



# RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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

Volume 46, Number 03

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

January 28, 2022



**New Life Scout...** Scout Troop 72 of Colchester recently held a Court of Honor. Pictured is Connor Denecour, right, receiving the Life Scout award. Also shown is his father, Ken. For more on the Court of Honor, see the story on page 12.

## Recount Confirms Rudko Loss in Colchester

by Diane Church

Saturday's hand recount confirmed – once again – that Republican Taras Rudko did not win back his seat on the Colchester Board of Selectmen.

The results from the town clerk's office show the hand recount proved the results of the first recount and the Nov. 2 election. For the five-way Board of Selectmen race, newcomer Republican Debbie Bates led with 2,811 votes. Democrat Denise Turner received 2,629 votes, followed by Democrat Rosemary Coyle with 2,580 votes. Republican Jason LaChapelle had 2,572 votes and Rudko got 2,551. The board has four members and the first selectman.

In the original election Bates had 2,813; Coyle had 2,579 and LaChapelle had 2,573. Rudko's and Turner's numbers remain unchanged.

"I'm glad we can finally put this behind us," said Rudko. "I'm glad for the opportunity to have my questions answered. But it never would have happened without two attorneys. That just kills me."

Rudko in December had filed a lawsuit requesting the recount, claiming "discrepancies" and violations of state statutes before and during an initial recount of the Nov. 2 election.

Rudko's lawsuit was against election moderator Betty Wagner; former Republican registrar of voters Sheila Tortorigi; Town Clerk Gayle Furman; Board of Selectmen member Rosemary Coyle, a Democrat; and Board of Selectmen member Jason LaChapelle, a Republican.

Coyle and LaChapelle were listed as "interested parties." (Wagner was later removed as a defendant.)

Colchester First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos – a Republican – hired attorney Luis Medina to represent Coyle, LaChapelle and the town employees in the lawsuit. It was a controversial hire. Some Democrats objected as the town charter states the Board of Selectmen should make such decisions together. There were also concerns about Medina's record, which includes a disbarment and a reprimand. Bisbikos said he did not have time to call an emergency meeting of the board to decide on an attorney, a position that was later backed up by attorney Matt Ritter of Shipman & Goodman.

The lawsuit did not go to trial, but was settled out of court by a stipulation. Judge Robert Young found that one of Rudko's claims, that he was not properly informed about the first recount, was valid and awarded him a second recount, which would be done by hand.

"The town has learned a lesson," said Bisbikos. "We need to follow state statutes because otherwise we get into legal entanglements."

"I'm glad it's all over," he added. "It was an unnecessary headache. We have bigger things to worry about."

Rudko said he will continue to attend meetings and pay attention to local issues.

"It's important to remain involved and hold people accountable," he said. "If I have to continue my role as an educator, so be it."

## Vital Records Stolen in Belltown Hack

by Jack Lakowsky

Town Manager David Cox revealed to the East Hampton Town Council that perpetrators of a December cyberattack against the town stole key information of town and school employees.

"It was determined the [stolen] files had protected information," Cox told the Council on Tuesday, "Social Security and banking numbers, mainly information related to employees and vendors who work for East Hampton."

The cyberthieves made off with as many as 4,200 Social Security numbers and more than 3,300 banking records, according to Cox.

"It's important to note we're not aware of any use or sale of that information," said Cox.

Next, the town will send out about 5,500 letters to affected people, and advice on what to do going forward. The town will also pay for two years of credit monitoring for victims.

"This includes active employees, former employees, and vendors," said Cox, adding some of the information belonged to dead people.

Even the records of children of town employees fell prey to the cyberattack. As an employer, the town has the information of employee dependents. The town is sending information on how to protect a child's credit, said Cox.

The local school board also sent out letters to anyone affected.

"Some information on students was lost," Cox said, adding it was not what he'd categorize as protected data, but that it's "important nonetheless."

Cox said the town's network has been resecured and bolstered.

"We've made some changes to the way we conduct business and some improvements to software," said Cox. "We're taking this very seriously and will work to make sure our resources are protected."

Cox offered apologies to anyone who receives a letter naming them as a victim of the incident.

"We became aware of [the attack] around

Dec. 1," Cox told the *Rivereast* in December.

For security, Cox kept the incident quiet for a few weeks. The council discussed the matter in an executive session in mid-December.

Cox spoke to the daunting efficiency and specialization of these organized groups that steal information and sell it to another party. The "customer" then exploits the "holes" in a system's security, Cox said.

"It's just bizarre," said Cox in December.

"In the future, I expect an ongoing conversation about what more we can do," added Cox.

East Hampton notified the state Cyber Crimes Investigation Unit and, by extension, the FBI. An investigation is ongoing. At the time the town was unaware of the attack's breadth.

In his release about the incident, Cox wrote the town detected suspicious activity in its network. Staff from both the town and the school board IT departments responded promptly, beginning an investigation with law enforcement

See *Vital Records Stolen*, page 22

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RE114-22

Regional • Regional

### Eastern Connecticut State University Dean's List

The following area students made the fall 2021 Dean's List at Eastern Connecticut State University:

**Amston:** Brylene Laws, who majors in early childhood education and English; Alex Katsarakes, who majors in psychology and philosophy; Kelly Ayen, who majors in social work; Mollylynn Doherty, who majors in computer science; Tyler Lettieri, who majors in business administration; Kelby McCooley, whose major

is exploratory – undecided; Abigail Moore, who majors in communication; Rebecca Ristow, who majors in theatre; Ericka Sandstrom, who majors in business administration; Ayla Thurstan, who majors in psychology.

**Andover:** Jessica Golemba, who majors in elementary education and English; Julia Carso, who majors in communication; Amanda Nieves, who majors in criminology; Megan Schreiner, who majors in criminology; Kane Waggoner,

who majors in communication.

**Colchester:** Cassandra Neudecker, who majors in psychology and criminology; Sara Swift, who majors in pre-secondary education and English; Olivia Zumpano, who majors in pre-elementary education and English; Emory Francis, who majors in pre-early childhood education and psychology; Nicholas Anelli, who majors in accounting; Caroline Banning, who majors in mathematics; Evelise Boenig, who majors in criminology; Avery Raber, who majors in labor relations and human resources management; Kailee Dickinson of Colchester, who majors in psychology; Sarah Eslami, who majors in psychology; Megan Gabriel, who majors in health sciences; Raymond Harwood, who majors in computer science; Brendan Ken-

nedy, who majors in business administration; Rachael Lebiszczak, who majors in health sciences; Courtney Losier, who majors in English; Riley McConnell, who majors in communication; Catheryn Neudecker, who majors in music; Sidney Petro, who majors in social work; Nadia Ploof, who majors in health sciences; Lizbeth Ryan, who majors in communication; Hannah Stella, who majors in art; Samantha Urbowicz, of Colchester, who majors in art; Jameson Violette, who majors in accounting; Noah Violette, who majors in accounting; Rexford Welch, who majors in English; Caroline Wilcox, who majors in health sciences; Benjamin Williams, who majors in English; Jonathan Willson, who majors in business administration; Paula Yanez, who majors in biochemistry.



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Regional • Regional

**ECSU Dean's List cont.**

**East Hampton:** Kristina Lintz, who majors in pre-secondary education and English; Grace Adams, who majors in elementary education and liberal studies; Joseph Caruso, who majors in criminology and sociology; Enrique Diaz, who majors in art; Joshua Hull, who majors in political science; Allison Ireland, who majors in social work; Lorelai Jump, who majors in exploratory social sciences; Noelle Vaillancourt, who majors in psychology; Nalaeh Valley, who majors in communication; Amanda Weech, who majors in social work.

**Hebron:** Heather Clough, who majors in elementary education and English; Delaney Pike, who majors in early childhood education and psychology; Lindsay Anderson, who majors in exploratory social sciences; Terrence Clark, who majors in business administration; Ashley Gentile, who majors in health sciences; Jordyn Holbrook, who majors in health sciences; Elliott Kalisher, who majors in new media studies; James Lukow, who majors in business administration; Jaclyn Santella, who majors in English; Colby Scott, who majors in communication; Mason Shalayda, who majors in social work; Caili Wilkinson, who majors in criminology.

**Marlborough:** Jenna Lord, who majors in

elementary education and English; Cristina Catarino, who majors in pre-elementary education and history and social science; Kaitlin Nicol, who majors in pre-elementary education and liberal studies; Margaret Bielaczyc, who majors in English; Matthew Bielaczyc, who majors in business information systems; Timothy Bielaczyc, who majors in business administration; Daniel Cormier, who majors in accounting; Abigail Erikson, who majors in psychology; Jacob Lee, who majors in psychology; Carissa Lord, who majors in finance; Rachel Lord, who majors in finance; Luke Meola, who majors in finance; Cameron Soulagnet, who majors in environmental Earth science; Jessica Tardif, who majors in social work.

**Portland:** Anna Maselek, who majors in pre-elementary education and communication; Brendan Albert, who majors in criminology; Julia Berthiaume, who majors in health sciences; Kaitlin Capello, who majors in sport and leisure management; Georgia Carlson, who majors in biology; Bryan Dinnis, who majors in finance; Joshua Hurley, who majors in finance; Nicholas Kelly, who majors in criminology; Adam Rosignol, who majors in business administration.



East Hampton senior cheerleading captain Emma Lanzi with head coach Alexa Paddock (right) and assistant coach Kate Adams during Senior Night on Jan. 22

**Standout Athletes of the Week**

by Josh Howard

Here are the *Rivereast* Standout Athletes of the Week for the Week of Jan. 17-23:

**Emma Lanzi – East Hampton High School (Cheerleading):** Lanzi, who is a captain and the only senior on the Bellringers cheer squad, was recognized on Senior Night at East Hampton High School last week. She has been cheering for a decade, starting with the East Hampton Hawks youth cheer at the age of seven. Lanzi, who has also played softball at the high school, said she approached this year knowing she would be the leader, adding, "The best part about our cheer team is how close we all got and we have become like sisters. Sometimes I feel as if I am like a mom to them."

**Sarah West – RHAM High School (Basketball):** West scored a game-high 18 points as the Raptors ripped through Rocky Hill 69-39 on Jan. 18. The junior then had 20 of the team's 33 points, including a half-court shot to beat the third quarter buzzer, in the following game against Conard on Jan. 21. In the two games,

West also combined for 16 rebounds, 10 blocks, seven assists and five steals.

**Ashton Oakliff – Portland High School (Wrestling):** Oakliff won all four of his matches as Portland hosted a multi-school meet on Jan. 22. The senior was one of four Highlander wrestlers to win all four matches, joining Andrew Johnson, Spencer Rosado, and Griffin Shafer. Owen Brunk and Ethan Dean each won three of four matches.

**Elijah Black – Bacon Academy High School (Basketball):** Black scored 20 points as the Bobcats downed Norwich Tech 62-46 on Jan. 20. The junior had help from senior Quinn Johnson, who added 15 points in the victory. It was the team's second victory in a row, also beating Griswold (50-44) on Jan. 18 behind 11 points from Sam Blumberger and Ryan Claffey's nine-point, 15-rebound performance.

To nominate someone for an Athlete of the Week or with any questions or comments on sports-related topics, email Josh Howard at [joshhowardsports@gmail.com](mailto:joshhowardsports@gmail.com)

**Area Kids Sought for Biking Team**

Area boys and girls from grades 5-12 are invited to join the Chainlinks youth mountain biking team. For more information, email [chainlinks@neyouthcycling.com](mailto:chainlinks@neyouthcycling.com) or see [www.neyouthcycling.com](http://www.neyouthcycling.com).

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**From the State Senator's Desk...**

I'd like to take a moment to share some promising local news with you. For decades, our local historical and arts organizations have played an important role in retaining local history and preserving it for the future, as well as introducing and expanding our awareness and knowledge of creative arts. The hard work volunteers put into these groups cannot go forgotten and need support – which is why I'm happy to say they're getting some additional aid.

Earlier in January, Connecticut Humanities' board of directors awarded more than 600 support grants to nonprofits all around Connecticut. These grants, which were valued at a minimum of \$5,000, are intended to assist local organizations as they recover from the COVID-19 pandemic; specifically, the funding is intended to help groups maintain and grow their ability to serve the public. Many grants will help connect education systems to humanities and arts content, while organizations will be able to advance their digital presences through support for information technology.

These grants will be meaningful for East Hampton's Chatham Historical Society and Portland's Historical Society, which received \$5,500 and \$7,200, respectively. Both of these fine organizations have spent decades preserving our communities' pasts for the well-being of their future, educating residents of all ages of how East Hampton and Portland lived and thrived hundreds of years ago. By engaging with our past, we learn more about how our towns and our societies operated decades and centuries ago. The lessons and qualities they've held are still meaningful today, and I'm excited that our Historical Societies have these additional resources to support further education.

Additionally, I'm excited to note East Hampton's Epoch Arts, a nonprofit dedicated to arts for local youth, will receive a grant valued at \$10,600. Designed to help local students better understand and appreciate the arts in their daily lives – and possibly inspiring them to discover new talents and even possible career paths – an organization like Epoch is instrumental in filling the hearts and minds of today's youth with the inspiration and creativity that will benefit them through their lives.

These grants will play important and useful roles in our communities in coming years, helping to foster a better sense of togetherness and allowing our towns to understand the past to benefit the future. I'm grateful to CT Humanities for the grant releases and am proud to have helped support these grants, which were approved last year by the General Assembly. I look forward to seeing these great organizations continue to succeed for years to come.

State Sen. Norm Needleman  
D-33rd District

Note: The 33rd District includes Colchester, East Hampton and Portland.

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RE1-28-22

*From the Editor's Desk*

# Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

The ongoing pandemic has hit so many different industries and efforts – and, as I was reminded this week, the American Red Cross is very much one of them.

Earlier this month, the Red Cross issued its first-ever “blood crisis” alert, as it is experiencing its worst blood shortage in more than a decade. And while the Red Cross sent out an email this past Tuesday saying there was a “significant and encouraging response” to that alert, the need is still dire.

Not only is the pandemic slowing down collections, Mother Nature is too. The Red Cross said hundreds of blood drives have been canceled across the country due to winter storms in January, forcing about 6,500 blood and platelet donations to go uncollected.

As February approaches, and the effects from the spread of the COVID-19 omicron variant and winter weather persist, the Red Cross is urging people to make an appointment now to give blood or platelets in the weeks ahead by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

As they’ve been doing with increasing frequency in recent months, the Red Cross is basically resorting to bribes to try to get donors. And while I personally think that’s kind of sad – isn’t the act of donating, of potentially helping to save someone’s life, reward enough? – times are tough all over so, hey,

whatever gets people in the door.

Through the end of the month, Krispy Kreme is offering those who come to give blood or platelets a free dozen doughnuts (original glazed only). To receive the free dozen, visit a participating Krispy Kreme shop by Jan. 31 and present a donation sticker or a digital blood donor card through the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

As far as I know, the only Krispy Kreme in Connecticut is at Mohegan Sun, in case you’re wondering.

Meanwhile, those who give blood or platelets from Feb. 1-28 will receive a \$10 Amazon.com gift card via email.

You’re eligible to donate blood if you’re: 17 years or older, weigh at least 110 pounds, and are in generally good health. may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also must meet certain height and weight requirements.

\*\*\*

The horrid peak in COVID-19 cases we saw recently appears to be waning, and while there’s been another new variant in the news recently, hopefully things will continue to get better. We’re entering year three of this awful pandemic – I’ve heard it called the pandemic’s junior year – and enough is so very, very enough.

I certainly hope the numbers have declined

**Editor’s Desk continued on page 5**



**Funds for Food Bank...** The Colchester Rotary Foundation had funds remaining after fulfilling all the needs for its Thanksgiving baskets and recently presented Colchester Food Bank with a check for \$1,000. The town food bank provides needed food for those that can use a little extra help throughout the year. Pictured is Stephanie Turbes, social services coordinator at Colchester Youth and Social Services, accepting the check from Deb Martin and Bonnie Johnson from Colchester Rotary Foundation.

## Bulletin Board

Suds McSpatz was watching “cable news” with the sound off when I stopped by (this may sound a little odd, but if you’re going to watch what passes for cable news and you’re not a masochist, turning the sound off is probably a good idea from a mental health perspective).

Suds, it seems, is not dealing with Covid isolation very well.

“What do you want?” he said.

“Just came by to say hello.”

“Hello.”

On television some agitated person was mutely ranting, presumably about how we’re all going to hell in a handbasket, like we haven’t already figured that out for ourselves. Suds seemed mesmerized.

Realizing it was time for extraordinary measures, I made a fist into a makeshift talking sock puppet and held it up at eye level for Suds to see. “Say hello to my little friend,” I said.

Suds scowled.

*What’s the matter with him?* piped up the sock puppet in its squeaky sock puppet voice.

“He’s just tired,” I said. “We’re all tired. Tired of being inside, tired of not knowing what’s true or false, tired of not being able to live like normal human beings, tired of the Russians and the Chinese, tired of the left and the right, tired of all the insanity in this country.”

*Oh.* The sock puppet studied Suds carefully for a moment. Does he have Covid perchance?

“No. I don’t think so.”

*Should we ask to see his vax card?*

“No. Let’s not antagonize him.”

*Is he dangerous?*

“No.”

*I think I should put on another mask just in case.*

“You’re already wearing four masks and a pair of motorcycle goggles.”

*Dr. Fauci says we can’t be too careful.*

“Being careful won’t help if you go and smother yourself to death.”

Sock Puppet peered at Suds, going right up into his face and solemnly observed, *He doesn’t look too good to me.*

“He’s never looked very good. I’ve known him my whole life and this is about as good as it gets.”

*You are much more handsome and virile. And your insights on the human condition are quite remarkable.*

“I know.”

*And so humble.*

“It’s a gift from my father’s side of the family. I come from a long line of extremely modest and painfully good-looking high achievers.”

*You are like a minor deity...almost on the level of a public schools teacher who wants to actually teach children in person.*

“Thanks. I guess.”

Sock Puppet turned his attention back to Suds, who appeared to be trying not to laugh, despite himself. *What’s that tattoo on his arm?* squeaked Sock Puppet. *It looks like an angry Donald Duck.*

“He was in the war. And it’s an eagle. At least it used to be. Like everything else, age hasn’t been particularly kind.”

*The Civ-eel War? What did he do with his horse?*

“No, it was the war where certain people said thank you for your service by spitting on you.”

*Oh. That war.*

“I know. American foreign policy being what it is, it’s hard to keep these things straight.”

“All right! All right! said Suds. “That’s enough. I give up. Obviously you’re not going to leave.” He shook his head. “You are messed up, man.”

“Everybody says so.”

“Talking sock puppets. Good Lord.”

“It’s no more absurd than what passes for news these days.”

“Well, you’re right about that, pal.”

**Jim Hallas**

## Rivereast Hours of Operation

The offices of the *Rivereast News Bulletin* and *Glastonbury Citizen*, located at 87 Nutmeg Lane, Glastonbury, are open Monday through Wednesday, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., and Thursday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The *Rivereast* can be reached any time via email at [bulletin@glcitizen.com](mailto:bulletin@glcitizen.com).

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### Corrections

In the story on last week’s Marlborough house fire, which appeared on page 10, fire marshals from East Haddam were reported to be working with Marlborough Fire Marshal Joe Asklar to determine the cause of the fire. This is incorrect; East Haddam is not working with Asklar.

\*\*\*

Also, the Jan. 14 edition of the *Rivereast* covered the defeated zone change of the Citgo gas station at the corner of Route 16 and Main Street, saying applications denied by the East Hampton Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) must wait a year before refiling. This is not entirely accurate. According to the town’s zoning official, Jeremy DeCarli, the regulation reads the commission “shall not be required to hear any petition...more than once in a 12-month period.”

PZC has complete discretion as whether they rehear a denied application within a one-year period, DeCarli said.

\*\*\*

The *Rivereast* regrets the errors.

### Common Characteristics

To the Editor:

Having read dozens of letters from the conservative fringe in this forum, participated in conversations with some of these authors and numerous others who espouse similar beliefs, I have listened to their theories and read the mountains of documents they have forwarded to me in an attempt to understand their viewpoint, and in some ways alleviate their angst. In so doing, I have concluded there are a few common characteristics that distinguish their worldviews from everyone else.

