh live lobsters are trucked in the morning of the fest. There are two options for tickets. A single ticket (white color) entitles you to either two fresh-boiled lobsters with drawn butter or two grilled steaks, or one of each, one boiled lobster and one grilled steak, plus one pound of fresh-steamed clams with drawn butter, one cup of homemade clam chowder and one ear of corn.

A double ticket (red color) entitles you to either two fresh-boiled lobsters with drawn butter or two grilled steaks, or one of each, one boiled lobster and one grilled steak, plus two pounds of fresh-steamed clams with drawn butter, two cups of homemade chowder and two ears of corn.

Soft drinks will be available, as well as a cash bar. The entire feast is served "in the rough" under shade canopies behind the Post Home with music. Take-out and local delivery is available at no additional cost.

Tickets are limited, and sales will cease Sept. 18. Tickets are \$55 for a single (white) ticket and \$70 for a double (red) ticket. The post will have tickets available after 3 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, as well as noon to close on Saturday and Sunday. People can also call the post at 860-267-8837.

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### Senior Center News & Notes

East Hampton Senior Center, 105 Main St., has opened for those registered for programs. Most programs will be held outside unless there is inclement weather. Masks are recommended for participants who are not vaccinated or are not comfortable without a mask.

Register online through [myactivecenter.com](http://myactivecenter.com) or by contacting the center at 860-267-4426 or [seniorcenter@easthamptonct.gov](mailto:seniorcenter@easthamptonct.gov). Normal business hours: Monday- Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., and Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Visit [www.easthamptonct.gov/east-hampton-senior-center](http://www.easthamptonct.gov/east-hampton-senior-center) for more information.

**Quilting Group:** Mondays at 9 a.m. New members are welcome. Register online or call the center.

**Mexican Train Dominoes:** Mondays, 9:30 a.m. New members welcome. Call the center or register online.

**Bible Study:** Tuesdays, 1 p.m. This non-denominational group shares and studies scripture. Call the center or register online.

**Bingo:** Tuesdays, 1-2 p.m., in person and via Zoom. Call the center or register online. If Zooming, call the center and let staff know.

**Wii Bowling:** Tuesdays, Aug. 10 and 17, 10 a.m. Register online.

**Yoga with Kitch:** Wednesdays, Aug. 18-Oct. 20, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Yoga will continue in-person, at the new location of Town Hall, as well as virtual, via Zoom. Register online. The 10-week session is \$20. Payment may be mailed to the senior center; make check payable to the Town of East Hampton.

**Mahjongg:** Fridays, 10 a.m.-noon. Call or register online. This game is open to trained players. If interested, call the center and leave your name for a possible instruction class. The center will contact you when the class is arranged.

**Textile Group:** Fridays at 1:30 p.m. This group brings in their own projects, such as knitting or crochet projects. To register, call the center or register online.

**Writing Our Lives to Open Our Hearts:** Thursdays throughout the summer, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Meet outside, weather permitting. In case of inclement weather, it will be inside, with masks recommended. Register online.

**Virtual Lunch Bunch:** Every other Monday from 12:30-1 p.m., via Zoom. Next date is Aug. 9.

**Nature's Everywhere Series:** Wednesday, Aug. 11, at 10 a.m. On this stroll, explore bog, marsh and the history of the trail. Meet at the kiosk in the parking area next to the bog at 69 Smith St. Insect repellent and sturdy walking shoes are suggested. Masks requested and people should social distance as needed. If you have family members that would like to attend, let the center know. Class size limited to 10 participants. There is some walking involved; short distances. Register online or by calling the center.

**Creative Crafts:** Wednesday, Aug. 18, 1 p.m.; The craft is Punch Needle Embroidery, related to rug hooking. Register online.

**Setback:** Thursdays 1:30-3:30 p.m., in person.

Pre-register via myActiveCenter.com or by calling in advance.

**Lunch on the Patio with Staff:** 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.

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

**Movie Group, Lunch and Discussion/In Person:** Tuesday, Aug. 31, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Movie title to be announced soon. Bring your own lunch. Sign up online or call the center.

**Trips: Hudson River Cruise:** Thursday, Sept. 23, 8 a.m. Pre-cruise lunch at Shadows on the Hudson in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., on a cliff above the Hudson with views. Select from Mediterranean chicken or penne a la vodka. The Rip Van Winkle narrated cruise offers views of the Hudson River, lighthouses, waterfront mansions and other sights. Cost is \$130 per person. Register at the Colchester Senior Center or call 860-537-3911 for more information.

**Van Gogh: Exhibit in Boston:** Wednesday, Nov. 17. Explore Van Gogh's life, work, and secrets through digital projections, a virtual reality experience, and an atmospheric light and sound show. Cost is \$112 per person. Pick up flyers at the senior center. Payments accepted on Tuesdays and Thursdays or by appointment.

**Dining and a Cabaret Show:** At the Newport Playhouse Wednesday, Dec. 8, to see the new comic farce *A Christmas for Carol*. There will be a staff-served buffet with a variety of hot entrees, salads and more. Cost is \$129/person. Payments will be accepted at the center on Tuesdays and Thursdays, or by a pre-arranged appointment time.

### EHVFD Fireworks to Return

The East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department has announced its annual fireworks display will return Saturday, Aug. 21, on the grounds of East Hampton High School on North Maple Street. Rain date is Sunday, Aug. 22.

This year's celebration will be the town's first large public gathering in 15 months and will honor all those who stepped up to help the community throughout the pandemic. This family-oriented fireworks event will feature food, beverage and ice cream choices, live music beginning at 6 p.m. and other amenities, capped by a fireworks display presented by the Atlas PyroVision Entertainment Group of Jaffrey, N.H., at approximately 9 p.m.

Firefighters will again be visible in town for "Fill the Boot for the Fireworks" events to help support the fireworks. Businesses are being contacted and individual contributions to the "EHVFD Fireworks Fund" can also be sent directly to the headquarters building at 3 Barton Hill Rd., East Hampton, CT 06424.

### Resident's Artwork at Town Hall

An exhibit by local artist Alison Walck will be on display at the East Hampton Town Hall gallery throughout the month of August. Town Hall is located at 1 Community Drive.

A watercolor and mixed media artist, Walck said, "Art has been an influence and main component of my life since remembering times." Her mother, also an artist, insisted that she never use coloring books because, as she said, "there aren't lines around everything; create your own."

Walck's father was an avid naturalist and ardent observer, and, with these two forces for parents, she was molded into the artist she is today.

Walck said she has learned that painting teaches patience – and the best lesson is failure. "That is why there are two sides of the paper and an eraser at the other end of the pencil," she said.

All are invited to stop by Town Hall and view the artwork.



Local resident Alison Walck – shown here with her feline friend, Lishy – will have her artwork on display at the Town Hall gallery throughout August.

### Cut-a-Thon

All are invited to the third annual Cut-a-Thon to benefit the CT Draft Horse Rescue Saturday, Aug. 14, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at Scissor Happy Salon, 864 Portland-Cobalt Rd., Portland.

For a \$25 donation you can get your haircut, styled or braided. No appointments necessary. There will also be a silent auction and CDHR retail items, and a wine-pull sponsored by Tony's Package Store in Haddam.

Those who cannot come but still want to donate to the CDHR can do so by visiting [www.ctdraftrescue.org](http://www.ctdraftrescue.org).

CDHR is a nonprofit organization, located in East Hampton, that is dedicated to saving the lives of neglected or abused draft horses, as well as draft horses heading for slaughter. For more information on this event or on CDHR in general, visit [www.facebook.com/ctdraftrescue](http://www.facebook.com/ctdraftrescue).

### Chatham Historical Society News

The Chatham Historical Society (CHS) has announced the following two pieces of news. For more information, call 860-267-4732.

**Museum:** Also, the historical society museum opens the first Sunday of every month from 2-4 p.m. or by appointment; call 860-267-8953.

**Historic House Tour:** Saturday, Sept. 25, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Six residences will be included.

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### East Hampton Library News & Notes

East Hampton Public Library, 105 Main St., has announced the following. To register, or for full program descriptions, call 860-267-6621 or visit easthamptonpubliclibrary.org.

**Library Hours:** Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; and Thursday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. If you're fully vaccinated, you can choose whether to wear a mask in the library – but the library encourages people to wear them, out of respect for children in the community who use the library and cannot yet be vaccinated.

**End-of-Summer Reading Celebration Concert:** Friday, Aug. 20, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Jukebox 45, a '50s and '60s show band, will perform. Summer reading raffle winners will be pulled at intermission. The concert is sponsored by East Hampton Rotary Club and East Hampton Public Library.

**Children's Programs: Baby Rhyme Time Outside:** For ages birth through 18 months. Thursdays at 10:15 a.m. through Aug. 26, at the Center School gazebo on Main Street, weather permitting. No registration required; just drop in.

**Stories and Songs Outside:** For 18 months-5 years. Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m. through Aug. 25, at Seamster Park, weather permitting. Siblings welcome. No registration required; just drop in.

**Teacher Read Aloud Series:** For ages 5-10. Monday, Aug. 9, 4 p.m., in front of the library, weather permitting. Siblings welcome. No registration required; just drop in.

**Lego Saturdays:** Saturdays, 10:30 a.m., for all ages. Follow the week's challenge or build your own adventure. All are welcome. No registration required; just drop in.

**Teen Program: Shark Week Celebration:** Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2:30 p.m., in front of the library, weather permitting. Students entering grades 6-12 can come make a "shark tooth" para-

cord bracelet, have shark-themed snacks and take a picture of themselves swimming with sharks.

**Dungeons & Dragons:** For grades 8-12. Wednesday, Aug. 11, at 2 p.m., in front of the library, weather permitting. No experience required. Registration required.

**Adult Programs: Book Talk & Walk:** Saturday, Aug. 14, 9 a.m., on the Air Line Trail, beginning at the library. Each attendee will briefly share one or two recent reads they've enjoyed. No registration required.

**Book Club:** Tuesday, Aug. 17, 6:30 p.m. and Thursday, Aug. 19, 2 p.m. Meets in person at the library. Emma Straub's *The Vacationers* will be discussed. Copies will be available for checkout at the circulation desk.

**Plot Twist: Discussing Big Issues through Short Stories:** Wednesday, Aug. 25, at 7 p.m., held outdoors at Dexter's Tunes, Tales and Ales, 91 Main St. Registration required.

### East Hampton Hawks Meet-and-Greet

The East Hampton Hawks Youth Football and Cheerleading Association will host a meet-and-greet with parents, participants and any interested families on Sunday, Aug. 8, from 1-3 p.m., at East Hampton Middle School, 19 Childs Rd., East Hampton.

Parents can drop off registration paperwork for both football and cheerleading. Skills Stations and 7-on-7 flag football will happen on the main field. Coaches meet at noon.

For more information about Hawks football and cheerleading, visit [www.ehyouthfootball.org](http://www.ehyouthfootball.org). People can also call/text 860-867-7534 or 860-416-5545 for additional details, or email questions to [info@ehyouthfootball.org](mailto:info@ehyouthfootball.org).



**Guitar Men...** The Mick and Vic Acoustic Duo will perform hits from the 1950s to present Thursday, Aug. 12, starting at 6:30 p.m., at the Center School Gazebo in the East Hampton Village Center, as part of the Joseph N. Goff House Gazebo Concert Series. This final show of the 2021 season is a make-up performance that was rescheduled due to rain. Listeners are encouraged to bring blankets, chairs and picnics. For more information, visit [goffhousehct.blogspot.com](http://goffhousehct.blogspot.com).

### GOP Auction Coming

Thursday, Aug. 26, is the GOP Autumn Auction at Robert's Lake House in East Hampton. The auction will start at 6 p.m.

Auctioneer Andy Tierney will host the event inside. Items this year include tickets to Limerock Race Track, a kayak, original Elizabeth Sennet artwork, a New Hampshire vacation home plus much, much more. All are welcome.

A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Senior Center and the Rotary's youth group, Interact. To donate an item or for more information, call Melissa Engel at 860-267-9738.

### Plein Air Experience at Library

Middle Haddam Public Library, located at 2 Knowles Rd., invites all under the tent at the library for a plein air experience with artist Helen McDonald Tuesday, Aug. 10, at 2 p.m.

