



RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

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September 10, 2021



Ahead of this weekend's Hebron Harvest Fair, Krystin Strumskas, a member of the Lions Agricultural Society, completes some finishing touches to paintings she did on hay barrels dotting the fairgrounds. The fair started yesterday, Sept. 9, and will run through Sunday, Sept. 12, at the Lions Fairgrounds on Route 85.

Hebron Harvest Fair Is This Weekend

by Sloan Brewster

It's a year later than they'd hoped, but the Hebron Lions this weekend are finally able to hold the 50th edition of the Hebron Harvest Fair.

Earlier this week, the Lions Fairgrounds on Route 85 were abuzz with activity, as folks feverishly set up booths and spectator events.

The activity was palpable from a golf cart meandering through the grounds Tuesday afternoon. Driving the cart, Lion Russ Strumskas, fair superintendent, pointed out things new to the festivities this year, including a Bengal tiger and the Pirates of the Colombian Caribbean Aerial High Wire Thrill Show.

The pirates, led by 10th-generation circus performer Antony Murcia, who said it was a family tradition, were setting up the pirate ship where all the action will take place. Rising 20 feet above the ship will be the scene for tight rope sword fights and acrobatics. More swash-buckling feats will take place 32-feet in the air on the rotating wheel of death.

Murcia said everyone from his family – his parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and brother – have been circus performers for decades. In 2008, his father decided to bring the show to fairs. Different than the announced shows they do at the circus, the fair shows begin when the festivities open and end when they're coming to a close.

"It's almost like watching a movie. We're telling a story: the good pirates, the bad pirates," Murcia said. "It's a good thrill for audiences of all ages. From little kids all the way to senior citizens, they all love it." While looking for a treasure map, the good pirates will be fighting with the bad ones, all the while performing choreographed exploits high overhead.

Murcia plays the captain and his wife, Elvira

Murcia, is a mermaid.

Among Lions scurrying through the fairgrounds in an effort to get things ready was one who flew in from Florida. Adam Miclette, who retired and moved to the Sunshine State last year, has been involved with the Lions for 15 years. He was past president and on the Board of Directors and said they needed some help so he came, even though he had resigned from the club.

"You tried to resign," Strumskas joked.

Ahead of this week's Hebron Harvest Fair, Krystin Strumskas, a member of the Lions Agricultural Society, completes some finishing touches to paintings she did on hay barrels dotting the fairgrounds.

While the fair is turning 50, the Lions didn't schedule any huge new showstopper – which is something the group might have otherwise done, considering it's the festival's golden anniversary.

The fair will go on following CDC guidelines, Strumskas said. To prevent drawing too many spectators from converging on one area all at once, they are putting the focus on the return of the festivities, which were canceled last year due to COVID-19.

"If we had this big show in one area, then we'd have thousands of people right on top of each other," he said.

Old favorites that will be on hand to wow the crowds, include Dockdogs, a fan fave, according to Strumskas, pig racing by Rosaire's Royal Racers, Figure 8 and the Demo Derby and truck, oxen and horse pulls.

Local bands and acoustic sets will perform in the Community Courtyard.

See Hebron Harvest Fair, page 2

'Serious' Bus Issues for Portland Schools

by Jack Lakowsky

At a Tuesday meeting of the Portland Board of Education, Superintendent of Schools Charles Britton said the district has seen a decline in enrollment and, like schools across the state, a shortage of school bus drivers.

"We're having serious transportation issues," Britton said, adding that parents are understandably frustrated with the chaotic bus situation.

Recently, busses have been late, and routes have had to be consolidated. Britton said the district is down three drivers, and one just put in their resignation. Two drivers are "day-to-day for various reasons," Britton said, though he did not go into detail on what this means exactly.

Britton said with these losses, as well as the normal rate of callouts, the district is down be-

tween four and six drivers on a given day.

"It's no good; it's super disruptive," Britton told the board. "Everyone in the district scrambles to get routes covered, to get kids to where they need to go safely. There's lots of frustration."

Britton said he's spoken to Portland's school bus vendor, M & J Bus Inc. The company told him it has recruited four new drivers slated for Portland. However, proper training takes between eight and 12 weeks.

"At best, we'll have those drivers at the end of November, early December," said Britton. "I wish I had an easy answer."

Britton said he'd get a commercial driver's license (CDL) himself if he could. Britton said

anyone looking for a career change or new job should contact the district or M & J.

"We're in really rough shape," Britton said. "I've sent an email out to parents asking for their patience."

Britton said if a kid's bus changes or is going to be late, parents are emailed and called to be informed of the delay.

Board member Meg Scata said schools all over the state are dealing with the same issue.

Board member Laurel Steinhauer asked if there's any way the school board can lobby the state to expedite not the bus driver training process, but rather the paperwork or red tape associated with it.

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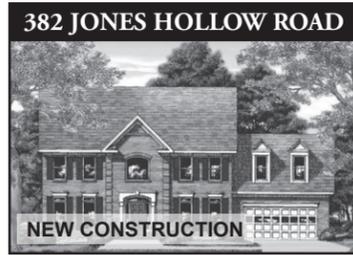
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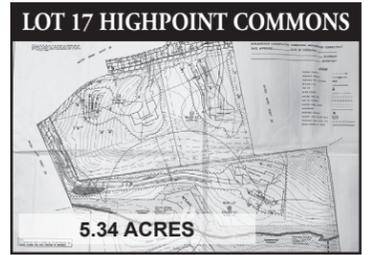
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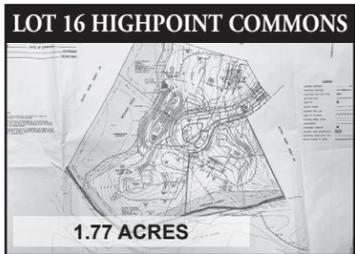
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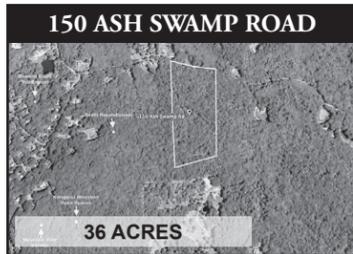
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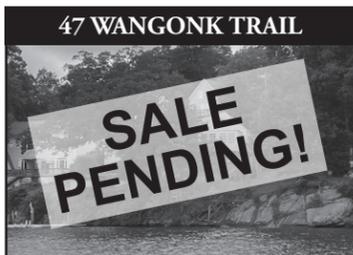


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Thank you to Margaret and her team for assisting us in selling our home. Margaret was excellent to deal with, providing us with her expert knowledge in real estate transactions. From the beginning to the end, Margaret was readily available via text and phone calls to answer our questions and deal with any matters. The closing took longer than anticipated due to complications with the buyers and Margaret was helpful in guiding us through the process. I highly recommend Margaret and her team to anyone wanting to sell their home.



Kathleen R



From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

The first part of this week's column is largely a repeat, but it's a particularly timely repeat. Tomorrow marks 20 years since the awful Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Last year at this time, the paper came out on Sept. 11, so I shared my experience from that horrible day. Today, on the eve of the 20th anniversary of the attacks, felt like a good time to share it again.

As any of us who lived through it can tell you, an innocence was lost that sunny morning of Sept. 11, 2001 – and it's an innocence that will never return. I often think about what I was doing that morning – to quote Alan Jackson, where I was when the world stopped turning that September day.

I was one week into my first reporting job, at the *Journal Inquirer* in Manchester, busily putting together a story recapping the previous weekend's Hebron Harvest Fair. I was very much focused on writing the story – so focused, in fact, I didn't notice that, gradually, the desks around me were emptying. Finally, I heard Don, one of the more veteran reporters at the paper, announce as he walked back to his desk behind mine, "A plane just crashed into the World Trade Center."

That was enough to break me out of the little Hebron zone I was in that morning. I did a slight double take – "What??" – and looked up to see that, indeed, the corner of the office I and several other reporters sat in was fairly deserted. I looked down the hallway and saw the vast majority of people were gathered around the one TV in the office, intently staring at what was on the screen. Like I said, I was very new on the job, and I knew I had a deadline I had to make with this story, so I didn't have time to waste. But I also very much wanted to know what it was that had drawn people's eyes to that TV screen. Had I heard Don correctly?

I got up out of my chair and quickly walked down the hallway to sneak a peek. What I saw of course was an image that would soon be seared into an entire nation's memory banks: an aerial image of the Twin Towers, with smoke billowing out. I don't recall for sure if the second plane had hit yet at that point, or if it was still that brief period after the first one where everybody thought that, hopefully, this was just a terrible accident. As bizarre as it sounds now, there were a few moments when people actually thought that. Like I said, there was still a certain innocence at that point in time.

What I do recall is thinking that I needed to get back to my desk and hurry up and finish that story. Again, I was very new on the job, and wanted to make a good impression. So I hustled back to put the finishing touches on my fair recap.

The story about the Hebron fair didn't run that day. Still trying to work my way around the computer system, I had misfiled the story and (mistakenly) thought I had destroyed it. I went into a bit of a panic. *This is supposed to be in today's paper*, I thought. *They're counting on it being in.*

At that point, I hadn't read any of the wire stories, still hadn't truly understood the gravity of what had happened down in New York. My editor, however, had, so when I told her what happened with the filing, she didn't react quite the way I thought she would. She cut me off after a few seconds of sheepish explanation on my part, and just to do the story for tomorrow.

I walked back to my desk, somewhat amazed she hadn't been angrier about it, and then I sat down and, with the deadline pressure behind me, began reading the wire copy – and it was then and only then that I truly realized the gravity of the situation. It was there that I read that both towers had collapsed. I'd been in New York City so much over the years – I loved it down there – and the whole thing just felt so, so surreal.

My story likely would've been bumped from that afternoon's paper anyway. Goodness knows a lot of others were. The horror of the acts of that day would fill the newspaper for days, weeks, months to come.

That's where I was when the world stopped turning. Where were you?

It's the time of year where are still lots of take-out dinners are being offered by various organizations in town – everything from pulled pork to lobster. It's a great way to support a local group, and to top it off, the meals are always good buys.

But the Knights of Columbus in Hebron are serving up a meal deal next weekend that just seems amazingly good.

The Knights are offering a takeout chicken barbecue meal Saturday, Sept. 18, from 4:30-6:30 p.m., in drive-thru fashion at Church of the Holy Family, 185 Church St. (Route 85) in Hebron.

For just \$15 – yes, \$15 – you can get half a chicken, a side of homemade barbecue sauce, an ear of sweet corn, coleslaw, baked beans, cornbread and a brownie.

Now that's just a heck of a deal.

Payment must be made in advance, by credit card (or PayPal) via the link on www.holyfamilyhebron.org.

Lastly, Chatham Health District and Regional School District No. 8 – a.k.a. the RHAM middle and high schools – will offer free drive-thru COVID-19 testing at RHAM

Editor's Desk continued on page 5



Eagle Scout Project... Anthony Bogue, Life Scout for Troop 28 Hebron, successfully completed his Eagle Scout Project. Over the course of four days in August, Bogue organized and managed the efforts of 27 volunteers at the Gilead Cemetery as they power washed, repaired, and painted the cemetery's 200-foot fence. Additionally, the project included restoration of the site's sign and weeding of the grounds.

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Touch-a-Truck Thanks

To the Editor:

The Exchange Club of Portland held its 10th annual Touch-a-Truck event at the Portland Fairgrounds on Sunday, Aug. 29. Without the support of area businesses and individuals, the success of this event would not have been possible.

The Exchange would like to thank our "Monster Truck" sponsors: CWPM LLC, Daniels Energy, DRVN Enterprise, Flood Law Firm, Law Office of George Law, Petzold's Marine Center, Stor-U-Self of Portland and Top Dog.

Our "4 x 4 Truck" sponsors: Disaster Restoration Services, Red Fox Restaurant and Sharr Realty.

Our "Pick-Up Truck" sponsors: Adam's Hometown Market, Bryan and Holly McPherson, Don Valentas, Bill and Kathy Richards, Snyder Civil Engineering, Mimma Burke of State Farm Insurance, Jeanne Nuffer of Edward Jones Financial, Thompson Landscaping, Colla Signs and Portland Automotive.

The Exchange would also like to thank businesses, organizations and individuals who contributed vehicles to the event. Portland Police Department, Portland Public works, CWPM LLC, DRVN, Mimma Burke of State Farm, Glastonbury Volunteer Ambulance, Middletown Police Department, Thompson Landscape, Portland Fire Department, RT Relocation, Stor-U-Self, M & J Bus Service and Butler Construction.

All of this support plus gate receipts allowed the Exchange Club to raise over \$4,000 for

Help Our Military Heroes.

Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,

**Jamie Leonard, Secretary
Exchange Club of Portland**

Belltown BOE Hopefuls

Greetings, Fellow Residents of East Hampton:

We are very proud to announce our candidacy for the East Hampton Board of Education.

Now more than ever, the direction of our children's educational future is in the balance. As proud parents, professionals and residents of the town, we stand strong in our beliefs of parental choice.

Common sense, fact-based decision making, and reasonableness are attributes we bring to the table during a time when it seems our children are being put into impossible circumstances. All while supporting Education over Indoc-trination, we promise to listen to all viewpoints with empathy and open minds while making sound decisions for our future leaders.

Clarification

The opening line of the "Free and Reduced-Price Lunch Info" notice published in the Aug. 27 edition implied the information was only applicable to middle and high school students. It is actually applicable to students in all grades, PreK-12.

The *Rivereast* apologizes for any confusion.

Bulletin Board

I must say I have found the numerous televised White House briefings on the state of our deteriorating world extremely illuminating over the past couple of weeks. It's a lot like watching a 4-year-old who tracked mud across the living room rug earnestly blame the mess on the imaginary "Timmy and the Little People." It appears some of those 4-year-olds grow up to be White House spokespersons who can actually keep a straight face while insisting that night is day and day is night.

I am particularly impressed by some of the verbal keystones these spokespersons use as they construct their particular version of reality. Some examples:

- Over the horizon capability: An increasingly popular term following the exit from Afghanistan, "over the horizon capability" is a fancy way of saying you can be as effective at a distance as you would be in person (i.e., under the horizon capability). In other words, sitting in your living room looking at pictures of your girlfriend in Chicago is the same or better than actually being there. While this may seem preposterous, I believe the effectiveness of over the horizon capability is demonstrated by the wild success of the recent distance learning programs in American schools.
- Stranded: White House spokespersons have coined a new definition of the word. It seems that even if you are trapped somewhere you don't want to be and desperately want to be somewhere else, you are not actually "stranded" as long as someone says they'll come and get you when they find it convenient.
- Rearview mirror: A reference to imbeciles who believe we can actually learn something from past mistakes. Because past mistakes tend to be inconvenient and often embarrassing to those in charge, we are urged to ignore the "rearview mirror" and stay squarely focused on the future, which will offer us fertile ground on which to continue repeating fundamental errors.
- Monday morning quarterbacking: See "rearview mirror." It's really no one's fault when things go bad. Just let it go and move on.
- Predecessors: Predecessors are one of the few exceptions to the "rearview mirror." It is perfectly acceptable to blame your current difficulties on your predecessors extending as far back as may be expedient. (If folks don't buy it, you can always blame Timmy and the Little People.)
- Crisis: Whether or not something is a crisis depends entirely on one's political party.
- Heroes: Heroes are the people who have to come in and clean up messes created by politicians. White House spokespersons like to fake outrage and pretend that questions about embarrassing messes and how they occurred are actually intended to disparage heroes.
- An extraordinary success: Apparently any disaster can be transformed if you insist on repeatedly referring to it as "an extraordinary success." This is what happens when people start to equate participation trophies with actually winning.

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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The safety of the students in our schools is paramount and will always be at the forefront of our minds. Please support us as we continue to steer the Board of Education down the paths of integrity and service to others.

**Very Respectfully,
Michael Buck, Sal Nucifora,
Josh Piteo, Christina Tammaro-Dzagan
East Hampton**

Horse Sense? Neigh!

To the Editor:

While addressing an audience of 60 people, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul said researchers won't study the toxic livestock-deworming drug ivermectin as a possible COVID-19 treatment because of their dislike for Donald Trump. Wrong. Actually, research is being done as to whether or not the drug can treat – not prevent – some of the symptoms of COVID-19.

"The hatred for Trump deranged these people so much that they're unwilling to objectively study ivermectin. They will not study hydroxychloroquine without the taint of their hatred for Donald Trump," Rand ranted. Wrong again. Clinical studies have shown that hydroxychloroquine, an antimalarial drug, does not help treat or prevent COVID-19. The FDA cautioned against using the drug because it could cause serious heart problems, blood and lymph-node disorders, kidney injuries, and liver problems, including liver failure.

Trump has not promoted ivermectin but he has touted using hydroxychloroquine to treat COVID-19, despite the harmful (even deadly) side effects. The National Institutes of Health and The University of Oxford are studying ivermectin as a COVID-19 treatment. However, neither drug has proved to be effective in preventing or curing COVID-19 infections.

Meanwhile (recall the days of "just drink bleach"), people are being hospitalized after using the drug, believing that it will protect them from the virus. Poison control hotlines in Alabama and Mississippi are inundated with calls from anti-vaccination people taking the dewormer purchased at livestock stores.

The CDC cautioned that people could be-

come severely ill from ingesting ivermectin. Possible side-effects include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, low blood-pressure and dizziness, and in some cases coma, seizures, and death. But rather than taking a safe, effective vaccine to prevent COVID-19, this herd of mostly Trump-publicans, who apparently lack basic horse-sense, are ingesting horse-dewormer.

Meanwhile, due to his adoration of Trump, Sen. Paul continues to spread loads of misinformation horse-manure.

**Thank you,
Maureen Heidtmann
East Hampton**

Murphy for Portland BOE

Dear Portland Community:

My name is David Murphy and I've been on the Portland Board of Education for almost six years. I'm running for re-election this November. I have enjoyed giving back to our community and being an integral contributor to the future of our children's education. I'm not afraid to ask the tough questions and tackle problems head-on. One of my focuses has been on our schools' infrastructure needs so that we provide the best, and safest, environment for our children to learn in. One goal checked off was the completion of a long-delayed new window project at Brownstone. I took great pride in seeing that it was finally completed.

Next on my radar is our three older elementary schools (built in the '50s and '60s) that have major capital repairs needed (as most know). Unfortunately, under the current town leadership, practically zero dollars have been spent on the much-needed capital repairs and upgrades, basically kicking the can down the road each year. We are constantly in a reactive rather than proactive mode, so I pushed for a comprehensive review to be done by a consulting firm. Yikes!! They identified approximately \$28 million of repairs and upgrades needed over the next 10 years – \$17 million in the next three! I am now on the committee that is tasked with addressing this issue and putting the plans in place to correct them. I look forward to carrying this goal to completion.

I've lived in Portland almost 20 years with my wife Phyllis and our daughter Emily. I'm looking to the future with updated and safe schools!

I ask for your vote on Nov. 2.

**David Murphy – Portland
Board of Education Candidate**

Asking for Vote

To the Editor:

My family moved to Colchester 18 years ago. During that period I spent considerable time here, attending Colchester functions, events and tons of my grandson's sporting, school and Scouting events.

Eventually, I moved here nine years ago when my daughter tragically lost her husband. I was absolutely astounded by the massive outpouring of support from this community, but that truly is Colchester. People we didn't know were sending condolences, offering help, sending food and even sending meals for weeks afterwards. I have to say, I had never experienced anything like this, and I knew I wanted to be more than a visitor.

At the time, my daughter, Jodi, was probate judge for Colchester and Lebanon and my late son-in-law, Ron Crabb, was a six-year member of the Board of Finance and the Democratic Town Committee. I have always been inspired by their dedication to this community, so it was an easy decision for me to accept the nomination to become a candidate for the Board of Assessment Appeals.

I will bring practical, real-life experience to the BAA as I ran two successful businesses for over 35 years. I have my associate's degree in

science, where I studied nuclear medicine. I'm presently a justice of the peace and former president of the Colchester Democratic Women's Club.

I am hoping in some small way I can pay back the kindness this community has afforded my family. I believe my experience in business and being a homeowner will allow me to make fair, solicitous decisions as a member of the BOEA.

On Nov. 2, I ask for your support and vote.

**Sincerely,
Susan Thomas – Colchester**

Running for BOE

To the Editor:

I am proud to announce that I will be running for the Board of Education this fall. My husband Jon and I have lived in Portland for 25 years. We have raised two daughters who each graduated from PHS, in 2016 and 2019. Our girls were both involved in student government and athletics throughout middle and high school. I hold a bachelor's degree in occupational therapy from the University of Hartford and a post-professional doctorate degree in OT from Quinnipiac University. I work as the director of clinical education for Hartford Healthcare at Home and as part-time faculty at Quinnipiac University. I currently serve on the board and as the chair of the education committee for CT Association for Healthcare at Home.

I previously served on the Portland Ethics Commission prior to making the decision to run for the BOE. I have been involved with PTO and multiple fundraising efforts throughout my

See Letters, page 6

Editor's Desk continued from page 4

High School, 85 Wall St., Hebron, this Saturday, Sept. 11, from 8 a.m.-noon.

Testing is open to all ages. Insurance information will be collected from those who have health insurance, but nobody will be turned away or billed for lack of insurance.

I know from personal experience that, with cases ticking up the past few weeks, it's

not as easy to find a COVID-19 testing site on short notice as it was in, say, June. So if you're looking for a test, it might be worth it to take the short, and pretty, drive to Hebron Saturday morning.

See you next week.



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www.HebronHarvestFair.org

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Reader Forum • Reader Forum

★ *Letters cont. from page 5*
daughters' time in the Portland public schools. If I am elected, I will be an advocate for fiscal responsibility as well as transparency of strategic planning for capital expenses in order to maintain our schools. I have watched the PHS track deteriorate to an unusable and unsafe condition and remember a time when PHS was a destination for track meets and events such as the Shoreline soccer tournament. I plan to use my leadership skills in education and health-care to work collaboratively with the board to align policy and curriculum, support our students to maximize academic outcomes, and support teachers and school staff with the tools necessary to do their work. If I am elected to the BOE, I believe I can offer the perspective of both a community member and healthcare professional as we continue to make difficult decisions in the challenging times ahead.

Sincerely,
Stacey Benham – Portland

Court-Martial Biden

To the Editor:
A group of individuals spent time in one county in Arizona checking the votes and found a very large discrepancy. This same group move on to Michigan picking two counties to check the votes but were stopped by the governor. Hmmm, seems suspicious. If you say that there was no voter fraud, why would you stop an individual group from checking the votes?

