

News Bulletin

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

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Track Triumphs... Five girls and seven boys from the East Hampton Middle School cross country team extended their season by participating in the Middle School Cross Country State Meet on Saturday, Nov. 5, at Wickham Park. There were over 410 boys and 380 girls from all around Connecticut competing in this 2.3-mile run. The boys' team won first place for the Clubs Division with Holden Hines finishing 15th overall and Brett Gustavson finishing 19th overall. The girls' team came in second place for the Clubs Division. Pictured from left are, bottom row, girls' team: Skye Peck (eighth grade), Addison Jump (seventh grade), Brianna Gustavson (seventh grade), Hadley Fazekas (seventh grade), Kaylan Sullivan (eighth grade); top row, boys' team: Christine Gustavson (coach), Brett Gustavson (seventh grade), Brendan Kissane (seventh grade), Holden Hines (seventh grade), Nathan McCormick (sixth grade), Lee Barron (eighth grade), Dolan Krasnitski (eighth grade), Logan Matte (sixth grade).

Traversa Issues Selectmen an Ultimatum

By Jack Lakowsky

On Tuesday relations between members of the Marlborough Board of Selectmen continued to fray, with yet another contentious meeting of partisan squabbles stretching late into the night and more split votes stymying town business.

Some progress was made on one front, though there's much yet to do. After much debate – including an ultimatum issued by Interim Town Manager Amy Traversa – the board assured Traversa it would commit to keeping her as the interim until the town finds a permanent town manager.

Traversa, after months of not answering the question directly, told the board she had zero interest in applying for the full town manager's position.

"I don't think it would be in the best interest of the town; we need to move past all this," said Traversa. "I will serve at the pleasure of this board and get us to a manager, but I am not interested in applying for that."

The board also decided to again seek \$30,000 from the town's finance board to fund a town manager search, conducted by a firm and a local search committee. It is the second such request. Last time, the finance board voted 4-2 to not give selectmen the money, naysayers saying it was premature. (Traversa said this cost could be lowered, but this isn't a sure thing).

After seven months of combative debate, which has included accusations ranging from sexism and obfuscation of facts to hard-liner partisanship and political jockeying, the selectboard has no money in place to begin the very first step in finding the charter-mandated town manager.

The board's discussions on this topic have been highly volatile.

Republican selectpersons Greg Lowrey and Joe Asklar have, at nearly every turn, attempted to oust Traversa, and were far from enthusiastic about committing to keep her in town hall. In fact, Lowrey voted against doing so. Asklar capitulated and was the deciding vote.

Since Traversa took temporary charge of the town, Asklar and Lowrey have brought in legal counsel to challenge her leadership—it backfired and only reaffirmed Traversa's chairmanship of the selectboard and made her acting town leader, while Lowrey was forced to step down.

The two men also brought Traversa's pay into question at one point, with Asklar saying she shouldn't be paid any more than her small selectperson stipend. This argument was especially contentious, with selectperson Betty O'Brien, a Democrat, telling Asklar at one point, "I thought you were a better person than that."

Now, as stated by acting selectboard chair Deb Bourbeau, the two Republicans have been angling to bring a new interim town manager before hiring a fixed one, replacing Traversa. Lowrey also said if Traversa reruns for selectboard in 2023, she'll be violating ethics if she does so as town manager.

"I think that town managers are well advised to not run for town office in the same time they're running for political office," said Lowrey, saying campaigns start well before the November election. "A manager can't run for office in the same town, in my opinion. We do need an interim. You asked, there's my answer and my rationale."

Asklar said the board has an obligation to look at the language in the charter, the same charter *See Ultimatum Issued, page 2*

Andover's Mrs. Claus Featured in New Film

By Michael Sinkewicz

For years, Dianne Grenier, perhaps better known as "Mrs. Merry Claus," has brought Christmas cheer to kids across the state.

Now, Grenier is being recognized along with other professional Santas in the HBO Max documentary film *Santa Camp*, which debuted on the streaming service yesterday, Nov. 17.

The film is not a typical "Hallmark" Christmas movie, and explores deeper themes that might not be suitable for younger children, explained Grenier, an Andover resident of over 35 years.

"These are really heart-wrenching stories," she told the *Rivereast*.

The documentary focuses on a yearly tradition where the Santas and Mrs. Clauses visit the New England Santa Society in New Hampshire, and attend "Santa Camp," where they learn all

of the skills to become professionals back in their home towns.

A major subject tackled in the film is the historical lack of diversity in the Santa industry. Some of the stories the film focuses on include a Black Santa, a Santa with a disability and a transgender Santa.

Grenier is featured as the leader of the Mrs. Clauses, and addresses equal billing and pay.

While HBO Max subscribers can watch the film at any time, the 90-minute documentary is also being shown for free at the Andover Town Hall Community Room at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 27. Grenier said there's been "a lot of interest in town" and people wanted a viewing party.

"I will be there in costume," Greiner happily shared. "It's overwhelming. You never know

what will strike a nerve. It's exciting and I'm glad to bring attention to the Santa community."

Last weekend, the film premiered in New York City, where Grenier was invited to attend.

At first, the thought of going to a premiere was a little daunting, Grenier said, as she debated what to wear. Then, it was suggested that she simply wear her Mrs. Claus costume – what makes more sense?

"I can do that!" Grenier joked. The weekend included a photo-op and a showing of the film, while also being put up in a hotel in the heart of the city.

But how do you become the Mrs. Claus? Unsurprisingly, not by accident.

Grenier explained that most people don't fully realize the effort and commitment that goes

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Cover Story • Cover Story

★ *Ultimatum Issued cont. from page 1*

not one selectboard member knew called for an immediate start to the process or would put the selectboard chair at the town's helm.

"Amy is filling in because there's no town manager; well, we still have to move toward that end," said Asklar.

Bourbeau, Traversa, and Democrat Betty O'Brien balked at the notion. Bourbeau – who is unaffiliated but caucused with the Democrats – pressed the GOP, demanding their plan for

finding an interim. Asklar said he wasn't prepared to answer that question. He attempted to push the talk off to next week but was refused.

O'Brien said the town needs no more burdens, that it still has to find a financial director, upcoming union negotiations and roadwork. The town also has yet to close out its previous operating budget, the reason being, according to Traversa, that the influx of outside money (like the national opioid settlement and federal

stimulus money), caused some complications.

Evidently vexed, Traversa said she found the idea of replacing her, and sewing chaos in the town government, offensive. So, she played hardball.

"Let me try to make it simple for you," Traversa told the board. "I've been working my butt off to make sure we have a process that gets us there. I'll tell you this right now: poop or get off the pot. I'm not sitting around waiting to see if you guys are gonna stick with me to the point of getting a town manager or not."

Traversa gave the board an ultimatum: either they voiced their commitment to keeping her on the job that night, or she would tender her two weeks' notice at the end of the meeting, then resume her role as chair on a board overseeing a town without a chief administrator.

"I'd like to hear a commitment from this board before I pour in more of my time," she said. "I stepped up when it was necessary to do so."

The selectmen agreed to keep Traversa on as the interim town manager.

In the past and in this meeting Traversa blamed what she called a flawed charter for the selectboard's current debacle. During their bickering, the public could be heard whispering their irritation, with one resident calling the board "dysfunctional" due to its frequent 2-2 votes, which has stalled the nominations of school board members. The board also couldn't agree on an employee holiday schedule.

Earlier this year a town attorney advised the board against such stalemates, saying they only hurt the town. (The board currently has four members instead of five, while Traversa serves as town manager.)

Bourbeau said Traversa was acting in the best interest of the town and the board was "sitting here arguing like schoolchildren. It's shameful."

For now, it appears settled that Traversa will remain interim town manager until, whenever it may be, a fully placed town manager is hired.

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RE11-18-22

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

By Mike Thompson

It may seem hard to believe, but Thanksgiving is once again upon us – and with it comes some deadline changes you will want to know about.

As some of you may know, we go to press Thursday mornings. Obviously, with the holiday, printing next Thursday morning isn't really an option, so we'll be printing a day early.

Which means all of you need to get your stuff into me a day early as well.

All letters to the editor, event notices, press releases, library and church listings, etc., **must** be submitted no later than **noon Monday, Nov. 21**. No exceptions will be made.

However, while I can't make exceptions, I can tell you this: Happy Thanksgiving from all of us at the *Rivereast News Bulletin*.

* * *

Election Day has come and gone and, in the *Rivereast* races anyway, the status quo reigned supreme. In all races that featured an incumbent, the incumbent one. Also, the 55th House District – which includes Andover, Hebron and Marlborough – remained in Republican hands with the election of Steve Weir, and the Fourth Senate District – which includes Andover – stayed under Democratic control, with the election of MD Rahman.

The one flip we saw didn't really surprise me. With the election of Mark DeCaprio, the 48th House District turned from blue to red. The district, which includes Colchester, had been represented in the House by a Democrat for more than 20 years – most prolifically by the late, great Linda Orange. So, under normal circumstances, one might expect the seat to remain in Democratic hands.

But, in 2021, the 48th underwent some pretty significant redistricting. The district, which had consisted of most of Colchester and Lebanon and parts of Windham and

Mansfield, instead now covered Colchester, Lebanon, Bozrah and Franklin. Windham and Mansfield played a big part in keeping the 48th blue all these years, whereas Bozrah and Franklin were more rural and conservative.

For example, in 2020, Democrat Brian Smith won by impressive margins in both Windham and Mansfield, collecting close to 70 percent of the vote in both of those towns. Meanwhile, in his hometown of Colchester, Smith collected a little over 50 percent of the vote. (To be fair, his Republican opponent that year was another Colchester resident, Julie Shilosky.)

So yeah, when the redistricting was announced, I knew the Democrats might be in trouble. That proved especially true when Smith announced he wasn't going to run again. It's always a little bit harder to dislodge an incumbent, especially at the local and state level.

Therefore, I wasn't shocked when the results came in and Republican Mark DeCaprio of Lebanon was declared the winner. Yes, he'd unsuccessfully run for the same seat in 2018 and again in 2020, but that was, in many ways, a different district.

In addition to taking his hometown of Lebanon, DeCaprio did indeed win Bozrah and Franklin. In fact, it wasn't particularly close in either town; he won 664-498 in Bozrah and 535-379 in Franklin.

Of course, at the end of the day it didn't affect the balance of power in the state House of Representatives. The Democrats came away from Election Day maintaining their chunky 97-54 margin in the House. But at the local level, as far as Colchester goes, things changed – and redistricting played a big part.

This is to take nothing away from De-

Editor's Desk continued on page 7



Pizza Thanks... The RHAM girls' volleyball team would like to thank Wicked Slice Pizza in Hebron for its donations throughout the season.

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

Early Deadline Next Week

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the deadline for next week's *Rivereast* (the Nov. 25 issue) has been moved up a day. All copy – letters to the editor, press releases, event listings, etc. – **must** be submitted no later than **noon Monday, Nov. 21**.

No exceptions will be made.

Better Plan Needed

To the Editor:

I think it is fair to say that most people in the village of Middle Haddam appreciate the beauty and the architectural simplicity of our little library.

Proudly, this structure has been noted as a historic landmark and any proposed change to the exterior of the building should be strongly considered, even a much needed handicap access ramp.

In all due respect to the library board, the recently proposed 240-square foot porch and long high-maintenance ramp with a concrete walkway faced with stone veneer is totally inappropriate. A gifted no-maintenance ramp donated by a community member is perfectly adequate for the library's purposes. If a permanent ramp is desired then a sloped walkway to the side door from a handicapped parking space would not detract from the historic integrity of the building.

Over the years there have been many ex-

pensive plans drawn by architects in an effort to change the character of this small library. Fortunately, none have come to fruition due to public outcry.

To avoid dissent the board did not reveal their latest plan to the public until it was scheduled to be heard by the relevant town regulatory bodies. Nor did the board solicit community involvement in its design. Keeping its intention to expand the library a secret does not instill confidence in this group as stewards of a community asset. A better plan will result with more community involvement.

Sincerely,

Ronald W. McCutcheon – Middle Haddam

Veterans Day

To the Editor:

Do you know a U.S. military veteran? Veterans Day honors the sacrifices these men and women made serving and possibly risking their lives for the United States of America.

Two of my brothers-in-law served in the Vietnam War. One was in the U.S. Navy. When I asked him about his service, he said he did administrative work and was not at risk. He was eager to talk about his service. Remember most people in any military campaign are not on the front lines but are doing essential work anyway.

Another brother-in-law was an Air Force pilot in Vietnam. He was never eager to talk about his responsibilities. He said he was directing other pilots. He also said there were actions he could not discuss.

Bulletin Board

It is hard to be a deep thinker in our present Age of Superficiality—this modern Hall of Mirrors we find ourselves wandering around in. Those of us who pause to ponder the meaning of it all tend to be viewed by the general public, not as aspiring seers, but as oddities at best and objects of pity or potential medical emergencies at worst.

My wife, various family members and other well-meaning individuals (not to include fellow motorists waiting behind me at stop lights) who routinely find me staring blankly off into space for protracted periods of time generally assume either that: 1) I've died and don't have enough sense to fall over, 2) I'm having trouble digesting a breakfast burrito or 3) I've finally mastered the art of nodding off with my eyes open.

I would like to point out that, until you've reached an age where you insist on wearing sweaters in the middle of August and routinely eat dinner at 3:30 in the afternoon, you are not nodding off—you are "power napping." Let us be clear about that.

In my case, I am doing neither. I am neither dead nor napping nor struggling with my digestion.

In fact, while to all outward appearances I may be staring blankly into space, in reality, my mind is working at a frenetic pace as I withdraw from all petty distractions in order to grapple with the many mysteries of our universe.

Among my various contemplative explorations are mysteries such as: Why do you never need that thing you've been hoarding for years until two days after you finally throw it out? Why do people record their crimes and then proceed to post them on social media for the police to see? Why do the directors of nonprofits get paid? Why do we complain incessantly about our leaders and then proceed to reelect them to office?

Here's a tough one: Why do unmarried people who have lived together for 30 years and have six kids continue to refer their partner as their "fiancée?" Shouldn't there be some kind of expiration date on this sort of thing?

Not passing judgment on lifestyles here. Just trying to bring some order out of chaos.

By the way, am I the only one who thought the recent widely publicized NASA photograph of a "happy smiling sun" looked more like some octogenarian's cancerous sphincter?

Speaking of sphincters: At what point did politicians earn the moral stature to monitor our speech for misinformation? Some of these chameleons unblushingly deny their own inconvenient past statements even when they've been caught on tape. And they want to monitor us?

Along the same lines, if inflation is defined as "too much money chasing too few goods," how is throwing billions of dollars of government money into the economy considered an "Inflation Reduction Act?" By the same token, do you suppose we'd be more enthusiastic about the annual Connecticut motor vehicle tax if this institutionalized bit of thievery was renamed the "Widows and Orphans Rescue Act?"

I mean honestly, folks, even human stupidity can't explain some of this stuff.

Nevertheless, those of us out here with nothing better to do during football game blackouts or interminable reminiscences by elderly aunts continue to gaze off into space and hope for answers.

So don't be shouting in my ear, "Are you all right?!" or shaking me by the shoulder or summoning an ambulance, lest your well-meaning interruption drag me back from the cusp of a major revelation (or inappropriate fantasy).

Hey, it could happen. The major revelation, I mean.

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 Thursday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., and can be reached at 860-633-4691. The *Rivereast* can be reached any time via email at bulletin@glcitizen.com.

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

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

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Reader Forum • Reader Forum

I did find out he was a forward air controller. He flew low, within range of ground fire and other ordnance. He guided pilots on bombing flights supporting troops on the ground. It was dangerous. The first time anyone outside his wife and children, including his four sisters and brother, learned what he had done was when he, with his wife's assistance, sent out a book of photos and a write-up last year, a half century after his service ended. Many veterans who were deployed are hesitant to talk about their experience.

This book revealed that he had received from the Air Force one of its highest awards for bravery, the Distinguished Flying Cross. It was a harrowing situation. He saved two planes of soldiers.

Many veterans served with no more wish than to serve our country. Not seeking to be heroes. Doing what they could under dangerous conditions in some cases. Thank them for their service.

Dave Porteous – Marlborough

Editor's Note: This letter was sent in time for last week's publication, but unfortunately did not get printed.

Poppies Sale

To the Editor:

The American Legion Auxiliary Post 197, Marlborough, would like to thank the Marlborough Country Bakery for giving us space at the bakery On Veterans Day to sell poppies. Also, we want to thank everyone who contribution to this fund. 100% of the funds are for Children Welfare and Veteran's Rehabilitation. We could not make such an impact without your support!

American Legion Auxiliary Post 197

Thank You, Election Workers!

To the Editor:

As we move into the holiday season, the Marlborough registrars of voters would like to acknowledge our election workers who participate in the primaries and referendum, and especially the state election. We appreciate their dedication, professionalism, and commitment in contributing to the success of our elections. Once again, we say thank you.

Respectfully,

**Dorothy Denniss and Ann Kilby
Marlborough Registrars of Voters**

Hammering Away Again

To the Editor:

Hammer, Annie Steinbrecher, the Energizer Bunny. She should have coffee weekly with her friends Scott and Ed. "Birds of a feather do flock together."

Annie, please check your facts. Biden had nothing to do with increasing Social Security. It's called a COLA; it's based on the DOL CPI-W. CPI-W rises when inflation increases, leading to a higher COLA. It's built into the SS Act! You know nothing of SS. Its coffers raided years ago, somewhat of a Ponzi scheme now in how long it will last with many of those "hard-working" Americans (as you call them) not contributing to it so much anymore, imploding under its own weight so all who may be entitled to collect, can.

Should Medicare and SS be privatized? It's worthy of consideration. Many businesses privatize elements of their business to save shareholders money. Have you checked facts on the amount of waste, fraud and abuse with Medicare & SS? Government thinks by throwing more money at it, problem solved. Quotes you cited have merit and are worth exploring. Besides, it is our money isn't it? You don't think it should be conserved and spent as wisely as possible? If not, please let me manage your

household money, unlike your government, I promise I'll spend it wisely!

I suggest coffee weekly with Ed and Scott so you can all collude. Big fact-checkers like you. Always seem to find the dirt on the end of other's noses; people (or political parties) who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones.

No one in your minds in the Democratic Party is beyond reproach. All are the highest-quality people who have honor and integrity. They don't lie, don't cheat and should never be examined or scrutinized for impropriety. Like your news media outlets, the highest standard, but the others like Fox and Newsmax, all liars and cheats, right?

Michael Chotkowski – Marlborough

To Term

To the Editor:

"Republicans should be forced to carry Donald Trump to term, even if it endangers the life of the party." – Jeff Tiedrich

Annie Steinbrecher – Marlborough

Hebron's History

To the Editor:

"First cast out the beam out of thine own eye!" Matthew 7:5

Hebron's leadership's vehement opposition to designating Kinney Road as a scenic streetscape, suggests plans to create another John E. Horton Boulevard eyesore, destroying significant environmental and historic sites.

The development of Horton Boulevard has made it culturally "vacant land." Previously, it boasted the best example of an early 19th century middling-income African American farmstead in Hebron Center. Today it's a ubiquitous parking lot. Henry Peters' lane now commemorates another "great white man." This destruction of Hebron's African American past, has failed to bring new businesses to town and has substantially increased taxes.

Hebron leadership is required to preserve Hebron's "rural, historic character" in all of their actions. When during the 9-18-2019 "We Are Hebron" seminar, who determined what was "rural" and "historic", Hebron's town manager replied – only he and the Board of Selectmen. He then used the Assisted Living Complex as proof!

The land on either side of Kinney Road is

historically significant. Stone walls on the south are part of Hebron's first settler William Shipman's 1702 home lot. Unfortunately, the town, without permission from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), paved over the house site when installing the sidewalk!

The stone walls to the north represent Captain Morris Tillotson's farm also set out in 1702, six years before Hebron was incorporated! In 1713, Tillotson was given permission to establish a tan yard here, starting one of Hebron's first businesses. In the early 1800s this same land was the boyhood home of Levi Strong Backus. Born deaf, he later became the publisher of the world's first newspaper for the deaf! As SHPO reported to the town, if a historic resource survey were conducted, the land the town owns, would qualify for recognition on the National Register!

John Baron – Hebron

So, the Election is Over

To the Editor:

Congratulations Connecticut! A majority of voters have determined that we do not want our

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★ Letters cont. from page 5

the polls keeps Connecticut in the Constitutional mainstream. Though we may not be perfect, Connecticut is a really fine place to live and let live.

For those who think it is “my way or the highway,” maybe the Land of Steady Habits is too liberal. For those who appreciate diversity, who think inclusion is better than exclusion, who aspire to progress, then congratulations.

John Barnowski – Colchester

Progressive Liberalism

To the Editor:

Well, Scott Sauyet certainly put me in my place last week: Ahead of him on the evolutionary scale. Among the many follies that Scott has perpetrated upon *RiverEast* readers, he’s co-opted the role of a professor by reviewing and grading letters from other writers. Until now I was unaware that The Fake Professor was so gifted! However, his own intellectual awareness speaks for itself. I guess he feels he owes us the benefit of his discernment between relevant and frivolous thought, as he retreats to a safe space or crying room in his basement to launch his half-baked critiques of things he doesn’t understand. Such activity is best done in the sanctity of a “safe space,” as a “man-cave” only conjures thoughts of toxic masculinity. And we don’t want that...

The Fake Professor and Mr. Science are models for progressive liberalism. They launch shoddily crafted, biased diatribes full of baseless innuendo and hypocrisy (a requirement for employment at CNN and MSNBC, ironically).

And when presented with counter arguments that even a golden retriever can understand, they continue to preen with their ignorance on display. The only way to deal with them is with parody and satire. They make it easy for the rest of us heathens, cretins, and troglodytes. But I wish they would stop using such big words. Me no understand big words...

So, just so I’m clear, Mr. Science: Gabby Gifford was shot in the head because she is a strong woman. And James Brady was shot in the head because...? Steve Scalise was shot because...? Paul Pelosi was hit with a hammer because of Fox News. Rand Paul had ribs broken and a lung punctured because...?

And for the record, Tulsi Gabbard exemplifies a strong, intelligent, woman. Although, female Russian operatives are notoriously strong and intelligent...

**Regards,
Ed Kozlowski – Colchester**

Ideological Subversion

To the Editor:

In 1984, Soviet defector and ex-KGB member Yuri Brezmenov was interviewed by the journalist G. Edward Griffin. Brezmenov laid out the key elements required for the ideological subversion of a country and its assimilation into a communistic world view. He highlighted the four key components as:

1. Demoralization – subvert people’s ideals and American values through the use of media and academia, convincing them that they are to blame for most of the world’s problems. This

is clearly evident in the self-loathing displayed today throughout our society.