Principal among these traits is tangential thinking accompanied with strong religious undertones. Another common attribute they possess is a limited understanding of government, science, and economics. The result is a pervasive illusion of knowledge that distills complex issues down to oversimplifications. This shortcoming often demonstrates as an absence of genuine compassion towards others who are different from them. An attribute that hints of white privilege with whispers of racism embedded within their evaluation of others.

Their superficial ideas about government, science, the economy, and people of color systematically pave the way to an inherent distrust

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## RIVEREAST News Bulletin

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and fear. Notions of secret world orders, conspiracies about vaccines altering human DNA and 5G wireless plots to alter brainwaves are predicated entirely on speculation and inductive reasoning. This form of intellectual catastrophizing conflates violence with Christianity, democracy with corporatocracy, and freedom with ignorance. The consequence is a quiet anger that begins to inform their interpretations of the world around them as ambiguous and conspiratorial. In the process, they abandon the fundamental truth of a social contract to care for one another.

As Americans we have unparalleled freedoms, and with those freedoms comes great responsibility. That is what all the world's religions teach. Compassion towards one another is the moral lesson from the great spiritual teachers throughout the ages. Everything else is simply commentary.

**Joe Stevens – Hebron**

**‘Non-Binary’ on Application**

To the Editor:

Why does the Hebron Early Childhood Center Application form list choices of “M/F/Non-Binary”? Does this reveal the objective of the preschool curriculum?

This is outrageous! Parents and grandparents unite!

**Sue Custance – Hebron**

**Time to Be Aware**

To the Editor:

On Saturday, Colchester taxpayers paid for a second recount to confirm what we already knew. Former Selectman Taras Rudko received the lowest number of votes for the third time and lost his seat in the race for Colchester’s Board of Selectmen.

Taras Rudko wore a coat throughout the entire recount that proudly displayed the Three Percenters symbol. This anti-government militia movement is associated with white nationalism, white supremacy, male supremacy, and anti-government extremism (newlinesinstitute.org). The group is declared a terrorist organization in Canada. Three Percenters have been associated with terrorist acts in the US including the bombing of a mosque in Minnesota, kidnapping plot of the Michigan governor, and the 01/06/21 attack on the Capital (splcenter.org).

Rudko has assumed de facto leadership of the Colchester’s Republican Town Committee, strongarmed a deal removing well respected Republicans, and brought dozens of his supporters who will back his bid for RTC chairmanship to the caucus.

He’d like people to think that his recount stunt, which cost the town significant taxpayer dollars, was about process. If this were really the case, he would have named the individuals who were actually involved in the election process in his suit. Rudko used it as a chance to smear political foes and spread conspiracy theories

that dead people voted in the November election. Town Clerk Gayle Furman and both the Democratic and Republican Registrars have the evidence to prove Rudko’s claims are false.

Unfortunately, the first selectman never shared the evidence or fought to uphold the integrity of our town or our elections. Instead, First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos shared lunch and friendly banter throughout the day with his friend Taras during the recount.

What does this mean for Colchester? It’s time for residents to be aware. Please pay attention.

**With Concern,  
Monica Swyden – Colchester**

**Seditious Conspiracy**

To the Editor:

The Oath Keepers is a far-right anti-government militia whose members supported Trump, MAGA, and the insurrection at the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, while claiming to be defending the Constitution of the United States. Last week, 11 members were officially charged by the United States DOJ with Seditious Conspiracy for their planned interference of government proceedings and their efforts to disrupt the peaceful transfer of power, a bedrock of our democracy.

As seen on video, acting in militia line format, they violently broke into the Capitol with weapons and attempted to overthrow our government. They are each facing up to 20 years in prison.

**Annie Steinbrecher – Marlborough**

**Dumbo Biden**

To the Editor:

Well, it’s a little over a year since Dumbo Biden has been in office and here are his accomplishments:

He managed to have 13 servicepeople killed in Afghanistan and how many good people and all the military equipment left behind. We were energy self-sufficient until he shut down the Keystone pipeline; have you seen that home heating oil is the same price as regular gas? Because of contractual contracts he still has to pay the contractors for the pipeline and also the border wall. Speaking of the border wall 1.2 million illegal immigrants have been let in and haven’t been tested for the virus. I wonder how many of them have caught the virus? Because of his stupid stay-home payments have you noticed that the store shelves are somewhat bare? He has a video conference with Putin about Ukraine, why is he afraid he might get the Hershey squirts and Putin will laugh at him?

His cohort Hyena Harris was supposed to go to the Mexico border to view the situation. Instead, she goes to New Jersey to talk about space exploration; probably didn’t want to get her \$2000 shoes soiled.

When he opens his mouth and says something stupid, Peppermint Patty has to lie through her teeth to quell the opposition forces.

Maybe you didn’t like the way President

Trump spoke but he always cared about you. He had more Black and Hispanic people at work than now. Maybe it’s time you opposing people of Trump swallow your pride and say you were wrong. Times were better than now; check your wallet!!!

**God Bless Our Great Country, USA  
Butch Przekopski – Colchester**

**For Colchester?**

To the Editor:

First Selectman Bisbikos campaigned for office on a variety of issues, many seemingly meant to aggrandize our town. Some of his points were: “Restore 57 Fest and call it Colchester Summer Fest,” “Reevaluate zoning laws to see if they put citizens and small businesses before government,” and “Remove the Racism Public Health Crisis.”

These appear to indicate his desire to make Colchester a better place. I believe that, so far, he has tried to live up to these intentions. How much these specific goals mean to citizens of the entire town is debatable; he was elected by less than a quarter of voting citizens.

He has discredited the town by his demeanor at Board of Selectmen meetings, including blatantly stating that he would not mandate masks in town buildings to help curb the spread of virus, against the majority opinion of his fellow selectmen.

The Town Code of Ethics states, “Public office is a public trust. The trust of the public is essential for government to function effectively.” Trust must be earned, but he seems intent on aggrandizing only a minority of our citizens.

**John Barnowski – Colchester**

**More Irresponsible Reporting**

To the Editor:

The front page of the Jan. 21st *Rivereast* screams “Fish Die-off Worries Local Scientist.” The overall tone suggests that East Hampton was playing catch-up in addressing the issue. Mr. Lakowsky failed to note that Jeremy Hall, Chatham Health, Ms. Kenyon (NEAR) and the state DEEP were actively investigating as early as 1/3/2022, updated us on 1/10/2022, and issued a final report on 1/21/22.

Findings by all involved stated that while higher number of fish (white perch only) were dead, it was not common, but not a phenomenon; and Mr. Cassone of the DEEP stated that “white perch die-off can benefit freshwater bodies” to reduce grazing of zooplankton. The reasons behind the die-off are many (both natural and man-made), but somehow Mr. Lakowsky managed to get part of the blame on the aeration/treatments activity.

Mr. Lakowsky has a track record of unbalanced reporting (see “Efficacy of Lake Treatments in Doubt”) in which Mr. Lakowsky extensively quotes Ms. Kenyon (NEAR) as the “contractor studying Lake Pocotopaug” yet fails to present any information from Mr. John Tucci, of EverBlue Lakes. Ms. Kenyon is on record as opposing aeration and derides the aeration/Bio-

Blast as ineffective. Mr. Lakowsky managed to again get a comment in the 1/21/2022 article that cites Ms. Kenyon “... casts doubt on the effectiveness of the treatments.”

Mr. Tucci presented to the Conservation Lake Commission a detailed presentation, using the lake health data collected by Ms. Kenyon, which clearly shows a slow, but definite improvement in lake health measurements that can be attributed in part to the aeration and lake treatments.

If you really want to get the straight story, the Conservation Lake Commission meets the second Thursday of the month. But don’t rely on Mr. Lakowsky; he seems incapable of providing balanced reporting [and] that is bad for our town.

**Bob Yenker – East Hampton**

*Editor’s Note: The Rivereast stands by Jack Lakowsky’s reporting.*

**Lake Pocotopaug Problems**

To the Editor:

After reading the story on fish die-off in Lake Pocotopaug, I wanted to add a few comments to the story. I want to begin by stating that I have not been on the lake in a number of years. However, as a limnologist and phycologist, I first sampled Lake Pocotopaug in the early 1980s, and did so numerous times since then, including having worked on a series of cores taken in the 1990s. In addition, I have worked on over 400 lakes spanning Florida to Newfoundland.

Cyanobacteria, also referred to as blue-green algae, have been a problem in the lake for decades, and this is certainly evident in those collections made over 40 years ago. The nutrient concentrations have always been excessive, and high enough to grow a lot of algae! This was evident from the core work as well. I would caution residents from turning away from the central problem – nutrients – to blaming climate warming, especially without any data. There are numerous pristine lakes in warmer and more southern regions without cyanobacteria blooms, because they simply lack the food (nutrients) for their growth. Climate warming is certainly an important issue, but we have to stop blaming every human-caused problem on it.

By the way, older residents will recall previous massive fish kills in Lake Pocotopaug, including one that was likely caused by a rather rare alga known as a haptophyte.

**Peter Siver – Colchester**

*Note: Siver is a professor of botany and environmental studies at Connecticut College.*

**Republicans and Police**

To the Editor:

Republicans more often post ‘Support Your Police’ signs or stickers. They imagine themselves as police advocates, in opposition to ‘Black Lives Matter’ signage. Ironically, Republicans are responsible for most police deaths. The 2021 “Officer Down Memorial Page” claims 512 officers died in the line of

*See Letters, page 6*

**Editor’s Desk continued from page 4**

enough by July that the East Hampton Old Home Days celebration can finally be held. The three-day festival was scrapped in 2020, and then again in 2021. Organizers are hoping 2022 is their year – and I certainly hope they’re right.

This year’s event will be a tad later this year than in past Julys, due to the availability of the main carnival vendor. The festival is scheduled for the third week in July – Thursday, July 14; Friday, July 15; and Saturday, July 16. And the theme this year will be “Paint the Town Red.” As they had hoped to do in 2020 and then in 2021, Old Home Days organizers will be honoring the late Red McKinney, who was basically known as “Mr. Old Home Days.”

McKinney, who died Christmas Eve 2019, had been a charter member of the Old Home Days Association since 1978, and was also well-known as the master of ceremonies of

the Old Home Day Parade.

As planning is well underway, East Hampton resident Linda Wallace, vendors and booths chair for the event, is looking for folks interested in selling food or items at the fair. Those interested can contact Wallace at VendorsOHD.PO213@aol.com or 860-267-9952. A packet of information will be sent to all interested parties by email. It will contain a contract and a statement of the rules and regulations along with the fee schedule for a space and electricity, if that is applicable.

Space will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis, so if you’re interested, don’t wait!

Slowly over the past several months, more and more pieces of normal life have been coming back. I’m eager for Old Home Days to be among them.

\*\*\*

See you next week.

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★ *Letters cont. from page 5*

duty. The majority (350, almost 70%) were killed by COVID-19. Many officers resisted the calls for vaccination, ignoring the advice of professional health providers (Fauci) and listening to Trump (bleach), Fox News (ivermectin) and other GOP quacks (Rand Paul). Further, the officer memorial page claims 62 officers died by gunfire, accounting for 12% of total deaths. Thus, antivaxer police officers are exponentially more likely to leave behind mourning children and spouses from their own ignorance, rather than gunfire or assault.

Perceptions exist that liberal Democratic states and cities in Connecticut (Hartford), Illinois (Chicago), New York (NY City), Massachusetts (Boston) and California (Los Angeles) are dangerous places for police officers to work. Compare Republican/Trump strong-hold states Texas, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee (248 total fallen officers) with equal population Democratic states Connecticut, New York, Massachusetts, California, Illinois and Vermont (47 total fallen officers). We learn police officers working in pro-gun, antivax, anti-mask Republican states are five times more likely to die in the line of duty. Further, considering most guns used in urban crimes are stolen from legal gun owners, or purchased via weak gun control laws, we finally arrive at the truth's door.

Progressive, Democratic science-based gun control states best support police. Will Republican Trumpists like Don Denley, Ed Kozlowski and Sam Prentice dare open this reveal door, themselves exposed as the real enemy of our brave police officers? The devil mischievously works among us, clouding our vision, attacking science, spreading its lies, growing stronger every single Republican elected. "The candle flame gutters, darkness gathers." (Carl Sagan)

**Edmund Smith – Andover**

**To Be a Chickadee...**

To the Editor:

...Means you need 6,000-9,000 caterpillars to feed your clutch! And native plants are hosts to the Cats that Chickadees eat. The plants that you put in your yard makes the bird food and baby birds cannot eat seeds.

Problem is we landscape with plants that are not from here; typically from China, and those plants are not hosts to the caterpillars of our native region.

This doesn't mean you have to remove all nonnative plants., as long as they are not inva-

sive! Maintaining 70% of native trees, shrubs, perennials will support our North American insects, including essential pollinators like bees, bats, moths and birds so they can reproduce successfully and sustainably.

And keep in mind, it is much more gratifying, and entertaining to create landscapes that produce those things that keep our birds satisfied, our bees pollinating flowers and seeing the difference we can make to wildlife.

A Red Oak supports 521 lepidoptera, a River Birch 410 and one beautiful flowering dogwood, Cornus florida supports 129 insects. Save a trip to buy seed, make your own from your garden throughout the seasons and enjoy your homegrown chickadees.

**Michele Sinkez  
Hebron Pollinator Conservation Project**

**Manufacturing Program**

To the Editor:

When I joined the Board of Education in 2017, the board was already talking about the manufacturing pipeline. I remember a fourth-grader who spoke about his love of welding. I asked him how he knew as a fourth-grader that he wanted to be a welder. "I just always have, and I work with my Dad," was his response.

The first selectman of Colchester has twice put in his updates that he is fulfilling his campaign promise with the Early College Advanced Manufacturing Pathway. This is taking credit at the 11th (and a half) hour for work previously done by others.

Here are some recent dates when the manufacturing project was discussed at public BoE meetings (from meeting minutes):

March 10, 2020 – Superintendent Burt held conversations with a local college/university.

March 30, 2020 - The Bacon Academy training center for manufacturing (discussed two years ago) was slated for revitalization using ARPA funding.

<Pandemic Delay>  
April 22, 2021 - Student Participation in Manufacturing Skills for Connecticut Manufacturing program at Bacon Academy was selected for a Program Review and virtual site visit as

part of the Manufacturing Skills for Connecticut initiative.

October 12, 2021 - Goodwin University Early College Advanced Manufacturing Pathway (ECAMP) Superintendent Burt presented a proposal from Goodwin University to form a partnership with Goodwin to develop a manufacturing course offering a certificate program.

Colchester Public Schools' agreement with Goodwin University is the culmination of five years (5!) of hard work and a sincere win for our students. It did not miraculously come together in two months. A good leader gives credit where credit is due, and it is so aggravating when people take credit for work they did not do. I expect more from my first selectman.

**Sincerely,  
Amy Domeika – Colchester**

**Liberals and Racism**

To the Editor:

The maskaholic Toilet Paper Mafia never fails to meet below-average expectations. They do an exceptional job of expounding on a variety of social topics with convoluted interpretations of the facts.

Edmund Smith assuages his personal guilt for being born Caucasian with pro-Black diatribes blaming Republicans for slavery, cross-burning, voter suppression, and probably sickle-cell anemia. His ilk psychologically profits from dredging up the past, fomenting discontent, and basking in a delusion of grandeur as a champion of moral cause. Even in the face of present-day massacres of Blacks in Chicago, Detroit and Philadelphia (all under Black leadership), liberals open the same playbook and assassinate the character of their opponents with accusations of racism and white privilege while these cities burn. And the media is complicit in the liberals' contentious and destructive behavior, with barely token news coverage of rampant Black-on-Black crime. Better luck next time, BLM.

Edmund might want to reconsider the alleged effects of Republican policy on Blacks and consider the history of Democrats and Black society, from the antebellum south through the

original strong-arm division of the Southern Democrats, the Ku Klux Klan. Robert Byrd, one of President Brandon's best buddies, could have surely shed light on this topic. But Edmund would quickly point out that those are all historical references that no longer deserve consideration in judging present-day Democrats. However, liberals incessantly use history in judging Republicans. Like Saul Alinsky said, "It's all about the narrative, man." For someone that considers himself to be a benefactor of white privilege, it's surprising that Edmund was at the back of the line when rational thought was being handed out.

But at the very least, in combatting racism, we are all privileged to have Edmund...and the Rev. Al Sharpton on our side.

**Regards,  
Ed Kozlowski – Colchester**

**Thanks to Anchor Lodge**

To the Editor:

Thanks to the officers and members of Anchor Lodge for conducting a special presentation for their members on the use of their AED. Special thanks to Jim McKinney for his help and expertise. This machine is a portable, life-saving device designed to treat people experiencing sudden cardiac arrest, a medical condition in which the heart stops beating suddenly and unexpectedly.

Over the past several years, members of the East Hampton Ambulance Association have conducted programs for our residents to raise awareness of sudden heart arrests. Many residents and local groups have purchased defibrillators and they are in many of our public buildings.

During Heart Month, keep this important information in your mind and if you are not sure, ask the businesses where you shop where their AED is.

**Stay well and healthy,  
Barbara Moore – East Hampton**

**Boston Hill Massacre**

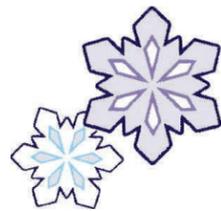
To the Editor:

I've been driving Boston Hill Road to work for many years. What I have witnessed over the last few weeks is maddening. The state hired "Distinctive Tree Care" to "cultivate" trees that they considered dangerous. What transpired was death and destruction on a magnitude that is sad and infuriates me to no end. Dozens of large healthy trees chopped down and I was a loss to figure out the end game.

So I reached out to our town administrator, who informed me that it was a state road and they were clearing trees that were too close to the road and they could fall on a passing motorist and lead to injuries and lawsuits. Hogwash – I have been on that road for 20 years and have never seen a fallen tree. But Distinctive Tree Care did not live up to their name; they did not care – all they cared about was the payoff. And to add insult to injury, they left the giant limbs in everyone's front yards – didn't have the decency to clean up their destruction mess.

This state has been poorly run for decades, mostly under Democratic rule, and now this useless expensive project that accomplishes

*See Letters, page 24*



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NOT AS BAD AS DRIVING  
HOME BUZZED.**

East Hampton • East Hampton

# In Survey, Seniors Say Town Needs Upgrades

by Jack Lakowsky

In a Tuesday Town Council meeting members of the East Hampton Commission on Aging, member Eric Rosenberg and Chair Bob Atherton, presented the findings of a survey they sent out to local seniors in fall 2021.

Almost 500 of the town's 2,160 adults older than 65 took the survey, a sample group of around 22% of the town's seniors.

A stat Rosenberg advised the council to note was this: less than half of seniors said East Hampton is a good place to age.

The survey will guide the aging commission's work for years to come and articulated what the town can do to make living better for seniors.

Two main needs seniors expressed were better pedestrian infrastructure and local public transportation.

Thirty-five percent of respondents said streets and crosswalks are not pedestrian-friendly, and that they want more sidewalks along Route 66 and near Lake Pocotopaug. There were 140 comments stating intersections crossing times are too brief, Atherton said.

Street lighting is minimal, and potholes are plentiful, respondents said.

"There's a need for a form of town transit," said Atherton.

The aging commission concluded seniors need better access to public transportation and accessible alternatives to driving, as well as direct transportation to the Marlborough Emergency Clinic and other medical offices.

Seniors also desire expanded sidewalks, extended crosswalk times, and better lighting and maintenance of public infrastructure. Rosenberg said 31% of seniors want safer walking areas.

Getting to the Marlborough clinic, a major local medical entity, can get tricky for seniors. Because Marlborough is in Hartford County, the Middletown Transit Authority – which serves East Hampton – can't enter Marlborough.

Though nearly 100% of the surveyed said they own a car and a negligible number said they use public transport or Uber, a large number, 76%, said they feel local public transit is unavailable when needed, with 69% saying it's inaccessible. Further, 57% said it's inadequate for people with disabilities.

Rosenberg said more than 20% of seniors want more fitness areas in town. Write-in comments also requested a public swimming pool.

"Home care is a big need that isn't being met," said Rosenberg, adding there's a dearth of specialty care in the area, so many must drive far to meet their specific health needs.

Lower income seniors, especially those over 80, face challenges getting to their appointments. Thirty percent of people older than 80 with incomes lower than \$30,000 said they have difficulty getting to out-of-town appointments.

Loneliness, food insecurity and financial strain were other issues seniors described.

As much as 40% of seniors said they occasionally feel lonely, with 3% saying the fre-

quently feel alone.