My opinion is that the first Tuesday of November is the day that voting takes place, not Sunday after church, not a week or two before because you can't get your tail going on Tuesday. The only people that can get an absentee ballot are those who can't be here because of medical reasons, out of the country or military duties.

Everybody notices gas prices are rising, thanks to sleepy Joe for closing down the pipeline. Now he's asking OPEC to increase oil production; we were self-sufficient under Trump.

My heart goes out to the 13 families that lost their military loved ones in Afghanistan under sleepy Joe's direction, and he has the audacity to look at his watch while those service people were unloaded from the aircraft. We didn't lose any military personnel in Afghanistan due to combat in the past 18 months, most of which Trump was in office for. Donald Trump had a face-to-face meeting w/the Taliban leader and

told them that if you harm or kill and military personnel he'll blow their home village into the next world. My question is, why didn't any newspapers report this to the American people.

Do I think Biden should be impeached? No. I think he should be court-martialed.

God Bless Our Country,
Butch Przekopski – Colchester

Support Dennler and Chapman

To the Editor:
As a current member of Colchester Board of Finance (BOF), I support incumbent Bernie Dennler and endorsed candidate Scott Chapman for the six-year seats on the BOF in the upcoming election on Nov. 2. Bernie is a life-long resident of Colchester and is currently the Colchester BOF vice chairman. Bernie works as the office manager to the first selectman in a neighboring municipality. He brings his municipal experience and training to help guide the Colchester BOF.

Scott is a veteran and has 17 years of experience as a financial advisor. He owns his own local business. Scott brings a commonsense approach to bringing a fiscally responsible budget forward while maintaining the lowest tax burden possible. He believes in analyzing spending and making decisions that will keep Colchester safe and continuing to move forward.

Please vote for Bernie Dennler and Scott Chapman on Nov. 2. They are two individuals dedicated to serving the people of Colchester.

Michael Hayes – Colchester
Note: Hayes is a member of the Colchester Board of Finance, but said is speaking as an individual.

Seeking Your Support

To East Hampton Residents:
I am seeking a position on the East Hampton Board of Finance (BOF). I previously had the privilege of filling a vacancy on BOF and enjoyed working across the aisle on many issues. I look forward to once again being part of a team that brings improvements to our town without breaking the bank.

Wise spending that modernizes town operations, education, and public safety without using our general fund or creating an excessive tax burden on our community is what I stand for. I also applaud and support the Board of Education's efforts to align our educators' con-

tracts with other towns that are comparable to East Hampton. Their past efforts saved taxpayer dollars.

I look forward to working for the residents of East Hampton and hope to have your support in November.

Respectfully,
Bridget McLennan – East Hampton
Board of Finance Candidate

Scouts Spread Kindness

To the Editor:
From the beginning of our Girl Scout troop four years ago as kindergarten Daisies, we have had a strong focus on kindness, inclusion and appreciating differences. We have watched the girls grow and develop into strong, brave girls who want to make a difference. As second graders we challenged them to be leaders and role models at Gilead Hill by holding a Kindness Campaign for their school. Now that they are going into fourth grade, we are continuing to push them to now be leaders and role models of their broader community.

We want to thank Tiffany Warren, RHAM High School student and inspiring artist, for bringing the girls' ideas to life on their kindness billboard. We would also like to thank Mac McCarrison for allowing us to display the billboard at his real estate company in the center of town so the girls' message can be shared with the entire town. It's been a crazy year and we hope to make peoples' days a bit brighter as they drive by. The girls have worked so hard, and we couldn't be prouder to have such a great group.

Lindsay Eng and Erin Bussiere,
Co-Leaders of Troop 67512
Hebron

Honoring Our Workforce

To the Editor:
This Labor Day weekend, I reflected on my role as manager in Colchester Town Hall and how my personal leadership style affects employees. My leadership values have developed over many years as a supervisor. When I retired as regional vice president for Patient Care Services and chief nursing officer with Hartford HealthCare, approximately 1,800 professionals worked for me and I felt responsible to ensure the job satisfaction of each and every one.

My number one priority is to manage in a way that attracts and retains the best and the brightest employees to provide services to Colchester citizens. The foundation is based on respect. I strive to create a positive, healthy work environment where I make it a point to get to know staff personally so they know I care about them, not only as workers, but as people with unique qualities and personal lives. Meaning-

ful recognition, open communication, and involving stakeholders in decision-making are essential components of my leadership style. When employees feel appreciated, they experience higher job satisfaction. They are more productive and stay in their jobs longer. Strong, experienced leadership rooted in kindness and consideration is what Colchester needs to thrive and progress.

I am surrounded by employees and volunteers with a broad range of experiences and expertise. I have so much to learn from them, so I make it a point to actively listen to what they have to say. Creating a safe work environment where people can share their thoughts and ideas openly allows me to grow into a better leader for Colchester.

Recently, as part of the video Q&A series I have on my website, I answered the question, "What is your leadership style?" You can hear my answer and learn more about my candidacy by visiting marybylone.com. I ask for your support.

Sincerely,
Mary Bylone
Candidate for Colchester First Selectman

Failed on Both Counts

To the Editor:
Peter Kushkowski believes he knows his Bible, and that his hobby of writing numerous letters to editors has helped him develop critical thinking skills. Yet he failed on both counts last week, purposefully misrepresenting what I said, then closing his own letter by validating the truth of what I did say.

My Aug. 27 letter stated, "Christians ignore their history. Their roots are not from the Bible but from prior civilizations – borrowing and corrupting from the Mesopotamian days of Gilgamesh to today." Kushkowski mangled this, stating, "Edmund Smith veered off into the weeds with his many obfuscations; the most egregious being when he threw baby Jesus out with the baptismal water in his assertion that Christianity is rooted in Greek mythology."

Then, at the end of his letter he proved my Aug. 27 statement correct by comparing his former job to "the towering flames of Old Testament Shadrach – Meshach – and Abednego"; a Babylonian/Mesopotamian story of Nebuchadnezzar (The Book of Daniel, a historical fiction). If Kushkowski will acquaint himself with historical progressions, he will necessarily agree Christianity has roots in Babylonian/Mesopotamian- Greek-Roman-Medieval Dark Ages (Council of Nicea) events; and is still evolving today.

Greek contributions included Dionysian practices with wine (Holy Eucharist sacrament).
See Letters, page 32

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Hebron • Hebron



Hops Brings Home the Title... The Hebron Hops baseball team continued its dominance in the CT 35+ division in winning their seventh consecutive league championship this year. They finished with a record of 19-1 in 2021 and have now established a run of 155 wins and 27 losses over the last seven years. The Hops were led by the local trio of Lee McPeck (Andover), Bill Eller (Hebron) and Pat Walsh (Hebron). McPeck had a state-leading .638 batting average this season, while Eller went undefeated on the mound and led the league in strikeouts and ERA. Behind the plate, Walsh handled the pitching staff well and had a career year offensively (.581 average). At left is a team picture, while at right are, from left, McPeck, Eller and Walsh.

Christ Lutheran News & Notes

All are invited to worship at Christ Lutheran Church (LCMS), located at 330 Church St. Pastor is Dana Hallenbeck.
Sunday Worship: Sundays at 9 a.m., an in-person Divine Service is held. Current mask requirements have been lifted for those who are fully vaccinated or cannot wear a mask for medical reasons; all others are required to wear masks.
In-Person Sunday Bible Study and Coffee Hour: 10 a.m., after the morning service. Topic: "Why Do You Think You Are a Lutheran?" There will be a review of the Augsburg Confession.
Caring Shepherds: Caring Shepherds will

be in Willimantic Saturday, Sept. 18, at 11 a.m., at 877 Main St., handing out hygiene kits and Bibles. For more information call Caring Shepherds ministry at 860-494-0431.
Early Childhood Center: Open to all faiths, the center offers childcare, preschool and before/after school educational opportunities in a Christian environment. Now enrolling for fall classes. For more information, call 860-228-5134.
More Info: For more information, call 860-228-1152 or visit www.CLCHebron.org or facebook.com/CLCHebron.

Donations Sought for Book Sale

The Friends of Douglas Library of Hebron group is accepting donations of used books in good condition for the conditions-permitting upcoming Sept. 18 book sale.
 Fiction, science-fiction, mysteries, romances, non-fiction, and children's books are requested. CDs and DVDs are also welcome. Do not donate VHS tapes, encyclopedias, magazines, or *Reader's Digest* condensed books. All donated items should be in good condition, not mildewed, moldy, dirty or torn.
 The Douglas Library is located at 22 Main St.

on the Hebron Green. The next Book Sale will be Saturday, Sept. 18, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the library's community room. From 1-3 p.m., there will be a \$5/bag sale, with no limit on the number of bags you can purchase.
 Proceeds from the sale are used to purchase new material for the library, museum passes, equipment, as well as to pay for children's and adult programs. Donations can be dropped off anytime in the white donation bin to the right of the main parking lot entrance. For assistance with large donations, call the Friends ahead of time, at 860-228-9312, ext. 312.
 Note: due to COVID-19, the upcoming book sale may be set up differently than previous sales. In order to meet the Chatham Health District's requirements, the Friends may need to limit the number of occupants in the room at one time, and everyone is required to wear a facial mask.

Discovery Zone learning Center

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Resident New Executive Director of Amplify

The board of directors at Amplify, Inc., has announced that Allyson Nadeau-Schmeizl, MPA, of Hebron, was promoted to become the nonprofit's next executive director, as of Sept. 1.

She replaces Marcia DuFore, who retired Aug. 31 after 10 years of leading Amplify and one of its predecessor agencies, the North Central Regional Mental Health Board (NCRMHB).

Amplify, Inc., helps 37 towns in north-central Connecticut assess their behavioral health needs, identify gaps in services, and advocate for strategies and resources related to mental health, substance misuse, problem gambling, and other behavioral health issues. The agency was formed in 2019 through the merger of NCRMHB and East of the River Action for Substance Abuse Elimination (ERASE).

Nadeau-Schmeizl joined Amplify in April 2020 as its outreach and evaluation coordinator. She has led Amplify's Youth Anxiety Review and Program Advisory Council, developed its first health equity plan, and supported its Regional Suicide Advisory Board and community needs assessment. Previously, Nadeau-Schmeizl was a Network of Care Manager at Beacon Health Options and a project consultant for the Connecticut Suicide Advisory Board. She has a master's degree in public administration from the University of New Haven and was named a TOW Youth Justice Institute Fellow in 2017.

"The Board of Directors of Amplify selected Allyson as the best candidate based on



Allyson Nadeau-Schmeizl

her professional experience, capabilities, and passion for Amplify's work," said Board of Directors Chair Cephus Nolen. "We are excited to support her and see her thrive in this new role. Throughout her career, Allyson has demonstrated her dedication to ensuring that lived experience informs behavioral health service system design. She is highly regarded by her Amplify colleagues, coalitions, and former colleagues. Amplify and those we serve are in good hands."

Allyson lives in Hebron with her family, and is active in civic affairs in town.

Douglas Library News & Notes

Douglas Library, located at 22 Main St., has announced the following. For more info and full program descriptions, and to register, call the library at 860-228-9312 or visit www.douglaslibrary.org.

Library Hours: Monday and Wednesday, noon-8 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday, noon-6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. All patrons are encouraged to wear masks and practice social distancing, Curbside pick-up requests will continue to be filled in the lobby of the building.

Knit-Wits: This knitting circle meets Mondays, 6-7:30 p.m. Crochet and needle pointers are welcome as well as all skill levels. No registration required, bring your project or your questions.

Museum Passes: A complete list of available passes can be found on our website under the services tab. The majority are print-from-home and can also be reserved online ahead of time.

Poetry Corner: To have work considered for the Poetry Corner in the library's monthly newsletter, submit it to info@douglaslibrary.org with the subject line 'Poetry Submission.' All ages and skill levels are encouraged to participate. Poems should be original works written by individuals living in Hebron or Amston, and not copyrighted.

Friday Films: The library is showing newly-

released films at 1 p.m. on the following Fridays: Sept. 24, *Queen Bees*; Oct. 1, *Lansky*; Oct. 8, *In the Heights*. The movies will be shown on the library's 80-inch 4K TV. Bottled water and individually wrapped snacks will be provided. Call the main desk at 860-228-9312 with any questions. Registration is not required.

Medicare Information: Tuesday, Sept. 21, at 6 p.m., with Mark Macrina, a licensed Medicare and life insurance agent with Senior Health and Retirement Services. The different Medicare plans, updates and changes will be discussed.

Teen Zone: The Teen Advisory Group (TAG) will begin again on Tuesday, Sept. 7, from 2:30-3:30 p.m. This meeting will be the first of four for preparation for the Haunted Library event, which will be occurring on Saturday, Oct. 23. The other meetings will be held Sept. 21, Oct. 5 and Oct. 19. The group will also host a board game event Tuesday, Sept. 14, and an anime/manga club meeting Tuesday, Sept. 28. Registration is not needed for any of these events.

Children's Department: Beginning at the end of September, in-person Storytime will resume at the library, for ages birth-5. Pre-registration will be required as class size is reduced to 10 children with their caregiver at each class. The Storytime schedule is: Sept. 21, 23, 28 and 30, at 10 a.m. each day.

9/11 Memorial Dedication and Eagle Recognition

On Saturday, Sept. 18, at 11 a.m., there will be a ceremony to dedicate a 9/11 memorial that was constructed as an Eagle project by Eagle Scout Dylan Puschel of Troop 28 in Hebron.

The event will have comments from Hebron Fire Chief Peter J. Starkel and state Sen. Cathy Osten (D-19). BSA Troop 28 Scoutmaster Ed Fournier will lead recognition of Puschel's attainment of Eagle rank, which will showcase the requirements to make Eagle as well as the activities held by the Troop such as camping, canoeing, hiking, biking and more.

Those in attendance are asked to park in the lot behind the firehouse on Pendleton Drive.

Church of Hope News & Notes

Hebron Church of Hope, 1 Main St., holds worship Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Church of Hope is a biblically-driven Christ-centered church.

Worship is in person and via livestream on the church website. For more information, and the guidelines for in-person worship, visit www.hebronchurchofhope.org.

The church office is closed until further notice. Pastor Jordan Brown can meet by appointment; use the church website to set up a time.

For more information about Hebron Church of Hope, visit the website or look for the church on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.

Police News

9/6: Jeremy Burke, 20, of 32 Northam Rd., Amston, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs and failure to drive in the proper lane, police said.

Library Seeks Survey Responses

The Douglas Library Strategic Planning Committee is distributing a survey during September to gather information about the thoughts and wishes of the community for the library.

The survey can be taken online or on paper. The online version can be found at douglaslibrary.org; there is a banner with a link to the survey at the top of the page. Paper copies can be picked up at the library, 22 Main St. Responses are anonymous, though there is the option to add your name for follow-up questions. All responses must be received before Oct. 1.

The collected data will be used to create goals for an updated version of the library's strategic plan that will run from 2022-2027.

Individuals with questions about the survey or requests to have a print copy mailed can contact the library at 860-228-9312 or send a message to info@douglaslibrary.org.

Free CPR Classes

The Hebron Fire Department (44 Main St.) is offering free American Heart Association Heartsaver CPR classes for those who live/work in Hebron. Adult, child and infant CPR, as well as choking emergencies, are covered.

The classes begin at 7 p.m. and will be offered Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17 or Dec. 15. Call Donna at 860-228-3022 ext. 162 to reserve a seat. Classes are first-come, first-served.

Child Car Seat Installations

The Hebron Fire Department offers free installation/safety checks for child and infant car seats at Station 1, 44 Main St. The installations/checks are performed by a licensed safety technician.

To schedule an appointment, call 860-228-3022 ext. 162.



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District Chief: Schools Off to Normal Start

by Jack Lakowsky

Paul Smith, Belltown schools superintendent, said the district is eager to have as “normal” a school year as possible for local students.

“We’re playing a full season of athletics,” Smith told the *Rivercast* on Wednesday.

Tonight, the school’s volleyball team will play its first game of the year.

“Last year’s practices were reduced, but now we’re back to a full season of contests and practices,” Smith said.

Smith said masks are about the only atypical thing about this school year. He said many of the safety measures in place last year were found to hamper kids’ school experiences, and also were determined as ineffective against the spread, and so these have been modified or reduced.

The state is mandating masks for all people in schools, at least through Sept. 30, when the executive order allowing the state Department of Public Health (DPH) and state Department of Education to enact such rules is set to expire.

In addition, any and all school staff across the state – administrators, teachers, cafeteria staff, bus drivers – must have at least their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine by Sept. 27, a goal Smith has previously said he is confident East Hampton will meet.

Smith said the process of collecting vaccination statuses from staff is ongoing.

Haddam Neck Covenant Church News

Haddam Neck Covenant Church, located at 17 Haddam Neck Rd., invites all to Sunday worship at 9 a.m., online at www.facebook.com/Haddam-Neck-Covenant-Church or in person. 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.

Barbecue Chicken: The church will host a barbecue chicken dinner drive-thru takeout event Saturday, Sept. 25, by reservation only. The dinner includes a thigh/leg chicken quarter, baked beans, coleslaw and cornbread for \$10 (cash only please). Order deadline is Sept. 19. Outdoor seating will be available. Pick-up is between noon and 6 p.m.; call the church office with your pick-up time.

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.

“The vast majority [of staff] are already fully vaccinated,” said Smith.

Smith said the process is confidential and handled in-house. He said before the order was announced, schools weren’t tracking staff vaccine statuses.

This is the third school year affected by the pandemic, Smith said.

“Experts are saying the kids have been through a lot,” Smith said. “We’re being careful to address the social/emotional needs of students, as well as their academic needs.”

As far as academics, Smith explained that math skills will be emphasized with students, for both this year, and for a few to come.

Using funds from the federal American Rescue Plan stimulus package, the schools have doubled their number of math specialists to assist students who need a bit of help outside the course of classroom time.

Funds for the two new specialists will be used for the next three years, Smith said.

“In addition to math, we want them to have skills that businesses are looking for,” Smith said. “Not just math skills, but what we’re referring to as ‘transferable skills.’”

According to several media reports, Connecticut schools are facing a shortage of bus drivers.

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 to access.

Kick-Off Sunday will be on Sept. 12 with the beginning of Church School. Following the Sunday service, all are invited to gather on the church lawn for a picnic and ice cream. Bring a lunch and chair or blanket. In the event of rain, the picnic will be canceled.

The Teen Youth Group will next meet Saturday, Sept. 18, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Gillette’s Castle State Park for hiking and a picnic lunch. Grades 6-12 are welcome.

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

Lions Club Scholarship Raffle

The East Hampton Lions Club is conducting a raffle to support its annual scholarship program. The club offers four \$1,000 awards to East Hampton graduating students.

The raffle offers a \$2,021 grand prize. There are also two first prizes of \$221, two second prizes of \$121 and two third prizes of \$51. Also, the first-, second- and third-prize winners are re-entered for grand prize drawing.

The drawing will be at the Lions Club picnic pavilion, 62 North Main St., at 2:21 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21. Winners need not be present.

For information or tickets call Lion Tom Denman 860-519-4951 or 860-267-4512.

This trend holds true in East Hampton, Smith said.

“We’re having to get very creative about [finding drivers for] field trips and games,” Smith said, meaning the district and its bus contractor, Dattco, have had to pull drivers from out of district to help meet need.

Smith said to any looking for a job as a Dattco school bus driver, visit the company’s website or call the district’s main office, which will connect callers to the company directly.

Smith said he and the school board are keeping a watchful eye on the local and state COVID-19 numbers.

“With Delta, we’re currently considered as being in a surge,” Smith said.

Smith said he expects schools to weather well any COVID-19 upticks, as 71% of local kids between age 12 and 17 have at least their first dose, and only a small percentage of this figure

have not yet received their second.

“Obviously, we’re still concerned about our younger students,” Smith said, adding that further measures, like distancing at outdoor events, will be observed to help ensure the safety of the district’s youngest.

At a few meetings of both the school board and the East Hampton Town Council, residents and parents disagreed with the school mask mandate.

Smith said, now that the year has started, things have been quiet.

“I think everyone, regardless of how they feel about masks, is just happy to have kids back in school,” Smith said. “There are recreational events, outdoor fairs, apple picking. I think people are content for the time being. A lot of people are looking to see what happens on Sept. 30.”

Lobster Fest Returns Sept. 25

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. Only a limited number of tickets are available, and sales will cease Saturday, 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.

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.

Lottery Notice for Municipal Ballot Names

East Hampton registrars will hold a public lottery next week to determine the placement of names on the Nov. 2 election ballot.

Candidates’ names will be drawn at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 14, in the second floor conference room (room 201) of the Town Hall, 1 Community Drive. This lottery determines the horizontal order of such names within a row on the election ballot.

This session is open to the public. For more information, call the registrars on Tuesdays at 860-267-6720.

Free Paper-Shredding Event

The Lower CT River Council of Governments will hold a paper-shredding event Saturday, Sept. 11, from 9 a.m.-noon, at the Middlefield Community Center, 405 Main St., Middlefield.

The collection is open to residents of the RiverCOG region, which includes Portland and East Hampton. Residents may bring up to five bags or boxes of confidential paperwork for shredding – no commercial paper and no books, cards, magazines, etc.

Visit rivercog.org/household-hazardous-waste to learn more.

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‘Mixed Bag’ of Storm Damage After Ida

by Jack Lakowsky

Other than a structure fire Town Manager David Cox said consumed a storage shed in the Hog Hill Road area, along with flooding in Middle Haddam, last week’s storm showed mercy to East Hampton.

The storm was the remnant of Hurricane Ida, a Category 4 hurricane that recently struck Louisiana.

East Hampton’s Director of Public Works Matt Walsh described the storm as a “mixed bag” in a Tuesday phone call with the *Rivereast*.

“There were a few trees down, though not as many as in the past,” Walsh said.

Walsh said many of the town’s gravel roads washed out.

“Middle Haddam seems to have caught the brunt of it,” the director went on.

Walsh said there were few outages in town, and credited Eversource’s tree work.

Walsh estimated most of town received around five inches of rain. The Middle Haddam village area, however, had to endure about six inches of rainfall, which led to flooding and

some road closures.

“Schoolhouse Lane was closed for the day,” Walsh said, going on to say the road actually collapsed after a washout, but repairs were completed quickly, and the road was able to open up that same afternoon.

East Hampton Fire Marshal Richard Klotzbier said the investigation into the Hog Hill structure fire is ongoing, and many details, including dollar value and cause, need to be determined.

Klotzbier, as an educated guess, said lightning was a possible cause, but the marshal’s office needs more information before it can conclude anything.