2. Destabilization – change the way our economy and society functions economically, militarily, and diplomatically. The outsourcing of our manufacturing capabilities has restructured our once stable economy into one based on technology and service industries.

3. Crisis – inject a series of crises that keep people from seeing things clearly. The events of 9/11, the ‘08 Financial Crash, and finally COVID-19 are perfect examples of the powerful using fear and the unknown to manipulate the population to their own ends while we struggle just to make ends meet.

4. Normalization – the continual reinforcing and projecting of otherwise unsavory views and attitudes in order to create lasting change. This has been occurring as we are told to embrace the “new normal” and sacrifice individuals’ rights for the collective without providing logical reasoning or actual data – i.e. “science” – as to the benefits of these practices, all the while criticizing and demonizing those who question new procedures. Think mask/vax mandates, digital identities, global banking, carbon taxing, and social credit scores.

When will we finally realize that the politicians and corporations shaping our realities have their own best interests at heart – not the common good? Do you think we can vote our way out of this?

Watch Yuri for yourself @ <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=yErKTVdETpw>.

Colin McNamara – Marlborough

Hall of Fame Induction

To the Editor:

The East Hampton Athletic Hall of Fame inducted state champion track athlete Jacqueline Beaulieu, Xavier High School basketball star and 1,000-point scorer James Brown (posthumously), along with the 2011 state champion East Hampton High School baseball team, on Friday, Oct. 28, at Blackledge Country Club. This was our first induction since 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Hall of Fame congratulates the athletes for their athletic achievements.

We would like to thank Blackledge Country Club for being our longtime host of the event and look forward to next year.

We would like to thank the local businesses that sponsored our event, including: Modere (Laurie Seidl), CMK Sporting Goods, Dr. George Mantikas, East Hampton School Administrators, American Distilling, Ace Hardware, Center Package Store, Loco Pero, Chatham Property Services (Ted Shumbo), Dickinsons Witch Hazel, Harrington Real Estate, Willow Vintage Finds and Home Decor, Deniese Nowakowski Custom Cookies, Mark’s Auto Parts, Classic Auto, and Paul’s & Sandy’s Too.

Since 2006 the Hall of Fame has inducted 43 individuals (athletes, coaches, contributors), and four teams.

The Hall of Fame only has a few active members and we seek new members to join our team. Our mission is to elect worthy athletes, coaches, contributors, and teams to the Hall of Fame. In addition, we give out two scholarships to deserving high school seniors that will be entering college. If interested in becoming a team member or would like to submit a nomination, please email me, Tom Seidl, at seidlt@sbcglobal.net

**Sincerely,
Tom Seidl
Hall of Fame Nomination Chair**

Bellwether Belltown

To the Editor:

President Jed Bartlet, one of the greatest and most eloquent leaders in recent history, said that “decisions are made by those who show up.”

Yes, Bartlet is a fictional character, and those words were actually penned by Aaron Sorkin. However, the sentiment rings true. Look no further than East Hampton and the gubernatorial election.

According to the secretary of the state’s office, few towns in Connecticut were as evenly split between Stefanowski and Lamont as East Hampton. The former carried the town by 24 votes. Party seemed to matter little on the bal-

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lot in other contests: Democrat Joe Courtney cruised, while local candidate Brandon Goff and GOP colleague Irene Haines both won the majority of Belltown voters.

There are plenty of things to take away from such results. What's most clear: despite number of lawn signs or passion (or viciousness) of Facebook threads, East Hampton is evenly divided and character counts.

Belltown is the ultimate bellwether town. That is going to come into play heavily in the

year to come.

It's easy to think we can rest until 2024. But voters tend to forget that nothing is more impactful than their municipal elections.

Local leaders have the most influence on education, property taxes, town services – the things that affect us every day. Yet municipals draw a pittance of the turnout as presidential or midterms. In 2020, 80% of registered East Hampton voters cast ballots for president. Last week, 58% voted for governor. Only 32% voted

in the 2021 town races.

We see how closely divided East Hampton is as a community. There's a year before the next municipal election. If decisions are truly made by those who show up, whomever proves their character and draws the decision makers will determine Belltown's most critical leadership.

Sincerely,

Matt Engelhardt – East Hampton

Our Apologies

To the Editor:

The Hebron Green Committee would like to apologize to those who showed up for our annual paper-shred event in Hebron this past Saturday, only to find out that it had been canceled. The early forecast for Saturday was for heavy rain and wind gusts up to 50 mph due to the remnants of Hurricane Nicole, so we had to make a decision or lose our \$750 deposit. After waiting a few days to see if the forecast would change, we made our decision to cancel, but it was too late to put a letter in the *Rivereast*. We posted cancellation signs in the center of Hebron but undoubtedly some people did not see them.

Unfortunately, the paper-shred company has no additional availability before they shut down operations for the 2022 season, so we are considering holding the event in the spring of 2023. That decision will be made soon, so stay tuned. Our apologies again for any inconvenience.

Mike Harder
Hebron Green Committee

#Save17 Explained

To the Editor:

17 Kinney Rd. is the proposed location for a new Hebron Public Works Department Facility. Kinney Road is a beautiful country road which meets the majority of requirements to be designated as a scenic road. Besides this 17 Kinney holds historical value which should be preserved.

There are stone lined laneways which could be 100 years old or older.

There are rare ancient white oak Wolf or Mother Trees located on this property. Some

estimated to be 200 years old or older.

This land has been important farmland for hundreds of years!

This land is also directly across the street from 52 Kinney Rd. which is the beautiful Raymond Brook Preserve which the town has invested in already. This Preserve has a beautiful pollinator garden and walking trails. Trails that could be easily connected to the 17 Kinney Rd. property. How about 17 Kinney Rd. be preserved and used as a nature's classroom?

What is not immediately apparent is the GA rated watercourse which traverses below ground and feeds the Raymond Brook watershed. This EPA standard rating means the water found here is drinkable without any treatment. Why would the town want to put a Public Works facility and multi-ton salt shed on this land? How about fully considering other options that do not affect this precious property?

Why should all Hebron residents be concerned?

Ground water and well contamination concerns. Preserving this beautiful historical land for future generations – keeping rising taxes under control – fiscal responsibility for all of Hebron!

For detailed information you can visit the Facebook page Kinney Road Matters. #Save17
Ellen Shortell – Amston

Less is More

To the Editor:

Recent activities of the Hebron PZC are alarming. While most people in Hebron want a rural town, there is a push to relax zoning to create an urban center. Some believe this is a matter of social justice, but none of the plans, including the apartment complex proposed by St. Peters, promotes social justice. In fact, these plans will have the opposite effect. This happened with the "revitalization" of Hartford in the 1960s and in the 1970s "redevelopment" of Glastonbury. Both were disasters, especially for poor people. The changes in zoning pushed by a cynical alliance of developers and social activists enriched the few and failed to provide for

See Letters, page 29

Editor's Desk continued from page 4

Caprio; he seems like a good guy and I hope he does well. But it's interesting to see how much difference a little tweaking of a district can make.

One thing I like to do after elections is break down the vote, and see how the *Rivereast* towns voted in some of the larger, statewide elections. Sometimes there are surprises, sometimes there aren't, but I still always do it. I did it again this year, and figured I'd share my findings. All of these numbers, by the way, come from the secretary of the state's office.

In Andover, Gov. Ned Lamont just barely edged Bob Stefanowski, when you add up the votes he received on the three different lines he was listed under: the Democratic Party, the Working Families Party, and the Griebel-Frank for CT Party. Lamont wound up with 819 votes, while Stefanowski – who was only listed on the Republican ticket – collected 817.

Sen. Richard Blumenthal, a Democrat who, like Lamont, was also listed on the Working Families ticket, also won in Andover. He collected 860 votes to Republican Leora Levy's 785. Meanwhile, Congressman Joe Courtney won Andover with 910 votes, while Republican Mike France collected 719.

In Colchester, Lamont also won, collecting a total of 3,809 to Stefanowski's 3,339. Blumenthal won as well, ending up with 3,869 votes, while Levy garnered 3,318. Courtney handily won Colchester, taking 4,187 votes to France's 2,938.

In East Hampton, Stefanowski won in a

rather close race, winning 3,138 votes while Lamont collected 3,114 across the three tickets he was listed on. Meanwhile, Blumenthal bested Levy, 3,203-3,092. Courtney topped France, again easily, by a 3,436-2,758 tally.

Lamont was back in the winner's column in Hebron. He wound up with 2,450 votes while Stefanowski won 2,293. Blumenthal topped Levy, 2,532 to 2,240. And Courtney easily topped France in Hebron as well, 2,764-1,983.

Lamont won in Marlborough as well, taking 1,576 votes to Stefanowski's 1,509. Blumenthal collected 1,700 votes to Levy's 1,441, and Courtney topped France, by a 1,754-1,326 tally.

In Portland, Lamont also was victorious, collecting 2,397 votes while Stefanowski came away with 2,107. Blumenthal also beat Levy in Portland, with 2,396 votes to her 2,113. For Congress, the race in Portland was between Democrat John Larson and Republican challenger Larry Lazor. Larson – who, like Lamont, was also listed on the Working Families line – won 2,451 votes, while Lazor collected 1,997.

So, there you have it. Lamont wound up winning five of the six *Rivereast* towns, whereas in 2018, Stefanowski won all six – pretty easily, at that. What was the difference this time around? Did Lamont have that incumbent bounce I mentioned earlier, or was it something more? I'd love to hear from readers what they think.

See you next week.

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Remembering Veterans... Last week the Town of Portland held its annual wreath-laying ceremony at town hall, seen here saluted by local Coast Guard veteran Lt. Commander Tim Dickerson, local veteran, and with a solemn Ryan Curley, town first selectperson. In the group photo, taken by town staff, local vets gathered for the annual traditional "Hat Photo." Represented are most branches of the United States Military, brought proudly by veterans of several conflicts. The group shot brings vets together each Nov. 11.



Info on Food Bank, Foodshare Truck

The Portland Food Bank is located in the lower level of the Portland Waverly Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave., and is open Monday and Thursday, 9 a.m.-noon, except for holidays.

To access the food bank's services, people are required to register with Portland Food Bank (copy of an ID and recent piece of mail or utility bill) and be a Portland resident. Donations are taken during Food Bank hours. Call 860-342-6795 for more information or

for volunteer and donation opportunities.

The Connecticut Foodshare truck comes to the Waverly Center on the first and third Mondays of each month, from 1-2 p.m., except for holidays. People using the Foodshare are required to form a line and everyone will have an opportunity to 'shop' at the truck once it is set up. You do not have to be a Portland resident to attend the Foodshare, and please bring bags.

The next Foodshare is Nov. 21.

Knights of Columbus Raffle

Tickets are now available (\$5 per ticket) for the Knights of Columbus Freestone Council No. 7 annual raffle. Proceeds from the raffle helps the Freestone Council accomplish great work in the community. The prizes are:

Grand Prize: \$1,500; 2nd Prize: \$500; 3rd Prize: \$550 gift certificate to Malloves Jewelers in Middletown; 4th Prize: \$500 Gift Certificate at Adams Hometown Market, Connecticut

stores; 5th Prize: green fees for four persons for 18 holes of golf, including use of carts at Portland West Golf Course;

6th Prize: Nintendo Switch console – with 12-month membership.

The drawing will be held Saturday, Dec. 3, at 7 p.m., at St. Mary Church Hall, 45 Freestone Ave. Winners do not need to be present.

YFS News & Notes

Portland Youth & Family Services has announced the following pieces of news. For more information, visit www.portlandct.org/youth-services or the YFS Facebook page at www.facebook.com/PortlandCTYouth, or contact Jesse Revicki at jrevicki@portlandct.org, or 860-342-6758. To receive email updates about YFS programs and events, sign up at eepurl.com/h5m35f.

Restorative Justice Team Members Sought: YFS runs the town's Restorative Justice Team, also known as the Juvenile Review Board. When local youth are arrested, they are sometimes referred to the town's Restorative Justice Team. The team uses a restorative justice focus and work to get the youth and their family the resources they need to succeed, while holding the youth accountable and repairing harm that was done. YFS is looking for

people interested in joining the team. Experience in related fields, such as education, social work, criminal justice, among others, is a plus, but not required. Anyone interested should contact Revicki.

Little Hikers: Friday, Dec. 9, at 10:30 a.m., at the Portland Rec Complex (weather permitting).

Drop-In & Draw: Tuesday, Dec. 13, 1:30-4:30 p.m., in the Buck-Foreman Community Center, 265 Main St.

Prevention & Wellness Council: The council had its November meeting this week. Keep an eye here for the December meeting. All are invited to work as a community on youth substance use prevention, positive mental health, and becoming a recovery-friendly community. If interested in joining, contact Revicki or just show up.

Youth Wanted: YFS invites youth to participate in the Youth Services Advisory Board, which allows youth a seat at the table in planning programs and events and helps guide YFS programming. Youth are also invited to join the Prevention & Wellness Council, which deals with substance use, mental health, and healthy choices. YFS is also looking for help at its events. All of these opportunities will earn community service hours.

Turkey Shoot

The Portland Fish and Game Club will hold a Turkey Shoot Sunday, Nov. 20, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., across from the Exchange Club Fairgrounds.

Cost is \$3 for one shot or two for \$5. There will be a Superbird.

Food and drink will be available. Families are welcome.

Portland Library News & Notes

Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave., is open, with no appointments needed. Registration required for all programs unless noted. For more info, to register, and for full program descriptions, visit www.portlandlibraryct.org or call 860-342-6770. The library is also on Facebook and Instagram.

Hours: Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 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 close Wednesday, Nov. 23, at 5 p.m., and will remain closed Thursday, Nov. 24, and Friday, Nov. 25. The library will be open Saturday, Nov. 26.

Vaccine Clinic: Portland Library will host a Chatham Health vaccine clinic Monday, Dec. 5, noon-2 p.m., at Portland Library. COVID-19 vaccines and flu vaccines will be available. Children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, email info@chathamhealth.org

Youth Programs: Drop-In Playdates: Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m., Nov. 29, 30 and Dec. 6, 7, 13, 14, 20 and 21, for ages birth through 5 and their caregivers. This will be an hour of socialization and open play with story room toys. No registration is required.

Thanksgiving Craft and Snackivity: Tuesday, Nov. 22, at 1 p.m., for grades K-5. Create centerpiece for holiday tables, make a treat to enjoy, and play some games. Registration is required and space is limited.

Crafty Thursdays: Thursdays Dec. 1-15, 3:30 p.m., for grades K-5, in the Wagner Room. There will be plenty of supplies. This is a drop-in program and no registration is required.

Successful Storytime

The Portland Historical Society's Ruth Callender House Museum of Portland History hosted local children's author Sarah Caratasios, who read her new book *The Adventures of Nibbles Munk-Munk* Sunday, Nov. 13.

The adventure was attended by a dozen children and their families, who enjoyed the story and refreshments in the Overton Gallery. The society's next event will be the 11th annual Festival of Wreaths taking place Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 3 and 4, in the Carriage House at 329 Main St.

The next museum opening will be Sunday, Dec. 11, from 2-4 p.m.

Town-Wide Winter Used Coat Drive

Winter coats are in great need for the Portland Food Bank closet. Director Ruth Maio has requested the local Knights of Columbus to again sponsor and run a town-wide coat drive this fall.

For donations, a large receptacle will be available in the Rosary Room at the Church of Saint Mary at 45 Freestone Ave.

Celebrate Hanukkah: Tuesday, Dec. 13, 4 p.m., for grades Pre-K-2. Portland residents Barbara Sequenzia and Liz Hibino will present stories, songs, and games. Registration is required.

Meet and Greet with the Snow Sisters: Tuesday, Dec. 27, at 11 a.m. Calling all fans of Elsa and Anna! The Snow Sisters will visit for a morning of songs, games, crafts and photo opportunities. Registration is required and space is limited.

Teen Program: Teen Advisory Group: Monday, Dec. 5, 3:30 p.m. Teens can share thoughts on what they'd like to see the library offer in terms of programs, materials and more. Snacks will be served. Teens will earn community service hours for each meeting they attend. Registration is required.

Family Craft Night: Gingerbread Houses: Wednesday, Dec. 7, 6:30 p.m. Create a unique house to bring home with you using graham crackers, frosting and other supplies. This activity has steps that are appropriate for all ages, but a parent or guardian must be with children to help with supervision. Registration is required and space is limited.

Adult Programs: Book Discussions: Mystery Lovers Book Club – November: Tuesday, Nov. 22, 1 p.m. *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger will be discussed; **First Thursday Night Book Club:** Thursday, Dec. 1, 6:30 p.m. *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell will be discussed. **TAB (Talk About Books):** Tuesday, Dec. 6, 1 p.m. *The Moon the Stars and Madame Burova* by Ruth Hogan will be discussed. **Mystery Lovers Book Club – December:** Tuesday, Dec. 13, at 1 p.m. *Murder for Christmas* by Francis Duncan will be discussed.

Movie: Wednesday, Dec. 14, 1 p.m. *Where the Crawdads Sing* will be shown.

Holiday Craft and Vendor Fair

Portland High School Project Graduation will host a Holiday Craft and Vendor Fair Saturday, Nov. 19, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the school, 95 High St.

This free event will showcase over 45 crafters and vendors. A teacup raffle will be held. The Shaking Crab food truck will be at the event.

All proceeds go to PHS Project Graduation, which provides a drug- and alcohol-free evening for the class of 2023 graduates.



Honoring Family... Zachary Anderson, a fourth-grader at Gildersleeve Elementary School, celebrated Veterans Day at his school recently. To honor two of the veterans in his family during the celebration, he wore his great-grandfather's uniform (Ralph Anderson), and carried his other great-grandfather's picture (Norman Kelly).



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Trinity Episcopal Church News

Trinity Episcopal Church, located at 345 Main St., invites the community to celebrate each week.

Bible Study starts at 8:30 a.m. each Sunday. Worship is at 9:30 a.m. Sunday School is in session and held during the service. Children ages 4-12, baptized and unbaptized, are welcome to attend Church School.

All who are vaccinated may remove their masks for the service. All who are not fully vaccinated are asked to wear their masks.

The church is open for prayer and meditation on Fridays from 2-4 p.m., and there will also be a gathering in the church office at the same

time, for Anglican Prayer beading at the same time. No prior beading experience is required. All are welcome.

Check out more information, the church's calendar of events, donate, or listen to past sermons at www.trinitychurchportlandct.org. If you have any other prayer requests to lift up, email the church office at trinitychurchportlandct@gmail.com.

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

Library Friends Book Sale

The Friends of Portland Library group has fiction, romance and children's used books in the Second-Hand Prose Bookshop at the library, 20 Freestone Ave., during regular library hours. Books are 50 cents for paperbacks and children's books, \$1 for trade paperbacks and \$2 for hardcover.

FPL also has "I Love CT Libraries" reusable bags on sale for \$1 each. Purchase a bag to show your support for Connecticut Libraries

and reduce your use of plastic bags. See a sample at the front desk and purchase them from the library staff.

All proceeds benefit programs funded by the Friends, such as the library's Museum Pass Program, children and adult programs, and the library's DVD collection.

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

Community Drive to Benefit Streetfire Ministries

During November, the Grace Guild of Zion Lutheran Church will collect new men's and women's underwear in all sizes, as well as men's T-shirts, and men's and women's socks and gloves for Steetfire Ministries.

Steetfire serves those in need and the homeless population of Middletown and surround-

ing communities. It provides food, clothing, housing and spiritual guidance.

All donations can be left in the "red box" located at the side entrance of the church located at 183 William St. in Portland.

For more information, call Donna at 860-262-1070.

Hey, Take a Hike!

All are welcome to join the Middlesex Land Trust on Sunday, Nov. 20, at 10 a.m., at a 147-acre Portland/East Hampton property the trust is working to acquire as its new Meshomasic's Rattlesnake Brook Preserve.

This property is located in Portland and East Hampton, adjacent to Meshomasic State Forest near Great Hill Pond in Portland. The two-mile hike will feature the forest landscape, an abandoned granite quarry, and a 10-acre beaver pond.

If there is interest, the land trust can take a group on an optional additional two-mile hike to visit the Blue Blazed Shenipsit Trail and the Great Hill overlook, which offers views of the Connecticut River and Long Island Sound in

the distance.

The Middlesex Land Trust is fundraising for acquisition of this property. Brochures will be available for anyone interested in being a part of this project.

Participants should wear sturdy shoes and bring water and snacks as desired. Parking is available at the end of Great Hill Pond Road at the northeast end of the pond.

For more information and to RSVP, call the Land Trust office at 860-343-7537, email info@middlesexlandtrust.org, or call hike leader John LeShane at 860-342-0658.

For more information, visit www.middlesexlandtrust.org.

First Congregational Church News

The First Congregational Church of Portland, located at 554 Main St., is a member of the United Church of Christ. The church is an "open and affirming" congregation, welcoming everyone. Facial mask-wearing is optional. The worship service is livestreamed as well as available for later viewing on the church's YouTube channel; search on YouTube for First Church of Portland CT.

Nov. 20 is Thanksgiving Sunday and the 10 a.m. worship service will include a presentation of Bibles to church school students. The Rev. Jane Hawken's sermon is titled "Overflowing with Gratitude." Under Kasha Breau's direction, the Handbell Choir will play "Let All Things Now Living," and the choir will sing "Look at the World" by John Rutter. Church school and child care are available during the service, and

coffee hour follows the service.

First Church Nursery School offers a program for 3-year-olds on Tuesday and Thursday, and one for 4-year-olds on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Contact Amy Jahnke at 860-342-1111 or 1stchurchnurseryschool@gmail.com for more information.

The church emails a weekly newsletter, *The Weekly Word*. To join church mailing lists (both email and regular mail), email first.church.pct@sbcglobal.net or call 860-342-3244. For more info, look for the church on Facebook at The First Congregational Church of Portland, or visit www.firstchurchportlandct.org. Those who wish to follow the church on Facebook may do so at The First Congregational Church of Portland, CT.

Thanksgiving Interfaith Service at Zion

Every year, several worshipping communities in Portland gather together to offer ecumenical services. This year, the Thanksgiving interfaith service will be held Sunday, Nov. 20, at 7 p.m., at Zion Lutheran Church, located at 183 William St.

The guest speaker this year will be the Rev. Donald Watson from Streetfire Ministries. Streetfire serves those in need and the homeless population of Middletown and surrounding communities. It provides food, clothing, housing and spiritual guidance.

Donations of new T-shirts, underwear and socks and of non-perishable food will be col-

lected for Streetfire Ministries. If you are unable to attend the service, but wish to donate to Streetfire, donations can be left in the "red box" located at the side entrance of the church.

Monetary donations are also appreciated. Checks can be made out to "Streetfire Ministries." Cash offerings are welcome as well. Streetfire Ministries also accepts credit card donations and has a PayPal link on its website, www.streetfireministries.org.