McDonald will share her watercolor techniques. Put a paintbrush in your hand and try them out yourself. All are welcome; masks required.

McDonald and her husband, longtime residents of Lyme, currently live aboard their 43-foot catamaran. The colors and landscapes entranced her and inspired her to rethink the way she previously created art. Her work is on display at the library until Aug. 31.

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**First Harvest...** The East Hampton Community Garden has had its first harvest for the Food Bank. The Interact Club Food Bank Garden has been maintained by Interact students Mikaela Rich, Sarah Johnson, Eshani Karkun and Sophia Cahoon. Cahoon is shown here delivering the first harvest. Folks growing gardens at home who have an abundance of produce are asked to consider donating it to the Food Bank by dropping it off before 8:45 a.m. Mondays and Thursdays. Place produce in the black rolling cart on the back porch of the Food Bank at 43 West High St., next to St. Patrick Catholic Church.

**Middle School Soccer, Cross-Country Registration**

Student/athletes who are interested in trying out for boys soccer, girls soccer or boys/girls cross-country teams can register online at [www.FamilyID.com](http://www.FamilyID.com).

Athletes must have all the proper paperwork submitted online and have an updated physical in order to try out. Registration should be completed by Monday, Aug. 23.

For more information, call EHMS athletic director Michael Mercaldi at 860-463-6837.

**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. For the fully vaccinated, mask-wearing is not mandatory except when singing. Those who aren't fully vaccinated should continue to wear masks and practice social distancing.

Services are still available via Zoom; visit [cc-eh.org](http://cc-eh.org) to access.

The church will host an Outdoor Family Movie Night (*Moana*) Saturday, Aug. 7, from 7:30-9:30 p.m. The movie starts at 8 p.m. Bring a chair or blanket. Water and refreshments will be sold.

The Teen Youth Group will next meet Saturday, Aug. 28, from 1-4 p.m., for an end-of-summer activity. Kids in grades 6-12 are welcome.

For more information, visit [cc-eh.org](http://cc-eh.org) or call 860-267-4959 during summer office hours, which are Wednesday and Thursday, 9 a.m.-noon. In case of pastoral emergencies, the Rev. Jim Latimer can be reached at 610-568-2480.

**Christ Episcopal Church News**

Christ Episcopal Church, 66 Middle Haddam Rd., Middle Haddam, holds Sunday services via Zoom each week at 10 a.m. Sunday school is on pause until the fall. Bible study, followed by Compline, is Wednesdays at 6 p.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).

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**Resident Publishes New Book About Rhode Island**

Travel and history author Martin "Marty" Podskoch is hoping to give Rhode Island residents a chance to explore every municipality in their state with his new book, *Rhode Island 39 Club: Your Passport and Guide to Exploring Rhode Island*.

"It doesn't matter what age people are or what means of transportation people use to get there," the 77-year-old author said. "The whole idea is to get people to see the many beautiful places in their state."

As a published author who has written seven books on the history of the Catskill and Adirondacks fire towers and lore and New York, Connecticut and Rhode Island Civilian Conservation Corps camps, Podskoch decided to write a book about all 102 Adirondack towns based on the "Vermont 251 Club" formed in the 1950s. Professor Arthur W. Peach wrote an article in a Vermont magazine in 1954 where he encouraged people to "take the road less traveled and get to know all of Vermont."

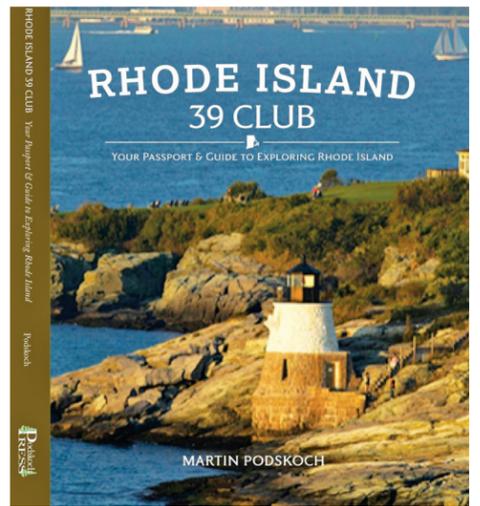
Calling the book the "Adirondack 102 Club," Podskoch included a space for journaling and a place where readers could get it stamped, stickered or signed from a business or location indicating they had been at a particular town.

Podskoch replicated his idea of traveling to every town, city and village with the Connecticut 169 Club. Podskoch recruited writers, historians, and officials from each town and asked them to write a short description about their town's history, interesting places to visit, and good places to eat.

After Podskoch finished and published his Rhode Island CCC camps book in December 2020, he began searching for volunteer writers in Rhode Island to write about their town's history and interesting places to visit. He was able to gather 45 writers in all walks of life: librarians, historians, historical society members, freelance writers, public officials, college professors, town citizens, and Chamber of Commerce officers. Four months later, all the stories and photos were sent to the graphic artist to be printed.

Now Rhode Island residents and visitors will have a guide to each town and city containing some history, annual events, places to visit, and places to eat.

All members and friends will be able to attend an annual dinner where they can share their stories and adventures. Those members that have visited all the towns and cities and have had their book signed and stamped in each town will be honored with the Rhody Red Award



**Resident Martin "Marty" Podskoch has published a new book, this time all about Rhode Island.**

patch that is named after the Rhode Island Red chickens that were bred in Little Compton.

The new hardcover travel book has 104 pages approximately 110 photos & maps. The \$21.95 book is available at local book and gift stores, Amazon, Barnes and Noble or by mail: Marty Podskoch, 43 O'Neill Lane, East Hampton, CT 06424. Podskoch can also be reached at 860-267-2442. Include applicable sales tax and \$4 shipping.

For more information, email [podskoch@comcast.net](mailto:podskoch@comcast.net) or visit [martinpodskoch.com](http://martinpodskoch.com).

**Haddam Neck Covenant Church News**

Haddam Neck Covenant Church, located at 17 Haddam Neck Rd., invites all to Sunday worship at 9 a.m., online at [www.facebook.com/Haddam-Neck-Covenant-Church](http://www.facebook.com/Haddam-Neck-Covenant-Church) or in person. Masks are optional. 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:** The Zoom Bible study – held every other Thursday evening – will resume in the fall.

**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](http://www.hncovenantchurch.org).

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# Town to Buzz with Birds, Bees and Butterflies

by Jack Lakowsky

Over the past several years, concerns about the decreasing populations of key plant pollinators, including honeybees, butterflies and hummingbirds, have led many to research how to make their home gardens and yards friendlier to wildlife.

The issue has national attention. In 2014, then-President Barack Obama issued a federal plan to help sustain pollinators, species essential to everything from the neighborhood's decorative gardens to crop production.

At a Board of Selectmen meeting last week, the town issued a resolution to formally dedicate itself to fostering growth of wildflowers, native trees and shrubs, and do all it can to incorporate types of plants attractive to butterflies and bees in these "Pollinator Pathways."

Pollinator Pathways, according to Pollinator-Pathway.org are pesticide-free corridors consisting of gardens a short distance apart with native plants and bushes that attract pollinators, such as bees, allowing the insects to fill up on fuel during their travels.

Portland First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield told the Board of Selectmen the town currently has a "bronze" rating from Sustainable CT, a voluntary certification program towns engage in to improve their economic and environmental sustainability.

Bransfield said planting gardens of native, productive plants will go a long way to netting Portland a silver or gold certification.

Selectman Lou Pear said recognition from Sustainable CT tells the state there's positive momentum in town, adding that, when the town asks for money for projects, the state will see this certification as a reason to fund local work.

"You have a better chance of getting the funds when you do things the state wants done," Pear said.

Bransfield in an interview prior to last Wednesday's meeting said the local garden club and Air Line Trail Committee have already planted some pollinator gardens. The resolution was a means to officialize and communicate the effort to town staff and residents.

Information on pollinator pathways is up on the town's website. According to this, the town has three pollinator gardens to start off; at the Air Line Trailhead on Middle Haddam Road; Riverfront Park on Brownstone Avenue and the new Portland Recreational Complex on Portland-Cobalt Road.

During her interview, Bransfield said the town will identify public areas with little to no human activity. Mowing in these spots will be reduced, and wildflowers such as clover and black-eyed Susans will be allowed to bloom.

The resolution specifically names clover as a key species, as pollinators favor it, and it grows wild. It can proliferate if left alone.

Bransfield said the seed of the idea for the effort was planted by a resident. The person called the town concerned about ground crews' mowing an area where flora favored by butterflies was about to bloom.

The selectwoman said, where it may be practical, some areas may be entirely left alone. The town could reduce its mowing of grassy areas down to once or twice a month.

Bransfield told the *Rivereast* part of this effort will include reviewing the town's landscaping practices, ensuring they don't harm pollinators, native plants or other wildlife.

Town hall, Bransfield said, is one site where nectarous plants can go.

Attracting more pollinators into town will greatly benefit local farmers, Bransfield added.

"One of the strange positives of the pandemic was that people got out more," Bransfield said. "I think a lot of people would like to see more flowers in town."

Bransfield said thanks to the myriad media reports about the decline of pollinators, particularly honeybees and much-beloved monarch butterflies, the town can now correct its historical neglect of the issue.

The town is encouraging businesses and residents to help pollinators. People can reach out to the town for information, or they can reach out to offer some advice on how to raise a productive pollinator ecosystem.

One aspect of this effort will be to educate locals on how to grow without using pesticides or herbicides.

"[B]ees, flies, butterflies, moths, bats and birds play a vital role in upholding and enhancing a society's wellbeing," the town's website reads.

Apples, pears, cherries, strawberries, raspberries, squash, tomatoes, peppers and nuts are some of the crops the town lists as depending on pollinators.

According to the US Forest Service, more than 1000 plants we harvest for food, drink and medicine need robust pollinator populations. Pollinators are essential in producing \$10 billion worth of food products each year.

Creating pesticide-free pollinator habitats is key to countering threats such as climate change and the spread of parasites and diseases.

Plants take up carbon dioxide, fix carbon as organic matter and produce oxygen as a result of photosynthesis, and pollinators are key to the reproduction of flowering plants that produce this vital service, the town's info goes on.

Other benefits of pollinator protection are the purification of water and prevention of soil erosion. Sturdier roots and foliage to buffer the impacts of rain. Plants depend on pollinators for reproduction and are needed to return moisture to the atmosphere.

Creating pollinator pathways will also enhance community cohesion through new gathering places and educational opportunities that result from the creation of pollinator gardens.

State information on helping pollinators says to maximize a yard's friendliness, consider planting flowers that bloom from early spring through late autumn, providing a place where early-season up through the last-season pollinators can refuel.

Remove invasive plants, such as burning bush, autumn olive and Japanese barberry, in favor of native plant species.

For example, planting wild geranium and highbush blueberry for the early season; swamp milkweed and New Jersey tea for the middle of the season; and New England aster and wrinkle-leaf goldenrod for the late season. These provide blooming flowers from spring through fall. With the right mix of plants, a property can become a year-round haven.

Maintaining natural areas (unmanicured areas of property) is key for long-term pollinator protection. If a property includes forestland, meadowlands or wetlands, bees will use those areas extensively for both feeding and nesting.

Offer wild bees a helping hand by providing nesting sites. These sites could be patches of untilled, bare, well-drained soil, which is perfect for many ground-nesting bees.

Sites for wood-nesting bees include old logs with beetle burrows (for mason bees and leaf-

cutter bees), or brush piles (for safe places to hibernate).

To encourage butterflies, plant caterpillar host plants. For example, monarchs need milkweed to feed on as caterpillars. New Jersey tea is eaten by many Connecticut insects, making it a great addition to a pollinator garden. Planting native food plants in your yard or garden is a terrific way to encourage pollinators to flourish, according to the state.

No matter the life stage, insects are best protected when their chosen wintering sites go undisturbed. It is important to support these organisms across their entire life cycle, including over winter.

For example, mated queen bumble bees spend the winter under leaf litter or soil. Lepidoptera-butterflies and moths may overwinter as eggs, caterpillars, pupae, or adults. Plant management is best conducted during late summer or fall to minimize negative effects to pollinators over wintering periods.