Seniors said the town needs more mental health professionals and better social services.

Senior food insecurity is also an issue for seniors in East Hampton. About 7% ran out of food without money to replace it and another 9% worried they would run out of food, meaning almost one of every five seniors has experienced food insecurity.

Rosenberg said more than a third, 33%, of lower income people older than 80 said they ran out of food.

A huge percentage, 93%, said it's important to age in their homes. Thirty percent of this group said they feel overwhelmed by their home maintenance. Another 70% said the town needs more handicapped accessible living.

Housing barriers included a lack of senior housing in East Hampton, and a lack of affordable housing overall. Many said taxes are too high and asked for tax relief for low-income seniors, adding high taxes are the main reason they'd consider leaving town.

Rosenberg said many seniors are concerned with water quality, saying a write-in comment

noted "their clothes went into [the washing machine] white and came out rust-colored."

Seniors expressed needs for more single level homes, more apartments and low-income senior housing units.

Rosenberg said nearly 20% reported they can't support themselves in retirement, and another 20% said they can't afford to stay in East Hampton.

All these factors considered, local seniors judged the town's friendliness to aging individuals; 44% think the town is a "good" place to age, while 42% rated it "fair" and another 12% think it "poor."

This info in hand, the commission and the council will try to identify projects both short and long term and will form subcommittees to address the various needs in the survey.

## A Note to Readers

According to the survey, the *Rivereast* is one of the most-consumed information sources among East Hampton seniors. The *Rivereast* would like to thank readers for their trust, loyalty and vigilance.

## Police News

1/9: Dean Fontano, 19, of 138 Champion Hill Rd., was issued a summons for speeding, East Hampton Police said.

1/12: Chrystal Bourgeois, 39, of 16 Brewer Rd., was arrested and charged with driving under the influence, police said.

1/13: Kaoas Ames, 27, of 30 Cone Rd., turned himself in pursuant to an active warrant for his arrest stemming from a single car motor vehicle accident that occurred in December at the corner of Cone and Abbey roads. Ames was charged with operating under the influence and illegal possession of a controlled substance, police said.

1/18: Michael Rolo, 37, of 65 Standish Rd., Colchester, was arrested and charged with speeding and driving under the influence, po-

lice said.

1/19: After an investigation into a two-car motor vehicle accident at the intersection of West High Street (Route 66) and Main Street wherein one of the vehicles left the scene, Blaise Thomas, 55, of 30 Barbara Ave., was issued a summons for evading responsibility, operating without a license and failure to carry insurance, police said.

1/22: Jeffrey Buckland, 44, of 36 East High St., was arrested and charged with third-degree assault, police said.

Also, from Jan. 10-23, officers responded to six motor vehicle crashes, 20 medical calls and 22 alarms, and made 29 traffic stops, police said.

## KoC Spaghetti Dinner

The Knights of Columbus Belltown Council 6190 at St. Patrick Church in East Hampton will sponsor its semi-annual spaghetti and meatball dinner Friday, Feb. 11, from 4:30-7:30 p.m., at the church parish center, located at 47 West High St.

Takeout and dine-in meals will be offered. Meal prices are \$12 for adults and \$11 for seniors. Children 5 and under eat for free. The meal will include a salad, bread, dessert, coffee, tea, soda, water and punch drinks. Proceeds will support local charitable programs. Raffle prizes and musical entertainment will be offered as well.

The Knights of Columbus will also collect non-perishable food items for the East Hampton Food Bank. Contact Jim Radavich at 860-319-9288 or email jradavich@yahoo.com for additional information.

## Haines to Host Virtual Forum

State Rep. Irene Haines (R-34) will host a virtual public forum later this month, for constituents to ask questions about the 2022 legislative session, hear her legislative priorities, and submit their own ideas about potential legislation.

The event will take place via Zoom Saturday, Jan. 29, from 10-11 a.m. Those who would like to attend may visit us02web.zoom.us/j/83961361260 at the time of the event, or find the event link at www.RepHaines.com.

For more information or if you cannot attend, contact Haines at Irene.Haines@cga.ct.gov or 860-240-8700. The 34th District covers East Hampton, East Haddam and a portion of Colchester.

## EHACC Accepting Capstone Grant Applications

The East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission is accepting applications from East Hampton High School seniors for two \$250 grants to support an annual East Hampton High School capstone project.

The grant will help support two student's proposed capstone project, a multifaceted assignment that serves as a culminating academic and intellectual experience for students. Capstone projects may take a wide variety of forms including a long-term investigative proj-

ect that culminates in a final product, presentation or performance.

Applicants for the grant will be invited to present their capstone project idea to commission members at an agreed-upon commission meeting. Deadline to apply is Feb. 1.

Applications are available at [www.arts-foreasthamptonct.org](http://www.arts-foreasthamptonct.org) and can be submitted to [arts@easthamptonct.org](mailto:arts@easthamptonct.org), or can be mailed/dropped off at the town manager's office at the East Hampton Town Hall, 1 Community Drive.

## Haddam Neck Covenant Church News

Haddam Neck Covenant Church, located at 17 Haddam Neck Rd., invites all to Sunday worship at 9 a.m., online at [www.facebook.com/Haddam-Neck-Covenant-Church](http://www.facebook.com/Haddam-Neck-Covenant-Church) or in person. Pastor is the Rev. Tom Cowger. The message is The Light of Christ. Refreshments are served after the service.

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

**Bible Study:** The Zoom Bible Study meets every other Thursday from 7-8:15 p.m. The next study will be Feb. 3. This is an interactive study of compassion as seen in Jesus.

**Office Info:** The office can be reached at 860-267-2336; hours are Monday-Friday, 12:30-4:30 p.m. The church website is at [www.hncovenantchurch.org](http://www.hncovenantchurch.org). Check WFSB-TV Channel 3 for information on church closings due to weather.



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**Motion of the Ocean...** Arlene Cavalieri, a local artist, will be representing the East Hampton Art Association with several paintings in the Chatham Gallery of the East Hampton Town Hall during February and March. February's theme is "Motion of the Ocean," and March's the theme is "A Tiger among Us." Cavalieri is the recipient of top awards for her paintings and furthered her studies under artist Elizabeth Sennett and has attended workshops under talented artists, Susan Tilcon Pecore, Michael Graves, Robert O'Brien, Holly Preston and Jacqueline Jones. Her paintings can be found in homes in the Northeast and California. She is a member of the East Hampton Art Association, and the Lyme Art Association. The public is invited to stop by during East Hampton's town hall hours to view her paintings.

### Old Home Days to Return in July

The East Hampton Old Home Days Association has announced that the Old Home Days will return this summer after a two-year break due to the concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic.

The festival will take place the third weekend in July this year, due to contract availabilities with the main carnival vendor. The celebration will run Thursday, July 14; Friday, July 15; and Saturday, July 16.

The theme of this year's Glorious Celebration will be "Paint the Town Red," in honor and memory of Robert "Red" McKinney, who died Dec. 24, 2019. He was a charter member of the Old Home Days Association since 1978 and the parade's master of ceremonies.

Vendors and those interested in selling food at the festival should contact Linda Wallace, Vendors and Booths Chair, to register, at VendorsOHD.PO213@aol.com or 860-267-9952.

A packet of information will be sent to all interested parties by email. It will contain a contract and a statement of the rules and regulations along with the fee schedule for a space and electricity, if that is applicable.

Contracts will be signed and spots will be designated on a "first-come-first-served" basis.

Provide Wallace with the following information: name, email address, street address, business name, profit or non-profit, telephone number, and type of item(s) you will be selling. Most communication will be done via email.

### Chocolate Valentine's Cakes

The Second Congregational Church of Middle Haddam at 51 Middle Haddam Rd. will sell chocolate cherry Valentine cakes for \$4 each on Sundays for the month of February.

To reserve your cakes, call Kathy at 860-510-8102.

Pick up time will be each Sunday starting Feb. 6 from 10:15-11:15 a.m. in the lower hall of the church. The cakes are in glass heart-shaped dishes, wrapped with doilies and ribbon.



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### Senior Center News & Notes

East Hampton Senior Center, 105 Main St., is open. All participants should pre-register for programs prior to the event, online at myactivecenter.com or by calling 860-267-4426 or emailing seniorcenter@easthamptonct.gov. Senior center hours are Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Masks are required for all, regardless of vaccination status. Visit the senior center online at www.easthamptonct.gov/east-hampton-senior-center.

**Lunches:** Served at the center to ages 60 and up on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Call the center to reserve a meal or sign up online. Reservations for the next day's meal are due by 11 a.m. the day before. Masks are required; however, once you have your meal and are seated you can take off your mask. Meals are free, though a \$3 donation is requested.

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

**Wii Bowling:** Thursday, Feb. 3 and 17, 10 a.m. Registration required.

**Writing Our Lives to Open Our Hearts:** Thursdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m., or every other Wednesday (next date Feb. 2), at 9:30 a.m. Meet outside, weather permitting. In case of inclement weather, it will be inside, with masks recommended. Register online.

**Volunteer Shopping:** The center has a pro-

gram where a volunteer will shop for you. Call in your list to 860-267-4426 or email it to [Jewing@easthampton.gov](mailto:Jewing@easthampton.gov). The shopper will call you before the drop-off to let you know the cost of the groceries. You can write out a check for the amount, payable to the Town of East Hampton. The volunteer will drop off the groceries at your door and pick up the check in a pre-arranged designated spot.

**December and January Birthday Celebration:** Monday, Jan. 31, 1 p.m. December and January birthday babies, and their guests, are welcome. Susan Hewes will provide background piano music. Let the center know if you would like to attend. Register online or call.

**Book Club:** Tuesday, Feb. 8, 10:30 a.m., via Zoom. The book is *The Cruellest Month* by Louise Penny and is available at the library. Register on MyactiveCenter.com for the Zoom link. The book club is open to new members; call the center for more information.

**Trips: Martha's Vineyard Daytrip:** Thursday, July 21. There will be a roundtrip ferry, island bus tour, and time to shop and dine on your own. There is considerable walking. Cost is \$124 per person. Payment for trips will be accepted on Tuesdays and Thursdays, or by pre-arranged appointment time.

**Washington D.C.:** Oct. 21-24. Includes deluxe motorcoach, three nights' hotel, three breakfasts and two dinners, all sightseeing and admissions as per itinerary, a Friendship Tours escort, and driver and tour gratuity. There is considerable walking. Cost is \$250 per person. Payment for trips will be accepted on Tuesdays and Thursdays, or by pre-arranged appointment time.

### Teen Beach Paint Party

In collaboration with East Hampton Social Services, Epoch Arts will offer a free Beach Paint Party to students in grades 6-12 on Friday, Jan. 28, from 4-6 p.m., at Epoch, 27 Skinner St. Teens will create an original beach scene painting to take home.

Space is limited; to reserve a spot, email [rachel@epocharts.org](mailto:rachel@epocharts.org).

### Congregational Church News & Notes

The Congregational Church of East Hampton, UCC, located at 59 Main St., is again open for in-person services every Sunday at 10 a.m.

For those who are fully vaccinated, mask wearing is not mandatory. Those not fully vaccinated must continue to wear masks and practice social distancing. The church encourages everyone to wear a mask when indoors at our church. All services can also be accessed via Zoom by going to [cc-eh.org](http://cc-eh.org).

Nursery care is available during Sunday services for children under 3 years.

On Saturday, Feb. 19, from 4:30-6:30 p.m., the church will offer a drive-up, takeout dinner.

The Youth Group will next meet Friday, Feb. 25, at 6:30 p.m., for an art class.

For more information about CCEH and its activities, visit [cc-eh.org](http://cc-eh.org) or call the church office at 860-267-4959 during office hours: Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-noon. In case of pastoral emergencies, the Rev. Jim Latimer can be reached at 610-568-2480.

### Christ Episcopal Church News

Christ Episcopal Church, 66 Middle Haddam Rd., Middle Haddam, holds Sunday services at 10 a.m. each week, both in person and via Zoom. Church school meets during the service time, in the parish hall.

The Rev. Ann Perrott is priest-in-charge, the Rev. Joanne Neel-Richard oversees the children's ministry, and Stuart Duncan is the music director. For more information or if in need of pastoral assistance, call 860-267-0287 or visit [www.christchurchmiddlehaddam.com](http://www.christchurchmiddlehaddam.com).

### Scholarship Available

Carl Guild and Associates has announced its community scholarship program for local high school seniors entering college in the fall.

There are six \$1000 scholarships given – one each in East Hampton, Portland, Colchester, East Haddam, Glastonbury and the RHAM school district. There are no restrictions or qualifications; all local seniors can apply.

High school seniors are encouraged to apply by April 1. For an application, visit [www.carlguild.com/scholarship](http://www.carlguild.com/scholarship) or ask your school's guidance counselor.

**Richard Shonk**

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- Donate to organizations, campaigns and initiatives who are committed to racial justice.

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Let's come together to take action against racism and fight for racial justice for the Black community. Visit [lovehasnolabels.com/fightforfreedom](http://lovehasnolabels.com/fightforfreedom)



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### EHACC Accepting Grant Applications

The East Hampton Arts & Culture Commission is accepting grant applications from East Hampton organizations and individuals with programs and/or projects designed to enrich the lives of town residents through the arts. Deadline to apply is April 1, to arts@easthamptonct.org.

There are two \$500 grants available to be awarded to individuals or organizations residing in East Hampton. The commission reserves the right to award a grant to an individual or organization it 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. An update of your progress will be required six months post-award date and a final report will be required one year post award date.

Applications are available at [www.artsforeasthamptonct.org](http://www.artsforeasthamptonct.org).

### Resident Named VP of Board of Directors

East Hampton resident Phoenix Lombardi has been elected the 2022 vice president of the Down Syndrome Association of Connecticut's (DS ACT) board of directors. Lombardi previously served on the board as secretary.

An employee of Travelers Insurance in Hartford, Lombardi's 5-year-old son, Brayden, has Down syndrome.

"I was immediately drawn to DS ACT because I wanted to connect and build relationships with other families who have children with Down syndrome," said Lombardi. "I also appreciated the many resources the organization has available."

As a relatively new member of the Down syndrome community in Connecticut, Lombardi said she hopes to bring a fresh perspective to the board.

"When I found out I was going to have a child with Down syndrome, I reached out to DS ACT and they were just amazing," Lombardi said. "They were unbelievably helpful and I feel honored to be a part of the board and look forward to helping the organization grow."

DS ACT is a private, 501(c)3 organization committed to increasing opportunities for individuals with Down syndrome. For more information, visit [www.mysact.org](http://www.mysact.org).



**Manga/Anime Paint Night...** Teens in grades 7-12 are invited to Epoch Arts' Manga/Anime Paint Night, on Friday, Feb. 4, from 7-9 p.m. Cost is \$15. Come learn about the world of anime and discover some amazing techniques to paint your very own manga character. Anime movies will be playing and you can come dressed as your favorite anime character if you wish. For more information, visit [www.epocharts.org](http://www.epocharts.org). Pictured is a scene from Epoch's last Manga Paint Night, held in early 2020.

### Dean's List

East Hampton residents Jessica Abbotts and Anthony DeZinno made the fall 2021 Dean's List at Western Connecticut State University. Abbotts is majoring in theatre arts, and DeZinno is majoring in art.

### Dean's List

Sarina Michaud of East Hampton made the fall 2021 Dean's List at Curry College in Milton, Mass.

### Live Well with Chronic Conditions

The Chatham Health District will present Live Well with Chronic Conditions, a free six-week workshop series. Workshops are being scheduled now.

This is an in-home version of the workshops; all you need to participate is a telephone.

Participants will learn more about: exercise and healthy eating; dealing with difficult emotions; decision-making and communications skills; working with healthcare providers; and more.

All participants will also receive a free *Living a Healthy Life* book and a free exercise and relaxation CD.

This series is sponsored by the Chatham Health District, the Connecticut Department of Public Health, the Department of Aging & Disability Services, and the Senior Resources Agency on Aging.

Call Nancy at 860-416-7558 to sign up or for more information.

### Parks and Rec.Selling Hockey Tix

Parks and Recreation is selling tickets to the Saturday, Feb. 26, Hartford Wolfpack game at the XL Center. Face-off is at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$18 each. To purchase, call 860-267-7300 or visit [easthamptonrec.com](http://easthamptonrec.com).

### Dean's List

Samuel Gibson of East Hampton made the fall 2021 Dean's List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I.

### Dean's List

The following East Hampton residents made the fall 2021 Dean's List at Springfield College in Springfield, Mass.:

Jonathan Barber, who's majoring in computer and information sciences; Grace Cronin, Emma Donohue and Maggie Donohue, who are all majoring in health science and pre-physical therapy; and Callie Dubos, who's majoring in health science.

### CT Draft Horse Rescue Capital Campaign

CT Draft Horse Rescue (CDHR) is asking folks to join the effort to 'Raise the Barn' at its East Hampton farm, Autumn Ridge.

A 10,080-sq. ft. barn has been donated and funds are needed to bring the barn to Autumn Ridge and begin construction. The barn plans include: 42 stalls modified to a floor plan to suit farm needs, a medical stall, a vet/farrier treatment area, a feed room, meeting/classroom area, wash stalls, and bathrooms.

The Kaman Family Foundation has pledged \$100,000 when CDHR reaches the challenge amount of \$100,000 between now and the end of February.

Currently, the CDHR has taken in all of the

horses it can safely accommodate; however, more horses are in need of care and are currently on a waiting list. Donations toward this Capital Campaign will help CDHR build a versatile barn. To donate, go to [www.ctdraftrescue.org/raisethebarn](http://www.ctdraftrescue.org/raisethebarn).

CDHR is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in East Hampton that is dedicated to saving the lives of draft horses that were bound for slaughter, in addition to victims of starvation, neglect or abuse.

### Bethlehem Lutheran Church News

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church holds live in-person services Sundays at 10:15 a.m. All are welcome. Enter via the front door and ushers will assist you. There is also a livestream link will be at the church's Facebook page, at [www.facebook.com/BethlehemEH](http://www.facebook.com/BethlehemEH).

### Bible Study at Church

The Rev. James Simpson will lead a Bible Study on Genesis this coming Wednesday, Feb. 2, at 1 p.m., at Second Congregational Church, 52 Middle Haddam Rd., Middle Haddam.

### Basketball Free Throw Competition

The Belltown Council 6190 Knights of Columbus will hold its annual youth basketball free throw contest, for boys and girls age 9-14, on Sunday, Feb. 6, from noon-2 p.m., at East Hampton Middle School, 19 Childs Rd.

Snow date is Feb. 13, noon-2 p.m.

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### KOCO4Kids Corner



### Groundhog Day

Any day is a great day to visit Chuckles the Groundhog at the Lutz Children's Museum in Manchester (call ahead required) [www.lutzmuseum.org](http://www.lutzmuseum.org)

Go outside and play shadow tag with your friends -- no touching or masks required!

Use flashlights in a dark room and make shadow puppets on a wall.

[koco4kids.org](http://koco4kids.org)

REF1-28-22

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Marlborough • Marlborough

# Democrats Vying for Selectmen Seats

by Diane Church

Marlborough Democrats are running two candidates to fill two Board of Selectman seats that will be created in accordance with the town charter changes approved in November.

The election, which will take place in May, will bring the number of selectmen to five.

If Bourbeau and O'Brien both win, the balance of power on the board would shift from Republican to Democrat, since the Democrats would have three seats. If Ken Hjulstrom, the sole Republican candidate, wins, however, Republicans will remain in power with a three-to-two majority, instead of their current two-to-one margin.

Hjulstrom was profiled in last week's edition of the *Rivereast*.

This week the paper is profiling Democratic candidates, Debbie Bourbeau and Betty O'Brien.

## Debbie Bourbeau

Bourbeau said she is running on the Democratic ticket because they understand that she's not a politician but rather "cares deeply about our town and will act the merit of an issue and will not be influenced by party lines."

She said during her tenure on the Board of Finance Democrats have supported her thoughts and ideas, and value her willingness to speak up for what she believes in. Bourbeau is a member of the Richmond Memorial Library Association Board and chaired that Board for a number of years.

For the past four years, she has been on the Board of Finance and is now secretary.

She said she decided to run for the select board because the board is increasing in size.

"The five selectmen will have a crucial role in hiring a town manager," she added.

Bourbeau said she has lived in town since 1975 and worked in town since 1973. She said she possesses history and knowledge that will be valuable in knowing where the town was, where currently is, and what the future holds.