All are welcome to attend this service. For more information, call Zion at 860-342-2860, or email zion.lutheran@snet.net.

Brownstone Arts Show and Sale

A holiday show and sale sponsored by Brownstone Arts will be held in Owen's Emporium at 283 Main St. from Nov. 18 through Dec. 24. Among the items displayed and offered as holiday gifts are paintings, drawings, photographs, felt-worked scarves and table runners, jewelry, and pottery.

The event marks the 15th anniversary of Brownstone Arts, a group founded in 2007 to support, promote and encourage the arts in Portland and surrounding towns. The public is invited to join the artists and their friends as they celebrate this anniversary year. There will

be wine and munchies, musical entertainment by singer-songwriter Cathy Kreger, and a cake to be shared.

Brownstone Arts said it is grateful to Amy Milardo, owner of Owen's Emporium, for welcoming the group as she begins transitioning her shop to becoming a local center for arts and crafts.

Owen's Emporium's hours for the duration of the show will be: Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (hours are 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Dec. 24). The Emporium will be closed Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday.

Christmas Activities Coming Up

Sunday, Dec. 4, will bring the town's annual Christmas on Main Street, Light Parade and Tree-Lighting - and all are invited!

On Sunday, Dec. 4, several Main Street businesses will open their doors starting at 2 p.m. to offer holiday specials. That evening, head down to Brownstone Intermediate School for the Holiday Light Parade, which starts at 5 p.m. from Town Hall. The parade will end at Brownstone Intermediate School, where the high school band and acapella chorus will sign festive songs while waiting for Santa to arrive.

One lucky child will get the chance to help Santa light the Christmas tree. All are asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy to help collect donations for the Portland Food Bank.

Check back in the *Rivereast* and on social media for more information on participating businesses and who is marching in the parade. The events are sponsored by Youth & Family Services, Parks & Recreation, and Economic Development Commission.

Republicans Seek Volunteers

The Portland Republican Town Committee is seeking individuals to serve their community as members of one of the town's various boards and commissions. In addition, the committee is seeking individuals who are interested in running for local elective positions.

If interested, email GOPPortlandCT@gmail.com or call Tim Lavoy at 860-212-3114.

The Portland RTC holds its regular meetings on the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at 7 Waverly Ave. Republicans interested in public service or in learning more about becoming a member of the RTC are welcome to attend.

Holiday Closings

The Portland town offices will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday Thursday, Nov. 24, and Friday, Nov. 25.

There will be no late office hours Tuesday, Nov. 22.

Service of Lessons and Carols

All are invited to St. Mary Church, 45 Freestone Ave., at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11, for story, song and prayer celebrating the Advent and Christmas seasons. Donations of personal hygiene items for the Portland Food Bank (toothpaste, toothbrushes, shaving cream, soap, shampoo, etc.) will be accepted.



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Portland • Portland

Middle School Honor Roll

Portland Middle School has announced the honor roll for the first marking period of the 2022-23 school year.

High Honors

Grade 8: Madison Anzellotti, Penelope Christensen, Kelsey Desmarais, George Germaine, Avery Johnson, Drew Kelly, Lucas Kirsche, Evan May.

Grade 7: Jacob Anderson, Ian Binnington, Marcus Clements, Thomas Gaetani, Fiona Graham, Lily Hale, Jack Hallinean, Ellen Hanks, Jonah Hess, Parker Johnson, Rowyn Kootz, Bianca Labbadia, Terrance Lin, Alyson Low, Matthew Maldonado, Colin Martin, Miles Matterfis, Peyton Mazzullo, Ema Medunjanin, Ryan Nadolski, Aurelia Napp, Lilah Nolan, Nolan O'Connor, Brooks Oliva, Lily Otero, Zoey Pires, Leonxia Rivera, Luke Thompson, Erika Tine, Lena Trojanowski.

Honors

Grade 8: Max Bernard, Darci Black, Austin Brennan, Costandinos Caratasios, Laura

Carpenter, Giselle Castellano, Aliyah Cherry, Nathaniel Dietrichsen, Connor Doyle, Anthony Ezzo, Abigail France, Ava France, Daniel Glezen, Isabel Grzegorek, Julia Hall, Jameir Henry, Cassi Hodge, Nicholas Johnson, El-lery Keoppen, Lucas Kozyra, Nicholas Kozyra, Connor Libby, Sierra Markham, Blake Marquis, Audrey Morico, Matthew Mucinskas, Anna Piascik, Evan Piascik, Molly Reilly, Piper Rettich, Jeremiah Rowe, Bryce Walsh, Remy Wilson.

Grade 7: Lucas Bolstridge, Alex Brown, Caylee Carter, Calvin Celinski, Cody Christensen, Karly Cruz, Leah Cruz, Elijah Eckert, Sean Erwin, Natalie Farmer, Andrew Fischer, Chad Gatto, Shane Guilmette, Blake Harlow, Isabella Hayden, Sawyer Hollant, Nathan Jahnke, Megan King, Brady Mierzejewski, Kaelin Mullen, Reese Nicol, Mya Peterson, Joseph Phelps, Elizabeth Porter, Jason Revicki, Levi Srb, Cameron Szymaszek, Danica Vess, Anna Vicino, Ella Woodward.

Leaf Pickup Starts Nov. 28

The town Public Works Department will conduct its annual leaf pickup beginning Monday, Nov. 28.

Leaves must be placed in paper bags at the curb so as not to cause a sight line problem. Leaves must be out no later than Sunday, Nov. 27. Plastic bags will not be picked up.

Residents who do not place their leaves at the curb can bring them to the Transfer Station.

Leaves not in paper bags must be emptied by the resident in an area at the Transfer Station designated by the attendant.

Homeowners are asked to refrain from blowing or raking leaves into the roadway, as blocking the storm drain inlets may cause flooding and create safety hazards, Public Works said.

For more information, call Public Works at 860-342-6733.

Senior Center News & Notes

The Waverly Senior Center, 7 Waverly Ave., is open Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., and Friday, 9 a.m.-noon. For more information or to register, call 860-342-6760.

Food Bank Donations: People donating for Portland Food Bank are asked to not leave Food Bank donations at the senior center unless the food bank is open. The food bank is open Mondays and Thursdays from 9 a.m.-noon. Also, the senior center does not need any donations directed toward the center; please only leave donations for the food bank, and only during food bank hours.

Foodshare: Monday, Nov. 21, 1 p.m.

Next Week's Programs: Monday: Light Aerobics, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; Massage with Joanie on the Spot, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., cost is \$50/hour, and appointments are necessary – call Joanie at 860-301-6507. **Tuesday:** Bears on a Journey, 9:30-11 a.m. – making fleece teddy bears for cancer patients; donations are sought of light fleece, one yard or more for making teddy bears for cancer patients throughout Connecticut. If you would like to donate, call 860-342-0809; Watercolor Lessons return Jan. 17, 2023, from 9:30 a.m.-noon (to register, email bivenne@yahoo.com); Stretch & Flex: 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Coupons for Troops, 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; setback, 1 p.m. **Wednesday:** Light Aerobics,

9:30-10:30 a.m.; SyncoCize Exercise, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Social Duplicate Bridge, 12:30-4 p.m., multipurpose room; no bridge this week.

Thursday and Friday: The center will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Blood Pressure Clinic: 10:30-11:30 a.m. on the first Monday of each month (unless the first Monday is a holiday; then the clinic is the following week).

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

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.

Volunteers Sought for Meals-on-Wheels: The senior center is currently recruiting a volunteer coordinator to assist with the administration of the Meals-on-Wheels volunteers, and is also looking for volunteer drivers for the program. For full details, call Alexis at 860-342-6761.

New Winter Coats

The Portland Knights of Columbus, with the support of the parishioners of St. Mary Church, has purchased new winter coats for those in need for almost 10 years. This year, in addition to helping the Portland Food Bank obtain new coats, the Knights of Columbus Freestone Council will participate with area councils for a "Black Friday" distribution in Middletown.

The local council will take part in the Na-

tional KofC "Coats for Kids" Drive to provide quality winter wear.

A special monetary donation box will be set up for the "Coats for Kids" drive in the Church of St. Mary Rosary Room, 45 Freestone Ave. Donations for New Coats for Kids can also be sent to Knight of Columbus Council 7, Box 7, Portland, CT 06480

Call Bill Caffrey, co-chair, at 860-342-4259 to arrange pick-up of donations.

Donations Sought for Joshua's Mission

Joshua's Mission, organized by Portland resident Josh Abbott, 14, is seeking donations.

Every year wreaths are laid at veterans' graves throughout the United States on a national wreath-laying day which this year is Dec. 17. Joshua's Mission is looking for sponsors to purchase wreaths to be laid at the Connecticut State Veterans Cemetery in Middletown on that day.

Wreaths can be purchased for \$15 each or 2 for \$30 and get 3rd one free. Checks can

be made out to Wreaths Across America and mailed to Joshua's Mission, 50 Fairview St., Portland, CT 06480, before Nov. 30. People can also make donations by visiting Josh's Facebook page at "Joshua's Mission" and clicking on the link there to go directly to his Wreaths Across America website page to pay by credit card.

All are invited to participate in helping place the wreaths on Saturday, Dec. 17, at noon.

Festival of Wreaths

The Portland Historical Society is planning its 11th annual Festival of Wreaths, "Jingle & Mingle," for the weekend of Dec. 3 and 4. The festival will be open both days from noon to 4 p.m. in the Carriage House at 329 Main St.

Individuals, families, businesses, clubs and organizations are invited to donate a decorated wreath for this "tea cup"-style raffle. Wreaths can be real or artificial, can be a size and shape of your choice and can even be made from other materials – such as shells, pine cones, scrapbook papers, or candies. Wreaths can have a theme, or be decorated to attract a particular audience. A gift card or certificate for a service can be attached as part of your decoration.

Vocal Chords Holiday Concert

The Middlesex Hospital Vocal Chords (MHVC) group will present its annual holiday concert, "Let's Have a Music Celebration," on Sunday, Dec. 11, at 2 p.m., at Portland High School, 95 High St.

All are invited to see this 80-member chorus and eight-piece band perform some holiday favorites.

Samuel Tucker, musical director, has arranged an eclectic program that showcases the talents of this chorus. In addition to some holiday favorites such as "O Come All Ye Faithful" and the classic "Please Come Home for Christmas," selections from Handel's "Messiah" for the classical lovers in the audience will round out the program.

If you would like to participate but don't have time to create a wreath, for a donation of \$30 a Historical Society "elf" will decorate one for you. Your name, business or organization will be listed as the donor. Email PortlandCThistory@gmail.com to make arrangements. All wreaths should be pre-registered by Thursday, Dec. 1. Watch the *Rivereast* for more information.

All proceeds from this event will be used to further the society's mission to preserve Portland's history and to fund educational projects for the community. For more information, email PortlandCThistory@gmail.com.

Holiday Craft and Vendor Fair

Portland High School Project Graduation will host a Holiday Craft and Vendor Fair Saturday, Nov. 19, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the school, 95 High St.

This free event will showcase a variety of crafters and vendors. A teacup raffle will be held, with the drawing at 1:30 p.m.

All proceeds go to PHS Project Graduation, which provides a drug- and alcohol-free evening for the class of 2023 graduates.

United Methodist Church News

Portland United Methodist Church, located at 381 Main St., holds in-person worship Sundays at 9 a.m. All are invited. Masks required for those not fully vaccinated. Pastor is the Rev. Judith Johnson-Siebold.

A Fourth Sunday weekly Communion service at 1 p.m. replaces the regular 9 a.m. service on those Sundays.

Project Graduation Fundraiser

All are invited to help support the Portland High School Class of 2023 Project Graduation by sending a "flock of flamingos" to your friends and neighbors located in Portland.

Project Graduation is a drug- and alcohol-free celebration for all 2023 graduating seniors. Email Kyle Walters at kyle.walters1@outlook.com and send a donation of \$25 payable via Venmo (@PHSCT-ProjectGrad) or check made out to PHS Project Graduation 2023.

Ronald W. Kutz, Esq.

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Happy 92nd!... Marlborough resident Mary Schneider and members of her family recently went to Crystal Ridge Winery in Glastonbury to celebrate her 92nd birthday. Her birthday was on Halloween. Here is part of the family – four generations strong! From left are daughter Robin Durkee, Schneider, great-granddaughter Saffire Burke, and granddaughter Jenifer Durkee. Happy birthday, Mary!!!

Where in the World is the *Rivereast*?

Hey! Are you taking a vacation or a day trip soon? Bring the *Rivereast* along with you, snap a picture with it, and email the photo and your address to bulletin@glcitizen.com.



Stowing Away to Stockholm... Roberta and Bruce DeGray took an adventure from Amston with their *Rivereast* stowaway flying to a cruise of the Scandinavian islands. Their stowaway decided the DeGrays should visit the ICE Hotel in Stockholm, Sweden. What a thrilling (or chilling) moment in time, but the *Rivereast* didn't mind at all.



Block Island Bulletin... Jerry Plummer of East Hampton recently visited Block Island, R.I., and saw this awesome car. What a great day!



Rivereast Goes Camping... Erica Sjovall from Colchester is shown with the *Rivereast* during a recent camping trip at Assateague Island National Seashore.

Where in the World?

**Going on a trip?
Bring along the *Bulletin*!**

Submit your travel photo holding the *Rivereast News Bulletin*, and you will win a \$25 Gift Card to Campagna Restaurant if your photo is one the four entries selected!

To enter, email your photo and address to: bulletin@glcitizen.com

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Local Man Accused of Threatening Poll Workers

By Jack Lakowsky

On Election Day, Nov. 8, Marlborough police responded to the polls at Marlborough Elementary School after receiving calls accusing a local 84-year-old man of threatening workers.

Police said a “brief investigation conducted at the scene determined that comments and actions [were] perceived as threatening.”

Police spoke with the accused and the alleged victims, deciding there was probable cause to charge the man, James Reed of Flood Road, with misdemeanor breach of peace.

The *Riverast* obtained a copy of the arrest report, which says police issued Reed a summons for a Nov. 25 court appearance.

Interim Town Manager Amy Traversa said she didn’t know exactly what Reed said, saying it appears Reed made an ill-advised “joke” perceived as threatening, something akin to “yelling ‘Bomb!’ in an airport”, said Traversa.

At a Marlborough Board of Selectmen meeting Tuesday, Traversa said the suspect said something about a concealed weapon, of which police found none.

Traversa said until last week Marlborough had had no notable issues at polls, nothing beyond “people refusing to wear masks” in past elections.

Traversa said police found no weapons, and the threat was not credible.

Still: “We won’t ever take safety for granted,” said the town manager. She said the town doesn’t usually post arrests records to its website, but that in this case it did to show “we will not take threats lightly, against anyone or anything. [Voting] is a constitutional right. I just wanted people to know we don’t take this lightly.”

“This is fair warning,” she added.

Traversa said before the election, national fears of voter and worker intimidation were fresh on local poll workers’ minds.

According to CNN, last week’s election went “mostly smoothly” nationwide, though, up until Nov. 8 there had been reports of armed people staking out polling stations in Arizona, taking photos of voters as they dropped off their ballots.

Richmond Library News & Notes

Richmond Memorial Library, located at 15 School Drive, has announced the following. Registration required unless noted; to do so, call the library at 860-295-6210 or email richmondprograms@gmail.com.

TWOSdays: For children 18-36 months and their caregivers on Tuesdays through Dec. 20. There will be songs, stories and hands-on-learning.

Fall Storytime: Wednesdays at 10 a.m., through Dec. 7 (no session Nov. 23), indoors in the Storytime Room.

Lego Club: Tuesdays, Nov. 29 and Dec. 13, 4 p.m., for children age 5 and up. The library will offer STEM-based challenges involving Legos.

Kids Crafting Club: Creative kids will learn new techniques and project ideas. The club will meet the following Tuesdays at 4 p.m.: Nov. 22, Dec. 6 and Dec. 20.

Old-School Gamers Club: Friday, Dec. 2, 4 p.m. The library will break out the Super Nintendo, PSOne, Xbox360 and more for some old-school gaming for ages 12-18. Registration is recommended.

Community Nativity Festival

As part of its yearlong 275th Anniversary Celebration, Marlborough Congregational Church, located at 35 South Main St., will host a Nativity Festival on Friday, Dec. 2, from 6-8 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 3, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

The community is welcome to view a collection of nativities that will be on display in the sanctuary, which will be adorned for Christmas. Live holiday music will be provided by harpists Jason Castonguay and Carolyn Brodginiski.

Community members are also welcome to include their nativities as part of this festival. Anyone interested in participating can drop off their nativities at Second Blessings Thrift Shop,

located in the church, on Friday, Nov. 25, from noon-3 p.m.; and Saturday, Nov. 26, from 9 a.m.- to noon. Pick-up will be the same times Friday, Dec. 9, and Saturday, Dec. 10. Drop-off and pick-up can also be by appointment by calling 860-614-5312.

There is no charge for the event, but proceeds from a free-will offering will go to the Connecticut Chapter of Casting for Recovery, an organization that enhances the lives of women with breast cancer by connecting them to each other and nature through the therapeutic sport of fly fishing. (castingforrecovery.org)

Lions to Raffle Generator

The Marlborough Lions Club is raffling off an 8,000-watt Generac portable generator with a retail value of \$1,150.

The generator has features such as a push-button electric start with trickle charger, hours counter and 120V/240V outlets. The winner of the raffle will also receive the services of an electrician to install a circuit breaker panel interlock and the cabling needed to hook up the generator, with a value not to exceed \$1,000.

Raffle tickets are \$20 each. The drawing will take place Saturday, Dec. 17. Ticket sales will continue until that date.

The Lions support local services such as the Marlborough Food and Fuel Banks and provide services such as the recent vision screening of children at Marlborough’s elementary school.

For tickets, call Lions Club Chairman Megan Lloyd at 413-687-5537, Secretary Ken Hjulstrom at 860-490-9116 or Treasurer Jean-Paul Bolduc at 860-798-2054. Tickets are also available at Marino Realty and The Sanctuary Hair Salon.

The Marlborough Lions will also sell raffle tickets for the generator at Three Fellas Pizza in Marlborough center on Saturday, Nov. 19, from 4-6 p.m.

Save the Date

The Gathering on the Green will be held Saturday, Dec. 3, at 4:30 p.m. The event will include a fire truck parade, pictures with Santa, tree-lighting and fireworks. Rain date is Sunday, Dec. 4, at 4:30 p.m.

Second Blessings Holiday Extravaganza

Second Blessings Thrift Shop, located at Marlborough Congregational Church, 35 S. Main St., will hold its annual Holiday Extravaganza Thanksgiving weekend during regular shopping hours: Friday, Nov. 25, from noon-3 p.m., and Saturday, Nov. 26, from 9 a.m.-noon.

Light refreshments will be served, along with a free drawing. Everything Christmas and winter will fill tables and shelves. There will be

something for all ages including jewelry, handbags, small furniture, children’s books and toys, baking, decorating, gift-giving and more. Second Blessings gift certificates are also available.

The shop will be open through Saturday, Dec. 17, and will reopen Feb. 3, 2023. The shop accepts donations during shopping hours. Second Blessings also sells through eBay at bit.ly/MC-Cebay.

Congregational Church News & Notes

Sunday worship services at Marlborough Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, located at 35 S. Main St., are at 10 a.m. Child care for infants and toddlers is provided downstairs in the nursery; however, children are always welcome at the worship service.

All children in the community in preschool to grade eight are welcome and invited to attend Sunday School. All students are also welcome at youth group, one for grades 5 to 7 and another for grades 8 to 12. Contact Gwen Lawson at the church office for more information.

Sunday, Nov. 20 is Colonial Sunday. The service will be led by the Rev. Bob Faulhaber, assisted by pastoral associate Val Seaver. Parishioners will be able to participate in a typical Service of Public Worship as was done in Marlborough and many other New England Congregational churches in colonial times. Colonial

dress is optional, but parishioners should feel free to “dress for the occasion.”

Outreach: The church supports a variety of mission projects. Fourth-quarter mission giving will go to both York Correctional Resettlement Program and the church’s Seminarian Fund. Also, the church collects non-perishable food items year-round for Marlborough Food Bank, with a basket located in the narthex for Sunday worshippers to bring their donations.

AA meets downstairs in the Great Hall Wednesdays with two meetings, noon-1 p.m. and 7:30-8:30 p.m.

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

Celebrate National ‘Take a Hike’ Day

In honor of National ‘Take a Hike’ Day, all are invited to take a guided hike on marked trails at the open space preserve at 310 Old Colchester Rd., just north of the Air Line Trail and south of Northam Road. Discover an old mill site, Raymond Brook, a brook side glacial erratic, and more.

The hike will be Saturday, Nov. 19, at 10 a.m., led by Hebron Trail Rangers.

Park either on the grassy area along the

west side of Old Colchester Road (near yellow “caution-pedestrian” sign) or at the Air Line Trail designated parking. Meet at the chained entrance path on Old Colchester Road. The trail is an easy to moderate two miles round trip, with some muddy spots; hiking shoes are recommended. Allow 1.5 hours for the hike.

Visit hebronpaths.org for a preview of this hike. Heavy rain or high wind cancels.

St. John Fisher Church News & Notes

St. John Fisher Roman Catholic Church is located at 30 Jones Hollow Rd. Pastor is the Rev. Thomas J. Sas, John McKaig is deacon emeritus and the pastoral assistant is Holly Bangham. The church office can be reached at 860-295-0001; hours are Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. People are asked to call before heading over or connect via the phone or email at stjoh-fisher30@yahoo.com.

COVID-19 Protocol: For the fully vaccinated, masks are not required. For the unvaccinated, masks continue to be encouraged. Call the office for more information.

Weekend Masses: 4 p.m. Saturday and 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday. All are welcome. **Week-day Mass:** Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.

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

Family Faith Formation: This is a new program to focus on active faith formation within the family is underway for families of kindergarten through middle school students; registration is required on the church’s Faith Formation website and will close at the end of September.

Confirmation Community: The church’s active 9th- and 10th-grade confirmation program continues. Registration is required as well.

Adult Worship Choir: Meets Wednesdays from 5:30-7 p.m. All are welcome to join. More information can be found on the church website.

Community Outreach and Service: Food drives are held the second full weekend of each month for Marlborough Food Bank; you may also bring non-perishable food or household do-

nations directly to the Marlborough Food Bank Monday and Tuesday mornings. Sandwich-making and collection continues on the last Thursday of the month for St. Vincent de Paul in Middletown. The Community Garden to benefit Marlborough Food Bank continues to supply fresh produce each week and volunteers are always welcome. Other scheduled service opportunities can be found on the church website and are scheduled monthly.

Other Programs and Offerings: For more information on such programs as adult faith formation, youth group, RCIA, Knights of Columbus or other ministries, call the office, visit the church website at www.stjfisher.org, or look for the church on Facebook (Saint John Fisher Roman Catholic Church).