If possible, management should occur in such a way that much of the habitat is left undisturbed in any given year, helping to protect species from the direct impacts of disruption.

Above all, any space created for pollinators should be pesticide-free.

Insecticides are especially harmful to pollinators if applied at the wrong time or application rate. While it may not always be possible to completely eliminate pesticides from your garden or yard, you can certainly reduce the impacts on pollinators with simple steps.

Chemicals should not be applied when pollinators are active – most pollinators rest at night. Pesticides should be applied to the parts of the plant without flowers so that pollinators are not exposed to chemicals while visiting the flowers.

## Trinity Episcopal Church News

Trinity Episcopal Church, 345 Main St., holds services inside on Sundays at 9 a.m. All are invited.

By direction of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut, the church is resuming the use of masks for all, vaccinated and unvaccinated, while inside the church. The church will continue to have doors and windows open for proper ventilation. More information is at [trinitychurchportlandct.org](http://trinitychurchportlandct.org).

**First Sunday on Main:** On Sept. 5, all churches in Portland, as well as Holy Trinity in Middletown, are invited to an ecumenical service on the Trinity Episcopal Church lawn. Service is at 9 a.m. Bring your own chair. In case of inclement weather, worship will be inside. Email [trinitychurchportlandct@gmail.com](mailto:trinitychurchportlandct@gmail.com) or call 860-342-0458 for more information.

The church is open for prayer and meditation on Fridays from 2-4 p.m.

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.

## Zion Lutheran Church News

Zion Lutheran Church, located at 183 William St., has returned to offering indoor worship services. All are welcome.

Through the end of August, services will be in the air-conditioned "Promised Land," accessed from the rear parking lot.

Singing during worship has returned. Holy Communion is offered with individual, disposable wine cups.

The church continues to follow CDC guidelines. Masks are required for unvaccinated attendees.

For those who prefer virtual services, a recording of the service will be posted online by 9 a.m. the following Monday. Search "Zion Lutheran Church Portland CT" on YouTube and on Facebook. Bulletins for each service are on the church website.

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

For more information, or if in need of pastoral assistance, call 860-342-2860, email [lutheran@snet.net](mailto:lutheran@snet.net) or visit [zionlutheranportland.org](http://zionlutheranportland.org).

## Dean's List

Kyle MacGillis of Portland made the spring 2021 Dean's List at Endicott College in Beverly, Mass.

MacGillis is majoring in business management and is the son of Sophia MacGillis and Robert MacGillis.

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### Carpino Tours Work on Arrigoni Bridge

State Rep. Christie Carpino (R-32) last Friday joined state Department of Transportation officials and members of the state legislature's Transportation Committee for a tour of the ongoing construction on the Arrigoni Bridge.

The 32nd House District covers Portland and Cromwell.

The bridge is undergoing extensive rehabilitation and is now in the third stage of work. The project is scheduled to finish in February 2022, according to a statement from Carpino.

Carpino also toured the Main Street area of Middletown.

"While ongoing construction work is never ideal, DOT has done an excellent job communicating with both officials and [businesses] throughout this project," Carpino said.

In a discussion unrelated to Carpino's re-



**State Rep. Christie Carpino (R-32) recently toured the ongoing construction on the Arrigoni Bridge. The project is slated to wrap early next year.**

lease, Portland First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said she'd be getting an update on the project this week.

### 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). For more information, call 860-342-6757 or email [nfoley@portland.ct.org](mailto:nfoley@portland.ct.org) or [adionne@portland.ct.org](mailto:adionne@portland.ct.org).

**Tai Chi for Long Life:** At Riverfront Park Wednesdays through Sept. 22 (started Aug. 4), 9:30-10:15 a.m., or Saturdays, Aug. 7-Sept. 25, 10:30-11:15 a.m. Fee is \$40 for either eight-week session. Contact Parks and Rec. if you are interested in drop-in registration.

**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:** Runs through Aug. 16, at Brownstone Intermediate School. Programs include Kiddie Kamp (ages 3-5), Summer Quest Base Camp (grades 1-6), and Teen Adventure

### Red Cross Blood Drive

There will be an American Red Cross blood drive Wednesday, Aug. 11, from 1-6 p.m., at St. Mary Church, 51 Freestone Ave.

Donors of all blood types are needed, especially type O, which stands at just a one-day supply as of Tuesday.

All donors will automatically be entered for a chance to win an exclusive VIP trip for two to the sold-out 2021 Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival. They will also receive a free four-month subscription offer to Apple Music by email (new subscribers only). More details are at [RedCrossBlood.org/FeelTheBeat](http://RedCrossBlood.org/FeelTheBeat).

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

In most cases, those who have received a COVID-19 vaccine can donate. However, knowing the name of the manufacturer of the vaccine they received is important in determining donation eligibility.

### Exchange to Hold 'Touch-A-Truck'

The Exchange Club of Portland will hold its annual "Touch A Truck" event on Sunday, Aug. 29, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Portland Exchange Fairgrounds.

The Exchange will have trucks and vehicles of all types for children to come and sit in.

All proceeds from the event will benefit Help Our Military Heroes, a Connecticut based non-profit that provides handicap accessible vans for injured veterans. Cash donations will be accepted.

Admission \$5 for adults and children \$2 and can be purchased at the gate. Hot dogs, ice cream and refreshments will be available for purchase. Parking is free.

If you have a vehicle of any type for the event, call Jamie Leonard at 860-301-6998.

### Portland Fair to Return

The Portland Fair will return this year; it will be held Oct. 1-3.

There will be a tent set up at the Riverfront concert on Aug. 10. There will also be a free raffle at the tent.

### Grace and Mercy Church News

Grace and Mercy Family Ministries Church, 13 Waverly Ave., has announced a modified Sunday worship service schedule. Through August, the Sunday morning worship service will begin at 10 a.m.

### Portland Library News & Notes

Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave., is open, with no appointments needed. Wireless is available. Registration required for the following programs 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.

**Hours:** Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. **Holiday Closing:** The library will be closed Saturday, Sept. 4, through Monday, Sept. 6, for Labor Day weekend.

**Museum Passes and Yard Games:** 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. The library also has available giant-sized yard games, such as Jenga, Connect 4, Yardzee and Yard Farkle.

**Youth Programs: Summer Reading Program:** The library's 2021 Summer Reading Program, "Tails and Tales," has launched. Visit the library website for more information and upcoming programs for children and teens.

**Tails and Tales Storytime:** Monday, Aug. 9, at 10:30 a.m., on the lawn of the Town Green. Kids age birth-5 can come for animal-themed stories, songs and games. There will be hula hoops set up for kids to sit in to stay socially distanced. Bring a blanket for other family members to sit on as well. Take-home craft bags will be available for all participants. No registration required.

**Let's Draw Animals with Rick Stromoski:** Thursday, Aug. 12, 2:30 p.m., for kids going into grades 3-12. Learn to draw cartoon animals in this virtual Zoom program with award-winning cartoonist Rick Stromoski. Registration required; space is limited.

**School Supply Bingo:** Tuesday, Aug. 17, 10:30 a.m., outdoors on the Town Green. All school-aged kids are invited to get a head start on back-to-school shopping by winning some school supplies. Registration is required.

**Adult Programs: Adult Summer Reading Program:** Sign up and get a \$2 coupon for a free item at the Friends Bookshop. The adult program is reading to benefit two music scholarships for Brownstone Intermediate School students. Register for summer reading by visiting the library to

pick up your reading log or register on the library website. You will receive another gift certificate when you have logged 2,000 pages. Logging can be done through the ReadSquared portal on the library website or by asking a staff member.

**Knifty Knitters:** Saturdays 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. This is a weekly knitting circle where people gather to knit while sharing ideas and tips. All are welcome - including beginners.

**Multi-Generational Drumming Circle:** Monday, Aug. 9, 6:30p.m. (rain date Aug. 16), on the Waverly Green. Gather, socially distanced with masks, for a West African-inspired drum circle featuring Mark Zarrillo, who has 40 years of drumming experience and knowledge of West African music and culture. Learn basic techniques ending with a drumming sequence. Drums & other percussion instruments will be supplied. No prior experience necessary. The Friends of the Library group supports the summer programs.

**Movies are Back:** Wednesday, Aug. 18, 1 p.m. A movie starring Toni Collette and Damian Lewis will be shown. Based on a true story, when a small-town bartender takes in a young horse with no experience on how to raise it, she and her neighbors begin taking on and sharing this responsibility as this unlikely steed will be bred and trained to take on the track. The PG-rated film runs 114 minutes. Registration requested; space is limited as social distancing is required.

**In-Person Book Club Meetings: T.A.B. (Talk About Books)** will discuss *The Great Alone* by Kristen Hannah on Thursday, Sept. 9, at 1 p.m., and the **Mystery Lovers Book Club** will discuss *The Witch Elm* by Tana French on Tuesday, Sept. 21, at 1 p.m.

**Portland Forum:** Is currently on summer hiatus and will be back Thursday, Sept. 30, at 7 p.m., at the library. The first title will be the book and film *A Most Beautiful Thing: The True Story of America's First All-Black High School Rowing Team* by Arshay Cooper. Copies of the book are available at the library. The film can be viewed by Amazon Prime members or on NBC's Peacock streaming service.

Throughout July and August, books on diversity-related titles will be on display and available to borrow.

(grades 7-9). More information is at [portland.rec.desk.com](http://portland.rec.desk.com).

**Skyhawks:** Registration is still open for Flag Football Camp Fueled by USA Football (ages 7-12, starting Aug. 16).

**Fun Runs:** Each week runners will compete in races from 400M to 3200M, at the new Portland Recreational Complex. All ages welcome. The races are Wednesdays through Aug. 18, 6-7 p.m., and are free.

**Summer Concert:** Tuesday, Aug. 10, 6:30 p.m., Riverfront Park. Great Hill Mountain Band will perform. For weather-related postponement info, call 860-262-7234.

**Art Enrichment Program with Abrakadoodle:** Parks and Rec. is accepting registrations for a Paws Claws & Hooves Art Camp with Abrakadoodle Aug. 23-26, from 9 a.m.-noon, at Riverfront Park. This program is for ages 5 and up and costs \$135. Aug. 27 is being held as a rain date.

### Dean's List

Nathan Lavoy of Portland made the spring 2021 Dean's List at the University of Maine - Orono. He is a forestry science major and will be a sophomore in the fall.

\*\*\*

Portland residents Abbie Dalton, Andrew Ives and Morgan Lasky made the spring 2021 Dean's List at the University of Maine.



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### Richmond Library News & Notes

Richmond Memorial Library, located at 15 School Drive, has reopened its building to the public, but curbside pickup is still being offered. For more information and full program descriptions – and to inquire about available curbside printing services – call the library at 860-295-6210 or visit richmondlibrary.info.

**Building and Curbside Hours:** 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.

**Storytime Bundles:** Children ages 2-6 can request a storytime bundle that includes three-four library books, a craft, songs, and activities to do at home. This summer's themes include: Mermaids & Pirates, Road Trip Fun, Color Me Summer, and At the Shore. Call or email the library to find out more.

**Shark Week:** Aug. 9-14. Stop by any time during the week for some shark-themed activities, including a shark ring toss, a take-and-make craft, a shark hopper ball for toddlers, and more.

**Sneaky Art Scavenger Hunt:** The library will hide eight colorful sneaky art objects around town for kids to find throughout August. Stop into the library beginning Monday, Aug. 9, for instructions or download the game from

our website.

**White Noise Machines:** Available for a three-week check out period, these new white noise machines play 24 curated sleep sounds, including nine robust white noise options, eight sleep songs, and seven nature sounds. If you're using the white noise machine for sleep, there is an optional sleep timer setting. These machines can be picked up at the circulation desk.

**Wicked Apothecary:** Learn about the history of the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum (located in Alexandria, Va.), with a special spotlight on poisons in the collection. This presentation, held Monday, Aug. 16, at 6:30 p.m., includes a virtual tour of the historic apothecary, whose medicines were often plant-based, with a deeper dive into collection items connected to poisons. Email richmondprograms@gmail.com to register.