When asked what challenges Marlborough faces and how she would solve them, Bourbeau said the town is aging, with 44% of the residents 65 and over.

"Affordability is a critical issue for older residents on fixed incomes," she added. "Since

property taxes are the main source of revenue for any town, and with costs for education in particular going up substantially each year, keeping residents in their homes is a major challenge."

Facing this issue, Bourbeau said, means being creative with budgeting, combining resources and services wherever possible, utilizing funds wisely, looking for possible ways to save, and "just being smart about what is necessary versus what is wished for."

Bourbeau also pointed out the town's infrastructure costs, which she said are rising each year by amounts that are not small.

The fleets of vehicles for the Fire Department and Department of Public are also big ticket items in need of occasional replacements.

Planning to pay for these items will take coordination and foresight, she said.

Bourbeau said she hopes to help selectmen work together to make the town better.

"Being part of a group of selectmen means being able to listen, evaluate, compromise, as well as providing my own ideas and thoughts," she said. "No one person makes the decisions. It is a joint effort."

She said she hopes to be the board member with an open mind, "who thinks things through thoroughly, and who voices my opinions."

Bourbeau said being on the Board of Finance has helped her learn a lot about how the town runs and how each piece of the budget affects the other pieces, starting with departmental budget presentations that lead the selectmen to draft budgets to present to finance board.

"Seeing the final budget without realizing the pieces that went into it, does not lend itself to full understanding," she said. "I've learned a great deal about how the town runs, how each piece of the budget affects the other pieces, and how decisions need to be joint efforts rather than individualized."

Bourbeau concluded with calling Marlborough her home and said she cares deeply about the town, the residents, and the town's overall welfare.

"I have enjoyed devoting my time over the past years and would like to continue to do so for years to come," she said. "Honesty, integrity, and commitment are important to how I live my life. I want the residents to know that they can depend on me."

## Betty O'Brien

Betty O'Brien said she believes it's important for everyone on Marlborough's Board of Selectmen to be very familiar with the town and the functions of its various boards and commissions.

She said she believes she has that experience.

As a 46 year resident, O'Brien said she has always been active in the community. She served for 16 years on the board of education where she was chair and vice-chair. She was also on the Trails Commission and the Board of Florence Lord Senior Center. But her biggest endeavor was starting the Marlborough Arts Center with her husband, a six year project. She also served on its board.

O'Brien said she believes the town needs more transparency, especially with all the

changes that will soon occur as a result of the charter revisions.

"We need more information from the town and it's not happening," she said. "It is critical that the Board of Selectmen communicate to the town so people know what's going on."

Going forward, she believes it is especially important for residents to have information about the selection process for a town manager and that the increased board members will translate to "a huge change in the board."

"I don't think we will realize how big it is until we are in it," she said. "The Board of Selectmen will choose the town manager. That is a lot of responsibility for these five people."

The future of Lake Terramuggus is also one of her priorities. She said how the resource is protected is critical.

Currently the zoning commission is making a set of proposed regulations for the lake area. Some residents have voiced concerns about various aspects of the regulations.

O'Brien is also concerned about the town's lack of affordable housing, which she pointed out is required by the state.

"The town will have to face it," she said. "We have to do something about that."

O'Brien worked for 25 years as a school psychologist in the Connecticut Public Schools.

"I am involved in the town because I believe in having responsibility for the town," she said. "That's just who I am. My primary goal is to work cooperatively with all members of boards and commissions to make the best decision for the town of Marlborough."

## Last Day for Candy Sale

The Marlborough Republican Town Committee is holding its first Valentine's Day Candy Sale. There are several varieties of candy assortments available and they will be delivered directly to you in time for Valentine's Day. Orders need to be placed by today, Jan. 28.

To place an order, visit [www.MarlGOP.com](http://www.MarlGOP.com) and select the "More" tab to find a link to fundraisers.

For more information, call Liz Giannelli at 860-841-1547 or Sue Stolfi at 860-593-4763, or contact the RTC through the website.

## Pre-Kindergarten Lottery Info

All public school systems in Connecticut are responsible for the identification of children who may be eligible to receive special education services. The Early Childhood team at Marlborough Elementary School is accepting applications for current resident children interested in our peer model lottery for the 2022-23 school year.

If you are interested in your child participating in this process, eligible children must be at least 3 years old by Sept. 1, 2022, and parents/guardians must complete and return a questionnaire no later than Thursday, March 24. Note that children identified as kindergarten eligible (those turning 5 by Dec. 31, 2022) are not eligible to be peer models for the coming school year.

Contact Marcy Spellman at 860-295-6236 or [mspellman@marlborough.k12.ct.us](mailto:mspellman@marlborough.k12.ct.us) to receive a screening questionnaire or for more information on the program.

## Senior Center News and Notes

Marlborough Senior Center, 17 School Dr., is open for activities. Call 860-295-6209 for the center's hours and more information. The senior center has announced the following:

**Transportation:** Transportation to the senior center, shopping, medical and non-medical appointments will be offered each day from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., with a 36-hour advance reservation. Masks are required as well as appropriate distancing. Assistance is offered each day from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

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

## Parks and Rec Programs

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

**Youth Programs: Acrylic Landscape Painting:** For grades one and two. Wednesdays, Feb. 2-23, 3:30-5 p.m., at MES. Students will be guided through the techniques of landscape painting. All materials are provided. Students should bring a snack. Fee is \$90/residents, \$95/non-residents.

**Kids/Family Sew – Fleece Dog/Cat Bed:** For all ages. Wednesday, Feb. 2, 5:30-7 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Participants will create their own bed for their family pet. Each participant will take home their projects. Participants must have their own machine. All supplies are included. Fee is \$38/residents, \$43/non-residents.

**Sparkling Spinners:** For ages 3-5. Mondays, Feb. 7-March 21, 5:15-5:55 p.m., at Dance Dynamics in Hebron. This is a pre-ballet, creative movement class. Fee is \$95.

**Kids/Family Sew – Fleece Earband:** For all ages. Monday, Feb. 7, 5:30-7 p.m., at the senior center. Participants will create their own fleece earbands for those cold winter nights. Each participant will take home their projects. Participants must have their own machine. All supplies are included. Fee is \$38/residents, \$43/non-residents.

**Parents' Night Out:** For grades K-8. Friday, Feb. 11, 6-9 p.m., at the senior center. Drop off the kids and enjoy an evening out at a movie, dinner or shopping for a few hours. Kids will have the option of participating in arts and crafts activities, games, sports or watching a movie. Pizza and beverages will be provided. Cost for this program is \$15 per child for residents and \$18 per child for non-residents.

## Kindergarten Registration

Marlborough Elementary School will accept registration packets for kindergarten students for the 2022-23 school year on Wednesday, March 2 (9-11:00 a.m., 1-2 p.m. and 5-6:30 p.m.) and Thursday, March 3 (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, 2023. Registration packets have been sent home to prospective kindergarteners. If you have an eligible child and have not received a registration packet, call the school office at 860-295-6220.

Also, 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.



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### Congregational Church News & Notes

Sunday worship and programs at Marlborough Congregational Church, 35 South Main St., are suspended until Jan. 31, with in-person and livestream worship resuming at 10 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 6. The livestream can be accessed at [mcc.marlbconchurch.org](http://mcc.marlbconchurch.org). The Jan. 30 service will be led by the Rev. Bob Faulhaber.

**Sunday School:** A message for the children from Christian Education Director Gwen Lawson will be livestreamed at 11 a.m. through Jan. 30. Sunday School will resume Feb. 6.

**Mission Support** in January will go to Marlborough Food Bank. Donations to missions or for any other giving may be sent to the church at P.O. Box 57, Marlborough, CT 06447 or placed

in an offering box on a Sunday.

**AA:** Meets downstairs in the Great Hall Wednesdays with two meetings, noon and 7:30 p.m.

**Second Blessings Thrift Shop:** The shop will reopen Friday, Feb. 4, at noon, with new merchandise for the spring. The shop sells year-round through eBay at [bit.ly/MCCebay](http://bit.ly/MCCebay).

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

### Richmond Library News & Notes

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

**Building and Curbside-Pickup Hours:** Due to staff shortages, the library will now be closing an hour earlier in the evenings on Mondays through Thursdays, until April 4. The library's temporary winter hours are: Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Late Fines Have Returned:** Now that the library is no longer quarantining materials upon their return, the library has reinstated its overdue fine policy. As they were before, books will have a 20-cent fine per day they are overdue. The fine for overdue DVDs has been lowered to \$1 per day (from \$2 per day).

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

**Meet Polly the Penguin:** Polly the Penguin is new to Marlborough and has been visiting the library. She gets a little curious at night when staff go home and goes exploring, oftentimes getting lost. From now through February, kids are invited to help find Polly. Each Monday she will move to a new location. If you find her,

you'll earn a prize.

**Living with Connecticut's Wildlife:** Tuesday, Feb. 1, 7 p.m., via Zoom. This presentation, led by Certified Master Wildlife Conservationist Paul Colburn of Marlborough, focuses such state wildlife as black bears, eastern coyotes, bobcats, fishers, raccoons, skunks, Virginia opossums, red and gray foxes, woodchucks, white-tailed deer, birds, bats, venomous and non-venomous reptiles, and amphibians. Email [richmondprograms@gmail.com](mailto:richmondprograms@gmail.com) to register.

**Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Virtual Tour:** Thursday, Feb. 10, 5 p.m., via Zoom. Join the Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center's Visitor Experience Staff in an interactive exploration of the intricacies of slavery and the pursuit of personal freedom today. Email [richmondprograms@gmail.com](mailto:richmondprograms@gmail.com) to register.

**Financial Wellness Wednesday:** Feb. 16, 6 p.m., via Zoom. Rebecca Miller from the Financial Awareness Foundation will discuss Insurance Planning and Risk Management. Learn the different risk areas and the proper ways to mitigate the risk of loss, damage, illness or death. Email the library to register.

**TrueFlix:** Created by Scholastic, this is a multimedia resource for students in grades 3-6 that offers dozens of units to supplement social studies and science core-curricula learning. To access TrueFlix at home, click on the 'Online Resources' tab on the library website and use your Richmond Memorial Library card to log in.

### Dean's List

Marlborough residents Jordan Frey and Lia Baroncini made the fall 2021 Dean's List at Springfield College in Springfield, Mass.

Frey is majoring in exercise science/applied exercise science, and Baroncini is majoring in health science and pre-physical therapy.



In this photo posted to the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Company's Facebook page, crews work to quell a house blaze on Oak Drive in Marlborough. A pair of sanitation workers saved the occupant from her burning home.

### Town Commends Woman's Saviors

by Jack Lakowsky

First Selectman Greg Lowrey, along with the town's Board of Selectmen, penned a letter to the employer of two men who last week saved a Marlborough woman from a house fire.

On the morning of Jan. 18 two sanitation workers of All Waste Inc., Edward Lamarre and Tyler Kirby, pulled a woman from her burning home on Oak Drive.

Lowrey shared a draft of the letter with the *Rivereast*.

"On behalf of the town of Marlborough, I want to recognize the quick thinking and exemplary actions undertaken by [Kirby and Lamarre] on Oak Drive [on] the morning of January 18, 2022," Lowrey wrote.

"Your staff noticed unusual smoke emanating from a home. Their concern led to the activation of the 911 system and the rescue of a citizen before emergency services arrived. Their calm but vigorous response shows the quality of their character.

"Please extend my gratitude to each of these crew members," Lowrey concluded.

In online video from NBC Connecticut, firefighters can be heard commending the two rescuers, exclaiming "Good man!"

Kirby spoke to NBC, saying he saw the woman half-out of a doorway and pulled her to safety while Lamarre called 911.

"That's not something you wake up to every day," Kirby said, adding they intervened after seeing a column of smoke.

According to Fox 61, the workers were out to collect Christmas trees.

Kirby credited Lamarre, apparently the senior of the two, for the rescue.

On Tuesday Fire Marshal Joe Asklar said a cause of the fire isn't known yet. According to the Hayward Volunteer Fire company, the fire began in the bedroom.

An ambulance brought the woman to Hartford Hospital, then was brought to the Connecticut Burn Center at Bridgeport Hospital.

Last week she was listed in stable condition. The inside of the home was severely damaged.

### Dean's List

Marlborough resident Maura Ramsay made the fall 2021 Dean's List at Saint Anselm College in Manchester, N.H.

A member of the Class of 2023, Ramsay majors in elementary education.

### Dean's List

Marlborough residents Ashley Snyder and Alexandra Welch made the fall 2021 Dean's List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I.

### Arts Center Membership Drive Underway

The Marlborough Arts Center announces that its annual membership drive for 2022 is underway. Memberships are valid from January through December each year.

The center is a regional nonprofit organization which includes all the towns in the Marlborough area. Artistic and cultural activities are offered throughout the year, including fine art shows, classes and musical presentations.

Membership forms can be downloaded from [www.marlbrougharts.org](http://www.marlbrougharts.org), printed and submitted with a check to Marlborough Arts Center, 231 North Main St., Marlborough CT 06447. The Arts Center phone number is 860-467-6353.

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**MARLBOROUGH ZONING COMMISSION**  
**PUBLIC HEARING**  
 Marlborough Elementary School Cafeteria  
 (25 School Dr.)

The Marlborough Zoning Commission will hold the following Public Hearing on Thursday, February 3, 2022 at 7:00 PM at 25 School Dr. (Marlborough Elementary School Cafeteria)

**APPLICATION #Z-15-21 Amendment to the Marlborough Zoning Regulations, Article Two Zones Section A, Amendment to Article Four**  
 Definitions & New Article Ten J - Lake Terramuggus Watershed & Shoreline Overlay District, and adding a new overlay zone within the Lake Terramuggus watershed as shown on a map on file, for the purpose of regulating the cutting and retention of trees and other vegetation; the erection of docks, retaining walls, sheds, and other structures in proximity to the Lake; the application of chemicals; and other measures to protect the water quality of Lake Terramuggus and the property values around it.

**APPLICATION #Z-19-21 - Graphik Sign Solutions, LLC / Schwartz Real Estate (Applicant/Property Owner) - 5 South Main Street - Internally illuminated Building Signage.**  
**APPLICATION #Z-20-21 - Marlborough Associates LLC - Zone change for lots known as tax assessors map 6, block 10, lots 18B, 16, 18A, 17B&C and 2 private roads from Design Business Industrial to Residential.**  
**APPLICATION #Z-22-21 - Marlborough Zoning Commission - Zone change from General Industrial (GI) to Residential (R) - properties located at 61/63 South Main Street, 77 South Main Street & 81 South Main Street**

The room capacity will be limited due to Social Distancing requirements and masks are mandatory for those who are attend in person. Written testimony will be received at the public hearing and written testimony can be sent to the Building / Land Use Department at Town Hall ahead of the public hearing. All testimony and application materials will be available to the public on the Town Website, [www.Marlbroughct.net](http://www.Marlbroughct.net), under Minutes/Agendas then Agenda 2021 then Zoning Commission. Kevin Asklar, ZONING COMMISSION CHAIR

2TB 1/21, 1/28

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### Troop 72 Holds Court of Honor

Scout Troop 72 of Colchester recently held a Court of Honor, and various rank advancements and merit badges were distributed.

The rank of 1st class was earned by Chase Vendrillo, and the rank of Life Scout was earned by Reed Delmastro and Connor J. Denecour.

Merit badges were earned from the following Scouts:

Luca Corticelli – Chess, Digital Technology, Fingerprinting; Reed Delmastro – Basketball, Bird Study, Citizenship in the Community, Emergency Preparedness, Nature, Pottery, Signs, Signals, and Code; Connor Denecour – Communication, Fingerprinting, First Aid, Small-Boat Sailing; Anthony DePaola – Climbing, Kayaking, Swimming; Justin Palmer – Canoeing, Fingerprinting, Rifle Shooting, Shotgun Shooting; Sai U. Parekh – Basketball, Exploration, Leatherwork, Swimming; Brendan Reas – Geocaching, Kayaking; Kevin Reas – Canoeing, Orienteering and a Special award in Paddleboarding; Benjamin Salemi – Environmental Science, Geocaching, Pottery, Small-Boat Sailing; Thomas Smith - Citizenship in the Com-

munity, Citizenship in the World, Communication, Emergency Preparedness, Family Life, Personal Fitness; Chase M. Vendrillo – Engineering, Exploration; Jay Wikarska – Canoeing, Kayaking, Lifesaving, Swimming.

Special awards were received by Kevin Reas for Paddleboarding and Jay Wikarska for the BSA Mile Swim award.

Also, during this COVID-19 period, the troop has had five Scouts – Nickolas Paggioli, Ben Petrosky, Thomas Russell, Thomas Smith and David Wyatt – earn the rank of Eagle Scout which is the highest rank in Scouts. Troop 72 said it hopes to soon be able to have an awards ceremony to honor these Scouts.

To see highlights of Troop 72 events, look for the troop's Facebook page. The troop holds regular meetings at the Colchester Federated Church on Monday nights from 7-8:30 p.m., September to June. Children age 11-17 are welcome; for more information, email the troop at scoutmaster@troop72ct.org, attention: Ben Smith, or stop by for one of the troop meetings.

### CYSS News and Notes

Colchester Youth and Social Services has announced the following. For full program descriptions or more information, contact CYSS at 860-537-7255 or youthservices@colchesterct.gov. Register for programs online at [www.colchesterct.gov/youth-social-services](http://www.colchesterct.gov/youth-social-services).

**Youth Action Council:** Thursdays, 2:15-4 p.m., for grades 7-12. As a member of the council, students will have the opportunity to engage with town leaders, travel to regional conferences, create activities for teens, and more. Register online.

**Half Day Hooray:** For children in grades K-5. On professional development-shortened days, Half Day Hooray takes place right at the child's school and includes STEAM-related

performances, hands-on activities, take-home crafts and more. Each session is \$10. Register online. Schedule is: Feb. 18: Funky February; March 24: March Madness; May 27: Last Blast.

**Youth Center Activities – Drop-In:** 2-4 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, for grades 6-8. During Drop-In, kids can have a snack, read/do homework, play pool, air hockey, video games or basketball, work on crafts, and more. Students will receive instructions for online registration at their first visit; they must be registered online to attend again.

**After School Adventures:** Tuesdays, 2-4 p.m., through the end of the school year. Grades 6-8 are invited to the Youth Center after school for fun activities and even some trips.

### Dean's List

Hannah Corsa of Colchester made the fall 2021 Dean's List at American International College in Springfield, Mass.

### Dean's List

Shruti Rajkumar of Colchester made the fall 2021 Dean's List at Emerson College in Boston. Rajkumar is majoring in journalism and is a member of the Class of 2022.

### Dean's List

Colchester residents Emma Mallett, Meghan Purcell, Stephanie Davis, Adam Rochette and Alaina Walsh

### Dean's List

Ben Amor of Colchester made the fall 2021 Dean's List at Curry College in Milton, Mass.

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### Freezin' for a Reason Makes Return

Fred Brown, Rob Suchecki, and Greg Cordova, are spending yet another weekend in the cold to benefit the Colchester Fuel Bank.

The group will gather on the Colchester Green on Friday, Feb. 11, at 2 p.m., and they won't leave until Sunday, Feb. 13, at noon, after spending two cold nights in a tent, raising funds for the Colchester Fuel Bank.

"This is year number 13 and I have a feeling it's going to be lucky number 13," Brown said, adding that in the previous 12 years, the group has raised around \$140,000.

"It looks like 2022 is going to continue to be challenging for folks who are dependent upon the Fuel Bank," Brown, who is the event founder, said. "With so many folks out of work, how can they afford to keep that thermostat at an acceptable temp and eat or purchase prescriptions?"

The men will remain socially distanced, as much as possible when dealing with the public. "We don't want anyone to get sick. We just want to help keep them warm," said Brown.

### CBSL Spring Registration

The Colchester Baseball and Softball League (CBSL) has announced registration is open for the spring 2022 season. Youth age 4-16 are welcome to join.

Go to [www.CBSL.org](http://www.CBSL.org) to register or learn more.

Rob Suchecki, a retired Colchester Police officer, said, "I know this sounds really corny, but this town and its residents have been so good to me it only makes sense to give back. Helping those in need is just the right thing to do. How many of us are a couple of paychecks away from needing help ourselves?"

The group will accept donations during their weekend on the Green. Make checks payable to Freezin' for a Reason. If you can't make it to the Green, any branch of People's United Bank is accepting donations, or you can use Paypal.com, with the email [freezinforareason@yahoo.com](mailto:freezinforareason@yahoo.com), to donate online.

