

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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

Volume 45, Number 9

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

February 12, 2021



Helping the Needy... A Portland resident recently set up this roadside food pantry along Route 17 in town, to benefit area hungry. There is safe parking along Cox Road, according to the pantry's operator, who wishes to remain anonymous. See story on page 7.

Vaccine Clinics a Success; More Resources Needed

By Jack Lakowsky

Portland and East Hampton officials are pleased with the efficiency and organization of two separate appointment-only, resident-only COVID-19 vaccination clinics held this week and last in the two towns.

However, they said they felt there are definitely areas for improvement.

Portland seniors 75 and older got their first doses last Friday, with the same demographic receiving their doses on Monday in East Hampton.

"We heard back from a lot of people who said the clinic went very well," Portland First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said in a Monday call with the *Rivereast*.

Meanwhile, Chatham Health District Director Russell Melmed said the East Hampton Senior Center clinic went smoothly, with about 100 seniors getting their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

In a Tuesday meeting of the East Hampton Town Council, Town Manager David Cox said over 15% of East Hampton seniors older than 75 took advantage of Monday's closed clinic. With this, 80% of that age group in Belltown have received first doses.

Cox in a Wednesday follow-up interview said overall about 11% of the town's population, or around 1,300 people, have received the vaccine.

Cox while reviewing this data was surprised to learn about 900 people in East Hampton

work in the medical field or as first responders.

Cox estimated there are about 100 older seniors left to vaccinate in town.

"And I'd say about 65% of our seniors successfully navigated VAMS," Cox said, referring to the state's Vaccine Assistance Management System.

In Portland, about 80 were vaccinated last Friday at the Waverly Senior Center, according to the town's Director of Youth and Senior Services, Mary Pont.

Adding these 80 to the 241 seniors who as of Jan. 26 had received their first dose makes for 321 total first doses administered, about 45% of Portland seniors older than 75.

Seniors from both towns received their vaccines through a variety of sources other than local clinics, including through mass-vaccination events and through large hospital groups like Yale-New Haven Health and Hartford Healthcare.

Portland seniors are eager to get their shots. Pont said 135 seniors are on the town's waiting list for its next closed clinic.

Both towns are working to host more clinics soon.

These clinics were offered exclusively to their residents. Melmed said around 100 doses per clinic is the expected pace for closed operations.

Wait times were short. In Portland, the clinic finished its work and closed by 5:15 p.m.

See Vaccine Clinics, page 6

Colchester Bands Together to Help Clean Property

By Karla Santos

For years, a residential property in Colchester had an amount of blight that is not allowed in town – and its owners had no means to clean it or pay for it to be cleaned.

Since Colchester has a blight ordinance, Daphne Schaub, the town's assistant planner, zoning and blight enforcement officer, could have taken action against the homeowners – an elderly couple. However, as she understood the two couldn't clean the blight on their own, she contacted Chuck Maynard, a Lions Club member, to see how he could help.

Schaub said the story is different for people who have blight in their property but just refuse to clean it. She said the couple in this case was always willing to cooperate; they were just not physically strong enough to do it themselves – nor did they have the necessary funds to hire a cleaning crew. They had an older son, though Schaub said he was also "of limited means."

And to make matters worse, Schaub's long-time contact person for the family, its matron and the elderly homeowner's wife, passed away.

After speaking with Schaub, Maynard said he reached out to the Colchester Lions Club and local Boy Scout Troops 13 and 72 to see if they could help.

Maynard said the groups were willing to help clean the blight, but there was a challenge – getting trucks to transport the blight out of the

property.

"It was a little difficult at first because we were trying to figure out logically how to get the stuff to the transfer station," Maynard said. "The town was going to waive all fees relative to disposal of anything we took out of there."

Maynard said that some businesses in town heard of the issue, including George and Rob Veneziano, owners of a local Dunkin' Donuts. The Venezianos called Willimantic Waste and arranged for two dumpsters for the cause. Maynard said Willimantic Waste donated the transportation and disposal of half of the materials. The Venezianos paid for the other half.

When the last weekend of January arrived, the crew started to work.

Trees, furniture and toys were among the items located outdoors at the property, Maynard said. It took two weekend days to clean all the blight, he said.

On Saturday, Jan. 30, Clifton O'Donal – owner of Empire State Piping and Reliable Auto – brought four of his employees and a loader to help load all of the heavy materials. Maynard was there along with two other members of the Lions Club also trying to help. Then the next day, between the Lions and the Scouts, there was a crew of 21 people helping clean the blight. Maynard and another Lion helped secure additional dump trailers needed to help trans-

port the rest of the blight.

Maynard said it felt "really good" to be able to help the family. He said cleaning all of those materials was a "difficult task, but due to the generosity of a couple of businesspeople in town," the Lions and Scouts were able to get the job done.

If Schaub would have followed the ordinance and action was taken, the situation could have left the couple without a home.

Schaub explained that the town has a blight ordinance that was adopted in 2017. This ordinance allows for blighted properties to be asked to remediate the problem within a certain amount of time. If nothing happens, Schaub has the option of issuing a citation that gives them a final deadline for remediation. Residents can appeal the citation, in which case it goes to a hearing officer who makes a final determination.

If a property is deemed to be blight, Schaub said, "fairly excessive fines" will kick in – \$50 per day for the first 30 days and \$100 per day for each day thereafter, until the clean-up is complete and certified by the first selectman.

Schaub said the process also involves filing a lien on the property, covering those fines that would continue to grow until remedy is made or the town could foreclose on it.

Schaub said the first letter to the elderly

homeowners asking them to clean the blight was written in May 2017.

She said that upon meeting them, it was clear to her that the homeowners were "not capable of doing it themselves."

"In this particular case, I realized that there was a family struggling; that they would not be able to remediate the problem on their own," Schaub said. "The only option would be to ultimately lien them, which would not have resolved the problem, and it would've exacerbated the problem for the family."

According to Schaub, when she started working on the case, she was in touch with the matron of the family, an elderly woman.

"She was making strides to get things done," Schaub said. "And then, all of a sudden, I lost touch with the woman and sooner rather than later I came across her obituary, so she passed away."

Schaub said she later realized the blight was not just outside the home, but inside as well. The husband was then removed from the property by town health and safety officials until the issues inside were resolved. He was admitted to an assisted living facility in the interim.

When the homeowner returned to the property, he and a granddaughter tried to work on solving the blight issue on the outdoor area of

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From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

By Mike Thompson

Obituaries are, by their very nature, tough, depressing reads. (And they're, obviously, even tougher to write.) I've received some particularly brutal ones for the *Rivereast* lately. So, generally speaking, the last thing I want to read is more obituaries.

However, I recently came across one that was pretty delightful – it made me smile, made me laugh out loud a few times, and just left me with the sense this woman was a delight. You might not have seen the obit, as it was from Canada, but here's a slightly abridged version:

"Margaret Marilyn DeAdder, professional clipper of coupons, baker of cookies, terror behind the wheel, champion of the underdog, ruthless card player, and self-described Queen Bitch, died Tuesday, Jan. 19. Marilyn, the oldest of four siblings, was born Marilyn Joyce in 1942, to parents Hannah and Edgar Joyce, in New Glasgow, NS."

"Marilyn loved all children who weren't her own and loved her own children relative to how clean-shaven they were. She excelled at giving the finger, taking no sh!t and laughing at jokes, preferably in the shade of blue. She did not excel at suffering fools, hiding her disdain, and putting her car in reverse. A voracious reader, she loved true crime, romance novels and the odd political book. Trained as a hairdresser before she was married, she was always doing somebody's hair in her kitchen, so much so her kitchen smelled of baking and perm solution.

"Marilyn had a busy life, but no matter what she was doing she always made time to run her kids' lives as well. Her lifelong hobbies included painting, quilting, baking, gardening, hiking and arson. Marilyn loved tea and toast. The one thing she loved more than tea and toast was reheated tea and toast. She

reheated tea by simply turning on the burner, often forgetting about it. She burned many a teapot and caused smoke damage countless times, leaving her kids with the impression that fanning the smoke alarm was a step in brewing tea.

"Marilyn liked to volunteer and give back to the community. She was a lifelong volunteer at the Capital Theatre in downtown Moncton, which her sons suspected was her way of seeing all the shows for free. For all of Marilyn's success in life, her crowning achievement occurred in the mid-to-late '80s, when, left with mounting debt, no job, no car, and no driver's license, she turned it all around to the point in the early '90s that she had paid down her house, paid cash for all her cars, and got her three boys through university.

"Marilyn is survived by her three ungrateful sons, Michael (Gail), Paul, and David (Trudy), whose names she never got completely right, and whose jokes she didn't completely understand. She loved them very much, even though at least one of them would ruin Christmas every year by coming home with facial hair, and never forgot that one disastrous Christmas in which all three sons showed up with beards. Everything she did, she did for her sons.

"Marilyn is survived by her three granddaughters Meaghan (19), Bridget (16), and Madelyn (5). While her sons committed unspeakable crimes against humanity, her granddaughters could do no wrong. While her sons grew up on root vegetables and powdered milk (funneled directly into the bag to hide the fact that it was powdered, fooling nobody), her granddaughters were fed mountains of sugary snacks as far as the eye could see, including her world-famous cookies and

Editor's Desk continued on page 4



Less Hollywood, More Reality... Hebron resident and retired police officer Mark Kelly has a new book out which he said offers a more realistic look at police work than what is normally seen in Hollywood productions. For a story on the book, turn to page 11.

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

Thank You, Chatham Health

To the Editor:

On Jan. 27, the Colchester Senior Center hosted a COVID-19 vaccine clinic in partnership with Director of Health Russell Melmed, Public Health Nurse Vickie Han, and other staff and volunteers of Chatham Health District. This clinic was aimed at serving those 75 and over in the community, especially those for whom transportation was a barrier for access to a vaccine appointment out of town. Through this clinic, the first dose of the vaccine was administered to 124 citizens, with all of them guaranteed an appointment to receive the second dose later this month.

We are proud to be the first senior center in our health district to hold a public clinic for seniors and have been able to advise other neighboring senior centers so that their public clinics will go smoothly, as well.

I also want to acknowledge the hard work of the senior center staff in scheduling appointments and assisting in many ways throughout the day.

Patty Watts
Director of Senior Services
Town of Colchester

Thanks for Your Help

To the Editor:

On Friday Feb. 5, I read in the *Rivereast* that East Hampton was going to be giving COVID-19 vaccine shots and to call the East Hampton Senior Center to make your appointment. It was 5 p.m. and the senior center was closed and would be over the weekend. I called anyway on the chance someone might be there; I got the answering machine and left a message that I was interested in getting a shot.

To my surprise a woman, whose name I have forgotten (sorry), called me Saturday and said she was sorry but all the spots were taken but that she didn't want to leave me not knowing what was going on. Well to my surprise again Monday about noon they called again and said if I was still interested they had an extra dose and I could go to the Town Hall and get my shot, I went and received my first COVID-19 shot and an appointment for my second.

I would really like to thank the women from the senior center for caring and taking the time to help me. I'd also like to thank all the health workers at the town hall for doing such a great job. Thank you.

William Sukach – East Hampton

Colchester Senior Center

To the Editor:

As an update to the article that was in the *Rivereast* of Jan. 29 regarding the proposed Colchester Senior Center, the Building Committee is working towards a public outreach program to help the residents of Colchester understand the programs and needs for building a new center. Soon we will be posting information to the Town of Colchester website where floor plans, site plans, drawings and renditions will be available to see what the new proposed center will look like. We will also be explaining the programs that are currently available and with a new senior center what future programs could be possible. Once the information is posted, we will let the community know how they can access the site.

If anyone currently has questions, they can send an email to: seniorcenterbuildingcommittee@colchesterct.gov. We monitor the site and someone will get back with an answer to any questions.

The committee meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month at 7 p.m. via Zoom, and all residents are invited to attend.

Anthony Tarnowski, LEED AP
Chairman, Colchester Senior Center
Building Committee

COVID-19

To the Editor:

Last week I read a letter to the editor that expressed the opinion that the death toll from COVID-19 does not warrant the mandates, closures and lockdowns that have taken place. Going so far as to say these have "destroyed the world economy" and "eliminated all our freedoms." The world economy has taken a hit due to COVID-19 but it is far from destroyed and is poised to rebound as we come out of the pandemic. I can't really think of any significant freedoms I have lost except I'm asked to cover my face when social distancing isn't possible. No big deal for me.

The letter-writer says "we should focus on solutions," "have an open mind," and "have a clear picture of the facts," but there are no solutions or facts offered in the letter and the writer doesn't express anything that would lead one to believe they have an open mind. The letter disparages social distancing and states that with regard to wearing a mask, "I feel they are less than useless." Which I assume means he believes they are harmful. Using the DuckDuckGo.com search engine which the letter-writer

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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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Jim Hallas, Publisher

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recommends I posed the question. "Does wearing a mask reduce the spread of COVID-19?" to find out the facts and look for solutions. The first seven responses said wearing a mask reduces the spread of COVID-19 and reduces the mask-wearers' risks of catching the virus. These came from top medical sources and the CDC. The eighth response, from an online newsletter called thefederalist.com, says it doesn't. A check of Wikipedia says it contains false information or pseudoscience, contrary to public health experts.

The established fact is wearing a mask helps reduce the spread of COVID-19. One of the solutions to reducing the spread of COVID-19 is wear a mask. Stay safe.

Jeffrey Schwarz – Amston

Vaccination Thanks

To the Editor:

Kudos to the town of Portland's senior center for providing a safe and welcoming location to get the COVID-19 vaccination.

My thanks to all who made this possible.

I always knew that Portland was a "hidden gem," and now I am sure of it.

Again, thanks to the team.

Joan Needle – Portland

Community Garden

To the Editor:

A community garden in East Hampton would be a great way to get people to eat healthier. A community garden would help people who cannot afford food, help kids learn about gardening and eating healthier, it will get people to socialize more, and it will encourage healthy eating! When she was asked "What do you think about a community garden in East Hampton?", Jennifer Guild said, "I think a community garden is a great healthy, community-based project that can help people in many different ways."



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want President Biden's \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief plan, yet Republicans balk and seek drastic cuts, whining that Biden is failing to negotiate.

But Biden well remembers how he and Obama sought bipartisanship on Obamacare, accepting several Republican demands. In the end, not one Republican voted for it. Same for Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. He kept watering it down to appease Republicans, and then only three supported it. Most economists say it would have been far better had Obama gone with his initial plan, which would have passed without any GOP votes. Only fools negotiate with an intractable enemy that has no intention of supporting the outcome.

Elsewhere, a giant national corrective gathers steam. Smartmatic's \$2.7 billion lawsuit against Fox News has them lessening the lies, jettisoning Lou Dobbs and his baseless claims of voting machine irregularities. After 20 years of Fox being the top cable news channel, CNN and MSNBC are now #1 and #2. Subscriptions to *The New York Times* are way up. QAnon Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene rightfully lost her committee appointments. Jewish space lasers starting California fires? Connecticut's Sandy Hook Elementary massacre was staged? No rabbit hole is too deep or bizarre for far-right Republicans.

Ed Smith – Andover

Irrational Hatred

To the Editor:

Our progressive writers are consumed with irrational hatred and rage, without which their lives would be devoid of meaning. They reside in a world of lies where dismissal of truth is regarded as collateral damage justifying perpetuation of their nonsensical narratives. Unfaltering fealty to these lies is essential as progressivism is irrevocably based upon them.

The only person allegedly murdered in the Capitol Hill event was the unarmed woman military veteran shot in the neck by a policeman while climbing through a broken window. Three protesters died from non-related medical conditions. CNN has conceded no evidence has been found that any protesters accosted the Capitol Hill cop who died, let alone having hit him in the head with a fire extinguisher.

He likely was hit by pepper spray from fellow officers, and after returning to his office several hours later succumbed for undisclosed reasons. But the truth can't dissuade our hate-filled progressives from sustaining this lie. And calling this event an "insurrection" and attempted government takeover requires being an idiotic buffoon.

Of the 500,000 people attending the rally, 200 of them engaged in the illegal intrusion of the Capitol Building. That means 99.9%+ of those present had absolutely no role in this whatsoever. And the incursion began 20 minutes before Trump completed his speech urging people to express themselves "peacefully and patriotically."

AOC, the psychotic drama-queen, fabricated an entire series of non-existent events and wasn't even in the Capitol building, but was safely ensconced in an adjacent building unaffected by the breach. None of the "attackers" were armed and we're to believe the mentally ill moron adorned in Viking horns was going to become our new leader!

Progressives absurdly call for civility, unity, and substance while refusing to ever provide any of their own.

Sam Prentice – Andover

Thanks for Plowing!

To the Editor:

This is to thank the person responsible for plowing out my driveway Tuesday morning. I didn't see you do it. Such a really nice surprise!

Thanks again!

Carol Johnson – Marlborough

Historic Connections

To the Editor:

Connecticut has become the first U.S. state to require a high school course in Black and Latino studies. Embedded in this act are also the requirements to include materials about Native Americans, Holocaust, Irish Famine and labor. Interestingly, Hebron has historic connections to all of these topics.

In 1774, 52 Blacks lived in Hebron; most were enslaved. Little is known about them except Cesar Peters, whose illegal sale was foiled by his Burnt Hill neighbors. Once freed, Peters prospered. In 1814, he owned a two-story house fashionably furnished. Black neighbor Eber Oran's Hebron center house had four fireplaces. Not all Blacks were as fortunate. Peters' fellow slave Pomp Mendo was warned out of Lebanon to avoid pauper expenses. In the 1800s, Hebron accommodated a number of Black families. Though they couldn't vote, Hebron blacks fought in both the Revolutionary and Civil wars. Hebron's Josephine Griffing worked closely with Abraham Lincoln in 1865 to establish the Freeman's Bureau.

John Trumbull whose paintings decorate the U.S. Capitol rotunda lamented that he never learned Spanish from a retired Latin American sea captain in Hebron. The West Indian trade and mills weaving southern cotton resulted in prosperity throughout Hebron.

Lithic points from Burnt Hill testify that Native Americans lived in Hebron for 7000 years before English settlers arrived. After settlement, Native and African Americans lived next to English settlers.

Immigrants provided the labor keeping Hebron's economy going when traditional farming began to wane. Baron de Hirsch's self-financed plan to turn urban Jews into rural farmers saved many Hebron farms. The Amston rail line brought Irish and others to settle in Hebron.

Clearly, Hebron has been a very accommodating community. It's very important to preserve, incorporate and teach about these valuable contributions made by past Hebron residents.

John Baron – Hebron

New Year's Resolution

To the Editor:

Each year, at the turn of the new year, millions of us reflect on our habits and behaviors, successes and failures, and vow to change or improve ourselves in the upcoming year. For some, it may be to get in shape or lose weight, or to kick a bad habit. I made a New Year's Resolution for 2021 to stay involved in local and state issues and to make sure my voice is heard. With January behind us, I've continued to stay involved with local and state issues, to participate in different discussions, to continue serving on my local Zoning Board of Appeals, and to volunteer with several different local

employment and community initiatives. I am going to continue to give of my time and energy, to serve my community. During my 2020 run for state Senate in the 19th district, I had the wonderful opportunity to meet thousands of people across the district. Although my run for office did not end in a win at the polls, the experience of learning and understanding more about how government functions was eye opening and rewarding for me.

One of the first steps you can take to get involved in local government is to seek out your local political town committee. Regardless of your political affiliation, the leaders on these town committees may be able to help guide one to an area of need. Much of the information regarding boards and committees can also be found on your town's website. When I was considering getting more involved locally a couple of years ago, I called our town manager, and I received a list of committee and volunteer opportunities. For those out there pondering whether you can make a difference by participating in local government: Your community needs your involvement more than you know.

**Steve Weir – Hebron
Former Republican Candidate
for State Senate, 19th District**

School Budget Issues

To the Editor:

After reading last week's article about the Andover Board of Selectmen having issues with the Andover Board of Education's budget, I contacted one of the selectmen in the article. I know him pretty well and have served with him in the past, on several boards. The way he was portrayed by one person in the article does not describe the person I know, but the person making the accusation. In any event, the increase in the school budget is not reasonable. I've lived here over 50 years and have seen budgets go through rejection after rejection, when excessive. Referendums cost \$2,000 a few years ago; it's probably over \$3,000 now. That's taxpayer dollars.

I have an issue with three kindergarten classes with 10 students per class instead of two with 15 each, when the state average is 17.

Editor's Desk continued from page 2

cinnamon rolls. Her love for them was unmatched.

"Marilyn is survived by her sisters, Melda and Linda, and her brother, Lloyd, who still owes her \$600* (*inside family joke – sorry, Lloyd). Marilyn is also survived by an incredible number of close friends, who cannot be named for fear of missing somebody.

"Marilyn, ever the penny-pincher, decided to leave this world on the day Moncton went into red-alert, her sons believe, to avoid paying for a funeral. But, on the other hand, she always said that she didn't want a funeral, she wanted an Irish wake. She didn't want everybody moping around; she wanted a party. Marilyn will get her celebration of life when COVID-19 is over.

"In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you do something nice for somebody else unexpectedly, and without explanation. We love you, mom, a bushel and a peck. A bushel and a peck and a hug around the neck."

Just a very sweet, charming obituary. Marilyn sounds like she was a fantastic lady – and a lot of fun.

I have an issue with paying \$800,000 more, on a per-student basis, than Hebron and \$1,000,000 more than Marlborough to educate K-6 and Andover Elementary School.

I have an issue with budgeting 10 times more for Pre-K snacks and supplies than Hebron and four times the cost of a pre-K liaison.

When parents and other taxpayers have been through a year of COVID-19 restrictions and loss of income, it is indefensible to propose a budget that will lead to a sizeable increase in taxes for our citizens, if it were to pass, which is doubtful. People have had to be very prudent with their money this past year and I suggest that the school board do the same.

I respect the Board of Selectmen for trying to protect the Andover taxpayers from unnecessary spending. I also respect the teachers for what they do, but the taxpayer needs respect, too.

**Respectfully submitted,
Georgette Conrad – Andover**

Note: Conrad is chairman of the Andover Board of Assessment Appeals, but said she is writing as a private citizen.

David's Bench

To the Editor:

The Portland Parks & Recreation Department would like to extend a sincere thank you to Mark Coman, Bruce Andrus, Joel Rosano, Bob Skully, and an anonymous fifth individual for their memorial brownstone bench donation which currently looks over the Portland Reservoir.

Mark contacted our department this past October to share his group's like-minded goal of celebrating the life of Portland resident, David Hadden. In collaboration with Dean Soucy at Quarry View, the brownstone bench was constructed and delivered to the Portland Reservoir. Since the installation of David's Bench, the Parks & Recreation Department has received many compliments about it. This tranquil location is perfect to enjoy nature, picnic with family and friends, or relax while casting a line.