Klotzbier said the rain made fighting the fire difficult.

Luckily, Klotzbier said there were no injuries.

“Otherwise, I’d say the town fared pretty well,” Klotzbier said.

On Sept. 2, Gov. Ned Lamont declared a state of emergency due to statewide flooding.



East Hampton resident Kristy Roloff, in her 2015 Tesla S, is one of the many residents who will be displaying their electric or hybrid cars at the third annual Electric Car Show Saturday, Sept. 25, at East Hampton High School. Photo by Podskoch.

Electric Car Show Coming Soon

The East Hampton and Portland clean energy task forces will hold the third annual Electric Car Show Saturday, Sept. 25, from noon-3 p.m. at East Hampton High School, 15 N. Maple St. Rain date is Sunday, Sept. 26.

The event will showcase electric, hybrid, and alternative fuel cars from private owners and various dealerships.

The clean energy task forces are inviting any residents who own any electric, hybrid or alternative fuel vehicle to show off their clean energy machine as well. There is no registration fee, but the deadline to register your vehicle for the

show is Friday, Sept. 17. Register by contacting East Hampton Parks and Rec. at easthampton-rec.com or call 860-267-7300. Other electric vehicles are welcome as well – bikes, scooters or anything that moves.

Registration is also open, at no charge, to any town groups, non-profits, associations or clubs interested in using less fossil fuel for vehicles. There will be music and food as well.

Booth registration forms can be found by emailing the East Hampton Clean Energy Task Force at ehctef@gmail.com.

Registration Open for Red McKinney Golf Tourney

The East Hampton Rotary Club invites all to participate in the 28th annual Golf Tournament Wednesday, Oct. 6, on the Anderson Glen course at Blackledge Country Club. This annual event has been renamed the Red McKinney Golf Tournament in honor of longtime Rotarian Red McKinney.

All proceeds fund the East Hampton Rotary Club community service projects benefitting the East Hampton and Marlborough communities.

The tournament is scramble format with prizes for prizes for first-, second- and third-place teams, closest to the pin, longest drive, closest to the line. There will be a putting contest from 10-11:30 a.m. with a 50/50 payout, and last but not least a \$10,000 hole-in-one contest.

Registration starts at 10 a.m., followed by

lunch at 11 a.m. and a shotgun start at noon. The tournament will be capped at 144 fully-paid players. There will be a waiting list if the cap is exceeded, and we may open another course if there is enough interest. There will be a dinner following the tournament. Non-golfers are welcome to come for dinner and the auction for \$25. After dinner we will award all prizes for the day and hold a teacup raffle and live auction with many prizes.

Register online at easthamptonct.rotary-7980gives.org/redmckinneyrotarygolftournament, or visit www.easthamptonrotary.org to download a registration form.

For additional information on the tournament or sponsorship, email easthamptonctrotary@gmail.com.

Art Exhibition at Town Hall Gallery

The East Hampton Art Exhibition has a new artist for September for the Town Hall Gallery – Jacqueline Jones.

Jones teaches at the Glastonbury Art Guild and the Lyme Art Association. Her work and more information can be found at www.jacquelinejones.com.

September CommuniTea

The Middle Haddam Public Library is hosting the next CommuniTea Saturday, Sept. 11, at 10:30 a.m., in the garden of the library. There will be tea and biscuits (and coffee, too) outside under the tent or in the sunshine. The library is located at 2 Knowles Rd.

Bring a friend, drink some tea, take out a book, and look at the art. Remember your mask.

For more information, email the library programs director at MiddleHaddamLibrary@gmail.com.

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.

Applications must be postmarked or delivered by Sept. 30; any received after that date will not be considered. For applications, go to www.ehems.org and click on ‘Scholarship,’ or call 860-267-9679. Completed ones 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.



This Mustang was one of the more than 120 cars at the Markham Meadows Car Cruise for Wounded Warriors last year. This year’s event is Saturday, Sept. 18, at the campgrounds

Car Cruise for Wounded Warriors

The annual Markham Meadows Car Cruise will be Saturday, Sept. 18, from 3-7 p.m., at the campgrounds, located on 9 Markham Rd.

Proceeds benefit local wounded warriors as well as Flags Across East Hampton and the East

Hampton Police K-9 unit. The day includes cars, trucks, tractors, bikes, trophies, food, music and many raffles. Bring your cooler. Call Melissa Engel at 860-267-9738 for more information.

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Athletic Hall of Fame Nominations

The East Hampton Athletic Hall of Fame is accepting nominations through Sept. 15 for its 2021 induction class. The Hall of Fame recognizes people and teams that have “made a significant impact to the athletic landscape of East Hampton.”

The induction banquet will be Friday, Nov. 5, at Blackledge Country Club in Hebron. For more information or to submit a nomination, email Tom Seidl at seidl@sbeglobal.net.

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Six houses – including the one seen here – will be featured as part of the historic house tour sponsored by the Chatham Historical Society on Saturday, Sept. 25, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Historic House Tour

Tickets are ready for the historic house tour sponsored by the Chatham Historical Society of East Hampton. The tour will take place Saturday, Sept. 25, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Six houses will be included in this year's celebration of homes, from the very earliest built

in 1748 to the 1930 craftsman-style cape. Tickets will be available at East Hampton Public Library and at Town Hall, in the town clerk's office. People may also purchase tickets by calling 860-267-4732.

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: The library is open in the summer Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Thursday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Masks are required at town facilities – including the library – for people ages 3 and up.

Children's Programs: Take and Make September: For ages 3-5 and grades K-5. Pickup starts Tuesday, Sept. 14. Decorate a pencil case. Supplies are limited; registration is underway. Reserve kits online and pick up in person or curbside.

Stories and Songs Outside: Outdoors at Sears Park by Lake Pocotopaug Wednesday, Sept. 22, 10:15 a.m., for ages 18 months-5 years and their caregivers. Siblings welcome. No registration required.

DIY Days: For grades 2-8. Saturday, Sept. 25, 11 a.m., or Monday, Sept. 27, 6 p.m. Kids will create their own Magic Drawing Board. Space is limited; reserve your seat for this in-person, indoor program.

Teen Programs: Take and Make September: For grades 6-12. Pickup starts Tuesday, Sept. 14. Decorate a mini sneaker and add this keychain to your backpack or keys. Supplies are limited; registration is underway. Reserve kits online and pick up in person or curbside.

Dungeons and Dragons: For grades 8-12. Wednesdays, Sept. 15 and 22, Oct. 13 and 27, and Nov. 10 and 24, 5:30-7:30 p.m. each day, in

person at the library. No previous playing experience required and all supplies will be provided.

Teen Fandom Mondays - Marble Locker Magnets: Monday, Sept. 20, 5:30 p.m., for grades 6-12. Make marble magnets using pictures from your favorite fandoms – such as Disney, Star Wars, The Hunger Games, Marvel and more. Come in cosplay if you like.

Adult Programs: Adult Crafternoon: Saturday, Sept. 11, 1 p.m. Bring a project to work on and show off what you've recently finished. All crafts and hobbies welcome.

Take and Make September: Adult: Pickup starts Tuesday, Sept. 14. Decorate a mini sneaker and add this keychain to your backpack or keys. Supplies are limited; registration is underway. Reserve kits online and pick up in person or curbside.

Adult Programs: Fall Author Series: Megan Collins, Author of The Family Plot: Tuesday, Sept. 14, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom. All are invited to an evening with Connecticut author Megan Collins, author of *The Winter Sister*, *Behind the Red Door* and the newly-released *The Family Plot*. Books will be on sale for cash or check, to benefit the Friends of the East Hampton Public Library.

Book Club – The Family Plot: Tuesday, Sept. 21, 6:30 p.m. or Thursday, Sept. 23, 2 p.m. Following Megan Collins' Sept. 14 Author Visit, the Book Club will discuss her newest novel, *The Family Plot*.

Poetry at Middle Haddam Library

All are invited Wednesday, Sept. 15, at 7 p.m., for a night of poetry at Middle Haddam Library, 2 Knowles Rd.

This month, poems about work and working will be read. Bring along your favorites to read or read one of the library's selections.

For more information, email the library programs director at MiddleHaddamLibrary@gmail.com.

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.



Get Lake-Smart... In July, John Purple (left) of the East Hampton Conservation & Lake Commission presented Jack and Jan Solomon of Old Marlborough Road with the "Lake-Smart Award" for managing their property to benefit Lake Pocotopaug. They maintain a garden along the lake shore line that acts as a buffer zone, preventing nutrients to flow into the lake. They also do not use fertilizers or pesticides on their lawn. To be evaluated for the award, or for more information, contact Jeremy Hall of the Parks & Recreation Department (860-267-7300 or jhall@easthamptonct.gov), Jeremy DeCarli of the Planning & Zoning Department (860-267-7450 or jdecarli@easthamptonct.gov), or any members of the Conservation & Lake Commission. Marty Podskoch Photo

Stream Monitoring Volunteer Training

All are invited to become a Stream Monitoring Volunteer.

The Salmon River Watershed Partnership and Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Watershed, working with Connecticut River Watch Program, are hosting a training program for volunteers on biological stream assessments. Learn to collect and identify stream insects that are good indicators of water quality and stream health. The program includes all necessary equipment for field training at selected sites in the watersheds.

The training program will be held Saturday, Sept. 11, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Salmon

River State Forest picnic pavilion site at the corner of Route 16 and Gulf Road in East Hampton. This program is appropriate for ages 10 and above; contact the partnership about ages that require an accompanying adult. COVID-19 guidelines will be followed, and masks may be required.

Registration is required and attendance is limited to the first 30 registrants. To register, contact Pat Young at salmonriverct@att.net or info@eightmileriver.org. For more information, call 860-490-8093.

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50th Reunion!... East Hampton High School's Class of 1971 recently held its 50th reunion at The Grandview Resort in Moodus. The day was filled with a buffet catered by Farrell's of Portland, entertainment by DJ Wayne Visintainer, raffles, and a scavenger hunt. The evening was spent around a campfire reminiscing about class trips, dances, talent shows and more. Since it was such a success, the next reunion is already planned for September of 2023. Photo by Karen Moore.



GOP School Board Hopefuls... Running for seats on East Hampton's Board of Education are, from left, Mike Buck, Christina Tammaro-Dzagan, Josh Piteo and Russell Bonaccorso. For more information, call Bonaccorso at 203-242-4292.

Epoch Arts' Annual Tag Sale Approaching

Epoch Arts will hold its six-day annual tag sale over two weekends in September – Sept. 17-19 and Sept. 24-26. Time slots will be available from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

This year, Epoch is again limiting the number of people allowed in the building at one time. The time slots are two hours each. While people can only sign up for one time slot per day, they may attend multiple days. Walk-ins are allowed as long as there is capacity in the building at the moment, but Epoch recommends reserving a time slot online in order to be guaranteed admission immediately. There will only be online reservations during the first weekend of the sale.

Cash registers will be outside this year to ensure the safety of tag sale workers. Epoch will not provide bags or be able to hold items for people this year, but people can cash out numerous times, bring your purchases to your car and re-enter during their time slot. There will be only one entrance

and one exit to the Tag Sale, and they will be clearly marked.

This year, only children 10 years old and up will be allowed to attend the tag sale, but there will be a special kid's day the second Saturday, Sept. 25. Kids of all ages can attend the tag sale this day only, but keep in mind if you bring another member of your household, they will be counted during the time slot.

This is Epoch's biggest fundraiser, and, to help offset costs and lost revenue due to the pandemic, there will be an entrance fee of \$20 for the first time slot only, on Sept. 17 from 8-10 a.m. As of press time, masks are only recommended, but that may change. There will also be no public bathrooms available.

To reserve a time slot, go to epocharts.org/tag-sale. The sale will take place at Epoch, 27 Skinner St. Visit www.epocharts.org for more information.

Senior Center News & Notes

East Hampton Senior Center, 105 Main St., is open. All participants are asked to register for a program before entering the center; register online at myactivecenter.com. For full program descriptions or more information, call 860-267-4426, email seniorcenter@easthamptonct.gov, or visit www.easthamptonct.gov/east-hampton-senior-center. Senior center hours are Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Note: Masks are required for all participants, regardless of vaccination status.

Lunches: The Community Renewal Team is serving meals at the center Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Call the center to reserve a meal or sign up online through MyActiveCenter.com. One must be 60 or older to register. Reservations for the next day's meal must be made before 11 a.m. the day before. Masks are required; however, once you have your meal and are seated you can take off your mask. Meals are funded through a federal grant and the meals are free, but a \$3 donation is requested to help cover costs the grant does not. No one registered will be denied a meal due to lack of a donation.

Weekly Activities: Registration is required for all of the following; to do so, contact the center. **Quilting Group:** Mondays, 9 a.m. **Mexican Train Dominoes:** Mondays, 9:30 a.m. **Bible Study:** Tuesdays, 1 p.m. **Bingo:** Tuesdays, 1-2 p.m., in person and via Zoom. **Setback:** Thursdays 1:15-3:15 p.m. **Mahjongg:** Fridays, 10 a.m.-noon. **Textile Group:** Fridays at 1:30 p.m.

Wii Bowling: Tuesday, Sept. 14, 10 a.m. Register online.

Yoga with Kitch: Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at the senior center – outside, or inside with masks – as well as virtual via Zoom.

Online registration required. Call the center for more information.

Writing Our Lives to Open Our Hearts: Thursdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m., or every other Wednesday (next date Sept. 15), at 9:30 a.m. Meet outside, weather permitting. In case of inclement weather, it will be inside, with masks recommended. Register online.

September is National Senior Center Month: There will be various events throughout the month to help celebrate.

iPad Training: Thursdays, Sept. 16 and 30, 11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Learn how to use an iPad. The center will have iPads, or you can bring your own. Registration required.

Book Club is Back: Tuesday, Sept. 14, 10:30 a.m., outside, weather permitting, and virtually. The book is *All Creatures Great and Small* by James Herriot and is available at the library. The club will meet outside, weather permitting, and virtually. Register online for the Zoom link.

Movie Theatre @the Senior Center: Monday, Sept. 20, 1 p.m. Watch the movie *Big Stone Gap*. Snacks provided. Registration required.

Getting to Know Trees: An Introduction: Wednesday, Sept. 22, at 10 a.m., with Master Naturalist Lynn Kochiss. Class limited to 10 participants. There may be walking involved, short distances. Pre-registration and masks required.

September Birthday Celebration: Monday, Sept. 27, 1 p.m. There will be cupcakes, presents, lemonade and more. Sign up ASAP; seating is limited.

Creative Crafts: Wednesday, Sept. 29, 1 p.m. Make Autumn Mesh Wreaths. Registration required.

Volunteer Shopping: The center has instituted a shopping program where a volunteer will shop for you. Call in your list to 860-267-4426 or email it to Jewing@easthampton.gov. List must include name, address, phone number and email if you have one, along with a complete shopping list. The shopper will call you before the drop off to let you know the cost of the groceries. You can write out a check for the amount, payable to the Town of East Hampton. The volunteer will drop off the groceries at your door and pick up the check in a pre-arranged designated spot.

Trip: Dining and a Cabaret Show: At the Newport Playhouse Wednesday, Dec. 8, to see the new comedic 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.



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Senior Center News & Notes

Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave., has announced the following. For full descriptions, call 860-537-3911, email csc@colchesterct.gov, or visit www.colchesterct.gov/senior-center. Events marked with a (Z) will be held via Zoom, and items marked with a (CC) will be held via conference call.

Monday, Sept. 13: 8:30 a.m., Commission on Aging meeting (Z), Garden Club; 9 a.m., Making Memories, Exercise w/Anne; 10 a.m., Pet Therapy, Sittercize; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign; 12:30 p.m., Mah Jongg; 1 p.m., Bridge at Hebron senior center, Watercolor Workshop.

Tuesday, Sept. 14: 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:15 a.m., blood pressure clinic; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 11:30 a.m., Healthy Snacking; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle; 1:30 p.m., Bingo; 2:30-3:30 p.m., CHOICES Counseling, by appointment only; 7 p.m., Senior Center Building Committee (Z).

Wednesday, Sept. 15: 8:30 a.m., Walking Group meet-up at the Air Line Trail in Amston; 9 a.m., Making Memories Program; 10 a.m., Adult Coloring, Sit & Be Fit; 11 a.m., End-of-Summer Cookout special event luncheon; 1:30 p.m., Line Dancing.

Thursday, Sept. 16: 9 a.m., Exercise w/ Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Wii Bowling; 10:30 a.m., Shopping Trip to Willimantic; 11 a.m., Yoga; noon, Chair Massage; 12:30 p.m., Dominoes; 1 p.m., Knit & Crochet.

Friday, Sept. 17: 10 a.m., Sit & Be Fit, NOLA and Canadian Rockies trip presentation; 10:30 a.m., Choral Group; 11 a.m., Yoga; 1 p.m., AARP Program – A Beginner’s Guide to Claiming Social Security (Z); 1:30 p.m., Bingo.

Upcoming Programs: Rides to the Polls: Tuesday, Sept. 21, 10 a.m. The senior center’s

buses will take voters to the Town Hall polling place for the town budget referendum. Polling place is at Town Hall; register for a ride by noon Monday, Sept. 20, if you need transportation.

Made in Colchester Celebration: Wednesday, Sept. 22, 4 p.m., at the senior center. Learn about the town’s farming history and items that were made right in town. There will be refreshments provided by some of our local farms and restaurants. The evening will feature a presentation by the Colchester Historical Society about the Hayward Rubber Company, along with some memorabilia on display. Tickets for this event are \$5. Register in the office by Sept. 15.

Falls Prevention Breakfast: Wednesday, Sept. 29, 9 a.m. In recognition of Falls Awareness Month, Chestelm Health & Rehab and Preferred Therapy Solutions are presenting an informative program that covers everything from environmental hazards to balance exercises to tips for how to fall in a way that lessens injury. The presentation will be followed by a breakfast of assorted quiches, home fries, fruit, pastries, juice, coffee or tea, provided by Chestelm. This is a free program. Register by Sept. 22.

Fall Card-Making Workshop: Friday, Oct. 1, 10 a.m. Senior center member Barbara Gozzo will lead this workshop in which you will go home with a set of handmade cards to keep or send. There is a \$5 charge for the materials. Pre-register in the office by Sept. 24.

Foot Clinic: Wednesday, Oct. 6, 1:30 p.m., by appointment only. Call 860-537-3911 to schedule an appointment at the senior center with Dr. Anthony Morgan, D.P.M., from Colchester Foot Specialists. Bring your Medicare and insurance information or \$40 for those without insurance coverage.

Parks & Rec News

Colchester Parks and Recreation has announced the following. For full program descriptions and more information, call 860-537-7297 or email parksandrec@colchesterct.gov. More information, including weather-related cancellations, is also at www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department. The Parks and Rec. office is located at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave.

Zumba – Step Into Happy: For ages 14 and up. Class meets Mondays, Sept. 13-Dec. 20 (no class Oct. 11), from 6:30-7:30 p.m., at a location to be determined. Minimum number of students is 8 and maximum is 25. Fee: \$98/residents, \$103/non-residents.

Youth Tennis Lessons: Mondays, Sept. 13-27 (rain make-up date Oct. 4), at RecPlex tennis courts. Ages 4-7 meet 3:45-4:30 p.m., and the fee is \$50; ages 8-12 meet 4:30-5:30 p.m., and the fee is \$65. Players will need to bring a tennis racket.

Card-Making Class: Wednesdays, Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 10 and Dec. 8. Meets at Town

Hall at 1 p.m. or Colchester Senior Center at 6 p.m. Cost is \$15/person. Minimum number of students is two and maximum is 25. Cost: \$15/person.

Start Smart Soccer: For ages 3-5. Wednesdays, Sept. 15-Oct. 27, 5:30-6:30 p.m., at the RecPlex. Parents participate with their child. Fee: \$50/residents, \$55/non-resident.

Gentle Yoga: For ages 45 and up. Meets Mondays, 4:45-5:45 p.m., from Sept. 13-Oct. 4 or Oct. 18-Nov. 8. The sessions are via Facebook Live; a private link will be mailed after you register. All levels of fitness or yoga experience are welcome. Cost: \$35/residents, \$40/non-residents.

Church Tag Sale

Colchester Federated Church is having a Tag Sale on Sept. 24 from 3-7 p.m. and Sept. 25, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at the church, 60 Main St.



The Colchester Crushers had a strong season this year – and won the District 11 championship. Pictured from left are, back row, coaches Allison Maynard, Joe Pensa and Matt Pulse, and manager Rob D’Atri; second row, Jillian Marshal, Lily Pulse, Dalila Malz, Claire Gould, Gabbi D’Atri, Ava Galante, Victoria Adamski and Emma Pensa; bottom row, Ashytn King, Abby Floyd, Isabel Faber and Brianna Hawes. Not pictured: Gabby Russo.

Girls’ Softball Season Recap

The Colchester Crushers 8-10 Minors Softball All-Star team had a successful season this year, winning the district championship and making the state tournament.

On Sunday, May 23, manager Rob D’Atri held the first practice for the team. After a year of no organizational softball in Colchester due to COVID-19 and only three kids with tournament experience from two years ago, he was not sure what to expect. Starting in June, the team began to practice two hours a day every day of the week. Nine of the 13 girls had played on the Colchester travel soccer team for several years, and the remaining four players worked their way into the group.

For 59 days, these girls spent multiple hours together practicing. Girls would come early and stay after practice to get extra work. On multiple days, the entire team showed up to get extra bat-

ting practice on game day. Multiple days were spent driving an hour to a field to only have to turn around because the game was canceled due to weather.

The girls ended up winning the District 11 championship in a one-inning continuation game as the previous night’s game was called due to darkness.

These girls played 13 games. Their record was 9-4, which included a run to the state tournament. They had a comeback win in game three of the Section Four championship. The girls were down 7-1 at one point after a rough inning. They were facing a strong Enfield travel pitcher, but the girls never gave up.

While the girls did not end up winning the state tournament, they made it further than any other Colchester baseball or softball team. Congratulations to the Colchester Crushers!

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Grange Makes Donation... Members of Colchester Grange 78 are shown offering support for the town Fuel and Food Banks. Grange members Kathy Culhane, Eva O'Connell and Cathy Russi recently presented a \$1,000 check to Valerie Geato, director of Colchester Youth & Social Services, and Stephanie Turbes, Social Services coordinator.

Land Recording Fraud Alerts

The Colchester town clerk's office is offering a new service to help residents protect their home from fraudulent recordings.

This program allows users to sign up and receive email alerts whenever a document is recorded in Colchester under their name(s), such as a deed, mortgage and more.