**Sand Art Flower Pot Craft:** Adults, teens and children over the age of 8 can come for this outdoor craft program on Wednesday, Aug. 18, at 11 a.m. Each participant will fill a 3 3/4" x 4 1/4" flower pot with colored sand that they can take home. Flowers will not be included. Due to supplies needed, registration is required and there is a maximum of 20 participants. Email richmondprograms@gmail.com or call the library to register.

### 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, Pastor, John McKaig is deacon emeritus and the pastoral assistant is Holly Bangham. The church office can be reached at 860-295-0001; hours are Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. People are asked to call before heading over or connect via the phone.

**Weekend Masses:** 4 p.m. Saturday and 8:30 and 10:30 am Sunday. All are welcome. Masks are required, and there is an area for those who prefer to continue to be socially distant. Call the office for more information.

**Weekday Mass:** Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m. Masks required.

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** Sundays, 4-4:45 p.m. Masks required.

**Community Outreach and Service:** Food drives are held the second full weekend of each month for Marlborough Food Bank; you may also bring food or household donations directly to the Marlborough Food Bank Monday and Tuesday mornings. Sandwich-making and collection continues on the last Thursday of the month for St. Vincent de Paul in Middletown. Also, the Community Garden to benefit Marlborough Food Bank is well underway. Other service opportunities are scheduled monthly; see the church website for details.

**Other Programs and Offerings:** For more information on such programs as adult or child faith formation, youth group, RCIA or Knights of Columbus, call the office, visit the church website, or look for the church on Facebook (Saint John Fisher Roman Catholic Church) or Twitter (@StJohnFisher\_CT).

### Arts Center Concert on Aug. 28

Marlborough Arts Center's Summer Concert Series will wrap up Saturday, Aug. 28, at 2 p.m. Nick Cutroneo will perform. The show will take place outside on the grounds of the arts center, or, in case of rain, inside in the Charles W. Hall Art Gallery. The arts center is located at 231 N. Main St.

The concert is free, but a \$10/person donation is suggested.

### Senior Center News and Notes

Marlborough Senior Center, 17 School Dr., is not only open for activities but is also a town cooling center. The center also features a bocce ball court. Call 860-295-6209 for the center's hours and more information. The senior center has also announced the following:

**Transportation:** Offered five days per week, with a 36-hour advance reservation. Rides are available to the senior center, shopping and doctor appointments, as well as other activities. The service is for any senior or disabled person. Advanced notice required for any stops other than the requested reservation. The driver is required to contact the dispatcher before any additional stops or changes to the schedule are made. There are no exceptions.

The **Food Bank** is located at 3 Wilhenger Drive (860-295-6008) and is open every Tuesday from 10 a.m.-noon and 3:30-5:30 p.m. It is open to qualified residents in need of food. Transportation for seniors and/or physically challenged individuals is available; call the senior center if needed.

**CRT Congregate Meals:** Community Renewal Team congregare meals will begin Monday, Aug. 23. The Elderly Nutrition Program meals will be served at the senior center Monday, Wednesday and Friday to ages 60 or older and their spouses. All meals are served with milk, bread and margarine. Suggested donation: \$3 (or whatever can be afforded). Sign up starting the week of Aug. 16. **Meals-on-Wheels** will continue for those who are homebound.

**Weekly Activities: Not Just Quilting:** Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; **Quilling (Paper Art):** Friday, 1-4 p.m.; **Parkinson's Disease Exercise with Anne:** Thursdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m.; **Tap Dancing with Sharon:** Wednesdays, 5:30-7 p.m.; **Tai Chi with Linda:** Thursdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; **8 Ball Pool:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 10 a.m.-noon; **Cards:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 11 a.m.

**Holiday Closing:** On Monday, Sept. 6, the center will be closed for Labor Day.

### Congregational Church News & Notes

Sunday Worship at the Congregational Church of Marlborough, United Church of Christ, 35 South Main St., is at 10 a.m. In August, worship services are held upstairs in the air-conditioned Thienes Lounge.

**Sunday, Aug. 8:** Worship will be led by Ben Moreland and church music director Dave Mulligan, along with Carolyn Brodgerski from Seat of Our Pants.

**Mission Support in August** will go to the Seminary Fund in support of a local United Church of Christ seminary student. Donations to missions or for any other giving may be sent to the church at PO Box 57, Marlborough, CT

06447 or placed in an offering box on a Sunday.

Worship services and programs are open to the public. The church is an Open and Affirming faith community. For more information about the church or its programs, contact the church office at 860-295-9050 or office@marlconchurch.org.

**Second Blessings Thrift Shop:** The shop is closed in August and will reopen Sept. 11. However, appointments to shop during the summer can be made by calling the church office. The shop sells year-round on eBay at bit.ly/MCCebay, with new items added every week.

### Grants Available for Nonprofits

The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving has established \$100,000 community funds for each of the 29 towns in the foundation's region, which includes Marlborough – and the new Marlborough Greater Together Community Fund Advisory Committee has released its first open call for project proposals.

Up to \$10,000 will be awarded in grant funds to each of one or more proposals. All projects must benefit the residents of Marlborough. While

applicants must be registered 501-c3 organizations, individuals and groups may be sponsored by a registered nonprofit organization.

For more on project guidelines and how to apply, visit: www.hfpg.org/marlboroughcf. Project applications or grant proposals will be accepted until Sept. 17. Email communityfund.marlbrough@gmail.com with questions. Organizations that do not have access to a computer or need technical help can call Richmond Memorial Library at 860-295-6210.

For more information about the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, visit www.hfpg.org.

### Discovery Zone learning Center



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**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: Netto Summer Day Camp:** Weekly through Aug. 13 at Blish Park, for grades K-7. All campers are supervised by counselors and lifeguards trained in CPR/first aid. Registration per week is \$175/residents, \$185/non-residents.

**Dog Obedience – Out and About with Your Best Friend:** Saturdays, Aug. 7-Sept. 11, 10:45-11:45 a.m., at the Salmon River Trailhead in Colchester. Fee: \$120/residents, \$125/non-residents.

**Special Events: Summer Concert at Blish Park:** Thursday, Aug. 19, 6 p.m. Nightshift will perform classic rock.

**Town Wide Tag Sale:** Saturday, Oct. 2, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

**Knights of Columbus Golf Classic**

The St. John Fisher Knights of Columbus Council 15734 will hold its eighth annual Golf Classic fundraiser Thursday, Sept. 23, at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron. Golfers, sponsors and patrons are invited to support the tournament, which benefits local individuals, families and other groups in need.

On tournament day, registration starts at 11:15 a.m., and shotgun start is at 12:30 p.m. Cost is \$140/golfer and includes 18 holes of golf, free lunch, on course refreshments, and a banquet. Various contests will be available.

To register as a golfer or sponsor, email [KofCdrivefortheFish@outlook.com](mailto:KofCdrivefortheFish@outlook.com) or call Jim at 860-295-9904. A sign-up will be immediately sent to you for all wishing to participate as: a golfer (or foursome), sponsor, donate a raffle gift or as a patron with instructions.

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★ Letters cont. from page 6

I am committed to continue my work on the Board of Education: developing and enacting board goals. These goals include "fostering and cultivating a welcoming, inclusive, and equitable culture." I am the chair of the BOE Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee. Another important board goal is investing in student achievement through "dynamic and appropriately resourced instruction." As a BOE member, I have experience reviewing and approving curriculum and other long-range planning initiatives.

It is important to me for the BOE to practice effective communication and intersection with the Colchester Public School Community and the Colchester community at large. During the past year, I was a member of the Town Diversity and Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee established for the purpose of researching and writing a proposal for a Town of Colchester "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion" Commission.

Finally, the Board of Education works to "purposefully align the needs of students with a fiscally responsible, equitable and transparent budget." I am an active member of the Board of Education Budget Committee. The committee meets monthly to review the current budget and to plan effectively for short-term and long-range budget needs.

I look forward over the course of the campaign to meet with members of the Colchester community and to listen to your ideas, suggestions and concerns. I want to thank you for the privilege and the opportunity to continue to be a Board of Education member.

Joanne Rose – Colchester

**Technocracy Rising**

To the Editor:

While many among us blame the world's problems on either "Trumpists" or "Libtards," they all fall neatly into the divide-and-conquer trap that is being laid out by the rising technocracy we are living in. Many have never heard the term, but it's the belief that society should be ruled by a technical class of experts and scientists who form policy that benefits the elites over the individual. The people who promote and benefit from technocracy hold no meaningful political allegiance and seek only to control our individual lives for their own profit. They are able to do this by controlling the information we see – as 90% of all print and TV media in the U.S. is owned by five multinational companies. They control the social media landscape by censoring, shadowbanning, and deplatforming dissenting voices – whether they be doctors, journalists, or even an ex-president. They control the cultural landscape through the reaffirming of their values in TV, movies, and music. It is easy not to recognize what is actually happening because it is so omnipresent and seemingly familiar that you never question it.

But if you are not presented with objective news and information is constantly being scrubbed from the internet, how can you be informed or ever make an informed decision about anything meaningful? I guess that's the point, while we fight with one another over semantics and identity politics our actual identities are being digitized for profit and control. Instead of constantly casting blame on political puppets people should be looking more closely at the real players in all this – Google, Face-

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book, Amazon, Microsoft, Twitter, Big Media, Big Pharma – all huge multinationals that are headed by unabashed technocrats. They are more than happy to manipulate us into fighting among ourselves while they steal away with our children's future and our own freedom for generations to come. The only question – are we so apathetic that we will let them?

Seek alternative news sources, question what you are being told, become a dissenting voice. Thanks *Rivereast* for the platform!

Colin McNamara – Marlborough

**Thanks, RTC!**

To the Editor:

I would like to thank the Colchester Republican Town Committee for my endorsement to campaign and win a seat on the Board of Assessment Appeals.

I have the pleasure of currently serving as the secretary for the Colchester Republican Town Committee, and have previously served as its treasurer. I have also served as treasurer on prior election campaigns. I was a board member of the Colchester Planning & Zoning Commission for one and a half years.

I am currently a co-leader for a Celebrate Recovery ministry working with women who have hurts, habits and hang-ups. This ministry shows us that we are not the labels that society puts on us. I also served and coordinated a host of people who brought hot meals out to the north end of Middletown twice a month to serve the not as fortunate as me.

I have recently retired after a 30-year career as an IT professional for a global health services organization.

I have lived in and supported Colchester for the last 28 years. I have two grown children and a granddaughter. I've recently celebrated my 40-year wedding anniversary with my very supportive husband, Denis.

I look forward to seeing everyone come out to the polls on Nov. 2 to place your votes, one for me as a new member of the Board of Assessment Appeals.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Karen Godbout – Colchester

**East Hampton Past**

To the Editor:

Aug. 9th marks the 150th anniversary of Anchor Lodge No. 112, AF & AM. Acting Grand Master R.W. Bro. William Lee convened a meeting for the dedication of the Lodge Hall and the installation of the officers of Anchor Lodge. In attendance were a corps of W. Bros. from St. John's Lodge No. 2 Middletown, Columbia Lodge No. 26 East Haddam, and Warren Lodge No. 51, Portland.

The Grand Lodge officers, preceded by the members of Anchor Lodge and the visit-

ing brethren formed in grand procession and marched to the First Congregational Church. D. W. Bro. Stearns delivered an address appropriate to the occasion. The Lodge was then solemnly constituted and consecrated to Masonry. Officers installed in due and ancient form, including Master Horatio Abbe, returned to the hall and opened Anchor Lodge for the first time.

This first Lodge Hall was located over the H. E. Rich Store, known as the Meal Store, on the east side of Main Street about halfway between High Street and the Village Center, and met in several locations until 1878 when a new Lodge Room above Siebert's Bakery was completed (above Willows) and on Jan. 3, 1900, meeting in the new Chatham Hall (above AirLine Cycle) until 1977, when the former Episcopal Church was acquired to create St. John's Center at 111 Main Street.

The lodge has attracted hundreds of members from our community from all walks of life, from factory owners to assembly workers, evidence of the goodness and virtue of Free Masonry, which teaches the cherished goal of brotherhood.

The Members of Anchor Lodge, a fraternal eleemosynary organization are active in the community supporting numerous causes. They might best be recognized marching in the Memorial Day or Old Home Day parades, carrying a giant American flag.