I had asked Mark if he or anyone from his donating committee would like to share a few words to recognize David and his view of Port-

Several years ago, a good friend of mine came up with the idea for International Pie for Breakfast Day. Yes, a look around the internet reveals there may be other "pie for breakfast" days out there, but as my group of friends and I will tell you, there's only one real one. And it's always the second Saturday in February – which is tomorrow.

Typically, my friends and I mark the day by getting together at one of our houses, to swap pies and laughs. Alas, due to the pandemic, an in-person gathering isn't feasible this year. But we'll be getting together virtually, so at least the celebration will continue in some fashion.

I encourage all of you to craft your own International Pie for Breakfast Day celebrations. You can make the pie yourself, or you can simply buy one (as I lazily do more often than not). No matter how you do it, it's a sweet way to start a chilly February morning.

See you next week.

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

**Published Every Friday by The Glastonbury Citizen
87 Nutmeg Lane • Glastonbury, CT 06033**

Telephone (860) 633-4691 • Fax: (860) 657-3258

E-mail: bulletin@glcitizen.com

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 373 • Glastonbury, CT 06033

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land. Bruce Andrus recently reached back out to me with this heartfelt description:

"I think everyone who grew up with David Hadden would agree he was one of the most likeable guys in town. It was impossible to not be cheered by the sparkle in his eye, his quick wit, and his warm laugh. He loved Portland and was proud of this country and his service in the Air National Guard. He was a great friend with a generous spirit, an inspiring can-do attitude, great mechanical aptitude, and a complete absence of all prejudice. We deeply wish he had had many more years of good health."

I did not have the pleasure of knowing David; however, David's Bench will remain at Portland Reservoir as a way to continue spreading cheer and happiness to the Portland community, his closest friends, and most importantly, his family for many years to come.

**Nate Foley, Director
Portland Parks & Recreation**

Climate Change

To the Editor:

There appear to be forces around the world strongly pushing climate change, a.k.a. global warming. Since this may be a touchy topic for some people, I had best tread carefully.

Global warming picked up speed in 1976 and since the global warming alarmists kept missing their target of when the world would end, they changed to the term "climate change."

I can't agree with the term "global warming" and I do believe in climate change as the climate is in a constant state of change. I do not believe that our climate is being changed by humankind spewing out too much CO₂.

In case you didn't know, CO₂ is not a pollutant. It's a very important element and life on earth will cease to exist without it. Currently, from what I've read, the CO₂ levels are a bit low and if we continue to reduce those levels our food supplies will be reduced.

It's good that people are concerned about pollution and we should do what we can about cleaning our environment. However, scaring people to believe that we humans (and the cows) are to blame for temperature changes isn't good.

From what I've read, we're actually headed into a mini-ice age. It may be wise to start a garden just in case that is more correct than believing you will soon have an ocean front view without having moved.

I mentioned previously about "The Great Reset" and "Build Back Better" movement spearheaded by Bill Gates, George Soros, and Klaus Schwab, whose main focus is to establish a one-world government in their desired image.

P.S.: On a side note – what is this about "choosing sides"? Choosing sides is what is destroying our country. Choosing sides is the Democrats/Republicans not following what the

constituents desire but following their party, right or wrong.

Gary Gile – Andover

Stevens Wins Again

To the Editor:

Most of the letters last week were of strong opinions but not what you'd call hate. Gyllanhammer, Heitmann and Kozlowski, coming from different parts of the spectrum, kept their letters civil. Zero on the Hate Meter. I'm new to these letters so I suspect there may have been spicier comments from them in the past.

Ed Smith throws around accusations and calling millions of people he knows nothing about buffoons, baseless paranoias and "less-educated classes." He also accused some of having no proof of their accusations; fair enough. He then goes on to make claims, with no proof of his accusations, stating elements of the Capitol mob sought to assassinate Pelosi, Pence and AOC. Smith gets a 6 again on the Hate Meter.

Joe Stevens wins again. He gets another 8 on the Hate Meter using terms such as "paranoid subculture" and "rabble," to name a few. His name-calling against those he disagrees with is abhorrent. He also states that the Capitol rioters wanted to overthrow the government. If that were the case there would have been many

deaths caused by armed rebels. This was not the case and hardly an insurrection despite the two unfortunate people killed. It was not the storming of the Bastille.

During the summer riots in many of our major cities there were hundreds of millions of dollars in damage. Twenty-plus people were killed, hundreds of police officers injured, and countless businesses and lives ruined. That is an insurrection.

William Oliver – Hebron

Random Acts of Kindness

To the Editor:

Wednesday, Feb. 17, is Random Acts of Kindness Day. It is easy to do and celebrate. All you have to do is to be extra kind and extra nice to someone that you know and don't know.

Here are some ways to practice this random act on Feb. 17 and every day, such as compliment a stranger or treat a homeless person to lunch, according to the "Random Act of Kindness Day – February 17, 2021" article from NationalToday.com. Also, say hello to people you don't know and people you do, write a positive handwritten note to your teacher, friend, co-worker or supervisor, pick up litter at a public park or school, place positive notes at work and home, pay for someone's coffee or snack,

shovel someone's driveway, check on a neighbor, spread cheer wherever you go and on social media. Most importantly, smile.

Once you do this, don't stop on Feb. 17. Make it a habit and do it every day.

Frank LoGiudice – Portland

Executive Orders

To the Editor:

In October 2020, candidate Joe Biden said the following: "We are a democracy – you get a consensus; you don't use executive powers unless you're a dictator." Over the last four years the left mainstream media has used that word to describe President Trump; now Biden issues 46 of these orders in two weeks. In his first 100 days, Donald Trump issued six!!

President Trump gave optimism to Americans, especially the middle working class families, and African Americans (lowest unemployment numbers ever). Joe Biden on the other hand said this would be a "dark and difficult time" for all Americans (except the billionaires, of course).

President Trump revived the economy, cut regulations, provided tax relief, stood up to China, controlled our borders and kept us out of war. Joe Biden brings 26,000 active duty

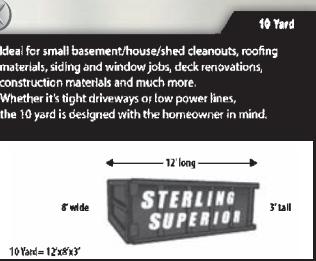
See Letters, page 6

Throw Out 2020...

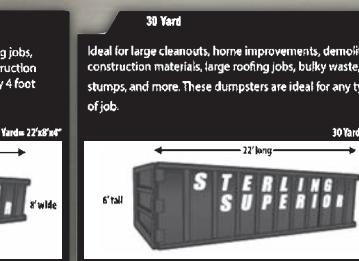
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Reader Forum • Reader Forum

★ Letters cont. from page 5

National Guardsmen and Women to "Occupy" Washington D.C. to protect the Capitol from insurrection and protests that never happened. Six thousand troops will remain as a "peacekeeping" force until April. Isn't that called martial law? We fence in the Capitol for "safety" – ? – but we stop building the security wall on our southern border allowing illegals to enter our country – unchecked – during a pandemic. I can just imagine what CNN and MSNBC would be saying if this happened under the Trump Administration, and why were these same federal troops not called in by the governors and mayors of Seattle and Portland when their cities were being ransacked?

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez wants the south – all southern states – to be "reprogrammed"? Is this Nazi Germany revisited?

Jack Dorsey, CEO of Twitter, should (of course he will not) turn on the accounts of President Trump and all conservatives and give free speech to all Americans, not just the left or those who have his views.

Don Denley – Andover

and suckers. They were silent when he abused the power of his office and obstructed justice. There was no objection when Trump incited an insurrection to delegitimize an election that he lost. They never seemed bothered by a raging pandemic that has claimed over 400,000 lives, while being downplayed as "just the flu."

In the face of these glaring hypocrisies and contradictions, Republicans want us to believe they are the victims, and their outrage is sincere. The truth is they're upset because they finally realize what the rest of the world already knew. Republicans no longer debate the merits or the facts; instead they argue procedure and language, which is the refuse of a frail intellect and an uneasy conscience.

Joe Stevens – Hebron

Anti-Racism, Cont.

To the Editor:

Rarely can a person be shamed into making positive and lasting change (think weight loss or quitting smoking); this isn't about shame or blame. While I am admittedly salty about trash being thrown at my mailbox, I won't dwell on the disgusting metaphor of using the base of a BLM flag as a garbage receptacle. The purpose here is to keep the conversation going and offer concrete actions that we can each take to continue the work of creating a more perfect community.

Many people have heard the famous David Foster Wallace commencement speech, "This is Water." If you have not, here's the link <https://fs.blog/2012/04/david-foster-wallace-this-is-water/>. The speech begins with a scenario about a more senior fish who, swimming by two younger fish, asks, "How's the water?" to which one of the younger fish pauses...then asks, "What the hell is water?" That is racism. It's not in the water; it is the water. It's the air we breathe. It's an overused analogy, but it's just so fitting. It's so big and all-encompassing that some of us cannot see it. For many it feels big and heavy and constant and suffocating. For others it is a non-issue. If racism is not an issue in your country, state, town, neighborhood, workplace, school, I challenge us to ask ourselves why it isn't an issue. The answer is likely that we are benefitting from some form of advantage that is hopefully derived from no overt action of our own.

So instead of championing ourselves for not throwing trash, let's shift the focus to what each of us as individuals can be doing to discourage

that behavior by our neighbors in our communities. Let's lose the shame and also stop soothng our own consciences.

More on this topic next week. Thoughts? pamcyrlong@gmail.com

**Thank you,
Pamela Cyr-Long – Marlborough**

E-Mail Letters

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

Regional • Regional • Regional • Regional • Regional • Regional • Regional

★ Vaccine Clinics cont. from page 1

Pont said the clinic was a group effort, and she commended Chatham Health District workers, as well as local library and senior center staff.

"It was a well-oiled machine," said Pont. "I'm a firm believer that good partnerships make all the difference."

Melmed said these clinics, are collaborative, with duties shared between Chatham Health, local senior centers and libraries, as well as the Connecticut chapter of the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), a national network of volunteer groups who work to "strengthen public health."

Melmed said MRC volunteers are the "unsung heroes" in the fight against COVID-19.

"We can't do this without MRC," said Melmed. "[In East Hampton] we would have had one vaccinator. With MRC, we had five."

The towns arranged these appointment-only clinics to help the advanced age group, many of whom don't own computers or have outdated devices. A common issue, Pont said, is seniors do not have their own email accounts with which to sign up for VAMS.

To alleviate this problem, Portland introduced a vaccine appointment hotline, while East Hampton advised local seniors to call the East Hampton Senior Center for arrangements.

Melmed said the main focus of local clinics is to enhance equity, and to ensure seniors don't "fall through the cracks."

However, Melmed said he doesn't recommend waiting for the next local clinic to get a dose. Instead, it should be thought of as one item on a menu of several options.

"If you simply wait for another local clinic, you could be waiting a while," said Melmed. "[Towns] won't have 500-person clinics. Next time there's one in East Hampton, for example, we may not get to everyone who's waiting."

Melmed said VAMS and the Vaccine Appointment Assist Line (VAAL) remain the best options to schedule vaccinations.

"I wouldn't encourage anyone to wait for the convenient option," said Melmed.

Improvements Needed

Although all three are pleased with how both clinics went, Melmed, Pont and Bransfield each said two factors remain to be improved.

The first is vaccine quantity and availability. The second is ensuring that anyone who receives a first dose does not leave without an appointment to get their booster.

Melmed said a second dose should be received within 28 days of the first.

Melmed and Pont both said they've heard from people anxious because they received their first dose at a mass vaccination site but left without knowing when they'll get that critical booster.

To remedy this, folks at both local clinics left with appointments for their second dose.

Melmed said scheduling boosters is easier for small, town-wide clinics, but said that, no matter what, more vaccine availability and wider distribution would help officials at mass vaccination sites better schedule patients' second doses.

Greater vaccine supply would also help to negate the issue of some states withholding half of their first dose vials and instead using them as second doses for a smaller amount of people.

"The science is supportive of vaccinating on the current schedule," said Melmed.

Melmed said the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is researching if it can adjust its vaccination recommendations. He said, if researchers determine there can be more time between doses, it will "make life easier to give as many [first doses] as we can."

"We just don't have the science that says, 'Okay, you can wait three months between doses,'" said Melmed.

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Portland • Portland

Anonymous Resident Installs Free Food Pantry

By Jack Lakowsky

A Portland resident has set up for community use a free food pantry on Route 17 near Cox Road.

The resident told the *Rivereast* Monday she wished to remain anonymous for this story, to convey that the pantry is owned by and serves everyone in the community.

"I've kind of made it my life's goal to help people, to support someone or a group in need," they said.

The Portland Corner Pantry is one way its maintainer will move forward with this goal. Another way is her business, a healthcare company that focuses on helping the medically underserved.

The family-operated pantry was erected just after Thanksgiving. The idea was to provide a private, convenient experience.

Although it may intermittently close for short-term maintenance, the pantry's keepers plan to keep it going indefinitely.

"We want people to be confident that it will be there when they need it or want to donate," the anonymous resident said. "If anything, we plan to make it bigger."

When the weather allows and when the pandemic abates, the resident and her family will also arrange for pop-up food pantries at events like the Portland Riverfront Park summer concert series.

These pantries will be unorthodox. Donors will be able to place items on the steps of old repurposed wooden ladders. Items received in this way will most likely be donated to the Portland Food Bank.

The family also plans to start a "pantry-mobile." A repurposed golf cart will serve as a mobile pantry for item pick-up and drop-off.

"We're seeing a really high turnaround," the resident said of demand for the charitable service.

The pantry adheres to food safety as a restaur-

rant would, with items rotated regularly. When the pantry is full, the family stores donations elsewhere to be used for restocking.

"If you have something, drop it off, even if the pantry looks full," she said.

The pantry hopes for more personal care products—hand and body soaps, razors, shampoo and conditioner, feminine hygiene items, cleaning supplies and the like.

Facemasks and antibacterial products are also hot items. The pantry itself is sanitized regularly. Donations can be contact-free, and items left near the pantry will be picked up quickly.

For canned items, ready-to-eat foods in tabbed cans are preferred. Donors are urged to check expiration dates before donating.

Kids' snacks are another in-demand item.

The pantry is open to pretty much all donations. Anything from leftover, unused holiday cards to school supplies will do. Donors should be mindful of where weather-sensitive items are left.

Items that don't get taken for a while are in turn donated to another outlet.

As outdoorspeople, the family is well-versed in keeping mice and other critters away from food.

"Now is a time more than ever for people to do some outward thinking, to think about everyone else out there, to maybe wake and think about what they can do for someone else," the resident said. "We encourage everyone to do what they can."

She added she and her family are delighted to "present an opportunity to people who want to donate and be charitable," but who also don't have enough free time to join a specific cause. With a pantry on a main road in town, busy residents can stop by on their way to work or while running errands.

"If you don't have the time, this simple thing can be your charity, your way to give back," she said. "People should feel good about that."

Social Justice Coalition to Host Webinar

On Monday, Feb. 15, from 6:30-8 p.m., via Zoom, the Portland Social Justice Coalition (PSJC) will host a viewing and discussion of the webinar "LGBTQ and TGNC Voices in our Communities," which was recorded by Sustainable CT.

The session addresses issues facing the LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Pansexual, and Queer) and TGNC (Transgender and Gender-Nonconforming) communities, and how gender and queer justice affects people. Those interested in participating in this viewing and conversation with members of the PSJC and Portland community may email us at portlandsocialjus-

tice@gmail.com for an invitation to the Zoom meeting. You can also learn more about Sustainable CT and view the webinar on your own at sustainablect.org.

The PSJC was formed in July 2020 and partners with other groups and organizations in town to create positive opportunities for dialogue and education. All who live, work, or are otherwise invested in Portland are welcomed to join the coalition. Email portlandsocialjustice@gmail.com for more information, or find the coalition on Facebook at facebook.com/Portland-CTSocialJustice.

Zion Lutheran Church News

Zion Lutheran Church will offer several opportunities for worship during the Lenten season.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on Feb. 17. As the church is still unable still to gather in person and since the application of ashes is a ritual that requires close contact, worship will look a little different this year. Ashes will still be involved, albeit virtually.

Together, the church will burn its palm leaves and learn a bit about this tradition as well as what it means. A liturgy/bulletin will also be provided on the church website at zionlutheranportland.org, so that participants can worship in their own home, marking themselves with a cross of water in remembrance of their baptism.

The service will be available on Zion's YouTube page at noon on Ash Wednesday.

Worship will continue during Lent on Wednesdays, beginning Feb. 17. Allen Hill, Zion's music director, will lead the Compline, or evening, services. They will be livestreamed to Zion's Facebook page at 7 p.m. each Wednesday and then will be posted onto the YouTube page the following day for easy access at any time.

Because of the changing nature of COVID-19, vaccinations and more, the Worship and Music committee is still making plans for Holy Week and Easter. Details will be available as soon as possible, through an article in the *Rivereast* and online at zionlutheranportland.org. Call the church at 860-342-2860 to be added to the weekly email blast.

Zion continues to offer online worship services that are available for viewing Sundays af-

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Portland • Portland

Chill for Change Fundraiser at Camp Ingersoll

The seventh annual Chill for Change nears, to support YMCA Camp Ingersoll, will take place Saturday, Feb. 20, and although it may look a little different this year, there are still opportunities for community members to get involved – through jumping in the pond, donating, or volunteering at the event.

YMCA Camp Ingersoll features a ropes course, boating, nature, swimming, archery, arts and crafts, and more.

Due to COVID-19, Camp Ingersoll is again planning on limiting numbers this summer, although it will allow more campers to attend this year than last – and the Middlesex YMCA said its goal is to make the camp accessible to every family that desires it. Each year, the individual who raises the most money will receive a certificate for a free session of camp. This certificate can be used for your own family, or given to anyone you know.

The goal for 2021 goal is to raise over \$15,000. Adjustments for this year include limiting spectators; livestreaming the event; creating designated, socially-distanced, spaces for each participant to wait in; folks checking in before exiting vehicles; and increased sanitation protocols after participants change after jumping.

To register, visit www.campingersoll.org and click on the 'Chill for Change' link under the 'Family and Events' tab. Jumpers can form a team or jump as an individual, but all jumpers should raise at least \$100 to participate. All funds raised go directly to providing scholarships for camp families.

Check-in starts at 12:30 p.m. Feb. 20 and the jumping will begin at 1 p.m.

For more information, contact Ben Silliman at bsilliman@midymca.org or 860-342-2267, or search 'YMCA Camp Ingersoll' on Facebook.

Trinity Episcopal Church News

Due to COVID-19, Trinity Episcopal Church, 345 Main St., is not currently holding inside Sunday services or Church School. Weather permitting, drive-in church parking lot services are being held at 9 a.m. Sundays.

The church is also continuing its 10:30 a.m. Zoom Sunday services indefinitely. Additional information on church services or Bible study opportunities is at trinitychurchportlandct.org.

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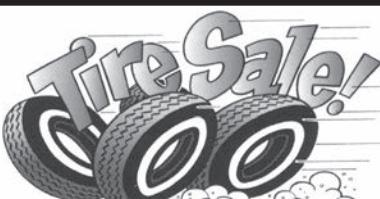
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Senior Center News & Notes

Movies for Grownups Screening: Friday, Feb. 26, 8-10 p.m. *Amazing Grace* will be screened. You must create an account on Eventive in order to access the movie. To register, visit www.aarp.org/ctevents.

T'ai Chi with Tom Cushing: Thursdays, 10-10:30 a.m., via Zoom. A new session will run March 4-April 22. Cost is \$40 per eight-week session, payable to Portland Senior Center. Call the senior center if interested.

AARP Smart Driver Virtual Course: This is a pilot program; therefore, there is no date set yet. Instead, the senior center is putting the word out to see if there is enough interest. Fee will be \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for non-members. Contact the senior center if interested.

Watercolor Lessons with Bivenne Staiger: While lessons at the center are currently on hold, seniors may take online lessons with Staiger through Yale Peabody Museum's Natural Sciences Illustration Program. Visit www.peabody.yale.edu for more information or email bivenne@yahoo.com.

Medical Rides: The center is offering seniors and disabled rides to the doctor on a limited basis. Fee is \$5 per person. Two weeks' notice is requested. Masks are required.

Foot Care at the Center: The fourth Tuesday of each month, in the Nurses' Room on the lower level of the center. Upon entering and leaving the building hand sanitizer must be used and a mask must be worn. Fee is \$35 cash or check. Appointments run from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; call the center to schedule one.

Cans-4-A-Cause: Bottles and cans can be dropped off at the senior center. Call the center for more information or email Jeff at myjakjeff@gmail.com.

Foodshare Truck Coming

The Foodshare truck will be at the Waverly Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave., on Monday, Feb. 22, at 1 p.m., for a drive-thru event. Individual pre-made boxes will be distributed on this day.

This is open to anyone; you do not have to be a Portland resident. Enter at Portland Library on Freestone Avenue, have your trunk open, and depart past the senior center onto Waverly Avenue.

Valentine's Fundraiser

The Chatham Children's Connection will host a Valentine's Fundraiser. All proceeds will be used to fund activities and events for all children within the community.

Roses will be available for purchase outside of Family Dollar, 352 Marlborough St., on Friday, Feb. 12, from 4-6 p.m. while supplies last; Saturday, Feb. 13, from 1-5 p.m.; and Sunday, Feb. 14, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., while supplies last.

Project Graduation Fundariser

Melilli Caffé and Grill in Portland donating a percentage of all sales every Wednesday this month to support Portland High School Project Graduation.

On Feb. 17 and 24, anyone who mentions Project Graduation when ordering will have 25% of the cost of their purchase donated to the committee, which puts on an all-night drug-and alcohol-free party held for PHS seniors the night of their graduation.

Melilli Caffé and Grill is located at 264 Main St., and can be reached at 860-342-4035.



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Portland • Portland

Middle School Honor Roll

Portland Middle School has announced the honor roll for the second marking period of the 2020-21 school year.

High Honors

Grade 8: Sydney Allen, Emily Bernard, Logan Binnington, Elizabeth Bustamante, Lukas Day, Amelia Dietrichsen, Paige Fitzgibbons, Jordan Harley, Kayla Johnson, Megan Kasperowski, Skyler Keoppen, Catalina Koji, Isabella Levesque, Raymond Lin, Annabelle Maruschock, Nicholas Oliva, Morganne Pineda, Gracie Roberts, Elliott Rowland, Zimion Winston.

Grade 7: Elizabeth Barr, Aiden Burrus, Laila Coleman, Brady Daggett, Lillian Gaetani, Gerry Hall, Rita Lin, Nathan Quesnel, Grace Thrasher, Allison Tine, Madeleine Vardon.