To access this option, go to searchiqs.com/fraudalert. For more information about this service, call at 860-537-7215.

Paint Night at Library

Cragin Memorial Library invites all teens and adults to a Paint Night Tuesday, Sept. 21, at 6:30 p.m., via Zoom.

Register at tinyurl.com/r8xvtd8. Participants will receive an email when supplies are ready to be picked up. This program is free.

For more information about current library services, visit www.craginlibrary.org.

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., and Kabbalah class, 8 p.m. on Zoom.

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.

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.

Project Graduation Cornhole Tournament

Bacon Academy Project Graduation is holding a Cornhole Tournament Saturday, Sept. 25, at the Ruby & Elizabeth Cohen Woodlands property on 95 McDonald Rd. Check-in begins at 11 a.m. with tournament play beginning promptly at noon.

Tournament is a double elimination/bracket format. Players can bring their own standard bags, no double-sided/pro bags are allowed. Cost is \$80 per adult team, \$40 for student teams (high school students and younger), \$60 for mixed adult/student teams. All ages are welcome. Masks and social distancing guidelines will be enforced.

Team cash prizes for winners are \$320 for first place, \$160 for second place and \$80 for

third place. To register, go to www.baconacademyprojectgrad.org and click on the 'Cornhole Tournament' page or send payment by check with team member names and contact information (email or cell phone) to BAPG, P.O. Box 393, Colchester, CT 06415. Registration is due Wednesday, Sept. 22. Email Melanie Hathaway at ba.projectgrad@gmail.com with any questions.

The mission of Bacon Academy Project Graduation is to enhance drug- and alcohol-free awareness by providing safe and healthy graduation events for all graduating seniors of Bacon Academy. For more information, go to www.baconacademyprojectgrad.org.

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.

Ukrainian Catholic Church News

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

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

Abundant Life Church News & Notes

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

Sunday Services: Sunday School is at 9:30 a.m. and the main service is at 10:30 a.m. There is also Children's Church available for ages 4-11. All are welcome.

The main service is also broadcast live each week on Facebook. Visit www.facebook.com/groups/abundantlifeCT or look for the church on Facebook. For more information, call the church.

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

Introduction to Scouting

Boys and girls ages 5-17, and their parents/guardians, are invited to join Troop 109 and Pack 109 outdoors at Westchester Congregational Church Tuesdays, Sept. 14 or 28, from 6-7:30 p.m. both nights.

There will be a variety of Scouting activities, designed to show people what Scouting is all about. There will be the inflatable Gaga Pit, a Bow Saw Relay, and Box Oven Cookies (yes, you can bake cookies in a cardboard box but only the safe Scout way).

For more information, contact Jessica Cusano at 860-705-1077 or jessicacusano@gmail.com.

Fish & Game Club Picnic

The Colchester Fish & Game Club will hold its annual picnic Saturday, Sept. 18, at the clubhouse on Old Amston Road. All are invited.

The picnic will start at noon, with hamburgers, hot dogs, clam chowder, clams on the half shell, steamers and keg beer included. Full cash bar. At around 4 p.m., there will be a choice of lobster, wood-fired steak, or a combination of the two. The meal will be served with corn on the cob, salad and buttered potatoes.

Tickets are \$45 for steak or lobster and \$60 for a combination, and are available at the clubhouse on Old Amston Road. Call 860-537-2593 for info.

People are advised to get their tickets early, as sales will cease Sept. 12.

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September Children's Programs at Library

The following children's programs will be offered in September at Cragin Memorial Library. For more information and full program descriptions, call the children's department at 860-537-7201. The library is located at 8 Linwood Ave.

4H STEAM Kits: Mondays in September; best-suited for elementary school and above. Kids are invited to come in each week and get a new STEAM kit. Kits will be available each Monday of the month (with the exception of Labor Day; the kit that week will be out on Tuesday). Supplies are limited.

Take & Make Craft Bags: Mondays:

These crafts follow the storytime themes. If you can't make the in-person storytime, there will be recorded storytimes Mondays at 10:30 a.m. Upcoming themes: Sept. 7, Bugs; Sept. 13, Pirate; Sept. 19, Marble Pumpkin; Sept. 26, Robot.

Foodie Fun: Pencil Cookies: Saturday, Sept. 18, 10 a.m., for all ages. Grab your bag at the Children's Desk and follow the video to create this snack.

Camping Take & Make Craft: Wednesday, Sept. 22, for all ages. Create a camping scene.

Fire Calls

From Aug. 22-Sept. 4, the Colchester Hayward Fire Department responded to 103 calls: 78 emergency medical calls, 21 fire/fire-related calls, and four motor vehicle crashes. Calls included:

Fire: fire alarm, five; service call, six; vehicle fire, two; CO call, one; brush fire, one; outside fire, two; wires down, one; electrical fire, one; smoke investigation, one.

Crashes: one two-car crash and three single-car ones.

Medical: sick person, 16; fall injury, 10; cardiac distress, four; mental disorder, 12; difficulty breathing, 10; abdominal pain, two; medical alarm, one; unconscious, one; bleeding, one; lift assist, three; seizure, one; Injured person, one; alcohol disorder, one; stroke, one; diabetic emergency, seven.

CHFD provided mutual aid 14 times: East

Haddam, six; Marlborough, four; East Hampton, two; Hebron, two.

CHFD received mutual aid five times: Gardner Lake, three times; Hebron and Bozrah, once each.

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

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

End-of-Summer Cookout Lunch

The Colchester Senior Center will hold one last summer cookout Wednesday, Sept. 15, at 1 p.m.

There will be country tunes courtesy of Still Pickn', and a lunch of barbecue chicken, baked beans, coleslaw and strawberry shortcake immediately following the performance.

Come into the senior center, 95 Norwich Ave., to register and purchase a ticket for \$8. Seats are limited.

Lunch is available to those age 60 and older, who have filled out TVCCA's required paperwork.

Call the senior center at 860-537-3911 for more information.

Senior Trip to Chicken Restaurant, Casino

Colchester Senior Center is organizing a trip to Wright's Chicken Farm in Rhode Island, followed by a stop at Twin River Casino, on Thursday, March 24, 2022, departing at 10:15 a.m.

At Wright's, dine on home-cooked baked chicken, pasta with homemade sauce, signature French fries, and salad with Wright's family recipe dressing. Spend the afternoon at Twin River Casino with over 4,000 slot machines and live table games.

Cost is \$92 per person. Come into the Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave., to register. Trip reservations are available to members of the Colchester Senior Center and an adult guest on a first-come, first-served basis.

Call the senior center at 860-537-3911 for more information.



Donation for Scholarship Fund... Colchester Grange 78 has made a donation of \$10,000 to the Bacon Academy Scholarship Fund. For the next 10 years, scholarships of \$500 each will be presented to two graduating seniors who intend to pursue education in agriculture or environmental studies. Pictured are Bacon Academy Principal Matthew Peel, Grange Ceres Eva O'Connell, Grange Master Jeffrey Watson, Grange Treasurer Cathy Russi, and Superintendent of Schools Jeffrey Burt.

Info Session on New Orleans, Canadian Rockies Trips

There will be a trip presentation at Colchester Senior Center Friday, Sept. 17, at 10 a.m., on the center's 2022 trip to New Orleans, La., and the Canadian Rockies, both offered through Collette Tours.

The New Orleans trip runs April 24-28 and will feature four breakfasts and two dinners. Cost of the trip is \$1,999/person double occupancy if you sign up by Oct. 24. The Canadian Rockies trip runs June 18-24. Cost is \$3,379/person double occupancy and includes airfare,

transportation, nine meals, and admission to all sights on the itinerary, taxes, fees, and gratuities. Passport is required. There is a \$100 discount for anyone who registers before Dec. 18. Space is limited.

Members of Colchester Senior Center and adult guests (over the age of 18) are welcome to register for any of the trips by coming into the senior center, located at 95 Norwich Ave. Call 860-537-3911 for more information.

St. Andrew Ladies Guild Fundraiser

The St. Andrew Ladies Guild will sponsor a fundraiser of Lyman Orchard berry pies and Granny's Pie Factory cream pies, as well as Otis Spunkmeyer cookies. The fundraiser will run Sept. 11 through Oct. 19.

Curbside pickup will be Tuesday, Nov. 2, from 6-8 p.m., at the back of St. Andrew Church Parish Hall, 128 Norwich Ave.

To order, go to tinyurl.com/f2wjtnf. All proceeds fund the Guild's annual high school and college scholarships.

Senior Center Ultimate Bingo

Colchester Senior Center will hold an evening Bingo event Wednesday, Oct. 6, at 4:30 p.m. This special game will offer even bigger cash prizes.

Admission is \$10, which will get you two cards. Pre-registration with payment is required. Refreshments will be served. Reservations are available to Colchester Senior Center members on a first-come, first-served basis.

Call the senior center at 860-537-3911 for more information.






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Crafters Sought for September Show

The 30th annual Festival on the Green Craft Show will be a one-day event this year, on Saturday Sept. 18. Admission for the public is free, and exhibitors are expected to include a variety of arts and crafts, including woodworking, painting, photography, food items, pottery, stained glass and more.

Applications for booths (10'x10') are still available for at \$60 for a single space, or, \$115 for a double space. All products must be personally crafted; no imports or mass-produced items are allowed.

For more information, call 860-809-0011 or email ColchesterLionsCraftFair@gmail.com.

Troop 72 Scouting Adventure Day

All children age 5 and older are invited to Troop 72 Scouting Adventure Day Saturday, Sept. 18, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at Lions Pond, 292 Halls Hill Rd.

Scouting-aged boys and girls, and their siblings, will be able to throw tomahawks, shoot arrows (certified instructor present), learn canoeing skills, take part in field games, and more.

Troop 72 Scouts will demonstrate several skills throughout the day. This will be a hands-on event for all participants.

For more details, contact the troop chairman at letendrej@sbcglobal.net.

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.

Lottery to Determine Name Placement

A lottery to determine placement of candidate’s name on the Nov. 2 municipal election ballot will take place Monday, Sept. 13, at 9 a.m., in the town clerk’s office at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave. The lottery is open to the public.

Ahavath Achim Welcomes Jewish New Year

Congregation Ahavath Achim, 84 Lebanon Ave., is continuing to usher in the Jewish New Year. The remaining schedule of services is:

Kol Nidre service, Wednesday, Sept. 15, 6:45 p.m., hybrid service; Yom Kippur Day service, Sept. 16, 9:30 a.m., hybrid service; Neilah service, Sept. 16, 6:45 p.m., hybrid service; Tuesday, Sept. 21, 9:30 a.m., Sukkot, hybrid service.

Also, Congregation Ahavath Achim is now accepting applications for Hebrew School. Tuition is included with membership.

For more information, call 860-537-2809.

CBA Community Marketplace Coming

The 41st annual Colchester Business Association Community Marketplace will take place Sunday, Sept. 19, in conjunction with the Colchester Farmers Market.

This event draws thousands of people looking to buy and features vendors selling new and tag-sale items, crafts, antiques, as well as exhibits and products by local businesses. Vendors are welcome, and can bring tables, a tent or both. Download applications at bit.ly/2021CommMarketplace.

The CBA is also looking for craftspeople and home-based businesses to participate as well; email info@colchesterctbusiness.com for more information on space rental fees.

Spaces are limited. The CBA Community Marketplace Committee is closely following all COVID-19 related information from state and local governments, and will regularly post updates on social media.

St. Andrew’s Guild Offers Travel Opportunities

St. Andrew’s Guild is continuing to offer trips to support many various programs. Cruising has reopened and the Jan. 20-31, 2022, cruise to the southern Caribbean cruise has very limited cabins.

The second cruise St. Andrew’s Guild is offering is a 16-day cruise Sept. 3-18, 2022 visiting Norway, Iceland and Greenland. You will be transported to Boston to fly to Copenhagen where you will board a Royal Caribbean ship

and tour the countries outlined. Cost of the trip starts at \$2,999; this includes your flight.

Cruise ships have spent hours updating their HVAC systems and continually evaluate protocols and health standards, the Guild said. To learn more about the various protocols, call Donna at Friendship Tours at 800-243-1630.

For an itinerary of the cruise, call Cathy Rus-si at 860-887-9621 or Barbara Gozzo at 860-537-0179.

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 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.

Military Honor Squads for Veterans

Military honor squads have been a tradition in the United States military since its earliest days. It can take many forms but usually serviceman’s fellow soldiers will accompany the casket that is draped with the national flag, fire a rifle salute, play taps, then fold and present the United States flag to the family.

In Connecticut, volunteer service organizations (VSOs) step in to render the military honors for departed veterans. Honor guard services are coordinated through the funeral provider and the Connecticut Army National Guard Military Honors Unit. A family need only provide proof of honorable service to the funeral home, in order for their deceased veteran to get the honor squad services they have already earned. The National Guard will contact one of the VSOs to provide the rifle salute and play taps. Military honors are rendered at no cost to the family.

If interested in joining one of the two area VSOs, veterans in New London County can call 860-537-6516 or email letendrej@sbcglobal.net for more information.

Polish Dinner at St. Joseph’s

The St. Joseph’s Polish Club at 395 South Main St. will have a dine-in or take-out Polish dinner Saturday, Sept. 25, from 1-2:30 p.m.

Dinner will include pierogies, golumpki, kielbasa, kapusta, rye bread and butter. Polka music will be performed by The Maestro’s Men in the pavilion from 1-5 p.m. It is a tribute to Joe Milardo and the Musical Cavaliers, who have been performing for over 60 years.

Advanced ticket sales only. Tickets are \$18 each and on sale at the bar during normal business hours: Monday-Friday, 4-10 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, noon-9 p.m. Call 860-537-2550 for more information.

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 for login information.

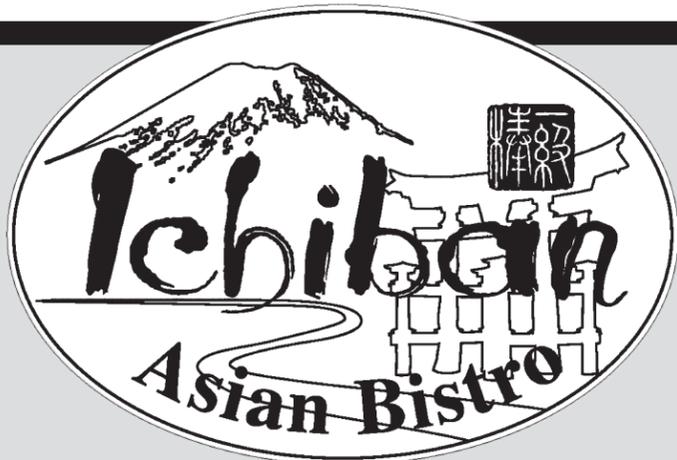
The church has a small white wooden Blessings Box in its lower parking lot, with non-perishable food items and other items. All are welcome to give or take a few items.

For more information, email westcongregationchurch@gmail.com, visit the church website, or call 860-267-6711.

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Andover • Andover

Another Sink Hole Forms on Bunker Hill Bridge

by Sloan Brewster

Yet another sinkhole has developed on the Bunker Hill Bridge in Andover.

Last week, pelting rain, the remnants of Hurricane Ida, left roads closed and caused flooding leading to a third gaping hole opening up on the bridge, Town Administrator Eric Anderson said in a phone call last Thursday.

Two sinkholes from flooding caused by Tropical Storm Elsa appeared in July, after which, the town completed a temporary fix on the bridge and opened one lane of traffic before the start of school. But since the latest sinkhole formed, the bridge has been shut down again and remains that way. There is no decision as yet for when it will be fixed or reopened, Anderson said Wednesday.

“The Board of Selectmen has not decided to reopen it,” he said, adding that the town engineer will be looking at the damage to determine the best way to proceed.

After Ida, which hit the state last Tuesday and Wednesday, the Hop River raised to very high levels, Anderson said. On Thursday, a number of roads remained closed as the water continued to recede. He anticipated they would reopen that afternoon.

The new hole in the Bunker Hill Bridge emerged where fill put in with the most recent

fix ended, the town administrator said. He surmised the same type of repair, which utilized flowable fill concrete – a material that won’t wash out – would be used to complete the new repairs. A less strong version of concrete, it doesn’t contain big stones, he said.

Tree Work

In other news, starting Monday, the town will take down more dead trees, Anderson said.

Roads slated for the work include Hendee, Skinner Hill and Wheeling. After that, Bear Swamp and Gilead roads are next and, if there’s enough money left, Times Farm and Hutchinson roads are also on the list.

This year’s budget included \$50,000 for tree trimming and cutting projects, Anderson said.

“We’ve got well over 1,000 more trees we have to take down,” Anderson said.

Ash trees dotting the landscape have fallen victim to the emerald ash borer and are the biggest concern, Anderson has said. Prone to falling during storms, they can lead to power outages and other destruction.

Unlike other species, which can take five years to come down after they die, ash trees tend to come down quickly, about a year after they die, he said.

When Tropical Storm Henri pounded the



After Ida, a third sinkhole developed on Andover’s Bunker Hill Bridge, resulting in the bridge’s closure. It remains closed and plans for fixing and reopening it have not yet been made.

state last month, it left minimal damage in town, which Vice First Selectman Adrian Mandeville credited to the town’s tree cutting efforts.

“We cut 1,000 trees already; that’s massive,” he said right after Henri. “So we’re getting there.”

Anderson said after last year’s outages result-

ing from Tropical Storm Isaias, he reviewed what went wrong and what could be done better. Other than making an effort to remove tree hazard, he said, he makes sure Public Works and the town fire department are prepared in advance of predicted weather events and that residents are kept in the loop.

Senior Citizen News & Notes

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 Wednesday, and lunches on Fridays. For all YAH events, call Judy Knox at 860-643-6824; for all movie information, call Sue Schmidt at 860-604-1057; and for all trip information, call Georgia O’Brien at 860-742-9947.

Anyone needing a ride to have their third vaccine shot should call Palazzi. Rides will be provided.

Masks must now be worn at the town hall community room for all events. Only those

who have been vaccinated should attend senior programs.

Senior luncheons will be Friday, Sept. 10, at noon, at the Town Hall Gazebo. Call Palazzi for reservations or a ride. Rides to the Hebron Harvest Fair are available Sept. 10. Bus leaves right after lunch. Call Palazzi for a ride.

Check andoverct.org for all senior events and information.

Rides to all town events, town meetings, referendums, or board meetings and all medical appointments available by calling Palazzi. All seniors, veterans, disabled are welcome. If you have a caregiver, they may come with you. Masks must be worn.

If you need a food delivery, let Palazzi know.

Congregational Church News

Andover Congregational Church, UCC, located at 359 Route 6, invites all ages to worship Sundays at 10 a.m. 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 or visit www.andoverctchurch.org.

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 Sept. 22.

Foodshare Van: Comes to the church every other Wednesday from 9-9:30 a.m.; next date is Sept. 15.

Prayer Requests: Need prayer? Contact the church and leave a message.

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

Back to Church Sunday: Sunday, Sept. 19, is National Back to Church day. All are invited to worship and welcome children back from summer vacation. The worship service will begin at 10 a.m.

Welcome Dr. Henry Chen to Norwich Family Dental Associates

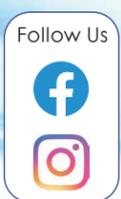


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- Dr. Michael Dunne D.M.D.
- Dr. Yamini Patel D.D.S.
- Dr. Henry Chen D.M.D.



Dr. Chen was born and raised in Norwich, CT. After attending Norwich Free Academy, he completed his undergraduate and dental school education at the University of Connecticut. He has completed a general practice residency with the University of California San Francisco. Other than dentistry, his interests include traveling, trying new foods, and photography.

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Cover Story • Cover

★ 'Serious' Bus Issues cont. from page 1

Britton said he had reached out to state officials and was met with a firm refusal.

Enrollment Down

Britton also told the school board he was surprised at the severity of a drop in enrollment numbers, down 28 from last year.

Seventy-seven kids were enrolled in this year's kindergarten class, lower than expected. Last year, officials supposed parents were due to the pandemic holding off on sending their children to school for a year and anticipated a spike this year.

Britton said this prediction was incorrect.

Last year's kindergarten class had 83 kids. In a Wednesday follow-up with the *Rivereast*, Britton said another drop was in first grade, which went from 109 last year to 80 currently.

However, although the net figure is a loss, not all grade levels went down in number. For example, last year's sixth grade class at Brownstone Intermediate School was 93 and is now 102. BIS enrollment is up overall, to 209 over last year's 195.

Overall, the district has 1,246 learners this year. Last year's enrollment was 1,274.

Earlier this year, Britton established a facilities committee, charged with determining the fate of the district's buildings for the next five to 10 years. He said this enrollment information will play an important role in the group's work.

Britton told the board he plans to partner with a professional enrollment analysis firm, which

will analyze everything from the town's birth rates to its future housing situation.

Britton has previously said closing or repurposing buildings is a possibility in the future.

"This will help us design a strategic plan for the district," Britton said.

Teacher Vaccination Mandate

Also in the meeting, Britton said his administration is working to ensure staff and faculty have either their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine by a state-imposed Sept. 27 deadline or have filed their medical or religious exemptions.

Anyone who gets an exemption must provide the district with a negative COVID-19 test every single week, conducted at their own expense and on their own time.

Britton has reached out to employees. He said 96% of staff have said they're fully vaccinated, while another 2% are getting their second dose soon.

Seven staffers have exemptions or are refusing vaccination. Britton knows who these people are, and said he is arranging with them to make sure they provide negative tests weekly.

Britton said the seven opting out of vaccination are not doing so out of malice or recalcitrance but have "sound reasons" for doing so.

Britton said its especially important schools are safe as possible, as kids' birth through 12 are not yet eligible for any COVID-19 vaccines.

"We owe it to the kids," Britton said.

RHAM • RHAM

Simply Soy Candle Fundraiser

AHM Youth and Family Services' Project Graduation committee will host an online Simply Soy candle fundraiser through Oct. 1.

The following scents will be available to order: Pumpkin Spice, Apple Bourbon, Orange Cranberry, Nutmeg State, Bonfire Flannel and Hocus Pocus. Orders will be ready for pick-up the last week of October at AHM, located at 25 Pendleton Drive in Hebron.

A percentage of total sales will be donated by Julie Veilleux, owner of Simply Soy Candles, to support Project Graduation for the RHAM High School Class of 2022.

To order, visit www.ahmyouth.org and select "Project Graduation" from the pull-down menu, or call Jennifer Boehler for more information at 860-228-9488 ext. 22.