Dean Markham – East Hampton

**Disturbed by 'Hot Mic'**

To the Editor:

I was disturbed by the "Hot Mic" incident with Town Manager Andrew Tierney at the July 15th Hebron Board of Selectmen meeting. I am one of those "f---ing neighbors." I accept Mr. Tierney's apology but I believe this lack of respect for the people of Hebron reflects a dangerous attitude. This attitude is reinforced by Chairman Dan Larsen's unfortunate comment that there was an appearance "this whole thing was contrived." Public involvement in town meetings is critical and a responsibility I take seriously. As I have been doing since 2004, I spoke to urge our town leaders to proceed with caution in the development of The Village Green District. This is not "contrived"; this is our town and our future.

Hebron has an opportunity to create a unique public space if this land is treated with the respect and care it deserves. I understand the need for a new facility for the hard working people of the Public Works Department. However, I feel strongly that this is not an appropriate location. I urge everyone to read the town's Plan of Conservation and Development. This important document guides our town as we consider such endeavors. Unfortunately, the proposed industrial complex in this location would be in direct conflict with at least six sections of the plan.

The town has been offered the CL&P property next to the current transfer station. The space is adequate, but according to the town, the cost of site prep would be excessive. Perhaps fitting a new public works complex to the property instead of fitting the property to the complex would make more sense? One thing is for sure: there are options that would maintain Hebron's rural charm and protect a remarkable piece of natural beauty.

Sincerely,

Kevin J. Tulimieri – Amston

**Regionalization**

To the Editor:

I am a senior citizen who has voted in every election for the past 41 years that I have lived in Andover.

I actively support the Andover Library, Andover Historical Society, Ancient Burial Ground, Fire Department, Community Garden, sustainability and fiscal responsibility.

The town's voters ultimately decide in which direction town development and taxes are spent.

These decisions should be based on facts, and impartial information without conflict of interest.

My intent is to question the ramifications, pros and cons of regionalization and how the present AES building best serves its citizens.

The answer to many of society's problems is through education.

This year's budget brought many questions that should be addressed with transparency, facts and an open mind.

Why can't the Board of Education's budget be reduced by each line item? Who is negotiating the union contracts for AES personnel and is that in our best interest? Why are the AES unused funds not returned to the town? Could the students benefit from an education that is more diverse? Even if there are no savings in per pupil cost with regionalization, could the repurpose of the building better serve the town,

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seniors, tax base, without compromising the students' education?

Over the past 40 years that I have resided in Andover I have seen businesses leave the town: bank, restaurants, grocery store, dry cleaner, video store, package store, and little growth in our tax base other than property tax.

I want to petition the Board of Selectman to study and present the facts on regionalization without any conflict of interests, with total transparency, in order to be an informed voter and concerned citizen.

**Jeff Ballard – Andover**

*Note: Ballard is a member of the Andover Public Library Board of Directors, but said he is speaking as an individual.*

**Make Fact-Based Decision**

To the Editor:

I turned 70 last year, and can remember the polio crisis in the 50's. When the vaccine came out, everyone lined up to get it. One, because we were terrified of getting it as it was very crippling. But also it was "the right thing to do." Today, that sense of community is gone and decisions are made based on individual "rights" and beliefs.

Several years back, I took some Master's in Business Administration courses at a local college. The first thing we told was that we couldn't utilize the internet for any of our research or sources. We had to go to the library. The reasoning was, that while the same info might exist on the internet-there was no way to know if the material had been plagiarized, altered, or was truly original. Basically, we were being taught to go to the source and use facts.

Unfortunately today, many people actually listen to a doctor or medical professional when it may be too late. A loved one may be lying in a hospital suffering from COVID-19 and they want to know what can be done to save their life.

Whenever my wife and I have had any medical issues to deal with during our life – and we have had a few – we have done research, and listened to a doctor. Many times, if serious enough, we may have gotten two or three opinions, to make sure we were making the best decision. What we didn't do was get our advice from the politicians, Facebook, the local auto mechanic, or even the wrong medical professional. We tried to make a good decision from the people who knew the most about the specific medical issue we were dealing with.

Feel free to make your own decision but at least make it based on facts.

**F. Dana Ferris – Colchester**

**Save These Dates!**

To the Editor,

There are a couple fundraisers coming up you don't want to miss!

Aug. 26, 5:30 p.m., at Robert's LakeHouse, the GOP Goods & Services Auction. Thirty three items include vacation homes, a kayak, jewelry, a leaf blower, handmade quilts, a gift card tree and much more. A portion of the proceeds benefit The Senior Center & Interact youth group.

Sept. 18, 3-7 p.m., the Markham Meadows Car Cruise to benefit our local Wounded Warriors. Cars, trucks, tractors all welcome. Raffles, food, music and prizes make the day fun for all ages! No pre-registration. Just come on down.

For more information, call me at 860-267-9738.

Hope to see you there!

**Melissa Engel – East Hampton**

**Diverse, Knowledgeable Team**

To the Editor:

In July, the Colchester Democrats – including DTC members, volunteers, and advocates – unanimously nominated a diverse, committed and knowledgeable team of leaders to run on the Nov. 2 ballot.

Our team looks forward to meeting you – the voter – over the coming weeks and months to discuss their vision and to listen to your thoughts about Colchester's future. Look for them at our Farmer's markets, community celebrations, online events, and even knocking at your door!

Our experienced team – many of whom have never run for election before – is as follows: Mary Bylone for first selectman; Rosemary Coyle and Denise Turner for Board of Selectmen; Bernie Dennler and Scott Chapman for Board of Finance; Jennifer Pulse for Treasurer; Amy Cahill Domeika and Joanne Rose for Board of Education; and Andrew Cournoyer and Ian Lilly for Board of Assessment Appeals.

Serving as an elected official no matter what party – whether paid or volunteer – is challenging, as our nation, state and town have faced extraordinary obstacles in the last few years. In particular, the pandemic and economic uncertainty have resulted in much loss for all of us. For public officials and candidates, social media forums often spew false accusations and personal attacks at a time when most residents prefer we rise above and unite together to address our challenges.

Yet without hesitation, this amazing team is ready for the hard work and to continue serving you simply because they care deeply about

Colchester and your family.

The Democratic team wants to build an even stronger quality of life for our residents. Keeping our school system competitive, supporting our businesses, and investing our tax dollars responsibly to meet our town's needs are just a few priorities.

To learn more, please visit our website at colchesterdemocrats.org or other social media platforms.

**Thank you, Michelle Gilman, Chair Colchester Democrats**

**Great Conversation**

Dear Portland Residents:

On Saturday, July 31, I held a Community Conversation at the Portland Riverfront Park focused on the challenges our community is facing with rising water costs. I want to thank all who came out to participate in this important conversation.

As chair of the BOS Water & Sewer Subcommittee, I have had the pleasure of working with Selectmen Ralph Zampano and Rick Sharr on these issues for the last several years. Over the last four years, MDC water rates have risen an unsustainable 45%, while the costs to generate water from our town well have remained stable. After careful evaluation of our options, the consensus is the best path forward is for Portland to develop our own water sources. Even when we factor in estimated infrastructure costs, the immediate and long-term cost advantages of implementing a town-owned water supply are evident. Our 30-year contract with MDC expires in 2026, which means we have four years to implement a Portland-owned solution. This past year Portland was awarded a \$250,000 grant from the state of Connecticut to support our effort to locate a new water source.

As first selectman I will be focused on transitioning our water system to a more sustainable cost model. This is crucial to provide relief to folks already on the system, to free up financial resources to perform necessary infrastructure upgrades, and to make it more attractive to expand the system in a way that promotes economic development. I invite you to read more about my plan for water by visiting my website: [www.jimtrippforportland.com/water-affordability](http://www.jimtrippforportland.com/water-affordability). And please save the date for our next Community Conversation on Saturday, Aug. 21, at 10 a.m.!

**Jim Tripp**

**Candidate for Portland First Selectman**

**Running for School Board**

To the Editor:

Four years ago, you elected me to the Colchester Board of Education. I can't thank you enough for your trust and confidence. Being on the BOE has allowed me to dig deep and discover what makes our schools exceptional and to a larger extent, our town. To live up to the responsibility you have granted me, I have worked diligently to involve myself wherever I could be useful. I am board secretary and serve on the BOE Policy Committee and chair the Personnel Committee. I act as board liaison to the Colchester Board of Finance, Parks & Rec Commission, and the Youth First Action Council. Being on the board has also afforded me the opportunity to serve on the curriculum committees, the Diversity & Inclusion Committee, and labor negotiation teams. It is a lot, and it took the first two years to get my feet under me. I have been fortunate to work with great leadership in board chairs Mary Tomasi and Brad Bernier. While opposite in styles, they both shared their talents and expertise, and I am now becoming that mentor for our more-junior members.

The BOE budgets are tight but have passed on the first try. However, there are some big-ticket items and challenges coming down the pike, and we need to prepare for them. One goal for next year is to better educate voters on the need for long range funding in the education budgets. Having a seasoned BOE member, one who has served and guided our schools through these historic times, is a tremendous asset to the overall function of our team. A team I am grateful to be part of.

It is a privilege to represent Colchester parents and students on the Board of Education. I ask for your consideration and continued support in November.

**Amy Cahill Domeika – Colchester**

**BLM and Babbitt**

To the Editor:

Six months ago, I wrote a letter (<http://letters.sauyet.com/#/2021-01-18/>) critiquing Don Denley's response to the Capitol Hill insurrection. This week he replied. The police officer – who was protecting our Congressional representatives from an angry armed mob – Mr. Denley calls an assassin. He calls our president feeble-minded. He claims I have an inflated opinion of myself but am really a little-read

*See Letters, page 26*

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Andover • Andover

# Community Garden Alights with Activity and Plants

by Sloan Brewster

Fruits and vegetables are already abloom in Andover's Community Garden.

Last Wednesday evening, as volunteers watered and fertilized the 16 raised beds, tomato plants glistened with brightly colored fruit.

Since May, when the Board of Selectmen agreed that the garden could be put on a plot of land between Town Hall and Andover Elementary School, the activity to get the project underway has blossomed at an unexpectedly high level, with volunteers taking up rakes, hoes and garden hoses and donations of materials and plants flowing in, said Sustainable CT Committee member Abbie Winter, who unwittingly has become the overseer of the operation.

"I'm just marked as the leader of the garden; I don't know how I got that title," Winter said as she keenly watched the work being done in the plots during an interview with the *Rivereast*. "It was just bestowed on me."

The garden is part of the quest for Bronze Certification for Andover's Sustainable CT committee, Cathy Palazzi, committee chair said.

A newbie at community gardens, Winter said

she has been learning. She said she visited community gardens in Manchester, Farmington and Colchester to see how other towns managed them.

Each town's approach was slightly different from the other, she said. In Colchester, all the volunteers work together, she said. The harvest is donated to the local food bank and area soup kitchens. In Manchester, each gardener has his or her own 8-by-4-foot plot, while Farmington's much-larger operation provides 50-by-50-foot plots to participants.

The jury is still out on how the Andover garden will be structured, according to Winter.

"It's a very fluid garden; we're not locked in place," she said.

Currently, there are two rows of eight raised beds on a 56- by-10-foot plot. The logs that surround each bed were donated by the town's Public Works Department, Winter said. Tree cutting season was underway when she made a plea for materials, so the department was happy to find a use for trees it had razed.

Initially Winter was researching cover crops to plant the first year. Then committee members, residents and Andover Landscaping started donating plants, including tomatoes, cucumbers, winter squash, beets and yellow beans, which were all planted.

"In a blink of an eye, I got buckets and buckets of plants," she said.

The "really generous" donations from Andover Landscaping included, top soil, tomato cages and "really beautiful" plants.

"They've been a good pal of the garden," Winter said.

Winter said she also reached out to various community members and farmers for guidance.

Winter said the project allows people to reintegrate into community after the year and a half of isolation brought on by COVID-19.

"This is exactly what I want," she mused, pointing to the helpers engaged in various chores. "People show up, everybody does what they want."

Volunteer Jeff Ballard chimed in about volunteers just showing up and getting busy.

"Stuff gets done and just appears," he said.

He said folks often ponder how things mysteriously get finished.

"Who raked up all my messes?" he said people often say.