"We are a visual reminder of all those in need of heating assistance!" Suchecki said. "Please help us."

### Rotary to Award Scholarships

The Colchester Rotary Foundation will award two scholarships this year to two deserving Colchester graduates.

The scholarship is \$1,000 for a graduate moving onto a traditional two- or four-year college program and \$1,000 for a graduate moving onto a trade school.

For more information, contact Marlene Blumberger at the Bacon Academy counseling office, at [mblumberger@colchesterct.org](mailto:mblumberger@colchesterct.org).

### Upcoming Senior Center Trips

The Colchester Senior Center is planning the following trips for 2022. Reservations should be made in person at the senior center, 95 Norwich Ave. Trips are available to senior center members and an adult guest, and are on a first-come, first-served basis; space is limited. Call the senior center at 860-537-3911 for more information.

**Chicken Restaurant, Casino:** Thursday, March 24, departing at 10:15 a.m. This is a trip to Wright's Chicken Farm in Rhode Island for lunch, followed by a stop at Twin River Casino. Cost is \$92/person.

**Trip to See Jesus Christ Superstar:** Sunday, April 3, at the Thomaston Opera House. There will be a pre-show lunch at the Black Rock Tavern and a reserved orchestra seat for the show. Cost is \$107/person, payable by cash or check.

**New York Botanical Gardens:** Wednesday, April 20. The day will start in Little Italy, featuring lunch at Ann & Tony's Restaurant (choose from Chicken Marsala, Veal Parmigiana or Eggplant Parmigiana, with salad, dessert and coffee or tea), then a trip to the gardens, to explore over 50 collections that are located throughout the 250 acres. Bus will depart at 7 a.m. and return at 8:30 p.m. Cost is \$129/person.

**New York City Day Trip:** Monday, May 9. Bus departs at 7 a.m. Start your day at the 9/11 Museum, which serves as the country's

principal institution concerned with the events of Sept. 11, 2001. You will have time to view both the museum and the twin reflecting pools. Spend some time in the afternoon at Chelsea Market for lunch on your own. Ascend to the top of the World Trade Center. Return in Colchester will be approximately 9:15 p.m. Cost is \$130/person, payable by cash or check.

**Foster's Downeast Clambake:** Wednesday, May 25. Bus departs at 8 a.m. for Foster's, located in York, Maine. The menu will consist of award-winning clam chowder, steamed clams and mussels, Maine lobster, sweet corn on the cob, red bliss potatoes, rolls and butter, and Foster's own blueberry crumb cake. Alternative meal choices are barbecue chicken and a vegetarian option. There will be a stop at Portsmouth, N.H., on the way home for some shopping. Return to Colchester at 7 p.m. Cost is \$119/person, payable by cash or check.

**Atlantic City:** June 7-9. Stay two nights at Resorts Casino Hotel, located on the northern end of the Boardwalk, overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Enjoy the resort's newest addition: Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville. This tropical-themed casino section now offers a 5 O'clock Somewhere Bar, Landshark Bar & Grill, and Coffee Shop. The trip includes a \$25 slot credit and two \$20 meal credits. Cost is \$325/person double occupancy, payable by cash or check only.



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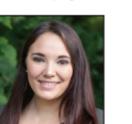
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Colchester • Colchester

### Scholarship Available

Carl Guild and Associates has announced its community scholarship program for local high school seniors entering college in the fall. There are six \$1000 scholarships given – one each in East Hampton, Portland, Colchester, East Haddam, Glastonbury and the RHAM school district. There are no restrictions or qualifications; all local seniors can apply. High school seniors are encouraged to apply by April 1. For an application, visit [www.carlguild.com/scholarship](http://www.carlguild.com/scholarship) or ask your school's guidance counselor.

### Dean's List

Colchester residents Julian Prignano and Ryan Lawrence each made the fall 2021 Dean's List at Springfield College in Springfield, Mass. Prignano is majoring in exploratory studies, and Lawrence is majoring in sport management.

### Abundant Life Church News & Notes

Abundant Life Church, a Christ-follower church that believes in salvation through Jesus Christ, is located at 85 Skinner Rd. For more information, call 860-537-3082 or visit [AbundantL.com](http://AbundantL.com).  
**Sunday Services:** Sunday School is at 9:30 a.m. and the main service is at 10:30 a.m. There is also Children's Church available for ages 4-11. All are welcome. The main service is also broadcast live each week on Facebook. Visit [www.facebook.com/groups/abundantlifeCT](http://www.facebook.com/groups/abundantlifeCT) or look for the church on Facebook. For more information, call the church.  
**Power of Prayer:** If in need of prayer, call the church to be placed on the prayer list. You may also ask about the various days and times the prayer groups meet and come at that time.

### Ukrainian Catholic Church News

All are invited to worship each week at St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, 178 Linwood Ave. The church offers Eastern Rite Divine services. Church doors are open for Divine Liturgy on Saturdays at 4 p.m. and Sundays at 9 a.m.; the Sunday service is bilingual. For more information, call the church at 860-537-2069.

### Dean's List

Bridget McIntyre of Colchester made the fall 2021 Dean's List at the University of New England.

### Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration for the upcoming 2022-23 school year is now open. Children who reside in Colchester and will be age 5 by Jan. 1, 2023, are eligible to register for the full-day program. New registrations must be completed online, at [www.colchesterct.org](http://www.colchesterct.org). Select the "for families" tab and on the drop-down menu, click on the tab for "Registration and Residency". Complete and submit the pre-enrollment form and then follow the necessary steps outlined on the website. Parents and guardians will need to make an appointment with the Board of Education office once all required online enrollment forms are completed. Call 860-537-7267 to make an appointment. Registration appointment hours are Monday through Thursday from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. A list of required documents can be found on the website.

### Lions Offering Scholarships

The Colchester Lions would like to invite all Colchester residents that are in their senior year of high school to apply for one of several scholarships they award. The Lions consider applications from all graduating students planning to attend any accredited college, university or trade school, regardless of which public, private, charter or magnet high school they attend as well as home-schooled students. Applications are available through the Bacon Academy guidance office in February or on the

Colchester Lions website, [colchesterlions.org](http://colchesterlions.org). For more information, contact Elizabeth Bessette at [elizabeth.a.bessette@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.a.bessette@gmail.com). Bacon Academy students should submit their application to the Bacon Academy Guidance office. All other students should email their application to [elizabeth.a.bessette@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.a.bessette@gmail.com) or mail to Colchester Lions Club, Attn: Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 423, Colchester, CT 06415. Applications must be received by Monday, March 14.

### Ladies Guild 2022 Trips

Saint Andrew's Ladies Guild is planning several trips for the group and has opened the reservations to the community. Trips for 2022 are:  
**May 11-13:** See Sight and Sounds Theatre's new show, *David*. Trip includes transportation, two nights' hotel, two breakfasts, two dinners, sightseeing and admissions per itinerary, including a ride on the Strasburg Railroad and visiting an actual Amish home. Cost is \$585/person double.  
**Aug. 14-15:** See and hear the Boston Pops on

Old Cape Cod, cruise Hyannis Harbor and visit the JFK Museum. Cost is \$409/person double, and includes transportation, hotel, one breakfast, one dinner, sightseeing and admissions.  
**Sept. 3-18:** Trans-Atlantic Cruise, visiting Copenhagen, Norway, Iceland, Greenland. Price starts at \$2,999, and includes air transportation to Copenhagen. Travelers must follow the protocols set-in-place by the travel company. For more information, call Barbara Gozzo at 860-537-0179 or Cathy Russi at 860-887-9621.





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Portland • Portland

# Burgers Blessed with Quality at Burger Heaven

by Jack Lakowsky

Matt and Jessica Carroll, Portland residents for 25 years, wanted to open a destination everyone in the family can enjoy.

“We want to be a destination of choice for family dinner,” Matt Carroll told the *Rivereast* on Tuesday.

The Carrolls also own and operate Jessica’s Garden and Lobster Shack in Marlborough, which has been open for nearly 20 years.

Carroll said Burger Heaven and Smooth Acai, which opened Jan. 5, focuses on takeout, serving high quality food to the “busy family that needs to pick up food on the way home after a game.”

Burger Heaven is at 870 Portland-Cobalt Road, near the intersection of Routes 66 and 17, in the old Dairy Queen location.

To achieve the goal of offering choices for everyone, Burger Heaven serves gluten-free, vegetarian and vegan options.

No matter a customer’s dietary preferences or restrictions, Burger Heaven will serve its guests superb, fresh food.

Carroll describes the restaurant as “fresh good, not fast food.” Burger spots, he said, are sometimes looped in with their expeditious competition.

“Our patties are all fresh, certified Angus ground chuck,” said Carroll.

The larger patties customers can sink teeth into are sourced from the Johnson Family Angus Ranch, a farm in Durham.

“I’d compare us to Max Burger or Plan B [Burger Bar] – high-quality craft burgers,” said Carroll.

The menu brims with creativity and uniqueness. Some of the burger toppings include jalapeno-brined bacon and pecan wood smoked bacon, peanut butter and bananas, and mac n’ cheese.

Carroll said preeminent among the store’s appetizers are its Heaven’s Loaded Fries, with crumbled blue cheese, pecan wood smoked bacon, red onion, scallions and a house aioli. One can order the same scrumptious toppings on nachos.

Counterposed with the loaded heaven dishes are some from the underworld; Hell’s Loaded Fries and Nachos are another indulgent menu item.

Carroll, aware people can’t dine on such richness every day, also wanted to include daily fare.

“We have some great everyday value items,” said Carroll, including salads, junior burgers and a BLT from heaven – and one from hell.

Restaurant owners everywhere have been in

their own special kind of hell – the COVID-19 pandemic and all the issues, including with supplies and labor, it’s causing.

“This is the worst possible time to open a restaurant,” Carroll said. “I’m sure anyone giving us advice would’ve said don’t open right now, but we know we have the formula for success.”

One component of this formula, Carroll said, was hiring an adept general manager. Doing so was “the last piece of the puzzle.”

Another way the Carrolls cultivate success is investing in their employees.

“We want to have top-level staff, and to do that, we pay above market wages,” Carroll said. “All employees share in a tip pool, we provide retirement plans with a company match, health insurance, paid days off. This is incredibly rare in the restaurant industry.”

Carroll said the goal is to have a staff of full-time, committed employees.

Carroll said despite opening during one of the most challenging times for restaurants, Burger Heaven’s inauguration went smoothly, opening in just six weeks. Carroll said he worked on the supply side of the industry for many years, so he had helpful contacts.

Locals had no options for craft burgers in town, Carroll said. Burger Heaven meets this need, and also fulfills the void of fresh smoothies and fruit bowls in the local market.

Hence the second half of its name, Smooth Acai.

The fruit of the acai (pronounced ah-sah-EE) palm is a plum-like fruit that has become popular in the U.S. in recent years, promoted for weight-loss and anti-aging purposes, according to the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health.

The acai bowls, “basically a puree of frozen fruit with various toppings”, are joined by dragonfruit and oatmeal bowls.

“There wasn’t anything like that in Portland to my knowledge,” Carroll said.

Burger Heaven has enticing smoothies as unique as its burgers, including mango madness with mango, bananas, pineapple, yogurt, honey and coconut milk.

The Carrolls aren’t stopping there, though. “We do have plans to open for breakfast soon,” Carroll said.

Along with smoothies and fruit bowls, breakfast will include breakfast sandwiches and wraps, “all freshly cooked-no microwaved bacon.”

Burger Heaven and Smooth Acai emphasizes technology and has a “really good online ordering tool.” Carroll encourages customers to order online.



The owners of Burger Heaven and Smooth Acai, a new restaurant on Portland-Cobalt Road in the old Dairy Queen location, said with the pandemic and sluggish supply lines, now may not be the best time to open a restaurant. However, as already-successful owners of another area business, they feel they know the “formula for success” no matter the circumstances. Pictured is their shishito burger with a green pepper on top.

“You can place your order in the morning then pick it up on the way to work,” said Carroll.

A ribbon cutting with the Middlesex Chamber of Commerce will happen soon, Carroll

said. Burger Heaven and Smooth Acai is open daily from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. To order online, simply Google the restaurant and select “order online” or visit the restaurant’s Facebook page.

## Trinity Episcopal Church News

Trinity Episcopal Church, located at 345 Main St., invites the community to celebrate each week. Worship is at 9:30 a.m. Sunday School is held during the service.

Children ages 4-12, baptized and unbaptized, are welcome to attend Church School. Lessons and activities are aimed at encouraging the children to think outside of themselves and about the community at large.

Masks are required for all, vaccinated and unvaccinated, while inside the church. More information is at [trinitychurchportlandct.org](http://trinitychurchportlandct.org).

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

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

## Scholarship Available

Carl Guild and Associates has announced its community scholarship program for local high school seniors entering college in the fall.

There are six \$1000 scholarships given – one each in East Hampton, Portland, Colchester, East Haddam, Glastonbury and the RHAM school district. There are no restrictions or qualifications; all local seniors can apply.

High school seniors are encouraged to apply by April 1. For an application, visit [www.carlguild.com/scholarship](http://www.carlguild.com/scholarship) or ask your school’s guidance counselor.

## Little League Registration Open

Registration is open for Portland Little League’s spring 2022 season and winter clinics. PLL offers baseball and softball programs for players ages 5-14.

Visit [www.portlandctlittleleague.com](http://www.portlandctlittleleague.com) to register. Registration for the winter clinics end Feb. 12, and for the spring season ends March 1.

## Kindergarten Registration

Valley View School kindergarten registration for the 2022-23 school year is underway.

Parents/guardians whose children will be 5 years old on or before Jan. 1, 2023, should email Valley View at [pgross@portlandct.us](mailto:pgross@portlandct.us) to indicate they will be registering their child for kindergarten. Provide the child’s full name, phone number and address.

Further information regarding kindergarten registration will then be provided.

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# Highlanders Basketball Bounced by Cromwell, Rebounds

by Josh Howard

The boys' basketball team at Portland High School suffered a hard-fought conference loss against undefeated Cromwell, 55-51, on Jan. 18 before responding with wins over Simsbury and East Hampton last week.

At Cromwell, the Highlanders played with a sense of urgency from the opening tip and used a swarming, press defense to hold the Panthers to 15 points in the first half, taking a seven-point lead into the break.

They relinquished the lead in the second half before coming back and almost stealing the game in the final minute.

"Overall, I love the way my boys fought and I want them to hold their heads high," said Portland head coach David Bradbury.

Eli Evison scored 11 of his team-high 18 points over the first 16 minutes. The 6'6" forward showcased an ability to dominate down low with a soft touch and stretch the defense with his outside shooting, evidenced by his trio of three-pointers.

Leading 22-15 at the half, the Highlanders increased their lead to nine in the opening minute of the third on a jump shot from Harrison Collins. The Panthers responded by going on a 15-4 run, taking their first lead of the game midway through the quarter.

Cromwell sophomore Victor Payne took over in the third, scoring 14 of his game-high 22 points in the frame.

"Cromwell did a good job, especially in the second half, at getting us out of our rhythm a little bit," said Bradbury. "[Payne] is a tremendous player. He got going a little bit and

we had trouble keeping in front and we had a tough time helping and leaving the strong side corner open. We let some of their lefty shooters get hot from the corner. That dictated that third quarter."

The team exchanged five more lead changes in the third, highlighted by a three and a pair of layups from Joe Rusczyk, who finished with 17 points.

A three-pointer by Jake Salafia put Cromwell up 39-35 heading to the fourth quarter and home team rode the momentum into the final quarter, taking a 52-43 lead on a put back from Louis Friend with less than two minutes remaining in regulation.

But Portland did not go quietly into the night and on the following possession, Evison knocked down a deep three as the Highlanders scored eight of the next nine points.

Evan Johnson canned a contested three-pointer and Rusczyk made an acrobatic layup to narrow the gap to 53-51. Jake Thompson then drew an offensive charge on the ensuing inbound, giving the team the ball with a chance to tie or take the lead.

Evison nearly delivered, but his layup attempt bounced out with five seconds remaining in regulation.

Cromwell's Gianluca Albert, who finished with 20 points, drained a pair of free throws with 3.5 seconds left to seal the game and improved the Panthers to 6-0.

Thompson had seven points and Collins added six in the loss.

Bradbury was proud of how his team responded in the hostile environment.



Portland's Harrison Collins (No. 2) is defended by Gianluca Albert during Cromwell's 55-51 victory on Jan. 18.

"There is no question that these are two of the better teams in the Shoreline Conference," he said. "It is a bit frustrating. I thought we fought really hard down the stretch."

Following the tough loss, the Highlanders responded with home wins over Simsbury (1/19) and East Hampton (1/21) to close the

week. Thompson scored 21 points in the 66-56 win over the Bellringers, which improved the team to 6-5. East Hampton, who was led by Jye Lynch's 20 points, fell to 4-2.

Portland has another Shoreline showdown this Friday, Jan. 28, when they welcome Morgan to PHS. The game tips at 7 p.m.

## Mid-Winter Chocolate Fest is Back

The Women's Fellowship of the First Congregational Church in Portland will host its 24th Mid-Winter Chocolate Fest Saturday, Feb. 12, in the church Fellowship Hall, 554 Main St.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, this year's festival will have a new look and time. The festival will now be held from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. People are encouraged to sign up for a shopping time slot, as the number of people allowed in at a time will be limited. To register, go to [www.firstchurchportlandct.org](http://www.firstchurchportlandct.org).

The Chocolate Mousse Café will be a take-out-only booth, where one can purchase a variety of desserts, such as the Double Truffle "Black Beast." The Baked Goods Booth will offer a variety of breads, muffins, bars, cook-

ies and pies in both chocolate and non-chocolate flavors.

At the Candy Booth there will be an assortment of items, including English toffee, candy-coated pretzels, chocolate-covered cherries, candy rose bouquets, and lollipops of various shapes and sizes. The Valentine's Craft Booth will have gift mugs and small gift baskets for all ages. Jewelry and greeting cards will also be available. New this year will be a combination Craft/Grab bag for the young to take home.

Snow date is Sunday, Feb. 13, from 1-4 p.m. Admission is free and masks are required. For more information, call the church at 860 342-3244 or visit the church website.

## Knights of Columbus Baby Shower

Council 7 Knights of Columbus will conduct its 11th annual Baby Shower on the weekends of Feb. 5-6 and Feb. 12-13. Items will be collected in the gathering space at St. Mary Church in Portland.

All items will be shared with the local Portland Food Bank and Birthright, an organization that provides a range of support services for expectant and new mothers. Some of the services are no-cost pregnancy testing, prenatal health care, and maternity and baby supplies.

Suggested new items should be unwrapped,

and include: diapers, sleepers, blankets, rattles, bibs, bath towels, wipes, lotion, outfits, shampoo, bottles, baby bath, pacifiers, comb and brush sets, socks, gift sets, stuffed animals, blanket sleepers, crib sheets, sweaters, hats, diaper bags, booties, and more.

A box for "Respect Life" cash donations will also be available, and gratefully received. Donations can also be mailed to Freestone Council, PO Box 7, Portland, CT 06480.

For further information, call Caffrey at 860-342-4259.

## Registration Open for Spring Soccer

Registration is open for Portland Soccer Club's spring seasons for Travel and Rec players. Visit [clubs.bluesombrero.com/portlandsoccerclub](http://clubs.bluesombrero.com/portlandsoccerclub) to register, or contact PSC President Chad Wilson at [nosliw.dahc@gmail.com](mailto:nosliw.dahc@gmail.com).

Travel Details: Players with birth years 2008 to 2013. Registration deadline is Friday, March 4. Cost is \$170. Practices are twice per week with up to two weekend games against other towns. Season starts early April and ends mid-June.

Rec Details: Players with birth years 2013 to 2017. Registration deadline is Monday, April 18. Birth year determines division. Pre-K cost is \$60, Dribblers and Kickers cost is \$75. Pre-K and Dribblers on Saturday mornings only. Kickers play Saturday morning games at the Portland Rec Complex and practice Wednesday evenings. The season runs from April 23-June 11.

Note: Late Travel and Rec registrations are not guaranteed.

## Portland Preschool Screening

Connecticut public schools are responsible for identifying children who are eligible to receive special education services. Valley View School will conduct a preschool screening Friday, Jan. 28, for children ages 3-4. The screening is designed to answer any questions or concerns about a child's development as well as identifying children who may be eligible for the preschool selection process.