Honors

Grade 8: Gabrielle Arnold, Frederick Bailey, Bradley Bourne, Joshua Cruz, Ava Deckelman, Emily DeRing, Zachary Dickson, Nicholas Dumais, Emelia Eckert, Na-

than Green, Christopher Hamel, Caden Hennessey, Alina Kroeker, Jack Larson, Jaychelle Lockhart, Cassidy Maruschock, Ty Mazzotta, Owen McGinley, Christopher Myers, Elizabeth Nedobity, Claire Palma, Aidan Peterson, Avery Quesnel, Michael Rambarose, Brianna Renaud, Ella Royea, Anna Stone, Parker Thompson, Madelyn Varano, Julian Wimler, Elizabeth Windnagle, Summer Wright, Maryn Yost.

Grade 7: Joseph Amendola, Joseph Angersola, Cristina Austin, Breckin Burke, Aaron Ciarleglio, Adam Dean, Gracie DeRing, Ryan Farley, Audrey Farmer, Evelyn Hair, Theresa Hunter, Corbin Jacobson, Logan Kehoe, Daniel King, Joshua King, Cameron Lopez, Ryan McGrew, Cade Modon, Ryan Modon, Eunice Ngunjiri, Patrick O'Rourke, Evan Piacente, Delaney Poach, Logan Prince, Brody Quinn, Joshua Rosado, Emelia Rowland, Noah Sardinskas, Kiley Scott, Andrew Sobieski, Cate Stone, Mara Tuttle, Chase VanDeventer, Evan Vieira-Deschene, Ethan Wells.

Project Grad Fundraiser

Inner Circle Family Martial Arts of Portland owner Michael Pelton will donate 50% of the proceeds of virtual fitness classes to Portland High School Project Graduation.

Classes accommodate cardio, body weight exercises, stretching and more. Classes run every Tuesday and Thursday, 6-7 p.m., through April 1. As an added bonus, participants will have access to one free in-person class during weekdays.

Cost is \$40 per month. Inner Circle can be reached at 860-342-2381.

Project Graduation is an all-night drug- and alcohol-free party held for PHS seniors the night of their graduation.

Dean's List

Abigail Dalton of Portland made the fall 2020 Dean's List at the University of Maine, Orono.

Dalton is a biophysical psychology major with minors in pre-med and neuroscience.

Dean's List

Juliet Hryniszyn of Portland made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Southern Connecticut State University. Her parents are Peter and Adela Hryniszyn.

Dean's List

Portland residents Emily DiSalvo, Jenna Lasstrina and Christine Picard made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Quinnipiac University in Hamden.

Kindergarten Registration

Valley View School in Portland has announced its kindergarten registration process for the 2021-22 school year.

Parents/guardians of children who will be 5 on or before Jan. 1, 2022, should contact Valley View at pgross@portlandct.us to indicate if they will be registering the child for kindergarten. Provide your child's full name, phone number and address.

Further information regarding kindergarten registration will then be provided.

St. Mary Church News

St. Mary Roman Catholic Church is located at 45 Freestone Ave. The Rev. John Antonelle is pastor, Dana Garry is deacon and Jeanne Samoilik is director of music. The church office can be reached at 860-342-2328. For more information, visit www.stmaryportlandct.org.

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

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

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

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

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

Holy Hour Benediction: First Friday of ev-

ery month following the 12:10 p.m. Mass.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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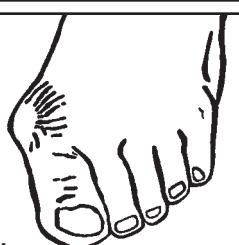
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First Congregational Church News

First Congregational Church of Portland is a member of the United Church of Christ denomination, and is an Open and Affirming congregation. It is located at 554 Main St.

Weekly worship services are recorded in the church sanctuary and available on the church's YouTube channel (First Church of Portland, CT). Virtual church school is offered weekly by Ann Labby, Director of Christian Education.

Ash Wednesday will be observed Feb. 17 with a worship service on the church's YouTube channel, led by the Rev. Jane Hawken.

On Saturday, Feb. 20, at 6:30 p.m., the 300th Anniversary Committee will hold a February Firepit Fun event in the backfield of the church around a warm fire and lighted luminaries. This will be a time to hear the history of the area.

S'mores will be served. Attendees are reminded to bring a chair and dress warmly, and to wear a facemask. Social distancing will be observed.

The church's outreach ministry will be evident Thursday, Feb. 25, when the Missions Board and the Confirmation Class will provide a hot supper for Streetfire Ministries in Middletown, as part of an ongoing relationship with this organization.

Anyone wishing to be added to the mailing lists (both electronic and postal service) of this congregation should email first.church.pct@sbcglobal.net, or leave a message at 860-342-3244. For more information, look for the church on Facebook at The First Congregational Church of Portland, or visit www.firstchurch-portlandct.org.

Portland Library News & Notes

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

Curbside Only: Due to COVID-19 concerns, Portland Library is closed until further notice. Curbside delivery is available; hours are Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-4:45 p.m.; and Saturday, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Reserve items through the online catalog or call 860-342-6770. The outdoor book return is open 24/7, is emptied frequently, and the library continues to waive fines. If you need to print, scan and/or fax, call the library.

Hours and services are subject to change; call the library or access the webpage for current hours. The library is also on Facebook and Instagram.

Holiday Closing: The library will be closed Monday, Feb. 15, for Presidents Day. There will be no services.

Youth Programs: Winter Reading Program: For each row you complete on the Winter Reading Bingo card, the library will donate one can of cat or dog food to Portland Food Bank. Stop in to the library this month to pick up a bingo card. When you complete a row, email jrenk@portlandct.org or post a picture to the library's Facebook or Instagram pages and write whether you want to donate a can of cat or dog food.

Online Storytime: Tuesday, Feb. 23, at 10 a.m., via Zoom. Share stories, songs and other activities. Registration is required; space is limited. A Zoom link will be provided within 24 hours of the program.

NatureCrafting: Thursdays, Feb. 18-March 25, 3:30 p.m., via Zoom. For grades K-5. Explore the worlds of herbs, spices, seeds, nuts

Dean's List

Kaitlyn Tran of Portland made the fall 2020 Dean's List at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta.

Dean's List

Christopher Adamsons of Portland made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Connecticut College in New London.

A member of the Class of 2022 and studying neuroscience, Adamsons earned Dean's Honors.

Federal Tax Forms for 2020: The library has links to forms on its website, and the 1040 and 1040SR forms are available curbside. Call the library for more information on how to obtain forms.

Save the Date: On Thursday, March 4, at 7 p.m., via Zoom, Portland Library will present "Beyond the Amistad: Black History at the Connecticut Historical Society." A CHS docent will talk about the photographic depictions of many unrecognized accomplishments of black citizens of Connecticut. This event was funded by a donation from Inner Circle Family Martial Arts LLC and Be Stronger Personal Training LLC, raised during a 2020 community 5K race they sponsored.

New Tool to Identify Home Energy Consumption: The Kill-A-Watt power meter can tell you the actual electrical consumption of small to medium electrical devices in your home. It will also help you discover the hidden or 'phantom' loads that are common when electrical devices are turned off. Library patrons are able to check out a toolkit just as they would check out a book.

Hebron • Hebron

Grand List Climbs 1.42%

By Sloan Brewster

Hebron's Grand List has increased by 1.42%, Assessor Debra Gernhardt announced last week.

Gernhardt presented the Oct. 1, 2020 list at last week's meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

The net grand list, according to the numbers released by the town, is \$798.27 million, an \$11.15 million, or 1.42% increase, over the 2019 list. That year's list signified a 1.10% increase over 2018.

With the exception of a revaluation year and the year Colebrook Village was completed, the town has not seen a 1.42% hike since 2005, Gernhardt said.

"So the town is really growing," she said. "A lot of new construction."

Real estate went up by \$4.47 million, or .65%, to \$690.57 million, according to the grand list report. Personal property climbed by \$1.12 million or 5.35% to \$22.38 million. Motor vehicles increased by \$5.56 million or 6.97% to \$85.32 million.

The mill rate, which is used to calculate property taxes, is the amount of tax payable per dollar of the assessed value of a property and represents the amount per \$1,000 of the assessed value of the property.

Based on the 2019 Grand List, one mill will represent \$798,274.50.

The current mill rate is 36.33 mills.

Gernhardt attributed the "major increase" in real estate to improvements to existing properties and new residential construction.

"When [Building Official Randy Blais] says the building department's busy, they are busy," she said.

Gernhardt said the increase in personal property was mostly the product of new equipment purchases and the motor vehicle increase was due to people getting new vehicles.

In a phone call Tuesday, Town Manager Andrew Tierney said it was "a tick up and we'll take it," but that the increase is not as high as it appears.

"It looks like millions of dollars but when it's equated to a grand list, it's not a landfall," he said. "That's good to have but could always be better."

Dean's List

Hebron resident Faustino Villanueva, a business administration major, made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Northeastern University in Boston.

Exemptions

Tierney echoed Gernhardt's comments that the building department was busy working on new houses and additions and predicted that next year there would be even more growth.

He said real estate agents in town are currently looking for homes to sell as there is no inventory.

While Tierney said the commercial end had not seen any swell, he said there may be some increased business in next year's list.

Top 10 Taxpayers

For town budgeting purposes, Gernhardt tweaked the numbers to account for exemptions. After these exemptions are applied the net grand list comes in at \$793.21 million, a \$13.65 million or 1.75% over 2019, Gernhardt said.

The exemptions are based on \$315,170 in assessment adjustments for crumbling foundations and a tax incentive that cuts taxes on Colebrook Village, or Hebron Senior Living LLC, bringing its assessment to \$4.75 million.

Colebrook Village, which opened in May 2018, is in the fourth year of its tax break – which was an initiative of the Economic Development Commission, Gernhardt said. The tax break goes down by 20% each year, she said. This year, the facility will pay taxes on 60% of the assessed value of the property.

The reductions for crumbling foundations are due to Public Act 16-45, which allows individuals with crumbling foundations, who provide an engineer's report at inspection, to have their assessments reduced for up to five years, Gernhardt said. The amount of the reduction depends on the severity of the crumbling foundation.

Since four of the eight affected properties in town have been repaired and returned to full value, the exemptions are \$121,440 less for 2020 than they were last year, when they were \$436,610.

Top 10 Taxpayers

At \$12.39 million, the number one assessment goes to the senior living facility, according to the top 10 taxpayer list. Connecticut Light & Power Co., with an assessed value of \$12.35 million, comes in second. Hebron Lincoln LLC, with a \$2.45 million assessment is

Dean's List

Michael Colonna an exercise and sport science major from Amston, made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Coastal Carolina University in Conway, S.C.



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number three. The Connecticut Water Company is number four with a \$2.30 million assessment. Village Shoppes LLC, with an assessed value of \$1.84 million is number five. Hebron Country Manor LLC is number six and comes in with a \$1.81 million assessment. Blackledge Country Club Inc., at \$1.58 million in assessed value takes seventh place. Amirzai Property

Trust LLC, with an assessed value of \$1.51 million is in eighth place. Genco Olde Hartford Road LLC, with a \$1.45 million assessment is number 9. 41-61 Main Street LLC, with a \$1,308,340 million assessment, is number 10.

All told, the top 10 taxpayers bring \$38.97 million in assessed property value to the town.



Gilead Congregational Church is offering red "Hearts of Hope" to raise money for AHM Youth and Family Services' Community Mental Health Fund.

Gilead Church Offers Hearts of Hope

Gilead Congregational Church is helping to support the mental health of those in the community by raising funds for AHM Youth and Family Services' Community Mental Health Fund.

The AHM Community Mental Health Fund was started to support the mental health of children, youth and families in our communities by making financial assistance available for those in need.

Red cling hearts are available to pick up in tubs in Hebron at AHM Youth and Family Services, Ted's Supermarket, Ace Hardware,

the Douglas Library, Gilead Congregational Church, UCC, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, and Church of the Holy Family; they are also at Richmond Memorial Library in Marlborough, and Andover Public Library.

Hearts are free; however, the church is asking people to go online and make at least a \$10 donation to AHM Youth & Family Services to support the Community Mental Health Fund. To make a donation, go to ahmyouth.org and click on "Make a Donation" in the upper right corner and designate the "Community Mental Health/Hearts of Hope" as the recipient.

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Hebron • Hebron

Book by Retired Cop Shares ‘Real Version’ of Police Work

By Sloan Brewster

A Hebron resident and retired East Hartford police sergeant has completed his first book, *Front Row Seat*, which he said offers a more realistic view of police work than what Hollywood usually provides.

Mark Kelly, who spoke to the *Rivereast* last week, said the “real version” of police work is more exciting than the sensationalized Hollywood depiction.

The project to write the book, which was published in November by Mindstar Media, began as a means to answer questions from friends and family after seeing news reports on the news and wondering why officers would do “this and that,” he said.

He said he felt the best way to illustrate police responses, which are based on training, culture and experience, was to write a book and go more in depth into the subject matter.

Real cops, he said, aren’t like the heroes in a John Grisham novel who are all weapons experts. Some are weapons experts and others are proficient in other specialties or tactics.

He wanted his readers to see the unedited version of real life situations and bear witness to crises officers encounter as they “go call-to-call.”

Kelly wrote about calls he or officers he knew went on, telling the whole story – while changing the names.

For example, he told the story of Brian Aselton, a police officer who was killed 22 years ago.

According to a write-up by the Connecticut Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation, Aselton was 26 and had been on the East Hartford police force for two years when he responded in January 1999 to a routine noise complaint and interrupted a home invasion, saving the tenant’s

life.

Aselton was shot in the forehead during a struggle with one of the suspects.

“That incident is covered [in the book] and how the lives unfolded, how police... my feelings... about the people we caught and the political failures based on the town, town hall and even the administration,” he said.

Kelly said that on a television drama there would perhaps be 100 cops on the scene after an officer was killed, but in real life, police response in a smaller town doesn’t look like that.

“I feel like an incident can overwhelm you; you don’t have 100 cops on the scene,” he said. “This was all patrol work.”

Patrol officers go to work not knowing what will transpire throughout the course of the day or if a call they go on “is going to be funny or a tragedy,” Kelly said.

Another scenario in the book depicts a young new officer walking into a scene not knowing what to expect from someone she has not dealt with before.

“It’s a scene where it puts you there a bit overwhelmed and that’s what I want people to understand is that we get overwhelmed as well but we still have a job to do,” Kelly said. “But sometimes you walk into somebody’s living room and can’t help [yourself] from laughing.”

Another call in the book was a report on “a suspicious act under the dumpster,” which Todd Hanlon, a retired East Hartford police officer, friend of Kelly, and resident of East Hampton, went on.

Hanlon, who also spoke to the *Rivereast*, wouldn’t say it if was a call that made him laugh.

“Cops make light of certain things,” he said. “That’s how you get through the day.”

Hanlon said Kelly achieved the goal he set when he started the book.

“I do believe he did capture a police officer’s experience, different aspects of our job,” Hanlon said. “As far as your adrenaline rush, your adrenaline dump, that occurs. [There’s] a lot of down time, then you’re 100% and you’re going so I think he did a good job capturing [that].”

Cromwell resident Timothy Juergens who is also retired from the East Hartford force, concurred.

“The book is definitely based on day-to-day police work as opposed to sensationalism that TV a lot of times portrays police work to be,” he said. “Every day is unique. Some days are exciting, some are not. A lot are in between. Mark did a good job portraying that.”

Kelly, who dropped out of college for a six-year stint in the Marine Corps, said he taught himself to write.

As a police officer, he “banged out” reports and “moved on,” he said. “So you’re not writing feelings or novels or painting a picture.”

He said he thought he would get on his boat, sail to the Caribbean and write the book under a palm tree. Ultimately, he wrote “here and there” over a five-year period.

Kelly said he spent a lot of that time sitting in a chair looking out the window as he put down words to bring readers to the scenes he was describing. He wanted them to see and hear what he saw and heard, and feel his fear and anxiety.

Christ Lutheran News & Notes

person and also livestreamed at facebook.com/CLCHebron.

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

Caring Shepherds: Will hand out hygiene kits, Bibles and supplies at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 20, at 877 Main St. in Willimantic. Caring Shepherds will also provide free items from its Community Pantry to those in need onsite Saturday, Feb. 13, at 8 a.m. Call ahead to indicate you will be arriving. For more information about Caring Shepherd’s ministry, call at 860-494-0431.

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

Community Distribution of Ashes

In the Christian tradition, the season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, which this year is Feb. 17. All in the community who would like are invited to Veterans Memorial Park (located on Wall Street, Route 316, across the street from the high school) between noon and 1 p.m. that day to receive the imposition of ashes.

Members of the Hebron clergy will be present. Social distancing will be practiced, and masks are mandatory.

Gilead Congregational Church News

Gilead Congregational Church, an Open and Affirming Congregation located at Gilead Street and Meeting House Road, has announced the following. For more information, visit gileadchurchucc.org, email the church office at gcc@gileadchurch.net, or call Pastor Denise Esslinger at the church office at 860-228-3077.

Sunday Worship: This Sunday, Feb. 14, worship will be via livestream only, at 10 a.m. People can watch on either YouTube or Facebook. For YouTube, go to www.bit.ly/Gilead-ChurchUCC. Click on ‘subscribe’ to be notified of future livestreams or new videos. For Facebook, go to tinyurl.com/GileadChurchUCC. Recordings of services will be available on either platform after the service.

Upcoming Events: Lenten Zoom Church Gatherings: The Board of Deacons invites all to these gatherings to revisit the theme of resiliency and weathering the storms of life. The book *Weathering the Storms* by Tracy Mehr-Muska will be used as a guide. While it isn’t necessary to read the book to join in the discussions, you can purchase the book on Amazon for \$21. There are three different times to choose from: Sundays, Feb. 21-March 21, 4-5 p.m., led by Amy Destine and Lynn Lukach; Tuesdays, Feb. 23-March 23, 7-8 p.m., led by David Kline and Margot Sheehan; and Wednesdays, Feb. 24-March 24, 3-4 p.m., led by Jon Kimball and Ginny Miller. There will also be a single Zoom gathering Sunday, Feb. 21, 6-7 p.m., specifically focused on resiliency for families with children. At this gathering, the group will discuss whether it would like to continue to meet. For more information, contact the church.

Laundry Detergent Drive for Hebron In-

terfaith Human Services: The Confirmation Class of 2021 is looking for detergent donations, which can be placed outside the main entrance to the church. Donations will be brought to Hebron Interfaith Human Services once a week. Those who wish to donate may also call the church office to have the detergent picked up. For more information, contact the office.

Bible Study on Zoom: Led by the Rev. Bob Woodward, the weekly study group meets Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. on Zoom. The group is discussing Ash Wednesday texts. All are invited; come when you can. For more information or assistance connecting with Zoom, contact the church office.

Silver Lake Summer Camp: Silver Lake has announced its offerings for the summer 2021 conference season. Details and registration are at www.silverlakect.org. Gilead Congregational’s Women’s Fellowship is offering to pay the \$150 deposit for any young person from the congregation who would like to attend Silver Lake; call Margaret Gibbs (860-384-4327) for more information.

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Hebron Has Vaccines for 75-and-Over Crowd

By Sloan Brewster

The town of Hebron has about 200 doses of the COVID-19 vaccination and has created a COVID-19 hotline to assist senior citizens.

The town has scheduled a vaccination clinic for folks 75 years old and older next Tuesday, Feb. 16, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at RHAM High School. Chatham Health District, which covers the towns of Colchester, East Hampton, Hebron, Marlborough, Portland and East Haddam, is sponsoring the event.

"We're supposed to have 200 doses, so we're trying to sign up as many people 75 and over that we can," Town Manager Andrew Tierney told the Board of Selectmen at its meeting last Thursday.

The town has also implemented a COVID-19 hotline to help seniors make appointments and get answers to other COVID-19 related questions, including about where to go to get tested, Sharron Garrard, the town's senior services director, said in a phone call Wednesday.

Some folks who have called about the clinic said they had made appointments in further away and less convenient locations, which they said they would cancel now that there are vac-

cines in town, Garrard said.

In the event individuals are not available to get the shots the day of the clinic, the hotline can also provide them with a website for a map to other vaccination clinics and help them access the map if they are having difficulty, Garrard said. While some people have trouble registering for vaccines through the state Vaccine Administration Management System [VAMS], the map can be filtered to find clinics in towns where appointments can be made by phone.

"There are many options, it's not solely through VAMS," she said.

A lot of people are opting for phone call registration as doing so with VAMS requires them to input their email address, date of birth and category, such as 75-plus, 65-plus or employee related. They must then wait for two different emails, one of which includes a code to input into the VAMS system.

The code, according to Garrard, has been a barrier to registration for a lot of less than internet savvy seniors.

While the Hebron clinic is exclusively for people 75 and older, as of yesterday – Thursday

– those aged 65 and older could begin registering for vaccines, as per Gov. Ned Lamont. Chatham will hold other clinics to bring vaccines to that age group and other populations as the governor frees up vaccines to them, Garrard said.

The second dose of the vaccine will be distributed in a clinic on Saturday, March 20, at RHAM.

Senior Center Pandemic Offerings

During the pandemic, the senior center has been offering many virtual programs, Garrard said. Information on these can be found in the Hebron Senior Center monthly newsletter, which is available online through the town website and on Facebook.

The senior center also provides transportation to seniors and offers Meals-on-Wheels to homebound individuals.

Grab-and-Go meals are available for \$12. Each package includes four frozen entries, dairy and snacks, Garrard said. The weekly meals are picked up on Mondays at the Russell Mercier Senior Center.

The center also provides assistance with enrollment for benefit programs and is taking applications for winter heating assistance. It also can help with Medicare related issues and is

taking appointments for an AARP Tax Aid Program.

Staff from the center has been reaching out to folks who are isolated during the pandemic and are making wellness calls, Garrard said.

Staff members have been certified in Zero Isolation – a virtual program developed by Quinnipiac professor Nicholas Nicholson. The center will be offering the program to interested seniors.

The program brings groups of eight individuals "who maybe are feeling bored or are tired of talking to the four walls" together for 90-minute sessions for a six week period.

"We really felt that it was an extremely worthwhile program," Garrard said.

Numbers and Websites

The number for the COVID-19 hotline is 860-228-5977.

A COVID-19 vaccination clinic map can be found at www.211ct.org/vaccineclinics

The most recent Hebron Senior Center monthly newsletter can be found on the town's website at hebronct.com/town-departments/senior-center.

The senior center Facebook page, with up-to-date info, is at www.facebook.com/RussellMercierSeniorCenter.

Douglas Library News & Notes

Douglas Library, located at 22 Main St., has announced the following pieces of news. For more information, call the library at 860-228-9312.

Lobby Pickups: The library is operating lobby pickup of materials during business hours, and electronic resources like Overdrive, Kanopy and Hoopla are available 24 hours a day. For updates, visit douglaslibrary.org or look for the library on Facebook. Lobby pickup hours: Monday and Wednesday, noon-7:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; and Saturday, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Call the library with any questions.

Holiday Closings: The library will be closed Monday, Feb. 15, for Presidents Day. It will reopen for lobby pickups Tuesday, Feb. 16, at 10 a.m.