American Legion Children’s Holiday Party

American Legion Post 197 will hold its Children’s Holiday Party and lunch with Santa Sunday, Dec. 4, from noon-2 p.m., at the post, 128 East Hampton Rd.

Children up to 10 years of age are invited to come for face-painting, crafts, pizza, snacks, and a gift from Santa. If interested in attending, call the post at 860-295-7810 with the age and number of children, no later than Nov. 30.

All attendees are asked to bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to Marlborough Food Bank.

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Emmy-Winning Pianist to Play in Marlborough

Internationally-known and four-time Emmy award-winning composer and pianist Charles David Denler will present a Benefit Concert at Marlborough Arts Center, 231 N. Main St., on Friday, Dec. 16.

Doors open at 7 p.m., and the concert begins at 7:30.

Denler is a native of Marlborough whose career has taken him across the country and abroad. He is a prolific composer whose works have been featured with many artists, and featured on TV channels including Disney, National Geographic, History Channel, PBS, Animal Planet, NASA, and others. He has also written

for many feature films and his concert works include three symphonies. Internationally, a recording he made with the Prague Symphony Orchestra was named Best Neoclassic Album of 2022 at the One World Music Awards. Go to marlborougharts.org for a fuller background and the opportunity to hear some of Denler's music before the concert.

Tickets are \$25 each at the door but can also be bought in advance at the Arts Center, which is open on the weekends in November and December from 1-4 p.m.

There is on-site parking and the building is fully accessible.

Parks and Rec Programs

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

Youth Programs: Karate: Saturdays, Nov. 19-Dec. 24, at Champions Karate in Colchester. **Little Champions Karate**, for ages 4-6, is 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.; **Youth Champions Karate**, for ages 7-10, is 12:15-1 p.m., and **Teen/Adult Champions Karate**, for ages 11-99, is 1-1:45 p.m. Fee is \$50 per six-week program.

Watercolor: Wednesdays, 3:30-5 p.m., from Nov. 30-Dec. 21, at Marlborough Elementary School, for grades 3-6. Students will learn watercolor techniques and apply these techniques to complete a watercolor painting. Fee: \$90/residents, \$95/non-residents.

Sixth Grade Dance: Friday, Dec. 16, 6:30-8:30 p.m., at Marlborough Elementary School. Registration fee is \$10.

Netto Indoor Soccer: Indoor soccer for fifth- and sixth-graders. Games will begin week of Jan. 9, and will be played afterschool on Mondays and Wednesdays at MES. Games will conclude at 4:30pm. Fee for this program is \$75 and participants will receive a T-shirt.

Horseback Riding Lessons: For ages 5 and up; English- or Western-style instruction. Lessons are private and are an hour in length. Days and times are flexible. Fee is four lessons for \$175 residents/\$180 non-residents.

Adult Programs: Pickleball: Wednesdays, 9-11 a.m., at Blish Park tennis courts. The program is free.

Adult Volleyball: Thursdays, 8-10 p.m., at MES. Fee is \$5 per week to drop-in.

Family Sew: Fleece PJs: Wednesday, Dec. 14, 5:30 p.m., at Marlborough Senior Center. Fee: \$48/resident, \$53/non-resident. (Must sign each participant who is sewing up individually.)

Barlates: Wednesdays, 5-5:45 p.m., through Nov. 30. This class features concentrated exer-

cises for hips, legs and core. Drop-in fee is \$18 per week. Class instruction is virtual or in person.

Yoga: Mondays through Nov. 28, 6:30-7:30 p.m., or Tuesdays through Nov. 29, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Class is either in person or virtual. Fee is \$60 for the full session (which started week of Nov. 7), or an \$18 drop-in fee.

Yogalates: Thursdays through Dec. 1, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Yogalates combines yoga with Pilates. All levels welcome; bring a mat. There is an \$18 drop-in fee.

Pilates/Barre: Wednesdays through Nov. 30, 6-6:45 p.m. All levels welcome. There is a \$15 drop-in fee. Class instruction is virtual.

Zumba Class Fall Session: Tuesdays through Nov. 29, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at MES. Drop-in fee is \$10/week. Register on the Parks and Rec. website.

Trips: New York Giants vs. Washington Commanders: Sunday, Dec. 4, 1 p.m., at Met Life Stadium. Trip includes charter bus, tickets to the game, breakfast before the game and cookout after the game. Registration fee is \$255 for upper-level end zone seats. Bus leaves from Glastonbury Park and Ride.

New York City for The Holidays: Saturday, Dec. 10. Explore New York on your own, or take in a Broadway show. Bus will drop at Central Park, Times Square, Rockefeller Center, Bryant Park and Grand Central. Pick-up point is New York Public Library. Broadway show tickets available to *Come From Away* or *A Christmas Carol*. Showtime is 2 p.m. Registration fee is \$70 if no show or \$180 with the show. Bus leaves from Glastonbury Park and Ride.

Driveway Reflective Number Signs: Cost of the sign is \$35. Vertical sign is double-sided 8" x 24" with 4" numbers on blue highway reflective metal. Order forms are online and at Town Hall.

Seniors/Veterans Thanksgiving Dinner

American Legion Post 197 will offer a full-service, sit-down Thanksgiving Dinner for seniors and veterans Sunday, Nov. 20, from 1-3 p.m., at the post, located at 128 East Hampton Rd. (Route 66) in Marlborough.

All veterans and seniors are welcome. RSVP is required by Thursday, Nov. 17, by calling 860-295-7810.

Artisan and Crafts Sale

Marlborough Arts Center will hold an Artisan and Crafts Sale through Dec. 18 at the center, located at 231 N. Main St.

Featured will be local creations, all under \$100, made by artists in the surrounding communities. These will include handmade gifts such as pottery, paintings, sculptures and other forms of art.

The Arts Center will be open every Friday, Saturday and Sunday, from 1-4 p.m.



The so-called Three Fellas Plaza – named after the pizza place the plaza houses – is undergoing a substantial expansion project

Plaza Expansion Project Progressing

By Jack Lakowsky

Commuters doubtless noticed a sizable construction project on Route 66, near Three Fellas Pizza, whose owners are developing the site, to expand their operations in the so-called Three Fellas Plaza.

Acting Town Manager Amy Traversa shed some light on the incoming business, its benefit to the tax base over the summer.

A redone gas station/convenience store and an additional restaurant/retail space are planned for the site. According to the rendering the existing pizza restaurant will join the larger building.

Selectman Greg Lowrey said the site will possibly include an electric vehicle charging station, making the project a modern addition to Marlborough's busiest intersection. The town's commercial area has grown in the last few years, with Big Y built in early 2019.

Marlborough's commercial tax revenue, Traversa said, is still only about 2% of the town's taxes. More development eases the burden on homeowners, she said.

When complete, the store will triple the site's taxes. Right now, she said, the site produces a little more than \$20,000. The new digs will raise that to more than \$60,000 per year.

"I wanted to make sure everyone understood the benefits of developing a stagnant site," said Traversa.

The mural of the old Town Green that was on the site, Traversa said, will be preserved and given to the local historical society.

"This is their retirement plan," Traversa said of the owners, adding the developers are young and planning to stick around for a while.

"They'll be eating their own cooking, so to speak," she said.

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.

Monday, Nov. 21: Transportation, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Quilting, etc., 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Assistance, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: stuffed shells, vodka sauce, seasoned spinach, garlic knots, fresh fruit; Conservation Commission, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 22: Transportation, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Quilting, 9 a.m.-noon; Meals-on-Wheels, noon.

Wednesday, Nov. 23: Grocery Shopping, 8:30 a.m.-noon; Not Just Quilting, 9 a.m.-noon; Assistance, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 8-Ball Pool, 10 a.m.-noon; Meals-on-Wheels, noon; Congregate Meal, noon. Menu: Salmon cakes with tartar sauce, rosemary garlic potato wedges, maple brown acorn squash, rye bread, fresh fruit; cards, 1-3 p.m.; Sophisticated Ladies Tap Dancing, 5-6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 24 and Friday, Nov. 25: Senior center closed for Thanksgiving holiday.

Congregate Meals: All meals are served with milk, bread and margarine. Suggested donation: \$3 or what you can afford.

Transportation: Available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Transportation available to the senior center, shopping, and medical and non-medical appointments. A 36-hour advance registration is required. Masks are also required, as well as appropriate distancing.

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

Weather-Related Closings/Late Openings: In instances of inclement weather, tune to WFSB-TV 3 or NBC Connecticut for the latest.

4th Friday @ the Arts Café

Marlborough Arts Center, located at 231 N. Main St., will host "Ramblin' Dan" Stevens for its 4th Friday @ the Arts Café on Friday, Nov. 18.

Stevens performs a mix of traditional fingerstyle blues, popular songs and originals.

Admission is \$10/person at the door. Doors open at 7 p.m. The show starts at 7:30 p.m. in the Charles W. Hall Art Gallery. BYOWine. There is on-site parking and the Arts Center is fully accessible.

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Town Budget Finally Passes at Referendum

By Michael Sinkewicz

Colchester residents finally approved a town budget for the 2022-23 fiscal year at a fourth referendum on Tuesday, ending an exhausting and at times controversial budget season.

The municipal spending proposal of \$15.62 million passed by an overwhelming 1,092-528 vote. The spending package was a \$13,624 reduction from the proposal that was shot down in September, and just over \$80,000 less from the 2021-22 budget.

Following the result, the Board of Finance met Tuesday night and set the mill rate at 26.82.

While the education board's budget was approved by voters at the first referendum in May, municipal spending has been rejected three times before being passed this week.

The town now has a budget for a fiscal year that began over four months ago, much to the relief of First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos.

"I'm happy we have budget," he said during a phone call Wednesday morning.

After a few frustrating results, Bisbikos credited this week's breakthrough to the cooperation between the finance board and the Board of Selectmen, who he said put up a "unified front" ahead of the vote.

Unlike past proposals, he said, there was little controversy or drama surrounding this referendum, which he attributed to a productive joint-meeting between the boards where every member had the opportunity to "air out their concerns and come together."

Bisbikos believes this proposal was advertised better throughout town, and that the meetings, which featured the new hybrid-room technology, were more accessible for the community.

"People watched the process and understood the concerns," he said. "That was very important. They saw how we were going to address [the concerns] as a community."

Ultimately, the approved budget is not that different from the one that was recently rejected. And while more people did attend the meetings – the joint-board meeting set a record for attendance this year – more people did not vote this time around.

According to the Town Clerk's office, turnout was 14% -- the exact same as the last referendum and only marginally down from 15% and 16% at the first two attempts.

With the budget finally approved, the tax bills that have been delayed all this time are expected to be sent out at the end of the month, Bisbikos said.

Despite the approval, Bisbikos confirmed that the town will remain in a budget freeze in the immediate future, which began back in Aug. He expressed that conversations with the town's finance director, Debbie Kratochvil, will take place in the weeks ahead, and likely determine when the freeze could be lifted.

Bisbikos asserted that moving forward, every department needs to be watched carefully and that "certain items need to be reviewed."

After a hectic and challenging budget season, his first as first selectman, Bisbikos shared his main takeaways from the process, calling it a "learning experience."

The main lesson, he said, was that "trying to get that united front is very important."

Bisbikos has clashed with his fellow selectmen during the past several months, even conveying a lack of trust in them at certain moments. That "drama," along with concerns over inflation, made for a difficult budget season.

The bottom-line budget number was debated throughout the process, ultimately getting trimmed by hundreds of thousands of dollars from the initial proposal Bisbikos presented in April.

That latest referendum offered insight, for the first time this year, into how voters actually felt about the budget total.

After being unanimously approved by the finance board, an additional question asked voters if the budget amount is "too high" or "too low."

The results showed that 694 people believed the budget was "too high," while 640 felt it was "too low." Interestingly, 272 people were recorded as "no vote."

"I don't know," Bisbikos said when asked what the results indicated.

He speculated that the minimal gap between the numbers may represent that the approved budget meant the town was "pretty close in getting the right number."

"I think we were in the right ballpark," he added.

He expressed that having over 200 people not vote on the question likely meant people didn't know what to make of the bottom-line amount.

He also stated that since this latest proposal was only slightly different than the last one, that "people might have been tired of all the drama."

Bisbikos said that seeing such a large swing in votes this time after only a \$13,000 change confirmed that people finally listened to the information and were properly educated this time.

He's "encouraging more citizens to attend meetings" and that will likely make for a more condensed budget season.

Already, the focus is shifting to next year's proposal. Bisbikos offered a few insights into what may end up in his plan, including the so-called "transparency software" that was cut.

In addition, he will not be filling the director of operations position and instead will be asking for a "building maintenance" position, which he said will cost significantly less.

After speaking to the fire chief, Bisbikos expressed that he'd like to add two new firefighters to the roster, which he'd like to do without adding to the budget. To do this, Bisbikos indicated that cutting overtime hours for current positions could help.

Overall, the first selectman said he believes the approved budget didn't reduce services or result in any layoffs.

Veterans Day Celebrated

The successful budget passage wasn't the only thing Colchester celebrated recently. The town marked Veterans Day last Friday, Nov. 11, with a ceremony on the Town Green that featured speeches from both veterans and town leaders.

The event was hosted by the American Legion Post 54 and VFW Post 6990.

"Today we come together to honor and recognize American service members both past and present," U.S. Army Col. Stephan Nowakowski said at the beginning of his remarks.

He gave a brief history on how Veterans Day was established and what it has evolved into today.

"Veterans Day is a celebration to honor all of America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country and willingness to serve and sacrifice

for the common good," he said.

Nowakowski provided a vivid image on what veterans and those who serve in the military represent for the country. For him, the people who serve are the major component to what makes the U.S. special.

"It's not the powerful weapons that make our military the greatest in the world; it's not the sophisticated aircraft, missiles, rockets, satellites or cyber systems that make us the most advanced," Nowakowski said. "The true strength of our military is the spirit and skill of our men and women who have worn and who will now wear the uniform of our nation's military."

In conclusion, Nowakowski offered his gratitude to everyone who serves and the sacrifices they made.

"It is our privilege to say, 'thank you' to all of America's veterans for quiet courage [and] exemplary service," he said, "and to let you know we are grateful and acknowledge the many sacrifices and your accomplishments."

Gabriella Salafia, a member of the Girl Scouts, spoke briefly and firmly about veterans.

"We owe our freedoms and our very lives to our veterans who served in uniform," she said. "We are grateful for the many things they've done."

Bisbikos also gave a speech and recognized the impact veterans have had on the country.

"We are eternally grateful for their selfless defense of the freedoms and values that we hold very dear," he said.

He said it's crucial for Americans to understand that veterans are responsible for many of the freedoms they enjoy.

"We recognize that without their service and sacrifice, we wouldn't be able to live the life of our chosen and make our dreams come true," Bisbikos said. "We can honor their courage by being good human beings, loving our community and helping the world around us."

The ceremony included performances by the St. Andrew Church choir, who traditionally attend town events. They sang the national anthem and "God Bless America."

Taps was played at the conclusion of the ceremony.

Bisbikos told the *Rivereast* that the event was "very important" for the town. He stressed that it was essential to stay "mindful" of everything veterans have done.

He conveyed that, ideally, veterans' "invaluable commitment" should be "honored every day."

Scouting Adventure Day

All children age 5 and older are invited to be a part of "Colchester Scouting Adventure Day." Colchester Boy Scout Troops and Cub Scout Packs are hosting outdoor adventure skills day Saturday, Nov. 19, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Zagray Farm on Route 85 in Colchester.

All Scouting-aged boys and girls and siblings are invited to this free event.

Kids will be able to throw tomahawks, do archery with a certified instructor, learn skills, see camp cooking demonstrations, enjoy field games and see other demonstrations. You will learn what it takes to be a competent in out-

door skills while having a lot of fun. There will be a Monkey Bridge for visitors to cross. There will also be a station where the kids can build their own air rockets and launch them from homemade rocket launchers. A Gaga Ball ring will be set up for visitors and Scouts. There will also be the ability to see antique construction equipment up close.

Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts will demonstrate several skills and games throughout the day. This will be a hands-on event for all participants.

For more details, contact Troop Chairman at letendrej@sbcglobal.net.

Military Honor Squads for Veterans

Members are sought to join the area's volunteer service organizations (VSOs), which render military honors for our departed veterans.

Military honor squads have been a tradition in the United States military since its earliest days. In most instances, a serviceperson's fellow soldiers will accompany the casket that is draped with the national flag; they will then fire a rifle salute, play Taps, and fold and present the United States flag to the family.

In Connecticut, VSOs step in for military honor squads. Honor guard services are coordinated through the funeral provider and the Connecticut Army National Guard Military Honors

Unit. A family need only provide proof of honorable service to the funeral home, in order for their deceased veteran to get the honor squad services they have already earned. The National Guard will contact one of the VSOs to provide the rifle salute and play Taps. Military honors are rendered at no cost to the family.

To join in this mission, veterans in New London County can contact Alphonse Letendre, deputy commander of the Colchester Volunteer Honor Guard, at 860-537-6516 or letendrej@sbcglobal.net, for more information and for referral to one of the two area VSOs.

Collection for Operation Christmas Child

Christian Life Chapel (CLC) is collecting shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child this year.

National Collection Week was this week, and ends Monday, Nov. 21. If you live around the Colchester area, CLC is a drop-off location; find its drop-off times and hours at www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/drop-off-locations.

'Stop the Bleed' Taught in Town

At a staff development day on Tuesday, Nov. 8, Colchester Police, Trinity Health (St. Francis Trauma Department) and Colchester Hayward Fire Department teamed up to provide "Stop the Bleed" training to school educators and para-professionals in Colchester.

The training started with a lecture from Dr. Ron Gross which was virtually shown at all the schools in Colchester. At the conclusion of the lecture school educators went through practical evolutions with our emergency responders, who were at all the schools to assist with direction.

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Resident Still Shaken After Bullet Cut Through Home

By Michael Sinkewicz

On the last day of May, a Colchester resident alerted the police that a bullet had gone through their home, nearly striking his wife. The report sparked a lengthy police investigation and, more than five months later, still has the resident rattled.

On Oct. 4, a suspect was arrested by Connecticut State Police on numerous charges following the execution of an arrest warrant.

Albert Czachor was charged with three felony counts of risk of injury to a child, five misdemeanor counts of first-degree reckless endangerment, the illegal discharge of a firearm, disorderly conduct and second-degree criminal mischief.

Czachor was released from custody on a \$250,000 bond and is scheduled to appear in Norwich Superior Court on Nov. 21. No plea has been entered as of press time, according to case details released by the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch.

The incident occurred at about 11 p.m. on May 31 at a residency on Carriage Drive, according to the alleged victim, who wished to remain anonymous for privacy reasons.

With his wife and children also asleep in the home, the resident awoke to the sound of breaking glass, but had no reason to suspect that a bullet was responsible.

He then noticed that his wife had "shrapnel" in her hair and dust in her eyes. After examining the bedroom and seeing holes, he assessed that something had come through the side wall, grazed the bed headboard and then went through

the window.

He said the projectile missed his wife's head by "about three feet."

The initial reaction was to check on his kids and do a sweep of the house, before dialing the police.

"The immediate concern was making sure somebody wasn't in the house," he explained, emphasizing that in the moment, "it didn't make sense for this to be an accident."

In the aftermath, coping with the event has been challenging.

"I still don't feel the same way about being in my house," he said, sharing that he previously moved away from a more urban area in place of a subdued location. "It changed the way I feel."

While there have not been any further incidents at the home since May, he asserted that "he'll never let my guard down" and that it's important to draw attention to unsettling events in a small town.

"This is a big deal and I want the community to know," he said. "This wasn't a typical thing."

He expressed that most people in the neighborhood were aware of what happened, and that there's been some communication between them.

Czachor isn't a direct neighbor to the victim, he said, but they share a property line.

In a statement posted to Facebook on Oct. 6, First Selectman Andreas Bisbikos shared limited details regarding the incident.

"I would like to recognize Sgt. Darrell Tetreault, our resident state trooper, and the Col-

chester Police Department for their excellent work on a very important case," he wrote.

"After a lengthy investigation, a suspect was identified. Evidence was gathered and processed at the state forensic lab. An arrest warrant was applied for and signed by a judge at Norwich Superior Courthouse. On Oct. 4, a suspect was arrested with multiple charges. We will continue to follow the outcome."

Bisbikos concluded his statement by stating that the community "should be proud of the dedication and commitment of our police department."

Tetreault declined to comment for this story, as there is still an open investigation.

During a phone call this week, Bisbikos told

the Rivereast that the case was "sensitive."

While he expressed that he could only echo his previous statement, Bisbikos added that he has a "tremendous amount of respect for the police officers" and applauded their efforts with "gathering evidence."

As he reflected on the event and the impact on his family, the victim shared that his wife was moving past that night.

"She won't let it dictate how she feels," he said. "But what if that bullet was three feet lower?"

He stated that whoever did ultimately fire the weapon "almost killed my wife."

He also applauded the "good work" conducted by the police, who he said have been "forthcoming."

Colchester Federated Church News

Colchester Federated Church is an Open and Affirming church located at 60 Main St. Pastor is the Rev. Lauren Lorincz Ostrout. The church office is open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. The office can be reached at 860-537-5189 or cfc06415@gmail.com.

Worship services are Sundays at 9 a.m.; masks are optional. For those wishing to worship from home, the service will be broadcast via Facebook Live each Sunday at 9 a.m. Worship videos are at www.colchesterfederated-church.org under the Worship & Sermons tab. Updated information is also on the church's Facebook page.

Sunday School: Sunday School is held during worship from September through June. Children in grades pre-K through 8 are welcome. The nursery is located just off the sanctuary. Visit the church website to register youth for Sunday School.

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

Boy Scout Troop 72: Meetings are held in the Stage Room every Monday at 7 p.m.

Upcoming Senior Center Trips

The Colchester Senior Center is planning the following trips. Reservations should be made in person at the senior center, 95 Norwich Ave. Trips are available to senior center members and adult guests over the age of 18, and are on a first-come, first-served basis; space is limited. Call the senior center at 860-537-3911 for more information.

A Christmas for Carol at Newport Playhouse: Tuesday, Dec. 6, departing at 9:30 a.m. There will be a buffet lunch before the show and a cabaret show afterward. Proof of vaccina-

tion required. Cost is \$132/person and is non-refundable.

Spain & Portugal: Costa Del Sol to the Portuguese Riviera: Oct. 14-25, 2023. Taste some of the delicacies of this southern Spanish region. Includes 10 breakfasts, two lunches and four dinners. Cost is \$5,029 per person for double, if booked before March 15, 2023. You can come into the senior center to register in person or register online at gateway.gocollette.com/link/1102385.

Senior Center News & Notes

Colchester Senior Center, 95 Norwich Ave., has announced the following. For full descriptions, call 860-537-3911, email csc@colchesterct.gov, or visit www.colchesterct.gov/senior-center.