Tip-A-Musician Fundraiser

Do you know a teen who is musically or vocally talented who lives in the RHAM community? If so, AHM Youth and Family Services would like to have them participate in the Tip-A-Musician Music Series being planned for Saturdays, Oct. 2, 16, 23 and 30, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Flour Girl Café in Hebron.

One hundred percent of tips received will be donated to AHM Project Graduation for the RHAM High School Class of 2022. Those interested need to send a two-minute video by Sept. 18 to jenniferb@ahmyouth.org, along with their name, age and school that they attend.

For more information, call Jenn Boehler, prevention coordinator at AHM Youth & Family Services, at 860-228-9488 ext. 22.

Project Graduation Committee Meeting Planned

The RHAM Project Graduation Committee kick-off meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 15, from 7:30-8:30 p.m., in-person at AHM Youth and Family Services, 25 Pendleton Drive in Hebron, or via Zoom (Meeting ID: 867 8093 9911; password: 483937).

Parents of RHAM juniors and seniors as well as community members are invited to help promote fundraisers or to be a chaperone on the evening of the celebration, which will be a drug- and alcohol-free celebration for RHAM seniors the night of their graduation next June.

Visit ahmyouth.org/fundraisers-events/project-graduation for more information.

Health Matters Fall Workshop

AHM Youth and Family Services and the Cigna Foundation, in a combined effort, created the Health Matters Program, which fosters the idea that participation in healthy programming is the best way to reduce risk factors for mental illness and substance abuse in youth, families and the communities.

Coming soon in September: residents of all ages from the towns of Andover, Hebron, Marlborough and Columbia will be able to register for activities and workshops on the Health Matters calendar. Audrey Carroll Prucnal, award-winning published artist, returns to lead a watercolor, acrylics and mixed media class.

For more information, visit ahmyouth.org, and then select Health Matters from the menu.

All Health Matters classes and workshops begin the last week of September.

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Senior Center News and Notes

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

Transportation: Transportation to the senior center, shopping, medical and non-medical appointments will be offered each day from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., with a 36-hour advance reservation. Masks are required as well as appropriate distancing.

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.

Monday, Sept. 13: Assistance, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Not Just Quilting, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Congregate Meal: orange juice, barbecue pulled pork on a multi-grain

bun, tortellini salad, red/green/purple cabbage slaw, chocolate pudding; Bingo, 1-3p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 14: Setback or cards of your choice; assistance, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Meals-on-Wheels, noon.

Wednesday, Sept. 15: Grocery Shopping, 9 a.m.-noon; Not Just Quilting, 10 a.m.; Assistance, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal: oven-fried chicken, baked beans, Capri blend vegetables, corn muffin, Mandarin oranges; Sophisticated Ladies (Tap Dancing), 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 16: Tai Chi with Linda, 10:30 a.m.; assistance, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.; Meals-on-Wheels, noon.

Friday, Sept. 17: Not Just Quilting, 10 a.m.; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal: breaded flounder filet, tartar sauce, mashed potatoes, peas and diced carrots, 100% whole wheat bread, fresh orange; Quilling, 1-4 p.m.

Lions Have Signs Available

The Marlborough Lions Club has "Be Kind" and "Peace on Earth" signs available for \$10 each. They can be purchased by calling Marlborough Lions Club President Megan Lloyd at 413-687-5537 or Lion Club Treasurer Jean Paul Bolduc at 860-798-2054.

Those interested can also visit the Marlborough Lions Club Facebook page to learn more about the signs as well as for more information about the Lions Club's services and activities.

Parks and Rec Programs

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

Youth Programs: Youth Programs – Art/Crafts: Acrylic Landscape Painting: Wednesdays, Sept. 29-Oct. 20, 3:30-5 p.m., at Marlborough Elementary School. For grades 4-6. Instructor and students will wear masks in accordance with CDC. Students are encouraged to bring a snack. Fee: \$90/residents, \$95/non-residents.

Artventures – Sticky, Shrinky, Shiny! Thursdays, Oct. 7-Dec. 2, 5:30-6:30 p.m., at MES, for grades K-4. Fee: \$88/residents, \$93/non-residents.

Afterschool Programs: Co-Ed Kickball: Wednesdays, Sept. 22-Oct. 27, 3:15-4:15 p.m., at MES, for grades 5 and 6. Registration fee is \$30.

Mad Science – Eureka: Mondays, Oct. 4-Nov. 29 (no class Oct. 11), 3:15-4:15 p.m., at MES, for grades 1-6. Fee: \$135 residents, \$140/non-residents.

Tennis Lessons: Ages 4-7, Tuesdays, Sept. 14-28, 3:45-4:30 p.m., at the Blish Park tennis courts. Ages 4-7 meet 3:45-4:30 p.m., and ages 8-12 meet 4:30-5:30 p.m. Fee for ages 4-7 is \$55/residents, \$60/non-residents, and fee for ages 8-12 is \$70/residents, \$75/non-residents.

Soccer Shots: Saturdays, Sept. 18-Nov. 20, at the West Road baseball field. Mini, for age 2, meets 3-3:45 p.m., and Classic, for ages 3-5, meets 3:45-4:30 p.m. Fee: \$90/residents, \$95/

non-residents.
Horseback Riding Lessons: For ages 5 and up, English- or Western-style instruction. Lessons are private and one hour. Lesson days and times are flexible. Fee is four lessons for \$175/residents, \$180/non-residents.

Adult Programs: Dog Obedience – Polite Dog Manners: Tuesdays, Sept. 21-Oct. 26, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Beginner level classes for dogs 5 months and older. Fee is \$115/residents, \$120/non-residents.

Barre/Pilates: Mondays through Sept. 27, 5-6 p.m. Instruction is virtual. All levels welcome. There is a \$10 fee to drop in.

Yoga: Mondays, Sept. 13-27, 6-7 p.m. Instruction is virtual. All levels welcome. Fee: \$30/residents, \$35/non-residents, or a \$10 fee to drop in.

Yoga: Tuesdays, Sept. 7-28, 9-10 a.m. Instruction is virtual. All levels welcome. Fee: \$40/residents, \$45/non-residents, or a \$10 fee to drop in.

Pilates/Barre: Wednesdays, Sept. 8-29, 6-6:50 p.m. Instruction is virtual. Fee: \$40/residents, \$45/non-residents, or a \$10 fee to drop in.

Zumba: Tuesdays, Sept. 17-Oct. 22, 7-8 p.m., at MES. Fee: \$50/residents, \$55/non-residents, or a \$10 drop-in fee. Register on the Parks and Rec. website.

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

Driveway Reflective Number Signs: Signs cost \$35. Each vertical sign is double-sided 8"x24" with 4" numbers on blue highway reflective metal. Order forms are online and at Town Hall.

Lions to Raffle Generator

The Marlborough Lions Club is raffling off an 8,000-watt Generac portable generator with a retail value of \$1,100. The generator has features such as a pushbutton electric start with trickle charger, hours counter and 120V/240V outlets.

The winner of the raffle will also receive the services of an electrician to install a circuit breaker panel interlock and the cabling needed to hook up the generator with a value not to exceed \$1,000. Raffle tickets are only \$20 each. Tickets will be sold starting Saturday, Sept. 4. The drawing will take place during the Lions' Fall Masquerade 5K on Oct. 31. Ticket sales will continue until that event.

For tickets, call Lions President Megan Lloyd at 413-687-5537, Secretary Ken Hjultstrom at 860-490-9116 or Treasurer Jean-Paul Bolduc at 860-798-2054.

Holiday Closing

The offices of Marlborough Town Hall, Senior Center and Public Works will be closed Thursday, Sept. 16, in observance of Yom Kippur. They will reopen Friday, Sept. 17.

Police News

9/5: Mohammad Amiri, 32, of Wethersfield, was charged with reckless driving and operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs, police said.

Cornhole Tournament

The Marlborough Lions Club will hold a Cornhole Tournament Saturday, Oct. 2, starting at 2 p.m., at Blish Park, weather permitting. The tournament is open to all ages and the winner will take home a set of cornhole boards.

For more information, call Marlborough Lions President Megan Lloyd at 413-687-5537.

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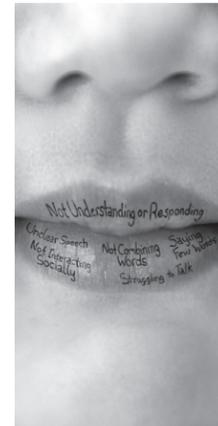
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Lions to Hold ‘Masquerade 5K’

The Marlborough Lions Club will hold its annual Masquerade 5K Road Race Sunday Oct. 31, starting promptly at 10:30 a.m. This 5K will feature runners in costume and will follow the same course around Lake Terramuggus as the Lions’ Memorial Day weekend race. The race will utilize electronic timing with computerized race results and the course is now a certified 5K.

Entry fee is \$20 for pre-registration by October 16th and \$25 thereafter. Shirts will be provided to those who pre-register by Oct. 16. There is also a \$50 package price for families participating in the race. Due to COVID-19 issues there will not be any same day registrations and all runners need to be registered by the day before the race. Runners will start near

the entrance to Blish Park on Park Road and will proceed on a course which circles Lake Terramuggus.

The Lions Club supports programs that address various issues including blindness, drug abuse prevention and diabetes awareness in addition to supporting local organizations such as the Marlborough Food and Fuel Banks.

To register or for more information, call Lion Tom Reiser at 860-295-8374 or Jean Paul Bolduc at 860-295-9150. Email Tom Reiser at TGReiser@comcast.net. Registration forms are also available in Marlborough and at various other locations including Liberty Bank and you can also register online at www.plattsys.com or www.hitekracing.com/calendar.

Huntington’s Fundraiser at Winery

The Connecticut chapter of the Huntington’s Disease Society of America (HDSA) will present Music On The Vine Saturday, Sept. 18, from 2:30-7 p.m., at Chateau Lé Garé winery, 303 S. Main St. The winery has been the presenting sponsor since the event’s creation four years ago.

Children under 12 are admitted free. General admission is \$20, with all proceeds supporting HDSA’s mission to improve the lives of people affected by Huntington’s disease and their families. Huntington’s disease is a fatal genetic disorder that causes the progressive breakdown of nerve cells in the brain.

“For everyone it is a feeling of empowerment as they see an army of people coming together to make a difference,” said HDSA’s Northeast Re-

gional Development Officer Virginia Goolkasian.

The event will include live music, food and wine. The One Love Rolling Cookshed will have gourmet smashed burgers and gourmet fries with vegan, vegetarian, and GF alternatives for sale. Rita’s Ice of Farmington will have Italian ices, frozen custard and ice cream for sale. Live music will be performed by: Peter Lehndorff and Susan Hill, offering original, folk and Tin Pan Alley songs; Sequel, a jazz quartet; and Bruce and Caelyn, playing ‘70s and ‘80s music. There will be children’s activities outside.

For more information, contact Susan McGann at cthdsa@gmail.com or 860-267-0288. Online registration and donation info can be found at connecticut.hdsa.org/musiconthevine.

Congregational Church News & Notes

Sunday in-person worship at the Congregational Church of Marlborough, United Church of Christ, 35 South Main St., is at 10 a.m. Churchgoers are asked to wear a mask.

Sept. 12 is Homecoming Sunday. The service will feature music by Joyful Blue Bluegrass Band, followed by a picnic on the front lawn, and a bounce house for children. This Sunday marks the start of the Sunday school year for children ages 3 through grade 8. The service will be led by Senior Pastor, Bob Faulhaber Jr. His sermon

Grants Available for Nonprofits

The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving has established a \$100,000 community fund for Marlborough – and the new Marlborough Greater Together Community Fund Advisory Committee is looking 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.

title is “Says Who?” based on Mark 8:27-38.

Faith Formation Study Group: Meets Thursdays, upstairs in the lounge, at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome.

Mission Support in September: 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 P.O. Box 57, Marlborough, CT 06447 or placed in an offering box on a Sunday.

Second Blessings Thrift Shop: The shop will reopen for the fall season on Saturday, Sept. 11, from 9 a.m.-noon, and will be open every Saturday through Dec. 18. Shelves and tables are restocked every week with new items. Fall and holiday merchandise is now featured along with name-brand jewelry and handbags, infants and children, cookware and more. Masks required. Second Blessings accepts donations during shopping hours. The shop sells year-round on eBay at bit.ly/MCCebay.

General Info: Worship services and programs are open to all. The church is an Open and Affirming faith community. For more information about the church or its programs, call the church office at 860-295-9050 or Faulhaber’s direct line at 860-295-0432.

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.-8 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The **book drop** is open for returns. Overdue fines are not accruing at this time.

Meeting Room Reopens: The library meeting room has reopened to the public. Stop by the library to check availability and fill out a preregistration user agreement form.

Donations Needed: The library is currently accepting donations of new and used puzzles and books for an upcoming sale (with all proceeds directly benefiting the library). Puzzles must contain all of their pieces. Textbooks, magazines, and VHS tapes will not be accepted and materials must be in good shape.

Fairy Goatmothers: Wednesday, Sept. 22, at 3:30 p.m., outside. Bradley Mountain Farm will

stop by with a guest goat. Suggested for ages 3 and above with a parent/caregiver. Registration and farm waiver required.

Paint Night with Pam’s Picassos: Thursday, Sept. 23, 6:30 p.m., inside the library. Pam Halligan of Pam’s Picassos will lead this fall adult paint night program. Supplies will be provided. Masks are required inside all town buildings and social distancing practices must be followed. Call or email the library to register. There is a limit of 15 participants.

History of the Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens: Learn about the history of the organization and discover some of its offerings in a virtual program held Tuesday, Sept. 28, at 7 p.m., via Zoom. To register, email richmondprograms@gmail.com.

New Museum Passes: The library has added discounted museum passes to Historic Deerfield, the Mark Twain House and Museum, the New Britain Youth Museum and Hungerford Nature Center, and the New England Carousel Museum, Museum of Fire History, and the Bushnell Park Carousel.

**The Marlborough
Town Wide Tag Sale**
will be held on
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Host of Issues Leads to Fair Cancellation

by Jack Lakowsky

Don Bascom, a member of the Portland Agricultural Fair planning committee, said planning the annual agricultural fair requires dealing with a lot of hurdles, from red tape to weather.

Unfortunately, Bascom told the *Rivereast* on Tuesday, this year the fair faced myriad problems, most of which arose at the last minute, and so planners decided to postpone the festival till October 2022.

The fair was also canceled last year, due to the pandemic. The ongoing COVID-19 crisis was a factor in this year's postponement, but it was not the single most prevailing factor, according to Bascom.

"Lots of things all came together at the last minute," said Bascom. "We were really squeezed."

One issue was that nearby property owners, who normally let the fair and fairgoers onto their land without charge, this year asked to be paid.

Bascom said there's a tent shortage due to COVID-19, and organizers were unable to procure a proper number of tents.

"We took a vote, and decided to wait until next year," Bascom said.

Bascom said vendors were offered a full refund or were guaranteed a spot in next year's fair. The fair's advertisers received a similar offer.

A major issue, Bascom said, was a derelict "pole barn" – a side-less structure that's just a roof and some reused phone poles as support columns – that he said is on the Portland Exchange Club property, where the fair normally runs.

Bascom said an engineer's report determined the building is unsafe, in need of repair or tear-

ing down. He said the club has said it wants fair organizers to fix the building.

Jaime Leonard, Exchange Club secretary, said the structure was raised in the 1970s, and hasn't since been updated. The fair uses part of the pole barn, the section that this year was determined unsuitable for use.

As an aside, Leonard added the club makes no decision as to whether the fair goes on or not.

Leonard said the club and fair organizers have had some informal discussions about how to improve the building, adding that the section needing improvement would be updated for the fair specifically.

Leonard said the club and the fair will need to discuss a cost-sharing agreement in renovating the site, but did not say the club intends to have the fair foot the whole bill.

"It wouldn't be a broad-brush renovation," Leonard told the *Rivereast*. "We'd try to get specific as to what the fair needs."

Leonard, who also oversees the club grounds, said weather was against the fair this year. He said the club grounds are prone to flooding.

Leonard said part of the discussion with fair organizers will include ideas on repositioning the event somehow, moving it away from flood-prone land.

"In the future, we want to reorganize the grounds in order to utilize them better," said Leonard.

"It's very disappointing," Bascom said. "A lot of work goes into this, and to dump all this on us a month before the fair was too much to deal with."

Kelly Chester, vice president of the fair committee, spoke with the *Rivereast* in late July, when the fair was still slated to go on.



Organizers of the Portland Agricultural Fair chose to postpone the festival until October 2022, saying many issues, not just COVID-19, led to the decision.

Many details, including number of vendors, were still being finalized at that time, Chester said.

Musical talent was queued, however. Friday's entertainment would've been Hazard County, a modern rock band. Saturday night was Jimmy Kenny and the Pirate Beach band, a Jimmy Buffet and Zac Brown tribute band.

And on Sunday, untapped talent could have taken the stage for karaoke – a fair first, Chester said.

This year's fair also would've been dedicated to Richard Basso, who led the fair's horse and

oxen pull for years and was a "major presence and longtime volunteer," Chester said in July.

Basso passed away in February 2020.

Chester said this would've been the fair's 21st year, and that it has grown "significantly."

This year, and last, were not the only years the event was nixed.

"There was a hiatus for a few years, after the first people who ran it retired," said Chester.

And so now all eyes turn to October 2022, when the Portland Fair will – hopefully – finally return.

Vocal Chords Seek Members

The Portland-based Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords group is looking for members. No auditions necessary; just a love of music, singing and a commitment to rehearse every Tuesday night. New members in all voice parts are welcome.

Rehearsals start Tuesday, Sept. 21, at 6:45 p.m. at St. Francis Church, Msgr. Fox Parish Hall, 10 Elm St., Middletown, in preparation for the holiday concert Sunday, Dec. 12, at 2 p.m., at Portland High School. Leslie Merwin is the Chords' new music director.

Republican Town Committee Raffle

The Portland Republican Town Committee is holding a raffle from now until Oct. 8. The raffle has three grand prizes consisting of a Generac portable generator, a Stihl backpack leaf blower, and the winner's choice of 100 gallons of either heating oil or propane.

Only 250 tickets are available, at \$20 apiece. The drawing will be held at 252 Main St. (PRTC headquarters) on Friday, Oct. 8, at 6 p.m.

To purchase tickets, contact Bobby Hetrick at 860-209-0489 or hetrickrobert@sbcglobal.net.

Proceeds from concerts are given back to the community in the form of scholarships bestowed upon high school seniors from Middlesex County who are pursuing a career in nursing or music. To date, \$76,000 has been awarded, thanks to the Fall Patron Drive and many followers. The Vocal Chords also sing at various community activities such as the annual Hospice Service at Mercy High School and the Veterans Day Dinner at Portland High School.

For more information, visit www.vocalchords20.org, look for the group on Facebook (Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords) and Instagram (mhvocalchords) or call Joyce Ghent (860-342-3120) or Diane Abdul (860-347-2787).

Place-Kicking Contest

The Knights of Columbus in Portland is again conducting the Soccer Challenge, a place-kicking contest for all boys and girls ages 9 to 14. The contest will take place at the new park on Gospel Lane Saturday, Sept. 11, from 8:30-11 a.m. No preregistration is required but each contestant must be accompanied by an adult.

The Soccer Challenge is sponsored nationally by the New Haven-based service organization in thousands of towns and cities throughout the U.S. Boys and girls compete in local, regional, and statewide competitions demonstrating their place-kicking skills.

John Bruni, chairman for Freestone Council 7 in Portland said, "We appreciate the opportunity to work with the Portland Soccer organization on a, hopefully beautiful, September day."

District, regional and statewide competitions will be held later in the fall.

Free Paper-Shredding Event

The Lower CT River Council of Governments will hold a paper-shredding event Saturday, Sept. 11, from 9 a.m.-noon, at the Middlefield Community Center, 405 Main St., Middlefield.

The collection is open to residents of the RiverCOG region, which includes Portland and East Hampton. Residents may bring up to five bags or boxes of confidential paperwork for shredding – no commercial paper and no books, cards, magazines, etc.

Visit rivercog.org/household-hazardous-waste to learn more.

Upcoming Trivia Night

On Wednesday, Sept. 22, all are invited to join the Portland Republican Town Committee for a night of trivia and a candidate meet-and-greet.

The event begins at 6:30 p.m. and will be held at Farrell's Restaurant. There will be hors d'oeuvres and raffle baskets or goods.

Suggested donation is \$25. Email gopportlandct@gmail.com or call 860-212-3114 to reserve a spot.

Second-Hand Prose, Read & Recycle

The Friends of the Portland Library group has an assortment of puzzles and DVDs, as well as gardening, fiction, romance, teen and children's used books, for sale in the Second-Hand Prose Bookshop, open at the library, 20 Freestone Ave., during regular library hours. Books are 50 cents for paperbacks and children's books, \$1 for trade paperbacks and \$2 for hardcover. DVDs are 50 cents each disc and puzzles are \$2 unless marked otherwise.

Also, the Friends' Read & Recycle program will accept donations Saturday, Sept. 11, from 10 a.m.-noon, in the Mary Flood Room of the library. The Friends welcome donations of gently used books, puzzles, CDs, DVDs and games. No textbooks, business books, computer books, self-help books, VHS videos or magazines, please. All do-

nated items must be in "sellable" condition; nothing in dirty, moldy or poor condition.

Donations must be dropped off at the library's side door, and volunteers will be available to receive the donations. Donations are tax-deductible and acknowledgement forms will be available. Donated items are sold at various Friends' book sales held throughout the year, and all proceeds are used to support programs of the Portland Library.

All proceeds benefit programs funded by the Friends, such as the library's museum pass program, children and adult programs, and the library's DVD collection.

Visit www.friendsofportlandlibraryct.org for more information or email friendsoftheportlandlibrary@gmail.com.

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Town Fares ‘Pretty Well’ After Storm

by Jack Lakowsky

According to town public works director Bob Shea, Portland fared well both during and in the aftermath of last week’s heavy rainfall, the remnants of Hurricane Ida, which struck Louisiana recently.

Shea said the lack of strong winds helped Portland “fare pretty well,” as well as able preparation by his staff and Eversource crews.

Shea said public works and fire department crews were on standby most of the night.

Shea said Eversource very recently introduced a hub that towns can use to communicate with the utility.

“We now have a bit more control in reporting

stuff,” Shea told the *Rivereast* on Tuesday. “Our [Eversource] liaison is also very helpful.”

Shea said the new service allows for real-time reporting.

As of Tuesday, Shea said there were only a few non-hazardous deadfalls to remove, and other than that, most storm recovery work was done within 24 hours.