Children's Department: Browse the online catalog to see the new selections. Titles are available for lobby pick-up. In the lobby, there are themed children's activity kits added weekly; first-come, first-served. Also, in addition to the regular recorded story times, the library will offer a special series for children aged 3-8, released each Friday on the Douglas Library website and on YouTube. An accompanying activity or craft will be available for participants to pick up in the library's lobby each week. The schedule is:

Feb. 19, *The Dinosaur Expert* by Margaret McNamara, with an activity kit to help kids make your very own fossils; Feb. 26, *Louis* by Tom Lichtenheld, followed by a craft kit including everything you need to make a wearable bear paw.

Arm Knitting: Tuesday, Feb. 23, 5 p.m., via Zoom, for ages 16 and up. Knitting and sewing instructor Dawn Zillich will show how to make an infinity scarf in less than an hour. Yarn will be provided, and knitting skills are not required. Supplies are limited, so registration with a valid email is required at douglaslibrary.org or by calling 860-228-9312.

Adult & Teen Crafts: In the lobby, patrons will find the monthly Take & Make craft bag.

February features how to make String Bowl Art, this kit includes the floss string, a balloon and glue. These will be available for pickup during our normal curbside hours and please only take one per household.

Tax Forms: The Connecticut DRS will not send the library tax booklets containing forms and instructions this year; however, the library will receive IRS forms 1040 and 1040 SR and instruction books for distribution. If you need other forms, call the main desk to have a copy printed and placed with curbside pickup items.

Returns: To avoid unnecessary handling of items, patrons are asked to return any items to the outside book and DVD drops. These items are put in quarantine for 48 hours prior to checking in, and will be backdated upon check-in.

Holds and Renewals: To renew or place a hold on items, log into your account at douglaslibrary.org; access the Acorn Catalog app on your mobile device; or call the library during business hours. Call for assistance logging into your account or to reset your password.

Faxing: Faxing is available by staff while the patron remains in the lobby. Upon arrival at the library, call the main desk and a staff member will meet you in the lobby. Charge is \$2 for the first page and \$1 for each additional page; the library can only accept cash or check at this time. Upon completion, you will receive a transmittal page which reflects the date and time of service.

Kill-A-Watt Meter: These devices allow residents to calculate the energy usage of appliances in their homes and identify which may be causing spikes in their monthly bills. All you need is a library card to check out a meter for one week; each one is accompanied by an instructional guide.

New Library Cards: People who live in Hebron or Amston and want a new library card can visit douglaslibrary.org and complete the online application under "Services." You will receive an email with your new card number and password, and the actual card will be mailed to you.

Resident Joins Real Estate Brokerage

Carl Guild & Associates recently announced real estate professional Emily Cyr of Hebron has joined the brokerage. Carl Guild & Associates is an independent real estate brokerage based in East Hampton that services clients throughout the central Connecticut region.



A former teacher, Cyr brings an educator's perspective to the process of buying and selling homes, said Carl Guild said, broker-owner of Carl Guild & Associates (CGA).

"We are so happy to have Emily join our team; she will be an incredible agent!" he said. "Her extensive background in the ever-evolving education field will be a great asset as she transitions to the real estate world."

Guild added he is "confident she will make her clients feel secure knowing she has their back all throughout their journey."

A lifelong resident of Connecticut, Cyr has both lived and taught in a variety of towns across the state. In 2018, she, along with her husband and three children, sold her home in South Windsor and moved to Hebron. It was that experience that first sparked her interest in transitioning to a career in real estate.

"Being simultaneously engaged in two real estate transactions, all while caring for three small children, definitely created some unique challenges," Cyr said. "That experience made me

realize just how indispensable the role of the real estate agent is in the process. Buying or selling a home is one of the most important things you'll do in your life, and that's why it is so essential to have a real estate professional in your corner who truly understands the sheer importance of this major life event."

Coming from the field of education both as a high school English teacher and a school reading interventionist, Cyr said she is excited about the ways in which her teaching background will help her to provide the best possible support for her clients.

"As a teacher, I quickly learned that each and every student has his or her own unique needs," she said. "One of the most important parts of my job was identifying those needs, and then tailoring my instruction to meet them. I see my work with real estate clients in much the same way – each client is unique, and my role is to figure out how best to serve them."

Cyr said she counts herself fortunate for finding a brokerage that aligns so closely with her own beliefs and approaches. "As soon as I met with Carl Guild and learned about the brokerage, I knew that it would be a great fit," she said. "Building relationships, providing quality service, and making a positive impact on the community are some of the guiding principles of CGA, and that's exactly the type of company I wanted to be a part of."

Red Cross Blood Drive

The Hebron Lions will host an American Red Cross blood drive Wednesday, Feb. 24, at the Hebron Lions Fairgrounds, 347 Gilead St. Appointments are now available from 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and can be scheduled online.

For more details and to make an appointment, visit RedCross.org. For information on the Lions Fairgrounds, contact Lion Dwayne Bruender at 954-224-7559 or Dwayne.Bruender@Hebronharvestfair.org.

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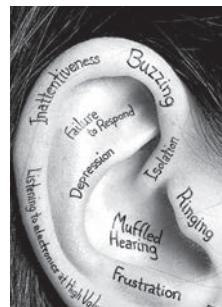
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Just as it did last year, the Hebron Historical Society will accept items for its clothing drive March 13 and 27, from 10 a.m.- 1 p.m., at Old Town Hall, 26 Main St.. Acceptable items are linens, clothing, shoes, boots, belts, towels or any textile. Items must be delivered to Old Town Hall in a sealed trash bag.

Historical Society Clothing Drive

The Hebron Historical Society will hold another clothing/textile drive next month.

Donations will be accepted Saturdays, March 13 and 27, from 10 a.m.- 1 p.m., at Old Town Hall (adjacent to Douglas Library). Acceptable items are linens, clothing, shoes, boots, belts, towels or any textile item. Condition of items is not important, but they must be delivered to Old Town Hall in a sealed trash bag.

The Historical Society will use proceeds

gained to help cover annual maintenance expenses and program costs. The society held a clothing drive last year, in lieu of the regular fundraisers.

To learn more about the Hebron Historical Society, go to hebronhistoricalsociety.org for videos and information on past projects and programs.

For more information, email mertonci65@comcast.net or call 860-228-1113.

Senior Center News & Notes

Russell Mercier Senior Center remains closed due to COVID-19 quarantine, but has announced the following. For questions on any program or service, call 860-228-1700 and leave a message.

COVID-19 Vaccine Information: The public directory of vaccine clinics is at www.211ct.org/vaccineclinics. All clinics require an appointment to be made in advance. When viewing the directory of vaccine clinics, click on 'More Details' for specific information about how you can schedule an appointment at each location. Those eligible to receive the vaccine who are unable to self-schedule an appointment due to lack of internet access or access to technology, a disability or a language barrier can call the COVID-19 Vaccine Appointments Assistance Line at 877-918-2224 from 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday to schedule an appointment.

Seniors may also call Hebron's COVID-19 hotline at 860-228-5977, where they'll be connected to the senior center. We will be able to access the above mentioned public directory of vaccine clinics and provide you with the information regarding how you can schedule your COVID-19 vaccination appointment by either computer or phone.

AARP Tax Preparation: Tuesdays, March 1-23, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., by appointment only. This is a two-appointment process; first to bring your documents to be scanned (contactless; documents scanned while you wait in your car), and then the second will be a 15-minute contactless review of your return. Details will be explained when you make the appointment. Only those that have had taxes done previously in Hebron the past two years (2018 or 2019) or done at another AARP site and signed the global consent for your information to be carried forward will be processed. Also, returns that require a Schedule C will not be allowed. COVID-19 precautions will be implemented; masks required, no contact, separate entrance and exits, etc. For appointments, call 860-228-1700.

Virtual U with AARP CT: Dr. Henry C. Lee Crimes & Investigations Training Series: There will be one last session, "Gambling with America's Future," with Dr. Declan Hill, on Wednesday, Feb. 24, at 12:30 p.m. Register at aarp.event.com/DeclanFeb24.

Newsletter: Available at HebronCT.com; select "senior center" from the "town departments" menu. You can also sign up to have the newsletter emailed to you automatically each month; click the link on the senior center page and add your email address.

Energy Assistance Winter Heating Program: The senior center is taking applications for the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP), which is designed to help offset the winter heating costs for a household's primary heating source. If the household's primary heating costs are included in rent, the household may also apply for assistance. Benefits are available

to households with incomes up to 60 percent of the state median income. A liquid assets test is an additional basic eligibility requirement. Due to the current COVID-19 crisis, all applications for energy assistance will be completed over the phone; there will be no in-person appointments. Call the center for more details.

Meals Available for Pick-Up: The senior center offers frozen congregate meals from CRT for pick-up. On Mondays you will receive four frozen meals, two milks, sides and snacks for a suggested donation of \$12 (\$3 per meal). Seniors must call to sign-up for each week's meals by 3 p.m. the prior Thursday. Meals are for ages 60 and older, from any town, and are to be heated and consumed at home. Meals will be distributed outside and can be curbside pick-up. Pick-up times are 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m., but with prior approval an alternate time can be arranged. Delivery is also available. Each person will need to complete a Form 5, but senior center staff can offer assistance in filling it out. To sign up, call 860-228-1700 ext. 202 or email arocniak@hebronct.com. Anyone picking up the meals must wear a mask and adhere to COVID-19 guidelines.

The Worship Center News & Notes

The Worship Center, a non-denominational Christian church, holds services and programs at 99 Marjorie Circle (unless noted). For more information, visit theworshipcenterct.org and click on the 'events/calendar' link, or call 860-228-4442.

Worship: Sundays at 10 a.m., indoors. Services are also broadcast on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TheWorshipCenterConnecticut and on YouTube; go to tinyurl.com/yby64wph to access.

Bible Study: Second Wednesday Overcomers Bible Study will be held at 7 p.m. virtually until further notice. Call the church office for details on how to join.

Praise and Prayer Night: Held at the fire pit every third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. This

night is dedicated to worship and praying for everyone in need in families, church and community.

Youth Group: For grades 6-12. Meets every other Sunday after the service; next meeting is Feb. 14. Email the office for meeting details: theworshipcenter.hebron@gmail.com.

Couples Study: This group meets every first Saturday of the month; next date is Feb. 6. Current DVD session is entitled "Sacred Marriage." Book sets are available for purchase at the church office. Email theworshipcenter.hebron@gmail.com to reserve a copy.

One-to-One Confidential Christian Care: Provided by Stephen Ministry to people in difficult life situations. If in need of help, call the church office.

St. Peter's News & Notes

St. Peter's Episcopal Church, located at 30 Church St. (Route 85, a quarter-mile south of the intersection with Route 66), has announced the following:

Schedule for Services: Due to COVID-19, St. Peter's has suspended in-person services. Services are recorded every Sunday and made available online at stpetershebron.com or on the church's Facebook page. Services also posted to the church's YouTube channel, accessible at tinyurl.com/ydy6s4dn.

Ash Wednesday: Feb. 17. The service will be available online. Ashes-to-go will be available in Veterans Memorial Park (across from RHAM High School) from noon-1 p.m. Also, the Rev. Ron Kolanowski will be at the parish hall much of Ash Wednesday and will offer individual ashes for people who come up to the church to get them; there will be no congregant

Church of the Holy Family News

Masses are celebrated at Church of the Holy Family, on a limited attendance basis, at the following times: Weekend Masses are Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sundays at 9:30 a.m., and weekday Masses are Tuesdays at 7 p.m. and Thursdays at 6:30 a.m. The church is located at 185 Church St.

Livestreamed Masses continue every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. until further notice. Visit holyfamily-hebron.org for more information. The church can be reached at 860-228-0096.

Church Collecting for Homeless Shelter: The church collects items year-round for the Windham Region No Freeze Hospitality Center, which provides assistance to homeless adults. The center is open for overnight stays with limited space for 15 guests due to COVID-19. Additional "warming space" with 15 cots is available for guests in a building nearby with bedtime hours only; however, accommodations are made when weather conditions are adverse.

Greatest needs are: men's and women's deodorant, disposable razors and shaving cream, latex or vinyl gloves (L and XL only), 44-45-gallon trash bags (center has adequate supply of 55-gallon bags), paper towels (always needed), Pine-Sol, disinfectant wipes and sprays, and medium-

and bold-tip black Sharpies and highlighters. The center is currently well-stocked with clothing, and therefore cannot accept any winter clothing at this time. In addition, the center has an adequate supply of hand sanitizer and hand soap. The center also has a great need for new sheets of plywood to build a bench, work surfaces, and partitions to facilitate checking in guests and to maintain a safe environment. Gift cards of \$25 to Home Depot are requested to fund these needs. Call the number below to offer assistance.

Place donations of goods in the designated collection box next to the church's Cry Room. Place large quantities of donations in the Cry Room. For more information, when placing donations in the Cry Room, or if you want to donate items other than those listed above, call Monica or John McKerracher at 860-228-4211.

Police News

2/3: State Police said Marc Owen Jacques, 36, of 320 Jones St., Hebron, was arrested and charged with second-degree criminal trespass, third-degree criminal mischief, second-degree breach of peace and second-degree assault.

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COVID-19 Vaccines to Get Local Distribution

by Karla Santos

The fight to crush COVID-19 just got a big local boost this week, as it was announced vaccines will be administered right in the center of town – and they are now also available to individuals of age 65 and older.

The CVS in Colchester is one of four CVS locations in the state offering COVID-19 vaccines – and it is the only CVS location within the Chatham Health District to offer the shot. The district covers Colchester, East Hampton, East Haddam, Hebron, Marlborough and Portland.

The CVS vaccine-scheduling system opened yesterday, and individuals started to get their COVID-19 shots today.

Vaccines at the drug store will be offered by appointment only via CVS.com or through the CVS Pharmacy app. Those without access

to the internet can contact customer service at (800) 746-7287 for help scheduling an appointment.

Chatham Health District Director Russell Melmed said that, as the number of Connecticut CVS stores offering the vaccine is very limited, he feels "fortunate" to have one of them right within the Chatham Health District.

"One out of four is better than zero," he said.

Appointments for COVID-19 vaccines are being booked quickly, because the amount of vaccine across the state is not meeting the demand, Melmed said.

CVS is using the same eligibility criteria as most providers, which for now allows only residents of age 65 or older, healthcare workers, medical first responders, and residents and staff of long-term care facilities to get their shot.

First Selectman Mary Bylone said she doesn't know how the town was selected but is excited that CVS chose Colchester to have a vaccine site. Bylone noted that from the beginning, vaccines are something the town has been willing to help with in any way possible.

"The fact that this doesn't use any town resources is even better," she said.

She said one of the benefits of CVS offering the vaccine is that they will be able to provide a good opportunity in terms of a broader schedule for people to get their vaccines.

Bylone said the CVS clinic came at a perfect time, as there will be more demand for it now that a larger group of people are eligible.

The Chatham Health District has been running vaccine clinics since December. Melmed explained that some of the clinics have run from the Chatham Health offices, but the organization has also been partnering with the local senior centers to run weekly clinics in each of the towns covered by the district.

Part of that partnership also includes helping schedule residents who have struggled making a vaccine appointment through the state-wide Vaccine Administration Management System (VAMS).

This week Chatham Health ran a vaccine clinic in East Hampton and next week, on Feb. 16, there will be one at RHAM High School, Melmed said.

"We are partnering with both the Marlborough and the Hebron senior centers to offer vaccines to their residents through direct scheduling with those senior centers," he said.

According to Melmed, Chatham Health is planning on offering vaccines to 200 people next week. The number of vaccines given at each clinic depends on how many vaccines are allocated for the Chatham Health District that week. Melmed said they normally administer from 100 to 200 doses at each clinic.

Melmed noted that the Medical Reserve Corps volunteers have helped the clinics be successful as Chatham Health has a small staff with only one person qualified to give vaccines.

"We couldn't do clinics of that size without the Medical Reserve Corps," he said, adding that they bring together medical volunteers such as nurses, doctors, pharmacists and emergency medical technicians to administer vaccines. They also bring non-medical volunteers to help with things like registration and observation.

To learn more about upcoming Chatham Health vaccine clinics, residents can contact the senior center in their town. Melmed noted that while senior centers are helping with registration, VAMS remains the best way for people to schedule their vaccine appointments. www.211ct.org is also helping residents find a vaccine clinic.

"We are a vaccine provider like everybody else," Melmed said. "If people are waiting for one of our clinics to come around because it's more convenient, that's up to them. But it might be a while before they get an appointment. So people should really try to look for appointments anyway they can."

Bacon Alum a Full Professor at Harvard Med School

Dr. Elyse Park, daughter of Dr. Bernard Park of Colchester, has been appointed Full Professor at Harvard Medical School. She is a graduate of Bacon Academy, Class of 1984.

In addition to her duties at Harvard Medical, Park is also director of research for Massachusetts General Hospital Research Center, the Benson-Henry Institute for Mind-Body Medicine, and the Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Survivorship Program. She is the author of a research paper that was published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* a few months ago.

Park resides in Needham, Mass., with her husband Mark, teenaged children Simon and Zoe, and the newest family member – their dog Bailey.



Dr. Elyse Park and her daughter Zoe

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Freezin' for a Reason

Residents Fred Brown, Rob Schecki and Greg Cordova are spending this weekend in the cold next weekend, to benefit Colchester Fuel Bank.

The group will gather on the Colchester Green today, Friday, Feb. 12, at 2 p.m. and won't leave until Sunday at noon after spending two cold nights in a tent, accepting donations for the fuel bank.

"This is year number 12 and I have a feeling the Colchester residents won't let us down," Brown, the event's founder, said. "So far we've raised over \$120,000. I think we can raise a lot of money this year, even during the pandemic."

Brown added, "This year might just be the most important year for this fundraiser. With so many folks out of work, how can they afford to keep that thermostat at a comfortable temperature and eat or purchase prescriptions?"

Abundant Life Church News & Notes

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

Food Truck: Today, Feb. 12, from 4-7 p.m. in the church parking lot, the church will again hand out boxes of food to anyone in need. There is no charge. Cars will line up in the parking lot and boxes will be loaded into your trunk or car. Boxes may include milk, chicken, potatoes, apples, onions, cheese, butter and yogurt.

Weekly Sunday Service: The church continues open door services on Sundays. Facial masks while roaming and social distancing guidelines are followed, including only allowing less than 50 attendees. Sunday School is at



Last Friday's food box distribution at Abundant Life Church was a success – and the church will do it all again today, Feb. 12, from 4-7 p.m., in the parking lot of the church, 85 Skinner Rd.

Food Box Distribution Today

Abundant Life Church will again serve as a hub for the CityServe Food Box distribution today, Friday, Feb. 12, from 4-7 pm., in the parking lot of the church, located at 85 Skinner Rd.

Last Friday, over 1,400 boxes of food arrived on a tractor trailer truck, and they were passed out to lines of cars awaiting the fresh produce, meat and dairy filled 30-pound boxes, as well as to several box trucks and pick-up trucks that delivered to other surrounding communities. Over 40 volunteers, including children and seniors, helped unload and distribute to the waiting cars and trucks. Transformation Church of Oakdale, several churches from Hartford, and the East Hampton Lions Club sent trucks to collect boxes for their communities.

Many Abundant Life Church folks loaded up their cars and trucks to take to neighbors and friends. One pick-up truck brought boxes to the

Rosewood Apartments in Norwich for a disabled parishioner to share with their community of low income over 50 neighbors. Another truck brought boxes to Middletown families. Families in Manchester and Meriden also received boxes from the Colchester distribution.

There are no financial criteria to receive a Farmers-to-Families Food Box. This is part of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program from the USDA under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act to purchase and distribute agricultural products to those in need.

Abundant Life Church is within sight of Route 16 in Colchester. Remain in your car and a volunteer will load your box into your trunk. For more information, contact Pastor Charles Brown at c.brown26@mac.com or 860-303-0416.

White-Tailed Deer in Connecticut

Cragin Memorial Library invites all to come learn about white-tailed deer in Connecticut on Thursday, Feb. 25, at 6 p.m., via Zoom.

Paul Colburn, a certified master wildlife conservationist, will teach an overview of the white-tailed deer's habitat, diet, behavior and reproduction. He will also provide recommendations for optimum coexistence with white-tailed deer population.

To sign up, visit tinyurl.com/y5tke59z. The library does not record virtual programs.

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

Dean's List

Residents Rachel Dona and Rachel Wells made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Endicott College in Beverly, Mass.

Dona is a nursing major and daughter of Judith and Paul Dona, and Wells is an accounting major and daughter of Illyse and Stephen Wells.



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Hunting & Fishing Club Membership Vacancies

The Westchester Sportmen's Club, located in Colchester, Connecticut, has open membership vacancies. Membership is currently limited to 100 members. This is an excellent opportunity for you and your friends to join a Club as a group, and enjoy the private benefits of hunting, fishing & shooting. The Club is now accepting applications until Friday, February 19, 2021.

For additional information and to obtain an application, please contact the club President, Harold Gannon, at hgnnon@gmail.com.

New Insurance Agency Wants People Properly Covered

By Karla Santos

Dan Rossignol always dreamed of owning his own business and he made it a reality last week when he officially opened the doors of River East Insurance, LLC, a new insurance agency at 139 South Main St.

Rossignol, who used to work as an operations manager in the food service industry, said he was ready to become an entrepreneur. With a degree in accounting and a fondness for finance, he decided to take advantage of his skill-set and apply it in the insurance industry.

While the new business will offer a variety of services, the main focus will be on commercial

insurance, Rossignol said.

"That's kind of my expertise," he said. "I enjoy that a lot, getting to know the different businesses and how they operate."

Rossignol said he is hoping to bring his knowledge to the insurance industry to make sure everyone is properly covered.

The business will also handle auto, home and life insurance and it partnered with Hagerty – an insurance carrier – to provide coverage for classic cars.

According to Rossignol, he had been working on the project since last summer. He said after coming up with the idea, he started tak-

ing the necessary steps towards obtaining the licenses required to run the business.

Now that he officially opened the doors to the offices of River East Insurance, he said he is excited to see the opportunities the business will bring to him.

But Rossignol is not doing it all on his own – he hired his close friend Greg Kiss, to serve the business as an interest producer.

Kiss was in the automotive industry previous to joining Rossignol in his company. He said one of the reasons he wanted to be part of the insurance industry was the relationships he would be able to create with clients.

"I just hope that we can provide really good services to the people around," Kiss said.

He also hopes to help his friend grow the business "at a decent pace" while having a "really good environment to work in together."

In addition, Kiss said he likes the industry because it will allow him to have more time and flexibility to see his family grow.

Rossignol grew up in, and currently lives in, Coventry. When he was looking for the office space for his business, he said he wanted it to be in a place similar to his home town, which is why he chose Colchester.

"We love the small businesses in Colchester and absolutely love the community feel," Rossignol said.