During the screening your child will meet with members from our preschool team and participate in a variety of activities. These activities assess different developmental areas including cognition, communication, fine and gross motor skills and social interaction. During this time, the parent/caregiver will meet

with another member of the team to discuss their child's adaptive and personal social skills.

Following the screening you will receive a letter stating your child's results. In order for your child to attend Valley View's preschool program they must participate in the screening process. Peer role models are determined on a year-to-year basis.

For more information and to schedule an appointment, call Valley View School at 860-342-3131.

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## Portland Library News & Notes

Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave., is open, with no appointments needed. Wireless is available. Registration required for the following programs unless noted. Masks required for those over the age of 2. For more info and full program descriptions, visit [www.portlandlibrary.org](http://www.portlandlibrary.org) or call 860-342-6770. The library is also on Facebook and Instagram.

**Hours:** Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Curbside delivery of requested items continues; call the library or reserve items online and you will receive a notice or call when your materials are available.

**Holiday Closing:** The library will be closed Monday, Feb. 21, for Presidents Day.

**Youth Program: Alien Invasion! Winter Reading 2022:** Visit the library in January and February and, each time you check out materials (up to once per day), your alien will advance to another planet. Visit all eight planets and win a prize. Also on your visit, grab a square to color and help unlock scenes of alien adventures at the library.

**Online Storytimes:** Weekly storytimes will remain online for the winter session, via Zoom. A take-home craft will be available each week for anyone who wants to come pick one up. Registration is required and can be done through the website calendar or by calling the library. A Zoom link will be sent each week in advance of the program. **Preschool Storytime** is Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. through Feb. 22, and **Storytime for Toddlers and Tots – Mother Goose on the Loose** is Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. through Feb. 23.

**Explore the Marvel Universe:** Thursdays at 3:45 p.m. Feb. 3 and 10. Kids in grades K-5 can attend this online program that celebrates all things Marvel, including trivia, crafts and more.

## Senior Center News & Notes

The Waverly Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave., is open Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., and Friday, 8 a.m.-noon. For more information or to register, call 860-342-6760.

**No Food:** Food is not allowed in the senior center at this time. All food programs are on hold until further notice; all programs are subject to change. Check the center's Facebook page to see daily updates, or call ahead.

**Programs Moved to Next Month:** The following programs have been rescheduled to begin in February: Line Dancing with Joel; Tuesday Evening Music; Third Thursday Dinner and Music; Bi-Monthly Lunches. The New Year's Eve party will now become a Valentine's Day event scheduled for Monday, Feb. 14, at 11:30 a.m. All those who were registered for the NYE party have been transferred to the Valentine's event. A max of 30 people is allowed. Verizon Wings is rescheduled for April, as well as Teacup Raffle Bingo.

**Beginner Exercise Tap Class:** With Alicia Currier. There will be a free trial class Tuesday, Feb. 1, at 1:30 p.m. This class can be seated or standing. After the free class, people may sign up for more classes at \$5 per class.

**Seated Yoga:** Try this class free Wednesday, Feb. 2, at 11:30 a.m. This class will be held Wednesdays with instructor Judy Thompson. There is no fee; just a free will offering if you are able. Register by Jan. 29.

**Dancersize:** Held Thursdays at 10 a.m. The class is free.

## Police News

1/11: Nancy Alvarado, 42, of Brewster, N.Y., was arrested and charged with criminal trespass and disorderly conduct, Portland Police said.

1/25: Sue Ann Mitscherlich, 59, of 208 Main St., was arrested and charged with second-degree failure to appear, Portland Police said.

## Historical Society Annual Meeting Goes Virtual

The Portland Historical Society will host its annual meeting for election of officers and the executive board Sunday, Jan. 30, at 2 p.m., via Zoom. All are invited.

To register, email [PortlandHistory@gmail.com](mailto:PortlandHistory@gmail.com) by noon Saturday, Jan. 29. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Registrants may attend the meeting by connected device or by dialing in using a telephone.

After a brief update to the membership on society activities, Kim Fischburg of Norwich – born in Portland and a new member – will present a short program on Portland history, entitled "Welcome to Portland." From dinosaurs to today's riverfront, her presentation will give viewers a taste of the town's history.

All materials will be supplied and available for pickup before each program. A Zoom link will be sent in advance of the event. Registration is required and space is limited.

**Teen Paint Party:** Saturday, Feb. 5, noon, for grades 5 and up. Help celebrate Take Your Child to the Library Day. Instructor Pamela Hanks created the artwork for the library's alien-themed Winter Reading program and she'll show how to paint an alien of your own. Registration is required and space is limited.

**Adult Programs: Book Clubs: T.A.B. (Talk About Books):** Tuesday, Feb. 1, 1 p.m. *Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker* by Jennifer Chiaverini will be discussed. **First Thursday Night Book Club:** Feb. 3, 6 p.m., in person and via Zoom. *These Ghosts are Family* by Maisy Card will be discussed. **Mystery Lovers Book Club:** Tuesday, Feb. 15, 1 p.m. *Open Season* by C. J. Box will be discussed.

**Portland Forum:** Regularly scheduled events include book discussions and planned presentations in support of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Call or visit the library webpage for updated information. Call or visit the website for updates on a Feb. 10 event planned in support of the Portland Afghan Refugee Resettlement Group

**Decoding the Mysteries of Cats:** Tuesday, Feb. 1, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom. Stephen Quandt, recently the feline behavior coordinator for the Animal Care Centers of NYC, presents this program that explains cat behavior from the perspective of evolutionary and adaptive forces that help shape their lives. Registration requested.

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

**Qi Gong with Lisa:** This class on improving movement and balance will be held Wednesdays in February from 1-2 p.m. The four-week session is \$40. There must be seven students to run this class.

**Tai Chi with Lisa:** This session consists of four weeks on Tuesdays starting Feb. 1 from 6-7 p.m. each week. The fee is \$40 for the 4-week session. There must be at least seven students to run this class. Masks and social distancing are required.

**Medical Rides:** The center provides seniors and disabled with rides to the doctor. Cost is \$5/person round trip. Two-week notice requested. Masks required.

**Cans-4-A-Cause:** Drop off washed cans and bottles in a bin in the rear parking lot of the center. For details or to volunteer, email Jeff Myjak at [myjakjeff@gmail.com](mailto:myjakjeff@gmail.com).

**Foot Care:** Held at the center on the fourth Tuesday of each month. The fee is \$35, cash or check. Call the center to make an appointment.

**Free Hearing Screening:** The second Tuesday of each month at 11 a.m. with Virginia Duclos of "All Ears" in Portland. No registration is necessary.

**Third Thursday Music:** Feb. 17 at 5 p.m. Enjoy Mardi Gras music.

## Dean's List

Thomas Stoto of Portland made the fall 2021 Dean's list at the Dolan School of Business at Fairfield University.

## Zion Lutheran Church News

The safety team at Zion Lutheran Church, located at 183 William St., is making weekly decisions as to whether worship will be in person or online. As COVID-19 infection numbers have continued to rise, worship in recent weeks has been offered through YouTube videos posted on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m.

Zion recommends that anyone interested in joining the weekly worship services check the status on Zion's website, [zionlutheranportland.org](http://zionlutheranportland.org). If online, the service is posted by 9 a.m. on Sundays. If in person, all are welcome to attend, or view a recording that is posted to YouTube on Monday mornings by 9 a.m.

Adult Bible Study continues the second and fourth Sundays in January and February. The focus of this study will be season one of the series *The Chosen*, using the book *What Does It Mean to Be Chosen?*

The community is welcome to participate in all worship services and special events. For more information about any church activities, or if in need of pastoral assistance, call 860-342-2860, email [zion.lutheran@snet.net](mailto:zion.lutheran@snet.net) or visit [zionlutheranportland.org](http://zionlutheranportland.org).

Hebron • Heb

## Senior Center News & Notes

Russell Mercier Senior Center has announced the following. For more information and full program descriptions, and to register, call the senior center at 860-228-1700. Registration is required for all programs. The senior center newsletter is online at [tinyurl.com/3xfm862d](http://tinyurl.com/3xfm862d).

**AARP Tax Preparation:** Tax preparation will take place Tuesdays, Feb. 8-March 29, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. This is by appointment only; residents of all towns are welcome. To make an appointment, call the senior center.

**A Matter of Better Balance:** Tuesdays, Feb. 8-March 1, 9-11 a.m. The class size is a minimum of 8 people with a maximum of 12 people. This is an in-person class and masks will be required. To sign up, call the center. The program is offered thanks to a collaboration with The Departments of Psychological Science and Physical Education and Human Performance at Central Connecticut State University, a member of the Age-Friendly University (AFU) Global Network.

## Church of the Holy Family News

Masses are celebrated at The Church of The Holy Family, 185 Church St. (Route 85), as follows: weekend Masses are on Saturday at 5 p.m. and on Sunday at 9:30 a.m.; weekday Masses are on Tuesday at 7 p.m. and on Thursday at 6:30 a.m. The church highly recommends that masks be worn by those attending Mass.

Visit [holyfamilyhebron.org](http://holyfamilyhebron.org) for more information. The church office can be reached at 860-228-0096.

**Church Collecting for Homeless Shelter:** The church collects items for the Windham Region No Freeze Hospitality Center, which provides assistance to homeless adults. Critical needs: \$10 Stop & Shop gift cards for gasoline to support the transportation of elderly and at risk homeless individuals from their night shelter at The Inn on Storrs (funded by the State

**Exercise Equipment Room:** Open by reservation only, in 45-minute time slots, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 9 a.m.-noon Friday. Call the center to reserve a time.

**Sunshine Singers:** Meet Thursdays, 10:10-11:40 a.m. This is a free program, but registration is required.

**Knitting/Crocheting/Needle Group:** Tuesdays, 10-11:30 a.m. Registration required.

**Senior Transportation:** Offered to ages 60 and up and all adult disabled individuals, for medical care, personal needs care, grocery shopping, or other pre-approved needs. Transportation available Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., and Friday, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Appointments must be scheduled a minimum of 24 hours, but 48 hours is recommended; it is first-come, first-served. New riders need to schedule their first appointment a minimum of 48 hours in advance. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call the center.

## Gilead Congregational Church News

Gilead Congregational Church, an Open and Affirming Congregation located at 672 Gilead St., has announced the following. For more info, visit [gileadchurchucc.org](http://gileadchurchucc.org), email [gcc@gileadchurch.net](mailto:gcc@gileadchurch.net), or call 860-228-3077.

**Sunday Worship:** Sundays at 10 a.m. For the foreseeable future, services will be livestreamed only, on YouTube at [www.bit.ly/GileadChurchUCC](http://www.bit.ly/GileadChurchUCC) and on Facebook at [tinyurl.com/GileadChurchUCC](http://tinyurl.com/GileadChurchUCC).

**Scheduled Meetings:** Saturday, Jan. 29, 2 p.m., Valentine's Day card-making event; Monday, Jan. 31, 9:30 a.m., Bible Study via Zoom; Tuesday, Feb. 1, 7 p.m., AA Meeting; Wednesday, Feb. 2, 10:30 a.m., Book Group (for those comfortable meeting in person); Thursday, Feb. 3, 7 p.m., Deacons Meeting (see the church's eNews for logistics); Friday, Feb. 4, 6 p.m., Faith Film and Food (potluck).

**Valentine-Making Event:** For those interested in making Valentine Day cards on Saturday Jan. 29, at 2 p.m., sign up with Gayle Sylvester (see eNews for more information). Space is limited; please contact the church office or Sylvester with any questions.

**Faith Film and Food:** Our next Faith and Film is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 4; the event begins with a potluck at 6 p.m., followed by dessert and a film. See the church's eNews for more information. Space is limited; contact the church office with any questions.

**Knitting, Crocheting, Weaving:** For those interested in supporting the Prayer Shawl Ministry, the "knitting" circle will start up again in the spring; exact date will be announced later. Beginners welcome. Call the church office with questions, or see the church's eNews section for details.

## Douglas Library News & Notes

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

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

**Friday Films:** Fridays at 1 p.m. on the library's 80-inch 4K TV with surround sound speakers. Schedule: Feb. 4, *Being the Ricardos* (rated R); Feb. 11, *King Richard* (PG-13); Feb. 25, *Ghostbusters: Afterlife* (PG-13). Bottled water and individually wrapped snacks will be provided.

**Holiday Closing:** The library will be closed Monday, Feb. 21, for President's Day.

**Teen & Adult Take & Make:** Beginning Feb. 1, make a soft and fluffy gnome for yourself or your valentine. Pick up your kit from the adult circulation desk while supplies last. Starting Feb. 14, create a snowman from a paperback book. Pick up your kit from the lobby while supplies last.

**Teen Advisory Group:** Meets Tuesdays 2:30-3:30 p.m., as follows: Feb. 1 and 15, Teen Advisory Board meeting; Feb. 8, Video Gaming. Registration is not needed for any of these events.

**Children's Department:** Storytime videos can be viewed from the children/virtual storytime tab on the library website. Children's take & make projects are available in the lobby.

**Lobby Pickups:** The library lobby only is usually open after 8:30 a.m. for patrons to pick

up their items from the hold shelf.

**Notary:** Library Director Kevin Sullivan is a notary public with the State of Connecticut. Call the library to make an appointment.

**Meeting Rooms:** When the meeting rooms are not needed for library activities, nonprofit organizations headquartered in Hebron and/or serving the Hebron community may apply for use of the meeting rooms for educational, civic, and/or cultural programs intended for and open to the public. No commercial or private use of the meeting rooms is permitted. Meeting rooms are generally available during normal library operating hours. Complete the room request form on the website, located on the Services/Meeting Rooms tab.

## St. Peter's News & Notes

St. Peter's Episcopal Church, located at 30 Church St., holds Sunday services of Holy Eucharist at 8 and 10 a.m. Masks are strongly recommended. In-person Coffee Hours following services have been suspended.

**Meetings and Events:** Balancing Class: Mondays at 10 a.m. – cost is \$5; Buildings and Grounds Committee: first Wednesdays of the month at 7 p.m.; Virtual Coffee Hours: Wednesdays at 10 a.m.; Boy Scouts: Wednesdays at 7 p.m.; Vestry meetings: third Thursdays of the month at 7 p.m.; Building Networks International: Fridays, 7:30 a.m.

**Outreach: Food Donations:** Items for various local food pantries can be placed in the brown donation box outside Phelps Hall.

For more information, visit [stpetershebron.com](http://stpetershebron.com), search for St. Peter's Hebron on Facebook, or email [office@stpetershebron.com](mailto:office@stpetershebron.com).





# Obituaries

## East Hampton

### Edwin D. Banning

Edwin D Banning, 56, longtime resident of East Hampton, passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, Jan. 19, at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown.



He was best known and loved as Eddie the Bus Driver to many. He drove bus for Nichols Bus Company for over 20 years, where he touched the lives of all his co-workers and the students he drove.

He was predeceased by his mother, Judith Banning; father, Joseph Banning; brothers, Frankie and Robert Banning; and his sister, Alice Forbes, all of East Hampton.

He is survived by his children, Adrenne Dunnells and her husband Justin Dunnells, Alex Banning, Asia Bengtson and Malique Banning; his grandchildren Aiden, Rylee, Aubree, Kaylee, Emily and Nova; his brothers, John and Paul Banning; his niece, Jamie Banning; his nephew, John Forbes IV; his great nieces, Melissa and Autumn Cromwell; and his great nephews, William Urban and John Forbes V; along with many cousins, as well as everyone who knew and loved him.

Calling hours will be held Sunday, Jan. 30, from noon-2 p.m., at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, and there will be a dinner to celebrate his life held at the VFW in East Hampton afterwards from 2-6 p.m.

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

## Portland

### Antonia Cubeta

Antonia Aresco Cubeta, "Toni," age 74, passed away peacefully Thursday, Jan. 20, while in the minds and hearts of her loving family. She was the daughter of the late Joseph and Frances (Puglisi) Aresco of Middletown and was predeceased by her sister, Ann Wimler of Portland, and her brother, Louis Aresco of Portland.



Toni is survived by her husband, Angelo Cubeta; her daughter, Maria Cubeta Mills and her husband Adam Mills of San Francisco, Calif.; her son, David Cubeta and his wife Christa Cubeta of San Diego, Calif.; and her grandsons, Calder Joseph Mills and Desmond Jack Cubeta; as well as many in-laws, nieces, nephews, cousins, and close friends.

Born in Middletown, Toni graduated from Middletown High School and Annhurst College. She began her dream career as an elementary school teacher in the Portland Public Schools while advancing her Catholic faith through parish life at Saint Sebastian Church and the Diocese of Norwich. Summers were spent on the beaches of Cornfield Point, Old Saybrook. Although content with her single life, Toni was set up on a blind date with Angelo "Ricky" Cubeta in 1981. The pair have been inseparable ever since, celebrating 40 years of marriage this July and raising two children.

Upon the birth of Maria, Toni left full-time teaching, eventually returning as a substitute teacher once David entered school. She was very involved with the parish community at the Church of St. Mary in Portland. Throughout her life she taught and coordinated religious education, oversaw the confirmation of countless teenagers, lectured, and was an active mem-

ber of the Bereavement Committee and Ladies Guild.

While Toni only had two children of her own, she was a mother to everyone, full of selflessness, compassion and thoughtfulness. Affectionately known as 'Mama Toni' later in life, everyone was always welcome at her dinner table. If they were lucky, lasagna or a pot of crab sauce was on the menu. Maria and David's friends became Toni's extended children – she followed each as closely as her own, celebrating and cherishing their milestones. Toni took particular pride in being a grandmother, sharing pictures of her two grandsons to anyone who would look. Each birth was enthusiastically met with the same question: when are you having your next one? (Answer: April 2022)

A lifetime lover of warm weather, most recently Toni supplemented her summers in Old Saybrook with winters at the Tiara in West Palm Beach, Fla., where she made wonderful friends whom she and Angelo looked forward to seeing every year. Special to so many people from family and lifelong childhood and teacher friends, to the many acquaintances in St. Mary's parish, to new friends met while snow-birding in Florida, she will be dearly missed.

Funeral services were held Thursday, Jan. 27, at the Church of St. Mary in Portland, followed by burial at Saint Sebastian Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that donations be made to the Church of St. Mary in Portland, c/o Bereavement Committee or Mercy High School in Middletown.

## East Hampton

### Curtis A. Stoldt

Curtis A. Stoldt, 64, of East Hampton, loving husband of Eileen (Sharkey) Stoldt, passed away Sunday, Jan. 23, at Hartford Hospital, surrounded by his family, due to complications from COVID-19.



He was born in Southington to Charles Sr. and Helene (Heintze) Stoldt and grew up in Granby. Curt graduated from Granby Memorial High School in 1976. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas, in 1980.

Curt was a police officer with East Hartford Police Department for 30 years, retiring as a lieutenant. He served many roles in the police department, but his passion was the detective division. Curt received numerous awards and commendations during his career, including the Medal of Valor and the 1999 Courage of Connecticut Award. He was a man of compassion, who's insight and commitment to the truth made him exceptional in his service to many communities.

A survivor of Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, Curt found companionship amongst many. He was a dedicated friend and family man. He was most proud to be a father and shared a unique relationship with each of his daughters. He loved the outdoors, spending much of his free time off-roading in Jeeps, kayaking, hiking and biking over the years. He successfully thru-hiked the Long Trail in 2014. Curt and Eileen have spent their retirement traveling the U.S. in their RV with their dog, Oscar. His love for animals resulted in many pets, from cats and dogs to hermit crabs and fish. He could never turn down an animal in need, and by hand nursed young wildlife such as a skunk, raccoons, opossums, birds, and squirrels back to health before returning them to nature.

A devoted husband and a loving father, he

will be dearly missed.

Besides his wife, Eileen, he is survived by his daughters: Lindsay Stoldt of Melrose, Mass., and Kelly Erin Stoldt of Hempstead, N.Y.; a sister, Valerie (Stoldt) Warren and her husband Christopher of Cardiff, Calif. Curt is also survived by his sisters-in-law, Linda Henderson and Elizabeth Bidon; his niece, Christy (Stoldt) Tweed and her husband Jesse; his nephews, Kevin Henderson and his wife Courtney, Patrick Henderson, Craig Henderson, and Michael Bidon. He is also survived by his devoted dog, Oscar.