Monday, Nov. 21: 9 a.m., Making Memories, Exercise with Anne; 10 a.m., Sittercize, Pet Therapy; 11 a.m., Learn to Sign, Outhouse Americana; 12:30 p.m., Mahjong; 12:45 p.m., Setback; 1 p.m., Bridge.

Tuesday, Nov. 22: 9 a.m., Making Memories; 9:45 a.m., Tai Chi; 11 a.m., Senior Serenaders Perform Showtunes; 12:30 p.m., Pinochle; 1:30 p.m., Bingo; 7 p.m., Senior Center Building Committee meeting (via Zoom).

Wednesday, Nov. 23: 9 a.m., Making Memories Program, Walking Group meet-up at the Air Line Trail in Amston; 10 a.m., Adult Coloring, Sit & Be Fit; 1:30 p.m., Line Dancing; 1:30 p.m., Make Take Give Holiday Craft.

Thursday, Nov. 24 and Friday, Nov. 25: Senior center closed for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Upcoming Programs: Make, Take & Give Holiday Crafting Series: Wednesdays, Nov. 23, 30 and Dec. 7, 1:30 p.m. Spend the afternoon cre-

ating holiday/winter decorations and ornaments. Each week has a different theme. You will be provided with material to create one for yourself, one to give to someone you know and some that will be donated to patients at a local nursing home. Cost is \$5 per session. Preregistration is required. Themes: Gnomes, Nov. 23; Snowmen, Nov. 30; Santa, Dec. 7. Preregistration is required.

AARP Smart Driver Tek: Wednesday, Nov. 30, 9:45-11:30 a.m. In this free 90-minute workshop, drivers will learn how to utilize the latest high-tech safety features in their current or future car. Open to all who are 50 years and older. Space is limited. Pre-register by calling the senior center.

AARP Driver Safety Course: Wednesday, Nov. 30, noon-4 p.m. Learn the rules of the road, defensive driving techniques and how to operate your vehicle more safely – and also learn how to manage age-related changes in vision, hearing and reaction time. Attendees may qualify for a discount from their insurance provider. Open to anyone 50 and over. Cost is \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for nonmembers. Register by Nov. 23.



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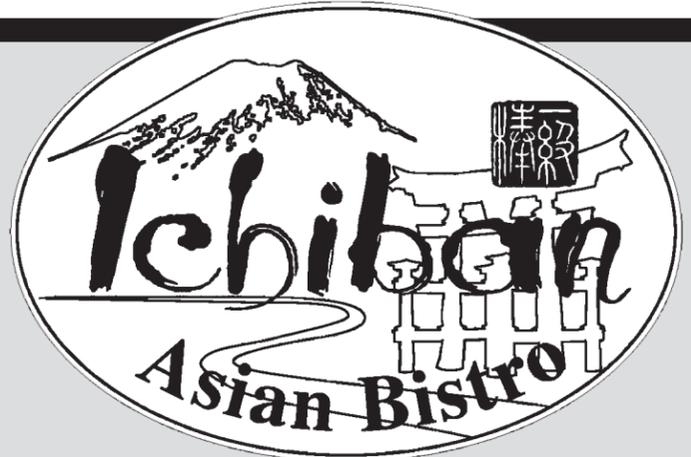
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Bobcats Eliminated in Tourney, Seniors Leave Legacy

By Josh Howard

Playing on a dreary, damp afternoon Bacon Academy High School, the Bobcats boys' soccer season came to an end after the team fell to visiting Cromwell 3-0 in the quarterfinals of the Class M tournament on Nov. 11.

Cromwell senior captain Jacob Salafia scored a goal less than three minutes into the game to give the Panthers a lead they would not relinquish.

Salafia scored again midway through the first half and Jack Wood added an insurance goal in the 67th minute.

"We knew how they played and we were prepared, but we didn't execute. They executed their plan a little better than we did," Bacon Academy head coach Skip Starks said following the defeat. "No excuses; they made a couple of opportunities go in and we did not."

Stark's Bobcats had several scoring opportunities in the first half and more chances in the second half, but all the shot attempts were either off the mark or saved by Cromwell's standout goalie Thomas Garcia.

Following Salafia's first goal, Bacon had the next seven shot attempts with senior cap-

tains Nico Matteucci and Keegan Appleby each shooting twice on goal.

Bacon also had five of the first six shots in the second half with senior Steven Laliberte firing two shots that were both saved by Garcia. Laliberte also had a shot hit off the post with 3:20 left in regulation.

The elimination game ended the high school careers for eight influential seniors, who Starks said have left a legacy that will go beyond this season.

"This senior class has turned the program around," stated Starks. "Their ability to bring the younger guys along has been unsurpassed by any senior class ever. We are now poised for next year and the year after. We'll be standing on their shoulders for a bit."

When the seniors were freshmen in 2019, the program was in the middle of a coaching transition and won four games, missing the state tournament. As sophomores, the team won three games during a COVID-19-shortened season.

Starks said the Class of 2023 resiliently pushed through the rough start and began to hit their stride as juniors.

Over the last two seasons, the team won 26

games, including three in the state tournament.

This fall the team won 14 games, most notably knocking off Stonington in the second round of the state tourney on Nov. 9. Stonington was the two-time defending Class M state champion and had previously eliminated the Bobcats from the state tourney a year ago and the Eastern Connecticut Conference tournament this fall.

Bacon got revenge in the semifinal triumph in November, getting a goal from Colby Butterfield and a game-winning goal from Tyler Pulse to end Stonington's two-year reign.

Starks said that the team's morale was "at an all-time high" following the victory over Stonington, adding, "The boys have been clicking quite well and not just with soccer. We have great leadership on this team."

The team's motto this fall was 'SideB4Self' and Starks said the entire team bought into the slogan, adding, "We support each other through thick and thin."

On the field the Bobcats were dynamic too with six of the eight seniors making All-ECC.

Matteucci, Appleby, Laliberte, Ian Sargent, Dante Ricci, and goalie Evan St. Louis earned all-conference, while Starks was named the ECC Division II Coach of the Year.

Starks noted that his award was a reflection of the players, crediting them for the success this fall.

"I told them there is no reason for them to hang their heads," Starks said of his message to the team after the disappointing loss. "I am



Senior captain Dante Ricci controls the ball during the Bacon Bobcats' quarterfinal loss to Cromwell at Bacon Academy on Nov. 11.

proud of them. I know they are upset about today, but we'll get together again another time and celebrate what we did do."

Youth Poetry Contest 2021 Winners

The Colchester Garden Club has announced there were four local participants in the National Garden Clubs' 2021 Youth Poetry Contest:

Grade 1 – Ruby Manville (teacher is Jennifer Bricher).

Grade 2 – Brendan King (teacher is Stephanie DeGaetano); state level – first place.

Grade 3 – Arianna Linger-Meyer (home-schooled, teacher is Arline Linger); state level – first place; New England regional level – first place; national level – honorable mention.

Grade 4 – Taylor Hardy (teacher is Amy Romanchuck); state level – first place; New England regional level – first place; national level – honorable mention.

Each child received a Certificate of Participation from the Colchester Garden Club as well as a bird house gourd from Savitsky Farm with instructions so each child can create a bird house for their home property in support of the 2021 theme of "Sing with the Song Birds – Exploring the Glory of Nature." The children who achieved recognition at the state, regional and

national levels received Certificates from the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, New England Garden Club, Inc and the National Garden Clubs, Inc. This year the NGC Poetry Contest Anthology is available electronically instead of being printed and shipped to contest sponsoring garden clubs throughout the United States and the poems of the two Colchester students with national level honorable mentions may be viewed at www.gardenclub.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/youth-poetry-booklet.pdf

The 2022 National Garden Clubs, Inc Youth Poetry Contest is now open, with a theme of "Seeds, Trees and Bees...Oh My!" Celebrating the Diversity of Nature" and is a way for youngsters to express themselves creatively through poetry. The contest is open to students in grades K-9, as well as home-schooled students. The flyer and entry form may also be picked up at Cragin Memorial Library, or by emailing Colchester Garden Club at colchestergardenclub@yahoo.com.

CDL Training Tuition Raffle

Colchester Federated Church is raffling off a chance to win free tuition to Affordable CDL Program Training School, worth \$4,355.

Only 100 tickets will be sold, with the drawing taking place on Nov. 27.

Tickets are \$50 each and can be purchased at the Affordable CDL Training School office, 532 New London Rd. (phone number is 860-537-8235), or the Colchester Federated

Church office, 60 Main St. (phone number is 860-537-5189).

Enrollment is subject to Affordable CDL Training School requirements, and the program must be started within one year after the raffle drawing.

Raffle proceeds benefit Colchester Federated Church.

Pierogi Sale

St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church in Colchester will make pierogies Saturday, Dec. 3. Cost is \$12 per dozen.

Preorders will be accepted until Nov. 23. Call 860-365-0281 to place your order.

Youth Basketball Registration

Registration for Colchester Youth Basketball's recreation program (grades one through high school) remains open at www.colchester-basketball.org.

Organizers are particularly looking for girls for grades 6/7/8 division so that CYB can have enough players for in-town play, and high school to field a team in a multi-town league with neighboring towns.

Youth Soccer Winter Registration

Online registration for the Colchester Youth Soccer 2023 winter recreation division is now open. Register by Nov. 30. This program is available to players in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade.

The winter season will start Jan. 7 and go for eight weeks. Visit www.colchestersoccer.org to register.





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Unfortunately, due to the high demand for live trees during COVID there is a limited supply of wholesale trees available. This year's drought has also affected the quality of the supply.

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Shelter Collection Drive

Presents for Paws will host its 15th annual Shelter Collection Drive on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 7 a.m.-2 p.m., at John Gagnon's Pet Resort, 227 Upton Rd.

The following items are requested based on shelter needs/requests: cat litter (high priority); dog food (Purina preferred, wet/dry – unopened, please no Ol' Roy or Beneful); cat food (wet/dry, any brand – unopened); kitten food/kitten formula (high priority); cat/dog treats (no rawhide); new/gently-used dog toys (especially kongs and chew toys).

People who cannot attend can purchase items online from the wish list and it will be delivered to Presents for Paws' door. The wish list

is at linktr.ee/presentsforpaws501c or fb.me/e/2itULSu1k. Monetary donations are also appreciated; they are tax deductible and 100% of your donations go to help shelter animals.

Presents for Paws is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in East Haddam that collects and distributes supplies to area shelters, rescues, and municipal pounds.

For more information on the shelter drive, to make a monetary donation, or to become a volunteer, visit <https://www.facebook.com/presentsforpaws501c> or www.presentsforpaws.org.

Holiday Homecoming Concert

Colchester's Holiday Homecoming Concert, featuring holiday songs performed by the Colchester Choir and Orchestra, will take place Saturday, Dec. 3, at 6:30 p.m., at Bacon Academy auditorium, 611 Norwich Ave.

The concert marks the end to the day's Holiday Homecoming celebration, sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department, which starts on the Town Green earlier that day with a visit from Santa.

The concert is free, but donations are welcome. For concert updates, and information about joining the choir or orchestra, visit www.colchesterchoirorchestra.org or follow CCO on Facebook.

Pet Photo Shoot Fundraiser

The Colchester Dog Park Committee will hold a fundraising pet photo shoot (children are welcome too) at the Colchester Fish & Game Club Saturday, Dec. 3, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The club is handicapped-accessible.

Cost is \$25 for five digital images, which will be emailed by Dec. 5. The committee will also sell 5x7 and 8x10 photo prints, Christmas cards, and ornaments. There is a new backdrop this year. All orders will be available for pickup at the Parks & Recreation office at

Town Hall, 128 Norwich Ave., by Dec. 12. Cash, check, Venmo and PayPal accepted. All proceeds will support the Colchester Dog Park. Sponsored by the Colchester Parks and Recreation Department. For more information, email tagnobark@gmail.com.

Appointments are recommended and can be made by calling Janice 860-537-1944 and walk-ins will be accepted if time is available.

Dogs must be vaccinated. No retractable leashes allowed.

Girl Scouts Coat Drive

The Girl Scouts will hold their annual coat drive Sunday, Dec. 4, from 1-3 p.m., at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave.

Coat donations will benefit various agencies in the area with some going directly those in need in the community. New or gently-used coats are welcome.

For more information, call Jennifer at 860-214-6619.

Christian Life Chapel News

Christian Life Chapel, located at 392 S. Main St., holds worship in person at 10 a.m. Sundays. Follow the church on Facebook for the livestream.

For more information, call Pastor Don Rivers – the church's bi-vocational pastor, who also serves as president for "Racing with Jesus, Inc." – at 860-398-9119 or visit christianlifechapel.org.

FD Not Selling Christmas Trees

The Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Department (CHVFD) is not selling Christmas trees this year.

Due to the high demand for live trees during COVID-19, there is a limited supply of wholesale trees available, CHFD said. This year's drought has also affected the quality of the supply, the department said.

CHVFD said it hopes to be back next year.



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Resident Publishes First Children's Book

By Kate Corliss

Elaine Alexander of East Hampton has always had a passion for creative writing. Now, she's a published author.

Alexander, who works as the assistant director and children's librarian at Deep River Public Library, published her first children's book *Anglerfish: The Seadevil of the Deep* in April.

The book, which is geared toward kids from four to eight years old and contains pictures by illustrator Fiona Fogg, combines STEM education with a plotline engaging readers on the life of an anglerfish.

"The front part of the book reads like a story," Alexander said. "It follows the anglerfish through her life cycle and then the back part of the book has backmatter that goes a little more in depth about how she hunts, how she mates and where she lives and special adaptations that she has."

Alexander said it has been exciting to have the opportunity to educate children on marine life and how different animals can have vastly different traits.

"A lot of kids, when they see the cover of the book, they think that the little fish on the cover, not the big one with the teeth but the little teeny one that's in the mouth, they think that is the baby," Alexander said. "No, that's the male. It's been kind of interesting to see their responses

about that kind of stuff because it is just one of those things. It's a particular species that the male is significantly smaller than the female."

As a librarian, Alexander said she had the unique perspective of being able to "[follow] the market and the trends" when writing the book.

"I'm always looking at peer-reviewed articles and anything that we have, tools in the librarian's tool chest, to know what books are out there and are popular because you want to know hopefully before they come out so you can be buying them in advance," Alexander said. "So that helps a lot."

While reading children's books and writing *Anglerfish*, Alexander found that the natural world served as a major source of inspiration for her work. She currently has two more books about animals under contract with a publisher, which she is looking forward to completing.

"I really have a true appreciation for just how much of nature is about survival, particularly of the next generation, that it's all about babies and making sure the next survive," Alexander said.

Before pursuing her master's degree in library science, Alexander took creative writing classes as an undergraduate student at Eastern Connecticut State University. While taking an independent study course, she wrote a young

adult novel and interned at Curbstone Press in Willimantic. She said this experience gave her another valuable perspective while writing *Anglerfish*.

"It was nice to be on the other side, see what it was like to be reading manuscripts," Alexander said.

In addition to writing new material, Alexander has visited numerous libraries and elementary schools to teach *Anglerfish*. She said she likes to incorporate "music and movement" into these events, inviting kids to participate in hands-on activities and craft projects after a read-aloud of the book. For younger readers, she includes props like a "funny hat" to engage the crowd.

At presentations for older kids, Alexander

has found that they take interest in the logistics of publishing a book.

"They had so many great questions about the writing process, how it happens, how the illustrations get made, and of course, about the fish," Alexander said.

Schools and libraries can book storytime events with Alexander through her website, www.elainemalexander.com.

Alexander doesn't have any current book-signings scheduled, but *Anglerfish* publisher Candlewick has sold the digital rights to the book to Dreamscape Media, which she said has produced an audiobook and an iconographic video (available in hard copy or on platforms such as Audible and Hoopla).

Bethlehem Lutheran Church News

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church holds live in-person services Sundays at 10:45 a.m. All are welcome. Enter via the front door and ushers will assist you. The church is located at 1 East High St.

There is also a livestream link at the church's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/BethlehemEH.

Turkey Shoot

Belltown Sportsman's Club will hold a Turkey Shoot Sunday, Nov. 20, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., on the club grounds off of Tartia Road, which is off of Route 16. (Follow the signs.)

Bring your own shotgun or one will be provided. Gauge is 20 and 12. The club will supply the shells. Cost is \$4 a shot.

Refreshments will be available. For more information, call Kurly at 860-638-7221.

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East Hampton • East Hampton

Town Looks to Build New Fire Station

By Jack Lakowsky

Last week, the Town Council dipped its toes in the deep waters of finding a spot for and building a new, better fire station, which could replace one or two of the town's existing stations.

Local stations Nos. 1 and 2 have aged past their prime, said Town Manager Dave Cox. A 2014 study found multiple issues at the stations.

That same study identified the stations as priorities after completing a new town hall and police facility, which the town did in 2020.

With this work done, the fire department and its related town commission decided to move the work forward, and Republican council chair Mark Philhower – who was absent at last week's meeting – brought the suggestion to the full council.

Specifically, the council is looking to form a committee that will first explore locations and feasibility. Beyond that not much has been fleshed out.

At last week's meeting, Town Council Democrat Pete Brown took issue with what he called an "off-the-cuff" proposal brought when "the chair decided we needed it." Brown said a formal process of the department and/or the fire commission coming to the full council with a presentation of

their needs would've been more appropriate.

"There's a process with the bodies we have in place," said Brown, the former council chair.

Cox pointed out the information in the reports is a few years old now. The council did eventually agree it wants a formal request to get the process officially started.

"The buildings are becoming dated," Cox said this week. Cox said the buildings are getting too small to house large modern firetrucks, and lack modern, adequate amenities and handicapped-accessibility.

"Fire Station 2 has some interesting structural issues," said Cox. The station was sinking for some time. It was supposed to have been stabilized but "it might still be sinking."

Cox hinted the potential new station would better serve a possible change in the future; the town bringing on its own, fully funded fire department.

"Really the conversation in general about fire stations is, is there an ability to accommodate training and housing, meeting the needs of a fire department in the future?" said Cox. "Those are the kinds of things that'll be dealt with."

Cox estimated the project taking around five

years, especially if the town must buy new property.

"As we start to move forward, we'll get town input," said Cox. "The town will have to decide whether to buy land or how to proceed, these are just the first steps we're taking."

As to the buildings' futures, Cox didn't know.

Cox said if there's any resistance, he expects it to be over the Barton Hill station, near downtown. He said he wasn't sure the exact year it was built, just that it's quite old. Neither station is officially designated historic, said Cox.

Cox mentioned a few projects the town might have to take on in the coming years.

"Another thing the community might want to consider is the library. How is that facility is

working for us, whether we need to make some changes," said Cox.

There are also some needs with public works, said the town manager. Not pressing issues, he said, but work to keep at the back of the town's mind.

Crafters Sought for Fair

VFW Post 5095 will hold a Christmas Craft Fair Saturday, Dec. 3, from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. – and crafters are wanted.

The fair will take place at the post, located at 20 N. Maple St. If interested in participating, email amandascherpvm5095@gmail.com with details about your handmade items.

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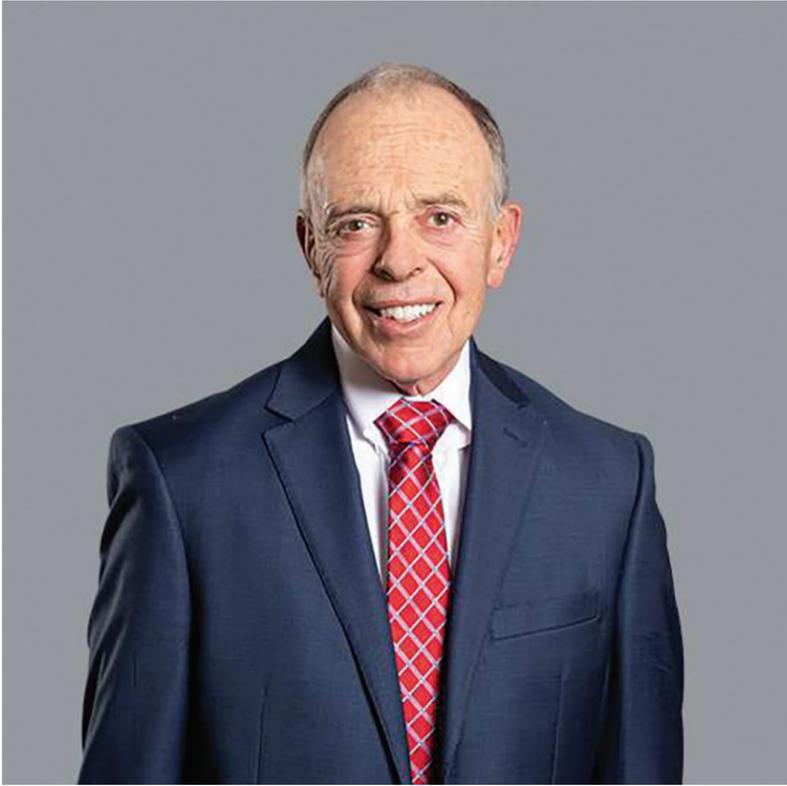
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RE11-4-22

East Hampton • East Hampton

Town Eyes EPA Money to Clean Up Brownfields

By Jack Lakowsky

Last week, the East Hampton Town Council gave town staff and the local brownfield redevelopment agency the go-ahead to apply for a \$500,000 federal grant to help fund further analysis and cleanup of inert properties.

The application focuses on the former Summit Thread locations at 13 Summit Street and 1 and 13 Watrous Street and the former East Hampton Bell property at 3 Walnut Ave., according to town manager Dave Cox.

If the grant is approved, the evaluation work might take place in late 2023 with potential remediation in 2024, wrote Cox in his written report to the council. The grant is from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

While some progress has been made in the last few years, the sites are still far from ready to get back on the tax rolls.

Brownfield Redevelopment Agency chair Ryan Baldassario told the council the grant, if earned, will propel work at the sites forward. He said because there's so much work outstanding, developers have lukewarmly received proposals.

With too many questions as to what their work would be, contractors have steered clear of the parcels.

Baldassario said work funded by the grant would get the spots up to a "developable standard," or something near it, and to fully flesh

out expectations on any further work for a potential developer.

He said the agency and the town want to get "equal footing in terms of assessments" and to make sure future uses don't hit roadblocks.

"We want to get the community back into these spaces," said Baldassario, adding the agency will work with local groups like the Lions and Rotary clubs, and perhaps the high school science department, to help clean the sites.

Councilors received the proposal well, praising the brownfield agency's work.

The brownfield agency has achieved what it calls on its town webpage "significant and measurable success in assessing and cleaning up contaminated properties."

There are several brownfields sites in various stages of investigation and remediation, targeted for redevelopment that this agency is working on.

One such property was remediated and redeveloped through a grant administered by the agency and is now used as a municipal parking lot located adjacent to the library and the senior

center.