He described how resident Gerry Wright showed up with a front load tractor and moved top soil into all the beds and said resident Carrie



Abbie Winter – shown here with her helper Ian Lally – delights in overseeing and helping to maintain the town's new community garden, which is located on a plot of land between Town Hall and Andover Elementary School.

Compton, who's been creating a butterfly way station next to the Hop River Trail on Center Street, has also been very involved.

An alternate on the Library Board who has lived in town for 38 years, Ballard said he got involved with the garden because it was time to give back.

Wright, who was not on hand last Wednesday due to a previous commitment, spoke to the *Rivereast* via phone Monday. He said he wanted to help out with the garden to make sure it was a success.

"I just didn't want [Abbie] to get disappointed," he said. "I just didn't want to see her fail."

Wright said he asked Winter what she needed.

Included in her list was a shed but the \$500 in grant money she had garnered was not enough. He said he went to the town and asked if there was anything that could be used for the purpose and he was offered an old concession stand from Veterans Memorial Field. He said in about two or three weeks the building will be moved next to the garden.

"So we got about a \$3,500 shed for nothing," Wright said.

In the meantime, Wright is also showing Winter some of the ins and outs of maintaining the garden, such as the best fertilizer, which he insists is fish-worm manure.

"The plants absolutely love that manure," he said.

According to Jim Fitting, another volunteer who was there last Wednesday, a mixture of greensand, rock blood meal, bone meal and lime is another good option.

Fitting, who brings 26 years of organic gardening experience to the mix, said he strives to make it easy.

"I grow the maximum food with the minimum effort," he said. "I wanted to bring some

## Senior Movie

The 2020 film *The Secret: Dare to Dream* will be shown in the Andover Town Hall Community Room Wednesdays, Aug. 18, at 1 p.m. You do not have to be a senior or a Young at Heart member to attend.

Unvaccinated must wear masks; for the vaccinated, masks are optional. Bring your own snacks and drinks. If you need a ride, call Cathy Palazzi two days in advance at 860-916-6122. For more information on the movie, call Sue Schmidt at 860-604-1057.

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SEPT. 5 -Avenue Groove Band

**WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.**  
JULY 21 -Borderline Genius  
JULY 28 -Dina Dimarco & Mike Gaboardi  
AUG. 4 -Anna May  
AUG. 11 -Sister Funk  
AUG. 25 -Jeremy Haddad

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gardening experience into the project and offer some suggestions for planting and crops and nutrients.”

Wright said when other people hear about the garden they jump right in with offers to help and then come and plant vegetables or take on other chores.

Town Administrator Eric Anderson has also stepped up, asking what the effort needs.

“We need a garden hose,” volunteers responded, according to Wright. “The next thing you know a 100-foot garden hose shows up.”

Wright said there are plans to make some waist-high plots and invite senior citizens to come garden.

“When I’m in my 80s and in my walker and, being a farmer, that is something I would like to do,” he said.

Wright said he was planning to invite local veterans to join the operation and would sell it as a way to deal with PTSD, explaining that they could talk to the plants or flowers without embarrassing themselves.

Talking and singing to plants, apparently, is a regular activity at the garden.

Wright said he told Winter that was the way to reinvigorate a tomato stalk that broke from a vine.

“I said, ‘You have to talk to it; you have to sing to it; you have to pet it,’” he said. “We pet that plant and sang to it.”

Several weeks later, the plant is six feet tall and has a flower on it.

“We brought it back to life,” Wright said.

Winter said she is forming a garden committee and hopes more folks stop by to lend a hand.

“It’s just really exciting to have these fun friends and learn more about your community,” she said.

She said she’s there Wednesday evenings between 5 and 6 p.m., which is officially Social Garden Hour – the period when the garden is alight with the most activity and folks just show up and get to work.

Afterward, they gather round the table, which was donated by Wright, and hang out for a while.

“We sit there and chitchat and watch the sun go down. That’s community,” Wright said. “Just sit there and listen to the hooty owls. I love it, that’s community.”

For more information, check out the garden’s Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/AndoverCTCommunityGarden](http://www.facebook.com/AndoverCTCommunityGarden).

**Police News**

8/2: Adam Middleton, 39, of 142 Bunker Hill Rd., was charged with disorderly conduct and third-degree assault, police said.

**Preschool Openings**

Andover Elementary School Early Learning Center is accepting applications for preschool students for the 2021-22 school year. Andover’s preschool program is full-day. There is also care available for before and after school.

Children who will be age 3 on or before Dec. 31 are eligible to attend. The Andover Elementary School Early Learning Center receives funding for reduced tuition rates from two state grants: The School Readiness Grant and The Smart Start Grant.

For more information or a registration packet, call Principal John Briody at 860-742-7339. Registration packets are also at [www.andoverelementaryct.org](http://www.andoverelementaryct.org).

**Kids Carnival**

Andover Congregational Church, located at 359 Route 6, will hold a Kids Carnival on Saturday, Aug. 28, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

The carnival will feature duck races, a bounce house, prizes, corn hole, ring toss, face-painting and balloons. Food includes There will be hot dogs, soda, chips, cotton candy and popcorn.

Admission is \$10/person or \$25/family.

**Gazebo Concert Tonight**

All are invited to attend the Andover Friends of the Library’s free Gazebo Concert tonight, Aug. 6, at 6:30 p.m., at the gazebo, which is located between the Andover Town Hall and Andover Elementary School on School Road.

This 13th Gazebo show presented by the Friends features Redwood Hill -- a group of four northeast bluegrass veterans whose band repertoire is drawn entirely from the songbook of International Bluegrass Music Hall of Famers, the Country Gentlemen. Members of Redwood Hill include Keith Edwards on guitar, Lillian Fraker on bass, Terry McGill on banjo, and Dave Orloski on mandolin.

Attendees should bring a chair and blanket.

**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. Social distancing and masks are no longer required for fully vaccinated individuals. Sunday School 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).

There is no Bible Study during the summer.

**Food Pantry:** Mondays from 5-7 p.m. Bring your own bags. Masks not required for the fully vaccinated. The senior pantry is open every other Wednesday from 9-9:30 a.m.; next date is Aug. 11.

**Foodshare Van:** Comes to the church every other Wednesday from 9-9:30 a.m.; next date is Aug. 18.

**Sonshine Stamps:** This group meets Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. at the church to make greeting cards. All are invited.

**Senior Citizen News**

The following have been announced for Andover seniors, veterans and disabled. To attend any event, call senior coordinator Cathy Palazzi 860-916-6122 to register. Transportation available for all events, as well as shopping on Tuesdays, Foodshare/food pantry rides on Wednesdays, lunches on Fridays.

On Tuesday mornings, there is a trip to a breakfast place, Walmart and Stop & Shop. Masks are required on bus and in stores.

The next Friday luncheon will be Friday, Aug. 6, at noon, and John Kona will make meatloaf. Transportation available by calling Palazzi.

The Recreation Commission will offer a free concert Saturday, Aug. 14, at 7 p.m. Paula King’s band will perform. Bring a chair. Transportation available by calling Palazzi.

**Obituaries**

*Marlborough*

**Shirley M. Converse**

Shirley M. Converse, 92, of Marlborough, passed away Monday, July 26, at Marlborough Health Care Center. She was born Nov. 3, 1928, to the late Frank and Rose (Wyman) Archer.

Shirley is predeceased by her husband, George Converse, and grandson Bruce Currier Jr.; her brothers, Clifton and Frank “Junior”; and sisters, Clara and Wynonna. Shirley is survived by her children, Joseph (Karen) Currier, Belinda (John) Pearson, Bruce (Jill) Currier, Rebecca (Dennis) Karpuska and Margaret (James) Gerent along with seven grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Services are private.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations can be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital at [www.stjude.org/donate](http://www.stjude.org/donate).

To leave a memory or message of condolence, please visit [www.holmeswatkins.com](http://www.holmeswatkins.com).

*Colchester*

**William Scopino Funeral Service**

A graveside funeral service for William John Scopino, 60, of Colchester, will be held directly at the New Lebanon Cemetery on Waterman Road Saturday, Aug. 14, at 10:30 a.m.

Scopino passed away suddenly on Jan. 26, due to injuries sustained from a fall while on the job, working on a construction project.

The family requests that donations in his memory be made to the animal rescue or charity of one’s choice.

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).

*Marlborough*

**Linda R. McKelvey**

Linda R. (Caffyn) McKelvey, 73, of Marlborough, passed away peacefully Sunday, Aug. 1, at Hartford Hospital. Linda was born in Hartford Jan. 19, 1948, to the late William Caffyn Jr. and Anetta Marsh Caffyn.



Linda is survived by her two children, Arlene McKelvey of Marlborough and Laura McKelvey of Colchester, and four granddaughters.

She was predeceased by her longtime companion Ellery Weir, whom she loved farming, wine making and cooking with, and her sister and best friend, Marion York.

Graveside services will be at Old Buckingham Cemetery in South Glastonbury for family and friends.

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

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**Players Sought for Tri-County Legion Fall Baseball**

Tri-County’s American Legion baseball program is looking for prospective players for its fall season.

Serious players whose parent resides in Andover, Colchester, East Haddam, East Hampton, Hebron, Lebanon or Marlborough are eligible. The fall league is primarily designed for players who will be between the ages of 13-19 in 2022, but Tri-County is also considering putting together an instructional program for younger players who are transitioning to the 90-foot diamond. Fall teams will be organized at several age groups, depending on interest.

Go to [www.tcleion.com](http://www.tcleion.com) for more details on the fall format, team makeup and fees. Deadline to register is Aug. 7, but some teams are expected to fill up prior to that date.

The fall program will serve as a preliminary tryout for selection to Tri-County’s summer 2022 Legion teams, which will be filled through winter tryouts and spring evaluations.

Interested players are encouraged to contact General Manager Len Lampugnale at 860-295-0437 or at [Lampugnale@comcast.net](mailto:Lampugnale@comcast.net) with any additional questions.

**HAMR Softball Fall Registration**

HAMR Softball fall registration is open through Aug. 15. HAMR is a non-profit, fast-pitch Little League softball league for girls ages 5-14 from Hebron, Andover and Marlborough.

HAMR will offer several divisions this fall, open to all girls, including T-Ball, Rookies, Minors, Majors and Juniors. Fee is: \$80 for majors/minors and \$40 for rookies and T-ball.

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

**‘Getting Your Child Ready for School’**

AHM Youth and Family Services’ Family Resource Center will present a Zoom program entitled “Getting Your Child Ready for School” Tuesday, Aug. 10, from 7-8 p.m.

Preschool and kindergarten teachers from Andover and Hebron will facilitate this discussion and will discuss different aspects of getting your child ready for school, including self-help skills, things to practice at home, talking to your child about their first day, school routines, and communication with the school.

This program is open to any interested parents. Contact Becky Murray at 860-573-1260 or [beckym@ahmyouth.org](mailto:beckym@ahmyouth.org) for the Zoom Link.

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**LEGAL NOTICE  
TOWN OF ANDOVER**

The audit of the Financial Statements of the Town of Andover for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2020 as prepared by Mahoney Sabol CPAs and Advisors is on file and available for public inspection in the Town Clerk’s Office – 17 School Road – Andover, CT.  
Dated at Andover, CT this 29th day of July, 2021  
Carol H. Lee  
Town Clerk

1TB 8/6



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★ Letters cont. from page 23

hack. I wonder if he understands the definition of “assassin.” I wonder if he thinks the former guy – who rarely strings together two coherent words, never mind a sentence – was sharper than Biden.

His critique of the investigation into Babbit’s death is spot-on. The police should make their results public. But he again brings up comparisons with the BLM movement. Here he becomes absurd, saying that if Babbit were non-white, the left would be up in arms. No, I’m afraid not. If it had been a Black citizen killed by police while storming the barricades erected to protect our senators and representatives from a mob trying to overturn a legitimate election and prevent the peaceful transfer of power, then no, the left would not complain.

Compare this to Eric Garner, Michael Brown, Tamir Rice, Eric Harris, Freddy Gray, Stephon Clark, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd and all the other unarmed Black folks killed by police for the selling loose cigarettes, for playing with a toy, for suspicions of counterfeiting, for walking in one’s own grandmother’s backyard, and for even less. Examine the list of 229 Black people killed by police in the year after George Floyd’s murder (http://link.sauyet.com/26). If you can’t see the difference between these cases and that of Ashli Babbit, then you should probably remove yourself from polite society before you hurt someone.