He said he already joined the Colchester Business Association and is "anxious" to start becoming involved in the community.

Rossignol said that although he opened the business in the middle of a pandemic, he is ex-



Dan Rossignol of Coventry has opened a new insurance agency in Colchester – River East Insurance. Located at 139 South Main St., the company offers auto, home and life insurance. To learn more about the company, visit www.rivereast-insurance.com.

cited to see the fruits of his work.

"With everything that is negative about [the pandemic], I'd like to look at it as an opportunity," Rossignol said. "We'll be really strong by the time hopefully things open up again."

Upcoming Children's Programs at Library

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

The library has a list of available craft bags at the Children's Circulation Desk; supplies are limited and are on a first-come, first-served basis. The library is located at 8 Linwood Ave.

Baby Activity Videos: Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. on Facebook and YouTube. There will be book suggestions, baby bounces and more. Often, activity bags will be available to accompany the videos.

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

Exploring the Alphabet: Fridays at 10:30 a.m. on Facebook and YouTube. Each week, explore a new letter of the alphabet, sing songs, practice writing and share books. A craft bag will accompany each video, bags can be picked up on Monday the same week as the video.

Foodie Fun: Chocolate M&M Pretzel Bites: Saturday, Feb. 13, all day. Kids and teens can pick up a Take & Make Bag, watch the video on the library's social media channels, and enjoy.

Catching Snowflakes Take & Make Craft: Wednesday, Feb. 17, all day, for all ages. Celebrate winter with this craft of kids catching snowflakes. Pick up your Take & Make Bag at the children's desk.

Polar Bear Art Take & Make Craft: Saturday, Feb. 27, all day for all ages. Celebrate National Polar Bear Day with this art craft. Pick up the bag and create a piece of art.

Senior Center News & Notes

Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave., has announced the following programs and events. Most programs are on Zoom; to learn more about join them, or for full descriptions of any program, call the center at 860-537-3911 or email csc@colchesterct.gov. The center is online at www.colchesterct.gov.senior-center. More information about senior trips can also be found online.

Monday, Feb. 15: Senior center closed for Presidents Day.

Tuesday, Feb. 16: 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi on Zoom; 10:30 a.m., Book Club; 11 a.m., Adult Coloring; noon, Mardi Gras Lunch to Go; 1:30 p.m., conference call bingo.

Wednesday, Feb. 17: 10 a.m., Making Memories on Zoom; 10:30 a.m., Beat those Winter Blues w/UCFS; 1 p.m., AARP Webinar Wednesdays: Living Well with Dementia.

Thursday, Feb. 18: 9 a.m., Exercise with Anne on Zoom; 10 a.m., Sittercize on Zoom; 11 a.m., Senior Yoga on Zoom.

Friday, Feb. 19: 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., AARP Tax Aide; 10 a.m., Reopening Our Senior Center Q&A with Patty on Zoom; 11 a.m., Senior Yoga on Zoom; 1:30 p.m., Step by Step Painting on Zoom.

Upcoming Programs: Snowman Decorating Contest: All are invited to create a one-of-a-kind snowman. Mini Styrofoam snowmen will be provided for people to decorate however they like. There will be winners for Funniest, Most Unique, and Most Beautiful. Participants

have until Feb. 26 to complete their snowman and submit a picture for judging. Call the office to set up a time to pick up your snowman starter kit for \$3.

Community Conversation with the First Selectman: Thursday, Feb. 25, 2 p.m., via Zoom. First Selectman Mary Bylone will discuss COVID-19 in Colchester, announce town-wide events and more. Bring your questions.

International Cooking Demo on Zoom: Poland: Friday, Feb. 26, 1:30 p.m. Follow along at home or simply watch a demonstration on how to prepare galumpkis, or Polish stuffed cabbage rolls. After the program you are welcome to stop by the senior center to get a sample of the dish; pre-registration required. Contact the senior center for a recipe and shopping list.

Colchester Senior of the Month: Each month, the senior center will give one or two of its members the spotlight to tell more about themselves. If interested in being the February Senior of the Month, call Ruth at the senior center.

Learn to Sign with Ruth: Mondays, 11 a.m.-noon. This course teaches the basics of how to communicate with sign language. No prior experience necessary.

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



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Copies of *Images of America: Colchester* are back in stock. The book features almost 200 historic images of Colchester, including this image of Curtis F. McIntosh who, using his horse and buggy, delivered mail in Colchester from 1902 to 1922.

Images of America Books are Back!

The Colchester Historical Society is restocked with *Images of America: Colchester* and will be hosting book signings by the book's author and Society Collections Chairman Emeritus Gary Walter on Saturdays and Sundays throughout February, from noon-2 p.m., at the Colchester History Museum.

The book is filled with almost 200 historic images of Colchester, each with carefully-researched captions, all capturing the history of the town.

Images of America: Colchester is part of the Arcadia Publishing series celebrating the history of neighborhoods, towns and cities across America. In this comprehensive book, Gary Walter has created an engaging and compelling

overview of Colchester history from the late 19th century to the mid-20th century.

The Colchester Historical Society is selling the book for \$20, underselling the current retail price (including Amazon). Proceeds from the book enable the Society, a non-profit organization, to operate a free museum and offer diverse programs about Colchester history.

Copies will be available at the Colchester History Museum on Saturdays and Sundays, from noon-2 p.m., throughout February, or until sold out again. The Colchester History Museum is located at 24 Linwood Ave., adjacent to the Cragin Memorial Library. There is free parking behind the museum and library.

Westchester Church News

Westchester Congregational Church, located at 98 Cemetery Rd., holds worship services in-person Sundays at 10 a.m. Services are also available on Zoom; visit the church website at westchestercongchurch.org for Zoom login information.

Safety precautions are in place to protect against COVID-19; pews are labeled for safe physical distancing, masks are required to be worn, hand sanitizer is available, and there is no singing, but music is played.

The church has a small white wooden Blessings Box in its lower parking lot, with non-

perishable food items and other helpful items for anyone who needs them. All are welcome to come and give or take a few items.

Sunday School is not in person yet, but the church emails video links and mails out packages of worksheets to children for the Sunday School experience. Email westcongchurch@gmail.com or call 860-267-6711 to request Sunday School items.

Church tag sales will return; check this newspaper and the church website for news of upcoming events.

Student-Athlete on Dean's List

Rachel Wells of Colchester made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Endicott College in Beverly, Mass. – and is also on the school's equestrian team.

Dean's List

The following Colchester residents made the fall 2020 Dean's List at the University of New Hampshire:

Highest Honors: Ryan LoVetere and Clare McIntyre.

High Honors: Simone Francoeur, Katherine Blakley and Isabella Crowell.

Dean's List

Colchester residents Luke Sanford, a member of the Class of 2022, and Caroline Lovering, a member of the Class of 2021, made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Bryant University in Smithfield, R.I.

Dean's List

Cierra Caron of Colchester made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y.

Fish Fry Fridays

The Colchester Fish and Game Club is holding its annual Fish Fry dinners every Friday during Lent, starting Feb. 19 going through and including Good Friday, April 2.

Meal choices include traditional fish and chips, baked fish with baked potato, the club's breaded clam strip dinner, as well as chicken nuggets for the kids. All meals include coleslaw, coffee and dessert. Cost is \$13 for adults and \$7 for kids.

Meals will be served from 6-8 p.m. Take-out is encouraged. There will be a limited amount of seating at the club, with social distancing. The club is located on Old Town Road.

Call 860-537-2593 to order or for more information.

Spring Virtual Vendor Fair

Parks and Recreation is planning a new spring vendor fair book – and applications are due Feb. 15.

The book will be published mid-March. Each vendor will have four pages to display their items for sale. Vendors should include contact information and how to pick up and pay for items, and should be sure to follow all COVID-19 guidelines listed on the State of Connecticut website.

Registration forms are available at www.colchesterct.gov/recreation-department or by calling the office at 860-537-7297.

#Colchester4Kids Campaign

The Collaborative for Colchester's Children recently launched a hashtag campaign, #Colchester4Kids, to bring awareness to the Search Institute's developmental assets, which are the support and strengths kids need in order to succeed.

The campaign has kicked off with a Relationship Challenge; all Colchester families are invited to participate in activities from the Challenge checklist and post photos to social media with the hashtag. Families are encouraged to do more together and let their children choose as much as possible.

Prizes will be awarded every week in February for pick-up at Cragin Memorial Library during open hours.

To obtain the checklist and learn more about what's behind #Colchester4kids, visit www.colchesterct3.org/colchester4kids.

Republicans Seek Candidates

In preparation for the Nov. 2 municipal election, the Colchester Republican Town Committee is seeking candidates for town-elected offices.

For more information, call RTC Chairman Art Shilosky at 860-537-1093 or Betty Wagner at 860-537-5327.

Ahavath Achim News

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

Friday night Zoom service, 6:30 p.m.; Saturday morning Zoom service, 10 a.m.; Tuesday, Kabbalah class, 5:30 p.m. on Zoom; Tuesday, Talmud class, 6:30 p.m. on Zoom.

There are daily prayer classes on Facebook Live, by Rabbi Ken Alter. For more information, call 860-537-2809. Office hours are 8 a.m.-noon Tuesday-Friday.

Beat Those Winter Blues

Sara Walker from United Community Family Services will share strategies for coping with the winter blues in a special Zoom seminar Wednesday, Feb. 17, at 10:30 a.m. She will also explain what seasonal affective disorder is and give coping mechanisms to combat it.

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

Scholarship Available

Carl Guild and Associates has announced its community scholarship program for local high school seniors entering college in the fall. There are five \$1,000 scholarships given, one each in East Hampton, Portland, Colchester, East Haddam and the RHAM school district.

There are no restrictions or qualifications; all local seniors can apply. For applications, visit www.carlguild.com/scholarship or ask your school's guidance counselor. Deadline is April 1.

School Nutrition Program Update

Through the end of the school year, all students and children under the age of 18 can get free breakfast and lunch.

Note: milk is included in every meal; however, if a student wants to buy just a milk, the cost is 65 cents. For those interested in grab-and-go meals, which are also free, pick-up is at William J. Johnston Middle School from 12:30-1 p.m. on in-school learning days and 10-10:30 a.m. on distance learning days.

Grab-and-go meals will not be available on days when students do not come to school because of inclement weather.

Any questions can be directed to Leanne Rahnheim, nutrition coordinator, at 860-537-9421 ext. 381 or Rahnheim@colchesterct.org.

Fire Calls

From Jan. 24-30, the Colchester Hayward Fire Department responded to 32 calls: 23 emergency medical calls, four fire/fire related calls, and five motor vehicle crashes. Calls included:

Fire: fire alarm, two; electrical fire, one; CO call, one.

Crashes: four single-car; one two-car.

Medical: sick person, four; cardiac distress, three; difficulty breathing, three; fall injury, two; seizure, two; unconscious, one; injured person, one; allergic reaction, one; mental disorder, two; bleeding emergency, one; medical alarm, one; choking, one; diabetic emergency, one.

CHFD provided mutual aid three times – once each to Marlborough, Hebron and East



Dr. Kassem Khybery is announcing his retirement as of February 13, 2021.

It has been a pleasure serving my community and wish you the best for your future.

The Hartford Healthcare Medical Group at 163 Broadway in Colchester (860-537-4601) will assume the care of your medical records and are ready to serve your needs.

The records will be available for HHMG to continue your care or the transfer to a physician of your choosing.

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Belltown, Portland Schools Receive COVID-19 Relief Money

By Jack Lakowsky

Local schools can breathe a sigh of relief. If they're masked, of course.

Last week, Portland Public Schools and East Hampton Public Schools each received their allotments of the \$493 million Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER) – money that will be used to recover learning loss worsened by the pandemic.

East Hampton received around \$190,000, while Portland received \$312,000.

The federal dollars cannot affect either district's current budget proposals for the 2021-22 fiscal year, nor can they be used to supplant existing funds, according to both Portland Superintendent of Schools Charles Britton and East Hampton Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith.

Smith is seeking about a 3% budget increase, a proposal which the East Hampton school board will vote on at its Feb. 22 meeting.

The Portland school board in January voted to adopt Britton's nearly 4% increase.

Both school districts have incurred huge additional costs to retrofit buildings and design new curriculum during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The funds must be encumbered within two

years, Smith told the East Hampton Board of Education in a Monday meeting.

Of the \$190,000, Smith said, "We did not get as much as we were hoping for."

Smith said he knows of other districts who receive anywhere between \$1 million and \$45 million which can be used to hire entire teams of mental health specialists.

There were disparities among nearby districts. For example, Clinton and Old Saybrook, both with populations comparable to East Hampton's, received about \$739,000 and \$450,000, respectively.

Essex and East Haddam, both towns similar in size to Portland, received \$62,000 and \$137,000, respectively.

"[\$190,000] won't get us a team, but will get us the support we need," said Smith. "This is a chance to address academic needs post-pandemic. It would be foolish to not start that right now."

However, Smith also advised a conservative, mindful pace in deciding where the funds will go, whether it will go to "people or programming," or a mix of both.

"We don't wanna rush it," he said. Alluding to forthcoming federal relief dollars, Smith said the district before taking concrete actions

should wait for more money from Washington, D.C.

In a Monday email to the *Rivereast*, Britton said he and his team are "deeply, deeply relieved" to have received the \$312,000 ESSER fund.

"We were in a huge budget hole because of COVID-19," said Britton. "This is a lifeline we desperately needed."

Like Smith, Britton said he hopes Congress and the Biden administration soon pass more relief, but that for now, the district is "very happy."

State Sen. Norm Needleman (D-33), whose district covers both towns, released a statement celebrating the ESSER money.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has only further exposed [existing] educational gaps and disparities," he said. "I'm really happy that students who experience additional hardships will have

increased resources and abilities to succeed."

In all, municipalities in the 12-town 33rd Senatorial District received about \$3.7 million in ESSER funds.

Needleman included an expansive list of possible uses for the money, including help for low-income and special needs students who may experience more learning loss than their peers, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, students in foster care and improving indoor air quality in school buildings.

Connecticut received \$493 million in funding in the latest award, bringing total relief received to just over \$600 million. Part of the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CARES) Act, 90% of the funding will be allocated to schools, while a remaining 10% will fund state activities.

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Senior Center News & Notes

East Hampton Senior Center, 105 Main St., continues to be closed, although staff is available via phone (860-267-4426) and email (seniorcenter@easthamptonct.gov) through normal business hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. For the latest information, visit www.easthamptonct.gov/easthampton-senior-center.

Schedules and programs have changed significantly. The center is developing virtual meetings and programming for those with internet access. In addition, the center has expanded its email newsletter and continues to mail out monthly newsletters. If not receiving either, call the center to receive a copy.

Online Program Registration: All program registration is now at MyActiveCenter.com. You will need your key-swipe tag number that you scan when you visit the center, as well as the phone number and email you used when originally registering at the senior center. Once registered for MyActiveCenter, you'll only need your email and password to get back in. Call the senior center for assistance.

Virtual Lunch Bunch: Every other Monday at 12:30 p.m. for an hour, via Zoom. Next date is Feb. 22. Register online. Special guest Hardy Hemphill is rescheduled for March 8.

Creative Crafts: Wednesday, Feb. 24, 1 p.m.,

via Zoom. Learn to make a butterfly pin. Register online.

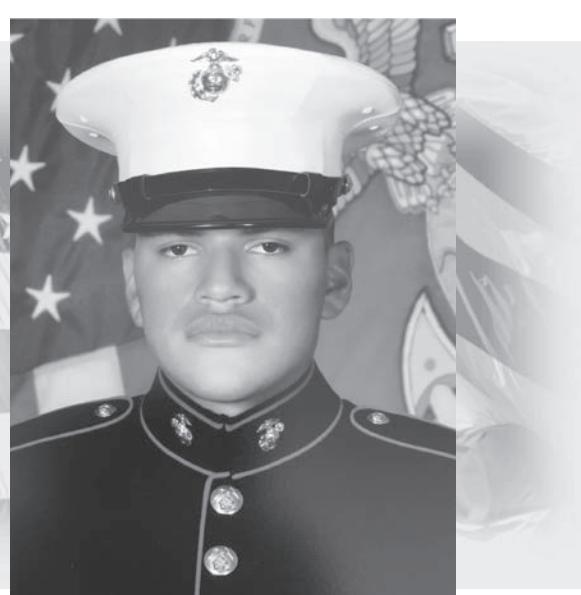
Statewide Virtual Senior Center Program – Unlock Ancient Stories with DNA: Friday, Feb. 26, 1-2:30 p.m. The program is by the Connecticut Science Center. To register, visit chealthyiving.org or call the senior center.

Live Well Program: Mondays, March 1-29. This is a class on living well with, and managing, chronic conditions. The class is sponsored by the Chatham Health District and offered via telephone, conference-call style, through the senior center. Contact the senior center for more information and to register.

Seated Yoga via Zoom: Wednesdays at 10 a.m. through March 10. Fee is \$20 for the session (which started Jan. 6). Register online. Mail payment to East Hampton Senior Center; make check payable to the Town of East Hampton.

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

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



Private Dean'Anthony C. Grano graduate of East Hampton High School, Class of 2019, graduated from United States Marine Corps Boot Camp, Parris Island, South Carolina on January 29, 2021 as a United States Marine. With the highest score, he was presented High Shooter Award of the entire H Company of 6 Platoons of 282 Marines. His Platoon 2004 H Company 2nd Battalion earned "Honor Platoon."

The proud Grano and Mendonez families congratulate United States Marine Private Grano and his new Marine brothers of the 2004 Platoon for their hard work, perseverance and personal sacrifice to earn the title "United States Marines." Semper Fi. God bless them all and God bless the United States of America.



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Children Sought for Preschool Programs

The East Hampton Public School System is seeking 3- and 4-year-old residents for preschool programs for the 2021-22 school year. A half-day and a full-day program will be offered.

Memorial Elementary School's half-day Integration program will be held three times a week for 3-year-old students and four times a week for 4-year-old students. Due to limited spaces, selection for peer models will be determined through a lottery process. If selected, peer models demonstrating age-appropriate skills will be assigned by age to either a three-day- or four-day-a-week schedule (2.5 hours per day).

Memorial's Smart Start Program will be held five full days per week (8:50 a.m.-2:50 p.m.), following the East Hampton Public Schools calendar. Priority will be given to 4-year-old children that meet income guidelines or have other factors for consideration. Other appli-

cants, regardless of economic or risk factors, will then be selected.

Parents interested in proceeding through the selection process must pick up an application/information packet at either Memorial Elementary School, located at 20 Smith St., or East Hampton Public Library, located at 105 Main St.

The completed parent interview form, immunization form and a proof of residency must be returned to Kelly Caruso at the Memorial School office no later than March 19. Once all three forms are returned, parents will be contacted by phone, no later than March 26, to schedule a time to bring their child for the screening and lottery/selection process.

Forms received after March 19 will not be accepted.

Grant Applications Due in April

The East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission welcomes grant applications from East Hampton organizations and individuals with programs and/or projects designed to enrich residents' lives through the arts. Deadline to apply is April 1.

There are two \$500 grants available. Grants will be awarded to East Hampton individuals or organizations the commission determines will have the most potential impact of arts and/or culture on the town. Incomplete forms will be denied; applicants can resubmit.

Criteria for awarding grants: The artistic and organizational quality of the organization and/or project and its likelihood of continuing viability or success, and the organization's or

project's accessibility and service to the East Hampton community.

Grant recipients must credit the East Hampton Arts and Culture Commission on all press releases, posters, print advertising and programs.

An interview may be requested of the candidate prior to awarding the grant. A progress update will be required six months after the award date, with a final report required one year after the award date.

Visit www.artsforeasthamptonct.org for applications; mail them to Town Manager's Office, Town Hall, 1 Community Drive, East Hampton, CT 06424, or email to arts@easthamptonct.org.

Parks and Rec. News & Notes

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

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

No School ½ Program: Friday, March 12, 9 a.m.-noon, in the Town Hall community room. Fee: \$30.

Parents' Night Out: Friday, March 19, 5-9 p.m., at the Town Hall community room. For students in grades K-7. Fee: \$35.

Spring Egg Hunt: Sunday, March 28, 10 a.m., at the Center School field. Fee is \$5, and space is very limited due to COVID-19 restrictions. Registration required.

Adult and High School Pick-Up Soccer:

Belltown Garden Club to Meet

The Belltown Garden Club will offer a virtual Zoom meeting on "Successful Vegetable Seeding" Monday, Feb. 15, at 7 p.m.

Sandy Merrill from N.E. Seed Co. will present. All are invited. Call Kathy to sign up at 860-575-0077.

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Virtual Night to Shine

Hope Church will again serve as a host of Night to Shine 2021, sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation – though this year there are some changes, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This prom night experience celebrates people with special needs and will be held by host churches around the world simultaneously on Friday, Feb. 12, through a 'Shine-Thru' drive-thru event followed by an online event later in the evening.

This virtual event will be complete with all of the prom elements, as every guest will get to enjoy music, dancing, prom favors, and

messages from special guests – all leading up to the moment when each guest is crowned king or queen of the prom. Guests will drive through Hope Church parking lot beginning at 4 p.m. on Feb. 12 to pick up their prom kits and visit prom stations from their car to get ready for the big night at home. All volunteers will be wearing masks and following guidelines for safety.

For more information and to register, visit cthope.com/nts. And for more information on the worldwide movement of Night to Shine, visit www.timtebowfoundation.org.

Little League Registration Open

East Hampton Little League Registration is now open. Boys and girls ages 5-13 are welcome to play baseball and softball. For more information, visit www.belltownll.org. For questions, email ehllpres@gmail.com.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church News

During the pandemic, the Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church congregation has not held services in its church but instead holds them via Zoom. All are welcome; Zoom information can be found at www.facebook.com/BethlehemEH.

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



Birth Announced... Matthew and Brittany (Spooner) Varano of East Hampton have announced the birth of a son, Domenico Lee. Nico was born Dec. 27 at the Hospital of Central Connecticut. He joins four older siblings, Luke, Maddy, Cameron and Anthony.

'Comedy for Rotary'

The East Hampton Rotary Club will co-host "Comedy for Rotary" live online Friday, Feb. 12, at 7 p.m.

The hour-long event will feature two comedians: Sam Morril, who has performed on *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, *Conan* and in three Comedy Central specials; and Moody McCarthy, who has also performed on *The Late Show* and *Conan*, as well as *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*

This event contains mature content and is intended for ages 18 and older.

Cost is \$20; there is no limit on the number of viewers per link. Proceeds benefit Rotary's efforts to help those in need. Tickets can be purchased at <https://rotary7980.myeventscenter.com>. Include East Hampton as the Rotary Club when registering.

Haddam Neck Covenant Church News

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

Puppet Ministry: Each Sunday the Church's Puppet Ministry features Digger the Dog from Farmer M's Red Barn to help Cowger explain the meaning of the message topic.