To date, the agency, has received five EPA grant awards and one State of Connecticut STEAP grant totaling around \$1.5 million.

Last year, then-brownfield agency chair Brian Corvo said all but 13 Summit St. have been assessed and remediated, to varying degrees of completion.

The Summit Street location, Corvo said, is one that agency wants to work on, but first the town must buy the property.

Corvo said the Village Center's impressive past "created the current barriers to redeveloping [the] properties in and around the Village Center and realizing their economic potential."

Corvo said 103 Main St., the former Gong Bell Manufacturing property, is an example of a completed, well-done project, although it moved faster than most remediations.

The agency received \$200,000 in May 2007 to clean up the site.

According to Cox's written report to the council last July 1 Watrous alone will cost between \$479,000 and \$587,000 to remediate, likely making for a pricy job.

Middle Haddam Public Library News

Middle Haddam Public Library, 2 Knowles Rd., Middle Haddam, has announced the following. To register or more information on any program, email middlehaddamlibrary@gmail.com, visit middlehaddamlibrary.com or call 860-267-9093.

Library Hours: Monday and Thursday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Tuesday and Friday, 3-6 p.m. Masks are optional.

Yoga: Tuesdays at 7 p.m. and Saturdays at 9 a.m., with Erin Day of Ten Summit Yoga. In

October, there will also be an additional day, Mondays at 9 a.m. Cost is a \$15 drop-in fee. Register at tensummitst@gmail.com.

Mahjong: Mondays at 11:30 a.m. All players welcome.

Nimble Knitters: Thursdays at 1 p.m.

A Tribute to Joan Baez with Springli Sage: Friday, Nov. 18, 7 p.m. Sing along or just listen.

Writer's Workshop: Wednesday, Dec. 7, 7-8:30 p.m. There will be interactive exercises and constructive criticism. Registration requested.

Parks and Rec. News & Notes

East Hampton Parks and Recreation has announced the following pieces of news. For more information, call 860-267-7300 or visit easthamptonct.myrec.com.

Air Line Trail Maintenance Day: Saturday, Nov. 19, 8:30 a.m.-noon. Maintenance will be at Bishop Cut, Cranberry Bog, Forest Street, and the viaducts. Register at one of those locations online.

Thanksgiving Bingo and Craft: Wednesday, Nov. 23, 3:30-4:30 p.m., at Memorial School, for grades K-3. Cost is \$20.

Basketball Clinic: For grades 4-6. Nov. 28, 29, Dec. 5 and Dec. 6, from 3:30-4:30 p.m., at Center School. Cost is \$75.

Adult Paint Night with Amy Ordonez: Wednesday, Nov. 30, 6:30-8:30 p.m., at Town Hall. Cost is \$37.

Paint Class: Tuesday, Dec. 6, 3:30-4:30

p.m., at Center School.

Holiday Cookie Decorating: Wednesday, Dec. 7, 3:30-4:30 p.m., at Center School, for grades four and five. Cost is \$25.

Jingle Bell Parade: Friday, Dec. 9, at East Hampton Public Library. At 3 p.m. there will be a craft and refreshments, and at 4 p.m. Santa will arrive to lead the parade to the gazebo for the tree-lighting.

New York on Your Own - Bus Trip to NYC: Saturday, Dec. 10. The bus leaves East Hampton Town Hall at 7:30 a.m. and will depart NYC at 6 p.m. Cost is \$70/person.

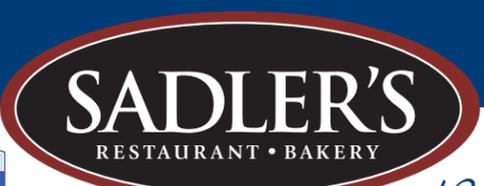
Holiday Bingo and Craft: Wednesday, Dec. 14, 3:30-4:30 p.m., at Center School, for grades four and five. Cost is \$20.

Girls Volleyball Clinic: Wednesdays, Jan. 4-25, 6:45-8 p.m., at the East Hampton Middle School gym, for grades 6-8. Cost is \$125.

American Red Cross Babysitting Course: Friday, Jan. 20, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Town Hall community room. Cost is \$100.

Wolf Pack Game: Friday, Jan. 20, 7 p.m. Lower-level seats are \$20 per ticket.

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'Easy as Pie' Sale

Haddam Neck Congregational Church Ladies Aid will hold an "Easy as Pie" sale Sunday, Nov. 20, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, at the Haddam Neck Congregational Church parish house, 408 Quarry Hill Rd., Haddam Neck, from noon-2 p.m.

Pre-orders for homemade pumpkin, apple, pecan and mincemeat pies are due Monday, Nov. 14, by calling Melissa at 860-993-5311 or Franky at 860-267-4513. Cost for each pie is \$12.

Visit www.haddamneckcongregational-church.org for directions to the church.

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Man Arrested for Alleged Child Sexual Abuse

By Jack Lakowsky

The East Hampton Police Department last week arrested Mansfield's Kenneth Barton, a former East Hampton resident accused of sexually abusing a local juvenile.

Police acted on an arrest warrant accusing Barton with risking injury to a minor, first- and fourth-degree sexual assault, taking the 70-year-old into custody earlier this month.

Because Barton couldn't post the \$75,000 court-set bond, police held the suspect in custody until his arraignment. According to on-line court records he has been released from custody and is due in court in December.

Barton is also ordered to not have contact with the alleged victim.

According to an arrest warrant, when interviewed by police Barton denied the claims.

The charges are dated August 2021. According to the arrest warrant there were several instances of alleged abuse. Police report Barton knows the juvenile's parents, and that the child's parents are "in full support of [their child] and will help [this] investigation in any way they can."

According to the warrant the juvenile heard a peer make a remark about sexual assault. The alleged victim told the other they didn't understand what they were talking about, and

this comment alerted an adult, who overheard.

The adult reported the incident to officials, and in a discussion the juvenile talked about "one incident but did not want to talk about other incidents" because they were uncomfortable doing so, describing a summer 2021 incident that occurred in their bedroom.

The child accused Barton of massaging and touching them inappropriately. They told Barton's wife about it, but the woman apparently did not believe the child.

Police spoke to the child's parents, who said "now that [they] think back," there was a time during the summer their child stopped talking to or wanting to be around Barton.

In a later interview with officials, the alleged victim said they were "sexually touched more than one time by the same person," and that that person was Barton.

The juvenile said Barton did not try to get them to do anything to his body.

The child said Barton told them they [the child] would get in trouble if anyone found out, and that they didn't resist because they were "shocked" and "paralyzed."

The juvenile then told police of another supposed incident. They said they fell asleep and awoke to Barton groping them.

The affidavit reads when the juvenile told

Barton to stop, he "apologized because he thought I was enjoying it and so that's why he did it."

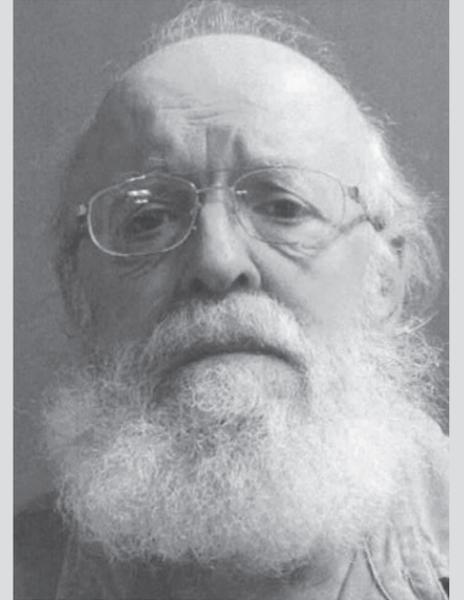
The child then stopped seeing Barton, according to police. Before ending contact, the child said, Barton saw them in a swimsuit and made a lewd comment. They said the first incident of supposed abuse occurred when they were a preteen.

In talks with police Barton said his accuser was lying. However, police noted Barton corroborated several of the juvenile's claims without knowing the youth had said them to police. He gave different versions of events but concluded several instances of being alone with the child.

Barton said he moved out of town because of the allegations.

Investigators wrote they "found no evidence to suggest [the victim] has any reason to fabricate the allegations and there is no reason why she would falsely accuse [Barton] of sexual assault," and that the juvenile "had nothing to gain from these allegations."

Barton told police "I can't think of anything that would closely resemble touching [them] or even saying something wrong. ... I did not touch that [child]."



Kenneth Barton, 70, of Mansfield, is accused of "massaging" inappropriately a local East Hampton juvenile. He faces multiple charges and was arrested Nov. 3.

Christ Episcopal Church News

Christ Episcopal Church, 66 Middle Haddam Rd., Middle Haddam, holds in-person and Zoom services at 10 a.m. each Sunday. To connect electronically, go to www.christchurch-middlehaddam.com for directions. Holy Eucharist will be conducted by the Rev. Joan Phelps.

Sunday School: Will meet at 9:55 a.m.

Pledge Drive: The pledge drive concludes this Sunday, Nov. 20. All are invited to a celebratory coffee hour after church.

Covenant to Care Donations: All are asked to bring Thanksgiving food items to church this

Sunday, Nov. 20. Four families will be provided holiday dinners through Covenant to Care.

Bible Study: For more information about Wednesday evening's Zoom class, email bobette@khan.com.

Coffee Hour: Hosts are needed. See the sign-up sheet in the parish kitchen.

Welcome: Service music will be provided by Anna Brom, the church's new organist.

For more information or if in need of assistance, call the church office at 860-267-0287 or Donna Hryb, senior warden, at 860-633-0472.

Wreaths Across America

East Hampton's Wreath Across America ceremony will take place at the Book of Names Memorial, located across the street from East Hampton VFW Post 5095 at 20 North Maple St., on Saturday, Dec. 19, at noon.

This will be the 15th year for the ceremony, which is open to the public.

Last year, at the State Veterans Cemetery in Middletown, another eight soldiers were laid to rest: Victor Herbert Anderson, Orville K. Davis, Stephen Yoder, Joseph P. Galipeau, Lawrence W. Jordan, Bernard Joseph Lafleur, George Dalton Parker and Lawrence Earl Tefft. This year, these soldiers will again receive individual wreaths in honor of their service. Their names will also be spoken aloud so they will not be forgotten as they have no family to do this for them.

Nine wreaths will also be laid to honor the eight divisions: Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Merchant Marines, Coast Guard and the MIA/POW. A wreath will also be laid in memory and honor of the late Governor William A. O'Neill, who passed away in 2007

and was an Air Force veteran, serving during the Korean Conflict as a gunner.

The VFW Auxiliary is also asking the public to sponsor additional wreaths to be placed at various soldiers' gravesites at all 12 cemeteries in town. Sponsors are asked to donate \$15 per wreath. People can send a sponsorship form and check to VFW Post 5095, North Maple St., East Hampton, CT 06424, c/o Linda Wallace, WAA East Hampton Leader. Checks should be made out to "VFW Auxiliary" with "WAA" on the memo line. Forms can be found at the Post, East Hampton Public Library, and at Town Hall.

In lieu of a form, people can mail their name, address, phone, email, the number of sponsored wreaths at \$15 each, along with a check, to VFW Post 5095. Donations are also being accepted for the Veterans WAA Fund to help defray the costs of the auxiliary's monthly Bingo at the Rocky Hill Veterans Hospital sponsored by the Post 5095 Auxiliary and for educational materials.

CDHR Holiday Open House

All are invited Saturday, Dec. 3, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., for the annual Holiday Open House at the Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue, 113 Chestnut Hill Rd. All are invited to meet the horses of CDHR, check out the raffle baskets, and take a photo with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Admission is free.

The CDHR horses have a holiday wishlist, at www.ctdraftrescue.org/wish-list.

CDHR is a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving the lives of neglected or abused draft horses as well as draft horses headed to slaughter. For more information, volunteer opportunities or to donate, visit www.ctdraftrescue.org or www.facebook.com/ctdraftrescue.

Pulled Pork and Mac & Cheese Dinner

The Congregational Church of East Hampton, located at 59 Main St., will hold a takeout pulled pork on roll and mac & cheese dinner Friday, Dec. 2, from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

The menu will include pulled pork on roll, mac and cheese, coleslaw and seasonal pie for dessert.

Price is \$14, cash or check, made out to CCEH. Pre-order at 860-267-4959 (church office) or 860-918-1170 by Friday, Dec. 2, at noon.

Belltown Garden Club Wreath- and Garland-Making

The Belltown Garden Club of East Hampton will meet Monday, Nov. 28, at 5 p.m., at the Congregational Church of East Hampton, 59 Main St.

Members are reminded to bring assorted greens and evergreens for wreath- and garland-making. Members will work on boxwood baskets that will be for sale at the library, as well

as make traditional wreaths and garland for the church, library, gazebo and Comstock Bridge.

Members of the public and prospective members are welcome. The Belltown Garden Club is a member of Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut and National Garden Clubs.

Call Lynne Finnegan-Bailey at 860-966-7528 for more information.

Haddam Neck Covenant Church News

Haddam Neck Covenant Church, located at 17 Haddam Neck Rd., invites all to Sunday Worship at 9 a.m. each week. Pastor is the Rev. Tom Cowger. 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 explain the meaning of the message topic.

Kids Church: Kids Church, featuring music and hands-on interactive activities, is held in Fellowship Hall during the worship service. All are welcome.

Adult Bible Study: Sundays in the chapel at 10:30 a.m. The study traces God's covenant with his people.

Zoom Bible Study: Thursdays, 7-8 p.m. The study looks at various ways to approach Bible reading.

Operation Christmas Child: Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, delivers shoe boxes filled with school supplies,

toys and hygiene items to children in America and around the world who live in difficult circumstances. Community participation is welcome. The boxes are available in the church office and need to be returned by Nov. 19.

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.

Senior Thanksgiving Dinner

East Hampton VFW Post 5095 will hold a Thanksgiving Dinner for seniors on Saturday, Nov. 19, at 2 p.m., at the post, located at 20 N. Maple St.

Served will be a traditional turkey dinner with all the fixings, including dessert.

For more information, call 860-267-8837.

Portrait Photography Fundraiser

Christ Episcopal Church, 66 Middle Haddam Rd., is holding a Portrait Photography Fundraiser all this month. Appointments may be scheduled by calling Dick Napoletano of Napoletano Studio at 860-490-8006.

Portraits will be taken in the Parish Hall by appointment on each Friday, Saturday and Sunday this month, at no charge. Proofs will be made available online for viewing and ordering.

The sittings are open to members of the community; all are invited.

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East Hampton • East Hampton

Bellringers Perfect on PKs, Championship-Bound

By Josh Howard

East Hampton High School boys' soccer is headed to the program's first state championship in eight years after beating Canton on penalty kicks in the Class S quarterfinals and then ousting Notre Dame-Fairfield in the semifinals on Tuesday.

In the victory over Canton on Nov. 11, the No. 3-ranked Bellringers outlasted the visiting Warriors 3-2 (PKs: 5-3) on a rain-soaked field at East Hampton High School.

After 100 minutes of soccer, including a pair of 10-minute overtime periods, East Hampton was flawless on penalty kicks, netting five-of-five shots.

All-conference goalie Thomas Fenton cemented the victory, making a crucial save on Canton's third penalty kick attempt.

"I was just taking it one shot at a time. One save can win the whole thing," said Fenton. "I was nervous, not going to lie. That is one of a few shootouts that I have been in, but I felt comfortable."

"He is the best goalie in the league," head coach Rocco Christiana said of Fenton, who was named the Shoreline Conference Goalie of the Year. "He is No. 1 and you see why."

Leading up to the game Fenton had a conversation with his teammates, saying, "I told the boys in our last practice, if we go into PKs I'll do the best to have your back. But if they didn't make all five, I wouldn't be standing here right now."

Brennan Johnson, Oren Wilson, William Nafis, Ephraim Butson each made their kicks, setting the stage for Jakub Remiszewski to boot home the game-ender.

Christiana said that Remiszewski approached him before the extra session asking to kick fifth.

"I'm not going to question someone with that type of confidence," stated Christiana.

Johnson and Colin Marshall scored goals in

regulation as the two unevenly-matched teams battled with each other and the weather conditions, featuring a steady drizzle of rain for the entire game.

Shots were scarce in the two overtime sessions, forcing the teams to settle it with the penalty kicks.

Christiana said that his team was prepared for the shootout, adding, "We worked on it all season long. I was extremely confident and had no worries." The win was the Bellringers' final home game and marked the sixth straight victory at the friendly confines of EHHS.

"It's always good to be at home. We have the best fans in the state; the best support system," added Christiana, who credited Canton for giving them his team all they could handle. "I have a great relationship with the Canton coaches. They are a class act and a great team."

In the semifinal victory, the Bellringers blanked Notre Dame-Fairfield 2-0 at Pomperaug High School, advancing the program to its first state championship since 2014 when they finished as the co-champions following a 0-0 tie with Somers in the Class S title match.

After winning 11 regular season games this fall, the Bellringers swept through the SLC tournament before defeating Morgan 3-1 on Nov. 4 to win the conference crown.

Johnson and Wilson were named All-Shoreline first-team, Nafis and David Castiblanco were named to the second-team, and Butson was an honorable mention selection.

Christiana, who was named the Shoreline Conference Coach of the Year, credited assistant coach Michele Landry for the team's defense front which has been the hallmark this season, shutting out 11 opponents and not allowing more than two goals in any game.

Prior to leaving the field during the quarterfinals win over Canton, Christiana exclaimed,



East Hampton boys' soccer head coach Rocco Christiana talks with all-conference sophomore William Nafis in overtime during the Bellringers victory over Canton on Nov. 11. "We're not done yet."

After this weekend, Christiana's team will be done. They will either be crowned state champions or finish as the runner-up to Old Saybrook,

their opponent in the Class S title tilt at the Trinity Health Stadium in Hartford.

Visit ciacsports.com for a date and time of the championship game.

Knife Pulled in Incident at Middle School

By Jack Lakowsky

Last week East Hampton police responded to East Hampton Middle School after receiving reports of a student allegedly pulling a knife on another student.

Police said after investigating they charged the juvenile with second degree threatening and breach of peace.

Supposedly the student pulled a "folding pocketknife" on another student in the bathroom and said, "I'm going to mug you."

The alleged victim went to an administrator and reported the incident, and the school then contacted local police.

It is the second instance this calendar year of an East Hampton student being accused of threatening behavior. In the spring, a student reportedly made racist, antisemitic, homophobic and violent threats against students and a teacher on Snapchat.

In response to the spring threat, Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith told the *Rivereast* on Tuesday schools are bringing in the consultant Internet Safety Concepts to speak to middle school students at the end of November.

Students will hear about their digital footprint, internet safety and "making sure they understand even with Snapchat and TikTok, [they leave] a footprint that can get them into trouble," Smith said.

Internet Safety Concepts is also having a webinar for parents on Nov. 30. Smith said the link will soon go out to parents, and the talk can accommodate up to 500 listeners.

The program at the school, Smith said, will be tailored specifically for the middle school age group.

As to the most recent incident, Smith pointed to the district's existing resources.

Smith said the district is encouraging parents and students to use, when necessary, the district's anonymous reporting app.

"This was reported directly to the office, which is exactly what we want," said Smith.

Smith said the district investigates all tips.

Smith said he hopes the lower schools' incoming armed security officers – expected to start in January, he said – will be an added resource for students to bring any concerns.

Lions Seek Nominations

For the past 13 years, the Lions of eastern Connecticut have hosted a Humanitarian Banquet, where local Lions clubs honor town residents. The East Hampton Lions are asking the public to submit a one-page nomination letter on whom they would like the Lions to consider for this year's hero.

The nominee has to be a non-Lion, must either live or work in East Hampton and be avail-

able to attend the banquet on Jan. 22, 2023.

The letters should be sent to: East Hampton Lions, P.O. Box 153, East Hampton, CT 06424.

Nominations should be submitted by Nov. 20.

Contact Lion President Mary Krogh at 860-977-5760 or govmary23c@aol.com for more information.



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I Made This!... Lily Rouse, 7, of Manchester, stands under her watercolor painting “Swan on the Pond” at Epoch Arts’ Artopia arts festival, which was held Sunday, Nov. 13.



MistleTunes to Perform... The MistleTunes will perform at Paul’s and Sandy’s Too Friday, Nov. 25, and Saturday, Nov. 26, from 10 a.m.-noon and 1-3 p.m. On the weekends of Dec. 3-4 and Dec. 10-11, the duo will perform from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m. Featuring Kathleen Genovese and Christine Walsh, the MistleTunes perform such holiday favorites as “Rockin’ Around the Christmas Tree,” “Santa Baby,” “Winter Wonderland,” “Mele Kalikimaka,” “Cool Yule,” “You’re a Mean One Mr. Grinch” and more. For more information, call Paul’s and Sandy’s Too at 860-267-0143.

Donations Sought for Concert Series

All are invited to make a tax-deductible donation to the 2023 Joseph N. Goff House Gazebo Concert Series.

Donation levels include Maestro Sponsor - \$250; Soprano Sponsor - \$150; Alto Sponsor - \$75; Tenor Sponsor - \$50; Bass Sponsor - \$25; or any amount you wish to contribute. Donations help pay for the musical entertainment and publicity for the concerts, which will be held Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. at the Center School gazebo during the summer of 2023.

Tax-deductible checks, made payable to The Joseph N. Goff House Inc., can be mailed to: The Joseph N. Goff House Inc., P.O. Box 337, East Hampton, CT 06424. Tax ID is 06-1494507.

Call 860-918-4400 or 860-993-5311 for more information.

Congregational Church News & Notes

The Congregational Church of East Hampton, UCC, located at 59 Main St., is open for in-person services with the Rev. Amie McCarthy every Sunday at 10 a.m. All services can also be accessed via Zoom by going to cc-eh.org. All are welcome.

Church school classes meet every Sunday.

The Yarners meet every Thursday from 10:30 a.m.-noon in the Fellowship Hall. All knitters and crocheters are welcome.

New England Chamber Choir Concert: Sunday, Nov. 27, 4 p.m.

Takeout Pulled Pork Sandwich with Mac and Cheese Dinner: Friday, Dec. 2, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

For more information about CCEH and its activities, visit cc-eh.org or call the church office at 860-267-4959 during office hours: Tuesday-Friday, 8 a.m.-noon.

East Hampton Library News & Notes

East Hampton Public Library, 105 Main St., has announced the following. Registration required unless noted; to register, or for full program descriptions, call 860-267-6621 or visit easthamptonpubliclibrary.org.

Library Hours: The library is open Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Thursday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Children’s Programs: Toddler Time: Wednesdays, 10:15 a.m., for children ages 18 months to 3 years. **Stories & Songs:** Wednesdays, 11:15 a.m., for ages 3-5.

Mindful Movements: Mondays, 10:30 a.m., in the library community room, for ages 18 months and up; siblings welcome.