Sincerely, Scott Sauyet – Andover

Systemic Racism in Hebron

To the Editor: The Riverast article “Disagreement Leads to Hot Mic Incident” provided good insight into latent systemic racism in Hebron. The recurrent use of the term “historic” referencing roads, stonewalls, and mills was framed using limited “W.A.S.P-ish” criteria, despite the fact that at least two historically important Black families resided in the area and that it abuts an Indig-

enous site on the Hebron Green. The article reported that no town official voiced concerns over preserving the heritage of either of these two groups.

Clearly Hebron officials acquired the land without doing historic research. A carefully researched deed should have suggested historic importance. If access to the Colebrook Village area involved state funding, Connecticut law required a phase I archaeological investigation. Comprehensive up-to-date historic property inventories should identify areas of key importance.

Unfortunately, Hebron touts “Historic charm with a vision for the future,” while ignoring the contributions of its minorities’ heritage. Creation of Burnt Hill Park destroyed all evidence of an important historic tri-racial community. Failure to do phase I investigations when the Center sidewalks were installed resulted in significant archaeological losses. After 11 months Hebron has yet to apply for a State Historic Preservation Office grant to locate Indigenous and African American sites in town, despite the fact that Black labor created much of Hebron’s historic charm and the town was a well-integrated racial community during Hebron’s heyday. By promoting one group’s heritage over others, Hebron’s motto becomes a racially charged statement.

As “stewards of the town and agents of the people,” Hebron’s selectmen are required to preserve its “rural historic character.” Unless Hebron’s selectmen and adjunct committees broaden their definition of “historic,” the town will lose historic continuity, impoverish future citizens and mock the phrase “liberty and justice for all.”

John Baron – Hebron

Hebron’s Future

To the Editor: Last week’s excellent article concerning the proposed Hebron Public Works facility is an excellent example of how politics works or, I should say, mostly doesn’t work in Hebron for the benefit of all citizens. The motives assigned to me by others in the article are demonstrably untrue. My interest is the town’s well-being. The best selectmen are stewards of the past, present and the future. That being said, I believe the siting of this public works facility on the Horton property is a poor and ill-considered choice. Please read the “studies” that recommend this site. You will find that they are neither comprehensive nor completed by professionals with the skills associated with the site-selection process. There are better, faster and cheaper solutions to Hebron’s public works problem that have been proposed and dismissed or not even considered.

That is why I have proposed a committee of a citizens, taxpayers, planners, businesspeople, environmentalists and, yes, neighbors to determine the best use of the property. I proposed this committee to the Board of Selectmen sev-

eral times over the last two years and nothing was done. With this property and with a little imagination, we can create the type of town we want for our children and grandchildren. It is a unique opportunity that few towns have been given – to create something functional, sustainable, economically beneficial and, in the end, beautiful.

I fear that we are being rushed without debate to build a very expensive and large public works facility in the center of town with ruinous consequences to future generations of Hebronians.

John Collins – Hebron

Note: Collins is a member of the Hebron Board of Selectmen, but said he is speaking as an individual.

Seeking Reelection

To the Editor: My name is Denise Turner, and I’m running as a democrat for re-election to the Colchester Board of Selectmen. I joined the BOS in 2019, and later that year was formally elected to the seat.

Strongly rooted in this community, having been born and raised here, Colchester’s issues are important to me. I support growth through economic development, and projects designed to preserve our open space. It is important that our students are provided a quality education preparing them for success out in the world, and our seniors have a safe and comfortable place to gather. Having worked in eldercare for the past 15 years, I am currently employed by a local skilled nursing facility, as a therapeutic recreation director assistant. I also sit on the board of governors for the Colchester Historical Society.

During my time on the BOS, I have chaired the CHVFD Tax Exemption Revision Committee, updating their existing program, as well as the Diversity & Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee, that was charged with creating the structure for a formal commission. The result was a recommendation to the BOS to bring to a town meeting the development of CORE (Colchester’s Openness to Respecting Equity), a commission that would ensure that all Colchester’s residents are afforded the same opportunities for success and happiness within our community.

It has been my pleasure, and an honor, to serve as a member of the Board of Selectmen, and I now ask for your vote on Nov. 2.

Thank you, Denise Turner – Colchester

E-Mail Letters

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

LEGAL NOTICE RECEIPT OF CERTIFICATION OF PARTY-ENDORSED CANDIDATES FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICES TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH

A certified list of Democratic party-endorsed candidates for the Town of Marlborough, Connecticut for election as:

Table with 2 columns: Office, Number of Names Certified. Includes Board of Finance, Board of Education, Board of Assessment Appeals, Planning Commission, Zoning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Zoning Board of Appeals Alts., Regional Board of Education.

is on file in my office at 26 North Main Street, Marlborough, Connecticut, and copies thereof are available for public distribution.

A Primary will be held September 14, 2021, if, for a particular office, the number of party endorsed candidates plus the number of candidates filing petitions pursuant to Sections 9-382 to 9-450 of the Connecticut General Statutes exceeds the maximum number which the party is entitled to nominate for that office. Petitions must be filed not later than 4:00 p.m. of August 11, 2021. Petition forms, instructions and information concerning the procedure for filing of opposing candidacies, including schedules, may be obtained from:

Ann M. Kilby, Democratic Registrar of Voters, Marlborough Town Hall, 26 North Main Street, Marlborough, Connecticut. Dated at Marlborough, Connecticut, this 30th day of July, 2021. Lauren A. Griffin Town Clerk of Marlborough

1TB 8/6

Not Oversized or Bloated

To the Editor: The Senior Center Building Committee is a group of Colchester citizens that are taxpayers looking to provide the town a new facility that we can all enjoy and be proud of the results. The committee has worked hard to present a product that is a positive one that everyone in the town would support. We are only 20% done in this effort. We will have many more decisions and changes in the process of building a new senior center.

From the start, the committee has focused on meeting the needs of the town and its senior citizens with the knowledge of being cost effective with the end product. The committee has made a number of changes in regards to costs such as reducing the building size by 4,000 square feet; compared two-story versus single-story, reduced some office space, deleted the need for a café, and submitted paperwork to our town representatives for possible state funding opportunities.

The committee will be charged to make sure the details of building a new center are reviewed and make sense to guarantee meeting the budget.

The proposed senior center going to referendum in September is neither bloated or oversized. The new senior center represents what the town needs and to be a positive addition to all Colchester citizens. Please be prepared to vote on Sept. 23 in support of this effort. Thank you.

Kevin Hastings – Colchester

Note: Hastings is a member of the Senior Center Building Committee but said he is writing as an individual.

COLCHESTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION WETLANDS AGENT APPROVAL

Pursuant to the 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: WA2021-376 Applicant: North Pond Homes, LLC Location: 219 North Pond Way Activity: New SFR within URA Jay Gigliotti Authorized Agent 1TB 8/6

TOWN OF HEBRON LEGAL NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF CERTIFICATION OF PARTY-ENDORSED CANDIDATES FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICES INCLUDING NOTICE OF “UNDERENDORSEMENT” FOR SOME OFFICES

A certified list of Republican party-endorsed candidates for the Town of Hebron for election as Board of Selectmen, Town Clerk, Board of Finance, Board of Education, Board of Assessment Appeals, Planning and Zoning Commission, Planning and Zoning Alternate, Zoning Board of Appeals, Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate, and Regional Board of Education is on file in my office at 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, Connecticut, and copies thereof are available for public distribution. The certified list as received includes fewer names of party-endorsed candidates than the party is entitled to nominate for the following offices:

Table with 3 columns: Office, Number of Names Certified, Number Entitled to be Nominated. Includes Board of Selectmen, Town Clerk, Board of Finance, Board of Education, Board of Assessment Appeals, Planning and Zoning, Planning and Zoning Alt, Zoning Board of Appeals, Zoning Board of Appeals Alt, Regional Board of Education.

A Primary will be held September 14, 2021, if, for a particular office, the number of party-endorsed candidates plus the number of candidates filing petitions pursuant to Sections 9-382 to 9-450 of the Connecticut General Statutes exceeds the maximum number which the party is entitled to nominate for that office. Petitions must be filed not later than 4:00 p.m. of August 11, 2021. Petition forms, instructions and information concerning the procedure for filing of opposing candidacies, including schedules, may be obtained from:

John F. Richmond, Republican Registrar of Voters, Town Office Building, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, Connecticut. Carla A. Pomproicz, Municipal Clerk of Hebron, Connecticut 1TB 8/6

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 August 9, 2021 via Zoom meeting (see Town website for details) to consider the following: Application ZBA-21-008, Helena Gatto-Supino, 6 Brook Trail, reduce side setback from 15' to 5' to expand existing deck to the width of the house Map 10A/Block 79/Lot 9 Matthew Walton, Chairman 2TB 7/30, 8/6

COLCHESTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION WETLANDS AGENT APPROVAL. Pursuant to the 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: WA2021-377 Applicant: J. Williams Estates, LLC Location: 49 Daniel Drive Activity: New SFR within URA Jay Gigliotti Authorized Agent 1TB 8/6

LEGAL NOTICE RECEIPT OF CERTIFICATION OF PARTY-ENDORSED CANDIDATES FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICES TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH. A certified list of Republican party-endorsed candidates for the Town of Marlborough, Connecticut for election as: Board of Finance, Board of Finance Alternate, Board of Education, Board of Assessment Appeals, Planning Commission, Planning Commission Alts. Zoning Commission, Zoning Commission Alts., Zoning Board of Appeals, Zoning Board of Appeals Alts., Regional Board of Education. is on file in my office at 26 North Main Street, Marlborough, Connecticut, and copies thereof are available for public distribution. This certified list as received includes fewer names of party-endorsed candidates than the party is entitled to nominate for the following offices: Office, Number of Names Certified, Number Entitled to be Nominated. Zoning Commission 2 3, Zoning Board of Appeals Alt 0 1. A Primary will be held September 14, 2021, if, for a particular office, the number of party endorsed candidates plus the number of candidates filing petitions pursuant to Sections 9-382 to 9-450 of the Connecticut General Statutes exceeds the maximum number which the party is entitled to nominate for that office. Petitions must be filed not later than 4:00 p.m. of August 11, 2021. Petition forms, instructions and information concerning the procedure for filing of opposing candidacies, including schedules, may be obtained from: Dorothy Dennis, Republican Registrar of Voters, Marlborough Town Hall, 26 North Main Street, Marlborough, Connecticut. Dated at Marlborough, Connecticut, this 30th day of July, 2021. Lauren A. Griffin Town Clerk of Marlborough 1TB 8/6

TOWN OF HEBRON LEGAL NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF CERTIFICATION OF PARTY-ENDORSED CANDIDATES FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICES INCLUDING NOTICE OF “UNDERENDORSEMENT” FOR SOME OFFICES. A certified list of Democratic party-endorsed candidates for the Town of Hebron for election as Board of Selectmen, Town Clerk, Board of Finance, Board of Education, Board of Assessment Appeals, Planning and Zoning Commission, Planning and Zoning Alternate, Zoning Board of Appeals, Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate, and Regional Board of Education is on file in my office at 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, Connecticut, and copies thereof are available for public distribution. The certified list as received includes fewer names of party-endorsed candidates than the party is entitled to nominate for the following offices: Office, Number of Names Certified, Number Entitled to be Nominated. Board of Selectmen 1 2, Town Clerk 1 1, Board of Finance 2 3, Board of Education 2 3, Board of Assessment Appeals 0 2, Planning and Zoning 2 3, Planning and Zoning Alt 0 1, Zoning Board of Appeals 0 3, Zoning Board of Appeals Alt 0 1, Regional Board of Education 3 3. A Primary will be held September 14, 2021, if, for a particular office, the number of party-endorsed candidates plus the number of candidates filing petitions pursuant to Sections 9-382 to 9-450 of the Connecticut General Statutes exceeds the maximum number which the party is entitled to nominate for that office. Petitions must be filed not later than 4:00 p.m. of August 11, 2021. Petition forms, instructions and information concerning the procedure for filing of opposing candidacies, including schedules, may be obtained from: Elizabeth T. Fitzgerald, Democratic Registrar of Voters, Town Office Building, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, Connecticut. Carla A. Pomproicz, Municipal Clerk of Hebron, Connecticut 1TB 8/6

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOUND A BLACK VINYL BOAT COVER AQUA PATIO WASHED UP ON MY SIDE OF LAKE POCOTAPPAUG. If yours call 860-267-4729



WANTED TO BUY BUYING ANTIQUES & OLD STUFF. Costume jewelry, pottery, bottles, crocks, jugs, toys/games, glassware, silver plated items, signs, typewriters, sewing machines, bar items, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, oil lamps, knives, hunting, fishing, military, Masonic, fire dept. and more. Donald Roy 860-874-8396.