Bible Study: Cowger hosts a Zoom study entitled "God's Peace and Prayers" every other Thursday from 7-8:30 p.m. The foundation of the study is the book *Armchair Mystic -- How Contemplative Prayer Can Bring You Closer to God*.

Call the church office at 860-267-2336 for more information. Office hours are 12:30-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Resident Graduates

Taylor Luke of East Hampton recently graduated from the University of New Hampshire.

Luke earned a Bachelor of Science degree in recreation management and policy: therapeutic recreation.

East Hampton • East Hampton

East Hampton Library News & Notes

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

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

Holiday Closing: The library will be closed Monday, Feb. 15, in observance of Presidents Day.

Stories and Songs: Wednesdays at 10 a.m. via Zoom, for ages 1-5. No registration required.

Family Bedtime Stories: Mondays at 6:30 p.m., via Zoom, for ages 3-8. This program combines stories, songs and literacy activities. Siblings, pajamas, and stuffed animal friends welcome. No registration required; just drop in. However, you can register online to receive weekly reminders for storytime.

Take and Make: For grades 6 and up. This month's kit is Dragons. You will get all the materials needed to make your own dragon eggs and flying dragons. There will also be other dragon-related STEM activities and ideas. For registration and pickup information, contact the library. Pickup is Wednesday, Feb. 17.

Virtual Afterschool Programs: Footprints, Fribrarys, and Fundays: The library offers fun and educational after school programming for children in grades 2-5 on Fridays during the school year, and Monday Fundays for middle school students on select Mondays. Programming takes place at 4 p.m., and all programs are over Zoom. Registration required. The schedule is: Footprints, for grades 2-3, Feb. 19, March 5, April 9 and April 30; Fribrary, for grades 4-5, Feb. 26, March 19 and April 23; Monday Fundays, for grades 6-8, Feb. 22.

Mindful Movements: Thursdays, 10 a.m.,

via Zoom, for ages 3-8. This is an early literacy program for child and caregiver that combines singing, dancing, and whole body movement. Siblings welcome. For weekly reminders and recordings, register online.

Teen Advisory Tuesday: Feb. 23 at 3 p.m., for grades 8-12. Come together to plan and create events and programs you want. Provide input to expand the library's YA/Teen collection. Teen Advisory Board requires a monthly commitment and participation. Registration and applications are being accepted.

Adult Programs: Book Club via Zoom: Tuesday, Feb. 16, at 6:30 p.m., or Thursday, Feb. 18, at 2 p.m. *The Vanishing Half* will be discussed. Copies are available for check-out at the circulation desk. Register online for the Zoom link.

Seedling Program with the Belltown Garden Club: Monday, Feb. 15, 7 p.m., via Zoom. Sandy Merrill of N.E. Seed Co. will lead a program on indoor seeding, focusing on tomatoes. Merrill will cover when, where and how to start your seedlings. Feel free to bring questions.

Seeking Signs: An Introduction to Tarot: Tuesday, Feb. 23, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom. This program will be led by Uma, who has been a healer and reader of runes, tarot and other divination methods for over 30 years. The tarot is a deck of 78 cards, each with its own imagery, symbolism and story. This event will build a basic framework and teach the concepts of tarot.

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

E-Books and E-Audiobooks: The library currently offers two different eBook and eAudio platforms. Visit the eLibrary tab on the website for more info.

E-Book Library Cards: Don't have a library card and you're a East Hampton resident? Sign up on the website for an eBook library card to access all of the library's online resources.



Food Drive... On Jan. 16 and 17, Anchor Lodge No. 112 in East Hampton participated in the Statewide Food Drive, sponsored by Masonicare and the Connecticut Food Bank. The Lodge collected over 25 boxes – the most food of the Masonic Lodges that participated. From left are Herb Olson, Bill Field, John Spencer, Richard Denno, Lou Schluntz and Raymond Moore.

Congregational Church News

Due to the number of COVID-19 cases in Connecticut, The Congregational Church of East Hampton, UCC, is holding all services via Zoom. Current and past services can be accessed at www.cc-eh.org. All are welcome.

The Teen Youth Group will resume its monthly meeting Friday, Feb. 26, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Students in grades 6-12 are welcome.

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

Dean's List

Elyse Arcidiacono made the fall 2020 Dean's List at the University of St. Joseph in West Hartford.

Dean's List

East Hampton residents Thomas McGuire and Emily Salisbury made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Quinnipiac University in Hamden.

Dean's List

Ailie Daley of East Hampton made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield.

Daley is a freshman majoring in nursing.

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St. John Fisher Church News & Notes

St. John Fisher Roman Catholic Church is located at 30 Jones Hollow Rd. The Rev. Thomas J. Sas is pastor, John McKaig is deacon and the pastoral assistant is Holly Bangham. The church office can be reached at 860-295-0001 or. For more information, visit www.stjfisher.org, or look for the church on Facebook (Saint John Fisher Roman Catholic Church) or Twitter (@StJohnFisher_CT).

Weekend Masses: 4 p.m. Saturday and 9:30 a.m. Sunday. Wearing of masks required. A maximum of 44 parishioners is able to attend each Mass; pre-registration required (on the church website via a live link available Thursday mornings). Contact the parish office with questions.

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

Online Mass: Each weekend's Mass is also available on the parish website, starting at 4 p.m. Saturdays.

Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Face-to-face office visits are limited due to COVID-19 regulations. Call before heading over or connect via the phone.

Youth Faith Formation Programs: There are currently virtual classes and continued outreach; grades 1-8 should contact Faith Formation Coordinator Theresa Brysgel at 860-830-2194 or tbyrsgel@stjfisher.org, and Confirmation Grades 9-10 should contact Confirmation Director Jen O'Neill at oneill.jen@comcast.net.

Youth Group and Youth Leadership "Teen

COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic

Marlborough Senior Center will host a vaccination clinic for seniors (age 75 or older) to get their first COVID-19 inoculation Tuesday, Feb. 16, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., at RHAM High School in Hebron.

There is enough vaccine available for 94 seniors. Call 860-295-6209 to make a reservation.

Student-Athletes on Dean's List

Marlborough residents Nicholas Cannata and Nicole Genga made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Endicott College in Beverly, Mass. – and are also athletes at the school.

Cannata plays baseball, and Genga plays women's lacrosse.

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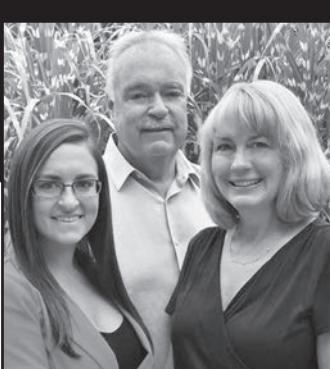
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Historical Society News

Marlborough Historical Society has announced the following pieces of news:

Architectural Surveys: The society is conducting surveys of historic structures in town. For more information, email mhs@marlboroughhistory.org or write to the society at P.O. Box 351, Marlborough, CT 06447.

2021 Calendars Available: Purchase at www.marlboroughhistory.org or by mail at 17 School Drive. Cost is \$18.

Reflections Into Marlborough's History: This town history book is available for purchase. Cost is \$50. More information is at www.marlboroughhistory.org.

Lost in History: The historical society is

looking for any photographs of South School. The school was located close to where the exit 15 off-ramp is now. It was standing in the 1930s but abandoned. People are asked to contact the society if they have any photographs that may depict this school.

Donations and Proceeds: Marlborough Historical Society is a nonprofit organization. To make a tax-deductible donation, visit www.marlboroughhistory.org or mail to Marlborough Historical Society, P.O. Box 351, Marlborough, CT 06447. All proceeds from sales of calendars and the *Reflections* book go to support the society.

Congregational Church News

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

Regular participants include church pastor the Rev. Bob Faulhaber, Carolyn Brodzinski, organist Dave Mulligan, and other musicians and participants from the church and community. A Message for the Children by Christian Education/Junior Youth Director Gwen Lawson is given immediately following the worship service.

Sunday services are recorded and available for viewing on the church website later that same day. All previous worship services can be viewed through the webpage. The Feb. 14 worship service, led by Faulhaber, will include a special Valentine's Day surprise, so all are encouraged to watch it live starting at 10 a.m.

Ash Wednesday is Feb. 17. There will not be a worship service but ashes will be given at the church by Faulhaber to those who wish. Details

will be sent through the church Phone Tree or call the church office at 860-295-9050 for more information.

Mission-giving for February will go to Marlborough Food Bank. To donate, make your check payable to MCC, note "First Quarter Missions," and mail it to the church at P.O. Box 57, Marlborough. The Senior High Youth Group will sponsor the Feb. 14 and Feb. 28 Drive Thru Cafés.

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

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

Amazon Smile donates .5% of purchases back to the church when you sign in using smile.amazon.com/ch/06-1038392.

Second Blessings Thrift Shop is planning to reopen in April, but is selling on eBay. New items are listed each week at bit.ly/MCCebay.

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Richmond Library News & Notes

The Richmond Memorial Library building, located at 15 School Drive, remains closed, but there are many services still being offered. For more information, call the library at 860-295-6210 or visit richmondlibrary.info.

Library2Go Curbside Pickup: Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Hoopla Bonus Borrows Return: Hoopla Bonus Borrows have returned for February. Hundreds of titles are available at no cost to your borrowing limit.

Healthy Eating on a Budget: Thursday, Feb. 18, 7 p.m., via Zoom. Catalina Quesada from Population Health, a program through UConn Health, will share tips and tricks to eating healthier while making the most of your money in this 30-minute program. This program is funded by the SNAP ED program but is open to everyone. Email the library to register.

Library2Go Teen Take & Make: Washi Tape Valentine: Pre-teens and teens (recommended for ages 11 and up) can pick up a Library2Go Teen Take & Make Kit with instructions and materials to make Valentine's Day cards with Washi tape. Available while supplies last.

Winter Storytimes: Children ages 2-3 can

meet virtually at 10 a.m. Mondays, Feb. 22, March 8 and 22, and April 12. Children ages 3-5 can meet virtually at 10 a.m. Fridays, Feb. 26, March 12 and 26, and April 9. Email richmondprograms@gmail.com to register.

CreativeBug Now Has STEAM Videos for Families: The arts and crafts resource CreativeBug has been adding new video tutorials for children and teens that teach science, technology, engineering, art, and math. The tutorials provide a list of materials that can be printed prior to watching the video. CreativeBug is only available to Richmond Memorial Library cardholders.

Book Drop: The book drop is open. Items are quarantined for three days (72 hours) before being checked in. Overdue fines are not accruing at this time.

Curbside Printing: Email a JPEG, DOC, or PDF to richmondprograms@gmail.com and staff will print it for you. Standard printing charges still apply; the first two pages are free, then 25 cents per black and white page and 50 cents per color page. Exact change must be put in a sealed envelope with your name on it and left in the library book drop. Staff will contact you when the item is available for pick-up. Allow up to one full business day.

New Collection at Arts Center

Marlborough Arts Center has received a large collection of many of the works of artist Jacob Pell, a former Marlborough resident.

Pell was born in 1898 in Ukraine, and after immigrating to the U.S. began his artistic career in New York City, working there from 1913 through 1931. His second phase, from 1931-1955, was as resident in Marlborough, from where he then studied in Paris and was later a muralist for the WPA.

Dean's List

Marlborough resident Samantha Bove, a member of the Class of 2022, made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Bryant University in Smithfield, R.I.

Dean's List

The following Marlborough residents made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I.:

Natalie Danek, Chloe Mulberry, Connor Mulberry, Ashley Snyder and Alexandra Welch.



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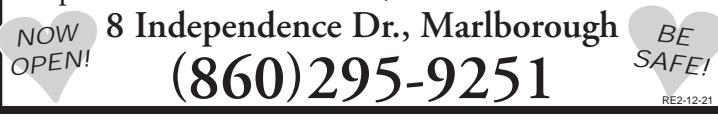
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Parks and Rec Programs

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

Youth Program: Kids Private Virtual Sewing: Days, nights and weekends are available. Fee is \$48 for a 90-minute session.

Adult Programs: Private Virtual Sewing: Days, nights and weekends are available. Fee is \$48 for a 90-minute session.

Barre/Pilates: Mondays through Feb. 22, 5:30-6:15 p.m. Class instruction is virtual. Fee is \$15/week to drop in.

Yoga: Mondays through Feb. 22, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Class instruction is virtual. Fee is \$15/week to drop in.

Kindergarten Registration

Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School in Marlborough will accept registration packets for kindergarten students for the 2021-22 school year Wednesday, March 3, from 9-11 a.m., 1-2 p.m., and 5-6:30 p.m.; and Thursday, March 4, from 9-11 a.m. and 1-2 p.m.

Due to current COVID-19 protocol, all completed kindergarten packets should be dropped off at the school's main office located at 25 School Drive.

Children are eligible for kindergarten if they will be 5 years old by Jan. 1, 2022. Registration packets have been sent home to prospective kindergarteners. If you have an eligible child and have not received a registration packet, please contact the school office at 860-295-6220.

If you receive a registration packet and do not plan to enroll your child, you are asked to notify the school as soon as possible.

Dean's List

Erin Marie Hughes of Marlborough made the fall 2020 Dean's List at the University of Connecticut.

Dean's List

Nora Bernaiche of Marlborough made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Ithaca College in Ithaca, N.Y.

Dean's List

Matthew Pina of Marlborough made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Quinnipiac University in Hamden.

Holiday Closings

The offices of the Marlborough Town Hall, Public Works Department and Senior Center will be closed Monday, Feb. 15, for the Presidents Day holiday.

Cardboard Cutouts at Church

A community-wide fundraiser is being sponsored by Marlborough Congregational Church – parishioners in the form of cardboard cutouts.

Worship services are livestreamed Sundays at 10 a.m. through mcc.marlcongchurch.org with only church pastor the Rev. Bob Faulhaber, organist Dave Mulligan, and a technical staff in attendance. So that Faulhaber won't need to preach to an almost empty sanctuary, there are plans to have "Pew People" fill the seats using professionally-made life-size photo cardboard cut-outs.

All ages are welcome to participate, including church and family members, friends, people from the community and beyond. There is a \$50 minimum donation per cutout.

For details, contact the church office at office@marlcongchurch.org or 860-295-9050.

Dean's List

Marlborough residents Dana Thralls, Maggie Crean and Joseph Marinacci made the fall 2020 Dean's List at the University of New Hampshire.

Thralls and Marinacci earned High Honors, and Crean earned Honors.

Dean's List

Marlborough resident Sydney Farrar, a psychology major, made the fall 2020 Dean's List at The College of New Jersey in Ewing, N.J.

Dean's List

Erin Marie Hughes of Marlborough made the fall 2020 Dean's List at the University of Connecticut.

Dean's List

Victoria McNally of Marlborough made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas.

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★ Clean Property cont. from page 1

the home.

"Then, of course, COVID hit and everything kind of fell apart for a few months," Schaub said.

After seeing no progress with the situation, Schaub took it upon herself to contact the Lions Club, and that's how Maynard and company ended up helping the family.

"Really I would've just made a bad situation worse if I had followed the normal situation and I probably would've put a family out of their home and not resolved the problem," Schaub said.

She explained that along the way there was a neighbor that had "brutal, abusive complaints" to Town Hall staff because he wanted the issue to be remediated.

"It was an amazing thing to finally be able to put together and the property owner is very grateful," Schaub said. "At one point when I was with him, he was literally in tears."

Schaub thanked all who helped with the clean-up.

"It was a success," she added, "and it took a village to put it all together."

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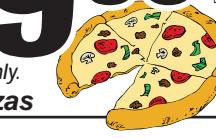
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Obituaries

East Hampton

Carol Marie Hansen

Carol Marie (Orlacchio) Hansen, 81, passed away peacefully Thursday, Feb. 4, after a long illness. She was the wife of the late James Hansen Sr. Carol was born in Middletown. She was the daughter of the late Hermanio and Mary (Banning) Orlacchio.



Carol was raised and lived her life in East Hampton, where she was an active member of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Carol was formerly active in Girl Scouts as a Brownie leader, as well as a former member of the East Hampton Old Home Day Committee. She was an avid gardener and past president of the Belltown Garden Club. She had a passion for reading and always had her next book on hand. When visiting her at her home, people were amazed at her eclectic 500-plus teapot collection.

Carol was an active member of the East Hampton Senior Center and enjoyed going on various outings and trips the center offered. She especially loved being a part of many setback card leagues. In her past, she was on different bowling teams and enjoyed her time with her teammates. She supported many community activities throughout her life.

In addition to many friends, Carol leaves behind her five children: Lynda Shattuck of Coventry, Cathy Saltus (Andrew) of East Haddam, Janet Antilla (Christopher) of Woodbury, "Jay" James Hansen of East Hampton and Denise Evans (Peter) of East Hampton; also, her sister, Nadean Johnson (Kevin) of Middle Haddam.

She is survived by 12 grandchildren and was predeceased by her grandson Timothy Cyr. She has nine great-grandchildren and many nieces, nephews and cousins and friends.

The family wishes to extend their heartfelt gratitude for the exceptional care given to her on the Hospice Unit at Middlesex Hospital.

Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, Sunday, Feb. 14, from 2-4 p.m. A funeral service will be celebrated at Bethlehem Lutheran Church Monday, Feb. 15, at 11 a.m. Burial will be held in the spring.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to The Shriners Hospital at www.lovetherescue.org or to Bethlehem Lutheran Church at P.O. Box 31 East Hampton, CT 06424.

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

Portland

Mary Jean Little

Mary Jean Little, 84, of Portland, wife of the late Patrick Little, died Monday, Feb. 8, at Middlesex Hospital. She was born in Portland, daughter of Joseph and Eleanor (Salemi) Milardo. Mary Jean was employed as a dietitian with Connecticut Valley Hospital.

Mary is survived by her sons, Bernard Jarzabek Jr. and Gary Jarzabek, both of Portland, and her brother, Joseph Milardo. She was predeceased by her husband, Patrick, and 10 siblings.

Calling hours were held Thursday, Feb. 11, at Bieg Funeral Home, 3 Silver St. Middletown.

Those who wish may send memorial donations to St. Mary Church, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland, CT 06480, or Connecticut Humane Society, 701 Russell Rd., Newington, CT 06111.

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

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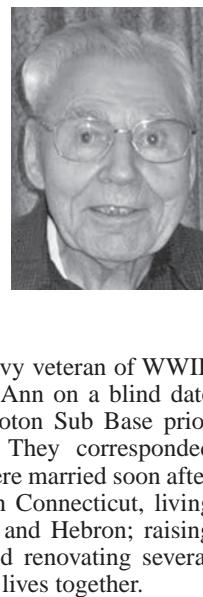
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"A monument should cost no more
than a family can afford."

Hebron

George Russell Pate

George Russell Pate passed away peacefully Monday, Jan. 25, at the age of 97. He was born in Carbondale, Ill., the son of John Pate and Cora (Ford) Pate. He was a hard worker from childhood, having to help his divorced mom make ends meet during the Great Depression by doing any odd jobs he could find.



George was a proud Navy veteran of WWII. He met his beloved wife Ann on a blind date while stationed at the Groton Sub Base prior to being sent overseas. They corresponded throughout the war and were married soon after his return. They settled in Connecticut, living in Manchester, Windham and Hebron; raising two children, building and renovating several homes, and enjoying their lives together.

George was trained as a funeral director, but instead became an appliance salesman, eventually becoming owner and CEO of Jack Roan, Inc. in Willimantic for many years. He also served as president of Nationwide of Connecticut, an appliance regional co-op for the northeast, and he and Ann enjoyed many wonderful trips courtesy of his position. In his later years he enjoyed serving several terms as president of the Mill at Stonecroft Condo Association in Hebron.

George was preceded in death by his wife of 71 years, his twin brother, John, who was lost at sea in WWII, and an infant daughter, Melinda.

He is survived by his daughter, Laurie Larsen (Donald); his son, John Pate (Fearn); his grandchildren, Lindsay Larsen (Clifford Vickrey), Melissa Larsen, Megan Poske (Bo), John Pate, Jr. (Natalie); and great-grandchildren, Hunter and Ava Poske.

George was a gentleman, treating others with courtesy and kindness. He was known for his woodworking skills, his love of new cars, cowboy movies, desserts and strong coffee. But above all, his driving force was a fierce love for his family. We will miss him dearly. For one last time, Dad, "I Love You a Bushel and a Peck..."

To sign an online guestbook, visit www.potterfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Donna Jean Post

Donna Jean Post, 75, of Colchester, passed away at Hartford Hospital Sunday, Feb. 7, after a long illness. Born April 26, 1945, in Canton, she was a daughter of the late Dale and Jean (Coch) McDonald.



Donna married her beloved husband Francis Sept. 7, 1974. The couple made their home and raised their family in Colchester. Donna worked as a nanny for a local family for many years. She was a devoted wife and mother who enjoyed knitting, watching TV soaps, and snuggling with her pet cats, Apple and Pickles.

Donna will be sadly missed but always remembered with love by her husband Francis of 46 years; her children, Page Post of East Hampton, Seth Post of Andover, Mass.; two sisters, Carol Platt of Barkhamsted, Cheryl Brown of Canton; a grandson, Christopher Post of Colchester; and numerous extended family members and friends.

A celebration of Donna's life with walk-through calling hours was held Thursday, Feb. 11, from 2-5 p.m., at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester.

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

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Andover

Nelson R. Warner Jr.

Nelson R. Warner Jr., 79, of Andover, died Tuesday, Jan. 21, in South Windsor. He was born July 12, 1941, in Manchester, son of the late Nelson and Eve (Armstrong) Warner Sr. Nelson was educated at Andover Elementary School and graduated from RHAM High School in Hebron with the class of 1959.



He was a U.S. Coast Guard veteran, serving from 1961-66 aboard the USCGC Eagle and USCGC Campbell. Nelson spent a delightful year on Iwo Jima in support of the LORAN station. It was on Iwo Jima that he struck up a pen pal correspondence with the lovely Linda Holman, who later became his wife in December 1966.

Prior to his retirement in 2005, Nelson was an engineer with CPTV Channel 24 in Hartford for almost 40 years. He lived most of his life in Andover, where he enjoyed the benefits of Andover Lake. Nelson was a longtime member of Andover Congregational Church, serving on the Board of Trustees for many years.

He was often found tinkering with his VWs and his prized possession, his 1961 Morgan +4, a.k.a. "Old Blue." He displayed his Yankee Ingenuity around his home on Lake Road such as when he repurposed the wood shingles, cutting them by hand and flipping them over to give the house a Nantucket feel. Nelson enjoyed the Muppets, radio shows like *Click and Clack* and *A Prairie Home Companion*, as well as camping at Martha's Vineyard and Cape Hatteras. Nelson maintained a strong interest in photography throughout his life, along with his Dandie Dinmont Terriers.