Baby Rhyme Time: Thursdays, 10:15 a.m., in the library community room, for children age birth to 18 months and their caregivers.

DIY Days – Fish in a Bag Slime: Saturday, Nov. 19, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. For ages 5-14, and their families. Create a different toy, game, or treat together. Activities available while supplies last. No registration required; just drop in.

Teen Programs: Fall Into Creative Writ-

ing: Thursdays, 3:30 p.m., through Dec. 1, for grades 6-12. Explore creative writing in all forms – poetry, journaling, reporting, blogging, storytelling and more. All materials provided. There will be no program Nov. 24.

Nintendo Switch Tournament: Saturday, Dec. 3, 2-3 p.m., for grades 6-12. All skill levels welcome.

Adult Programs: Author Event! Unique Eats and Eateries of Connecticut: Tuesday, Nov. 22, 6:30 p.m. The book’s author, Mike Urban, will discuss some of the state’s dining options.

Artist Demonstration – Bivenne Staiger: Tuesday, Nov. 29, 6 p.m. Watercolor artist and author Staiger will demonstrate her techniques.

Family Program: Jingle Bell Begins at the Library! Friday, Dec. 9, 4:30-5:30 p.m. The library is kicking off the party with crafts, music from the high school Jazz Band, and a bake sale run by the Teen Advisory Board. Pick up your Jingle Bell kit and have some fun at the library before walking downtown for the tree-lighting.

Police News

10/25: After an investigation into a car vs stonewall motor vehicle crash in the area of East High Street wherein the driver of the vehicle fled the scene, Michael Defranzo, 56, of 16 Lakewood Rd., was issued a summons for evading responsibility and failure to drive right, East Hampton Police said.

10/25: Erin Nuemann, 40, of East Berlin, was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle while using a cell phone and operating an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle, police said.

10/27: After an investigation into a two-car motor vehicle accident at the intersection of

Lakeview and Summit Streets wherein the driver of one of the vehicles fled the scene, Desire Franqui of Hartford was issued a summons for evading responsibility and following too close, police said.

11/10: Daniel Barton, 37, of 121 Ague Spring Rd., Haddam Neck, was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle under suspension and operating a motor vehicle without insurance, police said.

Also, from Oct. 31-Nov. 13, officers responded to 26 medical calls, 7 motor vehicle accidents, 12 alarms, and made 59 traffic stops, police said.

Senior Center News & Notes

East Hampton Senior Center, 105 Main St., is open. Registration required for all programs unless noted; register at myactivecenter.com or by contacting the center at 860-267-4426 or 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 encouraged, but not required. Visit the senior center online at www.easthamptonct.gov/east-hampton-senior-center.

Lunches: Served at the center Monday through Friday, to ages 60 and up. 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. Meals are free, though a \$3 donation is requested.

Weekly Activities: Quilting Group: Mondays, 9 a.m. **Mexican Train Dominoes:** Mondays, 9:30 a.m. **Setback:** Mondays, 1 p.m., and Thursdays, 1:15 p.m. **Bible Study:** Tuesdays, 1 p.m. **Bingo:** Tuesdays, 1-2 p.m., in person and via Zoom. **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.

Tap Dance is Back: Thursdays, 11:15-11:45 a.m. Call for more info.

Writing Our Lives to Open Our Hearts: There are two groups; one meets Thursdays, 10-11 a.m., and one meets every other Thursday, 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. The group will meet outdoors, weather permitting; otherwise it will be indoors or via Zoom.

Chair Yoga with Kitch: Wednesdays through Jan. 18 (started Nov. 9), 11:40 a.m.-12:40 p.m., in the community room at Town Hall, as well as virtual via Zoom. Register online at MyactiveCenter.com. The 10-week session is \$20. Payment may be mailed or dropped off to the East Hampton Senior Center, check payable to the Town of East Hampton.

Wonderfully Wicked Women’s Group (WWW): Monday, Nov. 21, 10 a.m. There will be discussion of current events, holistic medicine, entertainment, support systems, etc. Snacks will be offered. The group will meet

twice a month.

Tai Chi & Qigong – Moving for Better Balance: Tuesdays, 10:30-11 a.m., from Nov. 29-Feb. 14, via Zoom. Cost is \$50 for the 10 weeks. Register with a check, payable to the Town of East Hampton, or with cash to the Senior Center. This class is available via Zoom at the senior center as well. Call for more details.

Movie and a Treat: Monday, Nov. 28, 1 p.m. *Meet the Fockers* will be shown and a treat will be served. Pre-registration requested.

Virtual Travel with Beeyond: Wednesday, Nov. 30, 10-11 a.m. “Travel” to the capital of Slovenia, Ljubljana, one of the smallest European capitals. Muffins provided. Pre-registration required.

Trip: In the Christmas Mood: See the Glenn Miller Orchestra Wednesday, Dec. 7, at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville. Lunch will be served. Cost is \$114 per person. Call for more information.

Volunteer Shopping: The center has a program where a volunteer will shop for you. Call in your list to 860-267-4426 or email it to Jewling@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.

Christmas Fair

On Saturday, Dec. 3, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., there will be a Christmas Fair at the Second Congregational Church of Middle Haddam, at 52 Middle Haddam Rd.

The items for sale include the church’s famous peanuts, baked goods, Rada cutlery, seasonal baskets on a silent auction, Christmas tag sale items, hand-painted glass ornaments and special hand-painted bottles with mini light-bulbs.

A light lunch will be served of sandwiches, desserts, coffee, tea and punch.

Handicapped-accessibility is available.

Senior Citizen News & Notes

The following have been announced for Andover seniors, veterans and disabled. To attend any event, call senior coordinator Cathy Palazzi at 860-916-6122 to register. Visit the senior page at andoverct.org for all senior events and information. A new events calendar will soon be posted for November and December.

Rides to Food Pantry: The bus is now available for the Food Pantry on Mondays at 5 p.m. and for the Wednesday Foodshare or food pantry – all of which take place at Andover Congregational Church.

Rides to all town events, town meetings, referendums or board meetings, and all medi-

cal appointments, are available by calling Palazzi. All seniors, veterans and disabled are welcome. If you have a caregiver, they may come with you.

New Seniors Welcome: New seniors are welcome to all events. Call Palazzi for all luncheon reservations and transportation needs including medicals, Foodshare, food pantry, weekly shopping, movie rides, Farmers Market, and town meetings and scheduled voting dates. Call Judy Knox at 860-643-6824 to join Young at Heart, call Georgia O'Brien at 860-742-9947 for all trip information, and call Sue Schmidt at 860-604-1057 for all movie information.

Congregational Church News

Andover Congregational Church, UCC, located at 359 Route 6, invites all ages to worship Sundays at 10 a.m. The service also streams live on the church's Facebook page (First Congregational Church, Andover, CT). For more information, call the church office at 860-742-7696, email andoverctchurch@gmail.com or visit www.andoverctchurch.org.

Children's Church: Sunday school is provided.

Food Pantry: Mondays from 5-7 p.m. Bring your own bags. The **Foodshare Van** comes to the church every other Wednesday from 9-9:30

a.m.; next date is Nov. 23. The senior food pantry is open the opposite Wednesdays, also from 9-9:30 a.m.; next date is Nov. 16.

AA Meetings: Saturdays and Mondays, 7 p.m.

Sonshine Stampers: All are invited to join this group, which meets Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. to make greeting cards.

Faith Sharing with the Movies: Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m.

Thanksgiving Meal: Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 24, at 3 p.m. All are invited for a potluck meal. Please RSVP.

Senior Trip to Holiday Light Display

Andover Senior Transportation will visit Rentschler Field in East Hartford on Wednesday, Nov. 30, to see the Magic of Lights holiday light display.

Over a million lights, featuring all-new holiday displays, dazzle along the mile-plus magical pathway. This festive drive-thru adventure is free for any Andover senior. Pickup is at 4:30 p.m.

Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Call Georgia O'Brien at 860 742-9947 to sign up.

Veterans Meeting Nov. 19

Veterans, military members and their spouses are invited to the next monthly Veterans Meeting, taking place Saturday, Nov. 19, from 1-3 p.m., in the Andover Town Hall community room on School Road.

The meeting will be hosted by the town veterans municipal representatives CSM (R) John Botti and COL (R) Susan Camoroda. It will be a time of remembrance of fellow service members, and to celebrate the upcoming holiday season. Coffee will be served.

For more information, call Botti at 860-839-3481 or Camoroda at 703-472-3209.



They Say It's Your Birthday... Andover Seniors Young At Heart celebrated November birthdays with cake and ice cream at the meeting Nov. 2. Pictured are Frank Chaves and Tiiu Anson. *Photo by Mary Duval.*

Christmas Toy Drive

The Andover town employees are collecting toys for Andover children. New, unwrapped toys and gift cards can be dropped at the Town Office Building, 17 School Rd.

Members Sought for EDC

The Andover Economic Development Commission is need of new members. Contact Elaine Buchardt at 860-202-4619 or email AndoverCTEDC@gmail.com for more information.

Senior Movie Dec. 14

The HBO Max documentary *Santa Camp* will be shown Wednesday, Dec. 14, at 1 p.m., at Town Hall, 17 School Rd.

Bring your own snacks and extra to share if you wish. This event is free. All town residents are invited, but content may not be meant for younger viewers.

A highlight in this documentary is Andover's very own Dianne Grenier, participating in the Santa Camp in New Hampshire. The subject matter concerns diversification within the Santa organization. The film runs 90 minutes. Any senior needing a ride can call Cathy Palazzi at 860 916-6122.

The documentary will also be shown Sunday, Nov. 27, at 4 p.m., with rides for seniors also available.

Call movie coordinator Sue Schmidt at 860-604-1057 with any questions.

Bingo & Baskets

Andover Congregational Church, 359 Route 6, will hold a Bingo & Baskets night Friday, Nov. 18, starting with dinner at 5:30 p.m. The game starts at 6:30 p.m.

Admission is \$10 and includes dinner, drink, dessert and bingo. No reservations required.

Leave a message at the church at 860-742-7696 for more information.

Board of Finance Vacancy

Any Andover elector interested in serving on the Board of Finance for a term ending June 30 should send a letter of interest by Dec. 7 to: Town of Andover, Board of Finance Vacancy, 17 School Rd., Andover, CT 06232.

Letters can also be emailed to andovertown-clerk@sbglobal.net.

"Pet of the Week"



Ask any volunteer about their favorite new cats and we bet they mention two year old **Timothy**. 2 years old, handsome, sweet and loves to give head butts! He is easy going and seems fine with other cats. What more could you ask for!

Two year old **Winnie** is all big eyes and long legs, coltish, and undeniably pretty. But Winnie isn't just a pretty face. This sweetheart was found outside, abandoned and pregnant. She was an excellent mother to her babies, but she is now ready to be your baby. She has been through tough times, and she may not know what her future holds, but she is open to love and hopes for the best.



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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- **East Hartford facility** – Cats: clean & feed; socialization; medical & placement teams

Please call **860-569-0722** or visit www.poainc.org

Reader Forum • Reader Forum

★ *Letters cont. from page 7*

poorer citizens.

One only need look to the corner of Manchester Road and Hebron Avenue in rural East Glastonbury to see Hebron's future. By providing a few affordable units, a vast apartment complex was approved using Section 8-30g in defiance of the town zoning regulations and over the protests of neighbors. Section 8-30g has facilitated the destruction of Connecticut towns while helping no one except developers.

Hebron needs to control development. The PZC should understand the Village Green Master Plan is dead. No one in Hebron will pay for the needed sewers or infrastructure. Hebron should stop using public funds to enrich developers. The best economic and community use of the 88-acre Horton property is passive recreation with possible historical-, agro- and eco-tourism. We should not be sucking Amston Lake dry to create a new urban town center. Social activists should invest in local housing to assist poorer families in attaining homeownership, not seek to socially isolate newcomers in one complex creating an inevitable stigma for them not easily overcome. Finally, Hebron should adopt a 20-year moratorium on new sewer construction.

John Collins – Amston

Thanks for the Votes

To the Editor:

I would like to thank all the people from Glastonbury that supported and encouraged Rob Hotaling and I in our gubernatorial race. While neither of us had multimillions of our own money to buy TV, we did get a lot of encouraging words to proceed and appreciation of our plans to move the state forward. I am grateful for the voters that did support us on election day.

**Chip Beckett
Independent Party Candidate for
Lieutenant Governor**

All Elections Matter

To the Editor:

In state after state election, deniers suffered losses in the recent election. Yet some 150 members of Congress still hold firm to the "Big Lie" while their cult leader Trump says he will soon decide to run for election in 2024.

All elections matter. Why do we refer to the term "off-year elections"? The House is up for grabs every two years. We must choose to elect members who want to legislate to advance our ideals of democracy to continue our slow, plodding progress towards that "more perfect union" espoused in our founding documents.

The House should be used to legislate and to govern for us; not to block all progress by the majority party.

Vote in all elections. Voting is not just a right. It is also a duty in a democratic society.

Ed Gyllenhammer – Portland

Veterans Say Thank You

To the Editor:

The Portland veterans would like to send a huge "Thank You" to Melilli Caffè and Grill and their entire staff for graciously supplying and serving a delicious Veterans Day dinner. Once again, Seby Milardo out did himself; providing a menu of freshly made pasta, meatballs, sausage, chicken cutlets, string beans, salad, garlic knots, beverages and cake for over 130 attendees.

In addition, this annual Veterans Day dinner could not have happened without the support of Del Printing of Portland, who provided the tickets for the event, Dave Kuzminski, who provided the music and public address system, and the Town of Portland, which provided the high school cafeteria and the custodial staff.

Portland's Veterans Day activities began with a brief wreath laying ceremony at the Portland Veterans Memorial at 11 a.m. Photos of these events can be found at www.veterans-day-dinner.portlandct.org.

**Respectfully,
Timothy Dickerson, Secretary
Portland Veteran Affairs Committee**

Thanks for Your Support

To the Editor:

On Nov. 8, I received the great honor of being elected to represent the 33rd Senate District for a third term in the State Senate. For four years, I have worked tirelessly to advocate for our communities. I know firsthand the significance, gravity and responsibility this position represents. I could not be more proud.

I would like to thank the entire district for its support. Our 12 towns each have different

needs and different priorities. I pledge to continue working on issues I find most important as well as issues that benefit our towns. In the last several years, my colleagues and I have worked to bring millions in state support to our towns. I was proud to lead efforts to hold Ever-source accountable for its poor storm response and will work to ensure it lives up to the level of service we deserve, not the level of service it's currently providing. We need to fight back against inflation and high gas prices where we can and will continue supporting important local programs that benefit thousands of us.

I am thankful for everyone who voted in this election, not only those who voted for me but those who voted against me. No matter how you cast a ballot, the most important part of the political process is exercising your vote, and this was yet another year of high turnouts. The more folks who make their voices heard, the more our electorate reflects the wishes of the public. There are 100,000 of us and every single person matters the same.

Come January, upon the start of a new legislative session, there will be a flurry of activity at the Capitol. I am excited and ready to represent us - all of us - for another two years. Let's get to work!

**State Sen. Norm Needleman
D-33rd District**

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

Thank You, Cromwell & Portland

To the Editor:

I would like to thank all my supporters that participated in my campaign and that cast their votes in my favor. As a first-time candidate running for state office, receiving 40% of the vote against an incumbent is good considering other candidates had lower percentages in this election.

The best part of my campaign was knocking on doors and connecting and reconnecting with people in the district and talking about the issues.

After a short break, I will continue to be active in politics including holding elected officials accountable, and continue to be vocal on state and local issues.

The next campaign starts the day after the last election. I encourage all to get involved, be active in community service, and work together to make our communities the best place to live and work.

**Rose Aletta – Portland
2022 Candidate for State Representative**

New Lawn Project for Library

To the Editor:

The Andover Library has a new front lawn, irrigation system, and garden area around the library sign. All these were funded largely by the Alice Moe Hartford Foundation for Public Giving Grant along with a private donation from the Andover Friends of the Library. No tax dollars were used for this project.

The Library Board of Directors would like to thank the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving and the Alice Moe family along with the Friends of the Library for their continued support and contributions. Because of their support and contributions, many upgrades, projects, and programs have been made possible.

The Library Board of Directors would also like to thank Ron Bisson of Ron's Professional Lawn Care Service of Andover, for the beautiful work on this project and all the donations his company has made to the Andover Public Library over the years.

Thank you!

**Cathleen Desrosiers
Library Board of Directors**

Back-Up Plans

To the Editor:

"If not now, when?" When is Hebron going to halt reckless plans for developing the Raymond Brook Watershed? A recent report reminds us the watershed sits on top of fractured bedrock aquifers that feed local wells. Once contamination gets in, how do we get it out? How long will it then take for Town Water to be installed to all affected households? The more we learn, the more serious environmental and financial questions we have about Hebron's plans.

"One gallon of gasoline or oil can contaminate up to 1 million gallons of water." "A single pint of oil released into a lake or wetland can cover one acre of surface water and seriously damage aquatic habitat. Storage tank spills can contaminate drinking water supplies and take

years for ecosystems to recover."

March 21, 2022 Putnam. Saveway Petroleum "25,000 gallons of #2 fuel oil from an above-ground storage tank was released and while some of the oil was contained" on the clay floor containment area, "some escaped from the containment area and released to the environment."

Oct. 29, 2022, Norfolk, a gasoline truck flipped, spilling 8200 gallons of gas into a residential neighborhood. CTDEEP sprang into action, desperate to clean up as much as possible, while monitoring local wells. Gasoline is rapidly absorbed into soils and travels quickly. Impending heavy rains have everyone concerned.

Oct. 31, 2022, Newtown, a heating oil delivery truck rolled over spilling 100 gallons of oil into a residential neighborhood. Again, CT-DEEP sprang into action.

Given that 17 Kinney Road is a watershed and sits on fractured bedrock aquifers that feed adjacent private wells, what is Hebron's emergency back-up plan should there be a spill of any kind? Because, spills happen and our water is important. #Save17

Jean Tulimieri – Amston

Constitutional Amendments

To the Editor:

15th Amendment to the Constitution: Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude. Section 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

19th Amendment to the Constitution: The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

24th Amendment to the Constitution. Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election for President or Vice President, for electors for President or Vice President, or for Senator or Representative in Congress, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay poll tax or other tax. Section 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

26th Amendment to the Constitution: Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age. Section 2. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Three things; I'll need a little bit more room to get those out.

Until then, thank you for voting.

**Respectfully submitted,
Eric Manning – Andover**

Hopeful in Colchester

To the Editor:

This month's election results in Colchester give me hope. Over the last year, we have all gotten an up-close look at what dysfunction looks like in local government. So it's a relief to see how many of us stood together to vote for reason and stability with candidates like Norm Needleman and Joe Courtney – people who are problem-solvers instead of problem-causers.

If we can elect people like that to serve us at the state and federal level, we can do the same in our own town. Next November, we will have a chance to course-correct and end the chaos, division, and mean-spiritedness that has taken over our community. If people turn out for the 2023 municipal election like we did last week, Colchester will once again have leadership with a vision that treats us, each other, and our town with respect.

There's room for caution. Turnout for the midterms in Colchester was pretty good at about 62 percent...but that leaves a whole lot of people who didn't vote at all. Unfortunately, history shows that just like less people vote in midterms than presidential elections, even less turn out for local elections. That's a shame, because local elections can make a real difference in our everyday lives.

Next year, Colchester will have a choice just as stark and important as the choices on the ballot this year. This year, voters showed up and defended democracy, voting rights, and women's rights. If we show up again in 2023, we can get back to focusing on issues in town that matter – like roads, parks, and public safety – instead of book bans and conspiracy theories.

I have hope that we can elect people who will fight for us instead of fight against us.

Bernie Dennler III – Colchester

Uninformed Voters

To the Editor:

Once again, voters who watch ABC, NBC, CBS, MSNBC, CNN, and other liberal media outlets cast their votes with a distorted view of what is happening in our country and state under Democratic leadership.

Both Connecticut and America are on a destructive and volatile path and you, the uninformed, reelected the same politicians that put us on that path. You voted party and abortion but didn't vote on the issues that are plaguing us now – soaring energy prices (we now import oil from countries that hate us); crippling inflation; 2.76 million illegal immigrants crossed in 2022, and with that came sex trafficking, terrorists and fentanyl that has killed over 100,000 Americans a year; CRT in schools, rampant crime and military posturing from around the world.

As for the Democratic leadership in Washington, the same holds true. You must be living in a bubble if you think that Joe Biden and the Dems are doing a good job

This election should have been a turning point from the destructive path our country and state is headed. Maybe you should watch the "real" news to become better informed

"America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves." – Abraham Lincoln

My husband and my father fought for our country and our freedoms as did so many others. Truer words have never been spoken.

Bonnie A. Olivieri – East Hampton

What's In a Name?

To the Editor:

Donald Trump made the 2016 Republican Presidential debates entertaining. He belittled his opponents, tarring them with nicknames like 'Lying Ted' Cruz, 'Low Energy Jeb' Bush, 'Sleepy Ben' Carson and 'Little Rubio.' Bewildered, they wilted under the stage lights, unsure how to respond. Little Rubio made a play with 'Small Hands Trump,' but Trump spun it to boast of his 'manhood.' When the Trump Crazy Train finally left the GOP depot, only Crooked Hillary stood in his way. Three million more Americans voted for her, but the Electoral College handed him the White House. Democrats and world leaders, excluding 'Genius' Vladimir Putin and 'Rocket Man' Kim Jong-un, were stunned.

Multiple women came forward with accusations of sexual harassment, affairs and rape; but Teflon Don brushed off 'Horseface Stormy' Daniels and silenced the others with nondisclosure monetary buyouts. Cadet Bone Spurs even mocked real war heroes, like John 'Loser' McCain, but Trump minions still loved him. The 'white Kanye' was finally canceled when Basement Joe Biden trounced him by more than 7 million votes. Having a meltdown in the check-out aisle, Agent Orange ginned up his MAGA know-nothings to attack the Capitol, threatening to hang V.P. Mike 'the Wimp' Pence.

As little children mimic parental behaviors, several 'Trump Spawn' regularly mock their opponents in *Rivereast* with 'the Hammer,' 'The Hooded Hulk', 'Mr. Ed', etc. Those writers deserve a dose of their own 'Ivermectin,' washed down with bleach. Don 'None Denser' Denley, Colicky Colin McNamara, C. Anne 'Rivereast Spam' Johnson, Michael 'Shot My Own Foot' Chotkowski and T.Ed 'Unibomber' Kozlowski, aptly nicknamed, deserve to be treated as they have long treated others. Now I await word from the self-anointed *Rivereast* 'fence-sitters,' silent while the aforementioned plied their sarcastic trade letter after letter, but suddenly offended that a 'Libtard' should so engage.