PETS DOG OBEDIENCE/AGILITY CLASSES starting soon. Offering: Agility, Puppy Kindergarten, Basic Manners/What Rescue Dogs Want/Need, CGC/Therapy. Over 20-years experience. Michelle Larson at PAWS-N-HEEL DTC, 860-267-6040. paws-n-heeldogtraining.com

AKC CHOCOLATE AND BLACK ENGLISH LABS FOR SALE BORN JUNE 27TH. Gorgeous, intelligent and awesome family dogs. Ready to be selected with deposit 8/2/21. Current vaccines and vet examinations. 860-228-3846. Please leave a message. \$1,200.



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REB-06-21

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REF-9-21

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Waterhole Rd. - 2 hours to NY and Boston. Hardwood floors, open floor plan, fireplace, privacy, open floor plan, 1 car garage, roof 5 years new.



For more info, text Nick Long 860-334-2868



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For more info, text Nick Long 860-334-2868



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**COLCHESTER \$244,900**  
120 Midland Dr. - Newer roof, boiler, windows. All the heavy lifting done. We are looking for people with experience working with children ages 6 months to 5 years. Inquiries must be fun, eager to learn, dependable, and have a flexible schedule. If you would like more information please call The Kids Club at 860 295-0498



For details, call Scott 860-608-0769

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REB-9-21

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240 McDonald Road, Colchester Offered at \$334,000

240 McDonald Road, Colchester Offered at \$334,000

Horse property! Wonderful 4 bedroom, 2 bath home on over 4 acres with a 3 stall Amish barn & paddock in a country setting. Lovely remodeled kitchen & baths. Large living room looks out to your frontage on a country road. Home includes, hardwood floors throughout & 3 good sized bedrooms & full bath on first floor. Second floor has a Master bedroom suite or bonus room & 4th bedroom. Newer roof with gutter guards.

**Colchester Commercial**  
2nd floor space available from a shared office space from \$100 a month, to a large space with 2 offices and a conference & meeting space for \$825 plus utilities.

We still need more listings — the buyers are still going strong!

REB-21

## EMPLOYMENT

### CAREGIVER NEEDED

Non-medical, mostly companionship, meals & light housekeeping. Colchester. Part-time days. Great small caring agency. Must have caregiving experience, paid or non-paid & pass background check. Looking for long term employee. Mon-Sat hours. Older adults encouraged to apply. Immediate work. Call 860-967-0831

REB-10-20

### Andover School District

School Psychologist position available at Andover Elementary School. Ten hours per week or as approved by the Director of Special Education. Appropriate CT Certification required. Application available online at andoverelementaryct.org. Please send completed application, letter of interest, resume, copies of transcripts and certification, and three letters of reference to:  
Holly Maiorano, Director of Special Education  
Andover Elementary School  
35 School Road  
Andover, CT 06232  
-or-  
Via Email: maiorano@andoverelementaryct.org  
8TB 7/9, 7/16, 7/23, 7/30, 8/6, 8/13, 8/20, 8/27

### HOUSEKEEPER

Looking for a compassionate housekeeper to work in our Senior Living Community. Perform cleaning duties to keep our building neat and clean according to management requirements. Provide basic housekeeping including laundering and changing of bed sheets and towels, cleaning bathrooms and kitchens, dusting, mop and vacuum floors, etc. Must be able to work as a team member with the housekeeping staff. A successful Housekeeper will have a heightened level of awareness and attention to detail. The work schedule is first shift and may include one weekend day and some holidays. **Minimum qualifications:** One-year experience as a housekeeper. Excellent working knowledge of cleaning procedures and proper use of cleaning agents. High school diploma or GED certificate.  
Inquiries to: [tpiscatelli@colebrookvillage.com](mailto:tpiscatelli@colebrookvillage.com)

REB-6-21

### HELP WANTED

**C.N.A Senior Living CNA in Hebron CT**  
Colebrook Village - FT and PT positions are available for all shifts!! Must be compassionate, committed to resident center quality care, a team player and have fun while providing the highest level of hospitality in any senior living. This community has been COVID free and remains so!! Must have a current Certified Nursing Assistant Certificate in accordance with state requirements. Please email: [kcifaldi@colebrookvillage.com](mailto:kcifaldi@colebrookvillage.com)

CIT-4-22-21

### Classifieds Pay

The Glastonbury Citizen & The Riverast News Bulletin

Email your Classified Line Ad to [sandy@glcitizen.com](mailto:sandy@glcitizen.com) and call with your credit card number.

(We regret we cannot take ads over the phone)

## EMPLOYMENT

**THE KIDS CHILD CARE CENTER IN MARLBOROUGH IS LOOKING TO FILL 2 MORNING AND 2 AFTERNOON POSITIONS.** We are looking for people with experience working with children ages 6 months to 5 years. Inquiries must be fun, eager to learn, dependable, and have a flexible schedule. If you would like more information please call The Kids Club at 860 295-0498

**PAINTER WANTED** - Must have experience and transportation. Please call Mike 860-608-8376

**PART TIME: CUSTOMER SERVICE POSITION** Mon-Fri, 10AM-4PM. Taking phone orders. Computer orders, data entry & misc. office duties. Glastonbury Office. 860-633-6744.

**FT SEASONAL LANDSCAPE LABORERS AND MOWING TECHNICIANS WANTED.** Exp. preferred. Call 860-208-8069

**PART-TIME COOK ASSISTANT,** includes every other weekend. COVID Free facility. Please call Christal at Greystone Retirement Home 860-342-2509

**PT FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER ASST.** - 22 hrs/wk, Seeking dynamic professional to provide parent education & support to families. \$20/hour. See full job posting at [www.ahmyouth.org/careers](http://www.ahmyouth.org/careers). Apply to HumanResources@ahmyouth.org.

**PERSONAL LINES INSURANCE: LOMBARDO INSURANCE AGENCY IN ROCKY HILL, CT IS SEEKING A LICENSED PERSONAL LINES ACCOUNT MANAGER** to provide service and direct support to new and existing clients. As a Personal Lines Account Manager, you will support sales agents and business objectives to enhance company goals. Please call or email. [paulombardo@lombardoins.com](mailto:paulombardo@lombardoins.com), 860-236-6064.

**PART-TIME RELIABLE SECRETARY WANTED** to work for a small HVAC company 20-25 hours weekly who is also knowledgeable using Quick books. No weekends and needs to be flexible. Please email your resume with 2 references to Cony Caso at: [casohvac@comcast.net](mailto:casohvac@comcast.net)

**NURSE OR CNA WANTED TO WORK WITH QUADRIPLÉGIC IN PRIVATE HOME** Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights. Very pleasant atmosphere and working conditions. Send resume to P.O. Box 654, Glastonbury, CT 06033.

**TREE CREW MEMBER WANTED** small, well established tree company, looking for 1 more crew member. Good pay, paid vacation, retirement plan. CALL 228-7297

**HELP WANTED: TIME TO GET OUT AND MAKE A CHANGE!** CT Shade + Blind Co. in Glastonbury is in need of additional installer due to growth. Will train the person with the right attitude, flexibility and ability to work alone. Call 860-416-0133 Leave Message.

**PORTLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SEEKING TO HIRE PIANIST** for Sunday 9:00AM worship services. For more information email the church at: [pastortara@cox.net](mailto:pastortara@cox.net) or call 860-342-0091

**PT PRESCHOOL ASSISTANT** - 1-3 pm, M-F, Seeking caring individual to assist at KinderRHAMA Preschool, Hebron. \$16/hour. See full job posting at [www.ahmyouth.org/careers](http://www.ahmyouth.org/careers). Apply to HumanResources@ahmyouth.org

### East Hampton Public Schools is seeking Substitute Teachers.

Substitute teacher applicants must have a bachelor's degree OR must be over 18 years old with a high school diploma or equivalent and documented experience working with school-age children. The position reports to the principal or designee at the location to which they are assigned and is responsible for providing instruction and managing the learning environment. The per diem rate is \$105. Please apply on-line at <http://www.applitrack.com/easthamptononlineapp/>. For further information contact Mary Clark, [mclark@easthamptonct.org](mailto:mclark@easthamptonct.org).

The Town of East Hampton is an Equal Opportunity Employer.  
4TB 8/6, 8/13, 8/20, 8/27

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REF-50-21

# EMPLOYMENT

## HELP WANTED

### Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Assisted Living

Colebrook Village – Looking for an LPN that wants to join a dynamic, talented, and dedicated team. Duties will include but are not limited to the following: providing care to our residents, speaking with physicians, families & supervising the C.N.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)

CTE-29-21

### Part Time Janitorial Position

Located in East Hampton, **American Distilling** is the world's largest producer of Distilled Witch Hazel Extracts.

We are looking for a part time janitor Monday through Friday 3:00 – 6:00 with extra hours during the summer. This is an ideal position for a student. Responsibilities include cleaning office areas, restrooms, and portions of the manufacturing floor.

Stop by at 31 East High Street to complete an application Monday through Friday between 9:00 and 4:00. No calls please.

REF-30-21

## Assistant Preschool Teacher

**Open Position – East Hampton Nursery School is seeking a talented individual to join our team in the role of Assistant Teacher.**

For over 50 years, our school has been an integral part of the community, providing children with a preschool education that is truly "...the start of something good!" We look forward to welcoming a new team member who can share our vision for our students' very first school years to be the best possible experience! The ideal candidate will demonstrate a passion for working with young children and also be comfortable supporting and interacting professionally with teachers, parents and board members. Along with Head Teachers, the Assistant Teacher will be expected to continually prioritize the well-being of students, helping to ensure that their educational, physical and emotional needs are met. The Assistant Teacher will collaborate with Head Teachers in executing lessons and activities while also acting independently and taking initiative to help ensure that the school day runs smoothly.

#### PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

Assistant Teacher responsibilities include but are not limited to: Supporting Head Teachers with implementing/executing age-appropriate curriculum. Helping prepare and maintain classroom and materials for the school day. Interacting positively with all members of the school community. Supporting Head Teachers in managing classroom and playground behavior by providing and enforcing established rules/limits. Acting as Head Teacher when teacher is absent. Demonstrating compassion and patience, flexibility to meet changing priorities, strong communication and organization skills, and ability to work well as part of a team.

#### QUALIFICATIONS

Experience in early childhood education or development and/or courses in these fields is required. Ability to provide documents and/or obtain certifications, credits, training, etc. as required by the State of Connecticut.

For more information or to apply for this opportunity, please contact [ehnsresident@gmail.com](mailto:ehnsresident@gmail.com)



REF-29-21

## HELP WANTED – LANDSCAPING

Must be 18+ years old & have experience with commercial mowers and/or general landscape maintenance/construction. Foreman positions available. Good pay with overtime.

MUST HAVE A VALID CT DRIVER'S LICENSE

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REF-06-21

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REF-19-18-20

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REF-20-20

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REF-18-20

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REF-22-20

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REF-19-21

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[raystrees@hotmail.com](mailto:raystrees@hotmail.com)



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Master Gardener  
Arborist License S-3998 DEP Lic # B1536

CTE-16-21

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# TREE & LANDSCAPING



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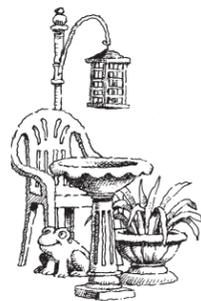
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TREE REMOVAL**  
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- Lot Clearing & Yard Expansions
- Stumpgrinding & Grading (including muddy driveways)
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