Shea said about 100 residents lost power. No power lines fell. There was some flooding, Shea said, but emergency vehicle access was never hampered.

In his report to First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield, Shea said trees blocked five roads,

and were cleared before 6 a.m. Four roads had moderate washouts that required a detour, but the water receded by 8 a.m.

Shea wrote that the sandbags at the police headquarters and library building saved the two structures from some flooding, and that what water did get through was minor.

Bransfield in an email praised the public safety team—fire, public works, emergency management, police and others—for their “excellent

professional response to a major weather event.

“They perform outstanding work under difficult circumstances. We’re very fortunate to have them, and their great service to our community,” Bransfield wrote.

The fire department responded to 10 calls between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. during the storm, and a tanker and crew was sent to East Hampton to help deal with a structure fire there.

Senior Center News & Notes

The Waverly Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave., is open for weekly daytime activities. Hours are Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., and Friday, 8-11 a.m. Unless noted, the following programs are being offered at the center. To register, call 860-342-6760.

Weekly Programs: Light Aerobics: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. **Stretch & Flex:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. **Mahjongg:** Mondays, 12:30 p.m. **Bocce:** Played at the Route 17 Complex on Wednesdays at 10:30, weather permitting, call the center that morning if you intend to play. **Knit & Stitch:** Thursdays at 10 a.m. **Setback:** Tuesdays, 1 p.m.; **Scrabble:** Thursdays, 1 p.m. **Watercolor Lessons with Bivenne Staiger:** Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m.-noon. Email bivenne@yahoo.com for full details for the six-week session. **Syncoize Exercise:** Wednesdays at 11 a.m. Fee is \$5 per class or you may use the tip jar if you cannot pay the \$5.

Crafting with Tracy: Held the fourth Monday of each month at 1 p.m.; next date is Sept. 27, and seashell wreaths will be crafted. Call the center in advance to sign up.

Coupons for Troops: Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. Cut manufacturer’s coupons to be donated to military families. Coupons – up to six months past their expiration date – can also be dropped off at the center Monday through Friday, by calling 860-342-6760.

Bears on a Journey Group: Meets Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. to make teddy bears for cancer patients. The group is in need of a variety of tasks, such as sewers, cutters, stuffers and more. Ev-

ery few months, the group then travels to the Helen and Harry Gray Cancer Center to deliver the bears.

Social Duplicate Bridge: Second and fourth Fridays of each month. Call the center if interested.

Van Trip: The Van will travel to Alforno’s Restaurant in Old Saybrook Thursday, Sept. 23, departing the center at 11:15 a.m. To be picked up at home, call the center. Transportation fee is \$5.

Cans-4-A-Cause: Cans and bottles for this project may be dropped off at the center Monday-Thursday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the side entrance at the top of the steps. For more information, call the center or email Jeff directly at myjakjeff@gmail.com.

Medical Rides: The center is providing seniors and disabled with rides to the doctor. Fee is \$5 per person. Try to give a two-week notice for a ride. Masks are required.

Foot Care: Offered at the center the fourth Tuesday of each month. Appointments are available from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; call the center to make one. Fee is \$35, cash or check.

Free Hearing Screening: Second Tuesday of each month at 11:00 a.m. in the upstairs Multipurpose Room. No registration is necessary.

Hair by Alexa: Men’s and women’s haircuts and styling at the senior center. Call the center for an appointment at 860-342-6760.

Therapeutic Massage: Appointments are offered at the center. Call 860-301-6507 for full details.

Tai Chi with Tom Cushing: A new date has not been set for the next eight-week session; to be placed on a wait list, call the center. Fee is \$40.

Parks and Rec. News & Notes

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

Tai Chi for Long Life: At Riverfront Park Wednesdays through Sept. 22, 9:30-10:15 a.m., or Saturdays through Sept. 25, 10:30-11:15 a.m. Contact Parks and Rec. if 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-6. The program is based at Brownstone Intermediate School. Applications are at portland.recdesk.com. For more, call Andy Dionne at 860-342-6757.

GG Leagues: Parks and Recreation is of-

fering esports! There are leagues for Fortnite, Rocket League, Super Smash Bros. and more.

Jr Golf Workshop with Gerry D’Amora: This workshop is designed to acquaint participants with the game of golf. The daily schedule includes demonstrations, learning the rules of golf, golf skills and techniques, learning the short game (putting and chipping), golf etiquette, and a chance to walk and play Portland’s Executive Course, Portland West. Registration is open for our Fall Clinics that begin on Oct. 5.

AbraKadoodle: Parks and Rec. is offering art enrichment programs for ages 2-3, 3-5, and 5+ starting Sept. 23 at the Buck Foreman Community Center. For more information, check the Parks and Rec. website or see next week’s *Rivereast*.

‘Romance of the Rose’ Tea

All are invited to join an afternoon tea and the presentation “Romance of the Rose” on Sunday, Sept. 12, at Zion Lutheran Church located at 183 William St.

Massachusetts couple Donna and Ron Lasako will present an educational program with exhibits about America’s national flower and the world’s oldest known flower, the rose. There will also be special tribute to Grandparents’ Day.

The event will include a sale of jewelry items donated by church members and friends, local artisans’ crafts, sale of rose bushes from Gotta’s Farm, and homemade candies. Free literature from the Connecticut Rose Society on the planting, growing, and caring of roses will be available. Refreshments, consisting of an assortment of sweets, tea and iced tea, will be served. Attendees will be given the opportunity to participate in a 50/50 raffle as well

as a raffle of two special keepsake boxes and several gift baskets.

Guests are encouraged to wear a hat and attire related the rose theme. The jewelry sale will include an array of vintage costume, designer, and fashion jewelry including signed and unsigned necklaces, bracelets, rings, brooches, pins and earrings. The boutique opens at 1 p.m. and the tea and program start at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$25, and will only be sold in advance, by calling Zion Lutheran Church office at 860-342-2860 or by calling Sue at 860-685-0593. Seating is limited. Ticket proceeds will benefit the church and community outreach projects including the purchase of a 100-cup coffee maker for the Waverly Senior Center.

Town policy and CDC guidelines will apply.

Realtor Announces New Hire

Exp Realty has announced the hire of Portland native Lori Shaer. Shaer has lived in central Connecticut most of her life.



Lori Shaer

Shaer has a bachelor’s degree in marketing from Central Connecticut State University and advanced degrees in education. Throughout her career she has worked in many sales and marketing positions.

Shaer currently resides in Glastonbury with her husband of 30 years and family. She can be reached at 508-216-3064 or lori.shaer@eXprealty.com. She is an independent contractor of Exp Realty, licensed in Connecticut.

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www.portlandexchange.org

Portland • Portland

Soccer Club Fall Registration

Portland Soccer Club (PSC) is now accepting registrations for the fall 2021 club soccer season. Registrations will be accepted until Sept. 11.

PSC will only accept registrations online, at www.bluesombrero.com/portlandsoccerclub.

Pre-K sessions will be \$85, and will play 8:45-9:30 a.m. Saturdays. Dribbler will be \$100, and will be 9:45-10:45 a.m. Saturdays. Kicker sessions will also be \$100, and will have games Saturdays from 10-11 a.m., and practice on Wednesdays.

Full team uniforms for Dribbler and Kicker divisions and shirts and balls for Pre-K are included in the registration fees and will be available for distribution prior to and during the first day of play. The club-recreational program will run Sept. 11-Oct. 30. All games will take place at the New Portland Recreational Complex.

U4 (born in 2018) and U5 (2017) will be in Pre-K Club Recreational; U6 (2016) will be in Dribbler Club Recreational; and U7 (2015), U8 (2014) and U9 (2013) will be in Kicker-Club Recreational.

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



Sal "Tootie" Pitruzzello in front of his restored 1946 Mack fire truck.

Knights of Columbus Car Show Coming

The Portland Knights of Columbus Car Show will take place Friday, Sept. 17, starting at 3 p.m., at St. Mary Church on Freestone Avenue. This year, the show is dedicated to Sal "Tootie" Pitruzzello.

Pitruzzello was a lifelong Portland resident. After serving in the Navy, he returned to Portland to marry, settle, and contribute to his community. He became a member of the Portland Volunteer Fire Department, Company No. 2, in 1953, and over the years served as assistant chief, department training officer and treasurer.

He was also a 60-year member of the Knights of Columbus. He was always a ready participant and volunteer at various Knights events – everything from making coffee for post-Mass coffee and doughnuts, to serving as an Honor Guard at funerals for brother Knights.

All are invited. There will be several car categories, from antiques to street rods; a raffle featuring signed items from NASCAR champion Joey Logano; and food by Duke's Delish and the Knights Kitchen.

The show opens at 3 p.m., and there will be an awards presentation at 7:30 p.m.

The proceeds from the car show go to the funding the Knights' annual scholarships, the Portland Food Bank and several other local charities.

Rain date is Sept. 24.

Trinity Episcopal Church News

Trinity Episcopal Church, 345 Main St., holds services inside on Sundays at 9 a.m. All are invited. The church has resumed the use of masks for all, vaccinated and unvaccinated, while inside the church. More information is at trinitychurchportlandct.org.

Homecoming Sunday: Sept. 12. Services will move to 9:30 a.m. All are invited – newcomers and returnees alike. Sunday School for all ages will resume on that date.

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 or call 860-342-0458.

First Congregational Church News

First Congregational Church of Portland, located at 554 Main St., will be open for in-person worship and church school on Sunday, Sept. 12, at 10 a.m. Masks are required and social distancing will be observed.

In addition, the Sunday worship service is livestreamed on the church's YouTube channel, First Church of Portland CT, and a recording is also available for those who wish to worship at a later time.

The Rev. Jane Hawken will preach a sermon titled, "God Makes a Way Where There Seems to Be No Way." Music will include a handbell piece and a selection by the Choir directed by Kasha Breau.

First Congregational Church of Portland is a member of the United Church of Christ, and is an open and affirming congregation, welcoming everyone. The church is celebrating its 300th anniversary this year.

The church is a member of the United Church of Christ, and is an open and affirming congregation, welcoming everyone. To join church mailing lists (both email and regular mail), email first.church.pct@sbcglobal.net or call 860-342-3244. For more info, look for the church on Facebook at The First Congregational Church of Portland, or visit www.firstchurchportlandct.org.

Zion Lutheran Church News

Zion Lutheran Church, located at 183 William St., invites all to worship indoors and in-person, Sundays at 9 a.m.

The church has returned to worship in the sanctuary, where there is room for proper social distancing. Holy Communion is offered with individual, disposable wine cups. Masks are required for all throughout the church, but may be removed by fully vaccinated attendees once they are in their seats.

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 or visit zionlutheranportland.org.

9/11 Memorial Ceremony

To reflect and remember those who were lost, the Portland Solidarity Committee and the Town of Portland will hold a Sept. 11 Memorial Ceremony on Saturday, Sept. 11, starting at 8:30 a.m.

All are invited to meet at the Veterans Memorial located at Town Hall. Local fire and police personnel, as well as town representatives, will come together in a moment of silence in remembrance of the 2,977 individuals who lost their lives in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

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Red Cross Blood Drive

There will be an American Red Cross Blood Drive Tuesday, Sept. 14, from 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m., at St. Mary Church, 51 Freestone Ave.

All who donate will receive via email a coupon for a free haircut at Sports Clips. The coupon is valid through Nov. 30 at participating Sport Clips locations. Donors must have a valid email address on record to receive the coupon.

Schedule an appointment to give blood or platelets by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 800-RED CROSS (800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

Musical Tribute to 9/11

The Portland-based Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords will present a 20th Anniversary Tribute to 9/11 at The Bushnell (in Mortensen Hall) on Saturday, Sept. 11, at 2 p.m.

This event will feature special guests Todd Allen Herendeen, a triple platinum country and gospel star, and the Advanced Chords from Portland and Middletown high schools. Several state and local dignitaries will also be in attendance along with 150-200 firefighters, police officers, EMS, military and veterans.

Proceeds from the event will be given to The Middlesex Health COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund and the CT Firefighters/EMS and Police Benevolent Fund. For more information, or to order tickets, visit bushnell.org.

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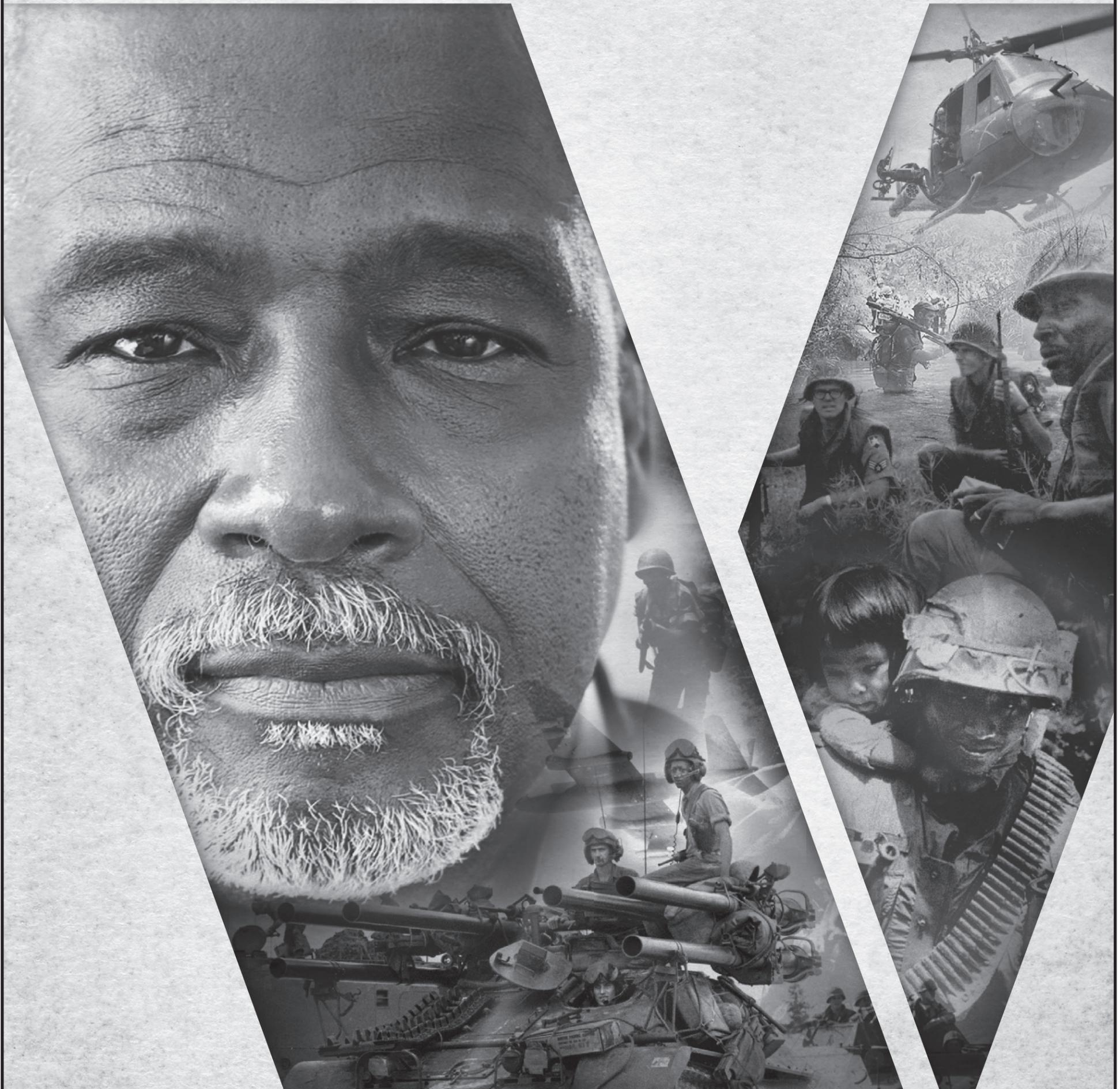
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Obituaries

East Hampton

George S. Fay

George S. "Bud" Fay of East Hampton passed away peacefully at home Wednesday, Sept. 1, after a long illness. He fought hard until the very end. Born in Hartford July 14, 1938, to the late Velma Allen and George Fay, he was the loving husband and best friend of Doreen Noack Fay, sharing 60 wonderful years together.



Bud attended schools in East Hartford and East Hampton. He retired from the State of Connecticut DOT as an equipment operator after 34 years. He then worked for several years for private construction companies. Bud and Doreen had a home in a small town called Kirby in northern Vermont for many years. They restored an old house and property, which was a true labor of love. It was a very special place, holding memories of beautiful views and happy times shared with family, friends and neighbors. Bud was an avid catch and release fly fisherman, happiest when he could be in a river. He also had a passion for wood. He loved to cut, split, stack and burn wood. Always keeping his home warm and comfortable for his family.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his three children who he was so proud of: George Stephen Fay Jr., Cheryl Siegmund and her husband William, Jodi Fay-Stubbings and her husband Daniel; his granddaughter, who always had a special place in his heart, Emily Foster and her husband Steven; two great-granddaughters, Madelyn and Lillian Foster. They always put a sparkle in his eyes and a smile on his face. He is also survived by his brother-in-law, Keith Noack and his wife Lynn, who were a wonderful support during his illness, and also several cousins.

He was predeceased by his daughter-in-law, Sue Ann Fay.

A special thank you to the East Hampton Volunteer Ambulance and police officers. We are so grateful for their quick response and caring assistance.

There will be no calling hours. A private graveside service will be held in Lakeview Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to the East Hampton Volunteer Ambulance Association, P.O. Box 144, East Hampton, CT 06424.

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

Hebron

Peter M. Heath

Peter M. Heath, born in Norwich July 26, 1945, the son of the late Donald G. and Dorothy Froeberg Heath, passed away April 25, 2019.

He spent his youth in Hebron and Amston Lake. After attending Hebron schools, he transferred to Windham Tech, where he graduated as an electrician. Upon graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, serving in Vietnam in the Special Forces (Green Beret).

After his honorable discharge he lived in Hebron before moving to Vermont. In his later years Pete lived in several towns in Connecticut, including Andover, where his son Peter cared for him. He finally moved to Arizona to be with

his daughter, Cheri, where he passed away.

He is survived by son, Peter and wife Melissa Heath of Coventry; daughter, Cheri Heath of Arizona; as well as grandchildren, Katelyn, Cameron and Jerame; also his sisters, Marjorie Clifford of Vermont and Donna Farnsworth of Hebron, and brothers, Donald Heath of Florida and Eric and wife Mildred Heath; and several nieces and nephews.

East Hampton

Ingrid J. Aarrestad

Ingrid J. Aarrestad, 67, died Thursday, Sept. 2, in Fort Pierce, Fla. Ingrid was born in Hartford. She grew up in East Hampton, and was most recently residing in Fort Pierce, Fla.



Ingrid graduated from the University of Connecticut with her bachelor's degree and went on to work for years in IT. While residing for 34 years in Stafford, Ingrid served as registrar of voters as well as chairperson of the Conservation Commission and also volunteered at the Greater Hartford Association of Riding Therapy. As a resident of Fort Pierce, Fla., she volunteered at Learn to Read of Fort Pierce.

Ingrid had many passions, including riding, gardening, cooking, reading and she deeply loved her horses, dogs, and even her cats (although she would never admit to it). Ingrid was a strong, kind, wise, and funny friend and is, and will be deeply missed by those close to her.

Survivors include her husband, Narain Scott of Fort Pierce, Fla.; daughter, Siri Scott of Springfield, Mass.; and a brother, Peter Aarrestad of East Hampton. She was predeceased by her sister, Marilyn Aarrestad. She also leaves behind her niece, Kelsey Gagliardi, and nephews, Erik Innes and Ansel Aarrestad.

Marlborough

Mary Claire Mack

Mary Claire (Moleski) Mack, 77, of Colchester, passed away Monday, Sept. 6, at Middlesex Hospital Comfort Care, with her loving family by her side. Born on June 20, 1944 in Grand Rapids, Mich., she was a daughter of the late Dr. Leo T. Moleski and Claire (Bogdanik) Moleski. She married her beloved husband, Edward L. Mack Jr., on Oct. 21, 1967.



Mary retired several years ago after a long and successful career as a paraprofessional teacher at the William J. Johnston Middle School in Colchester, where she truly enjoyed working with the children. Mary also worked for a time with the Colchester Florist, manager at the Chestnut Lodge, and as a home economics teacher in her native town of Grand Rapids, Mich. She loved cooking and crafts but her greatest joy was spending time with her grandchildren. Mary was a devout Catholic, and communicant at St. Andrew Church.

She will be sadly missed but always remembered with love by her husband of 54 years, Edward; her children their spouses, Jeffrey (Sandy) Mack and their children, Garrett and Sarah of Lewiston, Maine, David (Stacy) Mack and their children, Griffin and Brooke of Fanwood, N.J., Gregory (Molly) Mack, and their children, Finnian and Roman of St. John's, Fla.; brother, Dr. Tomas (Linda) Moleski, Dr. Rick (Pam) Moleski; sister-in-law, Bertie Mack; and

numerous extended family and friends.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by a brother, Martin Moleski; a sister-in-law, Terri Moleski; and a brother-in-law, Dr. Bruce Mack.

Calling hours will be Sunday, Sept. 12, from 3-5 p.m., at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Celebration of the funeral liturgy will be held Monday, Sept. 13, at 10:30 a.m., directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT 06415. Burial will follow in New St. Andrew Cemetery.

Donations in her memory may be made to St. Andrew Church or the charity of one's choice.

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

Portland

Sebastian J. Ortisi Jr.

Sebastian John Ortisi Jr., 90, of Portland, husband of the late Regina (Zawisza) Ortisi, passed away peacefully Tuesday, Aug. 31, at his home.



He was born May 7, 1931, in Middletown, the son of the late Sebastian J. Ortisi Sr. and Carmelina (Cannata) Ortisi. Prior to his retirement, Seb was a parts manager at Standard Knapp in Portland. Over their 63 years of marriage, Seb and his wife enjoyed their summers at their beach house in Westbrook, winters at their house in Gulfport, Fla., and traveling the world.

Seb was an avid sports fan. He was a basketball player for Middletown High. Later, he joined a bowling league where they won numerous titles. For 50-plus years, Friday nights you could find him playing cards with his friends. He was a lifelong Yankees fan and often spoke of his childhood memories of visiting the stadium. At 78 years, he was a kid in a candy shop when his granddaughter and grandson-in-law surprised him by taking him to the new stadium.

Seb was a family man with a good heart and an ever present smile. He was supportive of each of his children's endeavors and proud of all they have accomplished. In the summer, he could be found at their beach house crabbing or taking walks to Salt Island with his family. His granddaughter and great-grandsons were the sparkle in his eyes. Even in his last days, his world a fog, he still remembered his great-grandsons.