He was predeceased by his beloved wife Linda and is survived by his son, N. Robert Warner III and his wife Stacey of Round Hill, Va.; his daughter, Julie Morris and her husband Brendan of Coventry; his sister, Laurel Andrews of Vernon; six grandchildren, Collin, Audrey, Liam and Ian Warner, Timothy and Katelyn Morris; and several nieces and nephews.

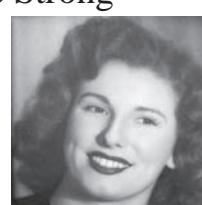
Family will schedule a burial service at a future date.

To leave a memory or message of condolence, please visit www.holmeswatkins.com.

East Hampton

Marie Rose Strong

Marie Rose (Hall) Strong: Oct. 7, 1924 - Feb. 1, 2021



Another of "The Greatest Generation" has passed. Marie Strong was a first-generation American, whose mother, Terezia, was "shoved onto the boat" in 1921 at the last minute when her older sister refused to leave what is now The Czech Republic for an arranged marriage in Michigan.

Called Mary by her siblings, Marie was born in Wisconsin in 1924, the second eldest of ten children. The family grew up in poverty. This, and the Depression, left a lasting impact. Marie had Scarlet Fever in her youth and was administered last rites. Unfortunately, due to the illness she lost a year of primary schooling, a fact she regretted throughout her life.

Marie was forced to leave home and work from the age of 14. Her first job was as a nanny and housekeeper for a family in Chicago. From there, her good looks and winning smile opened the doors for her to work as an elevator operator at Marshall Field's in The Windy City. She soon began modeling lingerie and working at the cosmetic counter. Later, she was hired to showcase and demonstrate new beauty products, primarily the new-fangled electric curler. Her sales territory was the Chicago to New York City route.

Marie loved the Macy's Day Parade, particularly because it reminded her of her time living in Harold Square, and working at the flagship department store during the late 1930s.

While working in Waterbury, Marie traded in her hair curlers for a micrometer. Marie Rose was most proud of her time at Scoville Manufacturing, where she was truly a "Rosie the Riveter," inspecting gun sights for American fighter planes. Marie said, "The flyer boys would come through the factory and hand out silver wings to all the girls." Marie had a quite a collection!

Realizing the war was ending and "the boys would be back to claim their jobs," Marie enrolled in hairdressing school. She held her Connecticut hairdressing and cosmetology license until her 90th year.

It was in Waterbury that she met the love of her life, Glenn Hall. Glenn was a handsome WWII Pacific Navy Vet. They married in 1949 and had one daughter, Rae Marie, several years later. The Hall family moved to Meriden, where Marie lived until her marriage to Leo Strong Jr. in 1981.

Marie and Glenn had summered on Lake Pocotopaug from the 1940s until Glenn's early death in 1978. "I made him build the cottage. I wasn't going to have a baby in a tent, what with the diapers and bottles." Marie's family continues to enjoy that 1954 Hall's Hut today.

It was at the Lake that Marie met Leo who had been her "landlord." Once they married, Marie engaged whole-heartedly with the East Hampton/Chatham community. She worked for many years as a traveling hairdresser in the area. She operated the hair salon at Cobalt Lodge and was the hairdresser at Spencer's Funeral Home in EH and Ferry's in Meriden, finally retiring at the age of 91. She joined the Chatham Historical Society, The Middletown Garden Club, and, at the urging of her late, great friend, Jane Christopher, she became an East Hampton election official.

Marie traveled the world, visiting her daughter in England, touring Ireland, Scotland, France, Holland, and Belgium. She visited Jamaica, Bermuda, and skied in Canada. She relished visiting sites of American history up and down the East Coast. Colorado and the grandchildren were a regular destination. Her favorite way to celebrate her October birthday was to listen to the Elk bugle in Rocky Mountain National Park. Together, Marie and Leo enjoyed boating the Connecticut River to Block Island, pontoon boat rides around the lake, and picnicking lakeside with their many friends and Colorado family.

A lifelong Green Bay Packers fan, Marie loved sports. She became an avid reader in her retirement. She enjoyed a variety of texts, from David McCullough biographies to Louis Erdich fiction. Her final read was John Bolton's *The Room Where It Happened*. She was an exceptional cook who enjoyed serving "hearty" portions to all. Everyone loved Marie's homemade cards celebrating holidays and birthdays.

Marie's death is mourned, and her life celebrated, by her daughter, Rae Marie Studholme (Boulder, Colo., and East Hampton), son-in-law, Jim Studholme, devoted grandchildren Claire Studholme and Brendon Hall Studholme (all of Boulder). Additionally, she leaves behind her beloved sister, Hazel Berry; brothers, Joseph (Sonny) Fillion, Robert Sterling, Richard Sterling; and numerous nieces and nephews. She will be missed by her special friends: Fran Guillemin, Trevor Wylie, Alice Jones, Geraldine Bushnell, and Anne and Ken Danaher and her pen pal, Katy Hess.

Marie was predeceased by her first husband, Glenn Hall; husband, Leo Strong Jr.; and baby granddaughter, Addie Studholme (SIDS).

Donations in Marie's honor may be made to the East Hampton Public Library.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, a celebration of Marie's life will be held later this summer on her lakefront property.

Marie lived independently until her death. A fall at home sent her to hospital. She died two weeks later at Portland Rehabilitation Center. COVID-19 made it impossible to be with her. The family would like to extend their utmost gratitude to the medical staff at Middlesex Hospital and Portland Rehab. Like so many families, the medical staff were her "family" when we could not be with her.

Colchester

Carol A. Ignazio

Carol A (Holgerson) Ignazio, 80, beloved wife of Vito Ignazio for 60 years, passed away peacefully Sunday, Feb. 7, at the Chestelt Health & Rehabilitation Center in Moodus.

Carol was born April 1, 1940, in Putnam, the daughter of the late Rufus F. Holgerson Sr. and Ethel Holgerson Hollis. Carol graduated from Bulkeley High School in Hartford. Carol married Vito at St. Mary Church in Windsor Locks on July 23, 1960. He survives her.

Carol was a longtime resident of Colchester. She was employed at the G. Fox department store in Hartford and the Travelers Insurance Company, but her main passion in life and the thing that brought her the most joy was devoting her time to raising her family and being a full-time Mom. She also enjoyed spending time with her family including her grandchildren, and friends. She was an important part of their



Obituaries continued

family business The Westchester Firewood Company.

Carol was active in her community as a Cub Scout den mother and was a member and past vice president of the Colchester Hayward Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary. Carol was a member of St. Andrew Church in Colchester.

Later in life, Carol and Vito would enjoy taking their 1929 Model A to various car shows. Carol also had a fondness for her pets and the world of nature.

In addition to her husband Vito, she is survived by two sons, Christopher and his wife Diane Ignazio and Scott Ignazio of Colchester; three grandchildren, Shayne, Cassandra, and Olivia Ignazio of Colchester; daughter-in-law, Stephanie Ignazio of Middletown; and numerous nieces, nephews, and friends.

In addition to her parents, Carol was predeceased by her brother, Frank Holgerson, and her twin sister, Ruth H. Allen.

The family would like to extend their sincere gratitude to the volunteers and staff at Chestelm Health & Rehabilitation Center of Moodus for the loving care and compassion they provided to Carol over the past two years.

Walkthrough calling hours will be held today, Feb. 12, from 5-7 p.m., at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A chapel service will be held tomorrow, Saturday, Feb. 13, beginning at 10:30 a.m., followed by a chapel service at 11 a.m., directly at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home. Burial will follow in the New St. Andrew Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made in Carol's memory to the Alzheimer's Association, Chestelm Health & Rehabilitation of Moodus, or Colchester Hayward Fire Department, Old Hartford Road, Colchester CT, 06415.

Andover

Graham Albert Waddington

Graham Albert Waddington left this earth Wednesday, Jan. 27, on his 29th birthday.

Graham leaves to greatly mourn him: his father and mother, Derek Waddington (Karen Calvane) of Somers, and Allison Waddington (Ken Marceau) of Andover; his big brother, Nicholas Waddington; his little sister, Dylan Waddington; a stepsister, Chelsea Calvane; his beloved "Nana and Papa," grandparents Albert and Lorraine Scotti of Hebron; his uncle and aunt Albert and Mary Scotti, his cousin Rachel Scotti, all also of Hebron; and his family in Bothwell, Scotland: aunt and uncle Lynn and Euan Stirrat, their children, Graham's cousins Jillian, Douglas and Andrew Stirrat, and their families; and his uncle David Waddington of London. He was predeceased by his paternal grandparents, Andrew and Margaret Waddington, of Bothwell, Scotland.

He also leaves behind his amazing rescue cat, Wallace, whom Graham referred to as "his son." He loved that little orange cat with all of his heart. He found Wallace while working as a security guard and stuffed him in a box, and brought him home on Christmas Eve, 2015. He couldn't bear the thought of this little guy being out in the snow. He also leaves his great friend Mike Haddad, his new BFF Jay Zanettos, childhood friends Kevin and Stephen Blais, Cam Lutz, Abir Akhand and many, many acquaintances. He had so many memories of his pals Alex Buller and Ethan Sperry, and he would talk of them often.

Graham was larger than life, ridiculously funny, tremendously handsome, a gifted saxophone player, and the best all-around human that anyone could know. More than anything, he loved his family. We can hear him now, "My family is the best. I love my family so much. We have the best family." He idolized his father, and frequently called him a certified beast because his Dad is the best Dad, and the greatest golfer. Graham was so proud of being Derek's son. He loved his Mom so much, and left little notes everywhere for her to find, telling her how much he appreciated everything she did for him. He told her how beautiful she is and did so many little things for her.

He adored his big brother Nick and celebrated all of Nick's many accomplishments. "Can you believe that Nick won the championship again? Nick is the greatest." He thought so much of his brother and sister... and he lit up every time he saw them walk in the door. He loved his sister Dylan with all of his heart, and said she was

the most beautiful woman he'd ever met, a great cook, and the best artist. He was her champion, and he encouraged her to reach for the stars. He left here anxiously waiting for her to finish writing and illustrating the children's picture book she has been working on.

He loved his Nana and Papa and spent as much time there as he could, watching TV and talking with his Papa. He loved his Papa's stories and was held in rapt attention no matter how many times he heard them. "Papa is the man." While waiting for Nana's lamb chops to come out of the oven, he would say "Nana is so beautiful. Did you ever have her roast beef? OMG her beef burgundy. Nana is the best Nana. I can't wait for dinner!" He was at his happiest when his family was with him. At his cousin Rachel's Halloween party, he played Frisbee like a madman while dressed as Hugh Hefner, and was always the last to leave the party. He was so proud of Rachel, her new home, her two kitties, and he loved her so much.

Graham leaves his stepmother Karen, whom he cared so much for. She showed him so many kindnesses in his short life, from giving him cars, to throwing great parties that he loved to attend. He often spoke of her and her mother, who made tremendous desserts that he raved about. He always came home happy from Dad and Karen's house with a plate full of desserts that he would eat in his room! Graham leaves his Mom's partner, Ken Marceau. Ken and Graham butted heads a million times, but Graham was always one of Ken's favorite photography subjects. Something we are all grateful for now. Ken told Graham how proud he was of him for making so many improvements in his life, and Graham knew that.

Graham leaves his beloved Uncle Al... they shared a love of cars. Graham loved Al's vintage T-Bird, and would always call upon his uncle for tools, or car advice. He said, "It doesn't matter what or when, Uncle Al always comes through when I need him."

Graham loved cars, but only Starions and Conquests... old cars that most people have never heard of. He really should have been born in another era, for the cars, and his love of neon '80s vintage clothing. He owned several of these cars, and friended many Starion fans in Facebook groups all over the world. He often told stories of his hero Howard Driespan of New Jersey, who so kindly gave Graham many vintage Starion items and treated him to his favorite New Jersey pizza place every time he visited. Graham said proudly that Howard thought of him as the son he never had. Howard wrote that "Graham's love for the Mitsubishi Starion was boundless! He would buy rare parts, and if the owners were reluctant to sell, his enthusiasm and persistence would get them every time! His friendship and love for this particular car was contagious and was felt all around the world! Everyone knows him, or of him! Many people owe him a debt of gratitude for his help with sending parts to get their cars running again! The car community lost a gem, a rare gem!" Graham would be humbled to know of his impact on the world.

One of his life highlights was going to Pigeon Forge, Tenn., for a Starion/Conquest meet-up with his good friend Justin Marble of New York. He recalled their breakfasts at Waffle House, because the little things meant everything to Graham. He came home with so many Starion and Conquest souvenirs for his entire family. After his passing, we were inundated with messages from all over the world, everyone telling their own Graham stories, and sharing the silliest videos that he sent. His friend Chris Miller of New York, is making memorial T-shirts for his buddy which read, "In memory of Graham Waddington, now on his own eternal StarQuest."

Of Graham, his friend Christopher Miller wrote, "All the world over, Graham was known as the guy who knew all the tiny idiosyncrasies that differentiated different models and trim levels of Graham's favorite car, the Mitsubishi Starion/Chrysler Conquest, commonly referred to as 'StarQuests.' Graham knew how to find the good stuff; the rare parts people thought no longer existed. He made friends as far away as Australia, New Zealand and England. Graham loved to add rare parts to his collection, all for a rainy day, and perhaps for bragging rights. He was not only an associate who bought parts from folks, he made heartfelt, and everlasting friendships with the people he connected with in the StarQuest world. He would often send silly video messages and photos, and surely put a smile on the face of any recipient. He was passionate about his quest for knowledge, and his quest for 'the good stuff.' Graham would always answer a call and help out when there was a friend in need, or if they just wanted to

talk. Graham was also not afraid to get dirty in his search for parts. He would often pull apart cars in rough shape in order to sell the parts to finance his lust for nicer parts. He was clever in that way.

"We will miss his silliness, his knowledge, his passion. We will miss his smile, his laugh. We will miss the feeling of envy we'd get when he would post the rare parts he found or possessed. We will miss having such a valuable resource to ask the oddball questions. We will miss Graham. There are likely hundreds of stories that could be told about Graham from his car friends. The most important one is one of his love for all of humanity, and most importantly, the story of his immense love for his family. We thank his family for sharing him with the StarQuest community. For that we are eternally grateful."

The family is humbled and honored to have our Graham remembered so kindly by so many.

Graham loved food. Rachel's bacon-wrapped jalapenos, Auntie Mary's strawberry cake, Dylan's world-famous nachos that we enjoyed at his birthday party just days ago, his Mom's beef stroganoff with buttered noodles, and anything that his precious and adorable Nana made, especially lamb chops and her world famous beef bourguignon. He also loved junk food and scarfed mountains of Cap'n Crunch, Lucky Charms and Cinnamon Toast Crunch. He loved the dehydrated marshmallows that come in Lucky Charms, and chocolate-covered toffee (and... he peeled the chocolate off and threw it away!). He loved everything that was super sweet, super sour or insanely super fiery hot. He left so much food uneaten including a kitchen cabinet full of cereal, scorching hot salsa, Ramen noodles, sourdough pretzels, and nine different kinds of gourmet hot chocolate. He never got to enjoy the three-pound bag of dehydrated marshmallows that Dylan gave him for his birthday.

Graham loved watching *Unsolved Mysteries*, and he would binge watch all of the episodes for days at a time. He loved *Forensic Files*, but his first love was the Three Stooges. When he was 3 years old he could impersonate Moe Howard like a veteran performer. He loved the movies *Drive*, *A Place Beyond the Pines*, *The Town* and *A Simple Plan*. He left behind so many books, including his favorite book, *Hacksaw*, by Edward R. Jones.

Nicholas, Graham and Dylan grew up on Hall Road in Hebron, which was a dream childhood. He recently told us that he frequently dreamed of his days there. His best pals, Ted Alexander, Tom Ouellette and Spencer Brown, could be found building ramps to jump their bikes, swimming in the neighborhood pools, picking wild raspberries, catching frogs in Mrs. Grant's pond, and just getting up to general sh-

enanigans. He adored Connie and Garth Brown, and their Spencer and Katy. Garth shared Graham's love of dirt bikes and the two of them were fast friends. Phyllis and Les (Mr. Les!) Kurz and their children Matt, Jenny and Tom were phenomenal neighbors who both tricked and treated Graham in the funniest ways. Stu and Lee Alexander and their Ted and Emily provided such fun and memories. The time that Ted and Graham found two \$100 bills in the snow... it was literally buried treasure. Only on Hall Road. Those were golden days.

Graham was wildly inappropriate. In high school he was king of the universal remote. His antics caused all of the classroom electronics to go haywire. The volume went sky high while the channels randomly changed. We believe that the Region 8 school system spent considerable time troubleshooting these "glitches," all of which were caused by Graham. These pranks were not out of malice. He just loved to push the limits. He would wear a Trump wig with a MAGA hat, and drive around just annoying people. Graham loved to rile people up. He did a near-perfect Trump impersonation and left his audience always wanting more.

But there was tremendous kindness to Graham too. He loved to help people who were stuck with broken down cars or flat tires, anything. Just a few months ago, he told a story of a man whose car had broken down in a busy intersection. Graham stopped his own car, jumped out with a rope and helped tow the man to the side of the road. The man said, "You have been sent to me by God." Graham loved that!

Graham was a talented machinist and spent hours trying to explain to his Mom and his sister how lathes and mills worked. We wish we had listened more. He said that his favorite machine was a Haas, as they had them at Manchester Community College, where he completed the Precision Manufacturing Program. He proudly wore a Haas baseball cap that hangs in his bedroom.

Graham left a large hole in his family that can never be filled. We are so sad that he won't be with us to see so many things. He will miss his happy family milestones, and our shared sorrows. He will always be forever young, forever joking and laughing, forever our Graham. Summer Saturday nights at the fire pit with s'mores will never be the same.

In Graham's honor, please fix yourself a mug of hot chocolate, pile it high with marshmallows, and look out for people whose cars are broken down, have a flat tire, or need help reaching the top shelf at the grocery store. These are the things that Graham did every day of his life. There is no kindness that is too small...

Graham will live on in the warm breeze, in the frosty snow and in raindrops that fall gently to the earth. Graham, one day my buddy... one fine day...

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AHM Creative Kids Readers Theater

AHM Youth and Family Services is about to kick off another season of theater for young people living in the towns of Andover, Columbia, Hebron and Marlborough.

For the last 36 years, the regional youth service bureau has produced theater programs for area youth. During the pandemic, it became a challenge, one that was overcome to continue the unbroken chain of providing teens with the opportunity to take part in the performing arts.

AHM Executive Director Tressa Giordano announced this week that through an ongoing partnership with the Playhouse Theater Academy of West Hartford, a new season of youth theater is about to begin for local children in grades K-6. AHM and Playhouse Theater Academy will offer six weeks of theater entitled Creative Kids. The six sessions will be offered

AHM News & Notes

AHM Youth and Family Services has announced the following. For more information on AHM, visit www.ahmyouth.org.

Free Developmental Screenings: These are offered to all families with children ages 4 months-5 years in Andover, Hebron, Marlborough and Columbia. Using a questionnaire, Ages and Stages, children will be asked some questions and perform a series of activities to check on their development in different areas. This takes about an hour and is completed with your child and you present. Screenings will be done at Gilead Hill School in the Family Resource Center by appointment, with proper COVID-19 precautions taken. Contact Jahnna Sieckowski at jahnna.sieckowski@ahmyouth.org or Becky Murray at becky.murray@ahmyouth.org for more information.

Budget Meeting

The RHAM Board of Education will review the proposed 2021-22 schools budget at its meeting Monday, Feb. 22, at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held virtually; links will be posted on the schools' and district's websites.

Scholarship Available

Carl Guild and Associates has announced its community scholarship program for local high school seniors entering college in the fall. There are five \$1,000 scholarships given, one each in East Hampton, Portland, Colchester, East Haddam and the RHAM school district.

There are no restrictions or qualifications; all local seniors can apply. For applications, visit www.carlguild.com/scholarship or ask your school's guidance counselor. Deadline is April 1.

Selectmen Respond to Criticism by School Board

by Sloan Brewster

Andover First Selectman Jeff Maguire said his board cares about the town.

Maguire, a Democrat, reacted in a phone call Tuesday to a story published last week in the Rivereast in which Board of Education Chair Shannon Louden and board member Dan Foran said two selectmen – Republicans Jeff Murray and Adrian Mandeville – behaved disrespectfully to Superintendent of Schools Valerie Bruneau during a budget workshop the previous week. Louden and Foran are Democrats.

"My Republican members of that board were not disrespectful; the only problem we had was the Board of Ed chair spoke out of turn and spoke about her personal feelings," Maguire said. "She thinks the only reason for the questions were that the Board of Ed was not doing its job."

In an email to the Rivereast, Louden said that while she normally leaves commentary at such meetings to public comment, she was "so upset" that she interrupted to ask that Bruneau be given a chance to answer questions being posed to her.

"I was told that I was 'out of order,' she said. "I truly hope that every Andover board, committee, commission and the like hereafter will agree to conduct themselves with the utmost respect for everyone who participates in their meetings and who is discussed at their meetings."

Maguire and fellow selectmen said tough questions were being asked out of concern

about Bruneau's proposed \$4.23 million budget for the 2021-22 school year, a \$329,843 or 8.45% increase over the current year's \$3.90 million approved budget.

Maguire, said that while selectmen have no power over the education budget, they can "shine a light" on it. He and other selectmen said the town's infrastructure needs, including roads and bridges, had been long ignored by previous boards of selectmen and were now in need of funding. Spending so much money on the school would take funds from that.

"The Board of Selectmen is trying to right size things," he said. "We're being squished."

Maguire said he was primarily concerned with per pupil spending and the reduced student enrollment Andover Elementary School has seen in recent years.

Overall, the district has seen approximately 30% fewer students in the past six years while the budget has only been cut by about two percent, Maguire said.

"I'm only a logical accountant," he said. "It's all about the per-student spending."

In an email to the Rivereast, Murray provided some data on surrounding towns and districts with academic metrics above Andover Elementary School from the state Department of Education.

According to a graph he attached to the email, per pupil costs in the districts range between approximately \$14,000 and \$23,000, with Andover's highest at \$22,935.

"As the graph shows, we are spending the most per pupil compared to surrounding towns and towns that academically outperform us," he said.

Hebron and Marlborough, who share the RHAM middle and high school district with Andover, both spend less per pupil than Andover, Murray said. Hebron spends \$5,584 less per student and Marlborough spends \$6,705 less.

Murray said he was being conservative in his math as he did not count pre-k students in the mix, as those costs are generally covered by grants and paid tuition.

That was a sticking point with Maguire as well because, he said, the education board lumps pre-k students into the population number.

"This is the basis of our frustration, and why we want a more detailed budget," Murray said.

Mandeville, who said he watched the video on the workshop after learning people thought he was being disrespectful and did not find it so.

"It was not personal in any way, there was no personal attack," he said. "It was simply questions about the budget and line items. It wasn't derogatory. I think the problem in this country as a whole is we don't want anyone to be challenged anymore."