The Stoldt family extends their gratitude to the Hartford Hospital medical staff of the Bliss 10 Stepdown Unit and the 10th floor Cardiac ICU for their professionalism, compassion and kindness.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the memorial service will be private and held at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to either the CT Leukemia and Lymphoma Society at [www.lls.org](http://www.lls.org) or to Protectors of Animals at [www.poainc.org](http://www.poainc.org).

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

### Obituary Policy

Rivereast will publish obituaries free of charge if the deceased person is a resident or former resident of any of the towns we circulate in.

Charges apply for obituaries of persons who were not residents. Contact the advertising director at (860) 633-4691 for rates.

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## Project Graduation Celebration Coming Soon

RHAM High School seniors graduate in fewer than five months – and AHM Youth & Family Services is inviting all parents to join the Project Graduation Committee to learn what is being planned for this year's celebration and help organize the last fundraiser of the year.

Meetings are via Zoom (Meeting ID: 867 8093 9911 Password: 483937) from 7:30-8:30 p.m. on Feb. 2, March 2, April 6, May 3 and June 1. For general information, go to [www.ahmyouth.org](http://www.ahmyouth.org) and select Project Graduation from the menu, under "events/fundraisers," or contact Jenn Boehler, Project Graduation coordinator, at [jenniferb@ahmyouth.org](mailto:jenniferb@ahmyouth.org) or 860-228-9488 ext. 22.

## Mentors Sought for Lanterns Program

AHM Youth and Family Services is seeking adults to participate in its Lanterns Mentoring Program. The goal of the program is to match dedicated community members with children who would benefit from a relationship with a trusted adult.

The mentoring relationship will take place within a local school during school hours, or at AHM's offices in Hebron during afterschool hours, for one hour per week. Visits will continue for a minimum of one academic year.

All COVID-19 safety measures will be taken. Mentors must be at least 18 years of age, and a background check and two-hour training are required. If interested in becoming a mentor, contact Laura Beeler, Lanterns facilitator, at 860-228-0871 or [LauraB@ahmyouth.org](mailto:LauraB@ahmyouth.org).

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## Portland

### Cindy Kopitar

Cindy Janet Meyer Kopitar entered into eternal rest on Monday, Jan. 17, at Hartford Hospital in Hartford, after a courageous battle against a number of medical issues. Her husband, Joseph, was at her side when she passed away.

Cindy was born in 1953 to the late Eileen and Arthur Meyer. She graduated from West Milford High School in 1971 and then earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in environmental sciences from Ramapo College in 1975.

While working at Bamberger's department store, she met her husband, Joseph and they were married in 1975. Cindy was employed in various sales positions, a circulation manager for a local newspaper, a pre-K teacher and a full-time mother to their daughter Cori, who was born in 1983.

Cindy possessed a passion for life. She loved flowers, raised butterflies in season and studied science. She was an active member in her housing complex, taking care of others and organizing holiday events.

Cindy is survived by her loving husband of 46 years, Joseph Kopitar; loving daughter Cori and her husband Andy Magnotta; loving grandson, Luigi; brother-in-law, Thomas and his wife Coleen; brother-in-law, John and his wife Judy; brother-in-law, Gerard; and sister-in-law, Sister Mary Kopitar. Cindy is also survived by a 17-year-old spoiled Shih Tzu, Munchie; and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews as well as several longtime friends.

All services will be private and conducted by the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St, Portland. A luncheon to celebrate Cindy's life will be held in the spring.

## Umpires Wanted for Baseball

RHAM Youth Baseball is looking to build its team of umpires for its baseball leagues (kids ages 12 and under).

There will be weekly evening training classes (no cost) in February and March in preparation for the start of the season in late April. Pay is \$65 per game for each umpire. Games are two hours long. Scheduling is done a week in advance and is based on your availability.

For more information, contact Paul LeBlanc at 860-798-0087 or [umpires@rhamyouthbaseball.org](mailto:umpires@rhamyouthbaseball.org)

## Youth Lacrosse Registration Open

RHAM Youth Lacrosse registration is open for the 2022 spring season. There are programs offered for both boys and girls in grades K-8. Visit [www.rhamyouthlacrosse.com](http://www.rhamyouthlacrosse.com) for more information and to sign up for the spring season.

RHAM Youth Lacrosse is open to players that reside in Hebron, Marlborough, Andover and other local towns that do not offer a youth lacrosse program. Email questions to [ascibek@gmail.com](mailto:ascibek@gmail.com).

## Scholarship Available

Carl Guild and Associates has announced its community scholarship program for local high school seniors entering college in the fall.

There are six \$1000 scholarships given – one each in East Hampton, Portland, Colchester, East Haddam, Glastonbury and the RHAM school district. There are no restrictions or qualifications; all local seniors can apply.

High school seniors are encouraged to apply by April 1. For an application, visit [www.carlguild.com/scholarship](http://www.carlguild.com/scholarship) or ask your school's guidance counselor.

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Cover Story • Cover

### ★ Vital Records Stolen cont. from page 1

and third-party specialists.

To prevent further intrusion, the town's computer network was shut down temporarily.

"Overall, operations were minimally impacted," wrote Cox.

Cox said the town holds "little to no" personal information on residents. His chief concern is the information of town employees.

"[The] confidentiality, privacy, and security of information in the town's care are among our highest priorities," the release reads.

Cox said the town through a vendor routinely audits its network security.

"It seems the slightest fault in the armor can

be found," said Cox.

Cox said to his knowledge, this is the first such incident in East Hampton, though it's far from the first Connecticut town to be plundered.

In August 2021 the *Hartford Courant* reported the school board of Wolcott voted to send nearly \$10,000 of the cryptocurrency Bitcoin to hackers. The money would get the hackers to unlock the school's systems, which were essentially taken hostage in a ransomware attack.

Nearby, there was a ransomware attack on Colchester town systems last year, according to the *Courant*, and West Haven paid \$2,000 to hackers who locked their system in 2018.

# Land Donations Form Swath of Open Space

by Sloan Brewster

Thomas Talbot has fond memories of growing up in Andover and wanted to honor his father's memory by donating land he loved to the town.

Last Wednesday, Talbot conveyed ownership of his 7.84-acre "Wildcat Lot" to the town and he told the *Rivereast* this week that there is more to come.

Town Manager Eric Anderson, in a call last week, said the parcel, which is the feeder for Burnap Brook, offers protection for the whole Burnap Brook watershed.

Mike Palazzi, chair of the Conservation Commission, said the parcel was "just a beautiful piece of property," with pine trees and a river running through it.

He said commission members have seen deer on the property and that, based on the amount of wetlands there, he expects amphibians also call it home.

The signing, according to a press release from the town, brought to a successful conclusion a multiyear project to combine five separate parcels of open space into a single 37.74-acre contiguous swathe of town owned land.

Talbot's land donation brings that parcel together with two lots previously owned by Andover and two lots donated by the Northern Connecticut Land Trust, according to the press release. Adjacent to the Andover/Bolton town line, the open space lies between Shoddy Mill Road and Boston Hill Road and is part of a very large forested undeveloped section of Andover.

The properties donated by the land trust were the result of a spring 2019 offer to give town two of its properties, the press release states.

According to the press release, the properties were donated to the land trust in 2000 by F. William Finley and his sister Ruth Finley Bell. The land had been in the Finley family since 1877 when, as the result of a judgement against the previous owner for an unpaid debt, the deputy sheriff of Tolland County awarded it to the siblings' grandfather, David C. Finley.

Shortly after Andover was approached by the land trust in 2019, local wetlands agent John Valente contacted Talbot and asked if he would consider donating his property as it would connect all five parcels.

Talbot agreed.

Palazzi said commission members have had to get permission to walk through private property to get to the land but the town is working on an entrance from Route 316. Once public access is established without the need to cross private

property, he said the space will be opened to hiking and passive recreation.

According to the press release, after the town was offered the properties, the Conservation Commission had the Connecticut Resource and Conservation and Development Environmental Review Team assess them.

In June 2020, the review team issued a 50-page report concluding that the parcels "contain significant natural resource value and would enhance existing open space already owned by the town."

Following that, the commission was given approval to accept the donations by the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Board of Selectmen, and, finally, town voters.

Patrice L. Carson, president of the Northern Connecticut Land Trust, signed the deed transferring the land trust property to the town in December.

Talbot in a phone call Tuesday said he was excited to give the land to the town, an idea he said answered a question he had been asking himself for a long time about what to do with the landlocked parcel his family had received in 1948.

With no children to leave the land to, Talbot said he was not quite sure what to do with it.

The idea of joining together other pieces of open space was a great idea, he said.

"I said, 'Oh my gosh, this would work out so beautifully,'" he said. "I'm very attached to where I grew up so I wanted to do something to give back to the town."

Talbot said the property is one of a few such parcels that his father, Roscoe Post Talbot, who was a real estate agent and served two terms in the state legislature, agreed to accept in lieu of payment from folks who owed his money.

Talbot said both his parents were real estate agents, selling lots around town and that folks occasionally offered them land in exchange for their services.

"That's how we ended up with this piece of land that's a quarter of a mile away, walking through other people's land," he said.

"My father, he spent as much time in the woods as he possibly could," Talbot said.

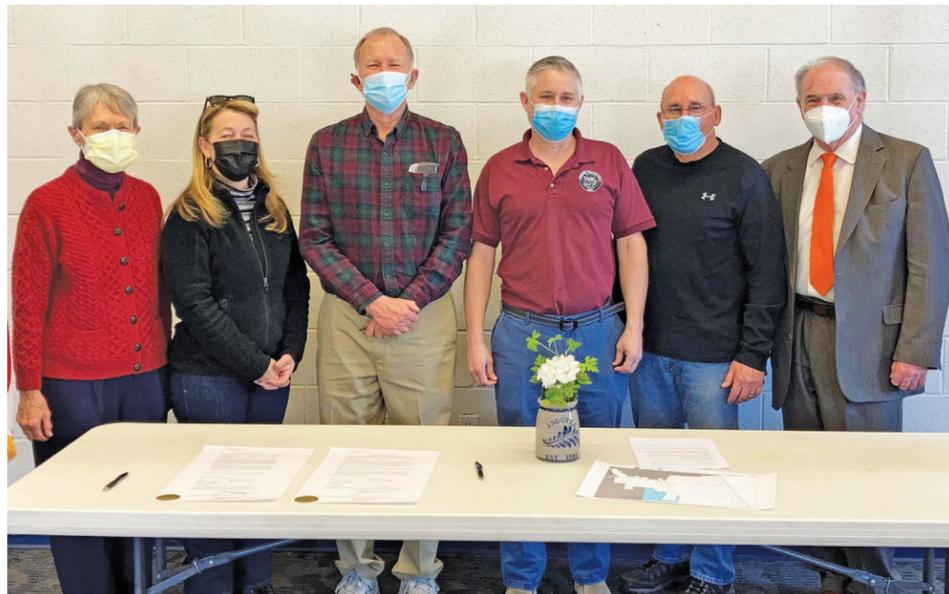
Talbot said he remembers walking the land with his father and learning where the boundaries were – a difficult task in the area in question.

Since the land has always been forested and was never used for pasturing animals or farming, there are no stone walls indicating where the lines are.

Talbot said in 1946, when he was three years old, he and his family moved back to the Andover farm where his father had grown up.

His grandparents, Ward Talbot and Elizabeth Post Talbot, purchased the farm, which is located on Long Hill Road in 1910. Talbot said his father had shared stories about moving there from three miles down the road.

At the time, Talbot's father was five years old



Former resident Thomas Talbot recently donated nearly eight acres to the town, a prime parcel that the town says offers protection for the whole Burnap Brook watershed. Pictured from left, Catherine Talbot, Northern Connecticut Land Trust President Patrice Carson, Talbot, Town Administrator Eric Anderson, Conservation Commission Chairman Mike Palazzi and Town Attorney Dennis O'Brien pose after the recent deed-signing.

and had one job.

"His job was to carry the cat, and I just thought that was a lovely story," Talbot said.

The family raised sheep there and, according to Talbot, when Roscoe and his wife Margaret Talbot moved back there with their young family, they bought a flock of sheep. Talbot said his father wanted his children to enjoy the same types of experiences growing up as he did.

The family had about 60 sheep and Talbot, who sold the place three years ago, said he was often called out of school to go home and deliver lambs.

He recalled other activities on the farm, including haying the fields and also had memories of his early years there, when the "very primitive" farm had no indoor plumbing.

"So the first year of my life there, we had an outhouse," he said. "I have these fond memories as a little boy of my father carrying me through the snow drifts to the outhouse."

Talbot said the signing ceremony at Town Hall "was just so wonderful."

He said the parcel he donated had an interesting history and that his father called it the Wildcat Lot because of its connection to a lot to the east. He recalled asking his father about it when he was a boy.

According to the tale his father told him, a

long time ago, a man lived in the lot just to the east. Local children "would pester him," so to keep the kids out and scare them away, he spread the word that there were wildcats roaming the land. Talbot's family borrowed from the story to name their lot.

"We always gave names to our different lots," he said.

Talbot said another interesting detail about the lot is that its 1849 deed conveyance is the first property transaction listed on page one of Volume 1 of the Andover Land Records, which was started shortly after Andover became a town in 1848.

"It was the very, very first property in the town of Andover that was recorded in the land records," he said. "I just like to imagine how thrilled the town clerk was. She gets to write in the deed book [about] this eight-acre lot."

Talbot was on the agenda for the Conservation Commission's Tuesday meeting with plans to give yet another parcel to the town, "because I just feel so good about donating this first piece of land," he said.

Known as the Bishop Lot, the land consists of four acres and was given to his father in lieu of payment.

In the early 1800s, the property belonged to John Bishop, hence the lot's designation, he said.

## Senior Citizen News & Notes

The following have been announced for Andover seniors, veterans and disabled. To attend any event, call senior coordinator Cathy Palazzi 860-916-6122 to register. Transportation available for all events, as well as shopping on Tuesdays, Foodshare/food pantry rides on Wednesday, and lunches on Fridays. For all YAH events, call Judy Knox at 860-643-6824; for all movie information, call Sue Schmidt at 860-604-1057; and for all trip information, call Georgia O'Brien at 860-742-9947. Check [andoverct.org](http://andoverct.org) for all senior events and information.

**Willimantic Shopping:** Tuesday, Feb. 1. Temperatures taken and masks required on bus and in stores.

## Library Friends Launch Membership Drive

This past year marked the 35th anniversary of the Andover Friends of the Library's first meeting – and now the 2022 Annual Appeal and Membership drive is officially underway.

Library Friends' acting president Julie Victoria and membership chair Janice Bazzani invite all community members, including the more than 60 lifetime members, to consider joining, renewing and giving.

A donation is all that is required to become a member of this 501(c)(3c) nonprofit organization. Levels are: \$3, senior/student; \$5, individual; \$10, family; \$25, business; \$150, lifetime; \$500, patron. Donations of any amount are appreciated and can be mailed or dropped off at: Andover Friends of the Library, P. O. Box 117, Andover, CT 06232.

Membership forms are emailed to current and former members and are also available by visiting the library at 355 Route 6, or by calling 860-742-7428. The form is also online at [tinyurl.com/2p9fhrca](http://tinyurl.com/2p9fhrca).

The Library Friends provide ongoing financial support for print and audio books, DVDs, children and adult programming, subscriptions,

museum and state park passes, an educational scholarship for an Andover high school senior, as well as equipment, supplies and facility enhancements beyond the library's current budget. Last year, the goods and services auction, book/bake sale, quilt raffle and generosity from Mrs. Merry Claus visits enabled these efforts. They also provided a free summer concert, the purchase of rolling carts, a new vacuum cleaner, refrigerator, holiday decorations and a houseplant swap. A grant from the Hartford Foundation for Giving will assist in purchasing a 10x20 tent with sidewalls and a PA system for outdoor events.

Library hours are: Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; and Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Closed Friday and Sunday. For library news, updates and photos, visit the Andover Public Library Facebook page at [facebook.com/AndoverPublicLibrary.CT](http://facebook.com/AndoverPublicLibrary.CT) or the town website at [www.andoverconnecticut.org/library](http://www.andoverconnecticut.org/library).

Also, Friday, May 13, is the Library Friends' annual Goods and Services Auction, the largest fundraiser of the year.

## School Budget Public Forum

All are invited to a Board of Education public forum Wednesday, Feb. 2, at 7 p.m., at the Andover Elementary School gymnasium. The forum is on the 2022-23 school budget.

## Students Invited to Write About Andover

Andover is turning 175 years old next year, and in honor of the anniversary, all seventh- and eighth-grade students are invited to compose an essay or poem about Andover.

The committee will choose one composition from the entries. The winning student will be asked to read their composition at an event to be determined. The student will receive a certificate of appreciation and a check for \$50.

Compositions should be received by June 1. Submit compositions to [tinawilsey@gmail.com](mailto:tinawilsey@gmail.com). Please include the teacher's name and email. The 175th committee will notify the teacher of the winning student by June 22, and will work with the teacher to finalize all details.

The Andover CT 175th Anniversary Committee is hosting a variety of events every weekend from May 18, 2023, to June 24, 2023. Therefore, time limits are required to meet the event goals, organizers said.

For more information, contact Tina Wilsey at the above email address.

## Senior Fundraiser Rescheduled

Due to the rise in COVID-19 cases, the annual Andover Senior fundraiser that was planned for Feb. 6 has been moved to Sunday, April 24, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Andover Elementary School gym. Money raised supports the senior luncheon program.

Organizers are looking for bakers for the bake table and vendors. If you can help, contact Cathy Palazzi, senior coordinator, at 860-916-6122 or [nanasworld@comcast.net](mailto:nanasworld@comcast.net).

## Souper Bowl Grinder Sale

Andover Congregational Church, 359 Route 6, will hold its 30th annual Souper Bowl Grinder Sale Sunday, Feb. 13.

Grinder selections are ham, turkey, or tuna. Garden salads will also be available. All options include chips and a soda. Gil's Famous Chili will also be sold, in quarts and pints.

Pick-up will be Feb. 13 from noon to 1 p.m. Pre-orders are requested; to place an order, leave a message at the church at 860-742-7696.

## Andover Preschool Screening

The Andover Board of Education, through the Andover Elementary School Early Learning Center, will hold a screening for children that reside in Andover and are 3 or 4 years old by the time of the screening on Friday, Feb. 4.

The screening will be held differently this school year due to the ongoing pandemic. School staff will send home an age-appropriate questionnaire for you to fill out about your child. The questions are in the areas of speech, language, cognitive, and motor development. Parents will then receive information which will assist in fostering their child's growth, if needed.

If interested in having your child screened, contact the director of special education at 860-742-7339 or at [maioranoh@andoverelementaryct.org](mailto:maioranoh@andoverelementaryct.org) to request an ASQ-3 questionnaire.

This is the first of three screenings. Additional dates will be March 4 and May 20.

★ *Letters cont. from page 6*

nothing. State bureaucrats who approved this boondoggle have once again “fleeced the taxpayers.”

Recently, Connecticut earned the distinction of being the “Worst State in the Country to Start a Small Business. “How fitting!!

Since I have a few more words I was very happy to see that Bob Stefanowski has decided to get into a rematch with “Jolly Ned,” our reigning self-proclaimed King. Let’s hope that there will not be “ballot-harvesting” in major cities like in 2018 so we get a fair and accurate vote count. Maybe we should tabulate the cities first and then do the towns, so mystery bags of votes don’t appear after midnight.

More to come!!

**Don Denley – Andover**

## Seeking Selectmen Seat

To the Editor:

My name is Deb Bourbeau, and I am an unaffiliated candidate running on the Democratic ticket for one of the two Marlborough Board of Selectmen positions to be voted on in May.

In addition to serving as a member of the Board of Finance since 2017, I have been quite active in town. Moving into town in 1975, I taught for 35 years at the elementary school, was on the Richmond Memorial Library Association board for six years, president for four, have been volunteering at the Marlborough Arts Center (since 2006), and headed the logo campaign and time capsule creation for the Bicentennial Celebration. Unafraid to speak my mind, I have participated in countless Town meetings, public hearings, and celebrations. Why? Because I love this town!

When I ran for BOF I wrote: “People are interested in our town again, especially since adding a grocery store and pharmacy. We are headed in the right direction, and I ask for the support of the community to allow me to do my part to keep Marlborough an affordable and vibrant place in which to live.” These words still hold true. Add to that the need for cooperation and transparency in local government, this sums up my decision to run for the BOS.