Edmund Smith – Andover

The Good, Bad, Ugly

To the Editor:

So the midterms have happened. Arizona again has election result issues – and the widely-predicted "Red Wave" didn't happen, much to the chagrin of 50% of the country.

The Good News: 1) Stacey Abrams and Beto O'Rourke are done. They were defeated, again, and hopefully we can put them in our rear-view mirrors and say "Adios."

2) Four Democratic seats were flipped in New York State – quite unexpected but gives hope to people on the conservative right that common sense – even in politics – is achievable.

3) The federal courts have struck down President Biden's student loan forgiveness program. This was clearly another attempted power grab by the Dems – knowing full well it had to go

Obituaries

East Hampton

Jacquelyn Jackson

Jacquelyn Jackson of East Hampton passed away Sunday, Oct. 30, at Middlesex Hospital, Middletown. Jackie was born in Bangor, Maine, May 11, 1933, the daughter of Warren (Skipper) Jackson and Arlene Golden. Jackie grew up in Searsport, raised by her grandparents, Clifford and Winifred Jackson.



After graduating from Searsport High School in 1951 she continued her education at Farmington State Teachers College and graduated with a teaching degree. She was employed as a teacher in Hodgon, Maine for a few years but, seeking a change in her career, she moved to East Hampton, CT and was employed by the State of Connecticut in the Department of Social Services. She retired as a supervisor after 35 years of service.

Jackie continued to serve in the community for many years after her retirement. Her services included many community activities, overseeing monthly birthday parties at Cobalt Lodge Convalescent Home, a Sunday School teacher aid at East Hampton Bible Church, Epoch Arts tag sale volunteer, Lydia's Closet worker, volunteering at the East Hampton Senior Center and Fellowship Christian School.

Jackie is survived by her five cousins: Hazel Rendelton, Charlene Read, Edwin (Bing) Greenlaw, all of Belfast, Maine; Judith Choate of Wellsville, N.Y.; and Patrick Clark of Searsport Maine. Jackie was known as "Aunt Jackie" to so many in the community; her caregiver Sharon Gilbert and husband Jeff Gilbert, the James and Hallberg families, as well as all of the children she taught through East Hampton Bible Church and Fellowship Christian Church. Jackie enjoyed going on trips and traveling with her friends and family and scrapbooking all her life adventures.

There will be a Celebration of Life and potluck dinner held Sunday, Nov. 20, from 1-3 p.m., at Epoch Arts, 27 Skinner St., East Hampton.

Portland

William Carroll Martz

William Carroll "Bill" Martz, 93, of Portland, passed away Thursday, Sept. 15. He was born May 5, 1929, in Miamisburg, Ohio. He graduated from Miamisburg High School in 1947.

Lieutenant Martz served as an Air Force navigator, flying B-26 'Blackbirds' with the 12th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron during the Korean conflict. He graduated from the College of Engineering of the University of Dayton in 1958. He was a professional engineer and served as a traffic engineer for the City of Dayton from 1958 to 1992. He also served as past president of the Dayton chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Ohio section of the Institute for Transportation Engineers.

A loving husband and devoted father, he is survived by his wife of 68 years, Priscilla E. (Roberts) Martz; his children, Jon W. Martz and wife Cheryl of Oakland Township, Mich., and Carol E. and husband Steve Greco of East Hampton; his grandchildren, Aaron S. Clark and wife Melissa of Houston, Texas, Jordan

E. Martz and wife Meghan of Saline, Mich., and Caroline E. and Lauren N. Greco of East Hampton; his great-grandchildren, Isabella R. Clark, Hadley G. Martz, and LilyAna R. Clark; his nieces, Trina L. (Gaiser) Garber and Joanna K. (Gaiser) West and husband Gerry; and his nephew, Timothy R. Gaiser and wife Kathryn.

He is preceded in death by his parents, William H. and Mary (Pontius) Martz; and his sister, Sandra Lee, wife of Richard Gaiser.

A memorial was held in Miamisburg, Ohio. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Cox Arboretum Foundation.

Colchester

Helen Beatrice Tellier

Helen Beatrice Tellier, of Moodus, Colchester, and formerly of Leminsters, Mass.

On Friday, Nov. 11, with her loving family by her side, Helen passed away peacefully at her home at Chestelm Health and Rehabilitation Center in Moodus, where she had been residing. She was 89 years old.

Born April 1, 1933, in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, she was a daughter of the late James and Effie (Howard) Feury. Growing up in West Virginia, Helen was one of nine children. She graduated from high school there and soon after moved to Washington, D.C., where she met her future husband, Roy Tellier. The couple were married April 16, 1955, and moved to Leminsters, Mass., where they made their home and raised their son. Helen was active in her community. She was an advocate of equal rights for women and she became an organizer for the League of Women Voters as well as serving with the local school PTA.

Helen retired several years ago after a long and successful career which began working for the government in Washington, D.C., and later she became the manager of two Credit Unions, Tucker Manufacturing Credit Union and WAELCO Federal Credit Union in Leminsters, Mass.

Helen had an intrepid, and adventurous spirit SHE enjoyed trying new and different things. Together with her husband, the couple engaged in both square and ballroom dancing and she was a fierce competitor with the Bocce League and Cribbage Club. Helen will be remembered fondly as a devoted and loving wife and mother.

She leaves to mourn her loss her husband Roy of 67 years; her son and daughter-in-law, David and Lisa Tellier of East Haddam; her siblings, Elvina Moore, Nina Bower, Marshall Feury, Charles Robert Dowdy, Ben Dowdy, all of White Sulphur Springs, W.Va., Katie Posey of Covington, Va., Gaye Fife of Parkesburg, W.Va.; and many beloved extended family members and friends.

In addition to her parents, Helen was predeceased in death by a brother, Brady Ray Dowdy. Funeral services will be held privately according to her wishes. Burial will be in the Veterans Cemetery in Winchendon, Mass.

Donations in Helen's memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, www.alz.org. Helen's family would like to express sincere and heartfelt gratitude to the caregivers and staff at Chestelm Health and Rehab for their many years of loving and compassionate care.

The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with care of arrangements. To share a memory or express a condolence to Helen's family, please visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.



East Hampton

John Waldau Olson

John "Jack" Waldau Olson, 91, died Sunday, Nov. 13, at Bethel Health Care Center. Jack was the son of the late Walter and Ebba (Thorson) Olson of New Britain.

He was born Aug. 3, 1931, in Middletown. He attended local schools and the University of Connecticut, graduating in 1953, was a veteran who proudly served in post-war Korea with the United States Air Force, 1953-55, earning the rank of First Lieutenant.

Jack and Doris Ann Caldwell were married June 16, 1956. Doris died on Oct. 4, 2010, a few months after their 54th wedding anniversary.

He worked as a reporter for the *Meriden Record Journal* and then the *Hartford Times*, eventually "answering the call" by attending Hartford Seminary and was ordained in 1963. He earned his Master of Divinity degree from Yale University in 1974.

During his ministry, he served at Park Street Congregational Church, Bridgeport, from 1968 to 1986; and the Haddam Neck Congregational Church, Haddam Neck, from 1987 to the early 2000s. He enjoyed visiting Sweden with Doris, with his daughters and on his own, to study the language and family history.

Jack was an avid runner and ran in the Boston Marathon more than 20 times, as well as the New York Marathon and even the Stockholm (Sweden) marathon. He enjoyed hiking and camping with his family members or friends, was a theologian and scholar of the Bible, a voracious reader and writer. A lifelong Boston Red Sox fan, he attended many an opening day with his family and friends at Fenway and saw Ted Williams play his final game.

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

★ Letters cont. from page 29

through Congress.

4) A brighter shade of red is growing in Florida, where Gov. DeSantis and Sen. Rubio prevailed by large margins. As we look forward the governor is looking like the frontrunner in 2024 and hopefully our next president – all due respect to President Trump who had he served his second term we would not be in the mess we're currently in: massive inflation, open borders, five million illegals since Biden took office, rising crime in major cities in blue states, \$6 diesel fuel and home heating oil.

The Bad: The Republicans lost almost every close Congressional and Senate race: Arizona, Nevada and probably Georgia. Incompetent

Jack was a tutor at the Mercy Center in Bridgeport and read stories to children in the Bridgeport public schools. He was an elected member of the city's Board of Education and the City Council, and a longtime member of the Democratic Town Committee and travelled to the Church of Sweden in New York City each week to study Swedish. Jack was a founding member of Habitat for Humanity of Bridgeport, now of Coastal Fairfield County and founded a Columbus Day road race at Bridgeport's Seaside Park to raise money for Habitat.

Jack is survived by his daughters, Karen Underhill, her husband Robert of Brookfield; their children, Lindsay Underhill DeMarco and her husband, David, of Danbury; and Robert Q. Underhill of Danbury and his special friend, Precious Onious; Emily Olson Fisher of New Milford; and Melissa Pionzio and her husband and their children, Jenny Pionzio and John Pionzio III, all of East Hampton; his sister-in-law, Pat Pitkin and her husband Donald of Mohrsville, Pa., and their children and a granddaughter. He will be remembered as "Uncle Jack" by many members of the Olson, Caldwell, Ohmen, Aldrich, Pitkin and Underhill families.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by the Lillis Funeral Home. Calling hours were held at the Lillis Funeral Home, Bridge Street, New Milford, on Thursday, Nov. 17. A memorial service will be held today, Friday, Nov. 18, at 11 a.m., at the United Church of Christ of Bridgeport, 2180 North Ave., Bridgeport. Burial is private.

Memorial donations in Jack's name may be made to Habitat for Humanity Coastal Fairfield County, 1542 Barnum Ave., Bridgeport, CT 06610.

governors like Ned Lamont and Michigan's Gretchen Whitmer get reelected by wide margins. Connecticut Congresswoman Johanna Hayes wins by a scant 2,000 votes. There was very little joy at Republican headquarters throughout the country.

The Ugly: Slightly over 50% of Pennsylvania voters thought John Fetterman will be a quality senator. He is clearly damaged intellectually, he looks like and has a similar wardrobe as Uncle Fester of *The Addams Family*, and you know he'll be another *Weekend at Bernie's* voting stooge for the Dems.

Don Denley – Andover

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Ad Council

Tax-Aide Foundation Seeks Volunteers

For many years, the senior centers in Colchester, Hebron, Marlborough, Columbia, East Hampton and East Haddam have hosted the AARP Tax-Aide Program, which provides free income tax preparation services for residents of these towns and surrounding communities.

Tax-Aide is the nation's largest free volunteer tax program, offered in conjunction with the IRS.

The Tax-Aide program is looking for people to join its volunteer team. You don't need to be an accountant or tax professional; volunteers come from a variety of backgrounds. Training and support are provided.

To volunteer, go to aarpfoundation.org/taxaidevolunteer or call 1-888-AARP-NOW (888-227-7669).

For additional information before signing up, contact your local senior center and they will connect you with a local Tax-Aide volunteer.

National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count

Mattabesek Audubon Society (MAS) will hold its 48th annual Salmon River Christmas Bird Count on Sunday, Dec. 18. This is part of National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count, which is entering its 123rd count season and is the longest-running community science bird project in the country. The data obtained provides information about bird populations over time and ultimately helps to inform environmental policies on a national and international level.

The 11 captains will lead teams into the field to count all individual birds and bird species they see. MAS is always looking for new people to join in this annual tradition. Birders of all experience levels are welcome.

For those who are unable to get out, and whose homes lie within the 15-mile diameter centered around the Comstock Covered Bridge in Colchester, the society said it hopes you will keep an eye on your backyards throughout the day and night of Dec. 18 so your data can be included in the final tally.

If interested, go to www.audubon-mas.org or send an email to co-compilers Sharon Dellinger at rsdell@comcast.net or Doreen Jezek at dajezek@gmail.com.

LEGALS

LIQUOR PERMIT
Notice of Application
 This is to give notice that I,
GARY CRUMP
 49 N MOODUS RD
MOODUS, CT 06469-1144
 Have filed an application placarded 11/10/2022 with the Department of Consumer Protection for a CONNECTICUT CRAFT CAFE LIQUOR PERMIT for the sale of alcoholic liquor on the premises at **303 S MAIN ST MARLBOROUGH CT 06447-1242**
 The business will be owned by:
FAWN BROOK LLC
 Entertainment will consist of: No Live Entertainment
 Objections must be filed by: 12-22-2022
GARY CRUMP
 2TB 11/11, 11/18

LEGAL NOTICE
MARLBOROUGH CONSERVATION COMMISSION
NOTICE OF ACTION
 The Marlborough Conservation Commission at its meeting on November 7, 2022, took the following action:
APPLICATION CONTINUED; PUBLIC HEARING CONTINUED
 APPLICATION #10-22 - 21 Austin HGB, LLC Bill Gjonbalaj (Applicant / Property Owner), Map 6 Block 28 Lots 4,5,6, 12 and #25 South Main Street
 Provide apartment housing by building (2) 48-unit buildings. Motion passed to provide a 30-day extension to December 5, 2022 meeting and to continue Public Hearing.
APPLICATION APPROVED
 APPLICATION #12-22-Daniel Teixeira-13 Coleman Ln (applicant/property owner) - build a new single-family home and dock.
APPLICATION CONTINUED
 APPLICATION #13-22-Richard Baccari II-41-45 Hebron Ave (Applicant/property owner) - Construction of 1 MW AC Solar Photovoltaic array w/gravel road and stormwater basin. Motion passed for Site Walk on November 30, 2022 and table application until December 5, 2022 meeting.
APPROVED 2023 CALENDAR
 Motion carried to approve 2023 Meeting Schedule as submitted.
MARLBOROUGH CONSERVATION COMMISSION
 Yvonne Bolton, Chair
 1TB 11/18

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE of PUBLIC HEARING
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Wednesday, November 30, 2022 at 7:00 PM
Town of Portland, CT 06480
 Pursuant to Chapter XII Section 1203.3 of the Town Charter, a public hearing will be held by the Board of Selectmen on Wednesday, November 30, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. at the Buck-Foreman Community Room, 265 Main Street, Portland, Connecticut, regarding the proposed supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$120,000. At the hearing, all interested persons may be heard and written communications will be received. Public Access also through the Zoom link A - www.portlandct.org
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Portland Board of Selectmen hereby approves a supplemental appropriation of General Fund Balance in the amount of \$120,000. The allocations of transfers for the General Fund are increases to 01-093-000-90006 Transfer-out - Other by \$120,000. These funds will be transferred to Fund 24 to account 24-000-000-00501 Interfund Transfer-In General Fund for \$120,000.
 Dated at Portland, Connecticut this 17th day of November 2022.
 Attest: Ryan J. Curley, First Selectman
 1TB 11/18

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, December 1, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Buck Foreman Room (2nd Floor), 265 Main Street, Portland, CT. Public access through Zoom link A at www.portlandct.org to consider the following:
Application #22-10: 311 Brownstone Ave. Request for a Special Permit Modification to change approved storage building to public bathrooms and welcome center with small studio living unit. New pump out station to be installed on site to allow for full service campground from current use of semi-primitive. Application of Dean Soucy. Property of Dean Soucy and Darlene Rice. Map 28 Lot 54. Zone B-3.
 At this hearing interested persons may appear and be heard and written communications will be received. A copy of this application is available for review in the Portland Land Use Department. Dated at Portland, CT this 15th day of November 2022
 Robert Ellsworth, Chairman
 Planning & Zoning Commission
 2TB 11/18, 11/25

TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF ACTION
 Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals held a Regular Meeting at 7:00 pm on November 14, 2022 at the East Hampton Town Hall - 1 Community Drive to consider the following:
 Application ZBA-22-012: Alexandria Simonelli, 23 Popowog Road, Reduce side setback from 25' to 12' for 12 x 24 shed. Map 21/ Block 52/ Lot 17-2. - Approved
 Application ZBA-22-013: Middle Haddam Public Library, 2 Knowles Road, Reduce front setbacks for Construction of 220 Square Foot Covered Porch and Accessible Entry Ramp. Map 2C/ Block 18A/ Lot 2. - Approved
 1TB 11/18

LEGAL NOTICE
MARLBOROUGH ZONING COMMISSION
NOTICE OF ACTION
 The Marlborough Zoning Commission at its meeting of November 3, 2022, took the following action:
APPLICATION CONTINUED; PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED:
 APPLICATION #Z-12-22- Amendment to Zoning Regulation Article 7A VCD, Article 8A DBIPZ. Cannabis Regulations. Motion passed to set Public Hearing for January 5, 2023, Prohibition of Article 10.
APPLICATION #Z-12-22- Amendment to Zoning Regulation Article 7A VCD, Article 8A DBIPZ. Cannabis Regulations. Motion passed to set Public Hearing for January 5, 2023, Approve Article 10.
APPLICATION #Z-13-22- Daniel Teixeira/Rob Hellstrom Land Surveying (Applicant/Property Owner) 13 Coleman Ln- Lake Overlay on new house construction. Motion passed to set Public Hearing for December 1, 2022.
APPLICATION CONTINUED; PUBLIC HEARING CONTINUED:
 APPLICATION #Z-08-22- Austin HGB, LLC Bill Gjonbalaj (Applicant / Property Owner), Map 6 Block 28 Lots 4,5,6, 12 and #25 South Main Street. Provide apartment housing by building (2) 48-unit buildings Application. Motion passed to continue Public Hearing to December 1, 2022.
PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED; APPLICATION APPROVED:
 APPLICATION #Z-10-22-C&B Marlborough Associates LLC (Applicant / Property Owner), 41-45 Hebron Rd - Amend the text for the DPIPZ-4 zone Article 8 A.D to allow for Public Utility installation.
 Motion passed to amend Article 8AD permitted uses for DPOPZ_4 Zone to add special permit use for public convenience and necessity by special permit only.
CALLING OF THE BOND-Jannat LLC-2-4 Portland Rd
 Motion passed to close Calling of the Bond
CRESTVIEW FOREST LLC, East Hampton Road Assessor's Map 8 Block 32 Lot 29S - Zoning Citation and/or Legal Action Request Motion passed to continue the order with a site walk scheduled for December 3, 2022 at 12:00 PM.
KEVIN ASKLAR, ZONING COMMISSION CHAIR
 1TB 11/18

LEGAL NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
Wednesday, November 30, 2022 at 7:10 PM
Portland, CT 06480
 The electors and those persons eligible to vote in town meetings of the Town of Portland, Connecticut, are hereby warned and notified that pursuant to Chapter XII Section 1203.3 of the Town Charter, a Special Town Meeting will be held by the Board of Selectmen on Wednesday, November 30, 2022 at 7:10 P.M. in the Buck-Foreman Community Room, 265 Main Street, Portland, CT to consider and vote upon whether the Town shall approve a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$120,000.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Portland Board of Selectmen hereby approves a supplemental appropriation of General Fund Balance in the amount of \$120,000. The allocations of transfers for the General Fund are increases to 01-093-000-90006 Transfer-out - Other by \$120,000. These funds will be transferred to Fund 24 to account 24-000-000-00501 Interfund Transfer-In General Fund for \$120,000.
 A copy of the complete resolution to be voted on is available for public inspection in the Town Clerk's Office and on the Town's website at www.portlandct.org.
 Dated this 17th day of November 2022
 Attest: Ryan J. Curley, First Selectman
 1TB 11/18

LEGAL NOTICE
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
HEBRON, CONNECTICUT
 The Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at a Special Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 29, 2022, at 7:00 P.M., to be held virtually through the GoToMeeting Platform, on the following:
 1. **Petition 2022-9** - Petition of the Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission to amend the Hebron Zoning Regulations Section 6.D to extend the Temporary and Limited Moratorium on Cannabis Establishments. Application filed under Section 7.E of the Hebron Zoning Regulations.
 Dated at Hebron, Connecticut, this 9th day of November, 2022.
 Natalie Wood, Chair
 Planning and Zoning Commission
 Tue, Nov 29, 2022 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM (EST)
Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
<https://meet.gotomeeting.com/1583366037>
You can also dial in using your phone.
 United States: +1 (786) 535-3211
Access Code: 158-366-037
 Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts:
<https://meet.gotomeeting.com/install>
Legal Notice will be published in the Rivereast News Bulletin on November 18, 2022 and November 25, 2022.
 2TB 11/18, 11/25

LEGAL NOTICE OF ACTIONS
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
HEBRON, CONNECTICUT
 The Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission took the following actions at their Regular Meeting, which was held on Tuesday, November 15, 2022, at 7:00 P.M.:
 1. **Petition 2022-8** - Petition of the Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission to amend the Hebron Zoning Regulations pertaining to the definition of Affordable Housing and opportunities for the Commission to provide relief of certain provisions of the PRD Zone when affordable housing is proposed.
 Application to amend Sections 2.F.4.3.2, 2.F.4.4, 2.F.4.5.1.e, 2.F.4.5.3.a, 2.F.4.5.3.b, 2.F.4.5.3.c, 2.F.4.7.4 and Section 9.C.
Approved.
 The video recording of the Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting can be seen using the following link:
<https://transcripts.gotomeeting.com/#/s/e52d83c0645e945993e84c6c495c3837683c5169fc340120689372e33a64edbc>
 Legal Notice will be published in the Rivereast News Bulletin on November 18, 2022.
 1TB 11/18

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IDENTIFY THE SIGNS

 For info: IdentifyTheSigns.org

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF ANDOVER

The audit of the Financial Statements of the Town of Andover for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2021 as prepared by Mahoney Sabol CPAs and Advisors is on file and available for public inspection in the Town Clerk's Office - 17 School Road - Andover, CT.
Dated at Andover, CT this 14th day of November, 2022
Carol H. Lee
Town Clerk

1TB 11/18



ANNOUNCEMENTS

WANTED TO BUY

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

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ENERGETIC PERSON TO HELP WOMAN IN HER HE-BRON HOME. Must be computer / cell phone literate. Call 860-228-0809 after 2pm. \$15/hrly.

PART TIME / FULL TIME CASHIER WANTED - Please apply in person, 1633 Portland Cobalt Road. \$15 to start. Portland Citgo and Self-storage. Weekends a must. 860-342-1020

WAREHOUSE POSITION: Seeking full time warehouse person for small local company. Occasional heavy lifting/Light phone duties/Customer contact \$20-\$25 an hour DOE /Plus benefits! Apply in person at: Yost Associates 224 Eastern Blvd Glastonbury M-F 8:00-5:00 POSITIVELY NO PHONE CALLS!

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

CHILD CARE - St. James' Episcopal Church in Glastonbury seeks nurturing, dependable person to engage with parishioner's children ages infant to toddlers on Sunday mornings 9:45 - 11:15 a.m. Will be responsible for providing age-appropriate and child-centered care while maintaining a safe environment. Must be 18 years of age or older and have completed American Red Cross First Aid training. Stipend provided. Contact: Deborah O'Donnell, 860-633-8333.



Employment Opportunity

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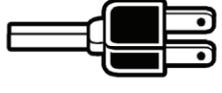
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