He is survived by his sons, Sebastian John Ortisi III and his husband, Victor Cella, of Southfield, Mass., and Richard Ortisi of Gulfport, Fla.; his daughters, Janice Heffernan and her husband Tim of Portland, and Karen Lutkus of Colchester; his granddaughter, LaurieAnn (Caffery) Hansen and her husband, Adam, and great-grandsons, Adam Jr., "The Champ" and Luke, of Branford; also several nieces, nephews and extended family.

He was predeceased by his brothers, Angelo W. Ortisi, Sr. and Joseph Ortisi; and sisters, Helen Ortisi and Sarah LaBella.

Graveside services were held Tuesday, Sept. 7, at St. Sebastian Cemetery, Middlefield. There were no calling hours.

Those who wish may send memorial contributions to Middlesex Hospice Home Care or Alzheimer's Foundation.

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



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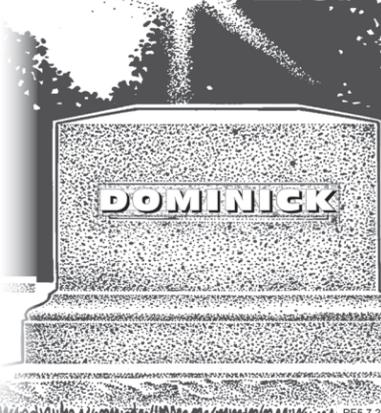
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Marlborough

Joseph Vincent Burns

Joseph Vincent Burns, 91, formerly of Marlborough, passed away peacefully Saturday, Aug. 28, at St. Vincent's Medical Center in Bridgeport. Born, also at St. Vincent's, on Aug. 24, 1930, he was one of six beloved children of the late Joseph and Mary Burns.



Known as "Vinnie" or "Vin" by most, and then as "Joe" by others later in life, he graduated from Fairfield Prep in 1948 and then Fairfield University thereafter. He spent two years in Catholic seminary training before deciding that he was meant to be a family man instead of a priest. He and his wife, Patricia Anne McQuaid, settled in Marlborough, where they raised their two children, Judith and Joseph.

Vinnie worked for over 35 years as a high school English teacher at Bacon Academy in Colchester, dedicating his professional life to the education of the young in his community. He was a wonderful teacher – kind, engaged, thoughtful and entertaining.

Vinnie loved his whole family immensely, had true lifelong friends and always made new friends quickly and easily. Above all, his children and his grandchildren were the apple of his eye.

He is survived by his daughter Judith (Greg) Miller and son Dr. Joe (Becky) Burns, and his four adored grandchildren: Claire and Kevin Miller, and Brooklyn and Brady Burns. He is also survived by his sister and lifelong friend and Scotch whisky companion and connoisseur, Millie Burns Bishop, as well as his extended family.

Vinnie was always fun to be around, honest as could be, and always interested in other people before himself. He could find the humor in every situation, especially those that poked fun at himself and elevated others. It was this sense of humor and Irish twinkle in his eye that made everyone want to sit next to "Poppy," as his grandchildren called him.

Vinnie lived a life dedicated to integrity and Christianity. He was a lifelong educator, scholar, artist, writer and athlete. Some of his paintings can be found on display at St. Ann Church in the Black Rock section of Bridgeport. Vinnie was also an elected member of the Fairfield County Baseball Hall of Fame in 2008. He threw the first two no-hitters in Fairfield Prep school history as their star right-handed pitcher. His curveball was quite literally unhittable. Vinnie once threw batting practice to a team of young players back in the 1980s. Even then, not one of them could touch his curveball.

Baseball was always a passion. He loved to play the game and loved everything it represents. As a kid he was a faithful Brooklyn Dodgers fan, did paintings of his hero Jackie Robinson, and usually chose his preferred passcodes to be "1955," the first year the Dodgers beat the New York Yankees in the World Series. After his Dodgers moved to the West Coast, he focused his baseball attention on rooting for two other teams: the Boston Red Sox and "whomever was playing against the NY Yankees." For years, he even had a bumper sticker, "I love New York, too ... it's just the Yankees I hate!" Vinnie pulled for the underdog, for the Davids to beat the Goliaths, for the little guy to finally win one just one for the Gipper. He did it in sports, and he did it in life.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Sept. 11, at 10 a.m., at St. Ann Church at 481 Brewster St., Bridgeport, the church which proudly displays his artwork. A reception will follow at The Port 5 Naval Veterans, 69 Brewster St., Bridgeport, CT 06605.

In lieu of flowers, charitable contributions may be made to Fairfield College Preparatory School, 1073 North Benson Rd., Fairfield, CT 06824. For assistance making a donation, please contact the development office at Fairfield Prep, at development@fairfieldprep.org.

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Obituaries

East Hampton

Richard D. Peoples

Richard D. Peoples, beloved husband, brother, father, and grandfather passed away at home Friday, Sept. 3, after 86 full years of life. He was born May 23, 1935, in Hartford, to Paul F. and Dorothy (Lamkins) Peoples.

His loss will be felt deeply and memory cherished by his devoted wife Maureen, of 62 years; his son, Sean M. Peoples (Cathy) of Glastonbury; his daughter, Ellen M. Peoples (Donald Medeiros) of Little Compton, R.I.; his daughter, Moira L. Ennen (Dan) of Springfield, Vt.; his son, Richard A. Peoples (Chikako) of Moodus; his son, Kyle F. Peoples (Kristin) of Springfield, Vt.; and his daughter, Molly-Kate Hall (Iain) of East Hampton.

Richard's great joy was experiencing the love and camaraderie that existed between him and his 13 grandchildren. He will always be known affectionately as "Poppy" to Emily, Matthew, and Mark Peoples, Abby and Izzy Medeiros, Olivia Ennen, Sachi and Tysho Peoples, Kyra and Kaelie Peoples and Mairan, Euan and Cailan Hall.

Richard was the third of six children. He leaves his beloved siblings, Barbara Papa, Paul Peoples, Lois Daly, Susan Hallowell, and William Peoples a lifetime of memories, of laughter and heartfelt support. He is survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Growing up in the South End of Hartford, Richard realized the value of an education. In 1953, he graduated from Bulkeley High School. While Maureen worked as a nurse, Richard worked as a machinist at Pratt & Whitney while attending Central Connecticut State University and graduating in 1962. He earned his first master's degree at the University of Bridgeport and went on to earn two additional graduate degrees, all related to education for which he was very proud. Richard's legacy will be a love of family, learning and an appreciation for the value of education.

Richard began his career teaching at Bunnell High School in Stratford, before becoming a guidance counselor at Hartford Public High School. He worked at Hartford High for 29 years with many fond memories, good natured jokes, teaching, advising and friendships. Following his retirement, Richard remained an educator in the Hartford Adult Ed program. He was committed to helping young students find their way and enjoyed knowing how he was able to help so many he encountered.

Richard had a lifelong passion for golf, the New England Patriots, the Boston Red Sox and UConn women's basketball. He always looked forward to his weekly coffee with friends on Friday mornings. In the classroom, on the golf course, at the Cape, or in his favorite recliner, Richard's lively wit kept the jokes flowing and his friends and family entertained. Richard and Maureen enjoyed summers at the Cape where many wonderful and cherished memories were made with their family and friends.

There will be no calling hours and burial will be private. The family will host a celebration of life later this year.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation, in Richard Peoples' name, to Hartford Promise, a college scholarship program for Hartford public high school students. You may make a donation at www.hartfordpromise.org/donate.html or by sending a check to Hartford Promise, 70 Main St., Hartford, CT 06103.

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



Portland

William H. Flood, Jr.

William H. Flood Jr. of Portland, loving husband, father and grandfather, passed away Monday, Sept. 6. He was 86.

Bill was born in Portland Feb. 24, 1935, the second child of William and Lillian (Greene) Flood. He was a star athlete at Portland High School, lettering in three sports. In basketball, he captained the 1952-53 Central Valley League champions. In baseball, he played third base for the undefeated 1953 team, which won the Connecticut Valley Conference championship. At the same time, he played for American Legion teams that won two district titles. Following graduation, he played semi-professionally in the Middlesex County Baseball League, where he earned selection to a local team that faced a barn-storming team of major leaguers. For these and other achievements, he was inducted into the Portland Sports Hall of Fame in 2003.

He also shared his love of sports by serving as a coach for local children's baseball and soccer teams. Even into his 70s, he got up early every morning to shoot baskets at the YMCA, and discuss matters of global importance over breakfast with his buddies.

From 1956 to 1957, Bill served in the U.S. Navy aboard the cruiser U.S.S. Northampton, which operated in the North Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea. Following his discharge, he went to work for Aetna Life & Casualty, retiring after 38 years there in 1992. While working in the Purchasing Department, he made lifelong friends, with whom he played many cut-throat card games. After retiring, he worked as a delivery driver for Bordonaro's Pharmacy or as he used to joke, "running drugs."

He was a passionate fan of the Hartford Whalers, the Boston Celtics, the New England Patriots, the UConn women's basketball team, and – above all else – the Boston Red Sox. Even in old age, he could recite the year-by-year batting statistics of his hero, Ted Williams, and the starting lineups of Williams-era teams.

As a parent, Bill instilled in his four children a love of politics, sports, newspapers, nature, animals (especially dogs), wry humor, and his hometown. As Papa, he found joy spending time with his two granddaughters, and never missed a game, swim meet, or performance of theirs.

Bill is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Arlene; son, Kevin Flood and his partner Diane Willcutts of West Hartford; daughter, Marie Massaro of Stonington; son, William J. Flood of Portland; daughter, Sheila Fenton and her husband John of Rocky Hill; granddaughter, Reia Massaro and her fiancée Rose Richi of New Haven; and granddaughter, Jillian Massaro and her boyfriend Kodi Sullivan of Farmington.

He was predeceased by his sister, Jean Flood.

The Flood family would like to thank the many staff of Portland Care and Rehabilitation who provided compassionate care in Bill's final years.

Memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, at <https://act.alz.org>, or Protectors of Animals, at <https://poainc.org>.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Tuesday, Sept. 14, at 10 a.m., in St. Mary Church, Portland. Burial with full military honors will be in Holy Cross Cemetery, Glastonbury. Friends may call at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, on Monday, Sept. 13, from 5-7 p.m. Masks and social distancing are required.



Marlborough

Linda R. Harmon

Linda Ruth Harmon, 77, of Marlborough, died of COVID-19 Friday, Sept. 3, following a long struggle with Parkinson's disease.

Creative and independent, Linda left her childhood home in New Jersey right after high school and moved with a girlfriend to New York City. Linda's executive skills lead her to a series of office management jobs, most of them in the Broadway theater district.

In 1981, Linda and her husband, Albert Harmon, moved to Connecticut. There, Linda worked for several nonprofit arts organizations, eventually becoming the development director of the Greater Hartford Arts Council and, years later, retired as the director of development at the Glastonbury Art Guild.

Linda was a former member of the Richmond Memorial Library board of directors and helped to raise funds for the existing library building.

Books were important to Linda. She, herself, was an accomplished writer, having won the prestigious Golden Heart Award from Romance Writers of America (RWA) for the best time travel manuscript by an unpublished writer. For several years, Linda served as president of the Connecticut chapter of RWA.

Not only was Linda a talented writer, she was also an accomplished pianist. The piano in the home she and Albert shared was not for show. Friends joked that it was hard for her to walk past the piano and not pause to play a song or two. She knew the lyrics of every Broadway hit song and would often sing the answer to a friend's question.

Despite her illness, Linda remained positive. Even when Parkinson's made it difficult for her to speak, she never lost her quick wit or sense of humor.

Linda is predeceased by her parents, Joseph



and Ruth A. Gaydos. She is survived by her devoted husband, Albert, who cared for her lovingly through every day of her illness. She is also survived by a brother, Jeffrey Gaydos, his wife Joyce, a niece, Molly Dupes, her husband Nathan and their three children, Grace, Max and Will Dupes, all of Michigan. Linda was particularly blessed by the devoted friendship and love of Annie Jennings and neighbors, Jan and John Ayer.

Private memorial services will be held at a later date for family and close friends.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research (www.michaeljfox.org/donate).

Hebron

Robert James Dumond

Robert James "Bob" Dumond passed from this life Friday, Aug. 20. Bob was born in Hartford May 3, 1961.

He was predeceased by his father, John A. "Jack" Dumond, and his mother, Elsie R. Dumond, of Hebron.

Bob's family moved from Hartford to Hebron when he was 4 years old. He graduated from RHAM High School in 1979. Bob lived his life by his own rules. Always a free spirit, he was quick to make friends and get along with people.

Bob leaves behind his two brothers and sisters-in-law, Steve and Mara Dumond of Columbia, and Ronald and Sylvia Dumond of Lebanon. He also leaves behind his nephews and niece, Michael, Jonathan, and Chelsey Dumond of Lebanon.

Special thanks to the fine individuals at Marlborough Health and Rehabilitation Center; you made Bob feel welcome and loved, and he felt the same about you.

Services will be private.



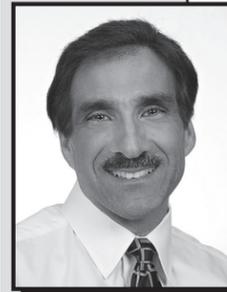
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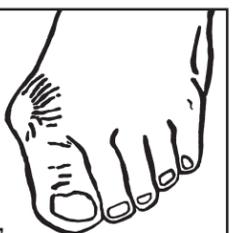
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REF-02-20

★ *Story cont. from page 6*

ment), Mithra protector of humans born on Dec. 24th to a virgin (Jesus), Zeus who fathered children with mortal women (God with Mary) and who tried to destroy all of humanity with a flood whereupon Deucalion built an ark (Noah). The Romans had Saturnalia which early Christians adopted as Christmas, and no, Jesus was not born then, a reason the Puritans refused to celebrate Christmas.

Rivereast readers will note that I regularly quote my opponents before rebutting their opinions. Kushkowski, Denley, Kozlowski, McNamara, Oliver, Congdon, Prentice – almost never, if ever, quote. It would discredit and neuter their own messages.

Edmund Smith – Andover

First Seven Months

To the Editor:

I was sort of surprised to read that only one person wrote in last week to comment on the Afghanistan disaster and that person tried to blame Trump for it. I say “sort of surprised” because perhaps the progressives are too ashamed of their “fearless” leader to comment, and the conservatives are too afraid to say anything because the progressives will condemn them for criticizing their “fearless” leader and I use the word “leader” loosely as he is far from leading anything.

To leave hundreds of Americans and allies behind enemy lines, to leave over \$83 billion worth of equipment in the hands of the enemy, and to claim he was “masterful” in pulling this great event off so well is a slap in the face of all true Americans.

I guess we can add this tragedy to the mess at our southern border, the botching up of the economy, making us beg OPEC to increase their oil production so our fuel cost won't skyrocket (California has the highest gas prices this Labor Day) when just 18 months ago we were the world's number one producer of oil, dividing the nation more than the Civil War era, major crime increases in major cities (mostly run by Democrats – 58 shootings in Chicago so far this Labor Day weekend, not counting Monday) etc., all of this in only seven months in power. At this rate there will be no USA by 2024.

Oh, I forgot to mention how well the administration has screwed up this so-called pandemic with COVID-19. Most Americans are afraid of dying from a virus which is no more deadly than the yearly flu. And what happened to the flu season this past year?

The administration has been successful in one area – instilling FEAR in many Americans.

Gary Gile – Andover

5K Road Race Thanks

To the Editor:

The Haddam Neck Fair celebrated its 109th year on Labor Day weekend and the 5K Road Race was a lively part of the festivities. Thank you to the generous area businesses that made the race (and our T-shirts) possible: Paul's and Sandy's, Too, Pizzeria DaVinci Cobalt, Belltown Tire, AirLine Cycles, Shagbark Lumber and Farm Supply, Two Wrasslin' Cats Café, Cheers Package Store, William R. McDonald, Cabinetmaker, Town & Country Realtors and Classic Africa.

Congratulations to overall male winner Mario Vasquez who finished in 16 minutes 17 seconds and overall female winner Erin Lopez who finished in 19 minutes 19 seconds – and to all 170 runners and walkers who participated in our race (especially Marion Roberts who was 99 years young at race time). We hope to see everyone next year!

**Margaret M. Faber, Race Director
Haddam Neck Fair**

Candidate for Town Council

To the Editor:

My name is Kevin Reich and I am honored to be a candidate for the East Hampton Town Council this November.

Over the last eight years, I have served on the Town Council. I take pride in being well-prepared, have demonstrated my willingness to work collaboratively with the members of the Town Council and have always been available to listen to community members' concerns and suggestions.

My experiences as an educator, central office administrator, chairperson of the Cemetery Board as well as serving on the finance board of St. Patrick Parish, president of the East Hampton Rotary, assistant governor in Rotary District 7980, campaign chair of the Middlesex County United Way and chairperson of the Flags Over East Hampton Committee have shown that I have respectfully considered the views of others, always seeking common ground on con-

tested issues. That along with my positive, upbeat and can-do attitude are assets that I believe will serve the community I love.

I am running for a fifth term because I believe in this community and I am looking forward to working closely with the town manager, the Board of Education and the various town committees and commissions. There is much to do to address water, lake, and Village Center issues.

Over the next two years, I would like to obtain state funding for the development, expansion and consolidation of a public water system, enhance educational excellence and opportunities for our children, continue to research and implement ecologically sound solutions to improve Lake Pocotopaug and develop a comprehensive long-term capital plan to improve our aging facilities and infrastructure.

This November, I know you have choices. I am hopeful you will allow me to continue to serve you.

Kevin M. Reich – East Hampton

Debug the Myth

To the Editor:

Bugs are not out to get us! Those creepy crawlies that we swat and stomp are our friends!! Insects don't need us at all, but we do need them! E.O. Wilson, famed naturalist known as the father of 'biodiversity' once wrote that "...if all the insects were gone, man would only survive maybe four months."

So, when people gathered at the Raymond Brook Preserve Pollinator Garden in Hebron, on Saturday to dedicate the site as a Certified Wildlife Habitat, they got more than what they came for. Folks not only enjoyed flowers, the bees, butterflies and dragonflies but also came away knowing more about our reciprocal relationship with insects.

Bugs recycle, bugs clean up your waste. Flies eat everything, beneath the surface termites break down dead trees, feed on dead leaves, animals and other materials in the environment. Without our insect recycler, we would be overburdened with too much of our own natural waste. Bees and other insects pollinate; One third of what we eat is due to pollination by insects. Good bugs control bad bugs, especially predatory ones. Insects are the only food that sustains certain species of birds, fish and amphibians. Chickadees require 5-6000 caterpillars to feed a family of hatchlings. Bugs form the base of the food web. Without insect life, the food chain would be severely compromised.

Next time you encounter a bug, be curious rather than afraid and be grateful for their services.

Michele Sinkez

Hebron Pollinator Conservation Project

Seeking Reelection

To the Editor:

I am honored to have served as a Portland Selectman the past 4 years and currently as deputy first selectman and hope to be reelected in November. I continue to broaden my town knowledge so that I can make informed decisions on behalf of the residents. I am an active liaison for the Library Board, Long-Range Capital, Parks & Recreation, and Economic Development Commissions.

During the first week of the COVID-19 pandemic, I worked with town staff to address immediate concerns of dealing with the crisis during a brief absence of First Selectwoman Bransfield. I then proceeded to represent the Board of Selectmen on the Portland Schools Reopening Committee in implementing a remote learning program which required distributing workstations and addressing connectivity challenges. Later the committee worked on a hybrid learning approach.

I volunteered my project management services to the town throughout the Portland Recreational Complex construction. This beautiful facility was completed and is being enjoyed by residents of all ages. The complex, along with our strong school system, have solidified the town's position as an attractive destination for families.

I have served on the BOS Water & Sewer Subcommittee the past four years addressing the challenges that the town faces with these systems. We have worked hard to address rising MDC costs while balancing the burden on the consumers. We are now challenged with finding a new water source that presents a reasonable cost to consumers, encourages economic growth and sustains the town going forward.

I would appreciate your vote on Nov. 2 so I can continue to work on the challenges ahead. It is not about politics, but it is about working to deliver results based on the vision defined by the residents and addressing issues that arise.

Thank you.

Ralph Zampano – Portland

Note: Zampano is deputy first selectman of Portland, but said he is speaking as a candidate.

Incomprehensible

To the Editor:

Incomprehensible is the single most polite word to describe the outcome of the Sept. 2 Hebron BOS meeting and vote.

It is incomprehensible that this board has pushed forward with plans to put an expansive and invasive industrial complex on lush farmland located above our aquifer. And it is equally incomprehensible that our DPW has been working, unnecessarily, in a shoddy facility for more than six years. It now appears that the BOS had the power to get these men and women into a new, safe, affordable facility as far back as 2015 and chose not to do so. Why not? Has the BOS been using the DPW dangerous situation as bait to guilt folks into supporting an industrial complex on inappropriate land?

Opponents to violating this wet farmland have been made to feel small and like the enemy when quite the opposite is true. Providing safe working conditions for all people is important, but clean drinking water is paramount. Clean water affects all of us.

The land next door to our Transfer Station has been available for years. It is not as sexy a piece of land as 17 Kinney Road, but it is useable and won't run such a high risk to our water supplies or quality of water. Hebron still boasts some of the cleanest drinking water in the state.

Since we now know the land on Old Colchester Road is available to use for a new DPW facility, on May 3, 2022 (or sooner), we ask that you vote to reject the use of 17 Kinney Rd. as a site for an industrial facility thereby voting in favor of saving this lush farmland for less destructive purposes.

Perhaps, even, keeping it working farmland with walking trails.

This time, the choice is yours.

Jean Tulimieri – Amston

Proud to Serve

To the Editor:

I am running for reelection to the Portland Board of Education in November. I have had the privilege of working with a truly dedicated group of board members, professional educators, superintendent and administrators since joining the board in 2016. My work on the Board of Education has been and will continue to be to ensure that all children have the resources and support needed to achieve their fullest potential. The Portland community values education and the schools are an integral part of the fabric of our community.

I have witnessed the strength and generosity of time, resources, and spirit of our community over the last 18 months as we made our way through both a pandemic and a revitalization of our commitment to social justice for all who live here. These challenges are continuing and will require that our commitment to forthrightly addressing them continue as well.

I am privileged to serve on the Board and look forward to continuing this work with your support. Feel free to contact me at lawofficesapeters@gmail.com with any thoughts or questions.