Mandeville said he watched a Board of Education workshop that occurred after Bruneau initially gave her budget proposal and was surprised board members did not look at budget "outliers" or major increases for possible cuts, which, he said, should start with items that do not directly affect students.

Outliers that needed to be looked at, which he said he found in the budget proposal, included heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) and maintenance.

"If the outliers don't get you where you need to be, you start looking at the nuances of the budget," he said, "Technology, teachers, whatever. In the end, if you do that, then hopefully your budget is right sized for the school population. If you don't do that, then maybe your budget is a little bloated."

Selectmen also had concerns about a 10-student per classroom proposal Bruneau made for kindergarten and said the state average is 15 to 17.

During the workshop, Bruneau said the reason for the smaller class size request was because next year there would be a "COVID-gap" in which incoming kindergarten students would have no history of being schooled and would need additional attention.

Mandeville said that was "biggest outlier in the budget" and the other towns were not lowering class sizes to account for a potential gap.

Selectman Scott Person, a Democrat, echoed his fellow selectmen's comments on the need to

fund town infrastructure and said the education board should be more fiscally responsible and that the request for a more than 8% hike could lead to the town running out of money.

Louden, for her part, said town infrastructure should not be built on the backs of elementary school children.

"AES students should not be penalized because the town didn't properly invest in maintaining its infrastructure for the past decade or two," she said in an email. "The BOE has made certain that the facilities and property for which it's responsible have been well maintained during that same timeframe."

Person also concurred with Maguire that Mandeville and Murray did not act respectfully.

"I think that those two selectmen that got called out were only doing their job and doing a good job at that, you know, a very good job," he said. "Those two are a huge service to the select board."

All the selectmen said RHAM should also be more cognizant of its budget and the cost to taxpayers.

Louden, who said she wants the back-and-forth between the two boards to end, countered that the education board scrutinizes every budget.

"To suggest otherwise is offensive and demeaning," she said. "I anticipate that the BOE will support a 'bare bones' responsible budget at our meeting on Feb. 10, which we then will present and advocate for to the Board of Finance."

At that Wednesday night meeting, Louden said yesterday, the school board trimmed \$74,000 from Bruneau's original proposal and adopted a \$4.16 million budget – a \$256,000 or 6.56%, increase over the current year. A full story about that meeting will appear in next week's *Rivereast*.

She said she stands by the statements she made in the previous article and that "any objective person" who saw the interaction during the workshop would agree that Mandeville and Murray were "quite disrespectful to Superintendent Bruneau."

Resignation from Board of Education

Louden also said that Board of Education member Cynthia Murray, wife of Jeff Murray had resigned from the board on Feb. 7.

"I was saddened to learn about Cindy Murray's resignation from the BOE on Monday afternoon and I told her so," she said.

Murray was unable to be reached for comment.

Louden said she planned to acknowledge her appreciation for Murray's years of service at Wednesday night's meeting, which occurred too late for full coverage in this week's *Rivereast*.

Assessment Appeals Due

Any Andover taxpayer who would like to appeal the assessment on real estate, personal property or supplemental motor vehicle assessments must submit an appeal form to the town office, located at 17 School Rd., by 4 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 18, or send it by mail; if sent by mail, it must be postmarked on or before Feb. 20.

Forms are available in the town clerk's office and at andoverconnecticut.org.

Dean's List

Andover resident Alex Consadene made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Penn State University.

A graduate of RHAM High School, Class of 2019, Consadene is majoring in aerospace engineering.

Dean's List

Andover resident Austin Davis, a member of the Class of 2023, made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Bryant University in Smithfield, R.I.

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Please call 860-569-0722 or visit www.poainc.org

Preschool Openings

Andover Elementary School Early Learning Center is accepting applications for preschool students for the 2021-22 school year.

Andover's preschool program is full-day. Before- and after-school care is available. Children who will be 3 on or before Dec. 31, 2021, are eligible to attend. The learning center receives funding for reduced tuition rates from two state grants: The School Readiness Grant and The Smart Start Grant.

Call Principal John Briody for more information at 860-742-7339. For registration packets, call the school office at 860-742-7339 or download one from www.andoverelementaryct.org.

Kindergarten Registration

Andover Elementary School is registering kindergarten students for the 2021-22 school year. The kindergarten program is full-day.

Parents of children who will be age 5 on or before Dec. 31 can call the school office at 860-742-7339 to obtain a registration packet, or download it at www.andoverelementaryct.org.

Parents choosing to have their child attend an alternative kindergarten, not attend school until the following year, or who will be homeschooling are asked to inform the school of this decision.

School Board Vacancy

Any Andover elector interested in serving on the Andover Board of Education for a term ending June 30 should send a letter of interest to:

Andover Board of Education Vacancy, 17 School Rd., Andover, CT 06232.

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RivereastNewsBulletin

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.

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Free Self-Care Video Library

AHM Youth and Family Services has a Health Matters Free Self-Care Video Library.

The collection includes fitness and nutrition videos (Mission Wellness of Colchester), sketching tips and techniques (Beverly Fisher of RHAM High School), yoga flow and meditation (Anna GLOWacki Yoga), core fusion (Donne Bellmore of Wildflower Fitness) and as a bonus an opportunity to join a weekly live Zumba Fitness class via Zoom (Tressa Giordano).

This video library is available to residents of all ages in the towns of Andover, Hebron, Marlborough and Columbia. As a special exception, due to the global health crisis, AHM is welcoming surrounding towns as well.

To view the library, visit www.ahmyouth.org. For more information, contact Jennifer Boehler at 860-228-9488 ext. 12 or jenniferb@ahmyouth.org.

HAMR Softball Spring Registration

Early registration is now open for HAMR Softball, a non-profit, fast-pitch Little League softball league, for girls age 5-14 from Hebron, Andover, and Marlborough.

HAMR offers several divisions, open to all girls, including T-Ball, Rookies, Minors, Majors, and Juniors. Skill instruction ranges from basic fundamentals and game play to advanced skills and game strategy. Fundamentals are a focus throughout all divisions. COVID-19 guidelines will be followed.

Early bird registration runs through Feb. 28. Fees: T-Ball, \$50; Rookies, \$75, Minors/Majors/Juniors, \$120. Those registering after Feb. 28 will incur a late fee.

To learn more about HAMR and to register, visit www.hamrsoftball.org.

Xavier Honor Roll

Nathan Nadolski.

Honors

Amston: Grade 10: Peyton Cruess; Grade 9: Braden Hulland.

Colchester: Grade 12: Rhys Snow; Grade 11: David DeTuccio III; Grade 10: Alexander Rowlins.

East Hampton: Grade 11: Shea Krassner, Joseph O'Brien; Grade 10: Evan Riegler, Zachary Potter, Peter O'Brien, Julian Henderson; Grade 9: Holden Riley, Cameron Nephew, Jacob Fagan, Luke DeAngelis.

Hebron: Grade 9: Logan Waldron.

Portland: Grade 12: Eoin Wallace, Adam Bradshaw, Joshua Aresco. Grade 11: Jacob Levesque, Ethan Belzek; Grade 10: Colin Wallace, Jack Gouin, Aidan Fenton; Grade 9: Tyler Wydo, Kevin Kasperowski.

Mercy Honor Roll

The following area students made the Mercy High School Honor Roll for the second quarter of the 2020-21 school year:

High Honors

Amston: Grade 10: Mattingly Veilleux.

Colchester: Grade 9: Katherine Grelotti, Talulah Malz; Grade 11: Calle Dennis; Grade 12: Michele Grelotti.

East Hampton: Grade 10: Harper Carlson, Mairan Hall; Grade 12: Grace Riegler.

Hebron: Grade 10: Mackenzie Kelley; Grade 11: Breanne Truscinski; Grade 12: Shaelyn Kelley.

Marlborough: Grade 10: Samantha Magro; Grade 11: Elizabeth Brown.

Middle Haddam: Grade 12: Cecilia Rossi.

Portland: Grade 9: Tiana Harley, Em-

ily Murphy; Grade 10: Lauren Kohs, Milana Koji, Sarah McNickle, Michaela Miano, Julia Nadolski, Leah VanDeventer; Grade 11: Ella Bankoski, Heidi Gross; Grade 12: Lily Herron, Madeleine Thompson.

Honors

Colchester: Grade 10: Sarah Lynch; Grade 11: Ryan Snow.

East Hampton: Grade 12: Reilly Keegan.

Hebron: Grade 9: Margaret McCormack.

Marlborough: Grade 12: Regan Hughes.

Portland: Grade 9: Clare Bankoski, Keira Hassett; Grade 10: Melina Ford, Gianna Low, Raya Morin; Grade 11: Ashley Amendola, Caroline Carella, Mary Kasperowski, Ava Noviello.

ECSU Dean's List

The following area students made the fall 2020 Dean's List at Eastern Connecticut State University:

Amston: Alex Katsarakes, who majors in psychology and philosophy; Brylene Laws, early childhood education and English; Cameron Lettieri, exploratory – undecided; Rebecca Ristow, theatre.

Andover: Julia Carso, exploratory – undecided; Jessica Golemba, elementary education and English; Benjamin Hassett, exploratory STEM.

Colchester: Caroline Banning, mathematics; Jakob Behlke, computer science; Evelise Boenig, criminology; Matthew Coleman, communication; Cameron Curtis, business administration; Cecilia Dell, art; Sarah Eslami of Colchester, psychology; Connor Francis, business administration; Emory Francis, early childhood education and liberal studies; Megan Gabriel, health sciences; Nicole Gorski, art; Caleigh Graff of Colchester, communication; Raymond Harwood, computer science; Kathryn Kauffman, elementary education and liberal studies; Rachael Lebiszczak, exploratory social sciences; Lizbeth Loayza, communication; Courtney Losier, secondary education and English; Alicia Marvin, business administration; Alexandria McKelvey, social work and sociology; Jacqueline Navickas, communication; Cassandra Neudecker, psychology and criminology; Valerie Stanton, early childhood education and English; Hannah Stella, art; Le'Nora Stewart, social work; Benjamin Stratton, elementary education and English; Ashley Todaro, criminology; Samantha Urbowicz, art; Jameson Vio-

lette, accounting; Noah Violette, accounting; Benjamin Williams, secondary education and English; David Zachas, sociology.

East Hampton: Grace Adams, elementary education and liberal studies; Caitlyn Anderson, communication; Meagan Bibisi, sociology; Joseph Caruso, criminology; Jenna DeMartino, elementary education and liberal studies; Isabella Diaz, psychology; Joshua Hull, political science; Allison Ireland, social work; Nalaeh Valley, exploratory arts and humanities; Amanda Weech, social work.

Hebron: Cecelia Charron, accounting; Heather Clough, elementary education and English; Douglas Glode, criminology; Kelly Kozikowski, new media studies; Michael McMahon, accounting; Delaney Pike, early childhood education and psychology; Haley Rodegher, psychology; Jaclyn Santella, English; Mason Shalayda, social work; Hannah Tingley, psychology.

Marlborough: Casey Barrett, business administration; Samuel Bielaczyc, computer science and mathematics; Margaret Bielaczyc, English; Timothy Bielaczyc, business information systems; Ariana Duisenberg, biology; Abigail Erikson, psychology; Alexa Jacobson, biology; Jacob Lee, psychology; Jenna Lord, elementary education and English; Cameron Soulagnet, environmental earth science; Jessica Tardif, social work.

Portland: Bryan Dinnis, finance; Kelsey Harmon, history; Edward Krauth, communication; Anna Maselek, elementary education and communication; Kelly Schneider, biology.

"Pet of the Week"



Seven month old **Oky** is one of three sisters. Oky is the bohemian: smart, occasionally a bit goofy, awkwardly beautiful, an individual. Oky has been fine with other respectful cats, but can be shy with people at first. She wants attention, but may hide, peeping out at you hopefully. Play is absolutely the way to her heart. Oky likes petting (and will even roll over and let you pet her tummy if you play your cards right) but she LOVES to bat at a wand toy.



Maggie is a 10 month old Cairn Terrier/Boston Terrier mix. She is a very sweet, high energy girl and will need a family who will be active with her on a daily basis (Maggie will need more than just a daily walk as an outlet for her never-ending energy). She is super intelligent, is learning her basic commands, and how to walk nicely on a leash. She is still very much a goofy puppy and needs a family that will continue her obedience and leash training. Maggie will need an adult only home due to her crazy puppy exuberance.

For more information on adopting **CATS** or **DOGS**, call **860-569-0722**
VOLUNTEERS & FOSTER HOMES NEEDED - For information call: **860-569-0722**



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LEGALS

LICOR PERMIT
Notice of Application
This is to give notice that I,
BRIAN AIDA
9 GROVE ST

PORLAND, CT 06480-1956
Have filed an application placarded 02/01/2021 with the
Department of Consumer Protection
for a MANUFACTURER LIQUOR PERMIT
for the sale of alcoholic liquor on the premises at:

91 MAIN ST STE B
PORLAND CT 06480-1825

The business will be owned by:
CONCENTRIC BREWING COMPANY LLC
Entertainment will consist of: Acoustics (not amplified), Comedians, Concerts, Disk Jockeys, Karaoke, Live Bands, Magicians, Patio, PlayShows, Sporting Events
Objections must be filed by: 03-15-2021
CONCENTRIC BREWING COMPANY LLC

2TB 2/5, 2/12

GLOBAL SELF STORAGE

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Will sell or otherwise dispose of such personal property on Saturday 2/13/21 at 8:00 AM
Property previously owned by:

P Brogan G Ivanish J Misorski
M Aiken K Adams J Vancott

2TB 2/5, 2/12

LEGAL NOTICE EAST HAMPTON BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

In accordance with Section 12-110 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the East Hampton Board of Assessment Appeals will hold a public meeting by appointment only via Zoom virtual platform for the purpose of hearing appeals related to the assessment of real estate, personal property and motor vehicles on the Grand List of October 1, 2020 and the Supplemental Grand List of October 1, 2019 in the Town of East Hampton.

Appellants are encouraged to provide any documentation they believe support their appeal. Examples include, but are not limited to, real estate appraisal, bill of sale for real estate purchase, vehicle bill of sale and/or repair bills, photos showing condition of vehicle, and photo of odometer reading. Complete applications and supporting documentation must be filed in writing and received no later than February 19, 2021.

Please contact the Assessor at 860-267-2510. Applications are available in the Tax Assessor's Office or at www.easthamptonct.gov.

Completed applications may be mailed to:

Board of Assessment Appeals
Assessor's Office
1 Community Drive
East Hampton, CT 06424

The meeting agenda with a zoom reference number will be included with your appointment confirmation and will be emailed prior to the meeting to applicants who have filed applications in a timely manner.

2TB 2/5, 2/12

Town of Portland Board of Assessment Appeals Notice of Meeting

The Board of Assessment Appeals will meet at the Waverly Center 7 Waverly Avenue, during the month of March 2021 for the purpose of hearing Real Estate and Personal Property 2020 Grand List assessment appeals. Written application must be submitted to the Assessor by 12:00 p.m. on February 19, 2021. Applications can be found on the Town of Portland website and/or are available for pick up during business hours in the Assessor's Office.

HOMEOWNERS SENIOR TAX CREDIT

The Town of Portland Tax Assessor's Office will begin taking applications from new applicants for the Senior Tax Credit Program beginning February through May 14, 2021. If you are currently on the program and did not file last year, it is time to renew your application.

If you and/or your spouse are 65 years of age or older or totally disabled, own your home and your income does not exceed \$37,600 if unmarried or \$45,800 if married, you maybe eligible for a tax benefit on your real estate taxes. Your 2020 Federal Income Tax Return and 1099 Social Security statement are needed as proof of income to submit an application.

Please contact the Portland Assessor 860-342-6744. If you have any questions or visit our website www.portlandct.org

1TB 2/12

Public Notice Town of East Hampton Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency Wetlands Agent Approval

Pursuant to CGS Section 22a-42a (c) (2) the following application has been approved by the duly authorized agent of the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency of the Town of East Hampton for an activity within the Upland Review Area.

Number: IW-21-002

Applicant: Mary Ann Hubert

Location: 68 Spellman Point Road

Activity: Enlarge existing deck by 4' in the Upland Review Area

Jeffry M. Foran

Duly Authorized Agent

Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency

1TB 2/12

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON LEGAL NOTICE Notice of Action

The East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission held a regular meeting on February 3, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom to consider the following:

Application PZC-20-027: Connecticut Contractors Group, LLC., Young/Daniel Street Subdivision. Map 13/Block 51/Lot 1. Approved with conditions

Application PZC-21-003: Edgewater Hill Enterprises, Edgewater Circle, for a Site Plan Review for Phase 2 - Salt Pond Apartments consisting of 5 Buildings with 8 Units within each. Map 10A/Block 85/Lot 5C. Approved with conditions

Ray Zatorski, Chairman

Note* any question re: Applications and Maps are on file in the Land Use Office 860-267-7450.

1TB 2/12

Legal Notice Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission

The Duly Authorized Agent of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission APPROVED on February 8, 2021, the following applications:

Application #IWWC21-01 - Removal of an 8-foot x 8-foot shed in an Upland Review Area at the South end of the driveway at 33 Gilead Rd (Andover), and installation of a 12-foot x 24-foot prefabricated garage at the South end of the driveway.

Application #IWWC21-02 - Placement of 400 cubic yards of stone rip-rap material between existing timber retaining wall and edge of wetlands at Hillside Storage Center, 132 Jonathan Trumbull Highway (Andover) to provide structural support for existing wall.

The above decision may be appealed to the Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission pursuant to Section 12.2 of the Town of Andover Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations: Andover IWWC Regulations (PDF)

1TB 2/12

LEGAL NOTICE MARLBOROUGH ZONING COMMISSION NOTICE OF ACTION

The Marlborough Zoning Commission at its meeting of February 04 2021, took the following action:

APPLICATION CONTINUED; SITE WALK SCHEDULED; PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED: Application #Z-12-20

-Special Permit (Formerly Application #Z-04-20) - Bill G. Jonbalaj (Applicant) 21 Austin - HGB LLC (Property Owner)

- South Main Street (Between 11 & 19 South Main Street) & Johnson Road - Village Cluster Residential Planned Development. A site walk is scheduled for March 4, 2021 at 4pm. A public hearing is scheduled for March 4, 2021 at 7pm.

APPLICATION APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS:

Amendment to Application #Z-11-18 - Bestways Fuel (Property Owner) Convenience Store/Gas Station 2 - 4 Portland Road, Modifications to Approval.

APPLICATION APPROVED: Application #Z-01-21 - Mathew Carroll (Applicant) 198 EHRD LLC (Property Owner) 198 East Hampton Rd - Modification of Use Food Service.

KEVIN ASKLAR, ZONING COMMISSION CHAIR
Dated at Marlborough, CT this 10th day of February.

1TB 2/12

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

Notice is hereby given that the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency held a meeting at 6:30 p.m. on January 27, 2021 to consider the following:

IW-20-034: John Uliano, 29 Pocotopaug Dr., To construct a pool and 2 retaining walls within the Upland Review Area. Map 25/Block 64/Lot 20A-1. Approved with conditions

IW-20-035: Edgewater Hill Enterprises, LLC., East High St., to construct Salt Pond Apartments (40 units); a phase of the Edgewater Hills Master Plan. Map 10A/Block 85/Lot 5C. Approved with conditions

IW-20-039: Donald Ballsieper, Navajo Trail, New home construction with the Upland Review Area. Map 09A/Block 74/Lot 167. Approved

IW-20-040: Cary L. Gagnon, 5 Boulder Road, to install bike trails and wooden bridges in the wetlands and upland review area. Map 03A/Block 44/Lot 23F. Approved with conditions

IW-21-002: Mary Ann Hubert, 68 Spellman Point, to enlarge existing deck by 4' within the Upland Review Area. Map 09A/Block 70/Lot 9. Agent Approval

Jeffry M. Foran, Chairman

1TB 2/12

REAL ESTATE



Allison Dillon 860-301-0955 abdillon@snet.net	John Drury 860-466-0077 john@harrs.com	Faith Farina 860-373-6993 faithfarina@gmail.com	Fred Ferguson 860-638-9362 fredergusonct@gmail.com	Patrick Florio 603-557-6663 patrickflorio@gmail.com	Sharon Fox 860-805-6917 sharonfoxrealtor@gmail.com	Lynn Gardiner 860-729-1215 lynngardiner5@gmail.com	Jay Gigliotti 860-235-3570 jgigliotti.cga@gmail.com	Diane Gombieski 860-977-4857 gombieski@snet.net	Matthew Gworek 860-882-8650 mgworekrealty@gmail.com	Jim Harrington 860-966-9966 jim@harrs.com
Amy Howard 860-716-5475 amyhowardrealtor@gmail.com	Jeff King 860-710-1323 jeffkingrealtor1@gmail.com	JP Landrey 860-559-5340 jp.landrey@comcast.net	Sandra Lindstrom 860-334-5815 sandalindstromrealtor@gmail.com	Mike Mallon 860-338-5037 mjmallon1@live.com	Catherine McNarry 860-306-4436 catherinemcnarry@gmail.com	Lynn Minnick 860-989-7267 lynnminnickrealtor@gmail.com	Brian Mitchard 860-834-3204 brianmitchardrealtor@gmail.com	Bill Nelson 860-395-9139 william.m.nelson@comcast.net	Christopher Passera 860-657-6578 cmpassera64@gmail.com	Filipe Pereira 860-990-9103 filipe@wemanageit.com
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Michael Varni 860-335-7380 michael@harrs.com	Daniel Walsh 860-841-0183 danwalshsells@gmail.com	Candy Webb 860-377-7510 candywebbrealtor@gmail.com	Cleara Yanaros 860-754-7048 clearasellsct@gmail.com	Gladys Yeager 860-944-9772 gladyseyager@sbcglobal.net						

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EAST HAMPTON NEAR TOWN CENTER: 2BR/1BA, 2nd floor Apt. Completely renovated new floors, carpet, appliances, dishwasher, paint, counter tops. Washer/Dryer both new & in unit. \$1175./mo. + utilities. 1 mo. Security. No Dogs. 860-308-4738.

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Second Floor apartment of two family house located at 1099 Tryon Street, South Glastonbury. Two bedroom with office, living room and dining room. Rent is flexible between \$1200-1700 based on occupants.

Heat and electricity not included. Lease and security deposit required.

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CT115-20

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The Hebron Board of Education is committed to a policy of equal opportunity/affirmative action for all qualified persons. The Hebron Board of Education does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of race, color, religious creed, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability (including, but not limited to, intellectual disability past or present history of mental disorder, physical disability or learning disability), genetic information, access to Boy Scouts or other Designated Youth Groups or any other basis prohibited by Connecticut state and/or federal nondiscrimination laws.

Inquiries regarding the Hebron Board of Education's nondiscrimination policies should be directed to:

Dr. Donald Briere
Title IX and Section 504 Coordinator
Hebron Public Schools
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