My experiences during the 47 years I’ve lived, worked and volunteered here have allowed me a deep respect and understanding of our community. The new town charter calls for the appointment of a town manager; I applaud the change, and I look forward to taking politics out of the mix. A small town such as ours should be governed by people who care about the town first, not their party.

Please support me with your vote in May! Thank you!

**Respectfully,**

**Deb Bourbeau – Marlborough**

*Note: Bourbeau is a member of the Marlborough Board of Finance, but said she is writing as an individual.*

## Wasted Tax Dollars

To the Editor:

I’ve dealt with the town several times throughout the years regarding crushed mailboxes, a yearly torn-up lawn, and a badly decaying street. And if it has taught me anything it has taught me that it only makes my chest pains and migraines worse. However, after Tuesday morning’s snowfall, I am annoyed enough to speak up again.

I am a light sleeper so when the plow truck went by I was automatically up and getting dressed. That is when I first noticed the truck idling (2:35 a.m.).

After shoveling our driveway, I shoveled two other driveways and the truck was still there, idling. By the time I had finished those driveways I began to think the driver was asleep. So, as I walked by to do another driveway – yes, I’m a nice guy – I looked in the cab and saw that he was awake. Strangely enough, as soon as I passed the truck the plow went up, the lights came on, and he left (3:25 a.m.).

This is too much. I can’t work and my wife has just started a second job in order to pay bills, and for what?

For years I’ve had to repair the same area of lawn – already doing so this winter. Our street has gotten so bad that I’ve taken to calling the potholes reverse speed bumps, not to mention the loose asphalt. And there is still so much salt put down that our new car is starting to rust. Now I see town employees working only when they are noticed.

Is this where the yearly increase in taxes is going? After looking at my lawn, the street, and a town employee, I am confused and frustrated at the thought of another increase. I sure know how I’m voting.

**Erik Dill – East Hampton**

## The Biggest Lie

To the Editor:

“The first casualty of war is the truth”...and America has been at war for 229 of its 246 year existence. Our news has been curated, sanitized, propagandized, and censored for centuries. Unless you are consciously looking outside the mainstream, 90% of all your news is controlled by 6 corporations. What makes you believe they are telling you the truth?

The truth is that it’s almost all lies, and has been for a long time. We may think your side holds the intellectual and moral high ground, but mostly we just fight over partisan scraps and talking points while we slip further into the “post-truth world”. Some take exception to this term, saying that the idea that there is no objective truth is dangerous...and it is. But it’s so much easier to retreat into our confirmation biases and project our own political party’s inadequacies onto others. The “post-truth” movement was birthed by the same academics that espoused postmodernism. After all, changing a culture is easier when “truth” becomes subjective and “morals” become relative. With such expectations, nothing is sacred, and no standards are to be upheld.

Wars can be explained away by fog, corruption as how the game is played, and truth something that’s as malleable as clay. Watching the “news” the other day was pure comedy for me. It didn’t matter the channel, they all deliver some contrived, scripted drivel that drives more division through emotional rhetoric but is very short on facts. Logic and truth have been pushed into the back seat and emotions and feelings are currently at the wheel of much of our political discourse. Consider turning off your TV and instead start talking to your neighbors. Chances are you have much more in common than the news would lead you to believe, and that’s the biggest lie.

**Colin McNamara – Marlborough**

## It’s Not About Masks

To the Editor:

On Jan. 6, the Colchester Board of Selectmen (BOS) voted 3 to 2 to implement a mask mandate in town buildings until the Feb. 3rd BOS meeting to reassess case data and Chatham Health District guidance. Colchester First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos was one of the two opposing votes to implement this mandate. In response, he claimed to have executive authority and would not enforce the passed motion.

In the town of Colchester, we have a representative form of government. Our elected officials swear an oath to uphold the rules of our town’s charter and the law. Our town’s charter gives our BOS the authority to implement a mask mandate in town buildings on a majority vote. So, First Selectman Bisbikos doesn’t have to like a passed motion. But he does have to follow the rules of our charter and abide by motions passed. He can’t pick and choose motions he likes and discard ones he doesn’t.

Our town’s government doesn’t work like this, and the real question here isn’t about masks. It’s about the next time our BOS votes in favor of a motion that our first selectman disagrees with and then so independently decides not to implement or enforce the said motion. This behavior is a slippery slope and an erosion of our rules and laws. It’s an autocratic slight to the functional health of our town’s government.

The majority of voters elected Mr. Bisbikos as our first selectman. They didn’t crown a king. Let’s all hope he remembers this going forward.

**Scott Chapman – Colchester**

## Supporting DeAva Lambert

To the Editor:

While on the Board of Selectmen I had the pleasure of interviewing candidates for many of our commissions during the two years of service. In most cases it appeared to me that there was a lack of general interest in volunteerism. In some cases, it appeared to be an attempt to politically stack boards to derive a desired outcome for current leadership, or to prevent a new administration’s agenda from being implemented. In some instances, the pool of candidates for positions was so limited that individuals were placed without the necessary credentials and/or experience, with the hopes of the candidate being brought up to speed by existing members.

Mrs. Lambert’s resume contains 15 years of service to the State of Connecticut under the DEEP. She has detailed expertise with software, grants, environmental assessments as they pertain to wetlands. Her addition to the Conservation Commission is a no-brainer!

Why is she being opposed? Mrs. Lambert has challenged the town publicly, specifically the Conservation Commission and has prevailed le-

gally forcing the town into a settlement. Folks, this is what we call accountability. For each selectman that votes against her appointment, know that it is being done to serve a political agenda that is counterproductive to the town’s best interests.

I ask the reader to participate in the next BOS meeting and support Mrs. Lambert’s appointment.

**Sincerely,**

**Taras W. Rudko – Colchester**

## Authoritarian Bisbikos

To the Editor:

Colchester’s new authoritarian First Selectman, Andreas Bisbikos, refused to enforce a mask mandate for town buildings after the Board of Selectmen voted to create one, defying oversight and the town charter.

Mr. Bisbikos, a government official who frequently fussed and complained about minor rule violations by his political opponents, has openly disregarded the town charter not once but twice in only a few short months.

During a town meeting, he said a mask mandate would make Colchester like the Soviet Union in an embarrassing rant. I don’t think a face covering will make us all Soviets, as we somehow survive wearing face coverings during Halloween without starting a new Cold War with Salem.

Mr. Bisbikos campaigned on the promise of people over government, but what I think he meant is himself over everyone else. I think the whole thing is ironic, considering he’s terrified of the impact of masks but doesn’t see the problems of a government official who ignores oversight and decides which rules they will follow.

**John Farrell – Colchester**

## Hebron Groundwater

To the Editor:

“Water is a finite resource that we need to survive. Clean water is important not only for drinking and cooking, but for economic development, health & sanitation, and food security. We need to protect our watersheds, lakes, rivers and groundwater from contamination and overuse for this generation and the next.” Hebron Green Committee...Conservation.

If we want to protect the marsh, Greenway and streams, we must defend the groundwaters that feed them.

All the land behind CVS, down to Kinney Road, including the town’s 88 acres, sits directly above the Raymond Brook Marsh and filters huge amounts of water that drain directly into that marsh. The water travels over and through these acres, draining into two streams that pass under Kinney Road. The waters then converge at the bottom of Millstream, duck under Route 207 and quickly continue down to the marsh. Most kids could point out where our groundwater goes and why tractors sink in these fields, year after year. This land is extremely wet and the water is a valuable resource that warrants close consideration.

Economic development includes minimizing groundwater pollution. Protecting groundwater, protects well water, which maintains property values. Based on the volume of groundwater traversing these 88+ acres it might be better to move this property into Open Space.

Minimizing the risk of groundwater contamination often means backing off from developing healthy acres. Using and repairing already compromised land gives us a chance to contain the damage to one area. By shifting the Transfer Station over and onto the Eversource land, we would create a double wide space for our present DPW facility. Updates and expansions could then include a new, dry, common building, more room for trucks and washing bays that are up to code.

**Jean Tulimieri – Amston**

## Two Outstanding Candidates

To the Editor:

Two outstanding community volunteers, Debbie Bourbeau and Betty O’Brien, were enthusiastically and unanimously endorsed by the Marlborough Democratic Town Committee on Jan. 17.

Congratulations to them both. Each has a long record of service to the Marlborough community. Debbie was an MES teacher for 35 years and has been in leadership positions on the Library Board, the Marlborough Arts Center board and is currently on the Board of Finance. Betty, a school psychologist by profession served on the Board of Education for 16 years plus numerous boards and commissions. She was among those who led the community in establishing the Marlborough Arts Center. Most recently she has been active in Lake zoning concerns.

It is a very special year for voters in Marlborough. The November election resulted in Charter Revision changes including a change to a manager system and five selectmen. The current three-member Board of Selectmen will expand to five. The election of the two new selectmen will be held May 3.

Marlborough has been well served by these two community leaders, Bourbeau and O’Brien, and their knowledge of the needs of Marlborough will be well represented when elected to the Board of Selectmen in May.

No better community representatives could be addressing the concerns of Marlborough residents than Betty O’Brien and Debbie Bourbeau.

Onward to May!

**Dianne Dunn Greco, Chair  
Marlborough Democratic Town Committee**

## Ethics Must Be a Priority

To the Editor:

I am writing to express my disappointment with Marlborough’s First Selectman Lowrey for filling the BOE vacancy of retired Democrat Judith Kaplan with Republican Kerri Barella at last Tuesday’s Board of Selectmen meeting. This was a Democratic seat that was given to a Republican, even though in the last election the same Democratic candidate received more votes than Republican Barella. The voice of the townspeople was ignored.

It is troubling that the charter was revised this past year to indicate that the First Selectman could put in the “most qualified” person without considering first to fill the seat with a qualified candidate of like-party. Since “most qualified” is subjective and the Democrats had a wonderful candidate who got more votes in the general election (i.e., the people’s choice) than Barella, I am deeply saddened that this happened. I hope that the next administration will have the charter revisions reviewed by the soon-to-be created ethics committee. The will of the people should be a priority.

Throughout the country, boards of education have been taken over by people with political agendas rather than people who care about teaching, nurturing, and working for children to have the best education possible. I did not think this would happen in Marlborough.

**Sincerely,**

**Andrea Caldwell – Marlborough**

## Going Rogue

To the Editor:

On Jan. 6, the Colchester Board of Selectmen motioned and passed (with a bipartisan vote) the required use of masks in town buildings. Colchester’s first selectman, Andreas Bisbikos, said during the discussion and after the motion passed, “Have fun with this motion” and “I’m not going to enforce this.”

In effect, he was not going to answer to the Board of Selectmen. My first response was, “Is this a democracy?” I know that some people get into the “I’m not going to follow the rules and you can’t make me” style of leadership. But something is going to come along that is important to each one of us. What if our elected representative decides at that time to “go rogue” and not follow the rules/charter?

The motion for the required use of masks in town buildings (until the first week of February) passed 3-2. Andreas decided to go “rogue” and not follow the charter – again. (Please also see Andreas’ signing a contract to hire a lawyer without bringing it to the Board of Selectmen per town charter.)

This is an example of chipping away at our representative form of government. What is next?

**Sincerely,**

**Joanne Rose – Colchester**



# LEGALS

## TOWN OF COLCHESTER LEGAL NOTICE

At its meeting of January 19, 2022, the Planning and Zoning Commission made the following decisions:  
**1. 75 Lebanon Ave LLC – Regulation Amendment (2021-014)** – The Commission **APPROVED** the request to amend Section 6.3 of the Colchester Land Development Regulations to allow the Planning and Zoning Commission to consider low-intensity uses without connection to public water and sewer utility systems subject to special permit approval in the Future Development District.  
 A copy of this notice has been filed in the Town Clerk's office. Planning and Zoning Commission  
 Joseph Mathieu, Chair

1TB 1/28

## TOWN OF COLCHESTER LEGAL NOTICE

The Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a virtual public hearing on February 2, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. to hear and consider the following petitions:  
**NIANTIC BAY GROUP LLC – 347 Cabin Rd - Resubdivision (2021-015)** Proposed 24-lot resubdivision on approximately 6.61 acres at 347 Cabin Road (MBL 03-00-001-005) pursuant to CGS 8-30g, Suburban Use District.  
 At this hearing interested persons may be heard and written communications received. A copy of this petition is in the Planning Department, Town Hall, 127 Norwich Avenue, and may be inspected during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday).  
 Planning and Zoning Commission  
 Joseph Mathieu, Chair

2TB 1/21, 1/28

## TOWN OF COLCHESTER LEGAL NOTICE

On January 14, 2022 the Zoning Enforcement Officer made the following decision:  
**J&C Colchester Realty, LLC – Site Plan Modification Administrative Review (2021-013)** – **APPROVED** activities to be conducted at 100 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, CT with modifications as proposed.  
 A copy of this notice has been filed in the Town Clerk's office. Planning and Zoning Department  
 Daphne C. Schaub, ZEO

2TB 1/21, 1/28

## Invitation to Bid Regional School District 8 85 Wall Street Hebron, CT 06248 Athletic Trainer Services RFP No. 22-04 January 28, 2022

Regional School District 8 will receive sealed bids from qualified firms for **Athletic Trainer Services**.  
**Request for Proposal packets will be available on Friday, January 28, 2022** and may be obtained online at [https://www.rhamschools.org/departments/business\\_office/rfp\\_bids](https://www.rhamschools.org/departments/business_office/rfp_bids) as well as the State of Connecticut Department of Administrative Services website.  
**NO MANDATORY** pre-proposal meeting will be required.  
**Sealed Request for Proposals are due on Friday, March 4, 2022 at Central Office, Regional School District 8, 85 Wall Street, Hebron, CT 06248 no later than 1:45 PM.** A public bid opening will take place at 2:00 PM, March 4, 2022.  
 Regional School District 8 reserves the right to amend or terminate the Request for Proposal; accept all or any part of a proposal; reject any or all proposals; waive any informalities or non-material deficiencies in a proposal; and award the contract to the firm that makes the proposal that is, in the opinion of Regional School District 8, in the best interest of the school community.

1TB 1/28

## TOWN OF PORTLAND PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Portland Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, February 3, 2022 at a meeting to start at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom to consider the following:  
 Application #21-09: 285 Airline Avenue. Special Permit to construct a 16,800 sf building, new scale house, landscaping, fencing, grading and site improvements for the processing of construction and demolition waste and municipal solid waste. Application and property of Airline Avenue Realty, LLC. Assessor's Map 10, Lot 1, Zone I.  
 At this hearing interested persons may appear and be heard and written communications will be received. A copy of this application is available for public review in the Portland Land Use Department or on the Town of Portland Website: [www.portlandct.org](http://www.portlandct.org)  
 Dated at Portland, CT, this 18th day of January 2022  
 Robert Ellsworth, Chairman

2TB 1/21, 1/28

## TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH LEGAL NOTICE

All persons liable to pay the second installment for Real Estate, Personal Property, Motor Vehicle and the first installment for the Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax to the Town of Marlborough as levied on the October 1, 2020 Grand List are hereby notified the taxes are due and payable on January 1, 2022 and will be delinquent February 2, 2022. The mill rate for the 2020 Grand List is 35.84. Delinquent bills shall be subject to interest of 18% per year (1.5% per month). Minimum interest is \$2.00.  
 Tax payments may be paid at the Tax Collector's Office, 26 North Main St., Marlborough, CT or by mail to Tax Collector, PO Box 29, Marlborough, CT 06447. Checks are to be made out to the Town of Marlborough. The Tax Collector's hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday 8:30 am to 4:30p.m.; Tuesdays 8:30a.m. to 7:00p.m. and Fridays 8:30a.m. to 12 Noon. Tax Payments can be paid on-line at [www.marlbroughct.net](http://www.marlbroughct.net) with Master Card, Visa or ACH (automatic checking). A Drop Box to the left of the main door to the Town Hall is available for payments or in the Tax Collector's office. Respectfully Submitted,  
 Barbara C. Murray, CCMC Tax Collector

3TB 12/17, 1/7, 1/28

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# EMPLOYMENT

**WAREHOUSE HELP AND MORE (GLASTONBURY)** Full time position: Warehouse help with unlimited room for advancement. We're a small Glastonbury based company in need of warehouse help. Duties include shipping / receiving. Light phone work - answer calls and various other duties. Training provided for a select energetic candidate that wants a career with a small family style company feel that takes care of their employees! Outstanding pay and benefits. \$18-\$23, an hour depending on experience. Call 860-706-4670 leave message if no answer.

**E2 ELECTRICIAN / APPRENTICES WANTED** with residential experience. Call John 860-214-4045 or email [gardelec@frontier.com](mailto:gardelec@frontier.com)

**CASO'S HVAC, LLC.** East Hampton, CT is now hiring Commercial & Residential HVAC Mechanics/Technicians. B2 or S2 License Required. Must have at least 5 years experience. We offer competitive hourly wages. Please email resume to [casohvac@comcast.net](mailto:casohvac@comcast.net) or call 860-267-5851.

**Wanted Experienced Gutter Installers**  
 Please contact Mike Wood by text 860-205-2573. Include your name, number and gutter experience.

**ANGELO'S BAKERY PART-TIME 20-25 hours store clerk needed.** Must be friendly and energetic and be on your feet most of the day. Greet customers and assist with their orders. Ring up purchases and be able to give change. Stock store shelves and keep the store clean. Must be flexible with hours. Apply at Angelo's Bakery 32 Halls Hill Road, Colchester CT

**PT DISHWASHER NEEDED** at Marlborough Country Bakery. Call or stop in 860 295-9251

**THE KIDS CLUB CHILD CARE CENTER IN MARLBOROUGH IS LOOKING TO IMMEDIATELY HIRE 2 PART TIME EMPLOYEES.** One position is for M-F 7:00AM-12:30PM, the other one is M-F, 3:00-5:30. Those interested must be flexible, dependable, be able to lift at least 20 pounds and have experience working with children ages 3 months to 5 years. If interested in learning more about the position please call the center at 860 295-0498 or send us an email at [thekidsclub98@yahoo.com](mailto:thekidsclub98@yahoo.com) with your availability, qualifications and questions that you may have.

**BAKERS ASSISTANT AND KITCHEN HELP NEEDED** at Marlborough Country Bakery. Call or stop in 860 295-9251

**CAR WASH ATTENDANT WANTED.** Part time or Full Time. Call 860-531-9182

**COLCHESTER WINE AND SPIRITS IS LOOKING FOR PART TIME LIQUOR STORE CLERK.** Stop in person to apply at store, 99 Linwood Avenue, Colchester.

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## Town of Andover Help Wanted

The Town of Andover is looking for a part time, 12 to 15 hours per week Senior Transportation driver. CDL is preferred but will accept "F" endorsement. Applicants must be fully vaccinated and able to provide proof of vaccination. Please call Cathy Palazzi - Senior Coordinator for information 860-916-6122.

3TB 1/14, 1/21, 1/28

## "Pet of the Week"



**Angel**, 4 years old, is a beautiful girl with gorgeous tiger markings and fur as soft as a bunny. Angel is very shy and will take quite a while to feel safe with her new person. But the time spent working with her is so worth it as she is very loving with people she gets to really know. Cat savvy, quiet home would be ideal. Angel would love to be your one and only!

**Sadie** is a four year old pocket pittie who still gets mistaken for a puppy! Sadie has big ears, a big heart, and a big ole' kiss for anyone needing a facial! Sadie loves taking walks with her fellow four-legged friends and is incredibly dog friendly. In fact, she would love another dog pal to play with. She has springs for legs and sometimes her walks are more like hops but she is quickly learning all of her obedience including leash manners. Sadie hasn't met a treat she doesn't like so training has been a breeze.



RE1-28-22

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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**FOR RENT:** Large, open floor plan, wonderful Colchester 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, wood and granite floors, counters. Fireplace, whirlpool. Minutes to highways. Lily 860-823-7476. Feels like home.



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Join your host Ann Marie Meres and view this home on 2.23 country acres. This 4 BR, 2 BA Raised Ranch features updated kitchen with stainless steel appliances and finished lower level. The oversized 2 car garage features a breezeway to the house and a shed for lots of storage space. Entertain outside on the rear deck. The home also features a wood stove that will heat the entire house! A nice, private home in quiet area. Dir: Jones St. to Hoadly Road.

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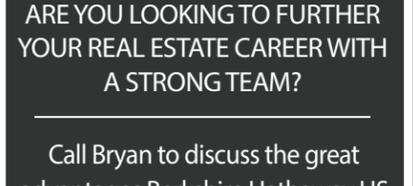
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