Sharon A. Peters – Portland

Work to Do

To the Editor:

Look around, Colchester's campaign season is in full swing. Eventually though, the campaigns will end and the dust will settle. Then, there will be work to do.

On the Board of Finance, a new budget cycle will be right around the corner with fresh questions about how to leverage federal grants to offset taxes. We'll face challenges as we examine how we've used the 'rainy day fund' over the last two years and decide how to ensure we have a budget that is both balanced and sustainable. Revaluation is almost guaranteed to introduce confusion into the budget process. The post-pandemic economy will loom over us too. And of course there will be new budget requests that we will have to weigh and prioritize against these and other issues.

This is the real work of the board – not Facebook posts, campaign speeches, and letters in the paper. That's all just politics. The work itself is complicated and doesn't make for great theater, but Colchester deserves elected officials prepared to do this work, not just the politics.

I've always strived to focus on the work of our board, to remain calm, to listen to residents and other board members, to compromise or

seek compromise when possible, and to vote in the best interest of the town. After Nov. 2, I hope to continue doing this work. If that's the kind of representation you believe in, please vote for me, Bernard Dennler III for Board of Finance. Let's focus on the job ahead, not the politics.

Bernard Dennler III – Colchester

Vote 'Yes' on Senior Center

To the Editor:

As a newly appointed member on the "Commission for Aging," here in Colchester, I fully support the building of a new senior center.

As a senior member of the center, I have been very impressed with the variety of activities and programs available that support the needs and interests of our milieu. The dedicated staff certainly need their communities support in this effort and should be commended for their spirit and drive that has made their programming so successful.

The dream of a new senior center has been long coming. We need to "step up to the plate" to ensure the future quality of life for those who have spent their own lives enriching ours.

Our senior population has outgrown the building! Besides travel, entertainment and enrichment programs, presently the center provides technology support and education ensuring the up-to-date avenues of communication to us who readily want to stay in touch with our community, family and friends.

Please vote 'yes.'

Nola Weston – Colchester

Media and Science

To the Editor:

Briefly, Gary Gile correctly cites damning facts about the FDA and about media ownership, marred only by his unwarranted attacks on Dr. Fauci and by his reference to notorious quack Joseph Mercola. It's worth noting that although he discusses "mainstream media," the issue is much wider than suggested. Great swaths of supposedly independent voices are also controlled by a tiny cadre of the wealthy. It's long past time we reverse the media deregulation enacted under Reagan and Clinton.

In our main topic, Peter Kushkowski uses the misleading phrase: "atheistic science". Science does not take a stand on theism versus atheism. Science is about statements we could prove false; it's impossible to falsify anything said about omnipotent beings who might wish to hide their tracks... although Occam's Razor does apply.

Science covers theories and the evidence to support them. Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Muslims, and others don't generally try to present evidence for their beliefs. Nor do they often attempt to convince others of their own beliefs. When they do it's usually circular reasoning (God is great because it says so in scripture, and the scripture is right because it's the word of God) or sophism like Pascal's Wager or the First Cause, nonsense scientists feel little need to rebut.

The issues theists discuss overlap little with those of science. If you don't ask scientists about faith or scripture and you don't ask a theologian to design your nuclear reactor, you'll rarely go wrong. When someone brings up Intelligent Design, it's not a scientific statement, merely religious creationism in disguise.

I've stayed out of the firestorm Edmund Smith unleashed regarding religion and science; I don't find it worth arguing. But it is entirely incorrect to assign science to either side of the theism/atheism debate. It's simply not a question relevant to science.

Scott Sauyet – Andover

Never Forgotten

To the Editor:

Twenty years ago this week, American history was forever altered. Countless lives were shattered and symbols of American greatness crumbled. From the south tower, to a field in Pennsylvania, heroes were born. We lost a lot that day; some lost everything. But what America did not lose was her spirit – America does best when her back is on the mat and the crowd has given the final count.

We did what we always do – we rose to the occasion. We embraced our neighbors, regardless of party politics. We picked up the phone and called our family, some of whom we hadn't spoken to in years. We donated blood. America fought back by doing what we've always done, by helping our fellow men and women.

While we watched the nightly updates from the comfort of our own beds, many hadn't slept in days. The image of our first responders running towards the chaos, while so many ran

away, is forever baked into my memory. Their selfish sacrifice is the embodiment of what it means to be an American. When all eyes turned to us, they showed the world who America truly is.

And when it came time to hold those responsible accountable, our warriors were there to answer the call. We again leaned on our youthful military to sacrifice for us, and they happily stood up and fought – only to come back to a country who blamed them for the choices our government made.

In an effort to honor and pay respects to all those who paid the ultimate price, I will be joining my colleagues in taking this weekend off from politics. There are events that transcend politics. Remembering and honoring those who lost their lives due to the events of Sept. 11 is one of them.

Jason LaChapelle – Colchester

The End of Hebron Town

To the Editor:

Thursday, the Board of Selectmen voted to go forward with building a public works facility on the Horton property. In addition, a new town hall and fire station will be built. Dump trucks and noisy heavy equipment will be located in the center of town effectively ending the dream of a rustic and charming town. Horton Boulevard across from Ted's will be extended to cross protected wetlands and proceed to Kinney Road. This circuit and the Kinney Road-Millstream bypass will be well-traveled by cars and heavy equipment creating an urban center. How did a project to upgrade the public works facility morph into municipal complex that will change the fabric of our town? This doesn't have to happen. It shouldn't happen.

Our town lost 6 percent population our population in the last 10 years. Our growth is constrained geologically by water supply issues. This isn't necessarily a bad thing. The post-COVID-19 economy favors rural, charming towns. Like other rural towns, we should be thinking organic growth (think Flour Girl, not Walmart), remote work and home businesses! Let's build a healthy, diverse and sustainable town for future generations – not ruin the rural environment that has sustained us.

Seven years ago, engineering plans to build a safe and appropriate Public Works facility were developed and are still good. This was a better and much cheaper option that could have been built in 2015 to allay all safety and liability concerns. Instead, the town held out for their unneeded \$25M-plus municipal complex. Please feel free to email me at johnbcollins27@gmail.com (or call or text 8605493273) for my presentation, Better, Faster, Cheaper: Build the Public Works Facility at the Old Colchester Rd. Site, and to join our group opposing this initiative.

John Collins – Hebron

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

Democrats Ready to Serve!

To the Editor:

The Democratic candidates, who are running for Town Council, Board of Finance, Board of Education, Zoning Board of Appeals and Board of Assessment Appeals are a very dedicated group of citizens who are committed to the future of East Hampton and our citizens. You can count on this team to make the right decisions as they prepare for the future of our town... growing every day.

The Town Council candidates Pete Brown, Derek Johnson, Dean Markham, Barbara Moore, and Kevin Reich have all been actively volunteering in our community. During these special times, you will see them walking through the village, sharing the beauty of our Airline Trail, greeting you with our waves as you go to work in the morning and return home at night. They are always available to talk and anxious to hear your ideas and concerns.

The Board of Finance candidates have strong backgrounds in finance and common sense. Kurt Comisky, Robert Hein and Ted Turner look forward to your questions and concerns regarding the best use of their tax dollars. Many times, citizen ideas have become a new goal for our finance board...so reach out to them with all of your thoughts.

Our Board of Education candidates are anxious to serve the children in our community. Amanda Amtmanis shows a devotion to children and learning as she teaches in the Middletown School system. Nancy Kohler believes that "a strong school system benefits the entire community." Sarah Strange has a degree in finance and will listen to the taxpayers as she serves on

the board. Paul Wisniewski volunteers for our youth rec leagues and is a member of the Clean Energy Task Force.

As a group, they will work together and with our citizens... move our town forward.

Vote Democratic!

**Barbara Moore, Chair
East Hampton Democratic Town Committee**

Sept. 11

Dear Colchester Residents,

Twenty years ago, I was a high school junior at Bacon Academy. It was in the middle of science class when I heard about the tragic events over the intercom. As I learned about the terrorism that took place on our soil, I was both heartbroken and angry. This was a turning point for both a young high school kid, but also for an entire nation. An innocence was lost that day.

There are images and emotions that will live in our hearts forever. Trying to explain this day to a younger generation can be challenging, but it is important that they learn about it. Not only will they gain a better understanding of how this event shaped the world that we live in today, but also about a collective group of people who demonstrated courage during one of our nation's darkest hours.

Our hearts will never forget the innocent lives that were lost that day or the many courageous first responders who risked their lives to save those in peril. Our deepest gratitude will forever extend to all the men and women who served our country and bravely fought the evil extremism that threatened our very way of life. We must pray for all those who are still dealing with the residual effects of that day. More than 10,000 people have been diagnosed with cancers and respiratory illnesses related to the attack. Over 2,000 have died from related illnesses.

We must also remember the collective American spirit that emerged immediately following those tragic events. In one of our nation's darkest hours, petty differences dissolved. We were not Republicans or Democrats – we were Americans first. We came together to stand tall for our very freedoms. That we can never forget.

Sincerely,

Andreas Bisbikos – Colchester

Never Forget

To the Editor:

9/11 – On this day, let us not forget:

Those that were killed at the hands of our enemies

All those who heard the call that day and entered into service

Our brothers and sisters who made the ultimate sacrifice

The families of those fallen who suffer from the pain of loss

The price of liberty is eternal vigilance

May this great nation live on to eternity

May she protect us from our enemies both foreign and domestic

May she facilitate the appointment to those that wish to do us harm with the God of their choosing

Today, let us not forget that we are all Americans

God bless both you and your families along with this great nation of ours

Sincerely,

Taras W. Rudko – Colchester

Can't We Get Along?

To the Editor:

I am new to Colchester politics except for the occasional response to posts on social media. Now that I am running for Board of Education, my responses are more of a daily thing. On a certain Facebook page anything goes (and I mean anything). This free exchange of ideas is paramount to the survival of our democratic republic. So while I love reading all opinions, I maintain that civility can be more effective than fighting.

In a recent post, I simply stated my platform if you will. I thought it was very clear, but realized quickly that it needed more clarification. So, I clarified. However, if I state my position and clarify that position with a response, is it reasonable that someone comes back and states "here's what I think you mean"? I've already said what I mean. Many of you who know me know that I always say what I mean. So, I ended it there. Closed minds cannot be pried to listen.

In another unrelated example someone posted a meme about a small pox vaccination intended as a joke. It instantly devolved to a naming calling and finger pointing. My point with these examples is that we need to listen to our neighbors. We can't even joke around anymore?

Even when the joke isn't hurting anyone?

Listen.

The legacy I want to impart to my son, and the type of effect I'd like to have on the Board of Education is that we are capable of working together. Children should be learning that they are capable of civil discourse without insults. I could use famous quotes with "better angels of our nature" or how to "destroy an enemy... make them your friend," but I'd like to keep it simple:

"Can't we all just get along?"

Donna Antonacci

**Candidate for Colchester Board of
Education**

A Sincere Thank You

To the Editor:

The Hebron Pollinator Conservation Project (HPCP) thanks all the many people who came out to show their support for the dedication of the new pollinator garden at the Raymond Brook Preserve. It was a wonderful event with key town leaders sharing their commitment to restoring biodiversity, protecting open spaces and preserving native habitats for our pollinators. A special thank you to Dan Larson, Chairman of the Board of Selectman; Ann and Frank Zitkus, passionate conservationists; and Craig Bryant, Parks and Recreation Director who accepted the National Wildlife Federation Certificate of Wildlife Habitat from Michele Sinkez leader of the HPCP.

We thank all those who helped us develop this garden and who help us maintain the other designated pollinator gardens in town. And we thank all our townspeople who continue to support the town's conservation and land preservation work and the efforts of the Hebron Pollinator Conservation Project.

It was a great turnout and we look forward to expanding native pollinator habitats in Hebron.

Yours sincerely,

Candace O'Shea

Hebron Pollinator Conservation Project

The Party of Trump

To the Editor:

Donald Trump pushed insurrection.

Donald lied about election.

Donald leads the POT

and would go back a century.

To days when only men could vote, or sign a promissory note.

To days when folks of color lacked the ballot and the upward track.

To days when robber barons ruled

while poorer folks remained unschooled

To days before the safety net

and social programs that would let

us learn and grow and vote our bent

to counteract the one percent.

The greatest tool is when we vote

in all of our elections.

Each two-year span provides the right

to set out new directions.

Local and Congress, both Senate and House,

are the base of our democracy;

Voting only in presidential years leads to

feared autocracy.

So school yourself, beware of lies

found on the internet.

Check your sources, find the truth;

don't find with regret

that the Party Of Trump has had its way,

that Democracy has had its day,

that autocracy is here to stay.

Ed Gyllenhammer – Portland

Wolves on Kinney Road

To the Editor:

Two wolves and a lamb sit down to decide what's for dinner... This old joke has become reality in Hebron. The Board of Selectmen and the Public Building Committee have put the historic residential neighborhood of Kinney Road on the menu. On Sept. 2, the BOS chose to ignore their responsibility to uphold the Plan of Conservation and Development and sent the question of whether a Public Works facility should be built on Kinney Road to referendum. It is the duty of the BOS to protect our wetlands, our groundwater, our historic areas, our scenic roads and our neighborhoods. They have failed to do this and Chairman Daniel Larsen, Vice Chair Gail Richmond, Selectman Peter Kasper and Selectman Marc Rubera need to be held accountable.

Almost as irresponsible, the Public Building Committee refused to explore options that would have helped the Department of Public Works many years ago. The POCD was written in 2014 and included plans to put DPW offices and a maintenance facility at Burnt Hill. If this

possibility was acted upon the hard-working people of DPW would have already seen much needed improvements in their working conditions. The option to expand the present DPW facility on adjacent property on Old Colchester Road has been available since 2015. The PBC has stated, "We have a building in need of land." This is a flawed premise and has led us into this unfortunate situation. The DPW does not need a \$9 million facility, they need more space.

It was up to the Board of Selectmen to uphold the Plan of Conservation and Development. Instead, the BOS has chosen to send a dangerous question to referendum. I can only hope the voters of Hebron will help us protect our environment, history and neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Kevin J. Tulimieri – Amston

Forever War

To the Editor:

The attacks of Sept. 11 took the lives of just under 3,000 people. The resulting 20-year-long "Global War on Terror" has resulted in the direct deaths of just under a million people and the indirect deaths of up to three million...the vast majority of them innocent civilians.

The hijackers, mostly all from Saudi Arabia, accomplished their attack for the cost of airfare and some box cutters. Taking down three buildings (WTC 1/2/7) in New York with two planes and striking the Pentagon with a third. We quickly attacked Iraq followed by Afghanistan and have run operations in 80 countries with physical troops on the ground in 14 countries – the tab: \$8 trillion and counting (plus interest).

Our lives at home have remained peaceful, while millions of innocent people around the world have had their lives and countries torn apart in our efforts at "justice." Our way of life and our comfort are "non-negotiable."

In the name of making the world "safe for democracy," we have renamed many things. The Patriot Act and NDAA have reshaped our legal landscape. We used to have "inalienable rights" and "civil liberties." Now we have warrantless data collection, a permanent domestic surveillance program, and a 100-mile Constitution-Free Border Zone.

We normalized torturing our enemies in Guantanamo Bay and Abu Ghraib by renaming the practice "enhanced interrogation techniques." It's not a bombing campaign but a targeted "drone strike." It's easy to lose touch of the horrors of war when it's being conducted from a climate-controlled room thousands of miles away.

The Sept. 11 attacks united our nation in a way not seen since World War II, but 20 years later we are more divided than ever before. Has it been worth it? Are we freer now? Are we "winning"? When will the war be over?

Colin McNamara – Marlborough

Colchester Community Center

To the Editor:

Are you a senior citizen? If you are not, you will be, soon enough. As senior citizens we all thought that day was a long way off, but time really does fly. We really do need a new center. You will notice I say "community" center because this new facility will not be limited to senior citizens. It has the capability for community functions as well, should be promoted as such, getting the entire community behind it, young and old.

Staff did an awesome job with the vaccine offering, however, opening up the vaccine appointments to whomever, regardless of being Colchester taxpayers, or even residing in/being town paying members of the Chatham Health District was unfair. Citizens who are taxpayers got bumped way back in the queue, by individuals outside the district, who do not pay thousands of dollars in taxes, but only pay a puny, insulting to the actual taxpayers, "membership" fee.

As senior citizens, citizens of the world, we see the recent climate disasters through decades of observation. Are we being good keepers of Mother Earth for our children, our grandchildren, by using fossil fuels to heat this proposed new building? Yes, using geothermal and solar is expensive, up front, but not so over time. All new structures should be using geothermal and solar to heat, cool, and power.

Also, the land for this new building is raw land, able to absorb heavy rainfall with limited runoff. I was happy to see grassy islands and trees in the site plan. This new building, itself, will prevent rain absorption, by adding in the paved areas, are we ready to add to the flooding misery of those downstream? Instead of non-permeable paving, some sort of permeable paving should be used.

Just some thoughts.

Tricia Heldmann – Colchester

There's Only One Rational Reason For Not Advertising In Newspaper. You've Already Got More Business Than You Can Handle.

Nothing makes the cash register ring like a newspaper ad. Studies prove it. For instance, newspaper more than doubles the sale of package goods.

In survey after survey, newspaper is cited as the medium of choice for shopping advice — the place consumers turn when they're looking to buy. The point is pretty clear. You should be advertising in newspaper. Unless, of course, you've got some strange aversion to sales.

Newspaper. It's The Best Way To Close A Sale.

For more information, call us at 860.633.4691
or visit our website at www.glcitizen.com

Check us out on facebook – facebook.com/RivereastNewsBulletin

**TOWN OF PORTLAND
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION
LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION**

At the September 2, 2021 meeting, the following action was taken:
APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS Application #21-03: 316 Marlborough Street Unit 332. Request for a Special Permit to operate a school and recreational facility for martial arts, fitness, and family activities. Application of Michael Pelton. Property of Woodgreen Portland Limited Partnership. Assessor's Map 21, Lot 1, Zone B2.
APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS Application #21-02: 529 Glastonbury Turnpike. Site Plan Modification of PZC Application #14-07 to create a two phase approval of previously approved site improvements for contractor trades and commercial self-storage uses. Application and property of Global 17, LLC. Assessor's Map 83, Lot 38-1. Zone 1.
 Dated at Portland, CT. this 7th day of September 2021
 Robert Ellsworth, Chairman
 Planning & Zoning Commission

**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
LEGAL NOTICE
Notice of Action**

The East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission held a regular meeting on September 1, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, Eaton Smith Council Chambers Room 107 and via ZOOM Virtual Meeting to consider the following:
 Application PZC-21-014: Martin Scovill, 117 Colchester Ave., Re-subdivision for 3 lots in R4 Zone. Map 27/ Block 87A/ Lot 12A-4 - Approved
 Application PZC-21-015: JCG Properties, LLC., 9 Middle Haddam Rd., Special Permit for Veterinary Clinic per Sections 4.2 and 8.4.N. Map 01C/Block 9/Lot 5 - Approved with Conditions
 Application PZC-21-016: Nancy, Donald, Robert and Sue Briere, 91-93 Lake Dr. for a 2 Lot Subdivision at 91-93 Lake Drive in R1 Zone. Map 25/Block 64/Lot 56 - Approved
 Ray Zatorski, Chairman
 Note* any question re: Applications and Maps are on file in the Land Use Office 860-267-7450.

**TOWN OF COLCHESTER
LEGAL NOTICE**

At its meeting of September 1, 2021 the Planning and Zoning Commission made the following decisions:
 1. Town of Colchester Planning and Zoning Department - Zoning Regulation Text Amendment (2021-009) - The Commission **APPROVED** the Regulation Amendment to amend Section 8.12 Uses Subject to Moratorium of the Town of Colchester Land Development Regulations to adopt a moratorium on any application for the retail sale of medical marijuana or recreational cannabis by Cannabis Establishments for a period of twelve (12) months.
 2. 120 South Main, LLC - Zoning Regulation Text Amendment (2021-011) - The Commission **DENIED** the Regulation Amendment to amend Section 5.3 of the Town of Colchester Land Development Regulations to permit drive-through windows subject to approval of a Special Permit.
 A copy of this notice has been filed in the Town Clerk's office. Planning and Zoning Commission
 Joseph Mathieu, Chair

**LEGAL NOTICE
MARLBOROUGH CONSERVATION
COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING
Town Hall (26 No. Main St.)**

The Conservation Commission will hold the following Public Hearing on Monday September 13, 2021 at 7:00 PM at Town Hall (26 No. Main St.)
Application #11-21 - Justin Williams, Justin Williams Estates LLC/ Timothy Peer (applicant/property owner) - 125 So. Main - construct new driveway and residence.
 The room capacity will be limited due to Social Distancing requirements and masks are mandatory for those who are unvaccinated and attend in person. Written testimony will be received at the public hearing and written testimony can be sent to the Building /Land Use Department at Town Hall ahead of the public hearing. All testimony and application materials will be available to the public on the Town Website, www.Marlboroughct.net, under Minutes/Agendas then Agenda 2021 then Conservation Commission.
 Yvonne Bolton,
 CONSERVATION COMMISSION CHAIR

**TOWN OF PORTLAND
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the Portland Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, September 23, 2021 at a meeting to start at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom to consider the following:
 Application #21-01: 36 Jobs Gate 2. Request for a variance to Zoning Regulation Table 4.2.1 to locate a foundation 34 feet from the front yard where 50 feet is required, 21.5 feet from the east side yard where 25 feet is required, and 21 feet from the west side yard where 25 feet is required. Application and property of Larry Whitmore. Assessor's Map 24, Lot 3. Zone RR.
 At this hearing interested persons may appear and be heard and written communications will be received. A copy of this application is available for public review in the Portland Land Use Department or on the Town of Portland Website: www.portlandct.org.
 Dated at Portland, CT this 7th day of September 2021.
 Rose Aletta, Chairwoman

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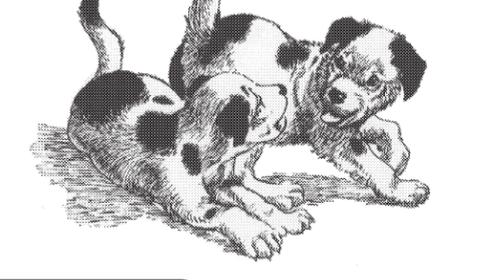
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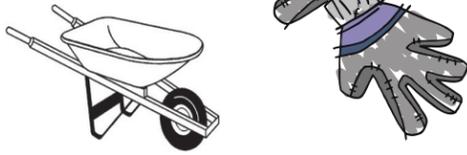



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